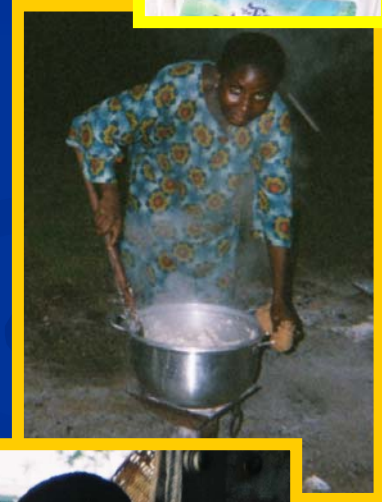


# Street food in Ghana

Funded by British Government  
Department for International  
Development – Crops Post Harvest  
Programme (managed by NR  
International)



# For more information

- **UK** – Mr Keith Tomlins (email: [k.i.tomlins@gre.ac.uk](mailto:k.i.tomlins@gre.ac.uk)) and Dr Andrew Graffham (email: [a.j.graffham@gre.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.graffham@gre.ac.uk)), Natural Resources Institute, Central Avenue, Chatham Maritime, Kent, United Kingdom, ME7 3RU
- **Ghana** – Dr Paa Nii Johnson (email: [paaniijohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:paaniijohnson@yahoo.com)), Food Research Institute, PO Box M20, Accra, Ghana.

# Project involved the collaboration of the following organisations:

- Natural Resources Institute, UK
- Food Research Institute
- Food and Drugs Board
- Accra Metropolitan Assembly
- Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly
- Ghana Traditional Caterers Association
- University of Ghana
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology
- Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research

# Why are street foods important?

- Before this project, little was known about how the street-vended food sector contributed to the urban economy. The project found that:
  - In Accra, 60,000 people are employed in vending
  - Annual turnover of over US\$100 million and a profit of US\$24 million (equal to average daily profit of US\$1 per day per person).
  - Most (94%) of vendors are female who have minimal education.



# Why are street foods important?

- Researchers elsewhere have demonstrated that:
  - low-income families spend 40% of their household budget on street foods
  - Street food comprise 30% of calorie intake for many people.

