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ABSTRACTS



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July 3rd 2018

PANEL ONE

A Fading Subsidy: Cheap Industrial Food and Urban Poverty

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Maryllynn Steckley *Arthur Kroeger College, Ottawa*

Bruce Frayne *School of Environment, Enterprise and Development, University of Waterloo*

The productivity gains associated with high-input, high-yield monocultures have become increasingly central to global food security and have played a fundamental role in the accelerating pace of urbanization across the Global South. Rising flows of cheap industrial food have eroded the margins of small farming in many places and simultaneously subsidized survival (and migration) in fast-growing cities, and are especially crucial to impoverished urban and peri-urban settings, the expanding ‘planet of slums’. But this cheapness is deceptive, as it hinges on the failure to account for an array of environmental costs associated with industrial agriculture, such as heavy fossil energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, soil degradation, the loss of biodiversity, the proliferation of persistent toxins, rising pesticide resistance, groundwater depletion and freshwater pollution. The resource intensity and range of biological and physical problems mean that there many ways that this cheap bounty is poised to crack, at the same time as it is contributing to worsened conditions for agriculture everywhere, principally through climate change and the loss of biodiversity. This paper argues that the precarious biophysical foundation of cheap industrial food is at once an agriculture and an urban problem, as it is bound to make urban poverty more tenuous and raises profound questions about projections of further urbanization. To understand these problems together points to the urgent need to find ways to valorize more land- and labour-intensive forms of agriculture in order to simultaneously feed cities more sustainably and contain their growth.

Global Trends in Stunting and Obesity: Urban/Rural Comparisons

Sue Horton *School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo*

This paper uses existing literature to examine trends in stunting (with a focus on under-five children) and obesity (likely with a focus on women of reproductive age) comparing urban and rural populations. The data on stunting focuses primarily on low- and middle-income countries. Stunting is the best indicator for this purpose, as it reflects chronic undernutrition. The WHO’s key database also contains information on overweight and obesity in under-five children which is however an imperfect guide to adult obesity: adult rates tend to be significantly higher than rates in children. One possibility for representative data on adults is to use BMI for women of reproductive age which are collected by Demographic and Health Surveys/Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, however only for low- and middle-income countries. Although data for women are not representative of those of men (rates for women in many countries are higher), they are particularly important because of the DOHAD hypothesis (Developmental Origins of Health and Disease). DOHAD posits that in utero and early life exposure to adversity can have epigenetic

consequences. Specifically, exposure to undernutrition in early life affects the way that genes are expressed, in ways that make individuals more vulnerable if exposed in adulthood to diets which are high in energy, sugar and fats. One of the particular outcomes that has been studied is the rapid rise in prevalence of diabetes particularly in urban South Asia. Urban-rural differences in diet-related chronic disease differences will be discussed, most likely relying on the Global Burden of Disease data. There are strong urban/rural differences in both stunting and overweight/obesity. Studies from individual countries note that stunting rates in children are higher in rural than in urban areas, although with increasing urbanization stunting is becoming an urban problem, in that the numbers of stunted children in urban areas are now outpacing those in rural areas in some countries. Similarly, obesity rates in rural areas have been lower than in urban areas, with lower dietary intake and higher rates of physical exercise. However, obesity rates have been increasing more rapidly in rural areas in some countries such that the gap has been narrowing. The paper will examine causes of urban trends and rural-urban differences, and policy implications.

The Intersection of Climate Change and Food Security in the Development Agenda of the Global South

Carrie Mitchell School of Planning, University of Waterloo

This presentation explores the rise of climate change as a development agenda over the past three decades, as well as discussing the intersection of climate change and food security in development practice. I conclude with recent critical literature on the challenges of climate change action in global South, with a focus on urbanizing areas.

