The global Food Security Portal (FSP), facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), presents up-to-date data and information about dynamic developments in the world food system and increases policymakers’ ability to respond quickly and adequately to emerging food crises.

More precise and timely data on food security are more important than ever. Volatile food prices, climate change-driven shocks, conflict, economic downturns, and continued population growth continue to raise serious concerns about food and nutrition security worldwide. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting hardest on the most vulnerable and has caused enormous setbacks in progress made in reducing food insecurity. Policymakers need both preventative measures to avert food crises and fast, coordinated responses to mitigate crises when they occur. The effectiveness of coherent country-level responses is critical to vulnerable populations coping with hikes in their food bills, to developing-country farmers needing to react swiftly to the rising demand for their goods, and to policymakers seeking information for evidence-based policies.

The objective of the Food Security Portal (facilitated by IFPRI) is to contribute to better informed policies to improve food security and nutrition and enhance resilience to shocks. The Food Security Portal (http://www.foodsecurityportal.org) provides open access to comprehensive global and country-level information on food prices and policy developments. The Portal also features a comprehensive suite of research-based capacity-strengthening tools and risk monitoring systems to help guide appropriate, timely policy responses, as well as an e-learning platform to further education on food and nutrition security.

KEY PORTAL FEATURES

- The Food Price Watch feature on the homepage provides an instant overview of the latest monthly, weekly, and daily prices of nine major commodities, as well as an innovative daily volatility status to alert policymakers to periods of excessive price volatility. The Food Price Watch also currently features daily updates on wholesale and retail price movements in priority countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Early Warning Hub includes a Control Panel for real-time monitoring of key food crisis risks. It brings together reliable, timely information regarding food production and availability, harvest expectations, food prices, conflict, climatic threats, and hunger levels to help policymakers anticipate and mitigate food security crises. These sections features data, alerts, research, and analysis from a number of early warning systems and organizations at the global and the country levels, including the Global Report.
on Food Crises, FSIN, FAO GIEWS, FEWS Net, IPC, and the FSP’s Excessive Food Price Variability Early Warning System.

- The **COVID-19 section** tracks the effect of the global pandemic on food prices, food security, nutrition, poverty and agricultural trade. The section features tools and resources, blog posts, and links to external COVID-19 monitoring resources.

- The **Policy Analysis Tools** provide information and analysis for governments and researchers, including the most innovative analysis tools, such as the Excessive Food Price Variability Early Warning System. This tool measures excessive food price variability and is the only mechanism currently available to identify increased price variability, which happens when commodity returns rise above a certain threshold multiple times in a 60-day period.

  The **Policy Analysis Tools** section also includes a suite of policy tools to monitor and measure the impact of crises and answer questions such as “How can alternative investment scenarios affect agricultural production, productivity, and food security?” and “What are the repercussions on global food security of the outbreak of African swine fever?”

- The **FSP E-Learning Platform** aims to provide interactive courses on timely, relevant food security topics. The courses are designed for students, researchers, and anyone with an interest in food security and nutrition; participants who complete an FSP e-learning course will receive a branded certificate of completion. The E-Learning Platform currently features an initial course on conducting impact evaluation research, with further courses on women’s empowerment and partial and general equilibrium models under development.

- The **Data Gateway** contains over 12,000 datasets related to excessive price variability, COVID-19 food price monitoring, media analysis, high-frequency commodity prices, food security indicators, and others. The data is drawn from reliable, authoritative sources like the World Bank, FAO, UNICEF, and IFPRI and is available to freely download, aggregate, and share.

- The **FSP blog** features in-depth, evidence-based blogs on pressing food security issues like global food prices, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and weather shocks, agricultural market dynamics, and agricultural trade. The blog features videos and publications from leading researchers, as well as links to the latest data and food security reports released by FAO, AMIS, USDA, and other trustworthy global sources.

- The FSP offers a monthly newsletter with the latest blog posts, news, and features (https://bit.ly/2Z3hwbN). You can also follow the latest announcements from the FSP on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.