

Summary report of GATES reps' visit

On August 16th 2024, Dr. Shelly Sundberg, the interim director, Gender, Nutrition and Climate Change Adaptation paid a visit to Nigeria to engage with partners and to learn more about the activities of the “Research project to support Africa’s micro small and medium enterprises to deliver affordable, safe and nutritious food”. The hybrid event facilitated by the project’s stakeholder engagement lead was held at Adis Hotels, Bodija, Ibadan, Oyo State. It had 36 participants (25 in-person and 11 virtual) including market leaders, government officers (local government leaders and environmental health personnel), development partners, civil society organizations and the project’s research team members.



Figure 1: RSM2SNF Stakeholder engagement lead, Prof Oyinkan facilitating the event

The event began with opening (Muslim and Christian) prayers from the participants, followed by a session where participants introduced themselves. The project’s principal investigator Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie gave a brief overview of the project and what the project has been up to till date. During

her virtual presentation, she emphasized the importance of the roles MSMEs play in the agri-food value chain. In particular she related how RSM2SNF is engaged in research on the behaviors and conditions of service for MSMEs in the Fish, Green leafy vegetables and Tomato value chains. This will help RSM2SNF understand how different actors support each other to deliver safe and nutritious foods and identify potential entry points for policy makers and development partners who would like to support this effort. She also spoke on the 4 major components of the RSM2SNF project, which are: Research (to generate knowledge for stakeholders), Co-creation activities, Capacity strengthening especially for early career scholars as well as the metrics and dashboard for food markets.

RSM2SNF
Research Supporting African MSMEs
To Provide Safe and Nutritious Food

RSM2SNF welcomes Dr. Shelly Sundberg to Ibadan, Oyo State

Saweda Liverpool-Tasie (Lead PI)
August 16, 2024

Policy Brief: Enhancing food safety in Oyo State

Executive Summary:

Food safety is a critical public health issue that affects the well-being of our citizens and the economic stability of the state. Recent incidents of foodborne illness e.g. Cholera outbreak the need for robust and evidence-based approach to the safety of

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4 main project components

- **Research (knowledge generation - pillar of RSM2SNF)**
 - RR
 - Wholesale market studies
 - Micro studies
- **Co-creation activities:**
 - Co-creation on food safety with Rahama market
 - Co-creation around evidence use
- **Capacity strengthening particularly for Early career scholars**
 - 6 in Nigeria (5 PhD students and 1 Masters Student)
- **Metrics for food markets and dashboard**

Figure 2a: Online presentation by Project PI

During the event, several research team members shared their experiences, working with the project. The Early Career Scholars shared the impact of the project on them which included:

- Enhanced capacity due to the lessons learned about research that have widened their knowledge of several research components,
- Enhanced communication skills and improved engagement with others working in a team.
- Benefits of peer to peer learning as they work with other early career scholars on project activities.
- Improved ability to carry out research and communicate research findings.



Figure 2a: in-person participants

The Food Safety Lead (who also participated online) provided a brief update on the project's food safety activities. The update included but was not limited to feedback on the findings from a survey of wholesale markets to understand their food safety practices, a report on the review of the food safety-related literature and policies in Nigeria and various engagements with different stakeholders (government, market leaders, food safety regulatory bodies in Nigeria) in the development of validated guidelines for hygienic practices in handling fish and GLV in food markets and a manual for fish traders and processors developed based on those guidelines. He continued his update with a report on the training of traders in one of the fish markets in Oyo State that RSM2SNF conducted in May 2024 and the development of food policy briefs that the food safety team did in response to the recent cholera outbreak in Nigeria. He reported that the food safety activities of the project have been recognized by the government, especially in the development and documentation of food safety guidelines. This has led to government invitations for the project to participate in meetings where food safety issues are being discussed. He concluded with a note that the Minister in charge of Federal Ministry of health in the Federal Capital Territory has requested a meeting with the food safety team to discuss the possible use of project food safety guidelines in national documents under development. This meeting is scheduled for September 3rd and the Project Lead PI and the Food safety team lead will represent RSM2SNF.



Figure 3: RSM2SNF Food safety Lead Prof Obadina, during his presentation

Key points from the feedback from Stakeholders

Various stakeholders including each market represented at the meeting were given time to speak on their experiences engaging with the RSM2SNF project. The Local government chairman for Ibadan North, Hon. Oluwaseun Olufade was present and spoke on what the government has done and is still doing in providing and or upgrading market infrastructure in Ibadan North local government. Below are key points from the discussions.

