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An Index to Select Beneficiary Households for Interventions to Alleviate Food Insecurity

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Rationale

Households with food insecurity

Government interventions

Alleviating poverty

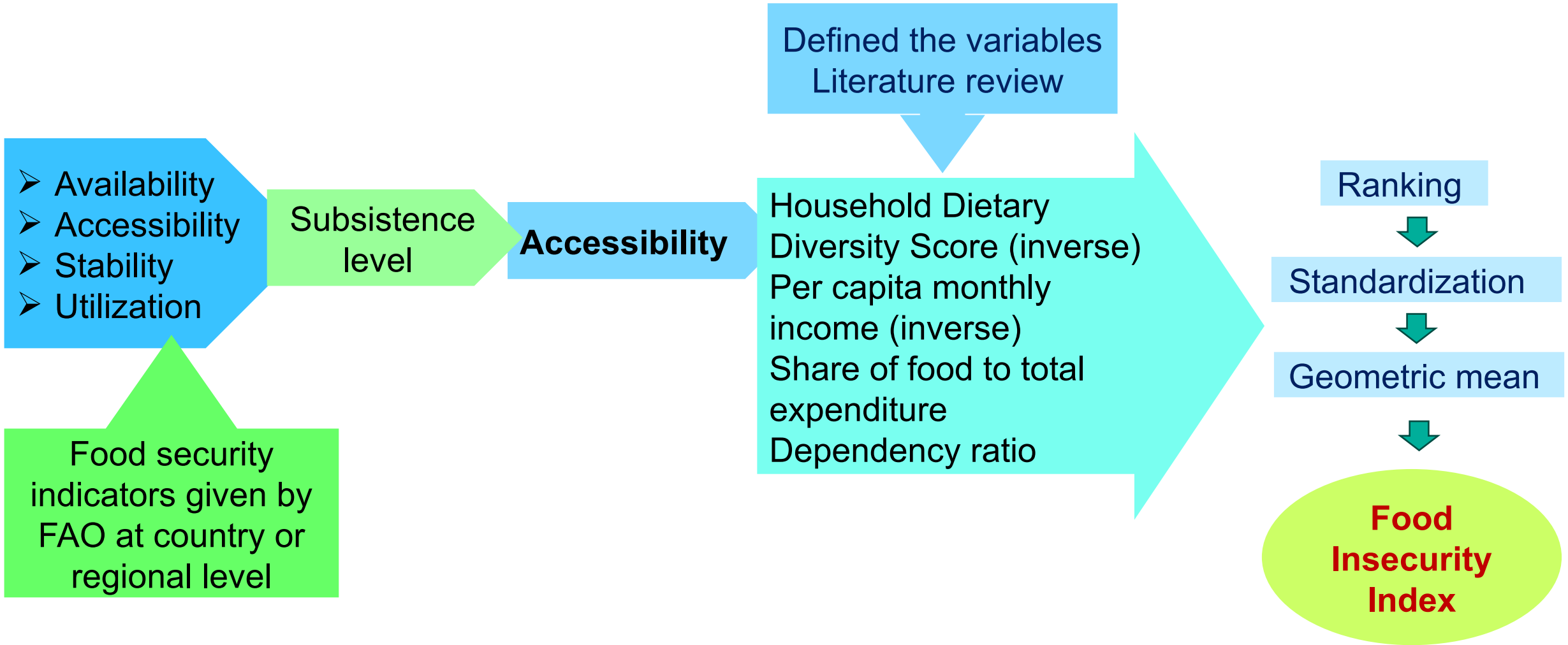
To improve accuracy in resource allocation

