

ABSTRACT

In addition to Intra-household resource allocations and internal dynamics of decision-making, gendered perceptions on household food security play a critical role in households' nutritional status, especially in developing countries. However, evidence on the role of gender-based perceptions on households' food security and related implications on the households' nutritional status is limited. This study examines the determinants of gender-disaggregated household food security perceptions among smallholder farming households. We used two panels of data from households in eastern and western Kenya and employ the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale to measure perceptions of household food insecurity, and the random effects generalized ordered probit model to evaluate the determinants of security perceptions across gender. The results reveal that the factors that influence food security perceptions vary across gender. The education level of household head and the number of relatives were negatively associated with female perceptions of household food insecurity, whereas the household dependency ratio was positively associated with female perceptions of household food insecurity. In contrast, age and gender of household head were positively correlated with male perception of household food insecurity. The findings suggest that gender matters in household food security perceptions and that the determinants of the food security perceptions vary across gender.

Subjects: Gender Studies - Soc Sci; Development Studies; Gender & Development; Population & Development; Rural Development; Economics and Development

Keywords: Gender; household; food security; food security perceptions