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WORLD FOOD SECURITY & SRI LANKA

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Many experts have warned about an impending global food crisis during this millennium. Most of the countries have given an importance to food and self-sufficiency during the middle phase of the 20th century. This circumstance was clearly experienced, particularly after the post 2nd world war. The prominence of reaching to self-sufficiency and food security were gradually detoriated under the concept of globalization and regionalization, which creates the world to a single "global city". But it was made rational to import goods, which are found to be comparatively disadvantageous to be produced within the country, but the specialized in certain goods that are advantageous, under trade liberalization. Under these circumstances, it is the high time to examine the nature of global food security and particularly how far this is relevant in the context of Sri Lanka as a developing country.

What is Food Security?

There are different definitions of food security have been put forwarded, certain important definitions is as follows:

Food security is defined as access to food for a healthy life by all people at all times. (NAM 1994 Non Aligned Movement).

It recognized that, in spite of substantial increase in the world's food output and number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition has increased during the last decade in many developing countries. That is why Mr. Bali affirmed that; food security should be a fundamental goal of development policy as well as a measure of its success.

In order to get a meaningful of the term of food security, it is necessary to break down the concept of food security in to several components as follows. Here, the five dimensions listed below can be applied in evaluating food systems at diverse levels of ranging from households and communities to nations and groups of nations.

1. A food system offering security for its portico pants should have the capacity to produce, store, import or otherwise acquire sufficient food to meet the needs of all members at all times.
2. It should provide maximum autonym and self-determination (without implying autarchy), thus reducing vulnerability to market fluctuations and other social and political pressures.
3. It should be reliable, so that seasonal, cyclical and other variations in the access to food are minimal.
4. A secure food system should be equitable meaning, as a minimum, dependable access to adequate food for all individuals and groups both now and in the future.
5. Finally, it should be socially and environmentally sustainable, so that the ecological systems on which all societies food production depend are protected and enhanced over time.

These five criteria can be broadly divided in to 3 components-

I. Food availability
II. Food stability
III. Food access

According to above explanations we can simply come in to a point that the food security mean, the right of the all people who are being healthy and active manor at all time.

Food security in a country can be measured by the household food security index which incorporated above three component food availability in country is ensured by domestic production and imports.

Stability is ensured by the uninterrupted supply and prices. Although an adequate of supply of food provides food security in a country it does not guarantee household food security the population could raise the theta of food security. Available food should reach the people who should have the access to it. Effective maintenance of accessibility depends on adequate production and stable supply. On the other hand food distribution ensures the physical and economic accessibility for food.

The world has ample food; global food production has grown faster than population since the 1950. Food production could have been grown much more rapidly if the poor had enjoyed access to sufficient resources to produce or incomes to purchase all the economically and sustainable increase in per capita food supplies significantly in the foreseeable future. Inspire of these favourable conditions, about one fifth of humanity suffering from starvation.

As the population in every country is growing there is an increasing demand for food, as the development process unfolds, a larger share of food is consumed in places far away from where it is produced due to the urbanization and migration for employment. As this process promotes increasing food production, people become more dependent on markets for inter food consequently; people need an efficient guaranteed food distribution system. A well-organized distribution system consists of services to producers, processors and customers. Efficiency of the distribution system depends on the efficiency of the marketing system.

Access of farmers or producers to the market crucially depends on the infrastructure such as a network of roads. Poor infrastructure slows down transport and increases the losses due to the perishable nature of some commodities, causes increase in transport costs increases wear and tear of vehicles used and finally increases cost of the commodity transported to the consumer.

It may useful to consider over the production of some countries. There may be over-production of some kind of food in some country. To hold in constant of prices of some goods countries, which produced over production, try to destroy their production. This may be to west our production. Eg: Destruction causes of over wheat production in USA.

The food distribution system in country places a major role in food security. Although an adequate supply of food could provide food security in country, if it does not guarantee household food security, the population could face the threat of food should insecurity. Available food should reach the people who should have the access to it. Affective maintenance of accessibility depends on adequate production and stable supply. Distribution ensures the physical and economic accessibility for food. Sufficiency in food does not mean that it ensures food security. Food should satisfy the basic and physiological needs of human beings by supplying nutritionally balanced food. By a proper distribution system food is brought near to the household and made available at affordable prices. Household food security must by the making food accessible to the population, specially its ample segments. In this context, therefore, food distribution plays a major role.

