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Round-table discussion on -

# **Global Food Security**

**Deliberating Perspectives, Nurturing Solutions**



**Event Booklet**

**May 11, 2024**  
**New Delhi**





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# **Global Food Security**

**Deliberating Perspectives, Nurturing Solutions**

In an era marked by unprecedented challenges to global food security, a roundtable discussion emerges as a crucial platform for addressing the multifaceted dimensions of this crisis. The discussion delved into the intricate web of factors threatening food security worldwide, ranging from environmental degradation to socio-economic disparities, and conflicts in different pockets of the world exacerbating the situation, particularly in the global south.

***“When all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”***

**- World Food Summit of 1996**



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# About Us

Established in January 2020, the World Intellectual Foundation is a global, non-partisan, and sector-agnostic think tank that aims to create an ecosystem that brings together diverse stakeholders with large-canvas thinking for the collective benefit of society.

The objective of the Foundation is to encourage and assist individuals, organisations, and governments in implementing research-driven ideas that are bold, innovative, and pragmatic. Our approach is to ignite policy initiatives with dynamic, all-encompassing recommendations that can be implemented.

In a short span of four years, WIF has already published 12 well-researched policy documents. Each one addresses time-sensitive global issues and provides actionable and innovative policy directions. Our methodology for each project has been distinct, pertaining to the concept and vision of the respective projects. We engage all the possible stakeholders relevant to the project, while our in-depth research is supplemented by empirical data collection and statistical analysis. We have also provided reports to government agencies in various states, some of which have taken the recommendations contained therein to implement sector-specific policy interventions.

WIF has mounted an ambitious project of documenting the socio-economic impact of a large body of work – undertaken by socio-cultural and faith-based organisations in critical development sectors and humanitarian domains in India where we endeavour to establish the unique “Bharatiya Model of Sewa”. It is a mammoth exercise involving around 2 Lakh projects spread across the domains of health, education, self-reliance and social. Our endeavour is to change the global discourse on bottom-up development approaches such as “Sewa” and bring them into public consciousness.





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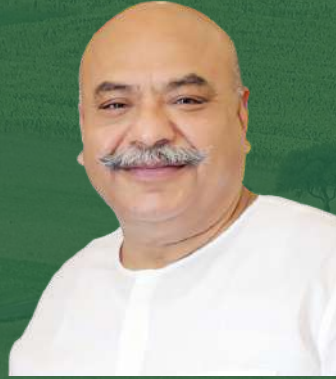
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## **MESSAGES**



# From the Founder



In our pursuit of addressing the critical issue of food security worldwide, it is essential to draw inspiration from successful initiatives and learn from the experiences of nations like India. Today, I am honoured to share insights gleaned from India's remarkable journey towards ensuring food security for its citizens.

India's Food Security Initiatives stand as a beacon of hope, providing sustenance to 80 crore individuals. This monumental achievement underscores the significance of capacity building and equitable resource accessibility. Through concerted efforts, India has demonstrated that with dedication and strategic planning, the goal of food security can be within reach.

However, challenges persist, particularly in the realm of Agricultural Supply Chain Efficiency. Inefficiencies within India's agricultural supply chain network have hindered progress and limited the reach of food security initiatives. To address this, we must explore avenues such as organised retail and contract farming. These mechanisms hold the promise of enhancing efficiency, reducing wastage, and ensuring fair returns to farmers. Moreover, it is imperative to heed the call for reforms that make agriculture more viable and profitable. By studying successful models, such as those implemented in Punjab, we can glean invaluable lessons and chart a course towards sustainable agricultural practices.

As we convene to deliberate on the pressing issue of global food security, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity. Together, let us strive to create a world where no one goes hungry, where food security is not merely a goal but a reality for all.



# From the Director



As we convene this roundtable discussion on Global Food Security, it's crucial to recognise the interconnectedness of the myriad challenges confronting nations worldwide. India's proactive measures in ensuring food security stand as a testament to the power of collective action, exemplified through initiatives like the National Food Security Act and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.

However, while India's efforts are commendable, the global landscape presents a complex tapestry of challenges that transcend borders. From the ominous spectre of climate change and its detrimental impacts on agriculture to the deep-rooted socio-economic disparities entrenched in societies worldwide, the vulnerabilities of our food systems are starkly illuminated.

Our objectives are clear:

- To foster a holistic understanding of the intricacies surrounding global food security,
- To ignite actionable strategies aimed at fortifying our food systems, and
- To underscore the urgency of addressing food insecurity and conflicts as fundamental prerequisites for achieving peace and stability worldwide.