Enacting Global Governance Agreements at the Urban Scale: Measurement Drives Diagnosis and Action

Gareth Haysom African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

Society is experiencing a watershed moment in global governance. The emergence of global agreements and processes led by the likes of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework, and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) point to a shift to multi-nodal urban governance and represents a synthesis of social, economic and ecological values. These agreements represent positive changes in global processes, but what is the consequence for what an African metropolis might and can aspire to by 2030? The sustainable development vision provides a useful stimulus for Africa's urban poly-crisis, demanding fresh interdisciplinary and normatively explicit thinking. However, in Southern and more explicitly in African urban contexts, caution is required in how the imagined and agreed processes emanating from these global agreements are enacted, and more importantly, reported on. This paper uses urban food security as a lens to demonstrate the contradictions and tensions associated with the enactment of these global processes. For cities of the South, the statement by Jonathan Crush pinpoints the challenge "SDG 2 imagines a world in which no one lives in cities, and SDG 11 imagines an urban world in which no one eats". This paper focuses specifically on the intersection between the SDGs and the NUA and the implications for African cities. The paper argues that the goals, targets and indicators embodied in these agreements reflect a distinct Northern bias in the case of the urban question, and a distinct rural bias in the case of the urban food question. Drawing on recent Africa-driven measurement planning processes the paper argues that these biases are perpetuated by limited resource allocations, resulting in reporting to global bodies taking

preference over local programmatic imperatives. Donor funding and the work of global governance institutions further perpetuate the disjuncture between the needs of African cities and the ideological imaginations of a global sustainable future. Unless critically engaged, the envisioned benefits of these global governance shifts may fall short, entrenching inequality, underdevelopment and ultimately only amount to what the late Sampie Terreblanche referred to as the “ideology of targetism”.

PANEL TWO

Food Systems for an Urbanizing World

Marketa Jonasova, *The World Bank*

The World Bank recently released a report entitled *Food Systems for an Urbanizing World* (available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/454961511210702794/Food-systems-for-an-urbanizing-world-knowledge-product>). This presentation summarizes the main arguments and findings of the report.

The Hidden Middle: The Quiet Revolution in the Midstream of Agrifood Value Chains in Developing Countries

Thomas Reardon *Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University*

The food security debate has focused largely on the farm sector and on trade. Relatively neglected or ‘hidden’ from mainstream debate are the middle segments (processing, logistics, wholesale) of agrifood value chains in developing countries—and yet this ‘midstream’ forms 30–40 per cent of the value added and costs in food value chains. The productivity of the midstream is as important as farm yields for food security in poor countries. The paper shows that over the past several decades the middle segments have transformed quickly and surprisingly—with a huge volume expansion, a proliferation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), but also concentrating and multinationalizing (in some places and products), with technology change characterized by capital-led intensification, and with the incipient emergence of branding and labelling and packaging, of new organizational arrangements in procurement and marketing interfaces with farmers and retailers, and of private standards and contracts. Economic policies of market and foreign direct investment (FDI) liberalization, commercial and business climate regulations, hard and soft infrastructure investment, and food safety laws, have paved the path to the expansion and shaped the transformation of the important midstream segment of food value chains.

Delicious and Dangerous: Precarious Diets in a Time of Food Price Volatility

Patta Scott-Villiers *Institute of Development Studies, UK*

Naomi Hossain *Institute of Development Studies, UK*

The financial, fuel and commodity prices crises of 2008 and 2011 created ripple effects on the prices of basic foodstuffs in developing countries. This paper reports on the results of a ten-country study across Asia, Latin America and Africa that looked at the effects of price volatility on the lives and diets of people on low and uncertain incomes. In this paper we focus particularly on the specific responses of people living in some of the poorest areas of rapidly growing cities in the developing world. Though varying with different regimes of macro-economic management and

social protection, the study found that once a price shock had been transmitted to local food markets there was a striking global pattern to people's responses and to the wider effects of their aggregated actions. We expected to find people cutting food and other spending and putting more emphasis on non-marketised ways of life to reduce dependency on the source of the trouble, the market. But the overall shift, and the one that people noted early and frequently, was a shift towards purchasing food and, in particular, to more ultra-processed and packaged foods. As healthy foods such as vegetables and wholegrains became more expensive for people in the city, they turned to food that was fast, tasty and dangerous. The study, which ran from 2007 to 2015, attempted to understand the mechanisms and drivers of change in food, work and care. It involved annual visits to participating households for focus group analyses, interviews with local and national officials coupled with reviews of national price and policy data. The results showed people responding to the stress of price spikes by making extreme efforts to generate cash: migrating, taking on extra jobs, starting precarious micro-businesses and eating faster foods. These emerged as mechanisms by which diet, care, work, dwelling and migrating changed at individual levels and at the level of the economy and society of which they were a part. Many, particularly the young, described the changes as exciting – often delicious and fulfilling a sense of responsibility to make way in the world; and stressful – fuelled by precarious, risky work largely unprotected by the state or private sector. The overall result was to expand the already bulging informal economy in each of the cities in the study, squeezing care for family and creating dramatic dietary changes towards high energy, salty, sweet and packaged foods over older modes of eating.

