

## Policies on green foods

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### ABSTRACT

Green foods are grown and harvested in the absence of any form of environmental pollution or harmful conditions. However, some farmers use the premise of this concept to engage in food fraud, food terrorism, food injustice, and many other vices. The concept of green foods is herein recounted together with its interdependence and relationship to health and sustainability. The processes, policies, and global trends of green foods are discussed, alongside the benefits and challenges associated therewith

### KEYWORDS

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### INTRODUCTION

Urbanization and industrialization is rapidly turning our planet upside-down in favor of fast foods, food fraud, food terrorism, food waste, food adulteration, food poisoning, food contamination, and food injustice [1], leading to the introduction of green food products, also regarded as environment-friendly products. Green foods are those produced under the principle of sustainable development, fine quality, nutrition, health and safety [2]. They include blueberries, leafy greens, and foods that can be eaten as staples. They are foods termed to be good for consumers, farmers, and the planet [3]. Bekele et al. [4] set out to define foods based on environmental friendliness to be normal, green, and organic. Of these definitions, green foods are described to be green because they are grown and harvested in the absence of any form of environmental pollution or harmful conditions.

The terms “green food” and “organic food” have been used interchangeably even though they are not the same. Green food is somewhat between chemical and organic farming, and it consists of two types: green foods that permit the use of chemicals, and those that are purely organic. Therefore, all green foods are not organic foods. Good policies are required to ensure that appropriate measures are taken against key logistics bottlenecks such as hampered green food transportation across regions of every society, as they are usually perishables.

### GLOBAL GREEN PROCESSING AND POLICIES

Green technology implies the use of green chemistry, electronic devices, environmental monitoring and science to control, conserve and make models of natural resources while reducing the menace of human involvement [5]. This process is used in the production of green food products and may be utilized in smart and organic foods production. There is a need for using smart policies, which are meant to improve agriculture and all of its dimensions, ensure food security, and healthy populations. It appears that the current agricultural systems are limited in ensuring these aims. The global population continues to grow steadily at an alarming rate, and we still lack a clear-cut path on the sustainability of green food production and processing, as well as the smart wherewithal to hamper all vices emanating from the other side of the divide, including environmental pollution and rapidly diminishing natural resources. Braimoh [6] speculated that there is a linkage between conventional agriculture and food insecurity, due to the massive pollution/emissions and deforestation that occur from the practice of the current form of conventional food production. In fact, more than 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are the result of unsustainable agriculture [7].

## GLOBAL GREEN FOODS PRODUCTION AND THEIR EMERGING POPULARITY

Green food production is part of green agriculture, and is produced using organic methods of agriculture [8]. Limited amounts of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers are allowed for green food production since they are construed as fresh, chemical-free, nutritious, natural, and produced in an environmentally-sustainable manner. A green-growth strategy for the food and agriculture sector encompasses agriculture, fisheries, and the food supply chain. Green food processing techniques include preservation, transformation, and extraction [9].

Green food has become more popular around the world and had become the principal demand of people in developed nations. The consumption of green food is growing and has become an international trend [10]. Green consumption patterns and purchasing behaviors vary from country to country. The green food industry is also developing rapidly in developed nations like USA, UK, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, and Austria.

Other than the developed economies, green food is also gaining popularity in developing and less developed countries. For instance, in China, green food consumption and technology are rapidly growing. China has a rich history of diverse sustainable farming practices. The concept “Green Food”, is organized and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). Chinese consumers seem to be more attentive to the quality of food and green food originating from organic food abroad. Frequent food incidents and the widespread use of chemicals in Chinese agriculture have led to the expansion of the green food market in China.

The consumption of green food in Malaysia is contributing towards achieving the citizens' clamor for food safety, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability. The country is strongly supporting green technology by adopting food safety and environmental friendliness. This is evidently shown by the Malaysian government in establishing a new ministry known as the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology, and Water. Apart from focusing on vegetable and fruit production, the Malaysian government is also concerned with the green concept among livestock and fishery producers. There have been many food incidents in Malaysia, which made Singapore stop the importation of their vegetables in 1987 due to high dithiocarbamate residue [11, 12].

In India, the two major scientific revolutions affecting food supply are the Green Revolution and the Gene Revolution. The Green Revolution has played a major role in producing green foods for the increasing population. Consumption is often used as a measure of welfare and changes in grain flour consumption may have a corresponding influence on household welfare [13].

## CONCLUSIONS

As the public shifts toward a greener planet, the food industry should implement green policies. The uprising of the green movement is inevitable due to food contamination that is happening around the world. With a growing improvement in people's awareness, green food will be the mainstream and will improve the future health of human populations. Cities around the world are also engaging in food and agriculture practices. It is not too late for smart green policies to be made by the cities' authorities and urban movements to curb chronic diseases.

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