

Integrating Food Security Through A Democracy Lens As Sustainable National Defense Architecture In Indonesia

Adelisca Pramesti¹⁾, Hikmat Zakky Almubaroq²⁾, Editha Praditya Duarte³⁾

^{1,2,3)}Republic of Indonesia Defense University, Jakarta, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author

Email: pramesti.adelisca@gmail.com, zakkyauri94@gmail.com, praditya.editha@gmail.com

Abstract

This article explains the relationship between food security, democracy, and national defense in Indonesia. It focuses on three interconnected themes: strategic linkages between food security and national defense, food insecurity challenges at the local level with implications for democracy, and local integration in achieving sustainable food security. Food security is framed not only as an economic issue but also as a strategic resource that directly shapes social stability, state legitimacy, and defense readiness. At the local level, persistent food insecurity driven by poverty, malnutrition, and uneven development weakens democracy participation and erodes public trust in governance. These vulnerabilities risk generating unrest and social fragmentation, undermining both democratic legitimacy and national defense capacity. Local integration thus becomes critical in bridging the gap between national policies and community realities. Methodologically, this article employs a literature review approach. The literature review synthesizes existing studies, identifies theoretical gaps, and integrates interdisciplinary insights across security, political, and defense studies. The article concludes that embedding food security within a democracy lens must be treated as a vital pillar for safeguarding sovereignty and shaping a sustainable defense architecture. Ultimately, the intersection of food security, democracy, and defense provides a holistic foundation for resilience, stability, and long-term peace.

Keywords: Food Sovereignty, Securitising Food, National Defense, Democracy

INTRODUCTION

In the context of Indonesia, a geographically vast and archipelagic nation blessed with rich natural resources and immense cultural diversity. Thus, simultaneously burdened by socio-political vulnerabilities, the traditional understanding of national defense requires a fundamental transformation. Also, the concept of national defense must evolve beyond its traditional military-centric paradigm to encompass human security, food sovereignty, and democratic resilience as essential components of a sustainable defense architecture. National defense today can no longer be viewed solely through the lens of external threats and military preparedness; rather, it must integrate the well-being of the population, the sustainability of ecosystems, and the integrity of democratic institutions. In this expanded understanding, food security and democracy are not peripheral issues but lie at the heart of a resilient and just national defense framework.

Food security in Indonesia is not merely a matter of increasing agricultural yields or ensuring supply chain efficiency; it is intrinsically tied to national stability, justice, and autonomy to restructure the food system (Neilson & Wright, 2017:2). A nation's ability to feed its people without undue reliance on volatile global markets determines its resilience in the face of economic shocks, trade disruptions, or political coercion. For Indonesia, where many rural and coastal communities still depend on subsistence farming and fishing. The commodification of land and resources, coupled with the marginalization of local food producers, poses a direct threat to both food sovereignty and national cohesion (Rönnbäck et al., 2002:539; Ahmed, 2018:253). Addressing these vulnerabilities requires not only agricultural reform but also a broader reconceptualization of food as a strategic resource central to national survival.

At the same time, democracy provides the institutional infrastructure through which inclusive and accountable governance of food systems can be realized (Lopez & Gugerell,

2021:1062). Democratic participation empowers farmers, indigenous peoples, and civil society organizations to influence public policy, resist land grabs, and promote sustainable practices. In Indonesia, the post-Reformasi era has witnessed significant gains in civil liberties and public engagement; however, these democratic gains are increasingly threatened by illiberal trends, elite capture, and the shrinking of civic space (Croissant, 2022). If food policies are crafted without transparency or participation, they risk favoring corporate interests over public welfare, thereby weakening the very fabric of democracy.