Predisposing Vulnerability: Infrastructure Accessibility and Household Food Insecurity

Cameron McCordic *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

Bruce Frayne *School of Environment, Enterprise and Development, University of Waterloo*

James Sgro *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

The geographic concentration of poverty in informal neighborhoods across cities is a common socio-economic feature of the urban form. Many of these impoverished urban areas also suffer from limited access to the infrastructure distributed across cities. Given the expense and planning necessary to develop urban infrastructure, these areas have become predisposed to social vulnerability in part because of their exclusion from urban master plans. This vulnerability is made more severe by the knock-on impacts of limited infrastructure access on other aspects of human insecurity. This investigation will assess the predictive relationship between household infrastructure access and food insecurity across 5 case study cities (Mexico City, Kingston, Maputo, Nairobi, and Nanjing). The aim of this study is to determine the food security status of households with limited infrastructure access and to assess whether this relationship is conditional upon other social vulnerability variables. This relationship between urban infrastructure and food insecurity across cities in the Global South highlights the importance of urban planning as a means of influencing the future urban vulnerability.

PANEL THREE

Integrating SDG 5, 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' into Urban Food Security Discourse

Mary Caesar *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

The 2017 progress report for SDG 5 states, “Gender inequality persists worldwide, depriving women and girls of their basic rights and opportunities. Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will require more vigorous efforts, including legal frameworks, to counter deeply rooted gender-based discrimination that often results from patriarchal attitudes and related social norms.” There are several ways in which urban leaders can mainstream gender equality as a goal in their “vigorous efforts” to promote urban food security through mechanisms such as food system planning, public health, economic development strategies, and partnering with community groups. This paper examines a series of cause and effect relationships between gender inequality and food insecurity in urban areas of the global south and illustrates the potential for transformational change when SDG 5 is integrated into thinking about urban food security at local, national, and global scales.

Food Waste and the Growth of Food Banking in the World’s Cities

Daniel N. Warshawsky *School of Public and International Affairs, Wright State University*

Food waste has emerged as a key global crisis in the twenty-first century. As highlighted in recent studies on food waste, more than one-third of the world’s food supply is lost in the global food system. To combat this issue, a range of government, private, and community food organizations (CFOs) have developed programs to reduce food waste in cities across the globe. Food banks, institutions that collect, systematize, and redistribute excess food, have emerged as a leading method to reduce food waste in the world’s cities. From their origins in North America in the 1960s, food banks now provide food to communities in more than thirty countries on six continents, including many countries across the Global South. In many cases, the food bank’s mission is to overcome the triple bottom line associated with the global food waste crisis, including food insecurity and poverty, economic inefficiency and increased costs, and environmental degradation and climate change. However, as food banks grow rapidly in the world’s regions, it remains unclear if they can achieve these goals. To examine these dynamics, this presentation examines the historical development, mission, structure, and outcomes of the world’s food bank systems. Through a critical assessment of Feeding America and the institutionalization of the North American food banking enterprise, Global FoodBanking Network and the globalization of food banking systems, development and underdevelopment of food banks in the world’s regions, and food bank expansion in megacities of the Global South, this presentation analyzes local and regional food banks in a global perspective to understand how food banks are connected to inequality in the global food system and extreme challenges in the urban governance of poverty and food insecurity. As discussed in this presentation, existing research suggests that food banks may improve the efficiency of food redistribution systems in many contexts, but it remains unclear whether food banks reduce food insecurity or food waste over the long-term. In addition, given that urban food banks often work within neoliberal structures which decentralize and privatize key aspects of the social welfare state and many food banks suffer from severe institutional crises related to lack of funding, interference by the state or private sector, and inappropriate placement in many parts of the Global South, the impact of urban food banking may be limited in the Global South. Moreover, since food banks operate within the existing corporate food system structure, it is unclear whether food banks have the capacity or the orientation to overcome the structural causes of food insecurity, food waste, or social inequality in many locales. For these reasons, existing research indicates that scholars need to more critically examine the development of food banks in

the Global South given that it is in many of these lower-income regions with underdeveloped infrastructure and extreme poverty where food banks may be less likely to succeed. Ideally, researchers should examine food banks relationally, connecting the development of food bank projects in the Global South to those in other parts of the globe.

