

**DELMAR INTERNATIONAL**

FOR UNDERADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES COLLEGE LTD



## Professional Research

*Effect of Trade policies on Food Security in Developing  
countries emphasis on wheat*

The Researcher

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## Introduction.

*Food production and security history goes back when the mankind acquired their food from hunting wild animals and forging wild plants. Then civilization started when the human being domesticated plants and animals, and cultivated land to meet their basic food needs [E. Wesley F. Peterson 2009]. Today world agriculture food production includes cereal grains, oil seeds, pulses, fruits, vegetables, tropicals, stimulates (tea, coffee, coco) sugar, animal production, and fisheries. World food on national level is met by domestic production and world food trade between countries. The world food situation has improved for the developed or industrial countries. Over the period 1961 to 1996 the food production increased by 37%. In developing countries Asia improved with average of 71%, China alone made the largest increase in food production; about 159% increase since 1961-1996. The African countries on the other hand made a little improvement of about only 2%. The sub Saharan African countries has shown a serious decline in food security, which was reflected in mass- starvation.<sup>1</sup>*

*Arab league 22 countries with population of 450 Million has been experiencing the same problems of severe food insecurity, and poverty, problems Most countries are an agricultural ,oil &natura gas ,tourism dependant countries, with potential of multi million acres of arable land. Agriculture contributed greatly to Arab region food security and continued to do so. Agriculture is considered to be the greatest single contributor to the life of people in their history of struggle for food, health, clothing and shelter commodities\*<sup>2</sup>. In spite of the favorable and rich*

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Bruce L. Cardner Cordon C. Rausser[ 2002]

*natural resources that make some countries e.g, Sudan Arab region to have a comparative advantage for agricultural food crops production, the agricultural food performance has been facing chronic distortions for food production, trade , and food security. This was reflected in civil wars, ethnic violence, poverty and socially unacceptable standard of living, where 33% of the population lives on or below the poverty line<sup>2</sup>*

*To address the question what are the food problems and what are the solutions?, To get out of that blind alley, undergone Trade liberalization policy interventions to improve the agricultural section which directly affect the food performance. Today some Arab countries considered as an acceding countries to the world trade organization (WTO) seeking for a membership and some are considered members .. The WTO members are asked to abide with the WTO rules and regulations. Concerning agriculture any member has to be committed to agriculture trade policies that came under the Agreement on Agriculture (AOA).The main trade polices included in the AOA package and the concern of this research is: reduction in market access, domestic support and export subsidies. This research will study the expected impact of AOA on Arab Region agricultural food performance.<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup>F.A.O.(2003), " trade reforms and food security", reprinted 2004

<sup>3</sup> Steven R. Tabor. (1995), "Agriculture Research in an Era of adjustment policies, institutions and progress". The world bank Washington D.C

## The study Problem.

*Despite significant global advancements in agricultural production and international trade, food insecurity remains a persistent challenge in many developing countries. This paradox raises critical questions about the role of trade policies in either facilitating or hindering access to essential food commodities, particularly wheat, which constitutes a staple in the diets of millions across the Global South. While trade liberalization has been promoted as a pathway to economic growth and improved food availability, its real impact on food security outcomes is complex and varies widely depending on local capacities, institutional frameworks, and market vulnerabilities. In many cases, the reduction of trade barriers and subsidies has exposed fragile agricultural systems to volatile international markets, leading to increased dependence on wheat imports and greater susceptibility to global price shocks. At the same time, protectionist policies and export restrictions in wheat-producing countries during times of crisis can further exacerbate food insecurity in importing nations. The current global landscape, marked by climate change, geopolitical tensions, and economic instability, has amplified these risks, making it more urgent than ever to examine how trade policies shape food security outcomes in developing nations. This study seeks to investigate the multidimensional relationship between trade*

*policies and food security, with a particular focus on wheat, in order to inform more equitable and sustainable policy decisions.*

