

January & February 2025 Newsletter

Events

Seminar on Estimating the Food Loss and Waste Index

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality – Food Security Department, organized a seminar titled “Estimating the Food Loss and Waste Index: Towards Achieving Food Security and Sustainability”. The event took place at QU’s Library Building and was part of the Baseline Study on Food Loss and Waste Estimation in Qatar 2024, a research project conducted by SESRI in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipality. The initiative aligns with QU’s research priorities and Qatar National Vision 2030, which prioritizes food security and sustainable development.

The panel discussion aimed to provide a scientific and practical approach to measuring food loss and waste in Qatar. It explored methodologies for assessing food waste at various stages, including production, transportation, storage, and consumption, while also reviewing regional and international experiences in this field.



Results Dissemination workshop: Consumption Values and Behaviour Survey in Qatar Project

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University conducted a pioneering study titled “Consumption Values and Behavior Survey in Qatar”. The primary aim of this study is to collect comprehensive data on consumption values, choices, spending preferences, sustainable consumption behaviour, financial vulnerabilities, income, savings, and economic wellbeing. This data is important for social and economic development processes and for tracking global targets, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Qatar.

The study explores socio-cultural, psychological, and economic factors influencing consumption values and behavior. Unlike traditional Household Consumption Expenditure Surveys (HCES), this study addresses broader questions about how individuals make decisions to allocate financial resources between essential and non-essential consumption spending. The study employed multidimensional measurement scales in behavioral economics and surveyed a diverse group of households, comprising 983 Qatari and 1,043 expatriate households—a total of 2,026 interviews. The survey findings offered groundbreaking insights into household consumption values and behaviour, sustainable consumption practices, income and consumption patterns, financial resilience and vulnerabilities. The study also examined how economic and social factors influence consumer decisions.



The study reveals a complex interplay between satisfying personal needs and seeking social status and prestige. Residents value their consumption both for personal satisfaction and as a marker of social status. Conspicuous consumption remains part of Qatar’s social dynamics and an important driver of consumption. However, our study findings also reveal there is a growing awareness and potential for sustainable practices. Study findings reveal considerable social variations by education, family size and gender. Furthermore, the level of inequality in consumption is high. The study shows substantial evidence of resident’s economic optimism and financial resilience. Qatar’s residents have several reasons for economic optimism and financial resilience as they approach 2025.

A Closed Workshop on the Food Security Application and Operating Testing

The Sustainable Development Desk in Policy Department at SESRI organized a closed workshop with a limited number of participants under the title " The Food Security Application and Testing its Operation." Beneficiaries from various entities attended, including the Ministry of Municipality: Food Security Department, Ministry of Municipality: Waste Treatment and Recycling Center, the Red Crescent, the Charitable Organizations Regulatory Authority, Social Media Solutions Company, and Qatar University’s Innovation and Engineering Education Unit, College of Law, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering, along with a number of students.

Dr. Mohamed Abu Al-Faraj presented the legal responsibilities and procedures that must be taken by the university regarding the application, as Qatar University is the owner of this application. The prototype model was explained in detail by Dr. Sana Abusin, and the programmer Mohamed Omar demonstrated the steps for using the model. The event concluded with participants downloading the model link and testing its operation, which worked well. The attendees shared some constructive feedback regarding the full implementation of the application in the future.

Publications

Published Article : Population-Based Norms for the Montreal Cognitive Assessment in Arab Adults

A team from the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University, in collaboration with researchers from various colleges within the university, conducted a study aimed to determine the raw scores of the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) and its domains in a representative sample of Qatar’s Arab Adult population. To our Knowledge this is the first study of its kind in Qatar. The study found that (MoCA) is a useful tool for detecting mild cognitive dysfunction, a precursor to cognitive disorders like dementia. The study evaluated 395 Qatari and non-Qatari Arabs aged 18-74 using the Arabic version of the MoCA. The results showed that female gender, older age, and lower education levels were associated with poorer overall test scores. The study identified cut-off scores for MoCA, visuospatial, executive, attention, language, and delayed memory. The study suggests that scores below these 5th percentile cut-offs may require further testing and clinical follow-up for mild cognitive impairment in healthy Arab adults.

The full article is accessible via the following link:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/brb3.70287>