Selection of priority households is vital

Food Insecurity Index

Method

Approach and Calculation of Food Insecurity Index

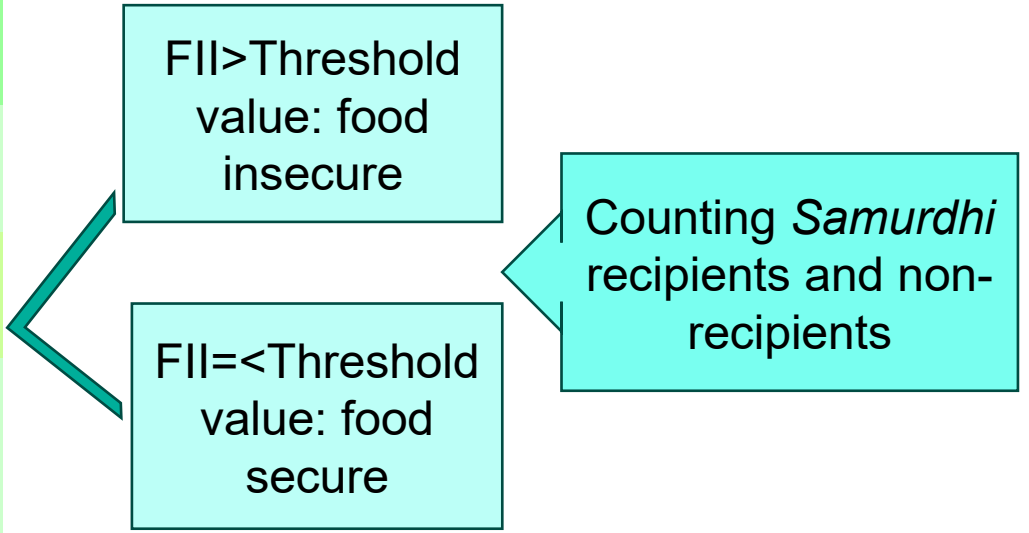


Method

Categorization of food-secure and food-insecure households and comparison with current implementation

Deriving of threshold value for Food Insecurity Index

Measurement	Theoretical Potential Value	Reference
HDDS	6	HDDS scale, INDDEX Project, 2018
Per capita monthly income	15,337 LKR	Poverty line, IPS, 2019
Share of food to total expenditure	0.65	Medium food insecure: 50-65", Smith and Subandoro, 2007
Dependency ratio	1	Author's assumption

