The Hungry Cities Partnership is a research partnership co-led by the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town and the Balsillie School of International Affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada. Southern partner cities include Kingston-Jamaica, Maputo, Mexico City, Nairobi, Nanjing and Cape Town. An Indian partner is in the process of finalizing contracts. The focus of this five year research programme is a collaborative, inter-disciplinary research, training and knowledge mobilization programme on urbanization, food security, informality and inclusive growth.

Project Overview

The Hungry Cities Partnership links Southern researchers in partner organizations in major cities in the South in planning and implementing a five-year, collaborative, inter-disciplinary research, training and knowledge mobilization programme on urbanization, food security, informality and inclusive growth. The research project makes an innovative contribution in at least three thematic areas of relevance to development in the Global South. First, the South is undergoing an unprecedented urban transition which will increasingly define and determine the key development challenges of the 21st Century. This "urban revolution" has many complex dimensions and implications. While issues such as housing, services, sanitation, infrastructure, land use planning and even urban violence are now generating considerable research, the issue of food security for the urban poor remains under-researched. Given the dearth of systematic, comparative, inter-disciplinary research on the challenge of feeding "hungry cities", this project provides the opportunity to fill a major information gap in the urbanizing South.

Second, earlier AFUSN research, a project in which ACC was a key actor, found that the informal food economy is critical to the food security prospects of poor urban households. While the vibrancy of the informal food economy is apparent to all in the large cities of the South, the amount of rigorous research devoted to understanding the structure, organization, dynamics and impacts of informal food systems under conditions of hyper-urbanization is extremely limited. What is clear is that the informal food economy is very diverse and complex and this project, by working in an interdisciplinary context with mixed methodologies and across different cities, will add considerably to our understanding of common elements and local differences across the Global South. In addition, the growing presence and power of modern agribusiness and supermarket chains is fundamentally affecting the nature of urban food systems in the Global South and offers a significant competitive challenge to the informal food economy. There is a growing body of research on supermarket expansion and its implications for the urban consumer, but much less on the implications of this process for informal food business, employment and for women and youth.

Third, interest in inclusive growth as a viable development strategy is growing rapidly as new research and policy agendas are formulated to address the paradox of high rates of economic growth and deepening poverty. The urban

food economy represents a "place" for examining whether and how inclusive growth strategies can have a positive impact in encouraging entrepreneurship, raising incomes, alleviating poverty and mitigating the crisis of food insecurity. An inclusive growth perspective on the urban food sector positions this project at the forefront of research in an area that is likely to assume ever-greater importance in the future.

The overall goal of the project is the promotion of inclusive growth in the informal food economy of cities of the South through an enabling policy environment and support for entrepreneurship based on the knowledge platform generated by the research. The specific objectives include the following:

- To examine the levels and determinants of all four dimensions of food security (viz. availability, access, utilization and stability) in the partner cities and the relationships between food insecurity, income-generation and unemployment;
- To generate a significant body of comparative, inter-disciplinary knowledge on the organization, structure and potential for inclusive growth in the informal food economy and implications for food security in cities of the Global South;
- To examine the implications of formal sector competition for entrepreneurship, innovation, job creation and inclusive growth in the urban informal food economy;
- To critically assess opportunities for women and youth to be incorporated into urban food systems as entrepreneurs and employees with decent jobs;
- To assess national, regional and municipal policies that enable or constrain enterprise development, entrepreneurship and innovation in the informal economy;
- To build the institutional capacity of research organisations and networks in the South to conduct collaborative, policy-oriented research on inclusive growth and urban food systems;

The Partnership will pursue a five-year program of collaborative, multi-institutional, inter-disciplinary research, training and knowledge mobilization. Each of the first four years of the project will focus on one major theme (or research module). The fifth and final year will focus on drawing out comparative lessons learned from the first four years of research. Training and knowledge mobilization activity will take place during all five years. The themes for the first four years are:

Year 1:   Rapid Urbanization, Food Insecurity and Inclusive Growth

Year 2:   Reshaping Informal Food Systems through Inclusive Growth

Year 3:   Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in the Informal Food Economy

Year 4:   Competition Policy and Inclusive Growth in the Urban Food Economy

This project is led by: Prof Edgar Pieterse and Prof Jonathan Crush as Co PIs
Research Co-ordinators: Dr Gareth Haysom (Southern partners) Ms Maria
Salamone (Canadian partners)

ACC project team:
Dr Jane Battersby (University of Cape Town)
Caroline Skinner (University of Cape Town)
Prof Sue Parnell (University of Cape Town)
Prof Gordon Pirie (University of Cape Town)
Dr Godfrey Tawodzera (University of Limpopo)

