



Photo: Jonathan Crush, Maputo

The Hungry Cities Partnership aims to understand how cities in the Global South will manage the food security challenges arising from rapid urbanization and the transformation of urban food systems.

The research examines themes of:

- Entrepreneurship and growth in the food sectors of major cities
- The impact of supermarket supply chains
- Youth and women's employment and entrepreneurship in the informal economy



The Hungry Cities Partnership: Informality, Inclusive Growth and Food Security in the Cities of the Global South is a five-year collaborative project between researchers at seven Canadian universities (Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Waterloo, Western University, University of Guelph, Queen's University, Carleton University and Brandon University) and research institutions in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia, including South Africa, China, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico and Mozambique.

# HUNGRY CITIES PARTNERSHIP



Photo: Thom Pierces, Cape Town

The Hungry Cities Partnership is led by the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town and the Balsillie School of International Affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Canada. The cities in which the research is being done are Bangalore, Cape Town, Kingston, Maputo, Mexico City, Nairobi and Nanjing.



Photo: Sharon Marshall, Bangalore

## INFORMAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

By 2020, urban populations in developing countries are expected to exceed rural populations for the first time. Accompanying this urban transition is a growing food insecurity crisis in cities and city-regions, due to a lack of access because of high food prices and low incomes. Even in those countries experiencing rapid economic growth, food insecurity is a major challenge. Millions of poor households are denied the benefits of this growth in the form of decent jobs or reliable incomes. In this context, the urban food economy is an important “laboratory” for examining whether and how inclusive growth strategies can have a positive impact in encouraging entrepreneurship, raising incomes, alleviating poverty, and mitigating the crisis of food insecurity.

### THE RESEARCH

The goal of this project is to promote inclusive growth in the informal food sector through research on policy and measures that support entrepreneurship and decent employment. The research team is analyzing formal and informal urban food systems in large cities in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, exploring how they interact, how they are governed, and their respective contribution to food security and inclusive growth.

The partnership seeks to provide a global perspective on the links between three major transformation processes: rapid urbanization, the crisis of food insecurity, and the emergence of the informal economy as the major source of livelihoods for the urban poor, including women and youth. The Hungry Cities Partnership is led by Prof

Jonathan Crush at the Balsillie School of International Affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University (Canada) and Prof Edgar Pieterse at the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town (South Africa). Researchers from Canadian universities have joined researchers and municipal governments from participating cities in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean on the project.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Advance knowledge:** Collect and analyze data on levels and determinants of food security in various cities; provide new understanding of entrepreneurial challenges and opportunities in the urban informal food system; analyze the implications of the formal food system expansion on entrepreneurship, innovation, job creation, and inclusive growth in the urban food economy.
- **Shape policy and inform practice:** Support knowledge-sharing through workshops, training, and consultations to inform policy and practice at the municipal level on enterprise development, entrepreneurship, and innovation in the informal food economy.
- **Train a new generation of scholars and leaders:** Support research by graduate students and post-doctoral fellows from participating countries and run policy workshops on urban food security and inclusive growth.
- **Develop innovative research partnerships:** Create a policy-relevant comparative knowledge platform using inter-disciplinary research methods on the organization, structure, and potential for inclusive growth in the informal food economy and its implications for food security.

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