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A Public Sector Innovation in Strengthening Local Community Food Security in the Selected Municipalities of Lanao del Sur

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Abstract:

This study presents an in-depth analysis of food security challenges in selected municipalities of Lanao del Sur, focusing on household food insecurity prevalence and proposing public sector innovations to address these issues. Conducted through a data survey spanning Lumbatan, Lumbanayague, and Sultan Dumalondong over two months, the research collected 268 responses. Findings reveal nuances in food availability and preferences, highlighting gaps in food variety and accessibility despite overall sufficiency. Contributing factors include low income, poverty, limited nutritious food, high commodity prices, and insufficient agency support, leading to perceptions of inadequate food access, availability, and affordability. Proposed interventions encompass community-based food production, price stabilization, targeted subsidies, and nutrition education campaigns, emphasizing collaborative stakeholder efforts for sustainable improvements in Lanao del Sur's food security and dietary diversity.

Keywords: Public sector, innovation, food security

1. Introduction

Based on the 1996 World Food Summit - Food Security is defined as when all people always have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. It covers four dimensions:

- Physical availability of food (*i.e.*, food availability addresses the "supply side" of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade);
- Economic and physical access to food (*i.e.*, an adequate supply of food at the national or international level does not in itself guarantee household-level food security);
- Food utilization (*i.e.*, utilization is commonly understood as the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food) and
- Stability of the other three dimensions over time (*i.e.*, even if one's food intake is adequate today, he is still considered food insecure if he has inadequate access to food on a periodic basis, risking a deterioration of his nutritional status).

Additionally, adverse weather conditions, political instability, or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices) may have an impact on food security status (Chin *et al.*, 2024; Mendelsohn, 2008; Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Food Program (WFP), & World Health Organization (WHO), 2018).

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the improvements in global food security that began in 2017 started to decline over the last decade. The number of people living in food insecurity increased from 804 million in 2016 to almost 821 million in 2017. Worldwide phenomena like climate change, demographic growth and environmental degradation complicate food security and nutrition (Sarkar & Sensarma, 2019).

Eliminating food insecurity is a global goal shared across various organizations and institutions². Chen, Bolling and Hollanders (2016) suggested that integrated approaches to address the food security and nutrition crisis are the most effective. In 2015, the United Nations (UN) developed the 2030 Agenda and The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are 17 ambitious objectives to enhance prosperity and security for all people. Indeed, achieving these goals requires participation across disciplines and organizations (Lin *et al.*, 2022).

In the Philippines, the challenge of achieving food security has long been recognized by the government, together with domestic agricultural productivity. In the past years, the administration's goal has been to achieve food security and food self-sufficiency by 2016. Through the Department of Agriculture, Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) 2011-2016

was launched to achieve self-sufficiency in food staples towards ensuring food security. The main target of FSSP is to achieve domestic requirements by 2013. Towards 2013, FSSP aims to strengthen resilience against the impact of climate change to increase the production of food staples. Aside from FSSP, the Philippine government had implemented various policies directed towards self-sufficiency and food security after the 2007-2008 global price crisis and yet the Philippines is still far from being food secure and resilient to climate change due to implementation gaps and lack of coordination among relevant government agencies (Mamiit, 2016). Thus, the goal of FSSP does not appear to be feasible. Moreover, results showed that food security has rapidly weakened by the government's rice importation. Results also revealed that the weather volatility in the country and the high cost of agricultural inputs alleviate the food supply production. Filipino farmers are not yet ready for a regional trade as their domestic market is still fragile. Furthermore, although the Philippines has a high potential, it still has no comparative advantage when compared to its neighbors, such as Thailand and Vietnam (Laosutsan *et al.*, 2017).

In the present administration, the Department of Agriculture revived former President Ferdinand Marcos' KADIWA, which aims to strengthen Food Security in the country. KADIWA is a marketing initiative of DA, implemented through the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance (AMAS), which seeks to empower the farming community by providing a direct and effective farm-to-consumer food supply chain. The model eliminates as many marketing layers as possible, allowing producers to earn more from directly selling their produce instead of using trader-intermediaries. It reduces marketing expenses, thus making fresh and quality products more affordable for consumers (DA, 2022).

