

Ensuring the Right to Sufficient Food in Algeria The Dual Challenges of Employment and Investigation

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Abstract:

Even though the international community has reaffirmed the importance of fully respecting the right to sufficient food, as recognized in international human rights law, it is not easy for food policies to effectively implement this right for various reasons and factors, including climate variability, sudden crises, escalating internal conflicts and wars in certain regions, as well as the use of food as a political tool. In Algeria, it appears that the situation is heading towards improvement. After being threatened with food dependence on the outside, it is now classified as the top-ranked country in Africa in terms of food security in the latest ranking of the United Nations World Food Programme. Although this ranking represents a real achievement for Algeria in achieving food security, achieving food sovereignty is almost impossible, as efforts are still ongoing to overcome all future challenges in order to achieve food sovereignty and completely eliminate food dependence

key words: Sufficient food, food manufacturing, smart agriculture, challenges, Food security

Introduction:

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The issue of "the right to sufficient food" holds top priority in the present conditions that the world, as a whole, and the Arab region, specifically, are experiencing. Furthermore, it represents one of the standout issues that the Algerian government has recently dedicated considerable attention to, given its direct association with the issue of food security. The latter is considered a fundamental element in the primary endeavors aimed at realizing the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite the repeated reaffirmation by the international community of the paramount importance of fully respecting the recognized right to sufficient food in international human rights law, it remains a challenge for food policies to effectively implement this right. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reports that over one billion individuals suffer from food deficiencies, with more than two billion people lacking essential vitamins and minerals in their diets. Approximately six million children die each year due to malnutrition and related diseases, accounting for nearly half of all preventable deaths (The United Nations Organization, p. 1). Furthermore, millions of individuals in developing countries experience famine as a result of natural disasters, increasing civil conflicts, and the use of food as a political tool (The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rig, s.d.). Noteworthy is the Russian-Ukrainian war, which has had severe consequences for the food security of nations, particularly affecting the wheat and grain sectors. The crisis has spurred many Arab countries, including Algeria, to pursue self-sufficiency.

In Algeria, the situation appears to be improving. Previously threatened by food dependency due to reliance on food imports as a key aspect of the national economy, it is now ranked first in Africa in terms of food security in the latest classification by the United Nations World Food Programme. This accomplishment places Algeria in the blue category alongside the strongest countries in the world. The report indicates that Algeria has reduced malnutrition by a percentage... during the period between 2018 and 2020, signifying the genuine efforts made to uphold the right to adequate food as an international and national commitment to human rights.

Even though this position brings a tangible gain for Algeria in attaining food security, the achievement of food sovereignty remains almost out of reach since efforts are still being made to address all the challenges that need to be met in gaining food sovereignty, completely breaking away from food dependence, achieving food security, comprehensive self-sufficiency, and possibly becoming global food-exporting countries.

Thus, this article aims at bringing attention to the conceptual framework of the human right to sufficient food, including its definition, the challenges it presents,

and the hurdles in providing sufficient and healthy food for everyone at the national level.

The problematic we are addressing revolves around: What does the right to sufficient food mean? What are the challenges to enforcing this right as a basic human right? And, what is the Algerian state relying on in order to accomplish its food security goals?

To answer this problematic, we must adopt a descriptive and analytical methodology that is appropriate for the subject, according to a plan that consists of two main parts: Firstly, we will discuss the conceptual framework of the right to sufficient food, and secondly, we will examine the challenges facing its implementation in Algeria and the prospects of achieving it.

First Part : Conceptual Framework Of The Right To Sufficient Food

The right to sufficient food is a fundamental element of human dignity and well-being, and it demonstrates the international community's responsibility to ensure the availability of food in a sustainable and fair manner for all. This part is concerned with elucidating and comprehending the conceptual framework of the human right to sufficient food by examining its definition as a human right (the first chapter) and outlining its position in international and national law (the second chapter).

First topic : The concept of the right to sufficient food and its relationship to human rights

To understand the meaning of the right to sufficient food, it is necessary for us to delve into this topic by first defining it (first section), differentiating it from analogous terms (second section), and explicating its relationship to other human rights (third section).