Urbanization as a Driver of Food Waste Generation

Tammara Soma *Food Systems Lab, New College University of Toronto*

The main objective of this paper is to explore the ways in which urbanization acts as one of the drivers of food waste generation in the Global South. With increasing urbanization, a growing middle class, the rise of the supermarket revolution, and poor waste infrastructure, there is an urgent need to address the issue of food waste in Indonesia. Analysis of food waste in Indonesia is especially critical as food waste in urban areas of Indonesia is projected to grow by 49% between 2005 and 2025. By exploring the case study of Indonesia, and the diverse ways that urban households consume food and waste food in Indonesia, this talk will challenge the assumption in dominant food waste literature that consumer food waste is not an issue in the Global South. This study draws upon a qualitative study of upper, middle and lower income households in Bogor, key informant interviews with government officials, traditional food vendors, supermarket managers, and a waste collector, and quantitative study of 323 households. Facing land scarcity and the augmentation of urban development, residents of Bogor are increasingly reliant upon uneven and deficient waste collection as well as lacking in spaces for urban food production. In low to middle-income countries, food waste represents 50% to 80% of the municipal solid waste stream. This is true in the case of Bogor where food waste comprises 69% of the total solid waste collected. This paper talk contributes to the urban food system scholarships in the Global South by moving the discussion from production (“Farm to Table”) to include consideration for waste management (“Table to Dump”).

Food Safety and Urban Food Security in Cities of the Global South

Jodi Koberinski *Department of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Waterloo*

Zhenzhong Si *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

Steffanie Scott *Department of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Waterloo*

Accelerating urbanization in the Global South imposes new challenges on food security in cities. On the one hand, maintaining sufficient food supply in cities has continuously been a key challenge; on the other hand, food safety has been increasingly recognized as a critical issue that constitutes the complexity of urban food security. The worsening food safety conditions in many cities of the Global South have seriously affect people’s health and livelihoods. Therefore, public and private initiatives, food safety standards, regulations and policies emerged to cope with the growing food safety issue. Improving food safety through various formal and informal initiatives will greatly contribute to food security. Based on this understanding, this paper illustrates both conceptual and empirical significance of integrating food safety into urban food security studies. It first looks at the categories of food safety problems and cases of foodborne illness (i.e., food safety scandals) commonly discussed in literature. It then examines the connections of urban food

safety with other issues such as street food vendors, urban agriculture, genetically modified foods and food exportation. It also summarizes some findings of consumer perceptions of food safety problems in case studies in the Global South. In analyzing various approaches addressing food safety challenges, this chapter provides an overview of people's everyday coping strategies, policies, formal and informal initiatives addressing food safety challenges.

PANEL FOUR

Food Systems at the Rural-Urban Interface

Felicity J. Proctor *Research Associate, Rimisp-Chile*

Promoting better market access and market performance for smallholder agricultural producers and the provision of access to better quality and lower price food for the majority of the world's population requires the strengthening of rural-urban linkages and putting 'place-based development' at the centre of policy and investment in food systems. Whilst traditional markets at the level of villages, towns and small and medium cities continue to be the entry point into the food system for the large majority of the world's smallholders, profound, and in some regions rapid, changes are taking place in the food system from production to consumption. These changes have implications on local economic development within functional rural-urban spaces, on urban and rural livelihoods, and on food security and nutrition. The effects of food system change include: the exclusion of large numbers of smallholders from modern and more dynamic markets; the concentration of a greater share of value added in the downstream segments of the food system; the weakening of traditional wholesale and retail; shifts in the spatial location of food industry investment in primary, secondary and tertiary preparation and processing; and the increased availability of highly processed food in both rural and urban areas. With these changes, and with appropriate food system related policy, investment and innovation in functional rural and urban spaces, new economic and employment opportunities can emerge depending on how the food system is structured from production through to consumption. The food system should be optimized for distributional gains and with positive impacts on the local economies, on rural and urban livelihoods, on food access and security, and on public health.