In a democracy, food security enables societies to respond to crises with adaptability, cooperation, and shared responsibility in their right to define their own food and agricultural system (Vía Campesina, 2009:673; Walsh-Dilley et al., 2016:5). It builds social trust, strengthens national unity, and ensures that defense is not the prerogative of a few but the duty and right of all citizens. For Indonesia, which aspires to regional leadership and global influence, embracing this model is both a strategic and moral imperative. Defense must be understood as a commitment not only to territorial integrity but to the dignity of its people, the sustainability of its environment, and the inclusivity of its political processes (Lindborg & Hewitt, 2018:165-166). Therefore, this article is recognized as a fundamental human right rather than merely a tradable commodity in a democracy lens as a continuous dialogue between the government and its people. Also, investing in democratic institutions and resilient food systems, Indonesia can fortify itself against the root causes of instability, such as poverty, inequality, and ecological degradation, that no weapon can neutralize.

Thus, this article will emphasize that integrating food security and democracy as part of Indonesia's national defence architecture demands a significant shift in perspective. Through a multidisciplinary lens, the article will analyze how strategic linkages between food security and national defense, how food insecurity is facing challenges at the local level, especially implications for democracy, and the local integration in achieving sustainable food security. Therefore, this article proposes strengthening the spirit of the 1945 Constitution and the nation's long struggle for sovereignty and self-determination. Eventually, integrating food security and democracy governance into the national defense agenda offers a holistic and future-oriented approach to safeguarding the nation.

RESEARCH METHODS

This article adopts a literature review as the primary methodology, enabling a critical synthesis of diverse perspectives. According to Snyder (2019), literature reviews are not merely descriptive summaries but methodological tools that reveal theoretical gaps, trace conceptual developments, and integrate interdisciplinary insights. This literature review methodology is especially valuable for exploring issues such as food security, which extends beyond concerns to involve strategic linkages food security in national defense architecture, food insecurity challenges at the local level, also the local integration in achieving sustainable food security. Thus, adopting Snyder's (2019) guidelines, the literature review becomes an interpretive methodology for this article to strengthen the argument that is anchored in systematic and critical literature analysis, providing the most effective path.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Strategic Linkages Between Food Security and National Defense

In rethinking national defense within the Indonesian arena, food security emerges as a critical yet often underexplored dimension of strategic planning. Academic literature, policy

frameworks, and defense white papers increasingly reflect a growing awareness of the complex interplay between food systems and national defense. These sources conceptualize food security not merely as a developmental concern but as a vital component of national resilience. Theoretically, food systems intersect with defense strategies through their influence on social stability, territorial integrity, and state legitimacy (Moragues-Faus et al., 2017:191). Strategically, food insecurity is recognized as a non-traditional threat that can compound internal vulnerabilities and compromise national readiness in times of crisis (Caballero-Anthony, 2016:9-10). Such literature urges a more integrated approach, positioning food systems as a national asset requiring management protection within broader security architectures.

Food security and national defense are inextricably linked, representing two crucial pillars upon which the stability and sovereignty of any nation depend. According to FAO, food security exists when everyone, at all times, has both physical and economic access to enough safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary requirements (1996). Food security is broadly defined as the condition in which all individuals have consistent access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food necessary for an active and healthy life (Pinstrup-Andersen, 2009:5-6). This foundational concept is not merely about food availability but encompasses economic access, utilization, and stability over time. From a theoretical standpoint, food security underpins a country's human capital development; healthy, well-nourished populations are more productive and resilient, contributing not only to economic growth but also to the physical and mental preparedness of military forces (Upreti et al., 2013:101). The armed forces rely on their personnel's physical endurance, cognitive function, and overall health, all of which are directly influenced by nutrition and food quality. Without a secure and adequate food supply, a nation's capacity to sustain its defense operations diminishes, weakening both its deterrence and combat capabilities.

Strategically, the link between food security and national defense extends into social and political stability, which are prerequisites for effective governance and security. Food insecurity often leads to unrest, protests, and in extreme cases, civil conflict or state failure. When large segments of the population face hunger or malnutrition, their dissatisfaction can manifest in social upheaval that diverts governmental attention and resources away from defense priorities to crisis management and internal security (Upreti et al., 2013:94). Such instability creates capital on food shortages to garner support or undermine the state's legitimacy, for example, global and internal wars, small and large-scale conflicts, national and regional uprisings, acts of genocide, state-led oppression, civil unrest and demonstrations, as well as criminal gang-related violence (Shemyakina, 2022:316). Therefore, securing food supply chains and ensuring equitable access to food serve as preventative strategies to maintain social cohesion and reduce internal threats, ultimately reinforcing national defense by stabilizing the domestic environment.

