



International Conference

“Quantitative Methods for Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Measurement – *Lessons to be learned!*”

Brussels, Belgium, 15th – 17th November 2017

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) are jointly organizing an International Conference on *Quantitative Methods for Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Measurements*. The conference will provide a platform for researchers, academics, professionals and decision makers to define the state of the art for quantitative measurement of food and nutrition security (F&NS) by identifying the main practical challenges, sharing innovative methods or modeling techniques, and exploring best practices to scale up multi- and cross-sectoral F&NS collaboration and coordination at country, regional and global level. Moreover, in hosting an interdisciplinary forum, the conference will offer the opportunity for participants to forge innovative partnerships for the development and promotion of improved methodologies to support evidence-based F&NS policies and decision makers.

The organizing committee invites researchers and professionals to submit an abstract (maximum of 400 words) to showcase their innovative quantitative methods for Food and Nutrition Security measurement.

Rationale

Food and nutrition security is a key foundation for a decent life. However, it remains under stress in many parts of the world due to factors such as erratic rainfall patterns, other forms of climate variability, land degradation, violence and conflict, natural disasters, price volatility and rapid urbanization.

The 2015 joint report (FAO-IFAD-WFP, 2015) on the *State of Food Insecurity in the World* reported that for developing regions taken as a whole, the share of undernourished people in the total population has decreased from 23.3 percent in 1990–92 to 12.9 per cent. Though there has

been substantial progress, still almost 795 million people are undernourished globally. Consequently, it is worth noting that many countries have failed to reach international hunger targets, and the report cited above highlights that natural and human-induced disasters or political instability have resulted in protracted crises with increased vulnerability and food insecurity of large parts of the population.

As endorsed by the 1996 World Food Summit, “*Food security exists 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.*” This definition is still widely used and quoted today by professionals, academics and researchers. It encompasses the four pillars of food security: availability, accessibility, utilization and stability.

After the World Food Summit, however, the term “nutrition security” became more prominent, in an attempt to highlight the way food is actually used by the body, also affecting health outcomes. Food security action should ensure that food systems provide all households with stable access to sufficient, adequate and safe food, while nutrition-oriented action should ensure that households and individuals have the knowledge and supportive health and environmental conditions necessary to obtain at least optimal nutritional benefits from the food they consume (FSIN TWG, 2014). Therefore, the broader concept of “*food and nutrition security*” has become more common.

In line with the definition above, academics, researchers and other professionals (e.g. development practitioners) are developing theoretical and empirical methodologies to address vulnerability to food and nutrition security at individual, household, national and regional levels. Recently, resilience to food insecurity has further been raised as a key concept, from both the point of view of donors and decision makers. However, none of the proposed definitions and methodologies for measuring vulnerability or resilience to food and nutrition insecurity has yet evolved into an approach that is unanimously accepted.

From a purely academic perspective, methodologies related to measuring F&NS tend to be unidimensional, as it becomes more complex to address the four pillars of food security as defined by FAO (1996) in the same modelling exercise. As such, even though a plethora of academic and

research papers exist on vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity, most of these papers typically provide a partial view of the problem. More specifically, such exercises tend to consider food security analysis through the use of proxy variables, such as caloric intake per day, anthropometric measurements (stunting, wasting), food prices, crop production, or anomalies of biomass production (remote-sensing-derived vegetation indices), etc. Fewer papers attempt to address food and nutrition insecurity by quantitatively combining the variables related to different pillars. Therefore, in some cases, conclusions and findings from research into F&NS may lead to misinterpretations, as focusing on one pillar may obscure its role and even interaction with the others.