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As the population every country is growing, there is an increase in demand of food. As the development process unfolds, a larger share of food is consumed in places far away from where it is produced due to the urbanization, regenaralization and globalization. As this process promotes increasing food production, people become more dependant on markets for their food. Consequently, people need an efficient guaranteed food distribution system. Efficiency of the distribution system depends on the efficiency of the marketing system.

Trend in Food Security in the World

As a consequence of instant population growth and less agricultural productivity particularly, after the Second World War, the price of food drastically increased. Because of the above several countries of the world had to focus their mind to increase productivity, as follows:

1. By introducing scientific crops, which was response to the chemical fertilizers,
2. By investing massive stock of capital to build, irrigation system and infrastructure.

World Bank and other financial institutes helped to these projects when we consider about all over the Asian countries, huge part of their investment had engaged to progress of agriculture related irrigation systems. As a result of these by now prices of rice and wheat have decreased in double fold.

Within 1960 and 1990 grain production of the world has doubled on the other hand due to green revolution precipitate food possibility and per capita calories possibility in the world increased 37 and 35 percentage respectively. Precipitate food supplies in the developing world rose from 1900 calories per day in the early 1960s to 2500 calories in the early 1990s; even though the population doubled during this period. However, these figures disguise the fact that not all people in developing countries shared this progress.

According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (*IFPRI*) and The Food and Agriculture Organization (*FAO*) year 2020 vision in 1995 the out look in global terms is projected as an increase in world population by about 2.2 billion between 1996 and 2020, with 94 percent of the increase being in the developing world. The demand for food grains is projected to grow at 4.0 percent per annum and demand for livestock products by 18 percent per annum. Demand is projected to grow faster in the developing than the developed world with the Sub-Saharan Africa being the exception.

The global food situation is characterized as being relatively good, although it is suggested that growth in food production has begun to lag. The rate of growth of global grain production is estimated to have dropped from 3 percent in the 1970s to 1.3 percent in the 1983 – 93 period, and the amount of grain produced per person is.

Table 1
Population Growth: 1900 – 2100

Category	Population (Billions)					Increase (%)	Increase (%)
	1900	1950	1990	2025	2100	1950 - 1990	1990 – 2100
Developed Countries	0.56	0.84	1.24	1.40	1.50	44	150
Developing Countries	1.07	1.68	4.08	7.10	10.20	143	24
World	1.63	2.52	5.30	8.50	11.70	110	121

Source: Population and Food in the Early Twenty First Century

reported to have fallen in the past decade. However, the future aggregate global food supply position is expected in agricultural research and infrastructures are maintained. The real world prices of most food commodities are expected to decline this suggested pressure on world food supplies exerted by rising food population and increasing incomes could be contained.

The projected situation in respect of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa is not as rosy as the global situation leads one to expect. Supply and effective demand for rice are expected to be in balance in South Asia while wheat imports are expected to grow. The expansion in the feed industry is also expected to lead to major problem confronting countries in this region, posing what is referred to as the central paradox in the world food situation declining world food prices co-existing with sustained or increasing malnutrition in much of the world.

The foregoing represents what is referred to as the base scenario. Depending on the methodologies used and assumptions made, these scenarios can change. Nothing exemplifies this better than the case of China. The recent studies would have China as major exporter or major importer of grain in the twenty-first century with major consequences for world prices, with driving down or forcing up world prices significantly (Mei, 1995: Brown, 1994). Thus projected world trends, as reported above could change with changes in the underlying assumptions. A low population growth scenario will improve food security and result in fewer malnourished children. On the other hand, a low investment, slow growth scenario will lead to an increase in food insecurity and the number of malnourished children. A high investment, rapid growth scenario results in significant improvements in per capita demand for food and sharp declines in the number of malnourished children. (IFPRI 1995)

These scenarios are not without significance in considering the Sri Lankan situation. But before moving to Sri Lanka, references are made to one of the major conclusions of the FAO World Food Summit (FAO, 1996). It is that as long as the essence of the world food problem is the high incidence of food insecurity and under nutrition precisely in the countries with low per capita food supplies and high dependence on agriculture, there can be no appropriate policy responses to it that do not include a hefty dose of measures to improve agricultural and rural development in order to increase both demand for and supply of food in those very countries. Unfortunately, Sri Lanka is among those countries with per capita food availabilities less than 2500 calories per day and rural population of over 75 of the total population.

