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Topic: Food and nutrition security

Title: Analysis of Food Security Situation in the Aged Population of a Drought Affected District of Sindh, Pakistan

Presentation Type: Oral

Introduction: A qualitative research was carried out in draught affected Tharparkar district of Sindh, Pakistan in order to analyse the food security situation of aged population in the marginalized desert area, having lower-than-average rainfall since the last three years. As a result, there is prevalence of a draught situation in the region.

Methodology: The chosen methodology involved face-to-face in-depth interviews with community aged persons and food managers of Tharparkar, selected through purposive sampling. After proper consent and ethical considerations, ten community participants aged above 60 years - both men and women in four villages and three public and private sector food managers were interviewed as per prepared and approved semi-structured questions.

Results: indicate that old persons have preference for local food, but due the prevailing drought, were not able to cultivate their land or find fodder for livestock. They were generally not getting enough food and the majority suffered from hunger. No separate relief was provided for the aged persons. Food aid provided by the government to enlisted families was insufficient and poorly distributed. The main themes that emerged are (i) food insecurity for all including the aged population (ii) higher incidence of food insecurity with hunger in the aged.

It is recommended that early warning of drought and water preserving techniques be introduced in the area. The government should provide early food aid on equitable basis and on updated census figures. A review is required in 'District Disaster Management Plan of Tharparkar' to include separate benefits for the elderly.