

The Food Security Situation in Moldova

EC/FAO Regional Workshop “Agricultural Policies to
Support Economic Growth and the Reduction of Food
Insecurity and Poverty in rural areas”

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Food Security Outcomes – key indicators

- FSO aim at answering the questions of:
 - how big a problem is food insecurity in Moldova,
 - whom does it affect, and
 - how much.
- FSO are assessed based on a number of indicators measuring the quantity and quality of household diets, as well as economic vulnerability over a period of five years 2006-2010.
- To understand the underlying causes of Moldova's food insecurity a further analysis of the four dimensions of food security is presented.



Food Security Outcomes – key highlights

- The food energy requirements for Moldova's residents are largely being met:
 - diet quantity (2310 kcals per capita – above the norm for light physical activity);
 - diet quality – within WHO norms, slightly higher for fat intake.
- However, the proportion of people consuming insufficient quantities of food energy is fairly large in Moldova:
 - 29% - FED rate; 16% HighFED rate (2010 data).
- Consumption of insufficient quantities of food is more of a urban problem, while food quality is more of a rural problem.

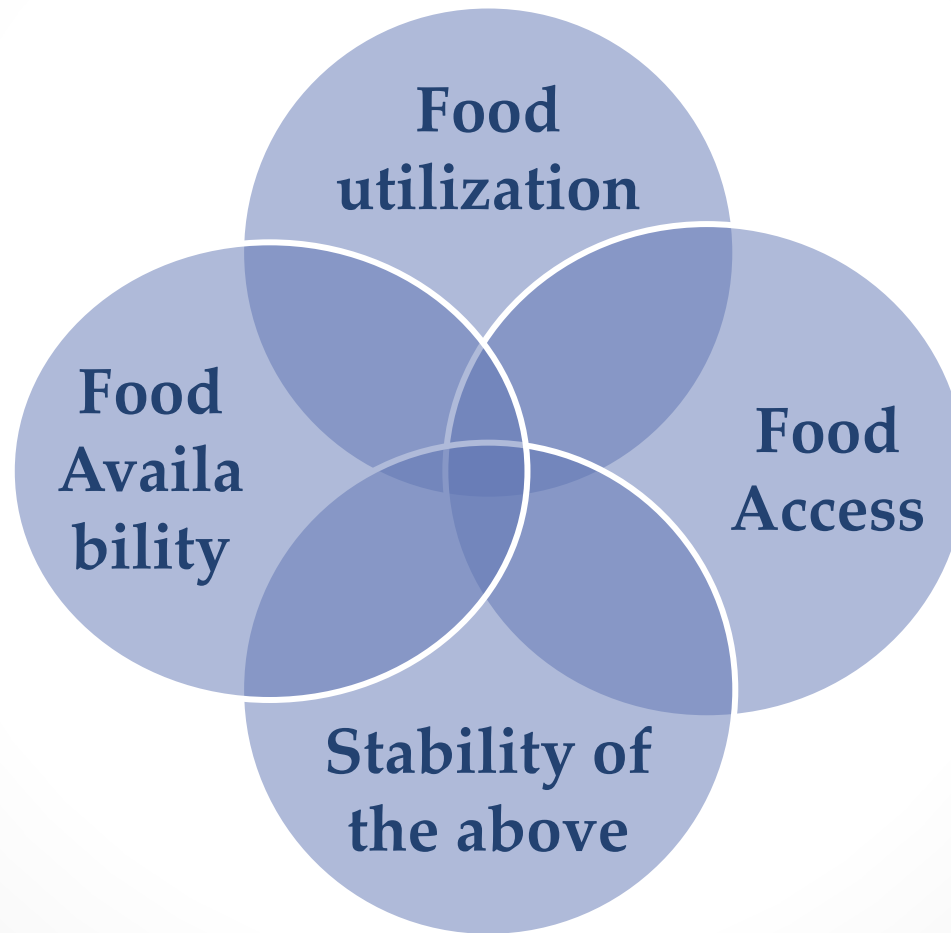
Food Security Outcomes – key highlights

Food Insecurity Profile of Moldovan hhs:

- ❖ Poor hhs are more likely to be food insecure. Urban poor are more likely to be food insecure than rural poor.
- ❖ Male-headed households are more likely to be food insecure than the female-headed households.
- ❖ Prevalence of food insecurity increases with the household size.
- ❖ Farmers and agricultural employees are the two socio-economic groups exhibiting not only fairly poor food security outcomes, but also the least progress over time in their food security situation.



Food Security Dimensions



Access to Food

- ✓ Access to food in urban and rural areas is determined by a different factor mix because of the different ways urban and rural hhs use to source their food.
 - *urban hhs primarily purchase their food;*
 - *rural hhs rely largely on self-produced foods;*
- ✓ Poor FSO of the agriculture-dependent population ↔ low incomes ↔ low prices derived from agriculture ↔ low competitiveness of ag produce.



Availability of Food

- Food availability at the country level is not a problem in Moldova.
 - Growing agro-food imports suggest a fast growing and increasingly sophisticated consumer market in Moldova that presents both opportunities and challenges to the domestic production sector.
 - But could be a problem for rural households in years of adverse climate that affects their own production (high volatility of output is an issue in rural areas).
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Utilization of Food

- Nutritional and health indicators registered in urban areas show better outcomes compared to similar rural indicators.
- This is because the basic conditions ensuring adequate food utilization in rural areas are largely unmet.
 - The urban-rural gap is striking with regard to drinking water quality, hygiene conditions and sanitation systems;
 - Rural residents' access to health services is poorer;
 - Urban hhs have a somewhat better diet diversity;
 - Public control over food safety is also better enforced in urban areas.



Stability of three dimensions

- Stability of food availability – disrupted every now and then by production shortfalls caused by adverse weather in some years (problem specific for rural areas only!).
- Access to food – no sizeable shocks over the past years due to relatively smooth food price growth surpassed by hh income growth. But! Low and volatile ag prices have negatively reflected on the income stability of ag population.
- Stable food utilization – exposed to multiple risks, which are higher in rural areas.



Food Security Bottlenecks

Food Availability: - *High yield volatility* – under-developed weather-related risk mitigation instruments;
- *Low yields* – delayed access to new seed varieties;

Food Access: - *Low agricultural prices* → low market competitiveness rooted in production and post-production deficiencies.
- *Low coverage and targeting accuracy of social assistance transfers.*

Food Utilization: - *Inadequate system of control over the safety of food sold within the country* – constant public health threat!



Thank you!

