

# DETERMINANTS OF HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IN ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA

J.A.J.N. Jayarathne and L.P. Rupasena

*Department of Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata  
University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka*

There are lack of studies undertaken to examine the food security status at the household level in the dry zone of Sri Lanka, where food insecurity is relatively strive. The purpose of this study was to assess the determinants of the food security of Anuradhapura district of dry zone. Data on Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2016 conducted by Department of Census and Statistics were used with a sample of 793 households. Descriptive statistics, Food Security Index (FSI) and the logistic regression model were applied for the data analysis. The FSI was calculated using the ratio of the recommended daily per capita calorie requirements to the daily per capita calorie intake of the household to capture the access dimension of the food security. Results revealed that 42% of the households were food insecure in the study area with inadequate daily calorie requirement. The log likelihood value of the model was -463.234 ( $p < 0.05$ ) showing that the variables included in the model were major determinants of the food security. Accordingly, gender, age, marital status of the household head, monthly total income, indebtedness and the size of the household were significant in determining the food security of the area. Male headed households ( $p < 0.05$ ), and monthly household income ( $p < 0.1$ ) were positively related with the food security and household size ( $p < 0.05$ ), age of the household head ( $p < 0.05$ ), single parent households ( $p < 0.1$ ) and indebtedness ( $p < 0.1$ ) were negatively related with the household food security. The study concluded high incidence of food insecurity at household level in *Anuradhapura* district. Special attention should be placed on female headed households, large households, single parent households and households with older aged heads in formulating food security policies in order to ensure household food security of *Anuradhapura* district.

**Keywords:** Determinants, Food Security, Food Security Index,  
Logistics regression