1. Population Growth In the World

The clear-cut characteristic can be figured out, when studying population growth is the intense difference between developed and developing countries. The following table shows the population growth since 1900 – 2100:

According to the table 1 from 1950 to 1990 the growth of population in developing countries is 143% while it changes from 44% in devel-

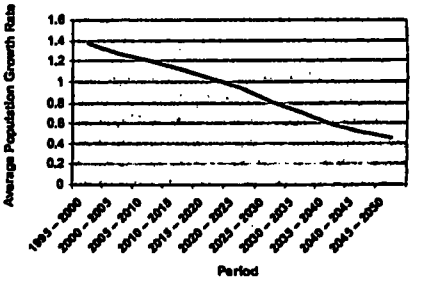
Average Population Growth Rate – Medium Variant

Table 2

Period	Average Population Growth Rate
1995 – 2000	1.37
2000 – 2005	1.27
2005 – 2010	1.20
2010 – 2015	1.12
2015 – 2020	1.03
2020 – 2025	0.94
2025 – 2030	0.81
2030 – 2035	0.70
2035 – 2040	0.59
2040 – 2045	0.51
2045 – 2050	0.45

Source: World Population Prospects

Chart 1



Per capita of Agricultural Production

Table 3

1979 – 1981 = 100

Year	Agricultural Pro. Per Capita
1980	98.94
1981	100.97
1982	102.56
1983	100.60
1984	104.29
1985	104.29
1986	104.21
1987	103.19
1988	103.42
1989	104.67
1990	105.53

Source: FAO Bulletin of Statistics 1992

Table 4

1989 – 1991 = 100

Year	Agricultural Pro.
1991	99.6
1992	100.3
1993	99.4
1994	100.8
1995	101.4
1996	104.1
1997	105.1
1998	104.9
1999	105.1

Source: FAO Bulletin of Statistics 2000

oped countries. That is 3 times faster rate than the rate of population growth in developed countries.

Relevant to the same table between the year 1990 and the year 2100, the population will grow at the rate of 121%. So that the population growth of developing countries will be as 6 times as the growth of developed countries. Following table represent the annual average population growth between the periods of 1995 – 2000 to 2045 – 2050. In this period the population growth rate will be steadily decrease.

2. Food Changes in the World

When agricultural products are taken to account since the times of World War II as continuous growth can be observed, subjecting to various changes meantime. Further the agricultural sector shows an intense growth since '60s decade and a low, though considerable growth is '80s decade.

Here mentioned about last two decades per capita of agricultural production in the world (*Tables 1 and 2*). It has been divided in to two parts to analyze those data (due to change of base year of index).

Under Table 3 there was an increase in the world on per capita income of agricultural production. That mean 1980, the total value of index on agriculture sector in the world was 98.94 and at the end of '80s it was growing till 105.53. The percentage change of this index is equal 6.67%. On the other hand when we compare the index number with following years there was not a growing but decreasing in 1983 and 1987.

Under the fourth Table also the main result is not different from Table 3. That mean from 1991 to 1999 the index number was growing on percentage 5.5%. Here also there was a decrease in 1993 and 1997.

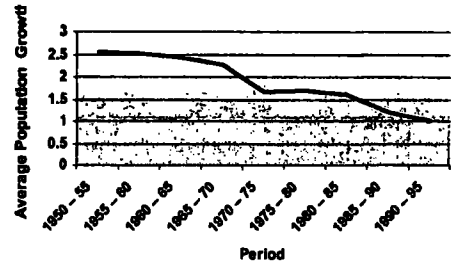
Average Population Growth Rate from 1950 – 1955 to 1990 – 1995

Table 5

Period	Average pop. Growth
1950 – 55	2.55
1955 – 60	2.51
1960 – 65	2.43
1965 – 70	2.28
1970 – 75	1.67
1975 – 80	1.71
1980 – 85	1.61
1985 – 90	1.21
1990 – 95	1.00

Source: World Population Prospects 1996

Chart 2



The figures conclude that the world population growth continuously decreasing in regular manner unlike in past. Even though the per capita production should accelerate than, that for the preservation of the growing population. So that the "productivity" likely to be an attractive concept in the context.