Section One: Defining the Right to Sufficient Food

The United Nations special rapporteur on the right to food, Jean Ziegler, has stated that the right to food means "the right to regular, permanent, free access either directly or through cash purchases to sufficient and suitable food in terms of quantity and quality and that meets the cultural traditions of the consumer, and that ensures an individual's or a community's satisfying and dignified physical and psychological life, free of anxiety." (Riegler, 2008, p. 8)

The United Nations organization has also claimed that the right to adequate food is "inclusive, as it not only includes the right to obtain the minimum required calories, proteins, and other required nutrients, but also the right to access all the food components necessary for individuals to lead an active, healthy life, and the means to obtain them." (The United Nations Organization, p. 2)

Article 3 of the International Code of Conduct regarding the Right to Sufficient Food defines it as: "The right to sufficient food means that all individuals regardless

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of gender or age must have access to sufficient economic and physical means to obtain food in all circumstances whether alone or in association with others. They must also have the right to use facilities suitable for the resources to purchase food in accordance with human dignity. The right to sufficient food is an integral part of an appropriate living standard."

This definition aligns with the main components of the right to food, as expressed in General Comment No. 12 of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. The Committee defines the right to sufficient food, particularly in relation to the right to food, as it is used to highlight a number of factors that must be taken into account when determining whether certain food types or food systems are suitable under the circumstances for the purposes of Article 11 of the Covenant. (Fatsi, 2021, p. 668)

Section two: Differentiating the right to sufficient food from other related concepts

The term "the right to sufficient food" is comparable to several similar terms such as food security, self-sufficiency, and food sovereignty. There are commonalities and differences among these three concepts, which are mentioned below:

Firstly: Food Security

The term "Food Security" has undergone many changes and additions, until a comprehensive definition was agreed upon at the 1996 World Food Summit. It is defined as the state where all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. This implies that food security is "the ability of all people to access adequate food that ensures them an active and healthy life." (Khalifa Moussa, p. 5) The ability to achieve this can only be realized if the state can produce or provide food and food materials for all members of society without exception, in the appropriate quantity and quality to meet their needs continuously, for a healthy and active life.

Hence, food security is one of the most important components of human security for the state, which can be achieved through strategies and policies implemented by the government. However, it has undergone significant development that has shifted from the realization of state food security to focusing primarily on a person's right to sufficient food.

The right to food imposes on states the fulfillment of their obligations in the field of human rights, as a set of interconnected rights that cannot be divided. Therefore, food security based on rights essentially means that achieving food security for every human being is an act of a right from human rights, which is the right to food. Thus, partially or wholly denying the right to nutritious, sufficient, healthy, and appropriate food means partially or wholly depriving individuals of food security.

(Arab Non-Governmental Developmental Organizations Network (ANND), p. 48) Therefore, food security, as one dimension of human security, seeks to provide individuals with food, ensure its distribution and quality, and thus guarantee their right to food, which is a fundamental human right.

Secondly: Self-Sufficiency

The right to sufficient food frequently overlaps with self-sufficiency in the context of food, however, the latter refers to the state possessing or having access to enough resources to meet its food requirements.(Jamaai, p. 85) This includes dependence on the state's own resources and capabilities entirely for producing the community's food requirements locally, thereby avoiding the need to import food from external sources. If the required amounts of food are not available in sufficient quantities, it indicates a lack in food production, which also means that the necessary quantities do not correspond with the available quantities. This, in the end, results in a shortage of the trade balance and is also known as the food gap. (Amer Ahmed, 2010, p. 5)

Thirdly : Food Sovereignty

The right to sufficient food is intrinsically linked to a concept that strongly resonates with food sovereignty. Food sovereignty denotes the right of populations to establish their agricultural policies that reflect their nutritional needs and priorities. It also encompasses the right of populations to have access to food that is nutritionally sound, culturally relevant, and produced in an ecologically sound and sustainable manner, as well as to establish dietary patterns and agricultural systems. Additionally, it gives priority to the interests of food systems participants such as producers, distributors, and consumers, rather than to the demand of the market and global corporations.(the Nubali Declaration issued by the Food Sovereignty Forum in 2007.)

