



## Food security in the era of crisis preparedness: The role of food in municipal policy, planning, and governance

Albin Algotson, Carl-Johan Sommar and Elin Wihlborg

### Abstract

Food security has become an increasingly pressing issue for many developed welfare states, and the vulnerability of intricately interconnected international food systems has led researchers to highlight the importance of local food systems in which municipalities play a crucial role. Against this backdrop, this study explores how issues of food security are reflected in municipal policy, planning, and administration. In addition, it examines how food security is understood and framed more broadly in relation to a local context in Sweden. Based on an extensive document analysis, the study clearly shows that food security issues are not addressed in any systematic way in municipal plans or policies. Through participant observations, it is also demonstrated that food security issues are raised in relation to discussions on crisis preparedness. However, these issues cannot be discussed in a systematic manner, as food security and crisis preparedness lack anchoring in formal policy, planning, and administrative structures. The study reveals an urgent need for — but also institutional challenges in — managing food security in a more structured way.

**Keywords:** Food Security, Food Systems, Policy, Municipal Administration, Framing.



© Author(s). This is an Open Access-article distributed under the terms given in CC-BY 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which allows to copy and redistribute remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially given that proper attribution is made, and indicated if changes were made, and that this licence is specified and linked to.