Quantitative Methods for Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Measurements
Lessons to be learned!

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In collaboration with

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Since joining the European Commission in 1997, Neil Hubbard has worked on several scientific projects related to earth observation including the initial stages of both Galileo and Copernicus. Further posts were held concerning the European Research Area, chemicals legislation (REACH) and general management, before taking up his current appointment as head of the Food Security Unit in 2011.

Focusing upon technology and methodological development, the JRC supports the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) including crop yield forecasting and environmental requirements in farming practices. A further key area of work concerns food security, supporting Commission services (DEVCO, ECHO, EEAS) by providing assessments in response to food security issues, and scientific & technical assistance to both the development and implementation of policy.

Dr. Leonard Mizzi is currently Head of Unit at the European Commission, Directorate-General (DG) for International Cooperation and Development - Rural development, food security and nutrition, since 1st of January 2017. Prior to this post he was Head of Unit for 10 years in DG Agriculture and Rural Development, first on agri trade and development issues (2007-2014) and then more recently on inter institutional matters (European Parliament, Council)– 2015-2016.

He is a graduate in Public Administration from the University of Malta (BA Hons First Class); and has degrees from CIHEAM-Montpellier (Master of Science) and a Ph.D in Agricultural economics from the University of Reading (UK). He has been an author of a number of articles and publications on agri food issues and nutrition in the Mediterranean region.

Dr. Mizzi has a broad working experience in the Maltese public administration and the Maltese private sector. He first worked in the Economic Planning Division of the Office of the Prime Minister (Malta) and from 1996-2006 was the Director of the Malta Business Bureau in Brussels- the office of the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association. He was also visiting lecturer at the Boston University (Brussels campus), Open University and Malta University.

His areas of specialisation are governance, agriculture and food and nutrition security, the Mediterranean area, Sub Saharan Africa.

Dr. Arif Husain is Chief Economist and Director of the Food Security Analysis and Trends Service at United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Rome, Italy. Arif joined WFP in 2003 and since then he has served in many senior positions both in the field and at Headquarters. He has also worked for the World Bank and taught at the Hubert H Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Arif’s work focuses on analyzing food security and welfare conditions in developing countries to inform humanitarian response. His research interests include application of information technologies to improve humanitarian response; understanding linkages between poverty, hunger, conflict and migration; and analysing how global economic shocks impact food security, social protection and emergency and development assistance. Arif has a Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics with a minor in forestry from the University of Minnesota.

Tharcisse Nkunzimana is engineer in agricultural sciences and holds a PhD in agricultural economics from the Universite Catholique de Louvain (UCL, Belgium) in 2005. He is a senior researcher with experiences in food and nutrition security assessment and information systems. From 2008 to 2011, he worked as post-doctoral researcher (UCL, Ghent and Antwerp Universities) on various socio-economic researches with a focus on poverty dynamic and food security analysis and monitoring-evaluation of projects. End of 2011, he joined the Joint Research Centre of European Commission in Ispra/Italy as a Scientific Officer. His researches are focused on food and nutrition security analysis, agriculture information systems, food market analysis and causes of malnutrition in developing countries using statistical and econometric models.

Suneetha Kadiyala is an Associate Professor in Nutrition-sensitive Development at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London. She is a core faculty member of the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH). Prior to joining LSHTM in 2013, she was a Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington DC and New Delhi. She has a PhD from the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University.

Alan de Brauw is a senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute and a cluster leader in both the A4NH and PIM research programs of the CGIAR. He has a Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis, and 15 years of experience conducting research on topics related to agriculture and labor through primary source data collection throughout the developing world. His research largely attempts to answer questions related to social protection, labor issues, agricultural production, and agricultural extension. His resulting research has been both influential and well published. He has over 40 peer-reviewed publications in internationally recognized journals.

Suneetha is a nutritionist with research interests focusing on the intersection between agriculture/food systems and food security, gender, health (HIV) and nutrition. Her expertise spans program design, operations research and theory-based complex programme impact evaluations; and innovative methods and metrics in agriculture-nutrition research.

Suneetha is the Principal Investigator of IMMANA (Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions), DFID’s partnership to stimulate the development and application of scientifically sound methods and metrics in agriculture, health and nutrition research. She is the Principal Investigator of UPAVAN (Upscaling participatory action and videos for agriculture and nutrition), a four-arm cluster RCT integrating maternal and child nutrition objectives into a participatory low-cost video driven agriculture extension platform in India. She is also a co-investigator of LANSA (Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia) research consortium and SCAN (Surveillance of Climate Smart Agriculture for Nutrition). Suneetha leads the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy.
Professor Luc D’Haese, from the Department of Agricultural Economics at Ghent University, was managing for more than 15 years the International Master program in “Nutrition and Rural Development” at the Faculty of Bio Science Engineering.

He is currently Extra Ordinary Professor of the University of Stellenbosch. In this position he coordinated recently at the University of Stellenbosch the set-up of the “Master in food and nutrition security” and at the University of Pretoria the “Institute of Food Nutrition and Well-being”. He is actually involved in household food security surveys in South Africa analyzing with a local partner at an innovative way the determinants of livelihood and household food insecurity in rural and urban areas.

He served as CEO of the Belgian Technical Cooperation (CTB) and he was from 1977 to 1992 Professor at University of Burundi. From 1996 to 1999, he was Head of commission for development cooperation of the VLIR (University development cooperation of Flanders). He is associated member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Science.

Sergio Gomez y Paloma
Action leader SUSTAG, Economics of Agriculture, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Sergio Gomez y Paloma is graduated in Agricultural Sciences (Napoli University). Later he obtained a Master in Agribusiness (Milano, Catholic U.), a DAA (Masters in Agricultural Development, Agro-Paris-Tech, Paris), and a PhD in Agricultural Economics (Bologna U.). In 1991-1996 he was a lecturer at Roskilde Universitetscenter Department of Economics and Planning (Denmark). He has been Advisor to the EU Economic and Social Committee, Brussels (1992-5).
Since 1996 he works at the EC-JRC (European Commission Joint Research Centre), where he has coordinated the Project on Mediterranean and Regional Perspectives (1997-2000) and the Action on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (2007-2014). He is currently coordinating a number of JRC activities related to quantitative analysis of the farming sector in the EU, the Eurasian area and in Sub-Saharan Africa.
He was 2011-2014 Member of the Editorial Board of the Applied economics perspective and policy Journal (Oxford University Press). He is 2015-2017 Associate Editor of Agricultural Economics, the Journal of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), Blackwell/Elsevier.
He has published on agricultural economics, transition and development economics.
JRC Mission

As the science and knowledge service of the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre’s mission is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle.