



RSM2SNF

Research Supporting African MSMEs
To Provide Safe and Nutritious Food

**TANZANIA
PROJECT
LAUNCH**
April 14, 2023

The Research Supporting African MSMEs to Provide Safe and Nutritious Food (RSM2SNF) project for Tanzania was launched on April 14, 2023, under the auspices of the 9th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference. The event was attended by 150 in-person participants, with almost an equal number attending virtually. The launch served as a platform for agrifood stakeholders to share experiences, exchange ideas, identify pressing challenges in the Tanzanian food system, and begin to reconcile competing viewpoints.

Michigan State University (MSU) Foundation Professor and Lead Principal Investigator (PI), Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie, began by introducing the project team. The team is composed of faculty and early careers scholars from several Tanzanian universities, as well as MSU researchers and support staff.



From left to right: Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie, Principal Investigator of RSM2SNF, introducing the project to Hon Abdallah Hamis Ulega, Tanzanian Minister of Livestock and Fisheries; The audience following the event proceedings; Hon. Abdallah Hamis Ulega giving remarks during the 9th AAPC

Prof. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie then presented an overview of the project, noting that the rapid expansion of food systems in the last several decades has been accelerated by investments on the part of MSMEs. Furthermore, MSMEs comprise 95% of all businesses in Tanzania and have great potential to contribute to the economy. The RSM2SNF project will focus on the midstream and downstream of the value chains of three particularly nutritious products (fish, tomatoes, and green leafy vegetables), aiming to evaluate how the structure, conduct, and performance of these value chains can be improved. The project is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and will run until 2026.

Research methods will include:

- Rapid reconnaissance (a scoping exercise based on field visits and stakeholder consultations)
- Meso-level studies (key informant interviews and market-level surveys)
- Stacked surveys (quantitative data collected among value chain actors at nodes all along the value chain)

A panel on the vegetable value chain was facilitated by Prof. John Msuya of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and included Dr. Victoria Gowele of SUA; Ms. Lightness Chaky, a tomato producer and trader from Ruaha Mbuyuni, Iringa; and Ms. Mwamvua Mlangwa, a green leafy vegetable producer based in Dar es Salaam who uses a hydroponic system in production. Dr. Victoria Gowele began with an overview of what is known about green leafy vegetables and what are some common misconceptions. Ms. Lightness Chacky followed with an explanation of how she came to engage in agriculture as a business, and Ms. Mwamvua Mlangwa shared how she conducts her hydroponics farming business. During the question-and-answer session, Hon. Mizengo Peter Pinda, former Prime Minister of Tanzania, was among the audience members who asked about the nature of hydroponics production and the associated start-up costs.



From left to right: Prof. John Msuya, Dr. Victoria Gowele, Ms. Lightness Chacky, and Ms. Mwamvua Mlangwa



From left to right: Dr. Mathew Silas, Dr. Nazael Madalla, Dr. Lydia Gaspare, Dr. Innocencia John, Dr. Alex Wenaty, Mr. Mikidadi Nsombo

A second panel on the fish value chain was facilitated by Dr. Lydia Gaspare of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and included Dr. Silas Mathew (researcher, Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute), Dr. Nazael Madalla (Director of Aquaculture at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries), Dr. Alex Wenaty (researcher/academic from SUA), Mr. Mikidadi Nsombo (fish processor and trader from Mwanza), and Dr. Innocencia John (researcher/academic, UDSM). Dr. Silas discussed the effects of climate change on fish stocks, the unpredictability of catches, and the loss of fish species; Dr. Nazael Madalla discussed the need to invest in aquaculture because of rising demand for fish; Dr. Alex Wenaty presented on the nutritional value of processed fish products; Mr. Mikidadi Nsombo discussed the unfair competition between fish traders and fishers when some are adhering to regulations and others are not; and Dr. Innocencia John discussed gendered roles in the fish industry.

Prof. Isaac Minde, formerly with Michigan State University, concluded the launch event with closing remarks, noting that the RSM2SNF project is committed to Strategic Stakeholder Engagement. Prof. Isaac Minde looks forward to the sustained contributions of stakeholders and expects that they will, in turn, benefit from the project outcomes.



Participants asking questions about RSM2SNF during the launch