Food Security in Sri Lanka

1. Introduction

Every human being needs adequate food for its up keep of life and maintenance of health "food for all" for the well-being of the society is vital in building up of a healthy and intelligent work force for the nation. The two essential elements need to be fulfilled are the availability of food and the people's ability to acquire it.

Food availability is achieved when sufficient quantities of the necessary types of food are consistently available to the individuals within the country. Access to food and people's ability to acquire are ensured when households have adequate resources within them to obtain appropriate food for nutrition and satisfying diet enabling them to lead an economically productive and healthy life. Food security has many face cuts and dimensions. In order to ensure food security, the food system within a country needs to,

* Ensure adequate food production, maximum stability of supplies and prices,
* Secure access to available supplies especially to the low income sectors of the population.

Many factors interact to create food insecurity, namely; poverty, low agricultural productivity, high rate of population growth, insufficient infrastructure for food production, flow of supplies and distribution, ecological and geological constraints, natural disasters, civil disturbances, inappropriate policies, etc.

2. Population Growth

The population of Sri Lanka is recorded as 19.6 million in 2000 and has recorded an expansion of 12 million persons since independence. The rate of increase has been 22% in the first decade and then shot up to 31% in the second and stood below 20% there after. Nearly 250,000 persons are added per annum to the population at present average population growth depicted in following table.

According to the Table 5 and figure 2 the increasing population growth rate of Sri Lanka has begun to fall steadily since the time period of 1960 to 1965. This situation from the decade 1940 is fundamentally due to the slow, gross birth rate comparing to the accelerating fall of gross death rate 1940 decade. The relevant preface to the population growth of Sri Lanka is coinciding in table 6 and Chart 3.

Thus the Sri Lankan population can be predicted for the year 2050 as 0.41, while a de-

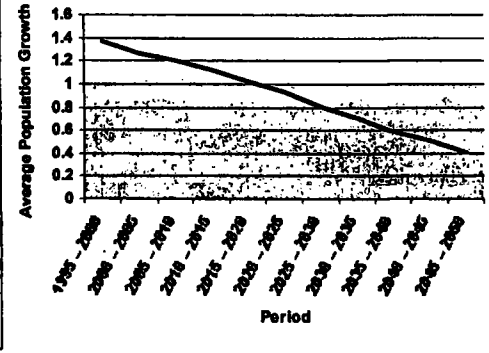
Average Population Growth Rate – Medium Variant

Table 6

Period	Avg. population Growth
1995 – 2000	1.37
2000 – 2005	1.27
2005 – 2010	1.20
2010 – 2015	1.12
2015 – 2020	1.03
2020 – 2025	0.94
2025 – 2030	0.81
2030 – 2035	0.70
2035 – 2040	0.59
2040 – 2045	0.51
2045 – 2050	0.41

Source: World Population Prospects 1996

Chart 3



Agriculture Product per Capita

Table 7

1980 – 1990 = 100

Year	Agriculture Product per Capita
1980	100.68
1981	99.98
1982	096.13
1983	102.27
1984	095.64
1985	100.58
1986	098.39
1987	86.72
1988	088.68
1989	84.63
1990	091.29

Source: FAO Bulletin of Statistics 1992

Table 8

1991 – 1999 = 100

Year	Agriculture Product per Capita
1991	099.5
1992	94.6
1993	101.3
1994	107.8
1995	110.6
1996	100.6
1997	103.2
1998	105.6
1999	104.6

Source: FAO Bulletin of Statistics 2000

creasing growth is estimated all over the period.

3. Agricultural Production

The agriculture products of Sri Lanka gained a steady growth afterwards of independence. Particularly the agriculture in association of irrigation, takes an important role in conforming the food preservation of government. In 1980 it was at the level of 15% - 20%. Agriculture which records an average annual growth rate of 2.6 during the post-independent era has been the mainstay of the Sri Lankan economy agricultural performance has drastically dropped to 21.1% of the Gross Domestic Production which was 35% in 1950.