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Context. For the past decades, the Bangsamoro has been beset by recurring and increasing cases of poverty and malnutrition. BARMM recorded the highest prevalence of household food insecurity at 84.1 percent among all regions. This situation then calls for aggressive, efficient, and effective convergence among government agencies and institutions for feasible, viable, and sustainable realization of a self-reliant, food-secure, and resilient Bangsamoro. Hence, the BARMM Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) roadmap is a need and will serve as the main foundation (Mondares, 2023).

The Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Roadmap of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is the brainchild and handiwork of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR), the Bangsamoro Development and Planning Authority (BDPA), and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It is the fruit of the synergy between agencies seeking to take advantage of the region's reconstitution and transition period to enhance and promote the Bangsamoro people's food security and nutrition situation in the coming years. The Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap envisions a self-reliant, food-secure, and resilient Bangsamoro. Its mission is to uplift the living conditions of the Bangsamoro people by efficiently providing quality services based on moral governance to achieve food security and nutrition towards sustainable development (BARMM, 2020).

The main objectives of the FS Roadmap of BARMM are:

- Expanded markets and value chains;
- Improved livelihoods and household income, with a focus on agricultural productivity;
- Enhanced dietary quality and nutrition;
- Increased resilience of vulnerable populations and communities;
- Improved policies, institutions, and implementation capacity.

Among these objectives, this capstone study can capitalize on and connect with (2) improved livelihoods and household income, focusing on agricultural productivity.

The province of Lanao Del Sur accounts for the highest percentage of the population that is chronically food insecure, with less than 15% of households classified as food secure and around one in two households moderately or severely food insecure. These households tend to have poor food consumption, both in terms of quantity and quality, throughout the year and very high levels of stunting. While lack of adequate energy consumption is a major issue only for those populations that are classified in Levels 3 and 4 of chronic food insecurity (about 30% of households), the quality of food consumption and diversification of food is generally poor and a major problem throughout the province, affecting around 75% of the households (IPC, 2020).

At the Regional level, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR), through its Agriculture and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD), is implementing the MAFAR LENDS as one strategy for addressing the food insecurity issue in BARMM in general and its provinces and municipalities in particular.

In Lanao del Sur, the MAFAR-LDS has linked some of its noted Farmer Cooperative and Associations (FCAs) to avail of this flagship project with identified commodities: coconut, livestock, upgraded goat and other high-value products.

1.1. Objectives of the Study

This study aims to identify and analyze the challenges related to food security in the selected municipalities of Lanao del Sur, with a specific focus on assessing the prevalence of households experiencing food insecurity. The findings will inform the development of a public sector innovation aimed at effectively addressing the identified problems and enhancing food security in the region.

1.2. Significance of the Study

The significance of the study on strengthening local food security through public sector innovations in Lanao del Sur's municipalities, namely Lumbatan, Lumbayanague, and Sultan Dumalondong, is multi-faceted and holds relevance at various levels:

- **Addressing Food Insecurity:** Lanao del Sur is known to face food insecurity due to poverty, conflict, and limited development. By examining the effectiveness of public sector innovations, this study aims to shed light on practical strategies that can mitigate food insecurity and improve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities.
- **Policy and Decision-Making:** The study's findings and policy recommendations will provide valuable insights to policymakers and local authorities in Lanao del Sur. Evidence-based information on successful public sector innovations can guide the development and implementation of policies to enhance food security in the region.
- **Community Empowerment:** Understanding the role of community engagement and participation in successful food security initiatives can empower local communities. By involving them in decision-making processes, initiatives can be designed with greater relevance and sustainability, fostering ownership and accountability among community members.
- **Replicability and Scalability:** The study's analysis of effective public sector innovations can serve as a model for other regions facing similar challenges. Lessons learned from Lanao del Sur's experience can be adapted and scaled to address food security issues in different contexts and locations.
- **Academic Contribution:** The study will add to the existing body of knowledge on food security and public sector innovations. It can serve as a reference for researchers and scholars interested in exploring related topics and provide a foundation for further research in this area.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Food security is a critical component of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including zero hunger (SDG 2). By contributing to the understanding of effective strategies, the study can indirectly support progress toward achieving these global goals.
- **Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding:** In conflict-affected regions like Lanao del Sur, addressing food insecurity can have implications for peacebuilding efforts. Enhancing food security can help stabilize communities and promote social cohesion, contributing to broader peace and development initiatives.

