## Food Safety Characterization of Food Enterprises for Inclusive Nutrition Sensitive Value Chain Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. A Case Study of the Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato Value Chain in Kenya

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#### Abstract

Food safety receives minimal attention and only captures national attention during foodborne disease outbreaks. The objective of this study was to explore the knowledge, attitudes and practices on food safety aspects related to Orange Fleshed Sweet potato (OFSP) along the food value chain in Kenya. A cross-sectional study was designed and investigated food safety knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) among the OFSP processors, traders, and consumers of street foods in Kenya. A socio-demographic questionnaire and KAP questionnaire were used as data collection instruments. The study included OFSP traders OFSP puree processors, large retailer's bakeries and consumers in Nairobi. The OFSP traders included were the suppliers of OFSP in the markets around Nairobi city. The OFSP consumers included the people who buy cooked OFSP from the street vendors in Nairobi city. Descriptive statistics such as percentage means and standard deviation were used to summarize the sociodemographic data and the knowledge, attitude, practices, and overall KAP. Pearson's correlation was used to establish an association of the three study components. Adjusted linear regression was used to assess the effect of food safety on knowledge, attitude, and practices. Knowledgeable, positive attitude and good practice on food safety were considered for mean scores above 80%. Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05. The findings from the OFSP processors revealed a mean percentage score for knowledge, attitude, practices at 70.7%, 93.5%, and 90%, respectively, with an overall mean score of 84.6%. Lower education level was statistically significantly associated with food safety practices at p = 0.002. Adjusted linear regression found a significant effect of food safety on knowledge at p < 0.001. Adjusted multiple regression revealed that age was statistically significantly associated with food safety knowledge, and food safety attitude (both at p < 0.001). Education level was significantly associated with food safety practices (p<0.001). Findings from OFSP traders revealed mean percentage scores for knowledge, attitude, practices at 63.1%, 74.4%, and 64.7%, respectively, with an overall mean score of 67.4%. Pearson's correlation analysis revealed a strong positive correlation between food safety attitude and food safety practice p= 0.015. Similarly, a strong positive correlation between food safety practice and food safety knowledge was noted (p <0.001). Adjusted linear regression found that Food safety practice was significantly impacted by both knowledge and attitude R2=0.578 F=49.6 p=0.000. Results from OFSP consumers revealed mean percentage scores for knowledge, attitude, practices at 66.2%, 87.3%, and 91.6%, respectively with an overall mean score of 81.7%. Lower education level was statistically significantly associated with inappropriate practices among OFSP consumers p = 0.040. Pearson's correlation analysis revealed a week positive correlation between food safety knowledge attitude and practice. : This study reveals a gap in the area of food safety knowledge, attitude, and practice along the OFSP value chain. The study highlights the need for policymakers to address and review the knowledge, attitude, and practices in the food industry, to raise food safety awareness campaigns and organize more targeted training along the food chains to reduce the foodborne disease burden.

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#### 1. Introduction

Worldwide, foodborne illnesses are a growing and significant public health problem (Hossen et al., 2021). It presents a major concern on consumers and presents a barrier to smallholder farmers who wish to sell products in high-value domestic markets (Grace, 2015). An estimate of 600 million people, in the world, fall ill after eating contaminated food, and 420 000 die every year, resulting in the loss of 33 million healthy life years (DALYs) (Todd, 2020); (WHO, 2015). In developing countries, the estimated burden of foodborne diseases is conservative and likely under-estimated (Yen et al., 2018). In Africa a conservative estimates of 137,000 deaths

have been recorded and 91 million acute illnesses annually from foodborne hazards, with the heaviest burden of disease falling on children under five years of age (GFSP, 2019). In Kenya, foodborne diseases remain a problem, where approximately 70% of all episodes of diarrhea are attributable to ingestion of contaminated food and water (Oloo, 2011). Food safety usually receives minimal policy attention In many developing countries, and only captures national attention during foodborne disease outbreaks and other crises (WHO, 2015). Many countries have weak food safety systems in infrastructure, trained human resources, food safety culture, and enforceable regulations (Oloo, 2011). The continents of Africa, specifically Sub-Saharan Africa have been believed to have the highest rates of incidence and mortality associated with foodborne diseases (GFSP, 2019); (Le Nguyen et al., 2018). Through the food chain, food products may encounter many health hazards during their journey, right from the farm where they are grown, through the suppliers to processing to the consumers (Bendekovic et al., 2018). Foodborne hazards are biological, chemical, and physical contaminants with the potential to cause harm to human health, all of which have a significant interference to the development of socioeconomy worldwide (Le Nguyen et al., 2018). Biological hazards include viruses, bacteria, and parasites; chemical hazards include pollutants, heavy metals, and other toxins; physical includes objects that may cause harm include glass shards and nails (Grace, 2015). Unhygienic practices during food preparation, handling, and storage create conditions that allow the proliferation and transmission of disease-causing organisms such as bacteria, viruses, and other foodborne pathogens (Jubayer et al., 2020). Unsafe food undermines food and nutritional security, human development, the broader food economy, and international trade (WHO, 2015).

Worldwide, it is recognized that the application of the HACCP principles to food production and preparation has clear benefits and the potential of enhancing food safety and preventing many cases of foodborne diseases (WHO, 1999). Nevertheless, despite wide dissemination and support of these principles, successful HACCP implementation has been limited (Marais et al., 2007). Growing food in chemically contaminated soils can result in the uptake of chemicals. In Kenya, processed foods constitute 75% of the diets in the urban and 25% of the diets in the rural areas, the informal sector in the food industry comprises small and medium-sized enterprises and food vendors, who supply at least 80% of the food products to domestic markets, under rudimentary hygiene controls (Oloo, 2011). Farmers must apply Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Sellers of commodities/raw materials at the local or international level must apply Good Distribution Practices (GDP), and manufacturers must apply Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). These practices are generally Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) fundamental to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) standards (WHO, 1999). Informal food markets in developing countries has been a significant challenge to the application of HACCP; moreover, there is minimal awareness and application of basic hygiene practices among food handlers and consumers (Oloo, 2011). Knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) about food safety are essential because inadequate knowledge, poor attitude, and poor sanitation practices severely endanger food safety applications in food value chain (WHO, 2015). Therefore, with a backdrop of this understanding, this paper aims to explore about food safety knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) among OFSP farmers, traders, processors, and consumers using a case study of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes along the food vale chai in Kenya

#### 2.2. Methods

#### 2.1 Study design and area

This descriptive cross-sectional study investigated the knowledge attitude and practice (KAP) among the Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP) Processors, traders, and consumers in Kenya. Included in the study were the OFSP processors in Naivas supermarket bakeries and puree processors in Organi limited in Bungoma. OFSP traders involved the distributers of OFSP in the market around Nairobi city county in Muthuruwa, Malikiti, Kangemi, and Makina, Kibera markets in Kibera. The OFSP consumer involved the consumers who buy OFSP from the street vendors in Nairobi city around Kibera, Kenyata market, and Makina. This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted during February and March 2021. The sampling method was purposive convenience sampling, where 32 OFSP processors, 75 OFSP traders, and 50 OFSP consumers were recruited in the study.

#### 2.2 Data collections:

By mean of the questionnaire administered interviews, the data was collected; the first part of the questionnaire was the Socio-demographics questionnaire in which the participants included the OFSP traders, OFSP processors, and OFSP consumers who provided data on socio-demographic characteristics, including age, gender, education level, occupation, and occupation. The KAP questionnaire:- The knowledge, attitude, and practice of OFSP traders, processors and consumers were assessed using structured KAP questionnaire designed based on HACCP Principles developed on previous similar studies by (Malavi 2017); (Jubayer et al., 2020); (Hossen et al., 2021); (Fariba et al., 2018). The KAP questionnaire was divided into three sections: the knowledge, attitude and practice to understand food safety awareness and compliance of good practices in processing distribution and consumption. The first section covered food safety knowledge on personal hygiene and foodborne illnesses, food

contamination. The response choices were Yes, No, and Do not Know; the second part of the question covered food safety attitude among OFSP processors, traders, and consumers attitude towards food safety on a 5-point Likert-type scale with options being Strongly agree, Agree, Do not Know, Disagree and Strongly Disagree. The third section of the questionnaire covered the food safety practice among OFSP processors, traders, and consumers with Always, Sometimes, Rarely, and Never. All questionnaires were administered in face-to-face interviews; and the respondents were explained that and the information was for research purposes, and each respondent signed a consent form prior to participating.

