

Street food comes clean

RIU

Validated RNRRS Output.

Street vendors and consumers are benefiting from an innovative system for the systematic management and control of informal food vending. The system is designed to ensure food safety and quality through the involvement and participation of all key players. To make the approach practical and easy to implement, it was divided into a series of logical modules. Over 5000 vendors have also received training in improved food safety, hygiene and financial management. Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and India have systematically addressed specific issues affecting the informal sector. The new approaches have helped them to change the attitudes of food inspectors, from enforcement to providing sustainable support for vendor activities. The system is highly applicable to cities and towns across the globe.

Project Ref: **CPH38:**

Topic: **5. Rural Development Boosters: Improved Marketing, Processing & Storage**

Lead Organisation: **Natural Resources Institute (NRI), UK**

Source: **Crop Post Harvest Programme**

Document Contents:

[Description](#), [Validation](#), [Current Situation](#), [Environmental Impact](#),

Description

CPH38

Research into Use

NR International
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Geographical regions included:

[Ghana](#), [India](#), [Zambia](#), [Zimbabwe](#),

Target Audiences for this content:

[Consumers](#),

A. Description of the research output(s)

1. Working title of output or cluster of outputs.

In addition, you are free to suggest a shorter more imaginative working title/acronym of 20 words or less.

Safer street and informally vended food: Partnership approach for the management and control of the informal food/street food sector in Africa and Asia that improves vendor livelihoods and the health of urban consumers

Working title: **Safer street and informally vended foods.**

2. Name of relevant RNRRS Programme(s) commissioning supporting research and also indicate other funding sources, if applicable.

Crop Post Harvest Programme and UNIDO

3. Provide relevant R numbers (and/or programme development/dissemination reference numbers covering supporting research) along with the institutional partners (with individual contact persons (if appropriate)) involved in the project activities. As with the question above, this is primarily to allow for the legacy of the RNRRS to be acknowledged during the RIUP activities.

R7493, R8270, R8272, R8433

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4. Describe the RNRRS output or cluster of outputs being proposed and when was it produced? (max. 400 words).

This requires a clear and concise description of the output(s) and the problem the output(s) aimed to address.

Please incorporate and highlight (in bold) key words that would/could be used to select your output when held in a database.

The **urban population** in the DFID PSA Countries in Africa and Asia is estimated to be 654 million. In the majority of these target countries, **informal food vending** activities occur to differing extents, employing up to 20% of the working population (mainly **female**), **generating revenue** of \$100 million in a typical city and providing low cost **nutrition** to urban populations. However, these **food security** opportunities are threatened because of:

- **food safety** concerns that pose risks to **health**, in particular the **young, elderly** and those with **HIV/AIDS**;
- demands on a fragile **urban infrastructure**;
- lack of **recognition by authorities** and **policy makers** who often clear vendors from the streets.

To address the above issues, the project developed a **multi-stakeholder innovative platform** that was comprised of **large regional partnerships** using a **knowledge management approach**. Partners included **policy makers, municipal authorities, standards organisations, consumer and vendor associations** and **researchers** in **Africa and Asia**.

These partnerships developed an innovative '**modular system**' for the **systematic management and control** of informal food vending that was brought about by bringing together knowledge and experiences from partners in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and India. Cities and towns elsewhere can adopt similar approaches.

This approach has achieved the following benefits to vendors, consumers and its partners:

- **Successfully transferred** the innovative platform based on the modular system from Africa to Kolkata, India with support from coalition partners in Africa and the UK;
- Innovative approaches that changed the **attitudes of Food Inspectors** towards vendors **from enforcement to supportive** so that vendors obtained sustainable support;
- **Trained** over 5,000 vendors based upon **training approaches** developed by the project and an innovative training of the trainer programmes. These were based on the results of food safety surveys (over 400 samples) and comprehensive **socio-economic studies**;
- Formed partnerships and **linkages** between vendor's organisations from different regions so that they could share experiences;
- Vendors reported increased turnover of between 10% and 15% and employed more staff;
- **Consumer surveys** (over 800 consumers) indicated that consumers did not always associated **poor hygiene will ill health**.
- Developed promotion programmes through innovative radio programmes (Eating out safely), billboards and TV that potentially reached up to 350 million people globally (BBC) and 1 million nationally in Zambia (Eating out Safely);

5. What is the type of output(s) being described here?

Please tick one or more of the following options.

Product	Technology	Service	Process or Methodology	Policy	Other Please specify
	X	X	X	X	System

6. What is the main commodity (ies) upon which the output(s) focussed? Could this output be applied to other commodities, if so, please comment

Informally vended or street foods are foods and beverages prepared and/or sold by vendors in streets and other public places for immediate consumption or consumption at a later time without further processing or preparation. This includes fresh fruits and vegetables which are sold outside authorized market areas for immediate consumption. Therefore street foods can comprise a wide spectrum of food and drink commodities.