The current partner organisations include the following:

- Kingston-Jamaica: University of West Indies
- Maputo: Centre for Policy Analysis (CPA) Universidade Eduardo
  Mondlane
- Nairobi: African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)
- Nanjing: Nanjing University (NJU)
- Cape Town: African Centre for Cities (ACC) University of Cape Town
- Mexican City: (Partner finalising agreement)
- Indian City: (Partner finalising agreement)

Canadian Partners:

- Balsillie School of International Affairs (BISA)
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- University of Waterloo

See: https://www.cigionline.org/activity/hungry-cities-initiative

**Urban Poverty: Food systems planning & governance in Africa's
secondary cities. (Consuming Urban Poverty).**

This is the project website of an ongoing research project funded by the
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the UK Department for
International Development (DFID) that focuses on governing food systems to
alleviate poverty in secondary cities in Africa. The project is hosted by the
African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town and is based on
research conducted in Kitwe (Zambia), Kisumu (Kenya) and Epworth
(Zimbabwe).

Project Overview

This project aligns itself with Carolyn Steel's assertion that "In order to
understand cities properly, we need to look at them through food" (Steel
2008, 10). It argues that important contributions to debates on urbanization
in sub-Saharan Africa, the nature of urban poverty, and the relationship

between governance, poverty and the spatial characteristics of cities and towns in the region can be made through a focus on urban food systems and the dynamics of urban food poverty. There is a knowledge gap regarding secondary cities, their characteristics and governance, and yet these are important sites of urbanization in Africa. This project therefore focuses on secondary cities in three countries: Kisumu, Kenya; Kitwe, Zambia; and Epworth, Zimbabwe.

The project has four linked work packages that seek to generate an understanding of the connections between poverty, governance, urban space and food.

The Urbanization and Poverty work package seeks to ascertain the patterns and drivers of urbanization and poverty in the three case studies. It will draw on existing large-scale data sets, and in combination with remote sensing work it will assess land use and land cover change. This analysis will generate new understandings of the overall patterns of urban change in secondary cities.

The Urban Food System and Food Poverty work package's objective is to scrutinize food poverty as an indicator of the workings of persistent, pervasive and systemic urban poverty. It therefore intends to conduct fieldwork in the case study cities examining the nature of the urban food system and the experience of food poverty, drawing on both qualitative and quantitative methods.

The Governance work package focuses on current and historical governance of urban food systems. It also focuses on the governed practices of food provisioning through conducting an environmental and social life cycle assessment of the urban food system, followed by an investigation of the applicability of a cleaner production approach to informal work in food supply chains, focusing on roadside catering in Kitwe.

The final work package focuses on implementable policies and strategies through analysis of successful interventions in urban food systems, and assessment of their applicability to the African secondary city context.

This project is led by [Prof Vanessa Watson](#)
Research Co-ordinator: [Dr Jane Battersby](#)
Workpackage1is led by: [Prof Susan Parnell](#)
Workpackage 2 is led by: [Prof Jonathan Crush](#)/Dr Gareth Haysom
Workpackage 3 is led by: Dr [Warren Smit](#)

Partners:

Epworth: Dr Godfrey Tawodzera (Department of Geography, University of Limpopo)

Kisumu: Dr Patrick Hayombe (School of Spatial Planning and Natural Resource Management, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and

Technology), Dr George Wagah (School of Planning and Architecture, Maseno University)

Kitwe: Francis Muwowo (Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Copperbelt University), Dr Owen Sichone (Dag Hammarskjöld Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies,Copperbelt University)

To find out more about the funders, please click here: www.esrc.ac.uk and here: www.dfid.gov.uk

See: https://consumingurbanpoverty.wordpress.com

State of Knowledge review - The agrifood value chain, regulation, and formal and informal livelihoods:

Study commissioned by the NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security

Research leader: Dr Shane Godfrey (LEP) & co-leader: Dr Gareth Haysom (ACC)

Project overview

The agrifood value chain is extremely complex. It comprises a variety of different products, and the value chains for these products have different input-output structures and different geographies. Governance of these value chains might follow similar contours but the details differ from chain to chain. The chains are embedded within national regulation that is common to all chains, but this begins to differ when one gets down to the product level and regional and local levels, where the roles of different stakeholders and organisations impact on the value chains in different ways. Adding to this complexity is the fact that existing research is fragmented, with a lot of detail on certain product chains or sectors, and detail on certain localities or region, and detail on formal or informal activities and actors, but little or no detail on other products, localities and activities.

