

Contribution of Small-scale Food Vending to Rural Livelihoods in Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province, South Africa

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ABSTRACT In South Africa, information on the contribution of small-scale food vending to the livelihoods of food vendors is inadequate and unreliable. The purpose of this study was to assess the contribution of small-scale food vending to the livelihoods of those involved in it. A mix of qualitative and quantitative design was used in this study. Qualitative data was collected through key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Quantitative data was collected using a questionnaire, which was administered face-to-face with 126 food vendors. The results affirmed that small-scale food vending enhanced socio-economic development, family support and overall community development. It was recommended that the Thulamela Municipality should include possible ways of supporting small-scale food vending as part of its local economic development strategy. However, recognition of food vending as an economic opportunity for a key sector in household, community and municipal development must precede this.