

Who is food insecure?

General approach - for discussion

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ໂຄງການຄົ້ນຄວ້າການຄ້າປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ
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FOOD SECURITY NORTHERN UPLANDS



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Food security: easy to define, hard to measure...

- Food Security is as a state “when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (Rome Declaration on World Food Security)
- Multidimensional: availability -> access -> utilization (->vulnerability)
- “Measurement drives diagnosis and response” (Barrett, Science, 2010) ...
- But no indicator per se can capture all dimensions and data availability limits the choices ...



FSNU: measuring food security

- Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 5 (2012/13)
 - Energy consumption
 - Diet variety (FCS – like)
- Into the future:
 - Other nutrients
 - Conceptual changes: chronic food insecurity
 - Beyond access: nutrition (LSIS)



LECS: measuring consumption and food security

- Diary, over one month, while in village
- Own consumption and bought in market
- Quantity and expenditure (imputed or real)
- List of 160 items

- Other information: Nutritional composition from Food Composition Tables (composition per weight)

- Definition of food insecure: a threshold (Kcal/adult equivalent)



Food insecure: energy

- Main problems: “Other” categories; conversion of some expenditure to weight (to be able to use FCT)
- Threshold: 2900 Kcal per day and per adult equivalent
 - other thresholds: 2600 Kcal and 2700 Kcal per day and per AE: no substantial difference



Food Insecure: energy

Main conclusions:

- 1) Food Insecurity in 2012/13 at roughly the same level as in 2007/08 (around 20% of the population)
- 2) Food insecurity is not the same as poverty, even if the two rates are similar:

FIS Poverty ->	Not Poor	Poor	Total
Food secure	3120	665	3785
Food insecure	787	307	1094
Total	3907	972	4879



Food Insecure: diet quality

- The diary also allows us to quantify diet variety: “FCS-like” measure
- Weighted measure of consumption of different food groups over the last 7 days
 - Comparison is hard because thresholds are defined for the a recall questionnaire (not the diary)
- Nothing of what was said before changes much:
 - FIS rate is slightly lower (16%)
 - There is no perfect overlap between the two categories



Next steps

- Who are the food insecure?
 - Seasonality
 - Access to public services and markets
 - Assets & Livelihoods

- Conceptual challenges
 - analyse chronic food insecurity (using previous waves of LECS)