Geopolitical dynamics further illustrate the critical role of food security in national defense. In today's globalized world, many countries are heavily dependent on international trade for essential food commodities. This reliance can expose nations to supply disruptions caused by geopolitical conflicts, food commodities trade embargoes, or economic sanctions (Teodosijevic, 2003:17). Such disruptions can have cascading effects on civilian populations and military logistics alike. For instance, during international crises, adversaries might target food imports or use food blockades as instruments of economic warfare, weakening an opponent without direct military confrontation (Macrae & Zwi, 1992:303; Teodosijevic, 2003:23). Countries with limited domestic food production capacity thus face strategic vulnerabilities that could compromise their sovereignty and defense autonomy. This reality has led many states to pursue policies aimed at increasing agricultural self-sufficiency, diversifying food import sources, and building strategic food reserves to buffer against external shocks (Clapp, 2017:90-91). These measures are increasingly recognized as integral components of national security strategy, ensuring that a nation can sustain itself through prolonged conflicts or global market instability.

Beyond social and geopolitical aspects, food security is also critical to maintaining the operational readiness of military forces and the resilience of national infrastructure. Military operations demand a reliable and continuous supply of food, which directly impacts troop morale, physical performance, and cognitive alertness. Food shortages or malnutrition within armed forces can degrade combat effectiveness, impair decision-making, and reduce endurance in demanding environments. Additionally, the civilian population's food security impacts the overall warfighting environment; populations experiencing hunger are less likely to support defense efforts, recruit new soldiers, or contribute to the national cause. Civil unrest caused by food scarcity can create distractions and internal security challenges that detract from a country's ability to focus on external defense threats. Therefore, robust food production, storage, and distribution systems are essential logistical elements of national defense, reinforcing both military sustainability and societal resilience during crises.

From a strategic standpoint, Indonesia's food security directly influences social cohesion and internal stability, which are vital for safeguarding national sovereignty. Food insecurity, particularly in vulnerable regions such as Papua, parts of Eastern Indonesia, and remote islands, often exacerbates socio-economic disparities and fuels local unrest (Amrullah et al., 2019:1191). Such instability can weaken government authority and provide openings for separatist movements or extremist groups to challenge state control, thereby complicating the defense landscape. The Indonesian government recognizes that addressing food insecurity is not merely a development issue but a key security concern that mitigates risks of internal conflict and preserves national unity. Efforts such as improving agricultural infrastructure, expanding rural development programs, and deploying social safety nets aim to stabilize vulnerable communities and prevent food crises from escalating into security threats. Thus, food security is strategically integrated into Indonesia's defense approach to maintain internal order and reduce vulnerabilities from within.

Indonesia's heavy reliance on food imports, especially staples like rice, soybeans, and wheat, also introduces strategic challenges related to national defense (Timmer, 1994:41; Bourgeois & Kusumaningrum, 2008:290). Dependence on global food markets makes Indonesia vulnerable to international price shocks, trade disruptions, and geopolitical tensions that can affect food availability. For instance, global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts in key agricultural exporting countries have underscored the risks associated with external dependency. Such vulnerabilities have the potential to undermine public morale and strain government resources, weakening the country's capacity to respond to security challenges. In response, Indonesia has pursued policies to enhance food self-sufficiency by investing in domestic agricultural production, supporting smallholder farmers, and promoting technological innovations in farming. Additionally, the government maintains strategic food reserves to buffer against supply shocks, reflecting the integration of food security considerations within national defense planning to uphold sovereignty and reduce external leverage.

The operational readiness of Indonesia's military forces also depends heavily on sustained food security. Indonesian Armed Forces (Tentara Nasional Indonesia, TNI) personnel require reliable access to nutritious food to maintain physical fitness, cognitive function, and morale, especially given the country's complex defense environment spanning land, sea, and air domains. Logistics in Indonesia's archipelago are inherently challenging, with food supply lines vulnerable to disruptions caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, frequent occurrences in the region. These disasters can quickly degrade food availability, impacting both civilian populations and military operations. Hence, the resilience of food production and distribution systems is vital for sustaining defense capabilities during emergencies and prolonged operations. Coordinated efforts between the Ministry of Agriculture, the military, and other government agencies aim to strengthen these systems, underscoring food security as a critical component of Indonesia's defense infrastructure.