1.3. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study on strengthening local food security through public sector innovations in Lanao del Sur's municipalities, specifically Lumbatan, Lumbayanague, and Sultan Dimalondong, will focus on examining the production of anchor commodities, both agriculture and fishery and the various internal public sector initiatives and innovations aimed at enhancing food security in the region. The study will encompass the following key aspects:

- **Food Security:** The research will focus on the dimensions of food security in terms of production in the food system within the context of the target municipalities. It will examine how public sector innovations address these aspects to improve food security outcomes.
- **Public Sector Innovations:** The study will primarily concentrate on BARMM and PLGU/MLGU innovations, policies, and initiatives related to food security in the target municipalities. It will analyze programs and projects implemented by concerned government agencies and other public institutions.

2. Literature Review

The concept of food security is dynamic and continuously incorporates new dimensions and levels of analysis over time. This ongoing evolution of the concept indicates the wider recognition of its difficulties in different areas of research and public policy because the issue has a long history, starting with the global food crisis in the first half of the 1970s (Clay, 2002).

The initial focus, reflecting the global concerns 1974, was on the volume and stability of food supplies. Food security was defined in the 1974 World Food Summit as: "Availability at all times of adequate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices."

In 1983, FAO expanded its concept to include securing access by vulnerable people to available supplies, implying that attention should be balanced between the demand and supply side of the food security equation: ensuring that all people always have both physical and economic access to the basic food that they need."

In 1986, the highly influential World Bank report "Poverty and Hunger" focused on the temporal dynamics of food insecurity. It introduced the widely accepted distinction between chronic food insecurity, associated with problems of continuing or structural poverty and low incomes, and transitory food insecurity, which involves periods of intensified pressure caused by natural disasters, economic collapse, or conflict. This concept of food security is further elaborated in terms of: "access of all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life".

By the mid-1990s, food security was recognized as a significant concern, spanning a spectrum from the individual to the global level. However, access now involved sufficient food, indicating continuing concern with protein-energy malnutrition. However, the definition was broadened to incorporate food safety and nutritional balance, reflecting concerns about food composition and minor nutrient requirements for an active and healthy life. Food preferences, socially or culturally determined, have now become a consideration. The potentially high degree of context specificity implies that the concept had both lost its simplicity and was not itself a goal but an intermediating set of actions that contribute to an active and healthy life.

The 1994 UNDP Human Development Report promoted the construct of human security, including a few component aspects, of which food security was only one. This concept is closely related to the human rights perspective on development that has, in turn, influenced discussions about food security. (The WIDER investigation into the role of public action in combating hunger and deprivation found no separate place for food security as an organizing framework for action. Instead, it focused on a wider construct of social security, which has many distinct components, including, of course, health and nutrition).

The 1996 World Food Summit adopted a still more complex definition: "Food security, at the individual, household, national, regional and global levels [is achieved] when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".

This definition is again refined in The State of Food Insecurity 2001: "Food security [is] a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." The international community has accepted these increasingly broad statements of common goals and implied responsibilities. However, its practical response has been to focus on narrower, simpler objectives around which to organize international and national public action. The declared primary objective in international development policy discourse is increasingly the reduction and elimination of poverty. The 1996 WFS exemplified this policy direction by making the primary objective of international action on food security halving the number of hungry or undernourished people by 2015.

Essentially, food security can be described as a phenomenon relating to individuals. It is the nutritional status of the individual household member that is the ultimate focus, and the risk of that adequate status not being achieved or becoming undermined. The latter risk describes the vulnerability of individuals in this context. As the definitions reviewed above imply, vulnerability may occur both as a chronic and transitory phenomenon. Useful working definitions are described below. Additionally, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern.

