

Summary Conclusions and Recommendations

Regional training workshop on food security analysis of food consumption data of National Household Surveys (NHS)

25 to 29 November 2013
Bangkok, Thailand

1. Conclusions

All country participants from the National Statistical Institutions were unfamiliar with the food security statistics. They successfully used ADePT-FSM to derive a suite of food security indicators at national and sub national levels.

However, because of shortcomings in surveys or limited size of the sample brought to the workshop, only results for Pakistan and Afghanistan can be considered as final. Maldives and Malaysia were strongly encouraged to do more work on the food consumption data and China to perform the analysis on the entire sample.

China

Participant from China brought only a sub sample of 560 households out of 150000 (74households in urban area and 76000 households in rural area) collected in the survey.

Maldives

Survey of Maldives was interesting as it collects food consumption through a household and individual dairy. However, the food consumption data file brought by the participant was already combining the household and individual consumption and no information on how the information was reported was provided. Further, most of the quantities collected were in local unit of measurement so that quantities in standard unit were derived using prices estimated from available values and quantities in standard unit. But because of low number of quantities in standard unit in some cases, the overall prices could not be considered as really representative of the product. Further the list of food products do not allow for a good food matching between food products collected in the survey and reference food composition table.

Malaysia

Food quantities data, though were collected were not made available to the participants. They had to use price data used to derive the quantities. Given the large number of local unit of measurement and the metric conversion was a very difficult unreliable task. Furthermore the data were provided was truncated and did not match to any specific month of the year round survey.

Afghanistan

The 2008/2009 survey was processed during the workshop and results revealed that if we were to use the same average dietary energy consumption and measure of inequality prevalence of undernourishment in 2008/09 would be less than 5% compared to the 32% as currently estimated in SOFI which uses a lower dietary energy supply. This result may raise some concern on the actual level of undernourishment in Afghanistan and further investigation should be conducted. Indeed, in 2011/12, the Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan conducted another survey and during the workshop strong interest in receiving assistance from FAO to process this survey was demonstrated.

Pakistan

The 2010/11 survey of Pakistan was processed. Results were in line with the official report published by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

As already mentioned, some countries asked for FAO follow up technical assistance at the country level. They were informed that country request should be channelled through their country or regional FAO representative office.

2. Recommended follow up actions.

- Most countries data files contained some errors. Participants should be asked to review and correct data files and finalize when possible the food insecurity assessment report.
- The participants from Malaysia expressed strong interest in pursuing the collaboration with FAO in the process and analysis of food security indicators derived from their survey and further technical assistance through the organization of a national workshop may be explored.
- FAO Statistics Division should establish formal contacts with the Maldives Bureau of Statistics to access the 2009 Household Income and Expenditure survey on both individual

and household consumption. Such information could be used for further analysis on intra household consumption.

- The participants of Afghanistan are willing to analyse the food consumption data of their 2011/12 household survey. The possibility should be explored for FAO to provide backstopping assistance but would need to send a formal request to have the data available for analysis. For the time being it is suggested that results from the 2008/09 NRVA be used to reconcile the Food Balance Sheet.

- The participant of China was strongly encouraged to perform the analysis on the entire sample of the survey. FAO should engage into a formal agreement with China to access the micro data from the survey.