

Evidences

Study #2730

Projects:

- P339

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

Status: New

Year: 2018

Tagged as: New Outcome/Impact Case

Title: A4NH research informs the design of a \$13 million donor investment in improving food safety in six countries in Africa and one state in India

Short outcome/impact statement:

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Department for International Development used cumulative ILRI evidence on food safety burden and management in informal markets to shape their first joint investment in food safety. In response to the call, six grants totalling \$13 million were awarded. Evidence-based interventions will be tested at a large-scale, potentially reducing food-borne disease risks for millions of consumers in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and one state in India.

Outcome story for communications use:

Food safety is a relatively new focus for international agricultural research and food safety in informal food markets has long been an area of neglected research. Over the past decade, research carried out by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) with partners has filled evidence gaps on food safety burden and management in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In 2018, ILRI evidence was used by two investors, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID), to shape their \$13 million research for development investment in food safety.

The recommendations to invest more in local, informal markets to improve domestic health outcomes instead of investing in export markets were at the core of their first call on food safety. According to the investors, the interplay between good nutrition and food safety is striking: "We know nutritious and varied diets are essential to achieving nutritional outcomes, yet it is in fact some of the most nutritious foods, like fresh fruits, vegetables and animal source foods, which are the most at risk of contamination by biological hazards. As incomes rise in LMICs, and more people are able to access a varied diet, it is critical that we invest in food safety."

Their statements echo ILRI's same evidence-based messages. Nearly half of the references in the request for applications cited ILRI research, research which showed through risk-based approaches that all value chain actors from farm to fork are risk managers and that training informal value chain actors who receive business benefits from training has been more successful than training primary producers alone. The call cited the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) commissioned report, which synthesized research gaps and opportunities on food safety and informal markets, and a BMGF commissioned paper for Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Nigeria, which summarized evidence for questions like: Which sectors should be targeted to ensure food safety investments have greatest impact? Which food safety hazards should be prioritised? Which foods and value chains to invest in? Which investments are most likely to succeed?

In response to the call, six grants were awarded. Evidence-based interventions will be tested at a large-scale, potentially reducing food-borne disease risks for millions of consumers in six countries in Africa – Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania - and India.

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome: <Not Defined>

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies : Yes

Policies contribution:

- 210 - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UK Department for International Development make major joint investment in food safety research for development

Level of maturity of change reported: Level 1

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:

Sub-IDOs:

- Reduced biological and chemical hazards in the food system
- Appropriate regulatory environment for food safety

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Too early to say

Comment: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:

- Multi-national

Country(ies):

- Mozambique
- Nigeria
- India
- Burkina Faso
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Ethiopia
- Kenya

Comments: <Not Defined>

Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:

- A4NH - Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

Contributing Flagships:

- F3: Food Safety

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:

- DFID - Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
- BMGF - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:

Over the past 15 years, ILRI research has directed the focus to domestic, informal markets that feed the majority of the domestic population. Our research approach has adopted participatory methods for food safety risk analysis, which led to identification of critical control points other than primary production (ergo farmer training) and includes risk communication at different levels (e.g. value chain actors, enablers (regulators), regional economic communities, international investors). • The first project led by ILRI and funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ through GIZ) that tested the use of risk-based approaches for animal sourced food safety management in informal markets in sub-Saharan Africa documented that all supply chain actors from farm to fork are risk managers [2]. • Training informal value chain actors who receive business benefits from the training has been more successful than training primary producers alone; new technologies, growing public concern and increased emphasis on food system governance can also improve food safety [3]. • A white paper published by ILRI in 2017 and commissioned by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) commissioned report, which synthesized research gaps and opportunities on food safety and informal markets [4], • A BMGF commissioned paper for Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Nigeria [5], which summarized evidence for questions like: Which sectors should be targeted to ensure food safety investments have greatest impact? Which food safety hazards should be prioritised? Which foods and value chains to invest in? Which investments are most likely to succeed?

