Committee: Food and Agriculture Organization

Country: Iraq

Topic: Combating Food Insecurity and the Risk of Famine

Iraq, in Asia, the average population is 44 million, the capital is Baghdad, and currency is dinar. Although there are 8 million hectares of land suitable for agriculture, annual production is carried out on 4-5 million hectares of it. In recent years, Iraq has become dependent on imported food. With the development of the oil industry in the 1930s, the Iraqi population moved from farms to cities. This situation has reduced the agricultural labor force in the total population. Since the 1960s, rapid population growth, limited arable land and blocked food production have increased food imports. While the increasing population increases the need for food, it also increases the pressure on water resources along with imports.

Climate crisis getting worse has made food security one of the world's most important issues. With the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia War, the effects of the global food crisis are being felt more intensely. Experts say humanity is facing its biggest global food crisis of the modern era since 2022. At least 222 million people in 53 countries are experiencing acute food insecurity and need urgent help. Hunger has become a major threat for 45 million people in 37 countries. FAO has an important job because making sure we have enough food in the future means getting everyone involved to agree on projects. Zero Hunger means making sure no one goes hungry or suffers from malnutrition. It's FAO's biggest mission and one of the UN's 17 goals for a better world by 2030. Zero Hunger is crucial because without enough food, we can't have good health or education for everyone.

In Iraq, the Patriotic Salvation Alliance, made up of the Shiite Sadr Group, the Sunni Sovereignty Coalition, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, has backed the Emergency Support for Food Security bill. They believe the bill, put forward by the government, will improve Iraq's food security, help cut poverty, boost financial stability, and enhance people's living standards. The Central Bank of Iraq reported in a published report that Iraq will need between $1.72 billion and $2.33 billion for food security in 2023, with estimates suggesting this figure could reach between $1.65 billion and $3.67 billion by 2026.

There are some steps that need to be taken in the short and long term to mitigate the effects of the global food crisis on the Middle East. Urgent humanitarian aid should be delivered to countries facing famine to prevent deaths from hunger. Additionally, swift agreements between Ukraine and Russia could provide relief to regions suffering from the food crisis. Governments that impose export restrictions or sanctions to protect their people and ensure food supply should evaluate the international market impact of these decisions and keep dialogue channels open before implementing them. Enhancing the effectiveness of food importation and storage procedures will also be a crucial step in reducing risks. A more permanent solution lies in improving local agricultural and food systems. Investments should be made in technological applications that adapt to changing climate conditions, such as soilless agriculture, resource-conserving agricultural methods, and the use of purified water. Farmers need government support and incentives to adopt sustainable and resilient systems against hazards like droughts and floods. Additionally, measures should be taken to enhance the quality of agricultural production and increase the attractiveness of the agriculture-food sector.