



Call for Fellowships Afrique One-ASPIRE

TTP4: Foodborne Diseases and Nutritional Illnesses

TTP4 aims to address the nutritional patterns in transitional landscapes and their impact on food-related diseases by studying the epidemiological links between infectious diseases and selected/related non-communicable diseases of livestock dependent populations. It covers the following aspects:

- Animal-source food value chains – livelihood of livestock dependent populations
- Consumption patterns – true foodborne disease (FBD) burden and risk of infection – non-communicable disease (NCD) analysis and opportunities
- Socioeconomic cost-effective design of interventions

Ref: [TTP4-Food-MSc1](#)

Project Title: Association of eating red meat and emergence of NCDs in two African populations

Enrolment: The MSc fellow will be enrolled at the NM-AIST, SUA, Tanzania or at an Ivorian university.

Project Description: The process that delivers food from the farm to the plate has changed drastically over the past half century. Food contamination that occurs in one place may affect the health of consumers living on the other side of the planet. This means that everyone along the production chain, from producer to consumer, must follow safe food handling practices (WHO, 2015).

NCDs, mainly represented by cardiovascular diseases (CVD), diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer have emerged relatively unnoticed in most African countries in recent years and are now representing a major health concern. Red meat in the diet may be unprocessed or processed by methods other than freezing (e.g. salting, smoking, marinating or air-drying). Common examples are ham, bacon, sausages, salami, corned beef and tinned meat. On a global level, epidemiological studies have implicated possible associations between eating too much red meat (i.e.

both processed and unprocessed) and weight gain, as well as an increased risk in various chronic diseases including CVDs, type 2 diabetes and colorectal cancer. A nutritional transition due to urbanization in Africa and pastoralist behaviour of eating mainly meat-based foods put the African urban and rural population at high risk for NCDs. However, knowledge gaps remain regarding the established risk factors related to eating unprocessed and processed meat and meat products in African settings and the intervention to mitigate the risk factors.

In this project we will investigate the risk factors for, and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, and develop intervention packages for mitigating the risk factors in a defined urban population in Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire in rural ethnic groups that differ according to the degree of traditional livestock-keeping: (a) Maasai (Tanzania) and Fulani (Côte d'Ivoire) that traditionally practice pastoralism.

Mentorship Team: Sayoki G. Mfinanga and Esther Ngadaya (NIMR); Bassirou Bonfoh (CSRS); Pammla Petrucka, Joram Buza, and Neeama Kassim (NM-AIST); Kaushik Ramaiya, (MUHAS); Julius Mwaisalage (Ocean Road Cancer Institute Dar Es Salaam)

Qualifications: The candidate must be a citizen of an African country. Candidates from any discipline contributing to One Health (e.g. public health, veterinary and animal sciences, social sciences, geography, epidemiology and health economics) will be considered. Candidates with an MSc degree in a relevant field are preferred.

Duration and Training: The fellowship is funded for a maximum of 30 months. Training will be provided primarily in Tanzania, with further opportunities within the Afrique One-ASPIRE consortium and with supervisory partners in the UK and US, depending on needs and internal budget considerations.

For more information, contact the co-leads:

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