

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOOD SAFETY WORKSHOP

Held at

ZIMBABWE WOMEN'S BUREAU
Hillside, Harare

20 NOVEMBER 2002

CPHP – DFID PROJECTS R7519 and R7528: FOOD SAFETY IN
HORTICULTURE MARKETS IN ZIMBABWE



CROP POST-HARVEST
PROGRAMME

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Background

The two CPHP - DFID funded projects on food safety quality assurance of horticultural produce in Harare have worked closely together in gathering information on practices of the producer, retailer and consumer that could impact negatively on food safety. Two surveys were conducted on consumer awareness and producer practices with respect to food safety issues in late 2001 and early to mid 2002 respectively. The influence and effect of the retailer in the food chain was however outstanding.

The bulk of horticultural produce from small – medium farmers is marketed at the Mbare Musika Producers and Wholesale Markets in Harare and a small volume through Chikwana Market in Chitungwiza. This workshop was held to make contacts with and communicate objectives of the two projects to Mbare Market Wholesale retailers and seek their support and co-operation on data collection from the market.

Participants

There were 30 workshop participants, 24 being traders from Mbare and 3 from AREX, 2 from Kutsaga Research Station and 1 from University of Zimbabwe.

Mr L. Mukwereza opened the workshop with introductions and an overview of the workshop objectives. There were three presentations followed by discussions, which are summarised in this report.

Session 1 Food Safety

Mrs R. Mbulawa presented this session. She introduced the session by explaining the links and related interests of the two DFID funded projects namely: (1) Project Pollution and Healthy problems in horticulture production in Harare; The need for Quality assurance systems Wye College and and (2) Project Improving quality systems for fruits and vegetables produced by poor resource farmer in Zimbabwe; NRI. The common denominator of the projects Food Safety Quality Assurance was highlighted. The food chain was illustrated to show how and when the participants contributed to the quality and safety of horticultural produce.

Production --> handling -->transport--> storage -->retailing -->consumption
Storage market

It was emphasised that quality as ascribed through the perception of the five senses sight, sound, touch taste and smell do not normally give indications of food safety risks. The common food contaminants may be broadly categorised as:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| | Heavy metal e.g. lead, copper etc |
| a) Chemical | |
| | Pesticide e.g. rogor (dimethoate), mitac |
| b) Biological | e.g. E Coli, salmonella, etc |
| c) Physical | dust, debris etc |

These contaminants maybe introduced at any point of the food chain constituting a hazard/s from the producer through to the consumer. With respect to the project the main contaminants looked at are the chemical and biological.

The objectives of the project on food safety aspects are: -

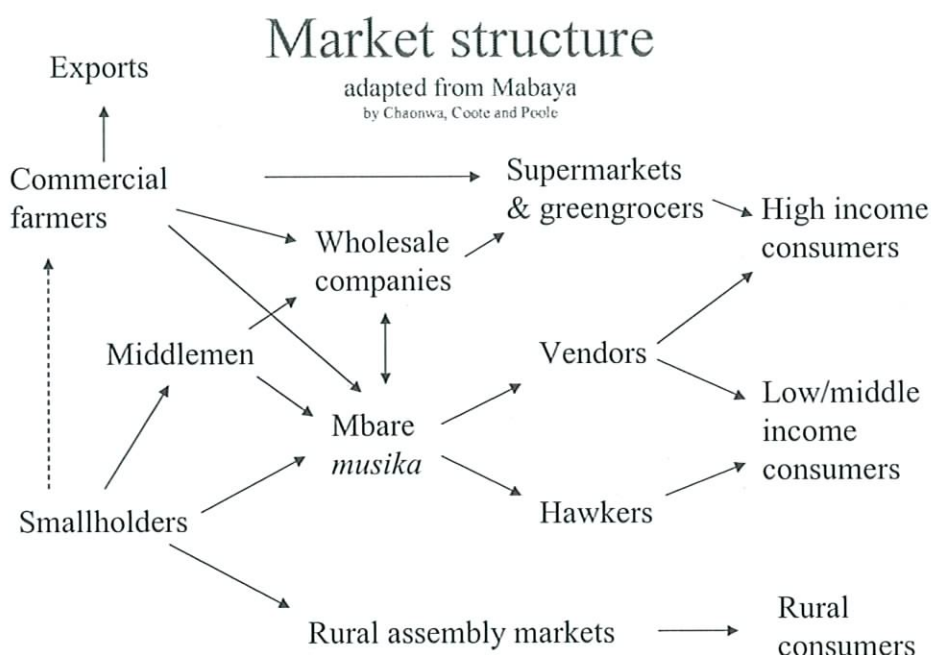
1. identify – the nature and extent of food safety risks
2. prioritise - safety constraints/ risks
3. develop strategies to minimise risks
4. improve/ develop food safety assurance systems

Session 2 The Survey

Mr Mukwereza highlighted aspects of the proposed conduct, resources and operation of the retailer's survey. The various areas of the questionnaire i.e. volume, type, price source etc of produce through the market were discussed. He also gave an overview of the personnel that would be involved in the survey and the proposed treatment and dissemination and use of the data.