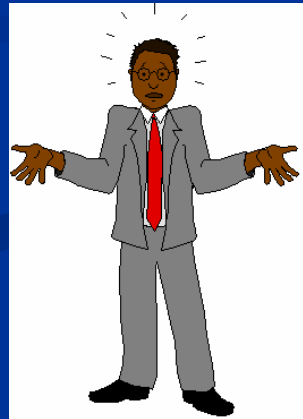


# Project team consulting vendors



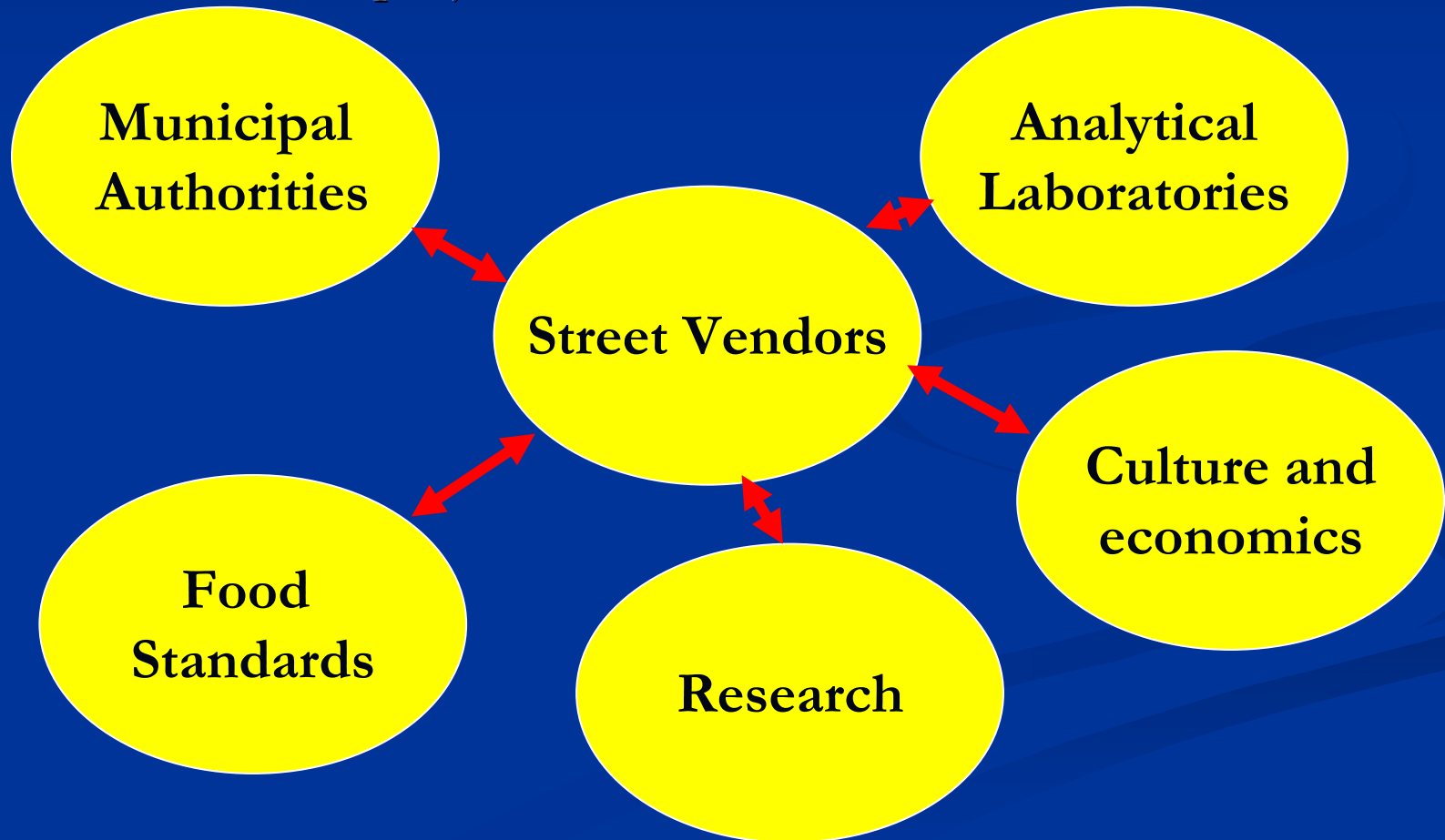
# Concerns regarding street vending

- Livelihoods of vendors and health of consumers may be at risk if concerns over food safety are not addressed.
- Sector is informal and initially did not receive recognition and support from the authorities.
- The socio-economic study helped to convince policy makers of the importance of street food vending.



# Partnerships

- Project has developed partnerships. Everyone was involved at the start of the project



# Food Safety concerns.

- A survey of 180 vendors in five different markets showed that most vendors work under poor sanitary conditions although some markets are slightly better than others.

Water used for cleaning



Vendor's stall



## Pounding fufu (cassava & plantain)

Stored water

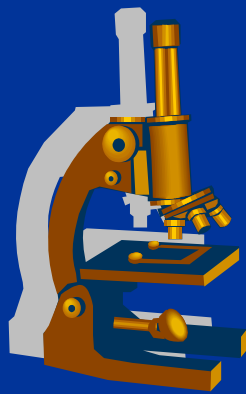


**Making kenkey  
(fermented  
maize)**



# Food borne illness

- Microbiological survey (45 samples) showed that some street foods are intrinsically safer than others. Kenkey and waakye (rice & beans) are safe products while most fufu were contaminated.



# Street food dishes used as case studies

Waakye



Kenkey



Fufu



# Heavy metals (lead)

- Survey (197 samples) showed that most street foods were not a concern.
- Some cooking pots made by informal foundries contained high levels of lead but leaching of lead into the foods was minimal, especially after the pots had been used.



# Training & Promotion

Trainers manual



# Training

- Trained 300 vendors in improved safety
- Vendor organisations have trained an additional 3000
- Started to train vendors in financial management. Vendors need to know the cost in improving hygiene and how it will affect business.



Vendors receiving training in food hygiene



Vendor looking for 'germs' under a microscope



# Consumer survey

- Survey of 530 consumers
  - Many (26 %) buy from the same vendor based on the quality of the food.
  - Consumers want improved food hygiene
  - Many consumers were willing to pay more for more hygienic food

# Consumer survey

- Many consumers did not associate poor hygiene with illness
- Provides business opportunities for vendors who can improve the presentation of their stalls, staff appearance and food hygiene.

# Consumer interviews



# Consumer awareness

- Consumer awareness increased through.
  - Videos shown on national TV (funded by FDB & UNIDO)
  - Billboards at selected locations in Accra (funded by FDB & UNIDO)



Billboards in Accra promoting food safety to consumers