Women Food Entrepreneurs in Kenya and Burkina Faso:
Building inclusive business models for food security in the city slums of Kisumu and Ouagadougou

Where we work

Key fact

Funded by the Global Challenges Programme, the WFE research project will run until 2019.

Contacts

University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Institute of Social Science Research (UvA-AISSR)
Dr. Nicky Pouw, Project team leader, n.r.m.pouw@uva.nl

Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED), the Netherlands
Boris Jansen, B.Jansen@uva.nl

Center for African Bio-Entrepreneurship
Dr. Hannighton Odame, Executive Director, hodame@cabe-africa.org
Ms Mercy Nduati, CABE Communications Officer, mnduati@cabe-africa.org

Victoria Institute for Research on Environment and Development (VIRED)
Kenya
Professor J.B Okeyo Ouwor, jbokeyo@gmail.com

Études Actions Conseils (EAC), Burkina Faso
Adama Belemvirié, Belemviredama@yahoo.fr

Dresden University of Technology (TUD), Germany
Karsten Kalbitz, karsten.kalbitz@tu-dresden.de

Food and Business and Knowledge Platform (F&BKP)
info@knowledge4food.net

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Women Food Entrepreneurs (WFEs)

The Women Food Entrepreneurs (WFE) research is a project under the Dutch Food & Business Knowledge Platform (http://knowledge4food.net/) that aims to strengthen women's food entrepreneurship in city slums of Kenya and Burkina Faso. It builds on an inclusive business model for food security based on an integrated understanding of the complex interactions between soil quality, food production, quality and nutrition for vulnerable groups.

This project has a transdisciplinary team of social and natural scientists namely Dutch, Kenyan and Burkinabé collaborating with local stakeholders and community-based women groups.

Through a comparative analysis between Kisumu and Ouagadougou, this research addresses the constraints faced by women as: (i) food producers in (peri-) urban gardens, (ii) food processors and (iii) food marketers within diversified physical, environmental, social and policy contexts.

The project co-designs and undertakes field-tests for hybrid food production, processing and marketing technologies, enhancing and promoting women's business knowledge and skills through inclusive business models.

Our aim and objectives:

The project WFE aims to strengthen women's food entrepreneurship in city slums in Kenya & Burkina Faso, by building inclusive business models for food security.

Its objectives are:

- Boosting women's production, processing and trading of quality foods in Africa's growing cities to improve food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations.
- Field-testing innovative food production and processing methods, and
- Designing inclusive business models for women food entrepreneurs.

Research Output

In November 2015, the project kicked off with a meeting in Kenya. Two social science PhDs (one for Kisumu and one for Ouagadougou) teamed up with one natural science PhD (studying in both locations). Collaboration was sought in each location, through participatory workshops, with three urban WFE groups.

The WFE research project has developed research-based outputs through co-creation with the WFE groups and local stakeholders, including:

- Two seasonal calendars 2016 and 2018
- Rock dust analysis report 2017
- Soil sample test results 2017
- Food and Nutrition survey Nyalenda and Obunga 2017

To receive a copy of the outputs, please contact:

Center for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE)
info@cabe-africa.org

Our project consortium partners

- University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Institute of Social Science Research (UvA-AISSR) & Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED), the Netherlands
- Center for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE), Kenya
- Victoria Institute for Research on Environment and Development (VIRED) Kenya
- Études Actions Conseils (EAC), Burkina Faso
- Dresden University of Technology (TUD), Germany
- Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the Netherlands
- Institute de Recherché en Sciences de la Santé (IRSS), Burkina Faso
- Netherlands Agro, Food and Technology Center (NAFTC Africa)
- Bodembergsma, the Netherlands
- Food & Business Knowledge Platform, the Netherlands
- Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research WOTRO Science for Global Development (NWO-WOTRO), the Netherlands