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# **International Scientific Symposium on Food & Nutrition Security Information: *From valid measurement to effective decision- making***

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**SESSION ABSTRACTS**

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In weighing these characteristics against the data needs described in the framework, the paper concludes with a decision-tree to guide the selection of the most appropriate FCM for different types of programming decisions within given resource constraints. The review found that each food consumption method has strengths and weaknesses that vary according to the contextual purpose and should be used complementarily to answer different questions and to triangulate results.

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## **PRESENTING THE WORLD AGRICULTURE WATCH FRAMEWORK: MONITORING STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE AND THEIR IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENT, INFORMING POLICY DIALOGUE**

Marie-aude Even<sup>20</sup>, Hubert George, Paolo Groppo, Jean-francois Belieres, Ibrahima Bocoum, Pierre-marie Bosc  
and Sandrine Dury<sup>21</sup>

The objective of the presentation is to show how we intend to integrate food security in a systemic approach to document the process of structural changes in production units. The aim is to feed the debate through improved data sets linking evolution in structures, production dynamics and food security.

### Introduction

Agriculture is at the nexus of global challenges: these include new challenges such as climate change, interlinked scarcities, biodiversities, but also pending ones such as food security (seen in a broad sense and linking availability through production and access-poverty through income generation). Different forms of farming organizations (ranging from small-scale family farms to large-scale enterprises) with dissimilar access to markets and resources, provide different social, economic and environmental services and respond differently to global challenges. The current wave of agricultural investments and rapid structural change (for instance on the land holding size, use of hired labour, market integration, etc.) have also triggered further policy debates on their relevance and effects on different forms of farming organizations. Better access to information and analysis of these local dynamics and their impacts is crucial for all concerned stakeholders, including farmers, and helps support inclusive policies.

### Purpose of the work

The World Agriculture Watch initiative is currently being set up in FAO, with support from FAO, CIRAD, France and IFAD, to support inclusive policy debate on the diversity and dynamics of different forms of agriculture. It will build a multi-stakeholders platform for knowledge generation, exchange and debate, based on a network of local observation centers, anchored in existing institutions and located in areas representative of significant structural transformations.

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### Methods

We shall here present the common framework WAW proposes to implement in order to better understand and monitor the relations between structural changes, food security and environment, within a country at the farm and territorial level and between countries. A common typology of farms (based on structural indicators related to labour, capital etc.) will be drawn up and characterized with key indicators related to food insecurity, poverty and natural resources, spanning three scales: agricultural production units, territories and markets (food chain and food systems, land and labor). We propose to consider food security as a performance of production units (farms) at the household level (encompassing production and consumption) through the livelihood framework. This framework makes possible to bring together non-market exchanges (including self consumption of agricultural production according to local diets) as well as non-farm activities contributing to income generation.

Our objective is to define a common set of indicators describing food security and analyzing the effects of the types of farm structures and production dynamics on food security. The hypothesis is however that linkages between those different dimensions are not linear. For example, higher levels of production are not necessarily linked with better nutrition of children, higher expenditures do not always mean higher energy intake (Bocoum, 2011).

We discuss the possibility of dealing with simple sets of data to deal with both the evolution of food security and farm structure, the availability of data at these levels and possible synergies to be drawn with existing information systems.

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## **LINKING FOOD SECURITY MEASURES TO NUTRITIONAL OUTCOMES: SOME EVIDENCE FROM NEPAL**

Emmanuel Skoufias and Sailesh Tiwari<sup>22</sup>

A confluence of food, fuel and financial crises in the last few years has increased hunger and malnutrition in a large number of low-income countries. This has also heightened global attention on food security which remains focused primarily on the production and consumption of calories and pays limited attention to nutritional outcomes which are the critical determinants of future human capital. While food security is an important input into good nutrition, it is certainly not the only one. Health – which determines the capacity to absorb nutrients – and appropriate child care practices are essential complementary inputs. Despite a general agreement on this however, the concepts of food and nutrition security are often used interchangeably and sometimes leading to misguided policy.

### Objectives

In this paper we attempt to establish and make explicit the link between some popular measures of food security and malnutrition. Our objectives are two-fold. First, we want assess the degree to which some of these measures are correlated with nutritional outcomes, conditional on other proximate correlates of nutrition. Second, we want to propose and test the validity of an alternate measure of hunger and food security.

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