## 2.3 Data analysis

The data collected were checked for completeness, then data entry and cleaning were done. The data were analyzed using SPSS for Windows version 22. Descriptive statistics such as percentage means and standard deviation were used to summarize the socio-demographic data. For food safety knowledge, responses were categorized as either knowledgeable or not knowledgeable. Each correct answer was awarded one point, while the incorrect response was awarded zero points. In the food safety attitude section, responses were categorized as positive and negative attitudes. Each positive attitude response was awarded one point and zero points for a negative attitude. Similarly, for practice section was categorized as appropriate hygiene practice and inappropriate hygiene practice; one point was awarded for each appropriate hygiene practice while unhygienic practice was not awarded any point. All correct scores for food safety knowledge, attitude, and practices for each respondent were summed up and calculated as a percentage. Frequencies and descriptive statistics were used to summarize scores for each question, knowledge, attitude, practices, and overall KAP. The mean scores for knowledge, attitude, and practices among respondents in different age groups, education level, and occupation were compared by one-way ANOVA. Pearson's correlation was used to establish an association of the three study components (KAP). Adjusted linear regression was used to assess the effect of food safety knowledge and attitude on practices. Multiple regressions were used to assess the effect of socio-demographic factors on food safety knowledge, attitude, and practices. Knowledgeable, positive attitude and good practice on food safety were considered for mean scores above 80%. Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.

#### 3. Results:

#### 3.1 KAP food safety among OFSP processors

#### 3.1.1 Sociodemographic characteristics

Out of 32 respondents recruited in the study, 50% were male, while 50% were female. About 78% of all OFSP processors were within the age group 25 years and above. The majority of the respondents (43.8% and 46.9%) had attained secondary education 43.8%, and 46.9% tertiary education, only 9.4% had primary education. About 43.8% of OFSP processors were working as full-time waged employees in the processing industry. See Table 1.

Social demograph	nic	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Variables			
Gender	Male	16	50.0
	Female	16	50.0
Age (Years)	18-24	7	21.9
	25-29	13	40.6
	30-34	7	21.9
	35-39	2	6.3
	40 and above	3	9.4
Education level	Primary	3	9.4
	Secondary	14	43.8
	Tertiary	15	46.9
Main occupation	Farmer	6	18.8
	Full time waged employed	14	43.8
	Part time wage employed	8	25.0
	Self employed	1	3.1
	Others	3	9.4

Table 1: Social demographic characteristics of OFSP processors (N=	=32	)
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## 3.1.2 Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and (KAP) overall, among OFSP processors

The results revealed that OFSP processors had a mean percentage score for knowledge, attitude, practices at 70.7%, 93.5%, and 90%, respectively, with an overall mean score of 84.6%. The mean percentage score on Knowledge was below the cut-off of 80% indicating need to improve knowledge among the processors. The food safety attitude of the OFSP was excellent at 93.5% and food safety practices were very good at 84.6%. The mean percentage scores for knowledge, attitude, and practice among OFSP processors and overall KAP see figure 1.



Figure 1: The mean percentage scores for knowledge, attitude, practice among OFSP processors and overall KAP

**3.1.3 Association between sociodemographic characteristics and overall KAP among OFSP processors** When socio-demographic characteristics were compared with KAP overall, the only statistically significant factor associated with food safety KAP overall was the education which was statistically significantly associated with food safety KAP p = 0.002. Other factors were not significantly associated with KAP overall. See table 2. **Table 2: Mean scores: Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Overall KAP of OFSP processors as per demographic characteristics by ANOVA and t-Test** 

Demographic variable		N	Knowledge		Attitude		Practices		
			Mean±SD	p- value	Mean±SD	p- value	Mean±SD	p- value	
Gender	Male	16	70.5±8.3	1.00	92.9±10.7	0.693	89.1±6.3	0.495	
	Female	16	70.5±6.9		94.1±6.3		90.8±7.2		
Age (Years)	18-24	7	70.2±6.4		94.2±1.7		92.3±2.5		
	25-29	13	70.1±7.0		95.3±6.8	0.391	88.2±8.6		
	30-34	7	73.7±11.0	0.838	88.5±14.7		90.4±6.5	0.779	
	35-39	2	$68.0 \pm 5.6$		$100.0\pm0$		90.0±4.7		
	40+	3	69. ±6.1		93.5±8.7		91.1±7.7		
Education level	Primary	3	78±2.3		97.7±3.8		100.0±0.0		
	Secondary	14	71.4±4.9	0.093	93.8±11.5	0.634	86.6±6.1	0.002	
	Tertiary	15	68.5±9.1		92±6.1		91.4±6.0		
Main Occupation	Farmer	6	71.3±6.4		95.5±5.4		91.1±10.0		
1	Full time				90.0±11.0		88.1±5.9		
	wage employed Part time	14	68.2±5.9		96.6±5.0		92.5±6.6	0.639	
	wage employed	8	73.0±10.1						
	Self employed	1	72.0		100.0±0		93.3		
	Others	3	74.6±10.0		95.5±7.7		88.9±3.8		
Mean			71.3±2.6		94.6±3.2		90.9±3.1		85.6±12.4

