Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems
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Introduction
Despite improvements in health, nutrition, and other factors important to the human condition, by the year 2025 as many as 1000 million people of a projected 8000 million could suffer from mal-nutrition. Many advances have been made, but the challenge of providing food security for all remains massive and complex. FAO’s latest estimates of the number of undernourished people confirm an alarming trend. Progress in reducing hunger in the developing world has slowed to a crawl and in most regions the number of undernourished people is actually growing. Worldwide, the latest estimates indicate that some 840 million people were undernourished in 1998-2000. 11 million in the industrialized countries, 30 millions in countries in transition and 799 millions in the developing world. A closer examination of the data reveals that the situation in most of the developing world is even bleaker than it appears at first glance.

The purpose of this presentation is to examine criteria used in Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS), and describe the advantages of using this system to monitor food insecure people and effected regions of the world.

Major Points, and Lessons Learned
The FIVIMS is not a single organization or system; rather, it is a framework within which different tasks are carried out at different levels: global, national and subnation. Although specific tasks are distinct at different levels, the success of FIVIMS also depends on networking at all levels. Networking and information exchanges are promoted by the international FIVIMS program. The FIVIMS was initiated by the World Food Summit (WFS) for a more compete and user-friendly source of information at all levels. What are the characteristics of a national FIVIMS? It is owned or supported by the major public and private stakeholders in the county, both national and international. It provides national coverage of food security questions. It answers the basic questions: who is food insecure, where are they located, and why are they in this condition, in both chronic and transitory situations. It provides coordinated cross-sectoral coverage of all the major dimensions of nationally defined food insecurity problems, and produces information products that are used for action programs to reduce food insecurity and vulnerability by providing useful information to those who make decisions affecting resource allocation. FIVIMS has several features that make it well suited to identify and reach food insecure people and people who are vulnerable to food insecurity. These are: focus on people; cooperation and coordination across sectors; building on existing information systems; flexible and easy to use approach; action-oriented; and links to the international FIVIMS programs.

Educational Importance
With food requirements in the developing world expected to double by the middle of the next century, both agricultural production and investment in agriculture will need to increase. This includes investments in technology development, and rural infrastructure. It also includes increased investment in knowledge, education, information and skills training, in short, in human resource development. Furthermore, institutional changes in research, extension and education will be necessary in order to achieve the goals and commitment of national food security.