## The importance of studying:

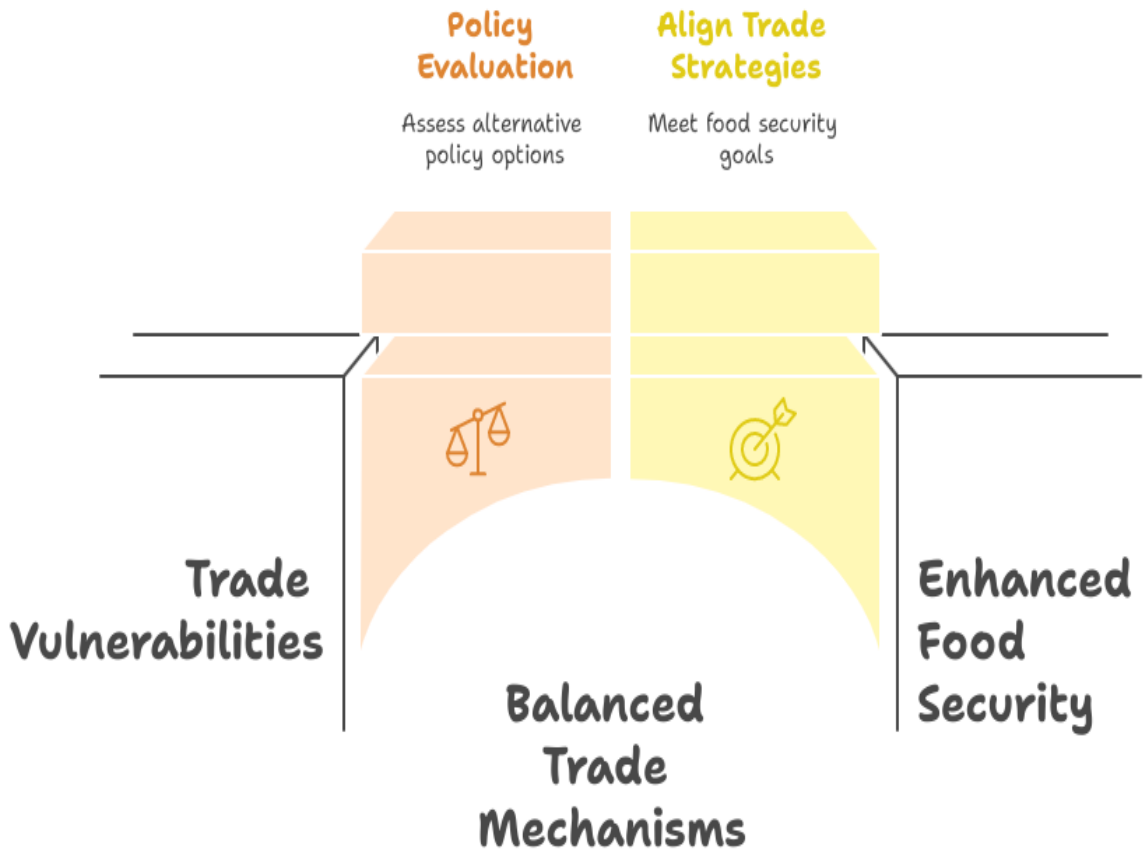
*Understanding the relationship between trade policies and food security is of paramount importance in today's interconnected and increasingly vulnerable global economy. For developing countries, where a large proportion of the population depends on affordable and consistent access to staple foods like wheat, trade policies can have profound implications on both national food systems and household-level nutrition. This study holds significant value as it aims to bridge the knowledge gap regarding how international trade frameworks, tariffs, subsidies, and import/export regulations affect the availability, accessibility, and stability of wheat supplies in developing nations. By focusing specifically on wheat—a key dietary component and a politically sensitive commodity—this research sheds light on the critical intersection between economic governance and food justice.*

*Furthermore, this study contributes to ongoing policy debates by providing empirical insights that can guide governments, development agencies, and international organizations in crafting trade policies that are not only economically sound but also socially equitable and food security-oriented. In a time of mounting global challenges, including climate change, armed conflicts, and supply chain disruptions, the findings of this research could support more resilient and adaptive policy frameworks to ensure that vulnerable populations in developing countries are not left behind in the pursuit of global trade efficiency.*

## Objectives of the study:

- *To examine the impact of trade policies on food security in developing countries.*
- *To analyze the specific effects of wheat-related trade regulations on food availability and accessibility.*
- *To identify the main challenges that trade liberalization poses to wheat-dependent food systems.*
- *To assess how global trade shocks affect wheat supply chains in developing nations.*
- *To evaluate policy alternatives that could enhance food security through more balanced trade mechanisms.*
- *To explore the role of domestic agricultural support in mitigating external trade vulnerabilities.*
- *To provide policy recommendations for aligning trade strategies with food security goals.*

# Enhancing Food Security via Balanced Trade



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## Study hypotheses and questions.

### ***Research Hypotheses***

- 1. Trade policies have a significant impact on food security in developing countries.*
- 2. Wheat-related trade liberalization increases dependence on imports and reduces local food resilience.*
- 3. Restrictive trade measures during global crises exacerbate food insecurity in wheat-importing developing nations.*
- 4. Supportive domestic agricultural policies can mitigate the negative effects of global trade fluctuations on wheat availability.*

### ***Research Questions***

- 1. How do trade policies influence food security outcomes in developing countries?*
- 2. What is the specific impact of wheat trade regulations on food availability and affordability?*
- 3. To what extent does trade liberalization affect local wheat production and import dependency?*
- 4. How do global trade disruptions affect wheat supply chains and food access in developing regions?*
- 5. What trade policy measures can enhance food security in wheat-dependent developing countries?*

## Study Approach.

The descriptive analytical approach was used.