Third Section : The Relationship Between the Right to Food and Other Human Rights

The human right to sufficient food is inherently related to human dignity, and is a fundamental right necessary for the enjoyment of other rights enshrined in the international human rights framework (The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rig, s.d.). such as the right to life, health, education, and water, among others.

Indeed, hunger and malnutrition can pose a severe threat to an individual's right to life and jeopardize their ability to live a healthy life. Access to sufficient and nutritious food is regarded as one of the basic factors that can help people live healthy lives. A healthy and secure food system contributes to building immunity, while poor or insufficient nutrition can have extremely negative effects on health. Similarly, the consumption of untreated or unsanitary water can leave individuals vulnerable to disease, which demonstrates the direct relationship between the right to food and the right to water. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Jose Graziano da Silva, emphasized in

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a lecture at the University of California, Los Angeles, that the right to food requires a new approach that includes the right to access healthy food systems. He called for a redirection of our food systems towards nourishing people rather than simply feeding them.(da Silva , 2019)

The right to sufficient food means more than just having enough food on the table; it means enabling individuals to feed themselves and their families with dignity. It seeks to ensure that all children, everywhere, receive the healthy diets they need to reach their full potential.

Moreover, hunger and malnutrition can impact the right to education, by limiting children's ability to learn and forcing them to abandon school and work to survive, sometimes falling victim to the worst forms of child labor. Thus, fulfilling the right to food is crucial in preventing such situations.

The right to sufficient food is interdependent with other economic and social rights, such as the right to work and social security. Frequently, work and social security represent crucial means to acquire food in determinative ways, whilst in other instances, the minimum wage and social security benefits are established with consideration given to the cost of essential foodstuffs in the market.(The United Nations Organization, p. 06).

Second Topic: International and legal recognition of the right to sufficient food

The right to sufficient food is one of the internationally recognized human rights, and is nationally committed to within a comprehensive strategy for food security. Therefore, this study will delve into the international recognition of the right to sufficient food (the first topic), and then move on to the national constitutional recognition of this right in Algeria (the second topic).

First Section: International recognition of the right to sufficient food

The right to food is one of the human rights recognized globally in the domain of international human rights law. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to food is recognized in Article 25 in the context of the right to an sufficient standard of living, which states that "everyone has the right to an sufficient standard of living for themselves and their families, including sufficient food, clothing, and housing." Article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also recognizes the right of every person to a sufficient standard of living for themselves and their families, including enough food, clothing, and shelter. The second paragraph of the mentioned article recognizes that "Every human being has the fundamental right of freedom from hunger"

The right to food is also recognized under various international conventions that protect certain groups, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979, the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1990.

Additionally, the right to food is recognized in several regional instruments, including the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Field of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Protocol of San Salvador of 1988, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the

Rights of Women in Africa of 2003. (The United Nations Organization, p. 09). The right to food is also recognized in international human rights law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Articles 6 and 59) and the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Articles 1-5/p and 14-17/1). (Fatisi, 2021)

In 2014, member states of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization committed to eradicating hunger and malnutrition in all forms

during the Second International Conference on Nutrition. (Food and Agriculture Organization) In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly announced the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and urged the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization to lead the effort in partnership with the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, and several other stakeholder platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security. Nutrition has been the focus of several resolutions, including those of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Health Organization. (The Committee on World Food Security, p. 4)

This vast collection of international documents that protect the right to food not only reiterates the universality of this right, which is indisputable in times of peace and times of armed conflict, but also emphasizes its interdependence with all civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as elaborated earlier.

