

Il Dipartimento di Economia Organizza il Seminario

EXPLAINING THE MANY DIMENSIONS OF FOOD SECURITY WORLDWIDE: A GLOBAL, INNOVATIVE APPROACH

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Abstract:

Starting from the work of Sen (1981) and his examination of hunger in the developing world, the measurement of food insecurity has been enriched by the analysis of individual access to food, in addition to the monitoring of national food supplies. In particular, measures of food insecurity generated by experiential data capture the direct experiences at the individual level and, therefore, are considered more reliable than model-based macro measures (Coates 2013). Such measures allow to identify the individual-level determinants of food insecurity, from personal economic, social and demographic characteristics. The results can assist governments and aid organizations in targeting assistance, aiming at “End hunger and achieve food security” according to the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (UN, 2015).

However, until recently, a common metric of individual experiential food insecurity and the related comparable data were lacking at the global level.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) developed an experiential measure of food insecurity: the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). FIES has been surveyed in 147 countries, making available for the first time a cross-country comparable experiential measure of food insecurity.

This work provides an analysis of the development and methodological characteristics of the FIES, evaluating its validity also by a Confirmatory Factor Analysis.

Furthermore, the study investigates which factors affect individual food insecurity in the world, whether and to what extent the common determinants of food insecurity differ across levels of economic development, and identified socio-economic characteristics of groups of population most affected by food insecurity.

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La partecipazione è aperta a tutti gli interessa