



ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

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Agenda Item 6.2

Challenges for Engagement of FIES (Food Insecurity Experience Scale) in Solomon Islands

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Engagement of FIES in Solomon

Background:

- ▶ There is currently NO official statistic regarding FIES estimates for the Solomon Islands.
- ▶ The first official analysis to derive an estimate for FIES is to be undertaken from the recently completed 2017 National Agriculture Survey (NAS). Results are currently being analysed and preliminary observation can be made.
- ▶ Other “proxy” measures for FIES/Food Insecurity can be obtained/derived from the Solomon Islands 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) data and Poverty Report - e.g., Food Poverty line

SDG Indicator for FIES - Solomon Is.

- ▶ SI Govt has tasked the NSO/MAL to collect data to support the UN SDG, where it also relates to FIES.

The FIES data relates to:

- ▶ **SDG Indicator: 2.1.2 - Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).**
- ▶ Again, the SI currently has no official estimate.

Source Data/availability for FIES

- ▶ The key data source is: 2017 National Agriculture Survey (NAS) - results currently being produced.
- ▶ NAS-Section C1 - Food Security - Questionnaire

C1 Food Security

During the last 12 months, was there a time when:	(1- No, 2-Yes, 3- Don't know, 4 Refused)
C1.1 You were worried you would run out of food because of a lack of money or other resources?	
C1.2 Were you unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?	
C1.3 You ate only a few kinds of food because of a lack of money or other resources?	
C1.4 You had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food?	
C1.5 You ate less than you thought you should because of a lack of money or other resources?	
C1.6 Your household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources?	
C1.7 You were hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money or other resources for food?	
C1.8 You went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?	

Outcome of FIES related questions through NAS

- ▶ The NAS 2017 survey results are based only on 4,119 households out of total 4,182 operating agriculture farming activities
- ▶ Preliminary internal assessments show that due to lack of representativeness, the FIES results cannot be generalized to whole population of the country or used for monitoring SDG indicator. Official results are yet to be released.
- ▶ In a first stage, the presence of missing value was explored and results showed that only 63 (1.5%) respondents have either a “don’t know” or a “refuse” response to some of the eight FIES questions

Challenges and Issues

- ▶ No data on FIES in past
- ▶ FIES is a new statistical concept and measure for SIG/NSO/MAL - challenges for ownership
- ▶ Challenges to compile FIES data to meet SDG Indicator: 2.1.2 requirement
- ▶ Current lack of Policy and Data Linkages on FIES for evidence based decision making and analysis
- ▶ International vs Solomon Islands definitions on FIES to be contextualised, if necessary

Key Actions

- ▶ NSO/MAL to work with FAO to derive FIES estimates using 2017 NAS
- ▶ NSO/MAL to derive FIES estimate to also meet SDG indicator 2.1.2
- ▶ Capacity Building for data analysis for NSO and MAL
- ▶ Policy integration of FIES and ownership by SI

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