Today, the Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC) and the *Cadre Harmonise* (CH, Harmonized Framework used in West Africa and the Sahel region) have become a widely accepted international reference for the Food and Nutrition Security community. They are in use in around 40 countries worldwide and the basis for global reporting including the [Global Report on Food Crises](#), a joint analysis of the situation in food insecure countries published on a yearly basis. The two sister systems help inform decision makers to make timely responses to F&NS challenges, they are evidence-based and centered on a multi-stakeholder technical consensus approach. The final findings depend of course on the quality of data, as the principle behind those approaches is to use the data available on the ground. They also depend on the quality of indicators and methods feeding into the analysis. Although those methods are useful, some components like the *assessment of livelihood changes* and the *estimation of population* in different phases of food and nutrition insecurity have still weaknesses to be addressed. With new international commitments related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), new ideas related to data collection and new methodological tools, especially quantitative with a possible modeling component, are more than needed. The benefit from these approaches is that they can help to strengthen the components highlighted above from the qualitative tools using existing information.

Jointly organized by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), this international conference is an opportunity to discuss and explore innovative quantitative methods used in Food and Nutrition Security (F&NS) measurement. This international conference is organized under the framework

of the [Global Network against Food Crises](#), initiated jointly by EU, FAO and WFP and launched in May 2016 at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey. It represents an excellent opportunity to generate discussion about best practices related to the promotion and expansion of multi- and cross-sectoral collaboration at household, country, regional and global level related to F&NS. The conference will highlight both new developments in F&NS measurement and lessons to be learned in the field of quantitative food and nutrition security measurement.

The conference foresees a proceeding document as well as a special issue with the best papers in a peer reviewed journal.

Objectives and thematic topics

The conference objectives are:

- To highlight new quantitative methodologies and approaches that contribute to F&NS measurements, especially assessing livelihood changes, estimation of the food and nutrition insecure population and food & nutrition insecurity in urban context;
- To share experiences in F&NS measurement using both spatial analysis and modern econometrics;
- To Explore innovative approaches and technologies in order to improve F&NS measurement;

The topics of the conference are as following, although papers of very high quality that do not fall under any of the main topics would be considered:

1. New thinking on policy support to improve F&NS measurements

- 1.1.Gaps and new challenges for decision maker's needs;
- 1.2.Gaps and new challenges for researchers/academics/professionals.

2. Quantitative methodologies to measure F&NS: *New developments in study design, indicators and tools;*

- 2.1.F&NS measurement and practical challenges in study design and sampling methods;
- 2.2.Combining diverse types of food security indicators in one measurement approach;
- 2.3.Food security indicators and nutrition outcomes: how to combine them?

3. Quantitative methodologies to measure F&NS: *New developments to respond to weaknesses in qualitative tools;*

- 3.1. Dealing with data on F&NS indicators collected at different levels (different unit of analysis);
- 3.2. Scientific tools/methodologies for estimating population in food and nutrition insecurity;
- 3.3. Scientific tools/methodologies to assess livelihood changes for food and nutrition security analysis;
- 3.4. Linkages between health & nutrition deficiencies and food security.

4. Innovative methodologies to assess the linkages between F&NS and key stressors

- 4.1. Exploring the linkages between F&NS and migration;
- 4.2. Urbanization and its impact on F&NS

5. Use of new technologies in data collection and analysis for F&NS measurements

- 5.1. Role of Information and Communication Technologies in data collection;
- 5.2. Potential role of remote sensing and GIS based tools;
- 5.3. Big data and F&NS measurements.

Important Dates

Abstracts/ submission deadline	June 19, 2017 – August 31, 2017
Review and Notification of acceptance	September 15, 2017
Final Paper, Submission & registration deadline	November 05, 2017
Conference dates	November 15-17, 2017

Location/Venue of the Conference

The conference will take place in Brussels. The exact venue will be indicated soon.

Submission details and Logistics

Oral presentations

- Oral presentations will have 20 minutes time slots and 10 minutes for discussions. The conference organizers will group oral presentations by theme into sessions that will include three individual presentations and time for questions from the audience.
- Presenters will be required to use PowerPoint or other slide presentations.

Poster Presentations

The 150-minute poster session provides an interactive forum for authors to discuss their work.

- Presenters will be assigned locations to put up their posters, which will be organized by topic.
- Poster boards and pushpins will be supplied, and posters should be attached to the boards for display.
- Presenters are encouraged to bring 1-page handouts to accompany their posters.