Session 3 Relationships in the Market

Mr Chaonwa presented the aspect of relationships in the retail market the likely effects on among issues the quality, price, food safety etc. He noted that analysis of the survey results coupled with information through informal interact even such as this workshop would draw a picture of relational links in the market. The major modes of traffic and the risks in those paths would be used in the development or recommendation of quality assurance systems to adopt. From Mr Chaonwa's presentation the following rough picture of relations emerged: -



Note: Export of produce from Mbare to DRC, Zambia, South Africa and Botswana.

Results of the group discussion

The group expressed interest and enthusiasm in the project and willingness to co-operate. The participants (retailers) also highlighted the following problems and issues that they feel need attention/ address: -

- Awareness education of health risks/ implications during handling and storage of produce in the producers market should be communicated to both producers and city health authorities.

- The cleanliness of transport that brings produce to the market as well as accommodation and sanitary facilities for producers should be urgently addressed with municipality/ government.
- the city council is doing nothing about the issue of the toilets even in the wholesale market as well
- Producers' market needs surfacing to contain dust and mud levels especially in the rainy and windy seasons.
- Municipality needs improve amenities and services for refuse collection and maintenance of both produce and wholesale markets

The participants also expressed the following expectations and perceived benefits from the project:

- a medium or forum of lobby to city health officials and opening of communication channels on pertinent issues
- A better and improved awareness and confidence in their produce and service.
- acknowledgement and better understanding of the economic and social value of their services to the nation at large
- generation of a wider forum of interaction and participation for stakeholders i.e. producers, retailers, consumers and policy makers
- Scientific findings and information likely to favourably sway media to support their business with resultant benefits to both retailer and consumer households.

The meeting agreed that the survey start on a Wednesday 27 November 2002 and proceed weekly from mid morning for minimal disruption to retail operations.

List of workshop participants

Participant	Organisation	Address	Stall no.	No. of yrs in trade	position
R. Mbulawa	Kutsaga Research Station	Box 1909 Harare	-	-	-
W. Makwangwaidze	Mbare wholesale mkt	9 Caroline close Mbare	79	4	Treasurer
J. Sandi	Mbare wholesale mkt	4393 Glen Norah A	14	12	None
E. Chibanda	Mbare wholesale mkt	3331 Glen View 4		4	Top 30
V. Chigwada	Mbare wholesale mkt	Block 62 C9 Tichagarika 3 Mbare	105	3	Cleaning department
M. Taonenguwo	Mbare wholesale mkt	14625 Kuwadzana Ext	36	6	Secretary for cleaning
T. Mazheke	Mbare wholesale mkt	3431 Warren cres Mbare		2	
M. Chikadzi	Mbare wholesale mkt	10 close Sunnidale 2		7	
T. Muchenhi	Mbare wholesale mkt	1759 8 th cres Glen view 1	113		Top 30
A. Hatinahama	Mbare wholesale mkt	670A Block 8 Mbare Flats	40	4	Security youth
T. Matangira	Mbare wholesale mkt	123 Ayema Avenue Mbare	20	7	vice secretary for information
B Jangaira	Mbare wholesale mkt	37 Sundayi St Mbare		5	Top 30
B. Wiri	Mbare wholesale mkt	Block 24 B7 Tichagarika Mbare	150	12	Secretary for security
J Bwanali	Mbare wholesale mkt	Block 7 A7 Materenini Mbare	88	7	Committee member
U. Katchuro	Mbare wholesale mkt	9 Phiri Rd Mbare	116	10	Secretary for security
A. Mpofu	Mbare wholesale mkt	1044 section 3 Kambuzuma	147	2	secretary
L. Chitimira	Mbare wholesale mkt	House no. A1 Mbare	150	3	Legal Affairs
E. Fofu	Mbare wholesale mkt	28 2 nd Warren Park 1	106	4	Secretary for transport
E. Gambara	Mbare wholesale mkt	127 Ayema Ave National Mbare	34	2	Secretary for transport

A. Sandi	Mbare wholesale mkt	4393 Khumalo cres Glen Norah A	14	10	Secretary for admin
P. Rusike	Mbare wholesale mkt	Block 6 door 11 Geneva Highfields	113	6	Vice Chairman
J Mungoni	Mbare wholesale mkt	4594 127 street Warren park D	116	6	Vice secretary for healthy
M. Tongo	Mbare wholesale mkt	increased	147	6	chairman
S. Nyamukanda	Mbare wholesale mkt	5 A 25 th Street Mbare	126	3	Health secretary
A. Mbwera	Mbare wholesale mkt	11 Mangwende Rd Mbare	148	5	information
S. Chikobvu	AREX	Box Cy 639 Harare			
E. M. Ngorima	UZ	Box Mp 167 Harare			
L. Mukwereza	AREX	Box Cy 639 Harare			
W. Chaonwa	AREX	Box Cy 639 Harare			
C. C. Chirinda	Kutsaga Research Station	Box 1909 Harare			

Top 30 - committee that assist in the workings of the market especially security to customers.