Food Security vs. Food Insufficiency – In layman's terms, food self-sufficiency means producing all the food requirements of the people within the country's borders, regardless of the costs of attaining this goal. Since the Philippines geographically lies in a tropical zone, it can produce most of the crops and animals that are meant to feed our people. The cost to society of attaining food self-sufficiency is an issue conveniently left out by its proponents, knowing that it is unrealistic to do so given our rapid population growth, growing land scarcity and that our economy operates in the context of a globalized trading regime.

Food security, on the other hand, as noted by Habito, quoting the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) definition, "exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." As such, it is not enough to have the supply (production) or be self-sufficient; food security also requires that food be accessible (affordable), particularly to the poor, be safe and nutritious, and be available and stable all year round.

3. Methodology

This study is a data survey conducted in the three municipalities of Lanao del Sur: Lumbatan, Lumbanayague and Sultan Dumalondong. The survey was conducted over a two-month period. The research team followed a comprehensive process, including instrument preparation, data gathering, result analysis, and report compilation. The survey received 268 responses, ensuring a representative sample of the population. The respondents were stratified based on regional distribution, reflecting the demographic proportions derived from the 2020 national census.

The respondents were required to meet specific qualifications to ensure their suitability for the survey. The questionnaire is written in English, but specific instructions were given to the enumerator to translate into vernacular if and when the respondents cannot properly understand or communicate in English during the Key Informant Interview (KII) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Profile of Respondents

From a total of 268 respondents across the three municipalities, 126 are males or 47% and 142 are females or 53%. For the municipality of Sultan Dumalondong, the majority of the respondents (69%) are male, and the rest are female (31%). Lumbanayague posted more female respondents at 65%, leaving the male respondents at 35%. Lumbatan, on the other hand, also has a higher percentage of female respondents (56%) than males (44%).

The results in table 1 show that the residents have the highest number of respondents (100), while the Local Government Unit has the lowest number of respondents (only 5) across the three municipalities. On a per municipality basis, farmers/fisherfolks respondents are highest at Lumbatan, LGU has the greatest number of respondents (15) in Lumbanayague, while for Academe, 31 respondents are from Lumbatan and there are no respondents in Sultan Dumalondong. For vendors, Lumbanayague has 22 respondents, while residents' respondents have the highest numbers in Lumbanayague.

Municipalities	Farmers/Fishers	LGU	Academe	Vendors	Residents	Total
Sultan Dumalondong	8	5	0	20	35	68
Lumbanayague	21	15	5	22	37	100
Lumbatan	25	5	31	11	28	100
Total	54	25	36	53	100	268

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Sector

Figure 1 shows that out of the total 268 respondents, the majority (120) of the respondents belongs to the age bracket of 36-59, 80 respondents are in the age bracket of 26-35, 42 respondents are in the age bracket of 18-25 and there are 26 respondents that belong to the senior citizens' category. The age brackets of respondents help us know how each of them views food security/insecurity at their age and level of exposure to the community.

Specifically, at Sultan Dumalondong, 44 respondents were aged between 36 and 59; at Lumbanayague, 22 respondents were aged between 18 and 25; at Lumbatan, 32 respondents were aged between 26 and 35; and lastly, at Lumbanayague again, 12 respondents belonged to the category of Senior Citizen.

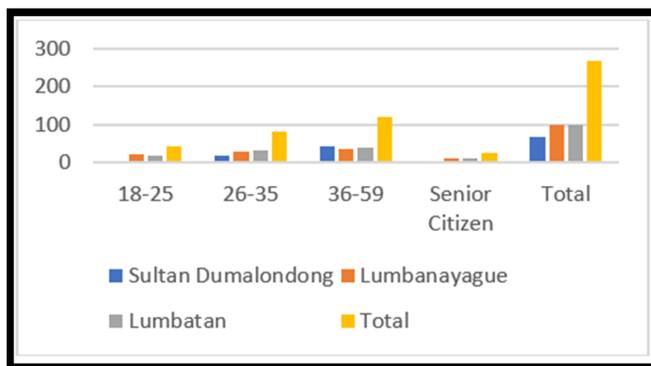


Figure 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age Group

4.2. Problems of Food Security in the Selected Municipalities of Lanao del Sur

Table 2 shows that forty-four percent (44%), or 117 respondents, answered that there is enough food but not always the kind of food they want; twenty-seven percent (27%), or 74 respondents, answered that sometimes there is enough food to eat; thirteen percent (13%), or 35 respondents, and 34 respondents, respectively, answered that there is enough of the kinds of food they want to eat and often enough to eat, while three percent (3%), or eight respondents, do not know.