In the mid 1980s, 550,000 hectares of land remained under irrigation, which it was 750,000 hectares of land at the beginning of 1990. On the other hand a considerable productivity growth caused to this difference particularly in the production of paddy.

Here mentioned about last two decade per capita of agricultural production in Sri Lanka. It has been divided in to two parts to analyze those data. (Due to the change of base year of the index)

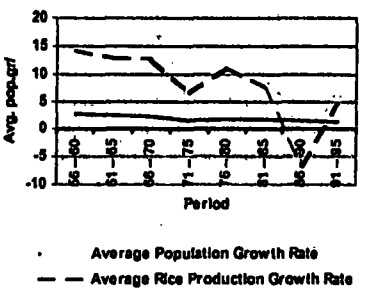
Average Population and Rice Production Growth Rate Periodically

Table 9

Period	Average Population Growth Rate	Average Rice Production Growth Rate
56 – 60	2.84	14.14
61 – 65	2.42	12.90
66 – 70	2.32	12.76
71 – 75	1.52	6.48
76 – 80	1.78	11.20
81 – 85	1.82	7.44
86 – 90	1.42	- 6.54
91 – 95	1.28	4.14

Source: Independence Economic Progress In Sri Lanka

Chart 4



The inspection of 89 statistics clears that in this time period per capita of agriculture production has been subjected to a considerable variation. This situation explains it more clearly with the comparison of world agricultural products.

Though in the decade '80 it doesn't show the steady growth as of the decade 1990, it existed in some way. That is, the growth until 1995 began to worsen since 1996. It's worthy inquiring this situation with each particle deeply. A special attention is leveled at the paddy production here. **(Table 7 and Table 8)**

Rice Growing Sector

In Sri Lanka successive governments have given priority to increase food production. With respect to the production of rice, which is the staple food a remarkable progress have been achieved. In 1950 nearly 71% of the total rice consumed in the country was imported but the country was self-sufficient in rice by 1993.

Out of total agricultural land, 42% is under paddy cultivation has been doubled during the past 5 decades. The maximum paddy production was reported 2.9 million metric tons in which is three folds growth when compared with paddy harvest of 1960. As far as the production trend is concerned, it is clear that there was remarkable growth of paddy until '80s decade. But 1986 onwards, the growth of productivity was stagnated. The causal factors of growth in paddy production during the time period 1976 – 1986 were effects of green revolution and accelerated Mahaweli development projects which enables the former to access new potential lands. As a result, the average harvest increased from 2.3 Mt in 1976 to 3.4 Mt in 1985. **(Table 9 and Chart 4)**

If a country produce goods exceeding population, the country is likely to attend toward food preservation. In that sense Sri Lanka as a country whose staple consumption is rice, has squired this target. This situation has happened in a great number except during 1986 – 1990. However the following **(Table 10)** statistics explain the factors that support to achieve the growth.

These statistics show that -

a. Amount of cultivated lands,
b. Rising of productivity.

seems to have affected equally in growth of rice production of Sri Lanka the productivity of paddy per hectare is grown from metric tons 0.65 to metric tons 3.5 todate. Though the growth of amount of lands is not comparatively considerable within the period. It remains around 103% and it is obvious the main reason for the wondorous production growth of paddy is due to growth of its productivity. Estimated rice demand in Sri Lanka is as follows: **(Table 11)**

Rice import in Sri Lanka has been decreasing from independence to recent. In 1995 the quantity of rice imported is zero. Rice import as a percentage of total in Sri Lanka is shown as follows:

All the above data analyzing concludes that Sri Lanka has the ability to attend to be preserved with rice. If we compared with future population growth and with developing countries is not unsatisfactory. The existing regimes take all possible needs to attend self-sufficiency. An extract of the views presented in the report (1995) about national policy-frame for agricultural land and forest resources, is as follows:

Paddy is the staple carbohydrate of the Sri Lankans and its importance to the nations economy via saving of foreign exchange

Table 10

Progress of Paddy Sector During Last Six Decades in Sri Lanka

Decade	Annual Land Utilized ('000 ha)	Average Yield (t ha $^{-1}$)	Annual Production ('000 ha)	Rice Imported %
40 – 49	397	0.650	262	60
50 – 59	393	1.730	687	50
60 – 69	503	2.090	1065	40
70 – 79	623	2.480	1564	25
80 – 89	708	3.312	2372	10
90 – 99	807	3.500	2460	5