Determinants and Outcomes of Internal Labour Migration for Rural Livelihoods in the Global South

Warren Dodd *School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo*

Internal labour migration is an important and necessary livelihood strategy for millions of individuals and households in the Global South. However, migration is selective, with diverse motivations and determinants shaping decisions to move for work. Additionally, migration trajectories have diverse outcomes for migrants and their households and communities of origin. Drawing on research from South India and Honduras, I will discuss how the determinants and outcomes of internal labour migration shape rural livelihoods in these two contexts. In particular, I will consider how migration influences gendered divisions of labour, multiple dimensions of human security, and health in areas of origin and destination. Additionally, I will lay out key methodological issues for subsequent research that examines the relationship between internal labour migration and rural livelihoods in the Global South.

Urban Food Security Among Migrants and Refugees in the Global South

Abel Chikanda *Department of Geography & Atmospheric Science, University of Kansas*

Jonathan Crush *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

This paper investigates the extent of food (in)security among migrants and refugees living in cities in the South. It relies mostly on data generated by AFSUN in their study of Zimbabwean migrants living in South African cities as well as data from various sources related to Syrian refugees residing in cities in Lebanon. While significant knowledge has been generated over the past decade on the extent of food insecurity among urban dwellers, very little is known about food insecurity among international migrants and refugees in the South. The paper starts by showing the importance of intra-South migration in the movement of migrants and refugees globally before examining the food security status of migrants and refugees in the host cities. This paper argues that migration has a major transformative effect among migrants and refugees in terms of their food security, yielding either positive or negative impacts depending on their reception and integration in the host societies. It concludes that removing barriers to migrants and refugees' access to employment in the host country is an important step towards enhancing their food security.

Forgotten Flows: Migration, Food Remittances and Food Security

Jonathan Crush *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

Mary Caesar, *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

The global attention paid to cash remittances over the past decade has resulted in an extremely solid evidence base on international, regional and national level remitting behaviour and impacts. Little attention, however, has been paid to food remitting and its development contribution, including to the welfare and food security of sending and receiving migrant households. A review of the current state of knowledge about food remitting found considerable knowledge gaps in our understanding of the volume, driver and impacts of this phenomenon. In this paper, food remittance data from five multi-country household surveys and case study evidence are marshalled in order to demonstrate that food remitting is an important accompaniment to migration which demands much greater research attention. The paper uses the existing data to show that there is considerable spatial variability in the amounts, frequency and types of foodstuffs that flow to and from migrant origin and destination areas within countries and across borders. Both poor and better-off households in many rural areas remit food, a practice that enhances urban food security. Rural-rural, urban-urban and urban-rural food remitting are also growing in significance. Research on the relationship between remittances and food development can no longer afford to ignore this neglected but extremely important form of remitting.

July 4th 2018

QES INFORMAL FOOD SECTOR PANEL 1

Characterizing Wet Market Food Vendors in the Urban Food System of Nanjing

Zhenzhong Si *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

Previous studies of the urban food system in China indicate that wet markets still dominate the food purchasing landscape of urban residents, particularly the supply of fresh produce and meat. Most of surveyed households in Nanjing for example visited wet markets more than five times a week. Recently, there has been more discussion on if supermarkets will replace wet markets in Chinese cities in the future. However, little is known about wet market vendors and the role they have been playing to ensure the high level of food security. Characterizing the operational status of wet market vendors is a critical step to understand the urban food system in Chinese cities. Based on a survey conducted with 816 vendors in 37 wet markets across Nanjing, the paper examines critical information of these wet market vendors including who these food vendors were, what kinds of food they sold, and how they sourced the food, their business strategies and the major challenges they faced. It provides preliminary but important information for further studies of urban food security and food system as well as policy making in enhancing urban food security.