Submission Options

- Authors must submit abstracts as “Oral Presentation Only,” “Poster Presentation Only,”
- Authors are encouraged to submit using the “Paper or Poster Presentation” option.
- The conference program committee may propose an alternative presentation format, based on the available times in the conference program.

Submission Instructions

- *All abstracts must be submitted via a dedicated email address:*
jrc-fnsmeasurement@ec.europa.eu
- *The online system will be open from June 19, 2017 through August 31, 2017.*
- Paper and poster abstracts are limited to one page (400 words). Abstracts not meeting these page limits will not be considered.
- Please specify the submission category: “Oral Presentation,” “Poster Presentation”.
- All abstracts must be formatted with 0.75-inch margins all around, 11-pt font size or larger for narrative text.
- Abstracts must use Times New Roman as serif font style.

- The following information must be included in the submitted abstract: presentation/ title; all author(s)' identifying information, including names, degrees, and institutional affiliations; Of Food and Nutrition Security Assessment Methodologies topic (see list of topics below); 3 to 5 keywords; and narrative text. Narrative text may include tables and/or figures providing the submission stays within page limits.
- Abstracts must be submitted as PDF files.
- Please use the following naming convention for the file name: AuthorLastName_First Number_Topic.pdf (ex. Smith_John_23.pdf).
- Refer to the template and list of Topics provided below for more information.

Abstract Template

Title

Corresponding Author, Degree(s), Unit(s), Institution, City, State/Province/District, Country;
Author #2, Degree(s), Unit(s), Institution, City, State/Province/District, Country; **Author #N**,
 Degree(s), Unit(s), Institution, City, State/Province/District, Country

Corresponding Author Contact Information: Person@emaildomain.org, (XXX) XXX-XXXX

Keywords: List three to five keywords each separated by semi-colons.

Abstract: Narrative text. Tables and figures may be included provided the abstract stays within the page limit. Avoid using jargon and acronyms. Consider including the following information in the abstract, when relevant:

- Objective, problem under investigation, hypothesis or research goal
- Description of research methods
- Summary of findings
- Statement of how the research advances the field of Food and Nutrition Security measurement

Poster content

Posters may include sections listed below:

- Title
- Co-authors (including you) and their institutional affiliations
- Abstract
- Background/literature review

- Research question/s
- Methodology used
- Results/conclusion (main insights and significance of work)
- Future directions, especially if this is a work in progress
- Acknowledgements (if any)
- Contact information

Logistics

- Acceptance notifications will be made by September 15, 2017.
- The conference will sponsor around 20 presenting authors from developing countries who may face difficulties to finance their participation. The sponsored papers will be selected based on their quality and the merits of their innovative methods for FNS measurement. Authors needing sponsorship are requested to indicate it at the time of the abstract submission. Other presenting authors with accepted papers/posters that do not receive confirmation of sponsorship from the conference are responsible for registration, travel, and hotel costs.
- Abstracts will be compiled and made available to participants before the conference.
- Any presenter who is unable to attend should arrange for another qualified individual to present the paper/poster in question. If such a change is necessary, please notify the Conference Chair: Tharcisse.NKUNZIMANA@ec.europa.eu with a copy to Thierry.NEGRE@ec.europa.eu; Francois.KAYITAKIRE@ec.europa.eu and T.VANRHEENEN@CGIAR.ORG

Contact and information:

JRC-EC

NKUNZIMANA Tharcisse, PhD

Scientific officer

European Commission

Joint Research Centre

Directorate for Sustainable Resources

Food Security – D5

Via E. Fermi, 2749 TP 272, Build. 27B/136

I-21027 Ispra (Va) Italy

Tel: (39) 0332 789893 Fax: (39) 0332 785162

tharcisse.nkunzimana@ec.europa.eu

IFPRI

Dr. Teunis Van Rheenen

Head of Partnerships and Business Development

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

1201 Eye St, NW

Washington, DC 20005 USA

Tel: (1) 202-862-8109 or 202-476-9247

Email: T.VANRHEENEN@CGIAR.ORG