

What do we know about food insecurity
measurement compared to poverty in

South Africa?

Scott Drimie, HSRC

On behalf of the FIVIMS Consortium



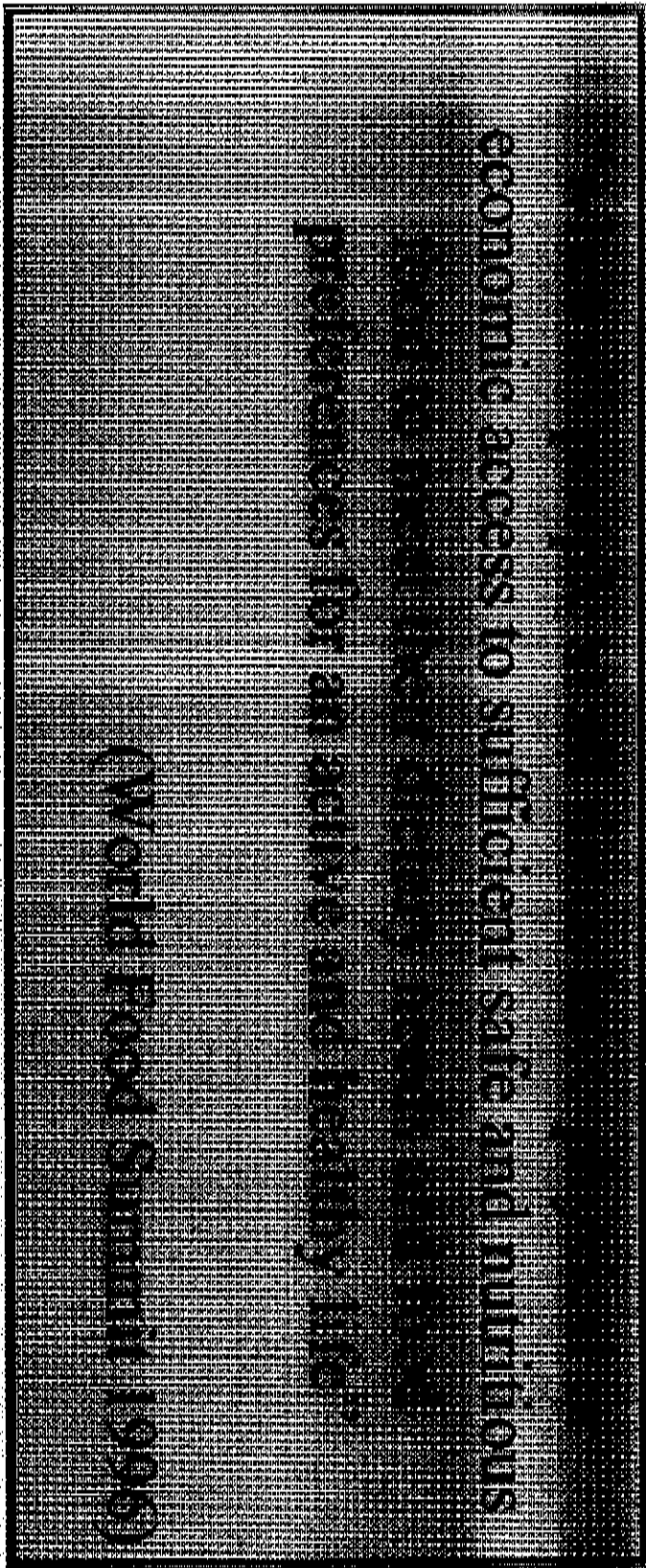
UKZN NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FOOD
SECURITY:

1 – 2 June 2004

Introduction:

- 1. Food insecurity & poverty in SA**
- 2. Rationale for a FIVIMS**
- 3. DOA user requirements**
- 4. FIVIMS guiding principles**
- 5. Pilot process**
- 6. Linkages with the “Centre of Excellence”**

Food security



Food insecurity & poverty in SA:

The extent of food insecurity (diff. sources)

- 1.5 million children experience under-nutrition
- 14 million suffer from food insecurity
- Malnutrition over time is worsening
- At national level between a quarter and a third of households are unable to purchase food for dietary requirements of children
- Greater percent of households in rural areas experiencing hunger relative to urban areas

Food insecurity & poverty in SA:

Some determinants

- H/hs main income from wages & salaries (57%) followed by social grants (14%) & remittances (10%)
- Agriculture income contributes less than 4% total income for poorest quintiles – even for the poorest agricultural incomes is minimal
- Great reliance on purchased food & not own produced food – exposing households to adverse effects of price fluctuations
- Even for the most marginalised the rate of growth of the macro-economy is still the most important determinant of income and food security.