It is only through concerted efforts that we can aspire to realise a future where no one goes to bed hungry, where food security transcends being a privilege and becomes a universal right.

- Basant P Gupta



## Session Highlights -

The roundtable discussion elucidated the multifaceted nature of global food security, underlining the imperative for comprehensive reforms, international collaboration, and innovative solutions to address the challenges posed by climate change, conflicts, and socio-economic disparities. Each speaker brought forth unique perspectives, spanning policy, trade, environment, and technology, thus emphasizing the urgency and complexity of achieving global food security in an era marked by unprecedented challenges.

Moreover, the session not only convened distinguished experts to deliberate on the pressing issues of global food security but also commemorated the significant launch of a research paper authored by Dr. Rubina Mittal and Pravin Kumar Singh from the World Intellectual Foundation. This seminal research paper pledges to offer invaluable insights and comprehensive analysis on the multifaceted dimensions of food security, presenting innovative solutions and policy recommendations. By amalgamating rigorous research with pragmatic strategies, the paper endeavours to bridge the gap between academic inquiry and real-world implementation, thereby contributing to a more resilient and sustainable global food system.

This launch serves as a testament to the steadfast commitment of the World Intellectual Foundation to foster informed dialogue and facilitate actionable outcomes in the relentless pursuit of global food security.



# About the Panel -



With his distinguished career including his role as India's lead negotiator at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), Dr. Mohan Kumar brings a wealth of experience. His expertise spans crucial areas such as intellectual property rights, services, dispute settlement, and environmental issues. Agriculture has always been a contentious topic in past WTO negotiations, where the imperative of achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture often struggled to gain prominence.



Prof. Purnamita Dasgupta is the Ford Foundation Chair in Environmental Economics and Acting Head, Environmental and Resource Economics Unit of the Institute of Economic Growth. She has authored many books like Sustainable Development Insights from India & Climate Sensitive Adaptation in Health: Imperatives for India in a Developing Economy Context.



Prof. (Dr.) Dolly Dhar is the Dean, Sharda School of Agricultural Sciences, Sharda University. She is a well-established Agricultural Microbiologist with specialization in Algology. She worked at Centre for Conservation and Utilisation of Blue Green Algae, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute for almost thirty-five years as Scientist, Sr. Scientist and Principal Scientist.



Dr. Sandeep Tripathi is the Founder, Forum for Global Studies and Assistant Professor, Sharda School of Humanities and Social Science, Sharda University. His latest Co-edited book titled 'Technology, Energy, and Warfare in the Context of Evolving Geopolitics' is forthcoming. He is empaneled as 'Honorary Political Consultant' at Association of Mechanical Engineers of Kuzbass, Russia. Currently, he is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Sharda School of Humanities and Social Science.



**“WTO is the epitome of undemocratic agreements imposed by West.”**

**- Prof. Mohan Kumar**



Prof. Mohan Kumar, renowned for his extensive experience as India's lead negotiator at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), delved into the intricate intersection of agriculture and trade policies. With a keen focus on the complexities inherent in integrating agricultural interests into global trade agreements, Dr. Kumar shed light on the challenges posed by Western blocs, historically known for heavily subsidizing their agricultural sectors.

Drawing from historical context, he elucidated how agriculture was initially excluded from free trade agreements due to substantial subsidies from the US and EU, highlighting the WTO's undemocratic origins, particularly in the realm of agriculture. Dr. Kumar underscored India's significant milestone in advocating for the inclusion of textiles in free trade, emphasizing the necessity of aligning national agricultural policies with global trade norms while simultaneously addressing domestic imperatives such as food security and nutrition.

Furthermore, Dr. Kumar advocated for robust land and agricultural reforms to bolster productivity and sustainability within the Indian agricultural sector. He astutely observed how global conflicts, exemplified by the recent Russia-Ukraine war, have severely disrupted food supply chains, necessitating a permanent solution to issues surrounding public stockholding and food security. Notably, Dr. Kumar highlighted the collective support of 80 countries for such measures, countering the portrayal by media outlets that portray these demands as detrimental to free trade.



**“Blending SDGs with climate scenarios, the climate change narrative threatens every nation's developmental aspirations.”**

**- Prof. Purnamita Dasgupta**



Prof. Purnamita Dasgupta, a distinguished expert in environmental economics, illuminated the intricate relationship between climate change, environmental degradation, and food security. Drawing from her extensive expertise, Prof. Dasgupta underscored the profound impact of climate change on various facets of food security, including production, sustainability, and consumption patterns. She emphasised that addressing food security is not merely a standalone objective but an indispensable component for achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) globally.

