

Sufosec Household Survey 2021

In 2021, the Alliance for Sustainable Food Systems and Empowered Communities (Sufosec), composed of the Swiss NGOs Aqua Alimentata, Fastenaktion, Swissaid, Skat Foundation, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse, and Vivamos Mejor, launched a four-year joint international programme. The overall programme goal is that people left behind have increased their food security and improved their livelihood resilience, and that they have enhanced their participation and inclusion in social, economic and political life.

A key objective of the Alliance is to reduce the food insecurity of smallholder farmers and their households through agroecological farming practices. As a means to monitor these two objectives, Sufosec conducted a Household Survey amongst more than 14'000 households in 16 countries in Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

Food Insecurity Experience Scale

Food security was measured using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) that consists of eight questions related to the household's access to food of adequate quality and quantity. We found that the median prevalence rate of moderate or severe food insecurity among the survey sites is 66%. Whilst "moderate" food insecurity means that a household has limited access to food of adequate quality or quantity, "severe" food insecurity indicates hunger. Thus, the results of the Sufosec Household Survey show that hunger is most prevalent in Haiti and Western Africa. The median of all survey sites lies at 21% for the prevalence of severe food insecurity.

In comparisons with the FAO world region reference values, our survey sites indicate greater food insecurity. The survey results allow the Alliance members and their partner organisations to take measures to address food insecurity and hunger in their areas of concern.

Agroecological Farming Practices

From a pre-defined selection of 18 agroecological farming practices, the survey respondents chose one or several practices they implemented in 2021 and indicated which ones they implemented for the first time this year. We found out, that 40% of the survey participants implement at least one agroecological farming practice for the first time in 2021. Amongst the most prominent practices are crop rotation, intercropping, the use of locally adapted seeds, and crop diversification.

Further analysis of the data

We are interested in finding a relationship between the implementation of agroecological farming practices and the experienced food insecurity. For this purpose, Sufosec has entered into a collaboration with the Center for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern. The findings will be included in the report Sufosec is preparing for World Food Day on 16th of October.