

# Constructing Food Security in Panama: An Analysis of Government Policy Discourse

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis analyzes the construction of food security in Panamanian government policy discourse. First, I analyze the conceptualization of food security in a particularly significant government publication, the *Executive Summary*, and contextualize this conceptualization within the global discourse. Second, I examine how the goals of the Panamanian government in relation to food security have led to the creation of the Geographic Information System SIVISAN, identifying SIVISAN as an instrument of Foucault's "governmentality" and exploring the resulting relationship between power and knowledge. Third, I argue that the limitations of representation using Geographic Information Systems result in three inconsistencies between the construction of food security in SIVISAN and the construction found in the *Executive Summary*: using the macro rather than micro scale of analysis, treating food security as a state rather than a process, and observing food security using quantitative rather than qualitative analysis.

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