FOOD-ACCESSING STRATEGIES AND UTILISATION PATTERNS OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN MAANHAAR WARD, MPUMALANGA

by

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ABSTRACT

Household food accessibility and utilisation are fundamental in the promotion of the Household Food Security Programme (HFSP). Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment, particularly its Division – Agricultural Home Economics facilitates the implementation of the HFSP through food security and income generating projects. These initiatives by home economists as well as some by other role players, are currently undertaken on an ad hoc basis. A need for a theoretically grounded frame of reference to develop an approach for the implementation of the HFSP was identified.

The aim of the study is to describe the food-accessing strategies and utilisation patterns of rural households in order to develop an approach for the implementation of HFSP at grassroots level.

A family ecological frame of reference including the personal and managerial subsystems was used as the conceptual framework for the study conducted in Maanhaar Ward, Mpumalanga. Information on household food-accessing strategies and utilisation patterns as well as the environmental and endogenous factors impacting on food-accessing strategies and utilisation patterns was elicited using Participatory Rural Appraisal tools, focus-group and individual interviews. The data was interpreted according to the concepts in the frame of reference.

While purchasing of food and own production were identified as the major accessing strategies, no household depended solely on one food procurement method, but used these strategies as well as food gathering/hunting, borrowing and grants interdependently depending on the prevailing socioeconomic conditions. Household food utilisation included food processing and consumption patterns. Primary, secondary and tertiary food processing were described. Consumption patterns included the number and composition of meals and the household food inventory. The goals formulated, resources used, planning activities and implementation of the strategies and utilization patterns - as they are present in rural households in Maanhaar Ward - were identified and described.

Both environmental and endogenous factors played critical roles in the households’ food-accessing strategies and utilisation patterns. The macroenvironmental factors impacting on food procurement and utilization originated in the natural/structured environments, the societal
subsystems namely the political, sociocultural, technological and economic subsystems. Factors from the physical and social microenvironments as well as endogenous factors impact on the food-accessing strategies and utilisation patterns. The endogenous factors were the household structure, human needs, resources, knowledge, beliefs, roles, social norms, attitudes and values.

Based on the results of this study a Household Food Security System Framework to serve as basis for conceptualizing, planning, implementing and evaluating HFSP at operational level was developed.

Considering the complex nature of household food security problems the Household Food Security System - due to its holistic perspective - can provide a frame of reference for addressing the different aspects of household food security in a holistic and integrated fashion.

The study will also contribute in the institutionalisation and operationalisation of the field of home economics and of the HFSP in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment in Mpumalanga in terms of providing a framework for implementation of HFSP by home economics extension officers at grassroots level.
Huishoudelijke voedselverkryging en –gebruik is fundamenteel in die bevordering van die Huishoudelijke Voedselsekuriteitsprogram (HVSP). Mpumalanga se Departement van Landbou, Bewaring en Omgewing, veral die Afdeling - Landbouhuishoudkunde faciliteer die implementering van die HVSP deur voedsel- en inkomstegenereringsprogramme. Hierdie aktiwiteite, deur sowel die huishoudkundiges as ander rolspeilers, word tans op 'n ad hoc basis onderneem. 'n Behoefte aan 'n teoreties-gegronde raamwerk vir die ontwikkeling van 'n benadering tot die implementering van die HVSP is geïdentifiseer.

Die doel met hierdie studie is om die voedselverkrygingstrategieë en –gebruikspatronne van landelijke huishoudings te beskryf sodat 'n benadering vir die implementering van die HVSP op voetsoolvak ontwikkel kan word.

'n Gesinsekologie raamwerk wat die persoonlike en bestuursubsisteme insluit, is as konseptuele raamwerk vir die studie, wat in Maanhaarwyk, Mpumalanga uitgevoer is, gebruik. Inligting omtrent voedselverkrygingstrategieë en –gebruiks-patronne sowel as oor die omgewing en endogene faktore wat die strategieë en gebruikspatronne beïnvloed, is versamel deur gebruik te maak van deelnemende navorsingstake, fokusgroep- en individuele onderhoude. Die data is ooreenkomsig die konsepte in die verwysingsraamwerk geïnterpreteer.

Die aankoop en produksie van voedsel is geïdentifiseer as die belangrikste voedselverkrygingstrategieë. Geen huishouding is van 'n enkele voedselverkrygingsmetode afhanklik nie, maar gebruik hierdie strategieë sowel as die versameling/jag van voedselbronne in die natuur, leen en voedselgeskenke interafhanklik, afhanklik van die huishouding se heersende sosio-ekonomiese omstandighede. Voedselgebruikspatronne het voedselproses-sering en –gebruikspatronne ingesluit. Primêre, sekondêre en tersiëre voedselprosesserings is beskryf. Voedselverbuikspatronne sluit die aantal en samestelling van maaltye en die huishoudelike voedselinventaris in. Die geformuleerde doelwitte, hulpmiddels gebruik, beplanningsaksies en die implementering van die strategieë en gebruikspatronne – soos dit in die landelike huishoudings in Maanhaarwyk gemanifesteer het – is geïdentifiseer en beskryf.
Beide omgewings- en endogene faktore speel 'n rol in die huishoudings se voedselverkryingsstrategieë en -gebruikspatrone. Die makro-omgewingsfaktore wat voedselverkryging en -gebruik beïnvloed spruit uit die natuurlik/gestruktureerde omgewings en uit die sosiale subsisteme naamlik die politieke, sosio-kulturele, tegnologiese en ekonomiese subsisteme. Faktore uit die fisiese en sosiale mikro-omgewings sowel as endogene faktore beïnvloed voedselverkryingsstrategieë en -gebruikspatrone. Die endogene faktore was die struktuur van die gesin, menslike behoeftes, hulpmiddels, kennis, gelowe, rolle, sosiale norme, houdings en waardes.

Gebaseer op die resultate van hierdie studie is 'n Huishoudelike Voedselsekuriteit-sisteemraamwerk (HVSR) saamgestel was as basis kan dien vir die konseptualisering, beplanning, implementering en evaluering van die HVSP op operasionele vlak.

Met inagneming van die aard van die huishoudelike voedselsekuriteitsprobleem, kan die HVSR – weens die holistiese perspektief daarvan – 'n raamwerk verskaf om die verskillende aspekte van huishoudelike voedselsekuriteit op 'n holistiese en geïntegreerde wyse te benader.

Die studie kan ook bydra tot die institusionalisering en operasionalisering van huishoudkunde en die HVSP in die Department Landbou, Bewaring en Omgewing in Mpumalanga in terme daarvan dat 'n raamwerk verskaf word vir die implementering van die HVSP deur huishoudkunde voorligtingsbeamptes op voetsoolvlak.
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MACROENVIRONMENT

The natural/structured environmental systems

The societal subsystems

MICROENVIRONMENT

The physical microenvironment

The social microenvironment

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