Source: ASDA 2000

Table 11

Estimated Rice Demand by Year

Year	Demand (Million Mt)
2000	1.87
2005	1.92
2010	2.02
2015	2.24

Source: ASDA 2000

Table 12

Wheat Imported

Year	Wheat Imported (Mt)
1987	578
1988	612
1989	726
1990	577
1991	670
1992	709
1993	771
1994	865
1995	1057
1996	913
1997	789
1998	880
1999	859

Source: Central Bank Reports

thought import substitutions and employment of a large segment of the rural population cannot be over emphasized. About 1.8 million farmers or 10% of the total population are engaged in paddy cultivation. Rice accounts for 45% and 40% of per capita calories and protein respectively in the Sri Lankan diet. Hence food security, by pursuing policy towards achieving self-sufficiency in the major staple, rice should be a major policy goal. (*Randolph Barker, M. Samad,* **Economic Review**, March 1998)

Wheat Production

The next highest consumed cereal, which is wheat, is imported, as Sri Lanka is not a wheat growing country. The wheat grain is imported and milled at the wheat-milling complex at Trincomalee and distributed throughout the country through the cooperative network, which has more than eight thousand outlets. Wheat flour has become the second staple food next to rice, due to its easy availability, convenience in preparation and lower price, as it is sold at a subsidized price by the government. Wheat import in Sri Lanka in the post several years as follows: **(Table 12)**

According to this statistic table past a great amount of wheat imported was recorded in 1995. The government reduction of flour prices may be cause to that.

Milk Production

Milk occupies an important place in the human diet. The annual milk production of the country is about, 325 million liters, which accounts about 20% of the national milk requirement, at a very low level of consumption of 32 ml of milk per person per day. The balance 80% of the country's requirements is met by imports. Milk production in Sri Lanka in the past several years as follows: **(Table 13)**

Fish Production

The fish production in the county in 1999 is recorded as 280,000 Mt. accounting for 78% of the total fish supplies. The balance requirement is met by imports. The main products imported

Table 13

Milk Production in Sri Lanka

Year	Production (Million liters)	Year	Production (Million liters)
1988	226	1994	333
1989	238	1995	253
1990	288	1996	331
1991	281	1997	331
1992	302	1998	341
1993	320	1999	342

Source: Central Bank Reports

are dried and salted fish, canned fish and small quantities of fresh fish. Fish production in Sri Lanka in the past several years are as follows: **(Table 14)**

Fish production was growing during the past decade. Although there is a possibility to upgrade this sector, it has faced some constraints such as lack of government policy towards this sector, Northeast war etc.

Egg Production

Egg requirements are met locally. Egg production in Sri Lanka in the past several years are as follows: **(Table 15)**

As far as egg production is concerned the most observable characteristic is that the production remains at a constant level over a period of time (except 1994). Since the local production of eggs are well matched with local demand and it is irrational to import.

Meat Production

The meat production is relatively small section in the Sri Lankan food scenario. The total production recorded in 1996 is 67,500 Mt and accounts for 98% of the available supplies.

Per Capita Food Supplies

The annual per capital availability of rice has fluctuated from 80.3 kg and 113.0 kg. While per capita availability of wheat flour has fluctuated between 21.2 kg and 42.8 kg during the period 1950 and

Table 14

Fish Production

Year	Sub sector		Production
	Marine	Inland	Mt. '000
1990	136	31	177
1991	174	24	198
1992	185	21	206
1993	203	18	221
1994	212	12	224
1995	218	20	238
1996	206	22	228
1997	213	27	240
1998	240	30	270
1999	248	31	280

Source: Central Bank Reports

1995. Neither the per capita availability of rice nor wheat shows a specific terms pattern, but appear to be well correlated with period of low availability of rice coinciding with period of higher availability of wheat flour and vice versa. With the development of the industry, availability of fish shows a marked increase from 7.2 kg/ year in 1980 to 11.4 kg in 1995 while meat has marginally increased from 2.6 kg/ year in 1950 to 4.0 kg/ year in 1995. Per capita availability of milk and milk products has increased from 13.3 kg/ year in 1950 to 15.3 kg/ year in 1995, on account of the developments the dairy industry and also due to liberalized imports of milk and milk products.

