Applying Understanding of Drivers of Food Choice to Promote Sustainable Healthy Diets in LMIC

Presented by Christine E. Blake
Drivers of Food Choice (DFC) Competitive Grants Program

Purpose:

• Facilitate, synthesize and disseminate research to provide a deep understanding of the drivers of food choice among the poor in developing countries

• Strengthen country-level leadership in nutrition and foster a global community of food choice researchers
15 Projects in 10 countries

http://www.driversoffoodchoice.org/
What did the DFC Program Accomplish?
Impact on Knowledge

• Yielded evidence about what, how, and why people eat to guide priorities for scalable action
• Elaborated a science of food choice for framing knowledge and situating food choice evidence

Knowledge
• 28 press releases, news reports & blog posts
• 59+ peer-reviewed publications
• 45+ research webinars & seminars
• 80+ conference presentations
• 2,514+ webinar series video views
Using a global food environment framework to understand relationships with food choice in diverse low- and middle-income countries

Shilpa V. Constantinides, Christopher Turner, Edward A. Frongillo, Shiva Bhandari, Ligia I. Reyes, Christine E. Blake

Elaborating the science of food choice for rapidly changing food systems in low- and middle-income countries

Christine E. Blake, Edward A. Frongillo, Andrea M. Warren, Shilpa V. Constantinides, Krystal K. Rampalli, Shiva Bhandari

Advancing knowledge about stakeholder engagement in multisectoral nutrition research

Andrea M. Warren, Shilpa V. Constantinides, Christine E. Blake, Edward A. Frongillo

Original Research

How Perspectives on Food Safety of Vendors and Consumers Translate into Food-Choice Behaviors in 6 African and Asian Countries

Sejla Isanovic, Shilpa V. Constantinides, Edward A. Frongillo, Shiva Bhandari, Sharrif Samin, Emma Kenney, Sigrid Wertheim-Heck, Stella Nordhagen, Michelle Holdsworth, Paula Dominguez-Salas, Ramya Ambikapathi, Anous Laar, Crystal L. Patti, Bharati Kulkarni, Salome A. Bukachi, Marius Nygutu, Christine E. Blake
Impact on Engagement

- Catalyzed engagement of scholars and uptake of evidence
- Increased attention to food choice in LMIC

Engagement

- 7 interactive webinars
- DFC Twitter account with thousands of profile visits each month and tweet interactions reaching over 30,000.
- DFC-funded documentaries with 2,000+ YouTube views
- 4 DFC learning labs & workshops
- 26 research & policy briefs
- 85 stakeholder engagement & research uptake events
- 10+ new funded projects & initiatives building on DFC results
Impact on Capacity

- Developed a sustainable community of scholars who advance knowledge about food choice in LMIC
- Created a global community of collaborating partners committed to applying DFC learnings for action to achieve sustainable healthy diets

**Capacity**
- Strengthen country leadership of food-choice researchers
- Long-term engagement in 4 synthesis working groups
- 17 DFC investigator convening meetings & webinars
- 38 collaborating institutions
- 21 LMIC institutional collaborations
- 3,168+ social media followers spanning 45 countries
What Now?
Elaborating the science of food choice: Understanding what, how, and why people eat the way they do

C Blake, M Boncyk, S Isanovic, S Samin, E Frongillo, K Rampalli, E Kenney
Assessing drivers of food choice at the individual and household levels in South Asia: A methods workshop

Date: March 14-16 (Tuesday-Thursday)
Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP
Under the CGIAR Regional Integrated Initiative, “Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia” (TAFSSA), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Disease of Food Choice Program team from the University of South Carolina (UCSC) are developing a framework and a linked repository of tools for food choice assessment and measurement at the household and individual level. The two-and-a-half-day methods workshop is being organized to apply this toolkit into action. It will also generate ideas for analysis of data being gathered in local food systems assessments currently underway in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES
1. Understand drivers of different food choice behaviors at the individual and household levels and how they interrelate.
2. Review the variety of methods that can be used to assess individual and household-level drivers of food choice and food choice behaviors.
3. Collectively identify the kinds of information and analyses related to food choice behaviors and drivers that would be useful for policy and program decision-making in South Asia.
4. Identify which constructs and related assessment tools (where available) to include in approaches for studying individual and household drivers of food choice and food choice behaviors in South Asia.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS
SESSION 1: Elaborating the science of food choice: Understanding what, how, and why people eat the way they do
SESSION 2: Understanding food choices: Constructs, contexts, measurement experiences, and assessment methods repository
SESSION 3: Identifying problems and needs for actionable evidence
SESSION 4: Setting priorities for analysis and further data collection and other studies
SESSION 5: Developing analytic plans for assessing food choice behaviors and drivers using TAFSSA food system assessment data
SESSION 6: Envisioning future publications and data needs for understanding DFC in South Asia

Nutritious Food Systems Grantee Convening | London, 27-29 March 2023
Top Line Agenda (Work in Progress)

The purpose of the Nutritious Food Systems Grantee Convening is three-fold: learning, connecting, and exploring gaps and opportunities. This Convening takes place at a time when combined shocks of conflict, food insecurity and the climate emergency have put nutritious food systems on the agenda. The Convening challenges those attending to connect the evidence and propose a set of compelling solution pathways that impact directly in communities, on policy and investment strategies.

The Convening will:
1. Create an intimate and effective environment for exchange, learning and networking where project results are shared, interrogated and valued, connections made, scaling considered and longer-term learning platforms developed where appropriate.
2. Explore the value of different collaboration models and effectiveness of partnership and leadership, as proposed across this programme of work.
3. Explore and inform practice, policy and investor future strategies for the full range of actors present.

During the Convening we will be transitioning from looking back, to looking under our feet, to looking forward. To do this we have identified three lenses, each asking what global evidence base we are working with, who is waiting for our results and which decisions/behaviours are meant to influence.

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<td>Grants clustered around six Topics of Focus: 1) Dietary and micronutrient data, metrics and modeling; 2) Food safety, food loss, and food waste for nutrition; 3) Drivers of demand; 4) Program implementation; 5) Nutrition integration via technical assistance &amp; policy advocacy; 6) Impact</td>
<td>Cross-cutting themes: 1. Equity and inclusion in nutritious food systems 2. Integrating nutrition and climate for resilient food systems 3. Equitable partnerships and collaboration 4. Translating evidence for impact</td>
<td>Catalysing NFS transformation: Creating opportunities for impact and mobilising connections and relationships 1. What opportunities, relationships and interfaces need mobilising, and by whom? 2. What avenues have been successful, and why? 3. Impact pathways can be...</td>
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# DFC Program Acknowledgements

## USC Team
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- Shilpa Constantinides
- Andrea Warren
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- Krystal Rampalli
- Shiva Bhandari
- Emma Kenney
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Thank you!

- Christine Blake
- cebile@mailbox.sc.edu
- Website: [https://driversoffoodchoice.org](https://driversoffoodchoice.org)
- Twitter: @DFC_Program