Cooperative Governance in China's Transforming Informal Food Retail Sector: Case Study of Street Food Vendors in Nanjing, China

Ning Dai *Department of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Waterloo*

Informal food retailing is a tradition among Chinese cities. It generates incomes for urban vendors and provision of food at prices lower than formal markets. Governance of informal food retailing has been a contentious issue, because informal food vendors have been in an antagonistic relationship with *chengguan*, the law enforcement officers. Academics theorize this antagonism as vendors' resistance to an elite capture of urban space. Confrontation between vendors and *chengguan* is well-studied and has caught public attention. Under public criticism, a few Chinese cities including Nanjing adopted a tolerant approach to formalize the informal food retailing. Despite progress being made, new approaches are criticized for being partial and ambiguous, and studies reveal that tensions and conflicts persist. In contrast to existing studies, my case study in Nanjing identifies a non-confrontational relationship between vendors and *chengguan*. This relationship is better interpreted as consent and cooperation. Based on negotiations between vendors, *chengguan* and local government, informal vending activities are permitted. This permission is regarded by some scholars as evidence of ambiguous governance. It displays a government strategy to increase the room for maneuver. Based on empirical data, I argue that the ambiguity theory could only partially explain the cooperation between vendors and officers. A more grounded explanation sets out to reveal the historical and spatial conditions underlying the

surface of vendor-*chengguan* relations: the process of passive urbanization and vendors' shared identity as landless farmers. Informal food vendors are not only petit traders, but also landless farmers who submitted their farmland to urbanization and resettled into urban housing. Cooperative governance of street vending is embedded in the lived experience of vendors as new urban residents. This fact is elaborated with an analysis of the regional history of urbanization and land expropriation. To conclude, I raise a hypothesis that cooperative governance is a means for local government to mitigate injustice in urbanization process, particularly in regard to land expropriation and resettlement policies.

Supporting Rural-Urban Linkages for Self-Reliance in Jamaica

Beth Timmers *School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo*

This paper explores rural-urban linkages in Jamaica's domestic food market in their historical context. There is growing recognition that strong rural-urban linkages support positive food security and livelihood outcomes in low- and middle- income countries. The majority of research on rural-urban linkages, however, focuses on sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. This paper presents such linkages in the Caribbean context, concentrating on the case of Jamaica. Rural-urban linkages in Jamaica's food system have significant historical relevance that necessitates context-specific research. Drawing on a household survey triangulated with a supply chain analysis and historical records, this paper presents key market links between domestic farming in Jamaica's bread basket, St. Elizabeth, and food security data from a sample of neighbourhoods in Kingston. Jamaica's domestic food marketing system, established during slavery, brought fruit and vegetables grown by enslaved people to the site of Kingston's first market. The domestic food market has been integral in providing affordable produce to a wide range of Kingston households since its inception. Despite compounding economic and environmental opportunities that are inextricably linked to colonial history, the domestic market remains an important food access source. The urban market is essential for the survival of small-scale farmers, and similarly, small-scale food production is crucial for access to appropriate, affordable produce in the city. The results presented in this paper have specific policy relevance to the Eat Jamaica campaign, which focuses on improving national food self-reliance.

Networks, Negotiations and Neoliberalism: An Analysis of the Challenges and Resilience of Small Scale Food Entrepreneurs in Kingston, Jamaica

Robert Kinlocke *University of the West Indies at Mona*

Elizabeth Thomas Hope *University of the West Indies at Mona*

Small scale food enterprises occupy a critical space in the urban food system of Kingston. While they serve the entire population, poor urban households are disproportionately reliant on these enterprises where nodes and networks of retailers play an important role in the value and commodity chain by providing access to comparatively cheap food. However, retailers are often impacted by economic vagaries and state level regulation, amongst other factors, which potentially erode the sustainability of the trade. Based on a survey of 877 small scale food enterprises in the city of Kingston, this paper attempts to examine the main factors influencing entry into the trade, the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and the opportunities presented by imported food alternatives. The results indicate that the system is likely to intensify as growth in entrepreneurs is encouraged by high levels of unemployment and limited alternatives in the formal sector. Additionally, while crime, economic conditions and fluctuations in customer base constitute

principal problems, the challenges are balanced by the availability of favourable supplier networks and comparatively cheaper alternatives in the form of imported food option. Relative to small scale enterprises, larger enterprises play a complementary rather than a competitive role in the urban food networks.