The voluntary guidelines that accompany these international initiatives are expected to complement and contribute to them, thus promoting coherence among policies. Furthermore, evidence-based guidance will support countries in implementing the recommendations within the Second International Conference on Nutrition framework of action to continue efforts toward sufficient food within the context of national food security and the achievement of the second Sustainable Development Goal of ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting sustainable agriculture. (The Committee on World Food Security, p. 4)

The legal obligations that states undertake to achieve the right to sufficient food as outlined in Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and addressed in General Comment 3 by the Committee in 1990 can be identified. The major obligation is to take gradual steps that allow the full realization of the right to sufficient food. This obligation mandates a commitment to make speedy progress towards this goal. Each state is bound to ensure that every individual has access to the minimum essential food that is sufficient, nutritious,

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appropriate, and secure, and that people are free from hunger. State parties are obliged to adhere to three types or levels of commitments: those of respect, protection, and activation. The duty to activate, in turn, encapsulates the duties of facilitation, provision, and protection of available options for securing sufficient food, which entails the requirement that state parties avoid implementing any measures that could hinder such efforts. The duty to protect obligates states to take measures to ensure that individuals or corporations do not deprive others of the right to sufficient food. The duty to fulfill requires states to engage actively in endeavors designed to promote access to resources and mechanisms for ensuring subsistence, including food security, and the use of such resources and mechanisms. Ultimately, whenever an individual or group are precluded from exercising their right to sufficient food via available means, due to extraneous factors, states must fulfill that right directly. This duty also extends to those who fall victim to natural or other types of disasters. (The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rig, s.d.)

Second section: The Right to Sufficient Food in Algerian Constitution

World states have committed themselves to doing what is necessary to guarantee everyone access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food without interruption for a healthy life. While the right to food is enshrined in international law, many countries still hesitate to recognize and include it in their constitutions as a fundamental right that can be litigated. As food security and its related rights are contemporary issues, it is noteworthy that most global constitutions, especially in Arab states, have not expressly regulated them.

Nevertheless, the Algerian Constitution of 2020 includes several implicit legal provisions that ensure Algerian citizens' right to sufficient food. For instance, its introduction states, "The Constitution is above all, and it is the primary legislation that ensures individual and collective rights and freedoms." This commitment is further reinforced by Article 35 of the Constitution, which states, "The State guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms." Upon analyzing these two texts, we find a transparent commitment by the state to ensure and provide all fundamental rights, including the right to food, which is undoubtedly one of the most significant rights that any citizen must be granted. Furthermore, the constitutional founder implicitly recognized this right by highlighting in the introduction that "The Algerian people are devoted to their choices to minimize social disparities and eliminate regional inequalities, and are working towards establishing a productive and competitive economy within the frame of sustainable development." This is a clear indication of the state's role in recognizing and striving to enforce all economic and social rights, including the right to sufficient food, as reinforced in Article 62, which states, "The public authorities are committed to protecting consumers in a manner that guarantees their economic rights, safety, health, and rights."

Moreover, the Algerian Constitution recognizes various economic and social rights, including freedom of trade and entrepreneurship, the right to access drinking water (Article 63), and other essential rights that guarantee the enforcement of the right to sufficient food.

Part Two: Challenges Facing the Implementation of the Right to Sufficient Food and the Stakes Involved in Achieving It

The implementation of the right to sufficient food and securing food safety is among the prominent challenges facing the Algerian government, particularly after the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy and the supply chains of various products, as well as the international geopolitical situation (Chapter One). Nonetheless, despite these challenges, Algeria is heading in the right direction towards achieving its food security goals, according to the recent report prepared by the FAO organization. It is incumbent upon Algeria to meet certain requirements by making additional efforts and mobilizing various sectors to achieve its objectives.(Chapter Two)

First topic: Challenges in ensuring the right to sufficient food

Algeria ranks first in food security in Africa in the latest assessment of the World Food Program of the United Nations. This achievement puts it in the same league as the strongest states in the world. However, this success did not come by chance, but rather resulted from consistent efforts to confront the main challenges that face food security at the national and international levels. In this topic, we will try to briefly highlight these challenges. We will divide them into direct challenges (the first section) and indirect challenges (the second section).

Section One: Direct Challenges

The problem of ensuring the right to sufficient food for all is directly related to the issues of providing and distributing food as part of the mission to achieve food security for the nation. Accomplishing this mission is challenging because of the numerous problems and factors that affect the ability to provide sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for the population.

