

Workshop for testing and refining the Food Security Simulator Papua New Guinea (FSS-PNG)

University of Goroka, Goroka, May 5th and 6th

IFPRI's innovative Food Security Simulator Papua New Guinea (FSS-PNG) is an easy-to-use MS-Excel-based tool based on the Papua New Guinea Rural Household Survey, 2023 (PNG-RHS) and rigorous, sophisticated food demand models to capture consumer behavior. The tool allows users to enter positive and negative price or income changes and preference changes in percentage terms and provides simulated changes for a diverse set of food-consumption- and diet-quality-related indicators. These are presented in concise overview tables and visualized in graphs for easy export and use in reports.

Conducted over two days, this workshop will introduce the FSS-PNG and provide an opportunity for participants to collaborate on the further development of the tool. Topics will include food security analysis, conducting microsimulations, demonstrations of the types of scenarios the FSS-PNG can simulate food security outcomes for, and identifying areas where the FSS-PNG could be improved. Participants will also be afforded time to conduct semi-independent policy analysis using the tool. At the end of the two days, participants will be able to conduct policy analysis using the FSS-PNG tool and areas of improvement/refinement for the tool will be identified.

The workshop will culminate with participants grouping together to draft a high-quality policy simulation presentation. On the afternoon of the second day, the participants will then present their work to the rest of the group and other selected invitees.

As the FSS-PNG is based in Excel, participants will need to bring a laptop with Microsoft Office installed to the workshop.

DAY 1 – Monday, May 5th

Morning Session

Registration

Greetings and agenda discussion

- Participants will arrive and take their place.
- The agenda will be laid out and discussed.

Introduction to food security and microsimulation analysis

- This session will provide an introduction to concepts around household food security, the type of analyses used in the FSS-PNG, and common ways it can be used in policy analysis.
 - We will also cover general household survey analysis topics as they pertain to using the FSS-PNG
-

Coffee

Introduction to the FSS-PNG

- In this session, we will provide a broad overview of the FSS-PNG, how the user interacts with it, and some of the underlying methodologies that are important to understand for its use.
 - We will also cover the various outputs of the FSS-PNG and ways to interpret them.
-

- **Lunch**

Using the FSS-PNG

- The first afternoon session will introduce specific examples of using the FSS-PNG.
- There will be multiple examples prepared to implement alongside the participants. Results will be analyzed and discussed.
- During this period, we will also delve into the underlying mechanics of how the FSS-PNG works in Excel.

Q&A on improving using the FSS-PNG

- Participants will have time provide feedback and to ask questions about the general FSS-PNG presentation and on the specific examples we worked through.

DAY 2 – Tuesday, May 6th

Morning Session

Greetings and recap of first day

Guided work

- On the second day, work will begin on conducting policy simulation work in the FSS-PNG with an eye on generating food security simulation presentations in small groups. The goal is to familiarize participants with how the FSS-PNG works and to produce an interesting scenario and results to later present.
 - The instructor will guide the general direction of analysis, and help will be available from the instructor upon request, but participants are encouraged to work through problems as far as they can on their own.
-

Coffee

Initial presentations of guided work

- With help available from the presenter, participants will be invited to present the draft work they have done during the first afternoon session.
- Discussion will take place about how to improve the presentations and participants will make edits to prepare for the afternoon session.

- **Lunch**

Final presentations

- After lunch, the groups will work to incorporate feedback from the morning session into their presentations.
- Final presentations will be conducted.

Closing and final takeaways for improving/refining the tool

- The workshop will conclude with a final session on the major takeaways for how the tool can be improved.