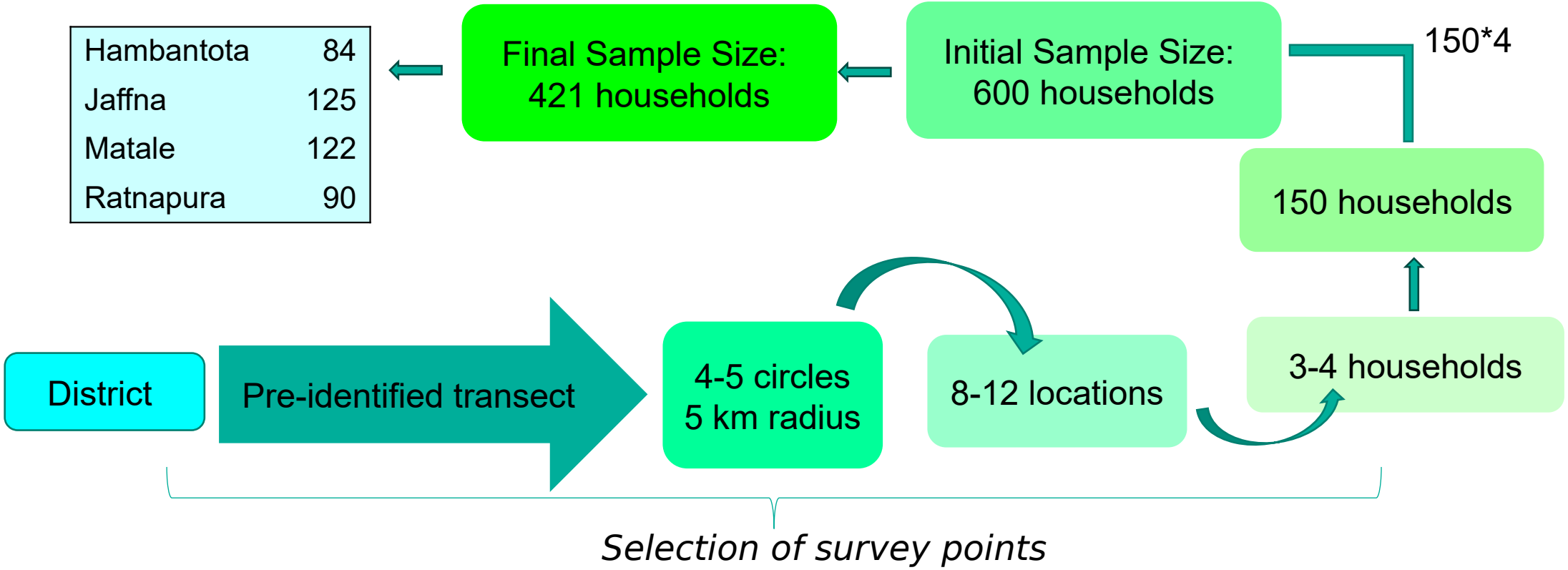


Method

Sample Selection

Data collection: Households survey

Sampling: Representation of different agro-ecological regions, climatic zones and vegetation pattern throughout the Sri Lanka



