

COVID19 Research Opportunities “same-same but different”



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Outline

- **Setting the Scene – COVID19 Research Opportunities: ”same-same but different”**
- I. From Looking Outward to Looking Inward - Food Preferences
- II. Interdisciplinary Studies to co-create knowledge
- III. Information Communication Technology, COVID19 & Nutrition
- IV. Conclusion

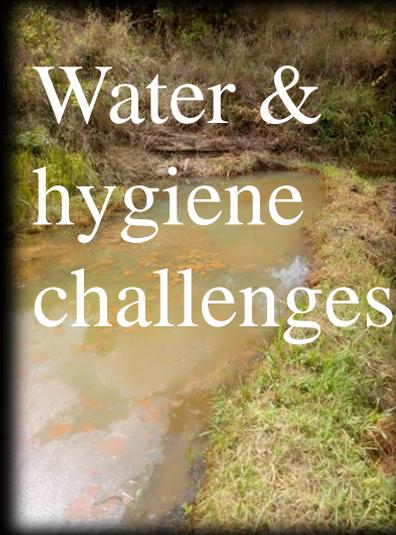
The State Of Food Security & Nutrition

"same-same but different context"



Undernutrition
Overnutrition

**Africa Food Insecurity
score 27%**



Water &
hygiene
challenges



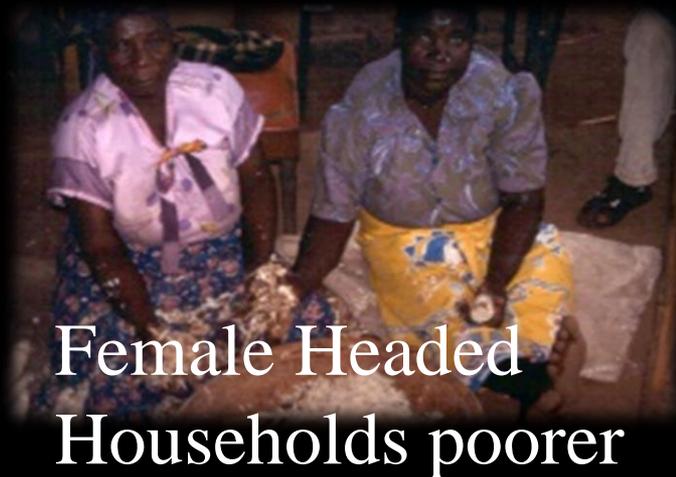
Little value
addition



Poverty & low
economic
growth



Youth
unemployment



Female Headed
Households poorer

1. Food Preferences

from looking outward to looking inward

- **Poverty and Food Security SDG 1, 2**
 - Understanding causality
 - Understanding relationships about choice
 - Specific Plants; Food Selection and Preferences
 - Who
 - Where
 - why
- **More Contextual Studies**
 - African context
 - Demographic, Spatial; Structural, Geographic, Economic
 - Study Unit/populations (gender; age; social class; ethnic)
 - Reasoned Preferences



2. Interdisciplinary Methods to Co-creating Knowledge I.

- A need for more anthropological studies by Africans about themselves

- Ethnographic food studies (Mandala 2005)
- Home economics (Feminist Economics)
- Domestic Sciences – how do we cook food
- Food Science
- **Dietetics** the diet and its effects on health, with the practical application of a scientific understanding of nutrition.



Knowing how to Prepare "Our Food"

- Sometimes you need help
- Urbanisation
- Rural Transformation



Interdisciplinary Methods to Co-creating Knowledge II

- **Increasing awareness and utilisation of neglected foods**
 - **Legumes, grains & tubers (the lost crops & lifestyle diseases)**
 - Production-processing-marketing-policy
 - **Forest access and utilisation**
 - Systematic reviews what is the evidence
 - **Edible insects – Mini-livestock**
 - Mapping practices, policies and regulations in a changing



3. Research Opportunities low hanging fruits

A. Implicit Reasoning Underlying Food Related Behaviour

- **Why do people eat the way they eat?**
 - Dynamics of the global food situation (Khoury et al 2014)
 - How does food come to be eaten & why?
 - Who are the “*gatekeepers*” governing the channels at various points
 - What are the *cognitions and/or motivations of the gatekeeper*