3.1.4 Food Safety Knowledge among OFSP Processors

The majority of the processors, 90.6%, were knowledgeable about OFSP as the products with high vitamin A content. They knew that consuming orange-fleshed sweet potatoes can reduce nutritional deficiencies. All processors 100%, knew that food safety is an important aspect in producing quality and nutritious food, and Hygiene rules in the processing is everyone's responsibilities. However, 34.4% of the processors were did not know that microbes are in the skin, nose, and mouth of healthy food handlers. About 68% of the respondents did not know that working without protective clothing is not bad and is sometimes allowed in a food factory. About 84.4% did not know that cleaning chemicals and food ingredients should not be kept together in one store. See table 3.

	Food Safety questions	With	Without
		Knowledge	Knowledge
		(%)	(%)
1	Orange fleshed sweet potatoes are one of product with high vitamin A content	90.6	9.4
2	Consuming orange fleshed sweet potatoes can reduce nutritional deficiencies	90.6	9.4
	in children and old people		
3	Food safety is very important aspect in producing quality and nutritious food	100.0	0
4	Hygiene rules in processing are everyone's responsibilities	100.0	0
5	Food borne diseases are transmitted by food / water contamination	93.8	6.3
6	Coughing and sneezing can cause food contamination	96.9	3.1
7	Droppings, torn packages/gnawed packages indicate pest infestation	84.4	15.6
8	During infectious disease of the skin, it is necessary to take leave from work	81.3	18.7
9	Only sick people carry bacteria which causes food poisoning	81.3	18.7
10	Microbes are in the skin, nose and mouth of healthy food handlers	65.6	34.4
11	Typhoid fever can be transmitted by food	78.1	21.9
12	Food production staff should have health check-ups every two years	53.1	46.9
13	Washing hands before work reduces the risks of food contamination	100.0	0
14	Working without protective clothing is sometimes allowed in a food factory	31.1	68.8
15	Using gloves while handling food reduces the risk of food contamination	90.6	9.4
16	Eating and drinking in the work place increases the risk of food contamination	78.1	21.9
17	Proper cleaning and sanitization of equipment reduces the risks of food	100.0	0.0
	contamination		
18	Working with jewelry is allowed in processing plant	3.1	96.9
19	Clean is the same as sanitize	34.4	65.6
20	Cleaning chemicals and food ingredients should be kept together in one store	15.6	84.4
21	Cleaning of equipment should always be done at the end of processing	78.1	21.9
22	Contaminated foods can be detected by changes in color, odor or taste	87.5	12.5
23	Raw food and processed food should be kept separate	90.6	9.4
24	Temperature control is important in storage and processing of safe foods	96.9	3.1

#### Table 3: Food Safety Knowledge responses by OFSP Processors (N=32)

### 3.1.5 Food Safety attitude among OFSP Processors

Generally, most OFSP processors had a positive attitude toward food safety. All processors 100% are optimistic that safe food handling is their job responsibility and are optimistic that learning more about food safety is important to them. However, 25% of the processors are believe that well-processed foods are free from contamination, and 25.5% of the respondents believe that it is not necessary to have medical examinations because they are healthy. See table 4.

## Table 4.Food Safety Attitude responses by OFSP Processors (N=32)

	Statement on Food Safety Attitude	Positive	Negative
		Attitude (%)	Attitude (%)
1	Safe food handling is my job responsibilities	100.0	0.0
2	Learning more about food safety is important to me	100.0	0.0
3	I believe that how i handle food relates to food safety	96.9	3.1
4	Well processed foods are free from contamination	75.0	25.0
5	Proper hand washing can prevent food-borne diseases	93.8	6.3
6	Raw and processed food should be stored separately	100.0	0.0
7	It is necessary to check the temperature of refrigerators/freezers periodically	96.9	3.1
8	The health status of workers should be evaluated before employment	96.9	3.1
9	Wearing a mask is an important practice to reduce the risks of food contamination	87.5	12.5
10	Wearing gloves is an important practice to reduce the risk of food contamination	96.9	3.1
11	Food handlers who have abrasions or cuts on their hands should not touch	96.9	3.1
	food without gloves		
12	It is unnecessary to have medical examination because am healthy	75.0	25.5
13	You can keep working with exposed body cut or hand injury	96.9	3.1
14	PPE / Apron can be used to clean dirty hands	90.6	9.4
15	I can chew / smoke while working	100.0	0

## 3.1.6 Food Safety practice among OFSP Processors

Results reveal that OFSP processors understand the principles of good manufacturing practice. All OFSP Processors 100% practice washing hands before and after work and they use some kind of detergents such as liquid soap to wash hands, most of them they use gloves when touching the food and clean their working area before preparation. However, about 30% of the processors do not wash their hands after using gloves. The implication of this may lead to cross contaminations to food. About 15.6% of the processors do not check the temperature of the insides of your food product. See table 5.

