

**PLANNING
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
IN MALAYSIA**

Issues and Challenges



MARIANA MOHAMED OSMAN
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PLANNING AND FOOD SECURITY

*Rustam Khairi Zahari, Raja Noriza Raja Ariffin, Mohd Amer Younus,
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INTRODUCTION

Malaysia's National Physical Plan 2 (NPP-2) highlights a number of measures within its strategy to ensure food security for the nation. For instance, Prime Agricultural Areas were identified as locations that are to be conserved based on existing major food production areas. This is a significant measure as these areas need to be protected from any development pressure which may be contributed by population growth as well as expansion of urbanised areas. In order to understand 'food security' further, this chapter attempts to highlight this concept based on contemporary literature.

THE CONCEPT OF FOOD SECURITY

Maisonet-Guzman (2011) suggests that Thomas Malthus was believed to be among the first to address food security as an issue when he later proposed that growing global population will eventually eclipse the Earth's capacity in providing food for mankind. He adds that persistent population growth rates and the accompanying increase in urbanization will potentially threaten areas dedicated to agricultural production responsible in ensuring food security. The 1974 World Food Summit has described food security as accessibility at all times of sufficient world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset variations in production and prices (United Nations 1975). In the 1970s, food security was mostly concerned with national and global food supplies (Frankenberger and McCaston, 1998). Moreover, the food crisis in Africa in the early 1970s stimulated a major concern on the part of the international donor communities regarding supply shortfalls created by production failures due to drought and desert encroachment on the continent. They add that the limitations of the food supply focus came to light during the food crisis that again plagued Africa in the mid-1980s. The household food security approach that evolved in the late 1980s emphasised both the availability and stable access to food. Thus, food availability at the national and regional level and stable and sustainable access at the local level were both considered significant to household food security.