Food insecurity is the result of a combination of factors

DOA Rationale for a FIVIMS:

- DOA no effective means to target specific areas & vulnerable population groups.
- Thus limited in developing better interventions focused on the underlying causes of food insecurity.
- Agricultural Risk Management Committee & Crop Forecasting Committee – not effectively focused on vulnerable h/hs outside agric sector.
- Disaster Management Framework – pre-occupation with saving lives not livelihoods

User requirements for a national FIVIMS:

- Who are the food insecure and where do they live?
- What is the nature, frequency and degree of their food insecurity?
- What is the nature of their livelihood systems and what kinds of constraints are they experiencing?
- Who are the vulnerable and where are they located?
- Who are the vulnerable and where are they located?
- What is the nature of their coping strategies in response to these risks and how effective are they?

Need to develop a baseline for livelihood monitoring

A comprehensive baseline developed through expansion of existing spatial databases:

- To identify structural causes of vulnerability (agro-ecological constraints for farming; lack of assets & job opportunities in urban areas).
- To include food security and nutrition indicators, which helps to monitor levels of food insecurity & malnutrition.
- To help monitor output and impact-level monitoring indicators of the Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme (operationalises the Integrated Food Security Strategy)

Need to develop an early warning component:

To look at existing monitoring systems to allow a more effective early warning system that responds to well-known and recurrent shocks (drought and floods); but also to economic shocks (food price increases, international currency fluctuations, etc) that strongly impact on the markets on which the poor are dependent.

What is FIVIMS SA?

Thus FIVIMS SA is a tool and information source to assist with national and sub-national food security interventions through the provision of:

- a structural food insecurity and vulnerability baseline, model and reporting capability, and
- a “lean and mean” monitoring system that complements existing early warning systems and accounts for urban food insecurity.

What are its outputs?

The monitoring system and baseline, model and reporting capability will output:

- Maps (at local municipal level) showing relative levels of food insecurity (e.g. levels of malnutrition; food deprivation);
- Maps (at local municipal level) showing outcome / composite indicators;
- Maps (at local municipal level) showing base data sets;
- Figures, graphs, tables to accompany the maps;
- Expert analysis in reports and papers.

Guiding principles:

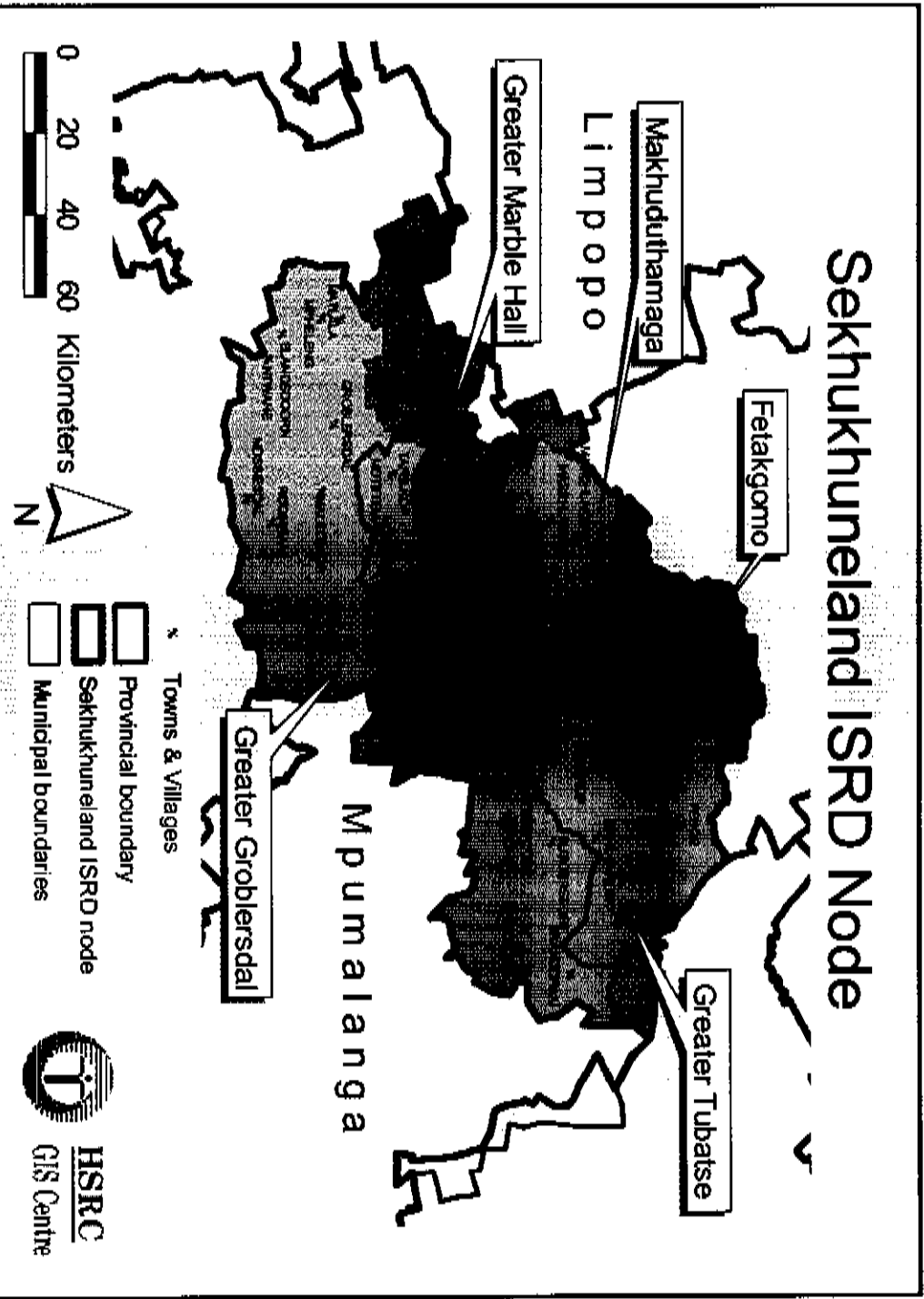
- Focus on integrated poverty analysis - food insecurity in SA is a poverty problem and not about agricultural production *per se*.
- The system must ultimately become a national priority, as food insecurity is a cross-cutting issue (poverty) facing a range of government departments.
- The pilot is about developing a simple, effective system that can have additional requirements added to it.
- It is possible to measure food insecurity and not possible to measure vulnerability. *Food insecurity can be measured as an outcome through, for example, malnutrition.*
- Due to its complex & dynamic nature, vulnerability can be understood through the analysis & characterisation of livelihoods.

Piloting a FIVIMS in Sekhukhuneland:

To develop a system that identifies and characterises livelihoods in the Sekhukhuneland ISRD Node with recommendations as to how it will be rolled out across the country in various phases.

The rollout phase will develop the system in twelve additional ISRD Nodes, and ultimately across the entire country - likely that more intense monitoring will be conducted over these ISRD Nodes, whilst “light” monitoring is maintained over the rest of the country.

Sekhukhuneland ISRD Node



0 20 40 60 Kilometers



- x Towns & Villages
- Provincial boundary
- ▨ Sekhukhuneland ISRD node
- Municipal boundaries



HSRC
GIS Centre

Success & sustainability:

- Enabling environment and information culture
 - People
 - Involve stakeholders
 - Identify users & training candidates early
 - Systems
 - Practices, e.g data entry
 - Processes
 - Institutions and power contests
- Demonstrate benefits early and repeatedly – early wins

Lessons from FIVIMS for UKZN Centre of Excellence:

- Increase national attention to food security issues.
- Improve the quality and timeliness of food security-related data and analysis.
- Facilitate multi-sectoral analyses.
- Better use of information through better understanding of users' needs.
- Improve users' access to information through networking and sharing.

Linkages to UKZN Centre of Excellence:

- **Research into food security & vulnerable livelihoods – to complement system**
- **Develop capacity at various levels**
- **Capacity for policy, strategy, programmes & projects development**
- **Advocacy – rights-based approach**