Moreover, Prof. Dasgupta articulated the pressing need for efficient resource utilisation and the implementation of financial mechanisms to bolster climate-resilient agricultural practices. Recognizing the inherent challenges posed by restrictions on developmental assistance, she underscored the critical importance of fostering international collaboration to surmount these obstacles collectively.

In essence, Prof. Dasgupta's insights shed light on the imperative for concerted efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on food security while emphasising the pivotal role of collaborative endeavours in building resilient and sustainable food systems for the future.



**“Prioritize global collaboration to foster climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable practices for a nourished world.”**

**- Prof. Dolly Wattal Dhar**



Drawing upon her specialization in agricultural microbiology and years of dedicated research, Prof. Dhar provided profound insights into the biological and environmental dimensions of food security. She delineated the fundamental components of food security: availability, access, and utilization, elucidating their interconnectedness and significance in ensuring nourishment for all.

With a keen eye on the future, Prof. Dhar underscored the pressing need to ramp up food production in anticipation of the burgeoning global population, projected to soar to 10 billion by 2030. To tackle this formidable challenge, she advocated for the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices, the implementation of enhanced irrigation systems, and the forging of stronger rural-urban linkages. These measures, she contended, are indispensable for bolstering agricultural productivity while mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change on food production.

Furthermore, Prof. Dhar accentuated the vital role of global collaboration in facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering innovations aimed at augmenting agricultural productivity. By leveraging shared expertise and best practices on a global scale, she asserted, the international community can collectively address the intricate challenges posed by food security and pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable future.

In essence, Prof. Dhar's insights underscored the imperative for concerted action, innovation, and cooperation in navigating the complexities of food security in an increasingly interconnected world.



***“The world has undermined global interdependencies and the critical role of infrastructure in the food supply chain network resulting in the 3F crises the global south is grappling with.”***

***- Dr. Sandeep Tripathi***



Drawing upon his rich background in political science and global studies, Dr. Tripathi offered a nuanced geopolitical perspective on the intricate dynamics of food security. He delved into the concept of the 3F Crises, elucidating how crises in the food, fuel, and fertiliser sectors reverberate across the global landscape, profoundly impacting the three crucial components of food security: accessibility, affordability, and availability.

In his analysis, Dr. Tripathi underscored the pivotal role of Ukraine's infrastructure in shaping global food supply chains, shedding light on the interconnectedness of economies on a global scale. By examining the multifaceted implications of geopolitical factors on food security, he provided invaluable insights into the complexities and challenges inherent in ensuring a stable and sustainable food supply for populations worldwide.

Furthermore, Dr. Tripathi's examination of the 3F Crises not only offered a comprehensive understanding of the vulnerabilities inherent in global food systems but also underscored the urgent need for proactive measures to mitigate the adverse effects of geopolitical disruptions on food security. His elucidation of the interconnectedness of global economies served as a stark reminder of the imperative for international cooperation and collaboration in addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by food security in an increasingly interconnected world.





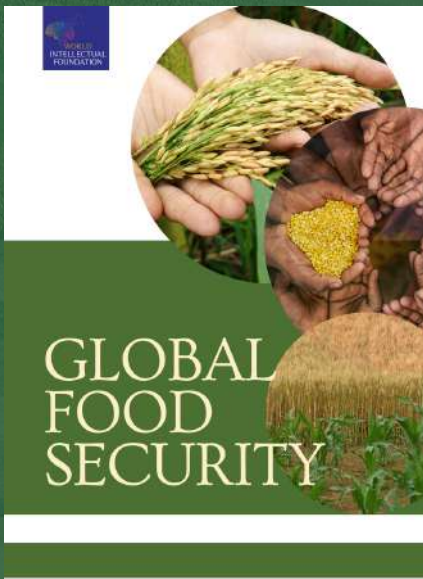
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## **REPORT LAUNCH**





The World Intellectual Foundation (WIF) took a significant step forward in addressing the pressing issue of global food security with the launch of a seminal report authored by Dr. Rubina Mittal and Mr. Pravin Kumar Singh. Titled "Global Food Security", this report delves into the multifaceted challenges and complexities surrounding food security amidst the ongoing global food crisis.

The report serves as a comprehensive exploration of various dimensions of food security, shedding light on critical issues that threaten global stability and well-being. It not only highlights the immediate challenges of ensuring access to nutritious food for all but also delves into the broader implications for international relations and environmental sustainability.

The launch of this report marks a significant milestone in the ongoing quest for global food security. With its comprehensive analysis and actionable recommendations, it provides a roadmap for policymakers, practitioners, and advocates to navigate the complex challenges of ensuring food security for all. The World Intellectual Foundation reaffirms its commitment to fostering informed dialogue and catalyzing positive change in the pursuit of a world where no one goes hungry.