QES INFORMAL FOOD SECTOR PANEL 2

An Urban Analysis of the Onion Value Chain in Bangalore, India

Farhan Rahman *Department of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Waterloo*

As is the case in many countries, the food system in India is undergoing transformation. Spurred on by policy changes, foreign conglomerates are partnering with local players to open department stores and grocery chains. At the same time, the pace of urbanization remains high, particularly in Bangalore where the size of the city has doubled in terms of population over the past couple of decades. What these changes imply in terms of *urban* food production, distribution, and consumption remains under-studied both in the context of India generally and Bangalore, specifically. The objective of my research is to modify and utilize ‘value-chain’ analysis techniques to understand how food flows through the urban environment and what are the socio-economic and political factors impacting vendors and consumers along this path. Specifically, the research will analyze the value-chain of the onion commodity in the context of Bangalore. Utilizing a mixed-method approach, the research will focus upon variables such as commercial relationships, the profitability of vendors, and the threats faced and strategies utilized by the actors along the onion value-chain in an urban context. By focussing upon one commodity, more general food-related issues will be discerned from a policy perspective. A further objective of this research is to inform and provide directions for future work on urban value-chain analysis of commodities.

The Inclusion of Young Entrepreneurs in the City of Maputo’s Food Markets

Ines Raimundo *Department of Geography, Eduardo Mondlane University*

Cameron McCordic *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

The City of Maputo’s food system comprises a diversity of retailers providing access to food from both domestic and regional suppliers. Food markets, whether formal and informal, are the most commonly accessed food source within the city and provide an important source of employment for city residents. As urban labour markets continue to catalyze the growth of national economies in the Global South, the inclusion of young entrepreneurs in the food retail sector in Maputo has become an important but largely unstudied phenomenon. This investigation will assess the demographic and entrepreneurial characteristics of 504 young entrepreneurs (those under the age of 35) operating small-scale food enterprises in Maputo. In the process, this investigation will identify possible motivations, challenges and opportunities for youth engagement in small-scale food retail in the city. The findings from this investigation will provide greater insight into the entrepreneurial factors driving an important food source in Maputo

The Nature and Operations of the Informal Food Sector in Cape Town’s Food System

Godfrey Tawodzera *African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town*

In South Africa, the informal sector is either criminalised or ignored. This is despite the fact that it plays an important role in the country's economy, more specifically so in the food sector, where it plays a role in food distribution and bulk-breaking, hence increasing access to customers on the periphery of the formal food system. This paper presents results from a survey of over 1000 informal food retailers in Cape Town, assessing the entrepreneurial motivations of the food retailers, their challenges as well as their contribution to Cape Town's food system. Survey results indicate that close to four-fifths of the entrepreneurs own single businesses, the majority which were started because their owners were either unemployed, were paid low wages, needed money to survive, or generally wanted greater financial security for their families. Close to two-thirds of the entrepreneurs had started their business using their personal resources. The absence of government agencies, banks and micro-finance lenders as sources of start-up capital affirms the view that these formal institutions generally have negative attitude towards the informal operators whom they view as illegal, not viable or too risky to lend to. Entrepreneurs face various challenges ranging from insufficient sales, competition with other informal food retailers selling the same products, changing consumer needs and continuously rising stock prices. In order to survive, the entrepreneurs must become innovative and adaptive. Hence, most have resorted to continuously changing the types of foods they sell, increasing food variety of the stock, monitoring food prices in formal food retailing, as well as negotiating with both suppliers and customers for favourable stock prices and sales respectively. While there has been debate on how supermarketization affects the small food retailers, results from this survey are inconclusive, with most informal food retailers being indifferent to possible competition, benefits or linkages. Despite the various challenges being experienced, the study concludes that the sector has become an integral and indispensable component of the food system of the city.

Governance, Precarity and Food Security: Impact of Precarious Status on the Food Security of Urban Refugees in South Africa

Jennifer Kandjii *Balsillie School of International Affairs*

This paper explores the impact of governance policies and practices on the food security of urban refugees in South Africa. Drawing on critical citizenship and migration scholarship this paper focuses on refugee governance in South Africa as a case for studying the multiple pathways to precarious migratory status. It further examines the effects of precarious migratory status, rendered by the asylum process in South Africa in a climate of xenophobia, on the food security of urban refugees. It underscores the conflicting nature of South Africa's legal and policy framework in providing progressive protection while simultaneously creating precarious status and subsequent food insecurity. In the analysis, state institutions, through practices of policy implementation, and other non-state actors play a crucial role in endangering the conditions of precarious status and the culminating impact of perilous conditions of living.