Innovations: <Not Defined>

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:

Food safety is a relatively new focus for international agricultural research and food safety in informal food markets has long been an area of neglected research. Over the past decade, research carried out by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) with partners has filled evidence gaps on food safety burden and management in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In 2018, ILRI evidence was used by two investors, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID), to shape their \$13 million research for development investment in food safety [1].

The recommendations to invest more in local, informal markets to improve domestic health outcomes instead of investing in export markets were at the core of their first call on food safety [1]. According to the investors, the interplay between good nutrition and food safety is striking: “We know nutritious and varied diets are essential to achieving nutritional outcomes, yet it is in fact some of the most nutritious foods, like fresh fruits, vegetables and animal source foods, which are the most at risk of contamination by biological hazards. As incomes rise in LMICs, and more people are able to access a varied diet, it is critical that we invest in food safety.”

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In response to the call, six grants were awarded [6]. Evidence-based interventions will be tested at a large-scale, potentially reducing food-borne disease risks for millions of consumers in six countries in Africa – Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania - and India [6, 7].

References cited:

- [1] BMGF/DFID request for applications, 28 March 2018 (see references on page 5): https://anh-academy.org/sites/default/files/Food%20Safety%20RFA_20180327_vF.pdf
- [2] Roesel, K. and Grace, D. 2014. Food safety and informal markets: Animal products in sub-Saharan Africa. London, UK: Routledge. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/42438>
- [3] Grace, D. 2015. Food Safety in Low and Middle Income Countries. Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2015, 12(9), 10490-10507; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph120910490>
- [4] Grace, D. 2017. Food safety in developing countries: research gaps and opportunities. White paper. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/81515>
- [5] Grace, D., Alonso, S., Mutua, F., Roesel, K., Lindahl, J. and Amenu, K. 2018. Food safety investment expert advice: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nigeria. Nairobi, Kenya: ILRI. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/91963>
- [6] The six food safety grants funded by BMGF/DFID: <https://www.anh-academy.org/dfid-bmgf-agriculture-nutrition-research-investments>
- [7] Four of the six grants are implemented in Ethiopia with a high-level participation including state ministers and investors at the launching event: <http://tinyurl.com/y3typhvv/>

Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Gender** relevance: When we use a gender lens in understanding food supply chains, we find that socially constructed gender roles are more important determinants of health risk than biological differences between men and women. Variations in risk exposure between men and women are mainly due to gender-based differences in occupational exposure, and secondarily to differences in consumption patterns. Women are important but under-recognized risk managers in the realms of food production, processing, selling, preparation, and consumption. Understanding the influence of gender on risk exposure and management is essential for improving food safety in informal markets (Grace, Roesel, Kang-ethe, Bonfoh, and Theis 2015).

Youth relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

CapDev relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

Climate Change relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

Other cross-cutting dimensions: Yes

Other cross-cutting dimensions description: Equity is an underlying motivation for A4NH's research on food safety. Animal products are vital components of the diets and livelihoods of people across sub-Saharan Africa. About 80% of these food products frequently traded in local, mostly unregulated markets – we call them informal markets. These markets are the target group of our food safety work. Much attention has been paid to the perceived role of informal markets in maintaining and transmitting diseases but little to their role in supporting livelihoods and nutrition. (see reference [2] above Roesel and Grace). Food-borne illness and animal disease are of growing concern to consumers and policymakers alike. Consumers respond to scares by stopping or reducing purchases with knock-on effects on smallholder production and wet market retail. Policymakers often respond to health risks by favouring industrialization and reducing smallholder access to markets. Our research applies risk-based approaches to food safety including participatory methods for risk assessment and risk management, as well as capacity building of regulators and food handlers. This approach aims to ensure market access for poor producers, while adopting a realistic and pragmatic strategy for reducing the risk of food-borne diseases for consumers.

Outcome Impact Case Report link: [Study #2730](#)

Contact person:

Delia Grace Randolph, Flagship leader Food safety, CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health, International Livestock Research Institute, d.randolph@cgiar.org