Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2: Challenges Encountered during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are 17 goals that countries pledged to achieve by 2030. The second SDG seeks to find permanent solutions to end all forms of hunger and achieve food security. Goal 2 has 8 targets and 14 indicators as measurements. Over the past 1.5 years, the Covid-19 pandemic has created uncertainties surrounding global governance, travel, economic interests, employment and food security. As governments strive to keep their economies afloat, layoffs especially for daily wageworkers and in the hospitality industry have contributed to job insecurity. This has caused insecurities surrounding food, as families are unable to provide for themselves. Therefore, this research examines the challenges countries face in achieving SDG goal 2 by 2030 amidst the drawbacks encountered during the Covid-19 pandemic. Qualitative in nature, the research follows the case study method by analysing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the challenges these countries face in achieving food security. The research identified that both developed and developing countries are facing major drawbacks in achieving this goal as the pandemic extends. Furthermore, with the spread of pests that directly affect food crops, the research identified that intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and national governments have an additional challenge in safeguarding these invaluable crops to feed their populations. Climate change and adverse weather patterns have further burdened countries that are coping with limited economic and physical resources. The research concludes that countries will find it immensely difficult to achieve the targets set out in SDG 2 over the next eight years, with no indication of the Covid-19 pandemic ending.

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