Shasha Vegetable Market

- Traders now have improved knowledge of safe and hygienic practices that they have been exposed to, through the various engagements with the RSM2SNF project. They have learnt not to just sell anything to buyers but to be mindful of the condition of the products they sell.
- They also engage with the farmers who bring goods to their market to ensure that it is brought in good condition and stored in the right kind of containers.
- The market needs government support in the area of security and in monitoring conditions of products brought to the markets for sale as the traders cannot do this alone.



Figure 4 A representative from Shasha market



Figure 5 A representative from Itamerin market

Itamerin Vegetable market

- Improved understanding of how to handle and store their vegetables, as well as keeping their market environment clean.
- Since engagement with the project (from February 2023 to August 2024), the market has been able to build 10 toilets



Figure 6 Representatives from Rahama market

Rahama Fish Market

- Traders now prioritize washing their fish before smoking as a result of knowledge impacted during engagement with the project
- Market leaders also now ensure that the market environment is kept clean
- There are functional toilets in the market though they are not of modern-day standards
- The market needs gutter drainage to drain rainwater out of the market

Feedback from the Government

Ibadan North Local Government Area

- There are 13 toilets in the Bodija market. Twenty-four (24) toilets are being planned for markets in the 12 wards of the local government. i.e. each ward will have 2 toilets in each market
- The project should include jingles and social media platforms to push more food safety messages out.
- The state government is working with the state's local environmental health officers to ensure food is handled properly in the markets.

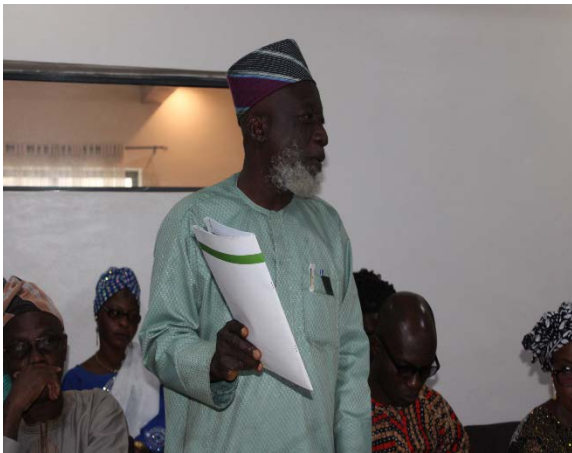


Figure 7-10: Representatives from the Oyo State LGA



Figure 11: Participants with the chairman for Ibadan North LGA

Ibadan Northwest Local Government Area

- Since the engagement with the project, farmers have been sensitized to wash their vegetables properly
- The markets now have more toilets and efforts are being made by the government to ensure proper waste disposal and management by providing bigger bins in the markets

Ibadan Southwest Local Government Area

- Engagement with the project has helped traders become more aware of food safety practices that they were not aware of before.
- Traders usually display their vegetables for sale on the floor but now they display their vegetables on tarps spread on the floor.
- Waste contractors have been introduced to support waste evacuation from the markets.



Figure 8: Dr Shelly Sundberg from GATES foundation

Dr Shelly commended the project team for their focus on safe and nutritious foods such as fish and vegetables which are also rich in micronutrients. She informed all about a rich data source that the Nigerian government has recently launched and is working with to understand the micronutrient intake of Nigerian households. She indicated that it is critical and good that the project is working on issues at the heart of government interests. She complimented the project for its co-creation activities as the interventions are not imposed on stakeholders but by RSM2SNF working with actors on ground to deliberate and co-create solutions to safe food issues. She applauded the government for their effort in upgrading market infrastructure which is an input that can help reduce the environmental footprint of the food system by minimizing food loss and waste.

The media team present also stressed the importance of carrying the media along in the project's activities as they play an important role in taking these important messages to a wider audience.

The event ended with a closing remark from the PI who appreciated participants for attending and appealed to the government to continue to invest in infrastructure in these markets, especially in providing toilets and access to water. She also appreciated Dr. Shelly who is a champion for evidence generation in the midstream and downstream, for coming to learn more about RSM2SNF's activity on the field and the Gates Foundation for providing the resources to engage with stakeholders.

Visit to Rahama market

After the meeting, the project team, Dr. Shelly and some government representatives made a brief visit to Rahama market, where she met and interacted with fish traders and inspected the infrastructures in the market. The media was also at the market to capture the event in order to get information about the work of the RSM2SNF to stakeholders and the community. The traders welcomed and appreciated Dr Shelly and the project team for the visit.



Figure 9: The team and Dr Shelly at Rahama Market

Photo Gallery







