



PROCEEDINGS

Food Consumption, Urbanisation and Rural Transformations

International Workshop

Hanoi, 1-2 October 2015

Vietnamese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS),
Vĩnh Quỳnh, Thanh Trì, Hanoi, Vietnam



Investing in rural people

PROGRAMME

October 1
Welcome from moderator of Day 1 Dao The Anh, Director, CASRAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to participants • Objectives of the workshop
Welcome from VAAS, Malica, IFAD Trịnh Khắc Quang, General Director, VAAS Karim Hussein, IFAD Delphine Marie-Vivien, Malica
Introduction to the programme, ways of working Moderator (Dao The Anh)
Introduction to the issues, objective of the workshop: Bill Vorley, IIED
Food transitions: rural and urban (1) Insights on current of trends in food consumption of urban and rural low-income groups in Vietnam and SE/E Asia under advanced urbanisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in consumption of meat, processed food; comparison of urban/rural (Denis Sautier, Cirad and Dang Duc Chien, Rudec) • Transitions in the milk sector in Vietnam (Mai-Huong Nguyen, Rudec) • Consumer preference for vegetables and fruits in Hanoi (Vu Van Doan, Casrad) • Changes in the livestock sector and consequences on rural-urban relationships in Vietnam (Guillaume Duteurtre, Cirad)
Food transitions: rural and urban (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety issues (Shashi Sareen, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) • Resilience of informal vending in Hanoi (Nguyen Thi Tan Loc – FAVRI) • Inclusive Governance of Informal Markets: the Street Vendors of Surakarta (Ronnie Natawidjaja – Universitas Padjadjaran)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gendered vulnerability to climate change in informal urban food systems in Hanoi, Vietnam (Nozomi Kawarazuka, CIAT) Impact of contract farming on rice consumption behaviour in An giang (Nguyễn Ngọc Vàng, Can Tho University)
Working groups: What's happening? How does this challenge current narratives of food security, urbanisation and rural development?
Feedback from working groups
Virtuous vs vicious circles of urbanisation and rural transformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of small towns and agri-processing hubs – example of Mekong Delta apples (Hoàng Xuân Thành, Ageless Consultants, Vietnam) Impact of migration remittance on rural household consumption pattern (Nguyễn Đức Lộc, SCAP, Vietnam) Beef meat value chain in the North of Vietnam: case of Cao bang and Son la provinces (Hoàng Xuân Trường, Casrad, Vietnam) Changes in food chains (and impact on farmers) due to quality demand in Vietnam and China: the case of fruit, vegetables and meat (Paule Moustier, Cirad and Jia Xiangping, NWAU China)
Working groups: What makes the difference between virtuous and vicious circles? What makes these changes work for the rural sector? What are the priority issues for research and knowledge integration and advocacy? How can policy leverage the rural-urban nexus rather than pitching cities against countryside?

October 2
Field trip (optional) Diversity of retail in Hanoi. Focus on resilience of vending in Hanoi, and dialogue and dissent in the process of relocation and formalisation (organised by FAVRI)
Arrival, coffee and refreshments
Welcome, reminder of Day 1 Moderator: Paule Moustier
Policy innovations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved linkages of farmers to markets with trademarks and geographical indications (Delphine Marie-Vivien, Cirad) Food safety innovative policies and institutions in Vietnam (Dao The Anh) Mapping safe vegetable flow in Hanoi using Google map to inform farmer (Nguyễn Ngọc Mai -- Casrad) Food security and consumption: Case study of Thai ethnic group in Mai Son - Son La (Phạm Văn Hội, VNUA) Policy and the informal economy: Support to street vendors' inclusion in urban planning and development (Nguyen Thi Tan Loc, Favri and Paule Moustier, Cirad)
Working Groups: What policy innovations have potential for replication within and between regions? What are the priority issues for research, knowledge integration and advocacy?
Feedback from working groups

New policy agenda

- Perspectives from Vietnamese policymaker(s)
- Perspectives from IFAD (Karim Hussein), World Bank (Benoit Thierry – tbc), FAO (Shashi Sareen)
- Perspectives from farmer organisation (tbc)
- Perspectives from civil society (CIPEN)

Discussion in plenary.

Policy pointers

Street vendors do not solely feed the poor: middle class consumers and tourists actively choose food from informal vendors, increasing their potential to contribute to a city's economic growth.

Governments must recognise street vendors as valid economic actors with a unique role in connecting important economic activities (including agricultural production and consumption) with urban spaces.

An approach that recognises the importance of informal vendors, listens to their voices, and provides appropriate spaces and facilities for them can successfully formalise street vendors as licensed business owners and an economic asset, serving quality food.

Equitable urban economic growth, built on consultation and communication with marginalised actors, contributes to wider inclusive urban development activity that benefits the whole city population.

Inclusive governance of informal markets: the street vendors of Surakarta

Surakarta's informal street vendors are well known, acting as a tourism attraction and — as in many cities in developing countries — making an important contribution to the food security and incomes of the urban poor. But it wasn't always so. Informal street vending is often ignored by policymakers, or regarded as a problem to be eliminated. This was also true in the city of Surakarta, Indonesia until the mayor led a very different dialogue-based approach. By offering street vendors desirable and well-planned physical spaces and formally recognising them as viable and important businesses, the city enabled them to make a meaningful contribution to urban transformation and economic growth. The mayor's first programme of engagement, designed to genuinely communicate with these marginalised economic actors, saw 17 per cent of street vendors move to mutually-agreed locations 2005. By 2014, more than three quarters of informal street vendors were operating from purpose-built facilities.

Informality is a dominant feature of many urban areas in developing countries; in Indonesia, for example, the informal sector employs 70 per cent of the population.¹ Despite this dominance, informal actors remain economically marginalised. Street vending — which is typically found in the informal sector — is usually carried out on city sidewalks, pedestrian bridges and other unofficial spaces. The locations where vendors set up are often seen by municipal authorities as eyesores, hosting undesirable, dirty activities that disturb or conflict with the formal sectors. In many cases, city authorities have forcibly evicted or relocated street vendors in the name of urban order and cleanliness. As a result, street vendors often have to play 'hide and seek' with the authorities, moving from

place to place. When found, they are subject to harassment and extortion. But Surakarta (known locally as '*Solo*') is, by taking a more inclusive approach, succeeding in formalising street vendors as part of its process of inclusive urban transformation.

A street food boom

The number of street vendors in the city of Surakarta grew exponentially during the Asian economic crisis of the late 1990s. The economic sector was chaotic with many banks, industries and businesses collapsing, causing rapidly increasing unemployment. In this context, the informal sector — and specifically street vending — offered an important coping mechanism for low income households.²