Food Imports

The main food imports are wheat, milk powder, dried fish and salted fish, canned fish, cooking oil and other minor food ingredients. There has been an increase in the imports of wheat and sugar. Food production, availability and imports in Sri Lanka are as follows: **(Table 16)**

The above data vividly highlights that Sri Lanka has almost reached to the status of self-sufficiency in main food production. It is also not impossible, reached to self-sufficiency due to the increasing trend in main food production. But certain other productions are highly dependent on imports.

Table 15

Egg Production

Year	Production (Millions)
1990	818
1991	844
1992	794
1993	857
1994	563
1995	862
1996	856
1997	850
1998	876
1999	898

Source: Central Bank Reports

Table 16

Food Production, Availability & Imports '96

	Production	Percentage of Country's Requirement	Imports
A. Cereals			
Rice	2683.7	97.3	3.1
Other	38.8	27.8	73.2
Wheat	-	-	100.0
B. Roots and Tubers	440.0	99.9	0.1
C. Sugar	73.6	13.4	89.3
D. Pulses and Nuts	47.2	32.6	68.4
E. Vegetables Onion	637.7	100.00	-
F. Fruits	82.9	62.3	37.7
	132.9	93.3	8.7
G. Meat	66.2	98.2	1.4
H. Eggs	48.9	100.0	-
I. Fish	240.1	79.8	20.4
J. Milk (Fresh)	286.7	16.23	83.6
Whole Dried	8.9	19.9	80.3
K. Oils & Fats	125.4	175.0	6.6
Coconut	894.0	101.0	-

Food Sufficiency Levels in Sri Lanka

During the last few decades, achieving self-sufficiency in rice has been the key goal of the agriculture sector. Increase in rice production, has been the result of both increased productivity in existing farms and the expansion of cultivation to new areas. The country is now at the threshold of achieving self-sufficiency in rice. The required deficit is imported by the private sector.

Total requirement of wheat are imported to the country under PL 480 Food Aid Assistant schemes. Local production of roots and tubers, vegetables and eggs meet the country's consumption requirements. Main food imports are wheat (100%), sugar (85%), pulses (approximately 80%), milk products (approximately 80%), fish (approximately 22%) and cooking oils (approximately 7.5%).

Malnutrition in Sri Lanka

Although the average per capita availability of calories exceeds the minimum level, 45% of the households in 1990/91 it has been found to be energy deficient, thus indicating a heavily skewed distribution, implying that nearly half of the households consume more food than is needed while the other half less than what is needed, mainly due to the lack of adequate resources to acquire the food. The people who are below the poverty line have no purchasing power to acquire their daily requirement of food.

To Meet Food Requirements

With the growth in population, the food requirements are increasing. The land area available in Sri Lanka for food production is almost stagnant or infect, decreasing due to the takeover of the land for various other development projects.

This challenge the growth rate of population and satisfication of food necessity through limited resources should be needed the principal problem found in agricultural sector at present is the higher level of cost of production than the other countries. So the profit range happened to be sectary. The desertion of youth from the agriculture sectors also probably a reason. In the context government intervention is a must. On the other hand encourage to cultivate the uncultivated land as well as encourage private sector in large-scale agricultural businesses should bring about and equality control over the fertilizers and pesticides within the country is necessary. The steps that lead to a productivity can be taken by holding researches time to time. Through upgrading providing farmers with loan facilities etc. land consumption can be raised. These steps helps to meet the future requirement of food and can lead to the status of food security within the country.

There was not a steady growth in agriculture sector in Sri Lanka for the past decades in comparison to the growth of population. Though, in some years there was a favourable growth, it was unlike when comparing to this previous years in most of the cases. But in rice, as the staple food of Sri Lankans, it has been achieved an accelerating growth for the past decades.

However among the food requisites of Sri Lanka, some amount depends on imports, particularly wheat flour represents the lions share in corn consumption.

The dependency on wheat importation is threat to the food preservation. To control these factors the rice production should raise. The country has its ability in producing the other imports too and the facilities and incentives should be enhanced in relevant sectors.