

Perceived Solutions to Constraints to Small-scale Food Vending in a Growing Town in Limpopo Province of South Africa

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KEYWORDS Food Vendors. Informal Sector. Perceptions. Prospects. Rural Livelihoods

ABSTRACT The purpose of this study was to identify the constraints small-scale food vendors in Thohoyandou town of Thulamela Municipality in South Africa faced. A mixed qualitative and quantitative research approach was used. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions were carried out in phase 1 of the study. Using the data collected in this phase, a structured questionnaire was developed and administered to 126 food vendors. Small-scale food vendors faced a wide range of challenges that included infrastructure and basic services, legal and policy frameworks. It was suggested that the constraint, could be solved in the following ways: "municipal officials must desist from forcing vendors from stalls," "provision of sanitation facilities," "allocating selling stalls," and "formalising food vending through issuing operator licences." Furthermore, the need for Thulamela Municipality to consider and adopt various ways of supporting small-scale food vending as part of its overall local economic development strategy was emphasised.