Food Insecurity: Challenges at the Local Level and Implications for Democracy

Food insecurity remains a critical issue in Indonesia, especially at the local level, where disparities between urban and rural areas persist. Despite Indonesia's rapid economic growth, millions of Indonesians still face challenges in accessing sufficient, nutritious food due to poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and uneven development. Rural communities in remote islands and eastern Indonesia often experience higher rates of malnutrition and food scarcity, highlighting persistent regional inequalities. These gaps fuel social divisions and feelings of neglect among marginalized groups who struggle to secure basic needs. Such conditions create a fertile ground for public dissatisfaction, which can erode trust in local and national government institutions. Addressing food insecurity in Indonesia thus requires acknowledging these regional disparities and targeting policies to the most vulnerable populations.

Food insecurity also impacts political engagement and democratic processes. When large segments of the population face hunger or poor nutrition, their faith in the government's ability to protect their welfare diminishes. This distrust is particularly visible in areas where corruption or inefficient governance hampers effective public service delivery. Low trust in institutions discourages citizen participation in elections and civic life, weakening the democratic fabric that Indonesia has been striving to strengthen since it transitioned to democracy. Moreover, dissatisfaction linked to food insecurity can lead to protests or social unrest, especially when communities feel excluded from development benefits. Therefore, tackling food insecurity is crucial for preserving Indonesia's democratic legitimacy and preventing social fragmentation.

Food insecurity remains a pressing issue in Indonesia, affecting millions despite the country's economic growth. One notable case is in eastern regions such as Papua, Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), and Maluku, where higher food insecurity under poverty rate and malnutrition problems are significantly higher than the national average (Amrullah et al., 2019:1194-1195). These areas often face limited agricultural productivity due to harsh climates, poor infrastructure, and geographical isolation. For example, many communities in Papua experience chronic food shortages caused by difficulties in distributing food supplies across rugged terrain and a lack of access to clean water (Nurhasan et al., 2022:14). The situation is compounded by limited economic opportunities and inadequate public services, which trap many families in cycles of hunger and poverty. As a result, food insecurity in these regions is deeply intertwined with broader issues of underdevelopment and social exclusion.

Another case highlighting food insecurity is the urban poor population in major cities. Rapid urbanization has led to significant socio-economic disparities where slum areas lack stable access to affordable nutritious food. Many urban low-income families depend heavily on informal jobs with irregular incomes, making consistent food purchases challenging. Rising food prices, especially for staples like rice, exacerbate these vulnerabilities, pushing more people toward food insecurity. Urban food deserts, areas with limited availability of fresh and healthy foods, also contribute to poor nutrition and health outcomes. This urban food insecurity threatens social stability by increasing frustration and marginalization among the city's poorest residents.

Food insecurity remains a significant challenge in Indonesia, affecting both rural and urban populations. According to the United Nations of Food Systems, Indonesia, endowed with vast and varied agrifood systems across its 17,000 islands, holds a critical position in regional food biodiversity. While the country has made notable progress in agricultural development, it continues to face pressing challenges. These include persistent rural poverty among farming communities, environmentally unsustainable agricultural practices, and alarming rates of malnutrition. According to a recent UN regional food security report, nearly 70% of Indonesians are unable to afford a nutritionally adequate diet. Indonesia has made commendable strides in reducing stunting among children under five, bringing the rate down from 24.4% in 2021 to 21.6% in the past year. This improvement remains insufficient, as the prevalence rate remains above the critical threshold of 20% (United Nations Indonesia, 2024). The root of this crisis lies

in the lack of adequate nutrition during the first 1,000 days of a child's life, a period crucial for physical and cognitive development. These systemic issues in food security and child nutrition represent an urgent national health and development concern that demands coordinated, long-term solutions.

The Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) reported that approximately 27.7 million people lived below the poverty line in March 2021. Many urban dwellers depend on informal employment, which often lacks stability, making consistent access to nutritious food challenging. Additionally, food price inflation has exacerbated this issue; for example, rice prices saw a 19.28% annual increase in February 2024, reaching a record high due to anticipated production declines (BPS-Statistics Indonesia, 2021). Additionally, this issue is particularly pronounced in eastern provinces such as Papua and Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), where malnutrition rates are higher than the national average. For instance, data from the Basic Health Research (Riskesdas) 2018 indicates that stunting affects 42.6% of children under five in NTT, compared to the national average of about 30%. (Suratri et al. 2023:2-4). These persistent challenges highlight the urgent need for targeted policies that address both economic vulnerability and regional disparities to ensure food security and improve nutritional outcomes across Indonesia's diverse urban and rural populations.

Government interventions have attempted to address food insecurity through social assistance and agricultural development programs. The Family Hope Program (Program Keluarga Harapan) provides conditional cash transfers to poor families to improve food consumption and health (Kusuma et al., 2017:153). Meanwhile, initiatives like the National Food Resilience Program aim to increase local food production and reduce dependency on imports. However, challenges remain in ensuring that these programs effectively reach the most vulnerable populations, especially in remote areas. Issues such as bureaucratic inefficiency, corruption, and lack of coordination between national and regional agencies hinder progress. Strengthening these programs and improving governance are essential to addressing Indonesia's food insecurity more comprehensively.

Indonesia's approach to food insecurity increasingly emphasizes community participation and inclusive development. Programs such as village-based food security initiatives, urban farming projects, and social safety nets aim to empower local communities. The government's National Food Security Agency (Badan Ketahanan Pangan) collaborates with regional governments and NGOs to tailor solutions to local contexts. These efforts seek to build resilience by involving communities in decision-making and resource management, fostering greater trust in governance. Inclusive policies that reduce disparities and involve citizens actively help strengthen democratic participation. Such grassroots engagement is essential for building long-term solutions to food insecurity while supporting democratic stability.

Sustainable food security is also key to Indonesia's broader development and democratic future. Ensuring equitable food access improves public health, reduces poverty, and enhances educational and economic opportunities. When people's basic needs are met, they are better equipped to engage in civic activities and contribute to democratic discourse. Therefore, regional disparities and governance issues intensify the problem, making inclusive and community-driven solutions essential. Indonesia's experience shows that addressing food insecurity effectively supports democratic participation, social cohesion, and political stability. By prioritizing equitable food access and empowering vulnerable populations, the government can reinforce democratic legitimacy and national unity. Ultimately, food security in Indonesia is more than a matter of survival, it is foundational to sustaining the country's democratic aspirations and long-term development goals.

Local Integration in Achieving Sustainable Food Security

Indonesia has made significant strides in enhancing food security over the past decade, as evidenced by the reduction in the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity from 6.0%

in 2014–2016 to 4.9% in 2021–2023 (FAO et al., 2024:157). This downward trend reflects an encouraging improvement in the stability and availability of food for the population, meaning fewer people are experiencing uncertainties or reductions in both the quantity and quality of their food intake. When compared to the Southeast Asian regional average of 17.0%, Indonesia's much lower rate highlights its relative success and places it among the better-performing countries in the region (FAO et al., 2024:157). This progress can be attributed to various strategic efforts, including strengthening food distribution networks, enhancing agricultural resilience against climate and economic shocks, and implementing targeted poverty alleviation programs that help vulnerable communities secure access to adequate nutrition.

Operationalizing food security strategies at the local level faces significant challenges. Fragmented coordination among various agencies and institutions often leads to duplication of efforts or gaps in the implementation of food insecurity (Harkness & Orosz, 2016:95). Different departments may prioritize conflicting objectives, making unified action difficult. Additionally, local governments frequently operate with limited financial and technical resources, constraining their capacity to support food security initiatives effectively. The disparity in institutional capacity between regions further complicates the harmonization of efforts nationwide. These challenges highlight the need for stronger mechanisms to facilitate coordination and resource-sharing at the local level.

