

ABSTRACT

Although the world produces enough food to feed everyone, there are however countries, regions within countries, villages, households and individuals that are unable to meet their daily food needs. Food security requires an available and reliable food supply at all time where individuals and households must have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food both in quantity and in quality to meet their daily dietary requirements for a healthy and productive life. In reality, over 800 million human beings do not have enough to eat in a world that produces enough food to feed every man, woman and child. The paradox is that global food security exists alongside individual food insecurity. Food security is a complex, multifaceted issue that can only be fully addressed through the active co-operation of all actors including federal and provincial departments and civil society groups.

Food insecurity, the human tragedy that was prevalent throughout the world earlier in the century is nowadays confined to Africa. Whilst most countries in the world have found ways to deal with the problem, Africa remains plagued by the phenomena of food insecurity especially in its two most famine prone countries namely Sudan and Ethiopia. Subsistence-oriented agriculture (which is regressing rather than progressing), constraints in transport, infrastructure, poor economic policies, and a weak popular participation in governance, especially at the local level and not simply war and drought are the main reasons for the prevalence of this situation in Africa that makes food insecurity prevention a continuing challenge and difficult task.