For "enough of the kind of food we want to eat," Lumbanayague posted the highest number of responses (19); Lumbatan for "Enough but not always the kinds of food we want" had 33 respondents; 34 respondents from Lumbanayague answered "Sometimes enough to eat" and 6 respondents from Lumbatan answered "do not know."

Which of these statements best describes the food eaten in your household in the past 12 months?					
Base = Total No. of Respondents = 268					
	Municipalities			Total	Percentage (%)
	Sultan Dumalondong	Lumbanayague	Lumbatan		
Enough of the kinds of food we want to eat	1	19	15	35	13%
Enough, but not always the kinds of food we want	57	27	33	117	44%
Sometimes enough to eat	10	34	30	74	27%
Often enough to eat	0	18	16	34	13%
Don't know	0	2	6	8	3%

Table 2: Perceived Sufficiency of Food Eaten in the Households

4.3. Prevalence of Households under Food Insecurity

Moreover, a total of 268 respondents across three municipalities of Lanao del Sur answered "YES" to the question of households in the community having problems with food security. In fact, 28% or 76 respondents, 26% or 70 respondents, 21% or 57 respondents, 15% or 39 respondents, and the remaining 10% or 26 respondents respectively, answered that the reason for the problem of food in the community is manifested by the "Low income" of residents, "Poverty," "lack of food (nutritious) in the rural area," "High prices of basic commodities" and "Lack of support from the concerned agencies," respectively.

For "lack of food (nutritious) in the rural area," Lumbanayague posted the highest number of responses (26); for "high prices of basic commodities," Sultan Dumalondong had 18 respondents; for "low income," both Lumbanayague and Lumbatan posted the highest number of responses (28); for "Poverty," Lumbatan had a total of 36 respondents and finally for "lack of support from concerned agencies," Lumbanayague had a total of 15 respondents.

28% or 76 respondents, 26% or 70 respondents, 21% or 57 respondents, 15% or 39 respondents and the remaining 10% or 26 respondents, respectively, answered that the reason for the food problem in the community is the "Low income" of residents, "Poverty," "Lack of food (nutritious) in the rural area," "High prices of basic commodities" and "Lack of support from the concerned agencies," respectively.

For "Lack of food (nutritious) in the rural area," Lumbanayague had the highest number of respondents (26); for "High prices of basic commodities," Sultan Dumalondong had 18 respondents; for "Low income," both Lumbanayague and Lumbatan had a total of 28 respondents; for "Poverty," Lumbatan had 36 respondents and finally for "Lack of support from concerned agencies," Lumbanayague had a total of 15 respondents.

Furthermore, when respondents were asked if they think that food is accessible, available and affordable in the community, 47% or 127 respondents, answered "no," 35% or 93 respondents, answered "partially/maybe," and the remaining 18% or 48 respondents, answered "yes." Some of the reasons why the majority answered "NO" are the following:

- Foods are not accessible, available and affordable because our community is rural, which means low income and unemployment are being observed;
- Foods are not affordable because the price is unstable;
- It is not available because the need for food is increasing and food production is decreasing;
- For those who are in the partially/ maybe category, some answered "yes" but with a "BUT" to it.

Others do not consider accessible, available, and affordable to be exclusive of each other. Some of the reasons for this are: foods are accessible yet not all foods are available in the community; and it might be accessible but not affordable due to rising food prices.