Institutional capacity at the local level varies significantly, affecting the ability to manage food security sustainably both within and across departments, depending on support from higher levels of government and the availability of resources (Batley & Larbi, 2004; Slade, 2012:69). Some regions benefit from well-established agricultural extension services, cooperative networks, and local leadership, which enhance food production and distribution systems. In contrast, other areas struggle with weak governance structures, poor infrastructure, and limited human capital, undermining their food security efforts. This uneven capacity creates a risk of increasing regional disparities in food availability and access, which can affect overall national defense readiness. Addressing these disparities requires targeted capacity-building programs and tailored support from central government agencies. Enhancing local institutional strength is therefore critical to achieving integrated and sustainable food security.

To effectively learn from and apply research on food security within defense frameworks, it helps to break down the key concepts into clear constructs and measures. For example, understanding technology integration involves examining tools like Geographic Information System (GIS), real-time monitoring, and mobile apps that provide critical data on crops and markets (Utomo & Etikasari, 2022:2; Mathenge et al., 2022:12-13). Equally important is assessing digital infrastructure, whether local areas have the connectivity needed, and digital literacy, which determines if users can effectively operate these technologies. Learning becomes meaningful when we connect these constructs to real-world challenges, such as barriers to technology adoption and how efficiently resources are allocated during emergencies. To gain this understanding, the survey method is invaluable: it collects direct feedback from stakeholders about their experiences and challenges, providing data to validate theoretical models.

Once gathered, this knowledge should be allocated strategically. Governments can use the insights to prioritize investments in digital infrastructure transformation (Ilham et al., 2022:13), as well as training programs where they are most needed. Meanwhile, private sector partners can tailor technological solutions and capacity-building initiatives to address specific local gaps identified by the surveys. This collaborative allocation ensures that knowledge is not just theoretical but drives tangible improvements in food security resilience through facilitating experiential learning and mutual knowledge sharing (Ranjan et al., 2024:69). By continually measuring and responding to real-world conditions, the research translates into smarter policies, more effective technology deployment, and stronger national defense capabilities.

Table 1. The Reconciliation Map of Food security barriers With Democracy Approach

Challenges	Food Security Integration	Democracy Approach	Survey Tools Used
Fragmented coordination	Establish multi-sectoral platforms involving communities, local government, and defense agencies to ensure integrated planning and response	Institutionalize local food security councils with decision-making authority, ensuring representation from elected officials, civil society, indigenous groups, and farmers to counterbalance centralized control	Household surveys with Likert-scale questions and participatory rural appraisal (PRA). These are part of trust in government, participation in meetings, and food access experiences
Limited resources and funding	Increase funding and provide technical assistance for local food security programs with transparent budgeting and participatory resource planning	Shift fiscal and administrative power over food security programs from the central government to local governments, with local legislatures overseeing equitable budget allocation	Needs assessment surveys using ranking or prioritization questions and geo-tagged data collection
Varying institutional capacity	Implement targeted training and capacity-building programs with oversight committees involving citizens for accountability	Invest in the political capacity of local institutions to negotiate with national defense agencies and corporations, ensuring food sovereignty is not subordinated to extractive economic interests	Stakeholder surveys targeting local leaders, NGO workers, and military actors with open-ended and matrix questions on coordination practices
Inflexible national policies	Decentralized policy formulation and implementation by engaging local stakeholders to tailor strategies to specific regional needs	Require local parliaments or councils to ratify food security strategies, increasing political ownership and public scrutiny over defense-related food policy	Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES); household food consumption surveys, as well as household food consumption surveys on paper, seasonal food calendar mapping, and manual resilience scoring

Weak monitoring and evaluation	Develop community-based monitoring frameworks with regular public reporting and feedback sessions for transparency and accountability	Mandate regular public hearings and social audits to monitor food security outcomes, where elected officials must respond to citizen evaluations and grassroots movements	Policy impact evaluation surveys comparing control and treatment groups; uses baseline and endline comparisons
Poor communication awareness	Promote inclusive education campaigns and facilitate open dialogue through local media and community forums	Launch campaigns to politicize food security as a democratic right, linking it to electoral accountability and civic mobilization, especially in rural and marginalized areas	Digital access surveys with multiple-choice or binary (Yes/No) questions on platform use, digital training courses, and tech barriers

