Interventions that fail to sustain: evidence from a training and certification intervention in Tanzania

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Main findings

• The training and certification intervention (T&C) in Tanzania did not achieve wide reach and the target outcomes 4 years after implementation.

• Delivery mode, incentives for stakeholders and financing were inadequate.

Methods

• We used the theory of change (ToC) framework to assess reach, achievement of the outcomes and realization of assumptions defined in the T&C ToC.

• We conducted interviews with consumers, vendors, middle-men, producers and selected dairy sector key informants in Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

Conclusion-3 game changers

• Achievement of potential positive impacts of milk safety could be enhanced by improving training design and delivery.

• Appropriate incentives for policy makers and training recipients should be integrated into the intervention.

• Long term funding to support participants and trainings must also be secured.

Findings

- Limited reach of T&C intervention (15% of respondents participated)
- Enabling policy environment non-existent
- Awareness raising limited by lack of finance and incentive within Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB)

- No difference in knowledge in milk safety/ quality between trained and untrained traders
- Training content was relevant to traders
- Training Participation challenged by cost, inconvenient location and poor timing
- The certification incentive prior to registration to become a legal trader with TDB not effected

- Use of special containers was more prevalent among untrained trader; washing hands and use of lactometers was more prevalent among trained traders
- Direct benefits of e.g. enhanced milk quality among trained traders
- Cost free practices adopted
- Milk safety important to 91% of consumers but no means to verify

- No difference in milk spoilage between trained and untrained traders
- Only 15 % of traders trained as opposed to the expectation that majority of traders would be trained
- Milk quality not measured. We assessed Milk spoilage as a proxy. Traders reported no differences in spoilage between trained and untrained traders

Study purpose

• Training and certification (T&C) of dairy vendors can help address food safety challenges in informal markets.

• T&C schemes have yielded positive impacts on food safety awareness and practices but have largely failed to sustain in the long term.

• We assessed the extent of reach and level of achievement of the T&C intervention in Tanzania and factors that influenced its success.