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2	Defining malnutrition Even the identification of 'malnutrition' as a state, is not simple. Physical definitions of malnutrition can be set lower or higher according to their intended purpose. These purposes may range from 'selecting the most malnourished individuals for treatment' to 'selecting groups to	37	

6	Agricultural Development and Nutrition	
	receive certain benefits'. The policy implications of varying classification methods are discussed.	
3	Energy and protein requirements At this point the question 'how much food do people need?' is discussed. Man's needs for energy and nutrients have often been calculated, with the use of various assumptions. These are examined, with the question 'What is the nature of successful and unsuccessful adaptation to variable and low food intakes?'	51
4	Food system indicators Chapter 1 introduced the general idea of a 'food system', and Chapters 2 and 3 outlined current thinking on how utilisation of food, and human outcomes in that system may be evaluated. Data available for describing other parts of the system are now reviewed. Indicators of individuals' nutritional state were discussed in Chapter 2; here they are put alongside other indicators, and the use of standard values and cut-off points is reviewed	73
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5	Multiple causes in malnutrition Little needs to be added to this chapter's title, by way of summary. Having outlined the 'food system', it is logical to consider some of the interacting dysfunctions which lead to malnutrition. Illness and poverty are important keywords.	97
6	Functional classes and targeted policies It is one thing to outline the causes of malnutrition, and another to direct specific policies towards the malnourished. This is called targeting. One way to link explanation and	120

action is to use an analytical framework which is itself action-oriented. 'Functional classification' is such a framework. It provides descriptions of population groups which made administrative sense, and which enable agriculture, nutrition and health policies to be better targeted on situations which give rise to malnutrition. Examples of the implication for some interventions are discussed.

Part Three Food and Nutrition Policy and Agriculture

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7 Agrarian change and poverty 'Nutrition in agriculture' is not just about increasing food production. In this chapter we discuss the contradiction between increasing production and declining consumption and the concept of people's entitlement to food. We review the effect of agricultural development strategy on the social status, labour

opportunities, and hence the nutrition of

different agrarian classes.

8 Markets and food availability

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Markets are an important component of the 'food system', governing some people's access to food and the returns to others' labour. Market systems may behave in many different ways but they normally work to the advantage of those classes who are least likely to become malnourished. Policies on food price supply and processing technology tend to favour the urban rich rather than the rural poor. We give two important cases where nutritional justifications for these policies are argued after the event rather than before. These 'justifications' are scientifically invalid and socially and culturally irrelevant.

8 Agricultural Development and Nutrition

Nutrition interventions

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	Chapters 7 and 8 have shown that in practice, government policies in agriculture and health have considerable impact on nutrition—impact which is often not recognised. On the other hand, several kinds of government-sponsored action are regarded characteristically as 'nutrition interventions'. Yet under some circumstances they may have little impact on malnutrition, as is indicated in this chapter.	
10	Professional roles and research What have agricultural and nutritional workers to contribute to one anothers' understanding of malnutrition, and to programmes which may reduce its prevalence? They can exchange insights derived from their characteristic approach to problem analysis; this can help to avoid narrow oversimplified 'solutions'. Research can be interactive – and not only among different classes of researcher but among researchers and 'subjects'. It is important, if we aim to study and manipulate the 'food system', to do so as advocates for those who are disadvantaged within it.	200

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