Water Vulnerability & Conflict

B. Intersectionality & Food Related Behaviour

- The historiography of food and food cuisine (Williams-Forsion & Wilkerson 2011 gender, class, ethnicity)
 - In the future where is food being eaten and why
 - Who is eating what and why
 - How do space, time and location affect choice and preparation
 - How can policy intervene to avoid negative societal outcomes



C. Co-Creating Knowledge academicians, community, private sector and practitioners

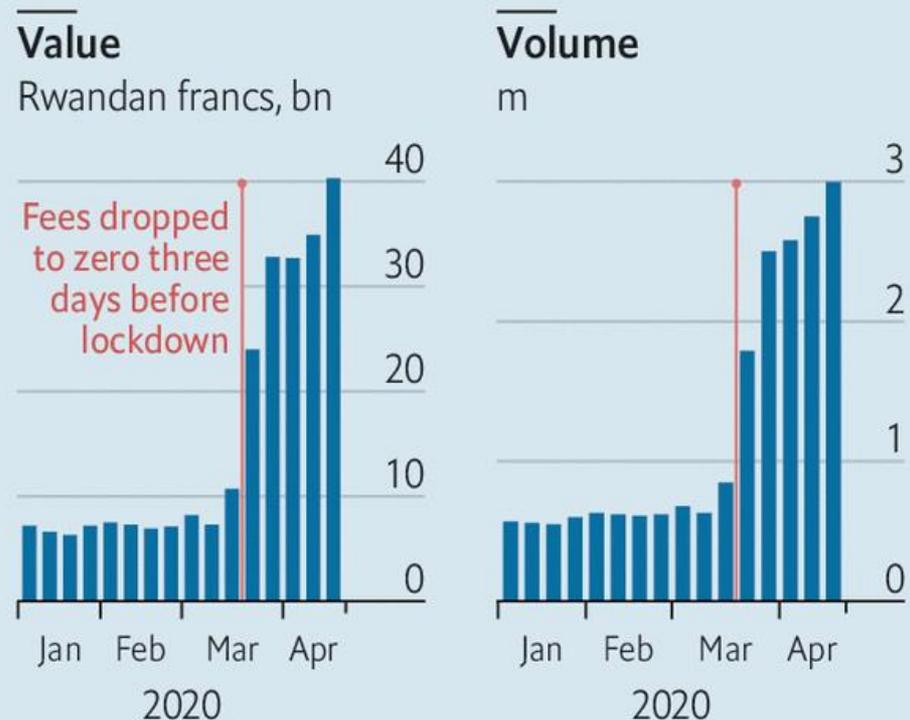
- Geopolitical environment changing the educational landscape including Nutrition
 - Co-creating Knowledge: graduate and postgraduate education – What has happened to our students during COVID19 and going forward?

D. Implicit Reasoning Underlying Food Related Behaviour- Digital Access to Data

- Mobile money what happened during lockdown
 - private sector (Economist, 28May 2020)
 - transfers between individuals had risen six-fold to 40bn Rwandan francs (\$42m); Why?
 - Kenya, South Africa opposite Why?

Extremely contactless

Rwanda, person-to-person weekly transfers



Creating Transdisciplinary Networks & International Educational Contexts

- *Do African-International postgraduate capacity building partnerships matter?*
- A High rate of return on higher education in Africa



4. In Conclusion - Research

- ***COVID19 Research Opportunities "same-same but different"***
 - *Volatile Global Environment – African Position Imperative*
 - *Intersectional approaches to affect food security and nutritional outcomes*
 - *Build capacities in Africa, for Africans, by Africans*
 - *International cooperation to remain competitive*

In Conclusion

COVID19 opportunity for Africa to look more inward

Aspiration 1 of [Agenda 2063](#) envisions a “A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.” To achieve this ambition, one of the key goals for Africa is to ensure that its citizens are healthy and well-nourished and adequate levels of investment are made to expand access to quality health care services for all people.