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Topic: The impact of food systems on nutrition, diet and health

Title: Food (R)evolution: contemporary perspectives on the African food system

Presentation Type: Workshop

Topic:

The impact of food systems on livelihoods, nutrition, diet and health

Title:

Food (R)evolution: contemporary perspectives on the African food system

Type of session:

An experiential workshop drawing on visual texts and facilitated discussion

Contributor details

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Purpose (100 words):

The purpose of the workshop is to use photographs to elicit knowledge and to co-generate deeper understanding about the challenges facing the African food system and draw out responses about ways to think about these.

The workshop will centre on a selection of large, high-resolution photos as visual texts. An experienced facilitator will work with the exhibition's curators to enable the dialogue. Participants will be drawn from across the congress with specific intention to include those from the African continent.

Motivation (500 words):

The images pay tribute to the period of hyper-evolution in which the African continent and its food system currently finds itself as well as the positive, revolutionary, potential of this position. This visual journey across the food system uses the diets of day-to-day citizens from all walks of life as a broad text interspersed with specific themes. These focused themes are what food costs for families and what people eat in South Africa, nutrition and the African child, the African city, and politics, power, climate change and the changing landscape of African agriculture.

The Sustainability Institute Food Systems Center has curated a mixed media exhibition exploring contemporary perspectives on the African food system titled Food (R)evolutions. The exhibition features award-winning artists from across the world and the original exhibition was launched in Ethiopia in July 2015. A selection of these photos will be portrayed.

The overall objective is to facilitate understanding of the complexities of Africa's food system and to enable a shared conversation on these issues.

Workshop facilitation plan:

The workshop will start with a short provocation about the African food system and a short description of the Food (R)evolution exhibition, including an outline of its development and intention. Participants will then be invited to walk amongst the exhibit. The facilitators will engage participants in dialogue focused on what has emerged in terms of impressions, reactions and responses. At the close a short survey will be conducted to enable a detailed appraisal of the session to emerge.

Introduction: 10 minutes

Exhibition walk: 45 minutes

Group discussions: 30 minutes

Concluding remarks and evaluation: 5 minutes

A foreseen outcome of the session is a report exploring how visual images as boundary objects can elicit detailed understanding and response about the African food system. This would contribute to a full length article subsequent to the congress that would combine with other presentation of the exhibition and submitted for publication.

Disclosure of conflict of interest:

None of the contributors have any potential conflicts of interest.