

# **Food and Nutrition Security of Farming Households with 2 to 5-Year-Old Children as Influenced by Selected Governance Factors in Chet Borei District, Kratie Province, Cambodia**

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## **Abstract**

This study determined the food and nutrition security situation of farming households with children 2 to 5 years old as influenced by governance factors (structure and process) in the upland area of Chet Borei district, Kratie province, Cambodia. A total of 126 households were interviewed using a structured questionnaire. Anthropometric measurements were conducted on 137 children. Respondents were selected from nine (9) villages using two-stage stratified random sampling method (village and household level). Data were analyzed using descriptive and correlation tests, particularly Spearman's correlation and Cramer's V coefficient based on Chi-square.

Immunization and Vitamin A supplements are available in the community, with higher than 95% of the children receiving those services. Despite this, 74.5% of the children were reported having health problems in the past 2 months, particularly fever, malaria, and diarrhea, among others. Only 35.7% reported having brought the sick children to the government health center, while the rest went to private clinics.

Results revealed that 9.5% of households and 7.3% of children have low DDS. Also, 36.5% of the children are underweight, 51.8% are stunted, and 12.4% are wasted.

Governance structure and process of the Sub-National Administration (SNA) are comprehensive, characterized by good governance in both decision-making and implementation. However, there is somehow a lack in potential with regards to responding to people's needs due to limited resource allocation and unclear decentralization policy from the national government.

Governance factors were found to have significant relationships with nutritional status, socio-demographic and economic characteristics, health and household food security. Food and nutrition security and socio-demographic and economic characteristics were also likely to have significant relationships with nutritional status. Hence, food and nutrition security among farming households with 2 to 5-years-old children in the study area was influenced by selected governance factors (structure and process).