Results

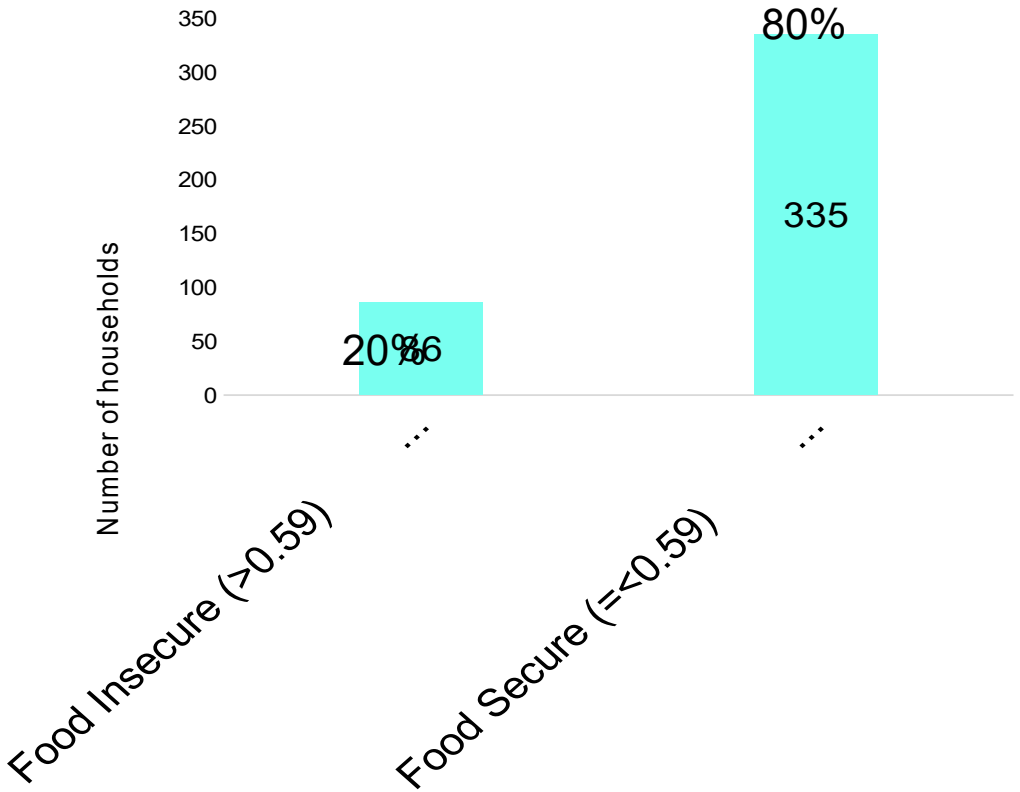
Summary of the Food Insecurity Index

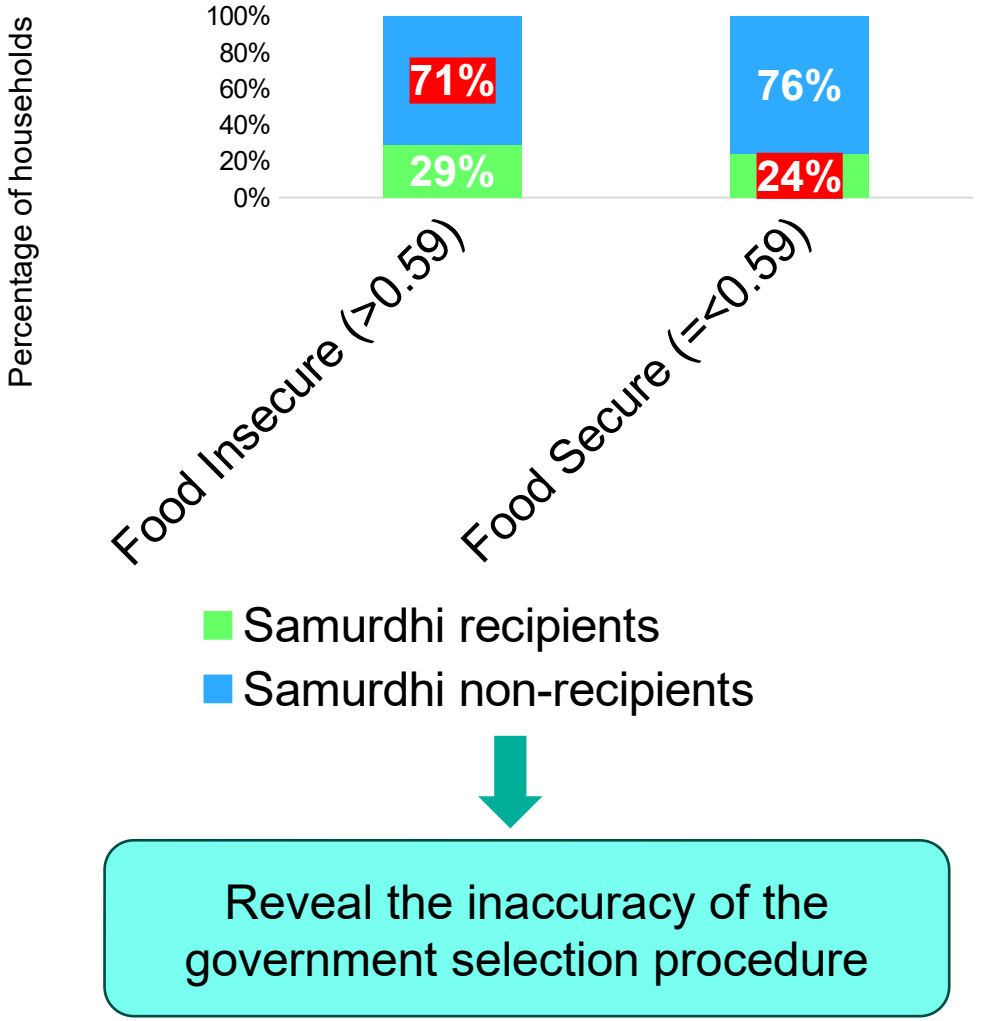
Index	Variable	Mean ± SD	Min	Max
Accessibility	Household Dietary Diversity Score	8.09±1.46	5	12
	Per capita monthly income (LKR)	13,009±19,072	0	275,000
	Share of food to total expenditure	0.51±0.18	0.01	1
	Dependency ratio	0.76±0.66	0	4
Food Insecurity Index*		**0.43±0.19**	**0.05**	**0.98**

*Maximum possible range: 0 - 1

Results

The threshold value of Food Insecurity Index: 0.59





Reveal the inaccuracy of the government selection procedure

Implications

Need to adopt a robust procedure in implementing national level interventions

i.e., selection of target groups for subsidies

The derived index

based on variety of predictor variables

Need to employ appropriate and easily accessible parameters

to generalize the present approach at the ground level

Approach for enhancing household food-security

would be more effective with the appropriate

resource allocation