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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

## CONTEMPORARY FOOD SECURITY POLICIES

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### Abstract

The increasing risks to the country's food security require urgent analysis and the implementation of appropriate measures to enhance the resilience of domestic production, develop targeted strategic reserves, and establish effective market adaptation mechanisms, while ensuring fiscal efficiency and protecting access to food for the most vulnerable groups of the population. To address these challenges, the following operational priorities are proposed: the systematization of existing policy instruments and trade-off assessment methods in the field of food security, as well as the development of an analytical framework for diagnosing vulnerabilities within food systems. Furthermore, it is proposed to formulate evidence-based policies that integrate theoretical concepts with practical systems for monitoring key policy instruments and evaluating their effectiveness in the context of climate- and trade-related shocks.

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### Introduction:-

With the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme climatic phenomena, such as droughts, floods, and wide temperature fluctuations, together with recurring disruptions to global and local economic networks caused by geopolitical factors and pandemics, the risks to national and food security are steadily increasing. These developments place significant pressure on agricultural production, disrupt supply chains, and generate price volatility, thereby directly affecting household access to food and the fiscal sustainability of governments. Consequently, the need to move beyond fragmented and reactive measures toward a systematic and proactive policy response capable of ensuring the long-term sustainability and resilience of the food system has become increasingly urgent (Spasova, 2022; Kirilov, 2018).

### Methods:-

Analysis of current government food security strategies reveals a systematic mismatch between the stated objectives of food self-sufficiency, economic efficiency, and social affordability. Policies aimed at maximizing self-sufficiency often result in substantial fiscal and resource costs, whereas highly liberalized market regimes increase vulnerability to price fluctuations and supply chain disruptions. Current policy practice lacks a comprehensive methodological framework for assessing these trade-offs and for rapidly adjusting policy priorities in response to changing conditions, thereby hindering the development of balanced, adaptive, and resilient food security policies.

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**Results:-**

The aim of this study is to develop and validate a practical, integrated policy framework designed to enhance the resilience of the national food system to extreme climate events and external trade shocks over the medium term (3–5 years). The proposed framework integrates measures to strengthen the resilience of domestic production, establish targeted strategic food reserves, and implement effective market adaptation mechanisms, while ensuring fiscal efficiency and safeguarding access to food for the most vulnerable population groups.

To achieve this objective, several operational tasks must be undertaken. These include the systematization of existing policy instruments and trade-off assessment methods in the field of food security, as well as the development of an analytical framework for diagnosing vulnerabilities within food systems. This is followed by the formulation of a prioritized set of policy measures and monitoring indicators, together with an assessment of their feasibility and expected fiscal implications. This approach facilitates the translation of theoretical insights into concrete, actionable recommendations for policymakers aimed at minimizing social risks while maintaining economic viability in the face of contemporary challenges. Ultimately, it contributes to the evolution of the food security concept from a narrow focus on food availability toward a broader emphasis on resilience and sustainability.

Historically, the concept of food security has evolved from a primary focus on food availability to a multidimensional framework reflected in international doctrines and national strategies. Over time, these frameworks have progressively incorporated additional dimensions, including food accessibility, quality, and the stability of supply. Early post-war definitions and development policies emphasized aggregate agricultural production and food stock levels as the principal determinants of food security. Subsequently, policy frameworks expanded their scope to include household access to food, nutritional quality, and the continuity of food supplies. More recently, resilience and adaptability have become integral components of food security discourse, reflected in three major theoretical perspectives: systemic, risk-based, and transformative approaches. The systemic approach examines the interrelationships among production, distribution, consumption, and governance in order to identify feedback mechanisms and potential systemic vulnerabilities (FAO, 2020). Risk-based frameworks emphasize the identification, assessment, and management of hazards, together with the impacts of external shocks (World Bank, 2019). Transformative perspectives focus on long-term structural change and the capacity of institutions and food systems to adapt and reorganize in response to persistent stressors (Schmidt et al., 2021).

Mechanisms that enhance food system resilience typically include supply chain redundancy, agricultural and ecological diversity, flexible market linkages, and institutional learning (Peters et al., 2020). Adaptability is commonly assessed through indicators such as absorptive capacity, the speed and scale of recovery (transformative capacity), and the ability to anticipate and respond effectively to emerging stressors (Folke et al., 2010). The practical evaluation of these dimensions requires multidisciplinary indicators encompassing environmental, economic, and institutional factors across multiple temporal and spatial scales (Béné et al., 2016).

The evolution of the food security concept has significant implications for measurement and monitoring methodologies. Contemporary approaches require moving beyond the exclusive use of aggregate indicators, such as production volumes and inventory levels, toward multidimensional indicator systems that capture food availability, physical and economic accessibility, utilization, and system stability. Incorporating resilience and vulnerability indicators further necessitates longitudinal datasets, higher-resolution spatial information, and stronger institutional capacity for data collection and analysis. These methodological advances support more targeted policy development by linking theoretical concepts with practical monitoring frameworks for evaluating the effectiveness of key policy instruments under climate- and trade-related shocks.

Price and commodity policy instruments—including strategic buffer stocks, price subsidies, and import tariffs—are intended to influence the short-term availability and affordability of food in domestic markets. Strategic food reserves can mitigate temporary shortages and moderate price volatility, while subsidies and tariffs influence short-term market incentives affecting supply and demand. However, their effectiveness is limited in the context of severe cross-border trade disruptions and large-scale climate events, where prolonged supply constraints and widespread production losses can rapidly deplete reserves and reduce the efficiency of market interventions. Consequently, rather than pursuing complete market isolation, policymakers should prioritize balanced strategies that combine

support for strategic domestic production sectors, targeted food reserves, and diversified trade relationships to strengthen the resilience and long-term sustainability of national food systems.

### **Conclusions:-**

Policy decisions need to consider dynamic effects: short-term preparedness for shocks can entail costs, while long-term efficiency depends on integration into international supply chains. Thus, the optimal policy represents a compromise that preserves critical local production capacity while reaping the benefits of international specialization.

Improving the operational efficiency of supply chains typically reduces costs and prices for most consumers; however, it can also increase price volatility and the vulnerability of socially disadvantaged groups. Just-in-time models and concentrated processing reduce stocks and buffer capacity, thereby increasing the transmission of external shocks to retail prices. Maintaining availability requires compensatory measures, such as targeted support mechanisms and market capacity regulation.

Measures aimed at increasing local production and creating strategic reserves can improve short-term food availability in the face of external shocks; however, they also divert resources from other priorities and may lead to inefficient investments in the long term. Allocating resources to maintain stocks and subsidize production can enhance supply stability, but if implemented ineffectively, such measures may result in higher domestic prices and reduced accessibility for low-income populations. The strategic objective of policy orientation is to strike a balance between ensuring short-term security and creating conditions for the sustainable development of the food system.

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