In addition, the model could be used with other informal groups in rural and urban sectors working with other commodities such as tailors, hairdressers and carpenters.

7. What production system(s) does/could the output(s) focus upon?

Please tick one or more of the following options. Leave blank if not applicable

Semi-Arid	High potential	Hillsides	Forest-Agriculture	Peri-urban	Land water	Tropical moist forest	Cross-cutting
				X			X

8. What farming system(s) does the output(s) focus upon?

Please tick one or more of the following options (see Annex B for definitions).

Leave blank if not applicable

Smallholder rainfed humid	Irrigated	Wetland rice based	Smallholder rainfed highland	Smallholder rainfed dry/cold	Dualistic	Coastal artisanal fishing

The boxes in question 8 have been left blank because foods vended in the informal food sector are the end/final product and has linkages with input chain with all the above mentioned farm products.

9. How could value be added to the output or additional constraints faced by poor people addressed by clustering this output with research outputs from other sources (RNRRS and non RNRRS)? (max. 300 words).

Please specify what other outputs your output(s) could be clustered. At this point you should make reference to the circulated list of RNRRS outputs for which proformas are currently being prepared.

Elements of RNRRS outputs that could potentially add value include the following:

- Food safety in peri-urban horticultural Products - R7530;
- Participatory Market Chain Analysis (PMCA) - R8182 R8418;
- Knowledge management - R8402;
- Rice Parboiling - R8263, R7543, R6331, R6688, R6507;
- Aflatoxin control - R7809, R5898, R6091, R6125, R6127;
- Farmer access to markets - R8275, R8274, R8498;
- Market information tools - R7151, R8250, R7494, R8422;
- Decision tools for institutional change in public and private sectors -R7502, R6306;
- Management systems for export horticulture - R8271, R8431;

- Indigenous vegetables - R6964, R7487;
- Cyanogen removal from cassava - R6332, R6339;
- Instant Fufu - R7495 – this project has common elements with R6332 and R6339. .
- Radio. The project can be clustered with other CPHP projects with outputs which have the potential to be promoted through radio to promote behavioural and attitudinal changes.
- Market Information Tools - R8250 - Combining Radio (Together to Market) and Training to Facilitate Successful Farmer Group Marketing.

Validation

B. Validation of the research output(s)

10. How were the output(s) validated and who validated them?

Please provide brief description of method(s) used and consider application, replication, adaptation and/or adoption in the context of any partner organisation and user groups involved. In addressing the “who” component detail which group(s) did the validation e.g. end users, intermediary organisation, government department, aid organisation, private company etc... This section should also be used to detail, if applicable, to which social group, gender, income category the validation was applied and any increases in productivity observed during validation (max. 500 words).

Outputs were validated by the following methods and by the following groups (note coalition partners refers to end users [vendor and consumer organisations] and supporting institutions [urban authorities, standards institutions, research institutions, media and environmental organisations]):

a) Quarterly project coalition meetings – coalition partners and major stakeholders assessed and reviewed project outputs. End users were mainly extremely vulnerable urban poor females in Ghana, Zambia and Zimbabwe and extremely vulnerable urban poor males in Kolkata.

b) Workshops - coalition partners, other policy makers and NGO's more widely involved in the informal food sector reviewed outputs and assessed wider issues affecting the sector.

c) Training – target groups (informal food vendors) attended workshops given by researchers and Environmental Health Officers to learn about improved food hygiene and training of the trainers initiatives.

d) International project meetings - Coalition partners from UK, Africa and Asia and wider audiences validated outputs at international meetings in Ghana and Zambia. They assessed common international aspects in the project countries.

e) Transfer of the coalition partnership approach to a new urban city:

The approach was validated when the platform was transferred to India where in one year a successful coalition was established.

f) Involvement of new urban authorities:

New urban authorities showed interest in the coalition approach for managing food safety in the informal food sector.

g) Partnership Building Efforts:

In Kolkata Managing partners kept up a dialogue on a day to day basis with different stakeholder groups and almost validated each and every step of knowledge management through cross check and balance.

h) Knowledge Attitude Practice (KAP) studies of vendors and consumers.

KAP studies were conducted in Lusaka, Accra and Kolkata. The target groups were informal food vendors (extremely vulnerable urban poor) and urban consumers (mixed poverty grouping). The studies evaluated uptake of new knowledge and changes in their livelihoods.

g) Radio series in Zambia. A radio series 'Eating out Safely' found that consumers and vendors liked the programmes and it was instrumental in making them change their practices. A phone in response during the series indicated public debate about issues of food safety in informally vended foods.