The objective of the State of Knowledge review is to try to map what we know about the different aspects of the agrifood value chain, how deep the knowledge is, and where the gaps are. Besides providing a source of information, the review will give this information coherence, which will provide a foundation for future research. The foundation will be practical (i.e. what products future research focuses on and what regions) as well as conceptual (i.e. understanding the intersections of formal and informal chains). The intention is to use value chain analysis to provide a methodological framework to organise the review.

The second objective of the State of Knowledge review is to analyse the data that we have assembled in order to achieve certain goals and answer questions. The following are the types of questions that the review will seek to answer:

- Which are the 'lead' firms in the value chains and how is power distributed along the chains?
- How is the value chain restructuring and what are the drivers of restructuring?
- What policies, programmes and agreements impact on the value chains?
- What is the effect of these policies, programmes and agreements on the structure and functioning of the value chains?
- What is the nature of the livelihoods of the participants in the value chains, in particular the employees and workers in the value chains as well as the self-employed?
- What are the implications of the structure and functioning of the value chains for the food baskets of consumers?
- What organization and intervention 'on the ground' is occurring to improve livelihoods and food security?

In each case these questions implicate both the formal and informal parts of the agrifood value chain. A key goal of the review will be to understand the connections and dependencies between informal and formal parts of the chain, what the implications restructuring of the chain has for the interaction between formal and informal, and what this means for livelihoods and food security.

A further goal will be to begin to sketch out the policy interventions that can be made to improve livelihoods and food security, taking account of existing initiatives.

This is a four-year research project. The project is currently in its first cycle and serves as the foundation for future research. This will entail a state of knowledge review, focussing on both formal and informal South African food system value chains.

See:
https://www.uwc.ac.za/UWCInsight/sholarship@uwc/Pages/CenterOfExcellence.aspx

Short cycle research projects:

A study of current and future realities for urban food security in South Africa:

Study commissioned by: The South African Cities Network

Research leader: Dr Jane Battersby Lennard

The South African Cities Network commissioned a study of current and future realities to urban food security in South Africa in order to assist cities in planning and policy development.

This study therefore provides analysis of available data on the extent, characteristics and future trajectories of urban food insecurity and the food system in South Africa, in order to generate policy recommendations that are appropriate to the urban context.

The study argues that by addressing food security through paying attention to the food system not only can food security be addressed in a more positive manner which will depend less on social safety nets, but also that a series of other urban benefits can accrue.

However, the study identifies a critical challenge to the cities planning and developing appropriate policy is the apparent lack of mandates for cities to address food insecurity. This study argues that by adopting a food system perspective it is possible to see a much wider role for local government and a wide suite of potential interventions.

The report is currently being peer reviewed and is expected to be available to the public in August of 2015.

City of Cape Town Food Security and Food Systems Study:

Study commissioned by: The City of Cape Town

Research leader: Dr Jane Battersby Lennard

The Terms of Reference for this study identify the challenge of food insecurity in the following manner:

"Food security or the lack thereof is the outcome of complex and multi-dimensional factors comprising a food system. Therefore, food insecurity is the result of failures or inefficiencies in one or more dimensions of the food system. This necessitates a holistic analysis of the food system that than can provide insights into the various components of the system, especially in our context as a developing world city. That analysis must also take note of the constitutional mandates of the tiers of government in South Africa, such as the legal mandate for food security that rests with the national government, in conjunction with various provincial departments. Local government, however, needs to understand food systems so as to make evidence-based planning and policy decisions that will have long-term impacts on their areas."

In order to generate the evidence base to enable the City to make planning and policy decisions that will impact food insecurity the following questions were asked:

a) *What are the components of Cape Town's food system? How effective is it? What are the points of weakness in the systems? What interventions would be needed to achieve and sustain effective food systems in the city? What are the key threats to the system in the future and what mitigation strategies are needed?*

b) *What is the status of food security in the city? Which instruments should be used to measure food security and what are the appropriate indicators? Where are the food vulnerable residents located? What are their coping strategies?*
c) *What are the areas within the city's boundaries that contribute towards the food systems and food security in Cape Town? How do you quantify their roles as production centres for food? How significant are they for food security in the city?*
d) *Who are all the role-players in the field of food security in Cape Town – whose roles are enshrined in official mandates and whose are more voluntary – to inform what role the Council would play, i.e. what should the Council's response be to food insecurity?*

The report addresses these questions and provides a set of recommendations based on its findings and from applicable lessons from around the globe.

The report is still under review by the Cape Town City Council.