Household food security and dietary diversity in the context of an agricultural and market development program in Guatemala.

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INTRODUCTION

Approximately 870 million people worldwide are undernourished or chronically food insecure.1,2 The cost of the resulting incapacities and deaths due to food insecurity and poor diets represent 5% of the Gross National Product (GNP) in developing countries.3 Household food insecurity results when safe and nutritious food is not available, cannot be accessed in socially acceptable ways, or is not physiologically utilized completely.4 The World Food Program’s Purchase for Progress (P4P) is a pilot initiative that provides access to food markets and promotes agricultural productivity for over one million low-income smallholder farmers worldwide (>7,000 in Guatemala alone). P4P combines novel market development strategies with investments in capacity building in an effort to sustainably boost national food security and improve livelihoods.5

OBJECTIVE

To characterize the main determinants of household food security and dietary diversity in the context of an agricultural and market development program in Guatemala.

METHODS

Survey Instruments

1. General Information Survey
2. Household Food Security
3. Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Scale (ELCSA)
4. Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)
5. Most Significant Change (MSC) Methodology

Statistical Analyses, Quantitative Data. SAS Enterprise, v.4.3 (IHS). In: Proc. Fitness, Chi-square, Linear Correlation (Spearman), and ANOVA (p<0.05). Qualitative Data. NVivo 11 (QSR International). Similarity coefficients: Jaccard, Sorensen.

RESULTS

Food Insecurity (Fig. 3): Overall Dietary Diversity (Fig. 4); and Dietary Diversity for Women (Fig. 5) and Children (Fig. 6) were higher among P4P beneficiaries compared to controls (p<0.05). Means ± SD

CONCLUSIONS

1. Agricultural and market development interventions in developing countries, such as P4P, have a positive effect on food security and dietary diversity among smallholder farmers in Guatemala.

2. Four conceptual categories and seven pathways are proposed to explain the overall effect of an agricultural and market development program on improved household food security and dietary diversity among smallholder farmers in Guatemala.

REFERENCES


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