

NUTRITION SECURITY IN SOUTH ASIA

SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY



NUTRITION FOUNDATION OF INDIA

**WITH SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA &
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
March 7-9, 2005**

FOREWORD

The countries of South Asia are today in different stages of developmental transition and are undertaking ambitious programmes and plans for socio-economic development. The ultimate goal of all national developmental programmes is to ensure improvement in the quality of human resources of the nation. Nutrition security is an essential requisite for the attainment of this goal. Today South Asian countries face formidable problems with respect to ensuring nutrition security and are attempting to overcome these problems with varying degrees of success.

We are discovering that the impressive overall economic growth at the national level is not necessarily reflected in increased nutrition security in poor households across the country. It seems possible that in the short run, globalisation in societies still undergoing developmental transition could increase disparities between the rich and the poor. Special strategies would therefore be required to ensure that the fruits of development are equitably distributed and the nutritive quality is adequate to meet basic requirements.

Leading scientists and policy makers from seven South Asian countries have participated in this meeting, the proceedings of which are presented here. Their contribution in this meeting provide wealth of information which would prove useful to policy makers and scientists interested in ensuring food and nutrition security in the region.

This meeting provided opportunity to compare experiences and exchange information with respect to strategies that may be adopted to ensure nutrition security in South Asian countries. It is to be hoped that out of this discussion will emerge some practical leads for action. It is also hoped that this meeting will stimulate the formation of a mechanism for continued exchange of information in this vital area of development.

C Gopalan
President
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI) deeply appreciates the support provided by the Government of India in organizing the South Asian Meeting on Food and Nutrition Security at New Delhi.

NFI thanks the United States Department of Agriculture for the valuable support and assistance they provided for organizing and conducting the Meeting.

We owe a special thanks to the Governments of the SAARC countries for deputing their scientists, policy makers and programme implementers to attend the Meeting.

We are grateful to Dr Rangarajan, Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of India for inaugurating the Meeting and addressing the participants. We would like to place on record our appreciation of the participants from different countries who made excellent presentations and the rapporteurs who captured and presented the essence of the presentations and discussions.

We are very grateful to Mrs Malini Seshadri for editing the executive summary and research staff of NFI for help in editing the papers in diverse formats and providing a print ready document for publication of the Proceedings of the Meeting.

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