**The limits of the study:**

**Spatial boundaries: The Arab world**

**Time limits:2004-2025.**

**Study plan.**

***Chapter One: Theoretical Framework and Conceptual Foundations***

***Section One: Trade Policies and Their Economic Dimensions***

***Topic 1: Definition and Types of Trade Policies (Tariffs, Quotas, Subsidies, Trade Liberalization)***

***Topic 2: Historical Development of Trade Policies in Developing Countries***

***Topic 3: The Role of International Trade Organizations (WTO, FAO) in Shaping Agricultural Trade***

***Section Two: Concept and Dimensions of Food Security***

***Topic 1: Definition of Food Security and Its Four Pillars (Availability, Access, Utilization, Stability)***

***Topic 2: Indicators and Measurement of Food Security in Developing Countries***

***Topic 3: Importance of Wheat in National Food Security Strategies***

***Chapter Two: Analytical Perspectives on the Impact of Trade Policies on Wheat and Food Security***

***Section One: Impact of Trade Liberalization on Wheat-Based Food Systems***

***Topic 1: Effects of Import Liberalization on Local Wheat Production***

***Topic 2: Price Volatility and Its Consequences on Wheat-Dependent Households***

***Topic 3: Case Studies of Wheat Import Dependency in Selected Developing Countries***

***Section Two: Policy Recommendations and Strategic Alternatives***

***Topic 1: Trade Policy Reforms for Enhancing Food Security***

***Topic 2: Role of Domestic Support Measures in Promoting Wheat Self-Sufficiency***

## Conclusion.

*This study has explored the multifaceted relationship between trade policies and food security in developing countries, with a particular focus on wheat as a staple commodity. Through both theoretical and empirical perspectives, the research has demonstrated that while trade liberalization can offer opportunities for enhanced food availability and economic integration, it also poses significant risks when not accompanied by adequate domestic safeguards and strategic policy planning. Many developing nations remain heavily reliant on wheat imports, making them vulnerable to global price shocks, trade disruptions, and policy decisions made by exporting countries.*

*The findings suggest that a balanced approach is required—one that combines openness to international markets with strong domestic agricultural support and food security planning. Trade policies must be tailored to the unique economic and agricultural conditions of each country, recognizing that food security is not merely a matter of market access but of social stability, national resilience, and long-term sustainability.*

*Ultimately, ensuring food security in wheat-dependent developing countries demands a coherent strategy that links trade, agriculture, and social protection. Policymakers must prioritize not only the efficiency of trade mechanisms but also the equity and reliability of food supply systems to meet the nutritional needs of vulnerable populations. As global challenges such as climate change and geopolitical tensions continue to evolve, the need for resilient, inclusive, and adaptive trade and food security frameworks has never been more urgent.*

## Results:

- *Trade policies have a direct and measurable impact on food security in developing countries.*
- *Liberalized wheat trade often increases dependence on imports and reduces local production incentives.*
- *Global wheat price volatility significantly affects food affordability and access in low-income nations.*
- *Export restrictions by major wheat-producing countries during crises exacerbate food insecurity in importing countries.*
- *Lack of strategic grain reserves and safety nets intensifies the negative effects of trade shocks.*
- *Countries with stronger domestic agricultural support policies are more resilient to international trade disruptions.*
- *A one-size-fits-all trade policy approach is ineffective in addressing the unique food security needs of each developing country.*
- *Integrated strategies that combine trade policy reform with food system strengthening are more effective in achieving long-term food security.*
- *Regional cooperation in wheat trade enhances stability and collective food resilience.*
- *International institutions play a critical role in mediating trade disputes and ensuring equitable access to staple commodities.*

## Recommendations.

*In light of the findings of this study, several policy recommendations emerge to enhance food security in developing countries, particularly those heavily reliant on wheat imports. First, governments should pursue a balanced trade policy that promotes openness to international markets while also protecting and supporting domestic wheat production. This dual approach can help reduce overdependence on global supply chains and increase national resilience.*

*Second, it is essential to establish strategic grain reserves and invest in early warning systems to cushion the impact of international price volatility and trade disruptions. Such mechanisms can provide a buffer during times of crisis and protect vulnerable populations from food shortages and price spikes.*

*Third, regional cooperation among developing countries should be strengthened to ensure more stable wheat trade flows. Coordinated efforts, such as regional stockpiles and harmonized trade policies, can enhance collective food security and reduce the risks associated with unilateral export restrictions.*

*Fourth, greater investment in agricultural infrastructure, research, and farmer support programs is necessary to boost domestic wheat productivity and sustainability. By empowering local producers, countries can better meet their own food needs and reduce reliance on external markets.*

*Finally, international trade institutions and development partners must work collaboratively with developing countries to design fairer trade rules*

*that prioritize food security and human development over purely commercial interests. The pursuit of inclusive and equitable trade policies is not only a matter of economic logic but a humanitarian imperative in the face of persistent global food insecurity.*

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