QES INFORMAL FOOD SECTOR PANEL 3

Development, Division and Discontent in Informal Markets: Insights from Kampala

Graeme Young *Cambridge University*

Informal markets are central to the food security of urban centres across Sub-Saharan Africa. They are also complex institutions with deeply-rooted internal hierarchies, socioeconomic divisions, political allegiances and competing interests, all of which fundamentally shape market governance

and development processes. This paper explores the recent history of Owino Market in Kampala, Uganda—the largest informal market in the country and one of the largest in East Africa—to examine how internal divisions can precipitate conflicts over management and development that threaten vendors' livelihoods and the viability of their economic activities. It argues that the ability of market vendors to participate in urban development is fundamentally defined by the political and economic environment in which they are forced to act and highlights the importance of inclusive market management and development processes that prioritize the livelihood concerns of the urban poor.

Some Aspects of the Informal Food Economy in Nairobi City

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Food security is increasingly becoming an urban issue. Whereas the contribution of urban and rural farming to urban food security is largely understood, little is known about the urban informal food economy. Yet street food vendors play an important but overlooked role in securing access to food for low-income residents in many cities. The street food vendors offer a wide range of affordable and accessible meals to the urban poor who are struggling with high cost of living and increasing food prices. Furthermore, the informal food economy is a vital source of livelihood to those involved, especially women who may have fewer income-generating options. Based on a representative sample, this paper presents some aspects of informal food economy in Nairobi City, Kenya.

Urbanization and Informal Food Economy in Windhoek, Namibia: Food Insecurity and Consumption Patterns

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Rapid urbanization being experienced in most African cities has seen a changing diets and a rise in the informal food economy, mostly in the urban poor neighbourhoods. This paper investigates the effect of informal food economy on food insecurity and food consumption patterns in Windhoek, Namibia using a cross-sectional household survey data collected in 2016. A total of 863 households were interviewed, of which 55% were from the informal areas. Among those, about one-fifth were severely poor, while closer to one-third were classified as poor. Food insecurity was 92% in informal settlements, with a dietary diversity score of only 2.7. Results show an emerging informal food economy, with households sourcing food from street seller/traders/hawkers, spaza/tuck shops and fast food/take aways. Food insecure households were more likely to obtain food from open markets and street vendors/hawkers than food secure households. The proportion of food secure households sourcing food from fast food/take aways was higher than for food insecure households. Purchases from the informal sources were mostly on a daily or weekly basis. The Household Consumption Purchase Matrix revealed that cooking oil, sugar, fresh meat, fresh fish and maize mealie were more likely to be purchased from street vendors/hawkers on daily or weekly basis than from other sources. In conclusion, our results corroborate an emerging body of research which suggests acute levels of food insecurity in urban informal areas, with substantial reliance on the informal economy to satisfy daily/weekly food needs of urban informal residents. Such urban food environments—food vendors, and takeaways

or restaurants—facilitate access to unhealthy diets, which is associated with the nutrition transition. Policy and research needs to engage the food retailers to contribute towards creating an enabling environment for good nutrition.

Informal Food Economy and Food Safety in Windhoek, Namibia

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Urbanization is a global phenomenon, but in southern Africa, its pace and impact are particularly notable. By 2050 the African continent's urban population is expected to reach 2.5 billion. However there are great variations across and within countries. The demographic challenges resulting from this shift of population are not only limited to infrastructure, housing, health and sanitation, and environmental challenges, but also challenges of urban food insecurity. Levels of food insecurity remains consistently high in the informal settlements (72% in 2008 to an all-time high of 92% in 2016). Another major transformation is the rapid growth of supermarkets, particularly South African markets which aim at making food available to urban consumers. However, there is a growing informal food economy, dominated by women which provides food to the urban poor. Using qualitative data for Windhoek, this paper explores the challenges the informal food economy operators faces in making food available to the urban poor in a growing city of Windhoek. The results indicate that the urban poor rely on street food markets to access affordable food that is within proximity; however, there are challenges as informal food traders are unable to provide basic safety in preparing and storing of food.