11. Where and when have the output(s) been validated?

*Please indicate the places(s) and country(ies), any particular social group targeted and also indicate in which production system and farming system, using the options provided in questions 7 and 8 respectively, above (**max 300 words**).*

The outputs have been validated in four countries (Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and India) between 1999 and 2005. This is because continuous validation of the outputs was an integral component of the project through involvement of all relevant stakeholders as partners.

The social groups targeted included the 'extremely vulnerable poor' which was comprised of a number of different sub-groups depending on the city or town. The majority are classed as 'poor people living in urban areas'. In addition, the majority of vendors in Accra, Lusaka and Harare are classed as 'women headed households' while those in Kolkata are mainly male vendors. The production systems include those that are cross cutting with an emphasis on peri-urban. Similarly, because informally vended foods are diverse they cover a range of farming systems.

Considering when the outputs were validated, this occurred during the following:

- a) Successfully transferred the coalition partnership from Africa to Kolkata in India so that issues affecting the livelihoods of informal food vendors and the health of consumers could be systematically addressed.
- b) Quarterly project coalition meetings in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and India between 1999 and 2005;
- c) Inception and final project workshops in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and India between 1999 and 2005;
- d) International project meetings in Accra (June 2005) and Lusaka (November 2005).

e) Knowledge Attitude Practice (KAP) studies in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and India.

f) Radio Series (Eating Out Safely) – these programmes were aired in Zambia and were targeted at the extremely vulnerable poor in urban areas and also more affluent segments of the urban centres

Current Situation

C. Current situation

12. **How and by whom** are the outputs currently being used? Please give a brief description (**max. 250 words**).

The project has sought to develop a systematic approach for the management and control of food safety and quality issues in the informal food sector through the involvement and participation of all key players in the sector. To make this approach practical and easy to implement, it was divided into a series of logical 'modules' each of which enabled the partnerships of key players to systematically address an issue affecting the sector. This approach was formalised in 2005 at two levels. Examples of the modules include those that apply to 'Developing partnerships', 'Training of Environmental Health Officer's', 'Training of vendors', 'Policy framework', 'Consumer awareness', 'Social and cultural context of vending', 'Infrastructure and utilities', 'Food safety and food hygiene', 'Legal framework', 'inspection' and 'Monitoring & evaluation'.

At the national level, partnerships in Lusaka, Harare and Accra developed a series of modules that applied to the local/national situation systems while the newest partnership in Kolkata explored the issues of how to extend the partnership to new cities where vendor livelihoods and consumer health were threatened. They are currently being used by local authorities, NGO (vendor association), researchers and food standards boards.

At the international level, experiences in each country have been brought together to develop a series of generalised 'modules' that have a wider international application that can be applied more widely. They are currently being used by municipal authorities, NGO (vendor association), researchers and food standards boards. International organisations such as FAO, WHO and UNIDO are disseminating.

13. **Where** are the outputs currently being used? As with Question 11 please indicate place(s) and countries where the outputs are being used (**max. 250 words**).

The outputs are currently being used in major cities in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and India.

India - In Kolkata, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation has taken on the management of partnership on street vended foods from Jadavpur University who initiated the project there. Jadavpur University are still actively involved and other stakeholders are also getting formally involved in policy consultation. Active role of Jadavpur and Hawker Sangram Committee in development of the National policy on street food vending

Zambia – Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) are working with informal food vendors in selected markets in

Lusaka and are also promoting the approach to improving food safety nationally. In particular, the project facilitated improvements in sanitation and refuse disposal that directly led to reductions in outbreaks of the infectious disease cholera. Informal food vendors are collaborating with vendors in India.

Ghana – EHO's are working closely with the informal food vendors in selected markets in Accra and are also promoting the approach to improving food safety nationally. Informal food vendor associations are promoting better street food in collaboration with the Ghana Tourist Board.

Zimbabwe – The coalition is still actively supporting vendors in designated markets in Harare. However, high inflation (1,200%) in Zimbabwe has meant many more illegal vendors are now trading outside the designated markets but do not receive support.

Uganda – A radio series 'Eating out safely' made by the project is being broadcast

The wider international approach is currently being actively promoted through a project website, Radio series, newsletters (WHO), conferences, (FAO) and seminars.

14. What is the scale of current use? Indicating how quickly use was established and whether usage is still spreading (max 250 words).

The coalition partners in Accra, Lusaka, Harare and Kolkata can potentially reach up to 340,000 vendors and 16.5 million consumers but the actual scale of use is difficult to estimate. Considering the application of components of the national modules developed, over 5,000 vendors have been trained in improved food safety and hygiene practice in Accra, Lusaka and Harare. A smaller group of vendors were trained in financial management. In Lusaka, markets are supporting vendors by improving stalls. The number of vendors trained increases when vendor to vendor training with supports from vendor associations and local authorities is included. In Zambia and Zimbabwe the training initiatives are being extended nationally.

