



People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
University of 20 August 1955 - Skikda
Faculty of Law and Political Sciences
in coordination with Faculty of Science
Department of Political Sciences in collaboration with
Department of Agronomic Sciences
& Project PRIMA Section 1 WaterMellon
Organize

The National Hybrid SEMINAR (in-person and virtual) about:

Food Security in Algeria's Strategic Perceiver: Objectives, Mechanisms ..., Challenges and Aspirations (NHSFSASP-2026)



May 6th & 7th, 2026

In the Grand Lecture Hall, Abdelhamid Mehri
Under the supervision and organization of the
Golden Way Scientific Club & Elite Scientific Club

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Director of Skikda University

General supervision of Seminar

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Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences

&

Pr. Maouni Messaoud

Dean of the Faculty of Sciences

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Seminar Preamble

In the context of the profound structural transformations taking place in the international system, and the escalating geopolitical competition over strategic resources, food security has transcended its narrow economic significance to rise to the level of existential issues on national agendas and at the heart of strategic perceptions. After food security had remained the exclusive domain of the ministries of agriculture and economy, in recent decades it has moved to the heart of security and sovereignty considerations. In a phenomenon that academic literature has come to refer to as "Food Securitization," which is the process by which an issue is reframed as an existential threat that calls for exceptional measures that go beyond the limits of ordinary policies, according to what the Copenhagen School established in its reference theory of securitization.

Within this analytical framework, Algeria is no exception to the general trend, as it has realized that food security encompasses two interrelated dimensions that cannot be separated; the first of which is the internationally recognized functional definition, *Witch Based* on ensuring physical, economic and sustainable access to sufficient and safe food for all individuals at all times, as endorsed by the World Food Summit in 1996 and subsequently reinforced by the FAO through its four dimensions: availability, access, utilization and stability. The second is the national security dimension, which is linked to the logic of structural realism, according to which dependence on external sources to secure food is considered a structural vulnerability that makes the state hostage to the fluctuations of international markets and the geopolitical pressure tools of the major powers.

In light of complex international variables, in which the repercussions of armed conflicts on global food supply chains are intertwined, and the escalating phenomenon of climate change is hitting agricultural production bases in the heart of producing regions, and food is being used as a tool for geopolitical coercion within the framework of what is known as "Food Diplomacy", Algeria finds itself facing a complex equation: the first aspect of which is a constantly rising food import bill, and the second aspect is an export capacity that is almost entirely confined to the hydrocarbons sector, embodying the pattern of structural dependency identified by Dependency Theory in its established intellectual heritage. Moreover, the Water-Energy-Food Nexus framework imposes an inescapable complementary reality, as a sustainable food system cannot be built in isolation from rational management of water resources and a consistent energy policy, in an Algerian context where climate change pressures on groundwater reserves are escalating and rainfall is declining in the northern agricultural regions.

In the face of these challenges, Algeria seeks to build a comprehensive national food security strategy that responds to three interconnected criteria: strategy, as a sovereign orientation that transcends narrow sectoral considerations; sustainability, as a condition that governs the long-term viability of any agricultural production; and food sovereignty, as the supreme political goal that enables the state to regain control of its food policies, free from external dictates. To that end, Algeria is pursuing multi-level governance (Multi-Level Governance) that redistributes agricultural decision-making between the central level, represented by the relevant ministries, the regional level, represented by the states, and the local level, embodied by the municipalities and investors, in a fundamental governance shift from a hierarchical downward management model to a network governance model. So, All of this is reinforced by employing digital technologies and artificial intelligence as tools to modernize agricultural production and upgrade the water management system, within the framework of the requirements established by the Systems of Innovation Theory literature regarding the necessity of having an enabling institutional environment before imported technology can bear fruit in the developmental soil.

Therefore, this hybrid national forum comes at a highly significant time to form a multidisciplinary academic space that controls the analytical tools of political science, international relations, security studies and agricultural economics in a critical reading of Algeria's path towards achieving its food sovereignty, recalling comparative international experiences and looking ahead to the possibilities in light of current data.

Seminar Problematic

Given Algeria's external food dependency and the deepening structural food gap between local production and increasing demand, and in the face of global geopolitical and economic changes that are reshaping the map of international food security distribution, a number of fundamental questions arise about the nature of the Algerian strategic response and its structural depth, given that Algeria, despite announcing an ambitious national strategy to achieve food self-sufficiency, its agricultural system remains fragile, facing challenges related to institutional governance, technological innovation, limited water resources, and fluctuating energy revenues. This leads to the central question of this forum:

Far A Way Algeria has succeeded in transforming food security from a sovereign political discourse into an integrated governance system capable of bridging the structural food gap and achieving actual food sovereignty, in light of the entanglement of the triadic interdependencies (food - water - energy) with the pressures of the changing regional and international geopolitical environment?