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## **AUTHORS' PERSPECTIVE**



Dr. Rubina Mittal, leveraging her expertise in operations research and mathematical modeling, highlighted the intricate relationship between food security, conflict, and economic stability, emphasizing its pivotal role in achieving sustainable peace. Using the Russia-Ukraine conflict as a key example, she underscored how geopolitical disruptions reshape global food dynamics. Dr. Mittal stressed the urgent need to bridge the gap between research and practical implementation in addressing food insecurity, advocating for actionable policies grounded in research insights to effectively mitigate global hunger.



**Dr. Rubina Mittal**  
**Director of Research & Innovation**  
**World Intellectual Foundation**

***In a world marred by conflict, food security emerges as the cornerstone of peace, with intergenerational implications.***

*- Dr. Rubina Mittal*

Socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, and conflict significantly perpetuate food insecurity, particularly in the global south, hindering food and nutrition security for millions. The imperative for sustainable agriculture is underscored, given the declining availability of land and water resources and the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and food supply chains. Effective resolution of food insecurity necessitates global cooperation, with coordinated resource allocation and strategic planning at various levels, considering the impact of conflicts on international relations.



**Pravin Kumar Singh**  
**Senior Project Associate**  
**World Intellectual Foundation**



# Key Takeaways -

**Multifaceted Nature of Global Food Security:** The discussion underscored the complexity of global food security, recognizing its interconnectedness with various factors including climate change, geopolitical dynamics, agricultural policies, and environmental degradation.

**Need for Comprehensive Reforms and International Collaboration:** Speakers emphasized the necessity for comprehensive reforms in agricultural policies and international trade agreements to address the challenges posed by climate change, conflicts, and socio-economic disparities. They stressed the importance of international collaboration in fostering resilient and sustainable food systems.

**Intersection of Agriculture, Trade, and Environment:** Insights were provided into the intricate intersection of agriculture, trade, and environmental considerations. Speakers highlighted the challenges of integrating agricultural interests into global trade agreements while addressing climate change impacts on food production and sustainability.

**Importance of Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices:** There was a consensus on the critical role of climate-resilient agricultural practices in enhancing productivity and sustainability amidst changing environmental conditions. Speakers advocated for improved irrigation systems, land reforms, and stronger rural-urban linkages to bolster agricultural resilience.

**Geopolitical Perspectives on Food Security:** Geopolitical considerations were examined in relation to food security, with discussions on how crises in food, fuel, and fertilizer sectors impact global food supply chains. The significance of Ukraine's infrastructure and its implications for global food security were highlighted, emphasizing the interconnectedness of global economies.

**Call for Action and Collaboration:** Overall, the roundtable discussion emphasized the urgent need for collective action, innovation, and collaboration to address the multifaceted challenges of global food security. Speakers stressed the importance of aligning national policies with global norms, sharing knowledge and best practices, and fostering inclusive solutions to ensure food security for all.



## Meet Our Team



**Dr Rubina Mittal**  
Director of Research  
& Innovation



**Basant P Gupta**  
Director



**Hemangi Sinha**  
Project Head



**Rahul Kumar**  
Technical Head



**Pravin Kumar Singh**  
Sr. Project Associate



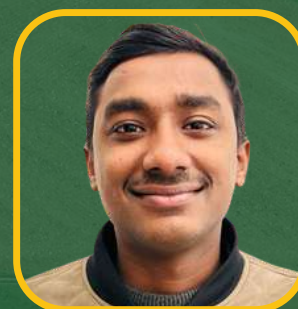
**Kunal Singh**  
Sr. Project Associate



**Santosh Kumar**  
Research Associate



**Apaar Wadhwa**  
Research Associate



**Nitesh Birje**  
Technical Assistant





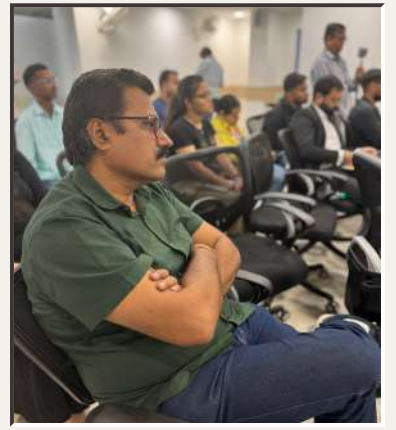
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## **APPENDICES**









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To watch our event

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J4, Dhawandeeep Building,  
6, Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi – 110001

+91 93543 76157

delhi@worldintellectual.foundation  
www.worldintellectual.foundation



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