5. Proposed Public Sector Innovation to Address the Problems of Food Security

Based on the findings related to food security issues in Lanao del Sur, here are four public sector innovations that can address these challenges:

- *Community-Based Food Production Programs* – This could involve the implementation of initiatives that empower communities to engage in local food production, such as community gardens, backyard farming, and cooperative agricultural projects. Provide training, resources, and support to enhance food self-sufficiency and improve access to nutritious food.
- *Price Stabilization and Market Support* – It establishes mechanisms to stabilize food prices and ensure fair market practices. This could involve creating local food markets, setting up price monitoring systems, and supporting farmers' cooperatives to negotiate fair prices for their produce.
- *Food Subsidy Programs* – This pertains to the introduction of targeted food subsidy programs for low-income households to make essential food items more affordable. Collaborate with local businesses, NGOs, and government agencies to identify eligible beneficiaries and distribute food subsidies effectively.
- *Nutrition Education and Awareness Campaigns* – This innovation facilitates the launch of comprehensive campaigns to educate communities about nutrition, healthy eating habits, and the importance of diverse diets. It partners with schools, health centers, and community organizations to promote nutrition workshops, cooking demonstrations, and awareness programs on the benefits of consuming locally sourced and nutritious foods.

These innovations can contribute to addressing the root causes of food insecurity in Lanao del Sur and enhance the well-being of its residents.

6. Conclusions

The findings highlight the nuanced perspectives of respondents regarding food availability and preferences in Lanao del Sur. While a significant portion of respondents acknowledge that there is enough food overall, there is a notable distinction in their views on the types of food available. A considerable percentage expressed that while there is enough food, it may not always align with their desired preferences, indicating potential gaps in food variety and accessibility. These insights underscore the importance of not only ensuring food sufficiency but also addressing the quality and diversity of available food options to meet the varying needs and preferences of the community. Collaborative efforts from public sector stakeholders, local communities, and relevant organizations are crucial in developing targeted interventions that promote both food security and dietary diversity for improved well-being across Lanao del Sur.

This study also concludes that the significant challenges faced by households in Lanao del Sur regarding food security, with a notable proportion of respondents attributing these challenges to factors such as low income, poverty, lack of nutritious food in rural areas, high prices of basic commodities, and insufficient support from concerned agencies. The data also reveal a considerable perception among respondents that food is not adequately accessible, available, and affordable in the community, citing various reasons such as rural economic conditions, price instability, and increasing food needs amidst decreasing production. To address these pressing issues, innovative public sector interventions are proposed. These include Community-Based Food Production Programs to enhance food self-sufficiency, Price Stabilization and Market Support mechanisms to ensure fair pricing, Food Subsidy Programs targeting vulnerable households, and Nutrition Education and Awareness Campaigns to promote healthy eating habits and diverse diets. Collaborative efforts among government agencies, local communities, and stakeholders are essential in implementing these innovations effectively and fostering sustainable solutions for improving food security in Lanao del Sur.

7. Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions presented, the following recommendations are formulated to address food security challenges in Lanao del Sur:

- There is a need to encourage and support diversified food production systems, including promoting the cultivation of a variety of crops and livestock suited to local conditions. This can help improve food variety and availability, reducing dependency on single food sources.

- It is imperative to invest in market infrastructure development, such as storage facilities, transportation networks, and marketplaces. Improving market accessibility and efficiency can help stabilize food prices and ensure a steady supply of diverse food options.
- It is necessary to advocate for sustainable agriculture practices that prioritize environmental conservation, soil health, and water management. Supporting farmers in adopting sustainable farming methods can lead to increased food production while preserving natural resources for future generations.
- It is recommended that local government units take the lead in developing targeted nutrition programs for vulnerable groups, such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly. These programs can include food supplementation, nutrition education, and access to healthcare services to address specific nutritional needs.
- It would also help strengthen collaboration and governance. This means fostering collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local communities, and private sector stakeholders. Enhancing governance frameworks, policies, and programs that promote food security, encourage transparency, and ensure accountability in addressing food-related challenges would also be beneficial.

By implementing these recommendations, Lanao del Sur can work towards improving food security, addressing nutritional needs, and promoting sustainable development in the region.

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