First: Natural Challenges

These challenges include, but are not limited to, the threat of desertification to arable land, the spread of salinity in irrigated land, and global warming and climate change, which have had an impact on many crops.(Kouici & Benmoussa, 2022, p. 434)Algeria has also experienced various natural disasters such as floods and droughts, and water scarcity poses the most significant natural challenge, as Algeria has recently experienced a scarcity of rain, which is the primary source of water resources.

Second: Social challenges

These challenges are associated mainly with the significant urban expansion resulting from migration from rural areas and the increasing proportion of consumers to producers. There is also a growing trend of building cement structures

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on fertile agricultural land in the suburbs of cities, which is a major concern for the future of agriculture in Algeria.

Thirdly: Economic Challenges

The economic challenges include global price hikes and their repercussions in some states. This can make it difficult for people to obtain basic food items. Moreover, dominant states may use their control over surplus agricultural and food production as leverage for their own interests .(Kouici & Benmoussa, 2022, p. 435)Trade policies and international agreements also influence the distribution and supply of food in various parts of the world.

Fourthly: Political Challenges

The political challenges that affect food security involve the influence that political factors have on the control of food production and distribution. Instability in agricultural and trade policies, as well as frequent policy changes, can lead to uncertainty among farmers and investors in the agriculture sector, reducing their investments and willingness to increase agricultural production.

Second Section : Indirect Challenges

The right to sufficient food is related to several indirect challenges. This section will refer to the most significant ones.

Firstly - Population Explosion

Algeria is one of the countries that is currently suffering from a population explosion, as a result of a rapid and substantial increase in the number of its inhabitants. This situation poses a significant challenge to the citizens' access to and availability of sufficient food, mainly due to the increased pressure on food resources, water, and agricultural land. This challenge can directly impact the ability to provide sufficient food, as a sudden surge in demand for food could result in fluctuations in food commodity markets and a corresponding increase in prices. This may lead to some poor segments of the population having difficulties purchasing food at reasonable prices. Furthermore, the population increase also causes the depletion of natural resources like water and agricultural land, which can lead to a shortage of vital resources for agricultural production..

Secondly - Employment Policy

Failing employment policies also play a crucial role in determining individuals and families' access to and ability to provide food, as the absence of suitable jobs directly affects the ability to earn sufficient wages to pay for food. Insufficient employment opportunities is a challenge that the state hopes to address through the enhancement of employment policies and the creation of appropriate job openings for young people that correspond to their qualifications, whether academic or training-based. While Algeria has made great strides in creating job opportunities for a significant number of its young population in both public and private sectors as part of the public employment program, the challenge still persists, especially for

the growing number of unemployed young people, particularly university graduates and those who have received vocational training.

Second Topic : The Stakes Involved in Achieving Food Security and The Implementation of the Right to Sufficient Food

The majority of the aforementioned challenges have been confronted by the Algerian state, as exemplified by its top spot in the 2023 FAO ranking for achieving food security. However, this achievement shouldn't deceive us into thinking that the task of ensuring food security has been fully accomplished. In fact, it's still in its early stages, with many stakes remaining for the Algerian state to overcome in order to shift from food security to achieving self-sufficiency and possibly even venturing into international markets. In this article, we will explore the most prominent challenges confronting the Algerian state in its quest to comprehensively and completely uphold the right to sufficient food.

Section One: Promoting Agriculture in Arid Areas

Desert agriculture refers to the cultivation of crops and animal rearing in arid or semi-arid regions, and is considered one of the primary strategies employed by the Algerian state to achieve sustainable food security, ensure local food supply, increase essential food production, particularly grains, and sustainably provide for future generations. It is also seen as an opportunity to create a robust national economy, capable of competing with the world's strongest economies in the future. The major challenge of desert agriculture is the scarcity of water and the harsh environmental conditions present in such regions. Despite this, experts and specialists in the field of arid agriculture are convinced that Algeria's desert regions have a vast amount of groundwater resources that are sufficient for thousands of years, which can be used in large quantities for desert agriculture. (Cheurfi, 2023) Additionally, the natural advantages of deserts, such as vast areas of open space, abundant sunlight, and suitable thermal warmth throughout the year, make them uniquely sustainable.