Sub-questions.

1. Does Algeria meet the conceptual requirements for effective food security according to the Copenhagen School of Thought? In other words, is it time to transform the discourse on food security into exceptional institutional measures that transcend conventional policies?
2. Does the Algerian food gap constitute a structural production crisis par excellence, or are its roots primarily rooted in flaws in institutional governance and weaknesses in the incentive system for the agricultural sector?
3. In light of comparative international experiences, what practical lessons can be adopted while taking into account the specificities of the Algerian context?
4. Does Algeria possess the necessary national system of innovation to transform the use of artificial intelligence and agricultural digitalization from mere rhetoric into a tangible, measurable driver of productivity?
5. How do the constraints of the WEF Nexus model affect the flexibility of Algerian agricultural policy, particularly given the decline in groundwater reserves and the rising energy costs of pumping and desalinating it?
6. In the context of major powers vying for influence in Africa and using food and agricultural infrastructure as tools for projecting power (agro-imperialism), how is Algeria positioning itself to protect its food security and defend its sovereignty over its agricultural policies?

Seminar Central Hypothesis

Algeria still needs a comprehensive and coherent strategic food security system, as its sectoral agricultural policies are side by side without being functionally intertwined within a unified framework. This makes the achievement of actual Algerian food sovereignty contingent on three simultaneous and interconnected structural transformation conditions: reforming the agricultural governance structure to achieve horizontal coordination between the relevant ministries and vertical integration between central and local levels; integrating digital tools and artificial intelligence technologies into a genuine national agricultural innovation system that goes beyond mere rhetoric; and reframing food security conceptually and politically as a sovereign policy of utmost priority, not a sectoral development option that can be postponed.

Seminar Objectives

- 1- To emphasize the importance of scientific research in Algeria and its pivotal role in driving sustainable development, achieving food self-sufficiency, and enhancing the country's competitiveness,
- 2- To identify the shortcomings of previous agricultural policies and propose alternative solutions to decision-makers.
- 3- To strengthen the link between theoretical, conceptual, and applied agricultural studies and their practical implementation.
- 4- To keep pace with international developments in the use of artificial intelligence and assess its impact on increasing agricultural production, bridging the food gap, and enhancing local food security.
- 5- To support national policy orientations by presenting the seminar's recommendations on strengthening national security through a food security approach, and promoting the digitalization of the agricultural sector to reduce the digital divide that hinders economic reforms, particularly in agriculture.
- 6- Dedicating efforts to link university scientific demonstrations and opening them up to interactions with local, regional and international environments.

Seminar's Axes

Axis 1: A general framework of the concepts of food security, self-sufficiency, social security, water security, sustainable development, the food gap, and the digital divide.

Axis 2: Food security and consumption culture within the framework of national legislation and policies.

Axis 3: Artificial intelligence as a strategic option for achieving food security.

Axis 4: The contribution of the private sector and emerging enterprises, within the framework of artificial intelligence, in achieving food security

Axis 5: Organization and classification of modern agricultural systems under the challenges of climate change.

Axis 6: The use of sustainable methods and flexible water resource management in agricultural systems.

Axis 7: International experiences in the field of achieving food security that can be borrowed and applied in Algeria, taking into account the specificity of the Algerian context.

Axis 8: Challenges, stakes, and prospects for achieving food security in Algeria.

Seminar Participation Conditions

Participation is open to university professors, doctoral students, and researchers interested in the seminar theme.

Both individual and joint submissions are accepted, provided they fall within one of the seminar axes.

Submissions must be original and of high academic quality, and must not have been submitted to any other scientific event.

Submissions in Arabic should be written in Simplified Arabic, font size 14 for the main text and size 12 for footnotes, with 1 cm line spacing. Submissions in French and English should be written in Times New Roman, font size 12 for the main text and size 10 for footnotes, with 1 cm line spacing.

Submissions should be between 12 and 20 pages, including the bibliography and appendices.

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline: April 25, 2026

Notification of acceptance: April 26, April 2026

Full paper submission deadline: April 30, 2026

Submission

Abstracts and full papers in the fields of social sciences, agricultural sciences, and nutrition should be sent to the following email address

algfoodsecurity.skikda@gmail.com