

Household Food Security Measurement In Developing Countries: Can We Inform Better Policy?

Session Description & Objectives:

Addressing food insecurity has become a global priority given the negative human, social and national development consequences associated with this condition. Unfortunately, it has been difficult for policy makers to develop evidence-based food policies capable of preventing or ameliorating household food insecurity in a timely fashion. Part of the reason for this is the lack of valid national or regional household food security measurement scales that can be rapidly applied in the field at a relatively low cost to inform better food policy making on time. The objectives of this symposium are to present: a) conceptual and theoretical issues associated with food insecurity measurement at the household level, b) empirical findings regarding national and local household food security measurement efforts in diverse countries using experience-based scales, and c) examples as to how results from experience-based food insecurity measurement scales can help inform better food policies.

Session Chair & Co-chair:

Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, PhD, Yale University School of Public Health, USA and Seyoung Oh, PhD, Dept. of Food and Nutrition, Kyunghee University, Korea

Session Topics and Speakers:

Topic 1: *Food insecurity measurement and monitoring: Indicators Development*

Speaker: Beatrice Rogers, PhD, Tufts University, USA

Topic 2: *Reaching for the Stars? Identifying Universal Measures of Food Insecurity*

Speaker: Jennifer Coates, PhD, Tufts University, USA

Topic 3: *Household food security measurement in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia*

Speaker: Hugo Melgar-Quiñonez, PhD, Ohio State University, USA

Topic 4: *The Brazilian household food security measurement project*

Speaker: Ana Maria Segall-Correa, PhD, University of Campinas, Brazil

Topic 5: *The Colombian household food security measurement project*

Speaker: Martha Cecilia Alvarez, PhD, University of Antioquia, Colombia

Topic 6: *The Latin American & Caribbean Household Food Security Measurement Scale (ELCSA)*

Speaker: Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, PhD, Yale University, USA

Topic 7: *The Brazilian commitment towards household food security: National surveys and implications for the “Zero Hunger” strategy*

Speaker: Leonor Pacheco, PhD, Social Development Ministry, Brasilia