

5th International Conference on **FOOD AND NUTRITION**

September 09-10, 2024 | Paris, France

Women and food security: A southern philippine experience**Francis Thaise A. Cimene***University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines, Philippines*

Women and Food Security: A Southern Philippine Experience delves into the intricate dynamics of food security in the Philippines, focusing specifically on the Bangsamoro region and Lanao del Sur province. Despite extensive efforts at both national and regional levels, persistent challenges such as climate change, ongoing conflicts, and gaps in policy implementation continue to impede progress toward achieving food security. This study highlights the vital role women play in addressing food insecurity and advocates for targeted interventions to empower women and strengthen local food systems. Lanao del Sur has the highest percentage of chronically food-insecure populations, with approximately one in two households experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity. These households consistently suffer from inadequate food consumption, both in quantity and quality, throughout the year, leading to alarmingly high levels of stunting. While inadequate energy intake is a significant issue for populations classified in Levels 3 and 4 of chronic food insecurity (about 30% of households), poor food quality and lack of dietary diversity are pervasive problems affecting approximately 75% of households in the province. The study draws on several policy recommendations to address these challenges, including the establishment of community gardens and the promotion of sustainable food systems. It emphasizes the necessity for multistakeholder collaboration and public awareness campaigns to effectively combat food insecurity, especially in vulnerable regions like Lanao del Sur. By implementing these initiatives, the study aims to contribute to broader efforts to achieve sustainable food security and improve livelihoods in the Southern Philippines.

Biography

Francis Thaise A. Cimene is the Head of the Center for Inclusive Development Studies and the Head of Academic Affairs at the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines. She holds multiple degrees, including a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Management, a Master of Arts in Sociology, a Master of Arts in Education with a Major in Educational Administration, a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (Magna cum Laude, Xavier University), and a Bachelor in Elementary Education. She served as Dean of the Graduate School at Capitol University from 2003 to 2015 and was the Research Director for five years. Since 2007, she has been a CHED Institutional Sustainability Assessment Assessor. Additionally, she was designated as the Impact Auditor for the Police Regional Office 10's Institutionalization Evaluation Process. She has co-authored 11 books and published over 30 research articles. She has conducted numerous research projects commissioned by the Philippine National Police Region 10, the City Council of Cagayan de Oro City, and other government institutions and consulting agencies.