

# Makalah Akademia

## THE FOOD SECURITY:

## ARE WE WARNED?

By

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**Food security** is the measure of the availability of food and a person's ability to access it. According to United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, it is stated that food security is defined as all people in which at all times; have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious foods according to their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. The evolution of worldwide technology today has proved that there are various ways to ensure that foods are safe to eat and easy to access for people. Many years ago, people had to work harder and strive just to make sure that they could sustain the ability to get food supply for their families and themselves. One of the main importance of global food security is to provide nutritious and quality food, which is easy to access, and it is fundamental to human existence. With better security access to food, it can produce a wide range of positive impacts.

For instance, such as economic growth, job creation and also poverty reduction. Food is one of our most basic requirements, as we all know. People will hunger if there isn't enough food, which will have an impact on their health. As a result, the nation will experience severe consequences including an economic downturn and a labour shortage. Additionally, the worldwide crisis and the Covid-19 epidemic, which affected nearly every country, must have had a severe impact on everyone, including the nation.

Malaysia is considered to have low vulnerability with regard to food security. This is due to the local production of basic food items such as rice, fruit, vegetables, fish and poultry. It is still in adequate conditions, while food supply and distribution are well organized. While globally, hunger levels remain disturbingly high. As evidence, there are several countries that still face food crises. One of the reasons is because it is caused by high food prices caused by poor growing conditions and the rising costs of fuel and food itself.



**Figure 1. The National Agrofood Policy of Malaysia had highlighted that local rice production should be increased to ensure the country's demand in future.**

The world pledged to end hunger, food insecurity, and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 seven years ago. We believed at the time that using innovative techniques, earlier advancement might be significantly accelerated, pushing us closer to realizing this goal. The state of the globe today has significantly changed.

The last five editions of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) have exposed a sobering truth. The world has not made significant strides in ensuring that all people have year-round access to safe, nutritious, and adequate food or eliminating all forms of malnutrition.

Climate change and natural catastrophes like floods are only two of the many elements that could have an influence on the food security of our country. Everyone on Earth had a terrible impact from the recent Covid-19 outbreak. The coronavirus illness, also known as Covid-19, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which was identified in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. The majority of the world has experienced a rapid spread of this virus, which has severely disrupted social and economic life everywhere. Even the World Health Organisation (WHO) has to acknowledge the global pandemic status of Covid-19. As a result, all nations, including Malaysia, implemented a nationwide lockdown to stop the virus's spread. Due to that, practically every industry in most nations has seen a slowdown, including the agriculture sector, plantation and tourism.

According to the World Food Security, there are four aspects of food security that need to be looked at which are availability, access, utilisation, and stability. However, the Covid-19 pandemic will have the greatest impact on accessibility and availability due to various issues with food supply, distribution, and transportation. As a result, there might be a break in the food supply chain, which would result in food shortages and higher food costs.

In order to prevent the virus from spreading over the entire nation, the government of Malaysia created the Movement Control Order (MCO) policy. This regulation is intended to prohibit social gatherings and interactions that could reduce and flatten the chain of viral transmission. Nevertheless, due to the lockdown, residents had difficulty accessing stores to get fresh veggies for their families. To some extent, this will cause a disruption in the availability and accessibility of food. For instance, the worker availability for important time-critical farming tasks, such as seeding vegetable plants and collecting fruits is being impacted by the quarantine or restricted movement order. Thus, the Covid-19 epidemic may impact food production as people are required to only stay at home and could not go to work.

As is commonly known, 50% of the agricultural labour consisted of non-citizens. The financial burden on the farm industry has therefore grown as a result of these non-citizen workers' incapacity to travel. As a result, it significantly affects employment in the agricultural industry, which has a negative impact on productivity due to a labour shortage. For instance, the production of non-staple foods necessitates a large workforce, and as there are only so many of them, planting crops for continuous supply may be delayed. As a result, the capacity of the food system to supply enough, reasonably priced, and healthy food for everyone is threatened by the disruption in food production.



**Figure 2. Vegetables had to be left to spoil, gardeners could not go out due to movement restriction.**

Other than that, the limitations on movement hinder farmers' access to markets where they can obtain supplies and sell their products. As a result, food accessibility may suffer since the majority of the supply chain requires the food products to go through numerous steps to get from the supplier to the customer, including transportation, storage, and retail. A disruption in one of the processes will influence the economy. In addition, port closures were said to be slowing down the shipping sector, and logistical issues could interrupt with the supply networks. A pandemic crisis may quickly put pressure on the food supply chains because agricultural items are mostly perishable ones. These chains involve a complicated web of interactions involving farmers, farming tools, processing companies, transportation, retailers, and consumers. Consequently, farms become overflowing with fresh produce, which result in the loss of perishable goods.



Food security is a fundamental human right. However, for hundreds of millions of people, this right is not being met, and often for reasons beyond their control. By July 5, 2022, the new high record for food prices has caused a global catastrophe that would push millions more people into severe poverty, amplify hunger and malnutrition, and threaten to reverse hard-won development gains. The recent conflict in Ukraine, supply chain interruptions, and the ongoing economic consequences from the COVID-19 pandemic is reversing years of development progress and driving food prices to all-time highs. However, hundreds of millions of people do not have access to this right, sometimes due to circumstances beyond their control. ***By July 5, 2022, a worldwide disaster brought on by the new high record for food prices will have worsened hunger and malnutrition, pushed millions more people into extreme poverty, and threatened to undo years of hard-won development progress.*** Years of development gains are being undone, and food prices are at all-time highs as a result of the current crisis in Ukraine, supply chain disruptions, and continued economic effects of the COVID-19 epidemic.

***People in low- and middle-income nations are more affected by rising food prices because they spend a larger proportion of their income on food than people in high-income countries.*** In addition, the Covid-19 outbreak has recently jeopardised the food security of millions of people throughout the world. Limited earnings, greater unemployment, and higher food prices in many places have significantly reduced food access for people affected.

Furthermore, the essential border restrictions and lockdowns imposed to stem the spread of Covid-19, have disrupted food transit and manufacturing. According to the United Nations, the number of people categorised as food insecure at the crisis level or worse might nearly double by 2020. Covid-19's economic impact affects food production at all levels. We have seen disturbances in food producers' financial liquidity, inflation of basic food goods, and consumers with lower incomes unable to pay these price increases.

Therefore, it is critical to act now to safeguard those who are most vulnerable while also laying the groundwork for a more stable and sustainable future. One of the ways is by building climate change resilience. Climate change and climate disasters have been identified as major contributors to food insecurity. Storms, severe droughts, and bug outbreaks brought on by climate change threaten food supply, particularly those produced by smaller farms. In order to fight climate change, it is crucial to help farmers create more resilient and sustainable agricultural methods. While helping to boost total food production, crop diversification, improved irrigation, and sustainability initiatives can help mitigate the effects of climatic catastrophes.

*“Diversifying crop production, enhancing irrigation, and promoting sustainability can assist to reduce the effects of climate disasters while increasing the overall food supply. Government can also be a huge help in improving food security. As Kenya's government has conducted a government-run health systems and helped relieve the seasonal spikes in malnutrition. This concerning issue can be resolved step by step by working together to the same end goal which is a world better food security.”*

Imbas untuk lihat



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