CONCLUSION

Integrating food security with democratic governance and national defense is crucial for sustainable national stability. Food systems are not only vital for physical survival but also serve as foundations for social cohesion and democratic legitimacy. When communities face food insecurity, social inequalities deepen, fueling dissatisfaction and weakening trust in democratic institutions. This erosion of trust reduces citizen participation and threatens the resilience of democratic governance. Therefore, addressing food insecurity is a key element in maintaining both social stability and democratic strength. Inclusive, community-driven approaches are necessary to ensure equitable access to food and sustain democratic legitimacy.

At the local level, challenges to food security directly impact democratic governance and social stability. Limited resources and uneven institutional capacities contribute to gaps between national policies and local implementation. These gaps exacerbate food insecurity, which in turn threatens social trust and democratic participation. Empowering local communities and fostering inclusive governance are critical to bridging this divide. Tailored strategies that reflect local realities ensure that food security efforts support both democratic values and national defense. Sustainable food security depends on effective coordination among national, regional, and local actors.

In conclusion, food security must be understood as a pillar component of democracy governance and national defense. Upholding democratic principles such as equity, transparency, and participation strengthens food system resilience and supports social stability. By embedding food security within democratic frameworks, nations can protect both their citizens and their sovereignty. Integrated, inclusive approaches are essential to addressing food insecurity and safeguarding democratic legitimacy. Ultimately, the intersection of food security, democracy, and national defense forms a foundation for long-term national resilience and peace. This holistic perspective ensures that security policies protect both the physical and social well-being of the nation.

REFERENCES

- Ahmed, S. (2018). Shrimp farming at the interface of land use change and marginalization of local farmers: Critical insights from southwest coastal Bangladesh. *Journal of Land Use Science*, 13(3), 251–258. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1747423X.2018.1529833>
- Amrullah, E. R., Ishida, A., Pullaila, A., & Rusyiana, A. (2019). Who suffers from food insecurity in Indonesia? *International Journal of Social Economics*, 46(10), 1186–1197. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSE-03-2019-0196>
- Batley, R., & Larbi, G. (2004). *The changing role of government: The reform of public services in developing countries*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bourgeois, R., & Kusumaningrum, D. (2008). What cereals will Indonesia still import in 2020? *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*, 44(2), 289–312. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00074910802169038>
- BPS-Statistics Indonesia. (2021, July 15). The percentage of poor people in March 2021 decreased to 10.14 percent. <https://www.bps.go.id/en/pressrelease/2021/07/15/1843/the-percentage-of-poor-people-in-march-2021-decreased-to-10-14-percent.html>
- Caballero-Anthony, M. (2016). Non-traditional security concept, issues, and implications on security governance. *Georgetown Journal of Asian Affairs*. <https://hdl.handle.net/10356/145776>
- Clapp, J. (2017). Food self-sufficiency: Making sense of it, and when it makes sense. *Food Policy*, 66, 88–96. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2016.12.001>
- Croissant, A. (2022). Indonesia: Challenges of conflict and consensus in the Era of Reformasi. In *Comparative politics of Southeast Asia: An introduction to governments and political regimes* (pp. 75–119). Springer International Publishing.
- FAO. (1996). *Rome declaration on world food security and world food summit plan of action*. Food and Agriculture Organization. <https://www.fao.org/4/w3613e/w3613e00.htm>
- FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, & WHO. (2024). *The state of food security and nutrition in the world 2024: Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms*. FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1254en>
- Harkness, H., Hayes, J., & Orosz, D. (2016). The global food security landscape: Interconnected issues, fragmented governance. In *Turbulent present, uncertain future*. <https://balsillieschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Graduate-Fellows-Anthology-2016-A.pdf>
- Ilham, A., Munir, A., Ala, A., & Sulaiman, A. A. (2022). The smart village program challenges in supporting national food security through the implementation of agriculture 4.0. In *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science* (Vol. 1107, No. 1, p. 012097). IOP Publishing. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1755-1315/1107/1/012097/pdf>
- Kusuma, D., McConnell, M., Berman, P., & Cohen, J. (2017). The impact of household and community cash transfers on children's food consumption in Indonesia. *Preventive Medicine*, 100, 152–158. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2017.04.020>
- Lindborg, N. E., & Hewitt, J. J. (2018). In defense of ambition: Building peaceful & inclusive societies in a world on fire. *Dædalus*, 147(1), 158–170.
- Lopez Cifuentes, M., & Gugerell, C. (2021). Food democracy: Possibilities under the frame of the current food system. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 38(4), 1061–1078. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-021-10218-w>
- Mathenge, M., Sonneveld, B. G. J. S., & Broerse, J. E. W. (2022). Application of GIS in agriculture in promoting evidence-informed decision making for improving agriculture sustainability: A systematic review. *Sustainability*, 14(16), 9974. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14169974>