In India, project partners are contributing to the National Policy on Street Vending which has the potential to influence livelihoods of several hundred million people.

The project partnerships have EHO's in how to support vendors and understand vendor issues. Training materials developed by the partnerships are continuing to support this process.

The establishment of vendor organisation in Zambia with links to an Indian vendor organisation may potentially affect up to 16,000 vendors in Lusaka.

A radio series 'Eating out safety' developed by the project is being transmitted elsewhere in Africa.

15. In your experience what programmes, platforms, policy, institutional structures exist that have assisted with the promotion and/or adoption of the output(s) proposed here and in terms of capacity strengthening what do you see as the key facts of success? (max 350 words).

Modules have been jointly produced by the coalitions of over 20 organisations in Ghana, India, Zimbabwe and

Zambia that provide a systematic approach for improving the livelihoods of vendors and health of consumers through improved food safety. This was done through partners that included policy (local authorities and food standards), institutional structures (research and academia) and beneficiaries (vendor NGO's).

The modules address a wide range of issues that assist with the promotion and or adoption of the outputs. These include Developing partnerships, Training of Environmental Health Officer's, Training of vendors, Policy framework, Consumer awareness & advocacy, Social and cultural context of vending, Infrastructure and utilities, Food safety and food hygiene, Legal framework and inspection and Monitoring & evaluation.

In Kolkata in particular, the timing of the project activities has achieve maximum value addition compared to all other past initiative to support the informal food sector. The project timing coincided with several ongoing national and local level policy initiatives (which has life time of at least current and next five year plans i.e. 2012.) such as the Urban Renewal Mission, National Policy on Informal Vending, Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme and Mega City Projects initiatives.

Specific promotion strategies adopted include dissemination via the coalition partnership approach and through the media which includes international media (BBC World Service [Health Matters], BBC World TV [Fufu for thought on Hands on Africa Report]), national and local radio, local and national newspapers in the participating countries and finally through international organisations (WHO Newsletter).

In relation to the potential use of radio to promote behavioural and attitudinal change, as through the series 'Eating out Safely' made as part of the project, it is important that staff of more radio stations have training, preferably on-the-job training such as was provided by a BBC producer as part of the making of this series.

The key factors of success were the development of partnerships, using a systematic approach and involving the end-users (vendor NGO's) along with key supporting institutions (local authorities, food standards, research, environmental).

Environmental Impact

H. Environmental impact

24. What are the direct and indirect environmental benefits related to the output(s) and their outcome(s)? (max 300 words)

This could include direct benefits from the application of the technology or policy action with local governments or multinational agencies to create environmentally sound policies or programmes. Any supporting and appropriate evidence can be provided in the form of an annex.

Improving the management and control of the informal food sector will lead to direct environment benefits through improved provision of potable water supplies, sanitation and refuse disposal. This was achieved by increasing awareness of the informal vendors of the importance of improved sanitation and refuse disposal. Improved

training of the Environmental Health Inspectors has facilitated improved communication between vendors and the inspectors in improving the environment. An example is the reduction in the outbreaks of the disease cholera by improving sanitation and refuse disposal at a vendor market in Lusaka, Zambia.

Indirect environmental benefits include reduced demands on the environment through improved consumer health leading to improved efficiency at work and reduced demand for medical and hospital facilities.

25. Are there any adverse environmental impacts related to the output(s) and their outcome(s)? (max 100 words)

As informal food vending increases, careful management by the partnerships are necessary to ensure there is an adequate supply of potable water and that suitable sanitation and refuse disposal facilities are provided. In addition, vendors will require support through access to new technologies so that charcoal and oil burning stoves and oil burning lights do not contribute to urban pollution.

26. Do the outputs increase the capacity of poor people to cope with the effects of climate change, reduce the risks of natural disasters and increase their resilience? (max 200 words)

Climate change issues were not a component of the project objectives or research design. However, if global warming occurs this is anticipated to put strains on food safety and management systems in tropical climates. Increased ambient temperatures may increase the migration of rural poor to urban centres leading to more rapid expansion of urban centres and subsequent strains on the infrastructure. This may also increase the demand for informally vended foods in the provision of livelihoods and low cost food for urban consumers. Higher ambient temperatures will facilitate the survival and growth of food poisoning micro-organisms making good hygiene practice even more essential. Water shortages will put more pressure on the provision of potable water supplies and sanitation facilities used by vendors and their customers. Improved refuse disposal will be necessary to prevent food poisoning and other disease outbreaks.
