

The FoodWISE-Asia Pacific Network



Northwestern
University

MISSION / OBJECTIVES

Food and water security are deeply interconnected yet often treated separately. The FoodWISE-Asia Pacific Network elevates lived experiences as essential evidence for shaping solutions that improve planetary health and human wellbeing. We use validated experiential measures - e.g. Food Insecurity Experiences Scale (FIES)/Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) and Water Insecurity Experiences Scales (WISE) - to capture lived realities, identify systemic barriers, and drive data-led policy to achieve SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 6 (Clean Water).

WHO WE ARE

We are a multidisciplinary community of leaders and researchers with expertise spanning nutrition, public health, food and water systems, indigenous knowledges, policy, and social equity. Jointly hosted by the University of New South Wales Sydney, the University of Technology Sydney, and Northwestern University (Chicago), we bridge the gap between academia, government, and international agencies across South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania.

WHAT WE DO

We drive coordinated action on food and water insecurity by combining food and water insecurity data to better understand regional vulnerabilities. Experiential measures of food and water insecurity reveal critical disparities across gender, geography, and socioeconomic lines, enabling culturally tailored programs at the community and household levels.

By focusing on lived experiences - such as worry about food and water, hygiene practices, and conflicts over water - we develop targeted strategies for improving regional food and water security.

JOIN OUR NETWORK

We welcome community leaders, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners who share our commitment to improving food and water security to join us and contribute to and benefit from our collective work.

Contact: gwi@unsw.edu.au

GOALS

- **Strengthen Collaboration:**
Build cross-sectoral partnerships and community leadership at the local, regional, and global levels.
- **Evidence-based Action:**
Promote and expand the use of experiential tools to understand peoples' lived realities of food and water insecurity.
- **Improve Health:**
Translate data into actionable, community-led policy and programs.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- **Advance Evidence:**
Publish collaborative reviews and studies and refine FoodWISE tools and methodologies.
- **Build Capacity:**
Train researchers, government officials, and practitioners in administering, interpreting and analysing FoodWISE scales.
- **Expand Implementation:**
Promote adoption and Integration of experiential tools into national and regional frameworks.
- **Mobilise Partnerships and coordinate action:**
Amplify community voices and foster enduring partnerships for ongoing engagement, shared research and advocacy
- **Address Inequities:**
Systematically document disparities in food and water security to inform targeted policy responses.
- **Secure Funding:**
Pursue seed-funded initiatives to catalyse larger, long-term support.

Site specific data are available for 11 countries in South Asia, South-East Asia, and Oceania.