To encourage desert agriculture, Algeria is implementing a range of measures, including:

- Adopting specialized strategies that take into account the limited water availability and other environmental challenges, as well as practices and technologies commonly used in desert agriculture such as improved irrigation, soil enhancement, and greenhouse farming.

- Encouraging local agricultural investors and farmers to participate in desert agriculture projects to ensure their familiarity and understanding of the region's unique characteristics.

- Developing dedicated agricultural areas in the desert and connecting them to necessary agricultural roads and infrastructure, while ensuring that transport from the North to South is made available. This necessitates accelerating the completion of the railway line connecting the North and South.

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- Establishing the National Office for Desert and Industrial Agriculture lands in 2021 to support investment projects and enable them to take advantage of the benefits that relevant laws provide.

- Implementing effective insurance policies that increase the contribution of the agricultural insurance sector in Algeria and other African countries, particularly in institutional savings. Additionally, working to improve the African insurance companies' governance, expertise, institutional capacity, and financial resources, all of which can be leveraged to enhance food security across the Continent.(Food security challenges in Algeria require , 2023)

Section Two: Use of Modern Technology in the Agriculture (Smart Agriculture)

Algeria is investing in smart agriculture, which primarily relies on advanced technology and modern communication and information techniques for farms management. The primary aim is to improve the quality and quantity of production, enhance the efficiency of managing agricultural resources, and increase productivity while using natural resources, particularly water, in a sustainable way.(Bouabdeli & Gharbi, 2023, p. 309) Additionally, smart agriculture aims to build resilience to climate change and alleviate the burden on agricultural investors. Algeria prioritizes this agricultural approach as a way to achieve food security, ensuring the full implementation of the right to sufficient food.

To achieve a sustainable transition to smart agriculture, a comprehensive approach is required to empower people, strengthen institutions and networks, develop regulatory and policy frameworks, and improve technical and operational abilities within the agricultural sector. In order to generate, manage, share, and coordinate data, information, and knowledge, collaboration is crucial among the relevant ministries responsible for food security and private sector institutions.(Bouabdeli & Gharbi, 2023, p. 312)

Third Section : Encouragement of food industries

The food industry sector is given top priority within the state's strategy to boost non-fossil fuel exports. The sector is considered a vital sector that can rise to the challenge of meeting the requirement of the domestic market by guaranteeing food products outside of their production seasons and at reasonable prices. This contributes to achieving food security and ensuring the citizens' access to sufficient food. Additionally, the sector helps in penetrating foreign markets, especially African markets, with the use of competition between quality and price that makes Algerian food products more competitive and easier to position in foreign markets. Although significant effort has been put in tackling this challenge, the results are still below the intended goals, and this calls for doubling and intensifying these efforts. More importantly, there is a need to unify forces to uphold our food security.(Soumer, s.d)The success of this process is anchored on how independent

the state is in providing agricultural products and raw materials for the food processing industries' benefit. This determines the prices and stability of food commodities that are linked to changing market conditions.

Section Four : Rationalization of Food

The Policy of Food Rationalization aims to regulate consumption levels in accordance with available resources and nutritional needs that are suitable for the community under international standards. The policy aims to achieve food security by rationalizing food production, distribution, and consumption. Rationalizing these processes enables communities to access sufficient quantities of high-quality food, ensuring safe and sustainable provision of food while minimizing waste and promoting the sustainability of food systems.

The negative culture of consumption prevailing in our Algerian society is characterized by wastefulness, which necessitates promoting the values of positive consumption based on economic principles, thrift, and awareness about the significance of rationalization amid the current economic crisis faced by the local market. One of the essential considerations to achieve the food rationalization policy is to modify food consumption patterns by increasing the cost of inefficient consumption habits and reducing food waste and loss through developing an integrated system for food waste reduction throughout supply chains. Additionally, consumer protection associations and civil society organizations have a crucial and effective role in raising awareness about the importance of food rationalization and its link to the right to sufficient food for everyone.

Fifth Section : Maintaining Price Stability

The right to sufficient food requires that prices of essential items be affordable and accessible to all individuals, regardless of factors such as government subsidies or income levels. In order to ensure the continuity of food supplies(Jamaai, p. 91), particularly for vulnerable populations who are unable to access these items at market prices, countries attempt to influence food prices through pricing regulations and support.