- Moragues-Faus, A., Sonnino, R., & Marsden, T. (2017). Exploring European food system vulnerabilities: Towards integrated food security governance. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 75, 184–215. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2017.05.015>
- Neilson, J., & Wright, J. (2017). The state and food security discourses of Indonesia: Feeding the *bangsa*. *Geographical Research*, 55(2), 131–143. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-5871.12210>
- Nurhasan, M., Maulana, A. M., Ariesta, D. L., Usfar, A. A., Napitupulu, L., Rouw, A., ... & Ickowitz, A. (2022). Toward a sustainable food system in West Papua, Indonesia: Exploring the links between dietary transition, food security, and forests. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*, 5, 789186. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2021.789186>
- Pinstrup-Andersen, P. (2009). Food security: Definition and measurement. *Food Security*, 1(1), 5–7. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12571-008-0002-y>
- Ranjan, A., Gosh, B., Barman, B., Quader, S. W., PN, F. A., Tiwari, S., Saurav, S. K., & Bishnoi, S. K. (2024). Role of agricultural extension in addressing food security. *European Journal of Nutrition & Food Safety*, 16(9), 67–85. <https://doi.org/10.9734/ejnfs/2024/v16i91527>
- Rönnbäck, P., Bryceson, I., & Kautsky, N. (2002). Coastal aquaculture development in Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean: Prospects and problems for food security and local economies. *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment*, 31(7), 537–542.
- Shemyakina, O. (2022). War, conflict, and food insecurity. *Annual Review of Resource Economics*, 14(1), 313–332. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-resource-111920-021918>
- Slade, C. (2012). Institutional capacity of local government to embed food security into policy. In *Food security in Australia: Challenges and prospects for the future* (pp. 63–77). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-4484-8_5
- Snyder, H. (2019). Literature review as a research methodology: An overview and guidelines. *Journal of business research*, 104, 333-339.
- Suratri, M. A. L., Putro, G., Rachmat, B., Nurhayati, Ristrini, Pracoyo, N. E., Yulianto, A., Suryatma, A., Samsudin, M., & Raharni. (2023). Risk factors for stunting among children under five years in the province of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), Indonesia. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(2), 1640. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20021640>
- Teodosijevic, S. B. (2003). Armed conflicts and food security. <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/289088>
- Timmer, C. P. (1994). The meaning of food self-sufficiency. *Indonesian Food Journal*, 5(10), 33–43.
- United Nations Indonesia. (2024, May 6). Advancing Indonesia's food systems transformation: A stocktaking moment. United Nations. <https://indonesia.un.org/en/240200-advancing-indonesia%E2%80%99s-food-systems-transformation-stocktaking-moment>
- Utomo, D. T., & Etikasari, B. (2022). Modeling the potential of cereal crops with a smart village-based GIS approach to support food security. In *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science* (Vol. 980, No. 1, p. 012057). IOP Publishing. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1755-1315/980/1/012057/pdf>
- Via Campesina. (2009). Nyéléni declaration on food sovereignty: 27 February 2007, Nyéléni Village, Sélingué, Mali. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 36(3), 673–676