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**Regional Evaluation of Food Security Systems  
In the Third World With Special Reference to  
Arab Countries**

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## ABSTRACT

Evaluation of the actual food availability and the related food security for the entire population of a country or a group of countries is rather impracticable. Further, the assessment of food security with reference to the whole gamut of foodstuffs may have rendered the analysis highly complex and cumbersome. Hence, foodgrains consisting of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and sugar were taken up to represent the basic food availability. A countrywide evaluation has to necessarily resort on the averages in food availability, and the availability itself has to rely on some generalising assumptions. The study, therefore, seeks a partial explanation of the food security systems in the third world countries.

Domestic foodgrains production, import dependence of basic food and the aggregate food availability indices have been worked out for 48 countries in Asia, Africa and latin America. These were, broadly examined at the continent level and also a comparative analysis was made among the individual nations. Wide range of variations were revealed in the food security position. Differences in the food security levels were ascribed to the sets of reasons pertaining to the obligations for export oriented landuse preferences, environmental potentials, agricultural traditions and the overall economic status of a country. It is suggested that in addition to the much envisaged production efficiency, individual's food availability and security levels can also be raised to a considerable extent by observing the conservation oriented religious ethics in consumption behaviour, which could reduce the excessive import dependence of billions of currency worth.