By mandating set prices, countries can ensure the continued availability of food items and stable prices for all sections of society. Additionally, countries work towards price stability through the formation of strategic food reserves, increase their size in times of surplus and reduce them during periods of scarcity. However, achieving price stability is a difficult task that requires a mix of policies and procedures.(Mourad, 2010, p. 50)

Unfortunately, Algeria faces issues with unwarranted increases in the prices of primary food items, such as cooking oil and milk, which are widely consumed. External reasons, such as global increases in raw material prices, have contributed to the destabilization of international markets and have led to a turbulent environment for institutions. Meanwhile, internal reasons include unfair competitive practices among merchants and a rise in illegal acts that damage the transparency and fairness of business activities. One of the significant examples of

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these actions is illegal speculation, which has harmed the right to sufficient food amongst Algerian citizens due to the resulting dearth of basic foodstuffs and the subsequent increase in prices. This crime has become widespread in various Algerian regions during the COVID-19 pandemic that occurred between 2019 and 2021. Algerian legislation was able to eliminate this crime through deterrent punishment and preventive procedures provided for in Law No. 21-15, dated December 28, 2021 on combating illegal speculation. However, this law alone is insufficient to maintain price stability, and other procedures must be taken, such as:

- Boosting local production of agricultural inputs, which are mostly imported, particularly those that impact prices, such as fertilizers, pesticides, animal feed, and seeds. This will facilitate the regulation of benchmark prices for meat, fruits, and vegetables, as well as the organization of the agricultural workforce into national councils of professionals.

- Establishing a national bank for genes and genetic resources of vegetables, fruits, fruit-bearing trees, and animals.(Cheurfi, 2023)

- Developing a proactive plan to respond swiftly to emergency events such as rising oil prices or disruptions in food supply, which would be based on accurate and reliable statistical data.

1- Subsidy of citizen's purchasing power

The concept of purchasing power refers to a person's financial capacity to purchase food. When citizens have very limited purchasing power, they often struggle to purchase enough and diverse food, leading to malnutrition and negative impacts on their health and human development.

Algeria has implemented various policies and measures over the years to increase purchasing power, such as raising the minimum wage, increasing salaries, creating job opportunities for youth, implementing social welfare policies, and opening job positions in both the public and private sectors. However, some challenges obstruct these efforts, including

- Increasingly high rates of youth unemployment.
- High rates of inflation.
- Income inequality among social classes.

Conclusion

This study has shown us that the right to sufficient food is a fundamental human right recognized internationally. The Algerian state is committed to achieving this right in pursuit of food security as it seeks to provide all citizens a dignified life, which in turn, contributes to better health, well-being, and sustainable development. Algeria is sparing no effort in its pursuit of becoming the top African country for food security by 2023. This constitutes a significant achievement that would enhance the state's national and international reputation, underlining its dedication to sustainable development and the enhancement of its citizens' quality of life.

Nonetheless, there are still numerous food-related concerns that the Algerian state is addressing to attain food security and self-sufficiency, as elaborated on in this study.

Suggestions

- In order to promote the food security of Algerian citizens, we propose to the Algerian constitutional authorities the addition of the following article to the chapter on "Fundamental Rights and Public Freedoms" in the following terms: "**The State shall be responsible for ensuring that individuals have access to sufficient food.**"

- Establishment of a dedicated Ministry for Food Security.

- The technological advancement of institutions and their openness to innovation, by aligning and coordinating research with universities and industrial entities.

- Allocation of funds for investing in the infrastructure of food distribution and storage, thus ensuring that food is readily available for those who require it.

- Leveraging the advantages of the Arab Free Trade Zone through common agricultural projects aimed at exporting food among Arab nations and attracting Arab investment.

- Encouragement of youth to participate in the main goal of the nation, which is to achieve food security, and thereby ensuring the availability of sufficient food, especially through the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the agricultural sector.

- Improvement of the regulatory and legal framework and the methods of managing the insurance sector to expand insurance coverage, especially for small farmers, micro-enterprises, and investors in the agricultural sector.

Margins

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