#### Table 5: Frequency of scores on Food safety Practices

	Food safety Practices questions	Appropriate practice	Inappropriate practice
		(%)	(%)
1	Do you wash your hand before / after working	100.0	0.0
2	Do you use bar or liquid soap to wash hands	100.0	0.0
3	Do you dry your hands with a disposable / paper towel	96.9	3.1
4	Do you wear hats or headgear	90.6	9.4
5	Do you check the temperature of insides of your food	84.4	15.6
6	Do you wash your hands with soap after visiting the	100.0	0.0
	washrooms		
7	Do you use gloves when you touch or distribute	100.0	0.0
	unwrapped foods		
8	Do you wash your hands before wearing gloves	93.8	6.3
9	Do you wash your hands after using gloves	78.1	21.9
10	Do you wear nail polish when handling food	87.5	12.5
11	Do you wear an apron while working	93.8	6.3
12	Do you clean your working area before food	100.0	0.0
	preparation		
13	Do you check shelf life of foods / ingredients at the	100.0	0.0
	time of delivery		
14	Do you check the packing integrity of foods at the time	100.0	0.0
	of dispatch / delivery		
15	Do you properly clean the food storage area before	100.0	0.0
	storing new products		

## 3.1.7 The correlation among Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of OFSP Processors

The result reveals a weak positive correlation between food safety knowledge and attitude, there was a weak correlation between Attitude and practice, and a weak correlation between practices and knowledge. See table 6. Table 6: Correlation among Knowledge Attitude and Practices of OFSP Processors

Table 0. Correlation among Knowledge, Attitude and Fractices of Orist Trocessors									
Level	Pearson correlation (r)	p-values							
Knowledge - Attitude	0.304	0.091							
Attitude – Practice	0.134	0.134							
Practices - Knowledge	0.269	0.137							

\*Correlation significant at 0.05 level (2 tailed) but none is significant p>0.05

Adjusted linear regression assessed the effect of food safety knowledge and attitude on food safety practices; results revealed a significant association between Knowledge and practice p < 0.001. There was no significant effect on food safety attitude and practice. See table 7.

Table	7:	Adjusted	linear	regression	assessing	the	effect	of	food	safety	knowledge	and	attitude	on	food
safety	pra	actices													

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	p-value
Knowledge	0.137	0.101	0.000*
Attitude	0.044	0.141	0.191
		R <sup>2=</sup> 0.062, F=1.178, p=0.322	

\*Variables significant at 0.05 (2 tailed)

Moreover, adjusted multiple regression assessed the effect of age and education level on food safety knowledge, attitude and practices, results revealed that Age was statistically significantly associated with food safety knowledge p<0.001, and food safety attitude p <0.001. Education level was significantly associated with food safety practices p<0.001. See table 8.

Table	8:	Adjusted	multiple	regression	assessing	the	effect	of	age	and	education	level	on	safety	on
knowl	edg	e, attitude	and prace	tices	_				-					-	

	Food safety	knowledge		Food Safety	<b>Attitud</b>	e	Food Safety Practices		
Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	p-	Coefficient	Std.	p-	Coefficient	Std.	p-
			value		Error	value		Error	value
Age	0.001	0.129	0.00	0.112	0.534	0.00	0.131	0.418	0.942
Education	0.368	0.486	0.657	0.543	0.123	0.540	0.577	0.230	0.001
level									
		R <sup>2=</sup> 0.107,F=4.7		R <sup>2=</sup> 0.006,			R <sup>2</sup> =0.033		
		p=0.00		F=0.082			F=0.005		
				P=0.371			P=0.982		

#### **3.2 Orange Fleshed Sweet potato (OFSP) Traders in Nairobi Kenya 3.2.1 Social Demographic Characteristics**

A total of 75 sweet potato traders were recruited in the study, about 52% were males, and 48 % were females, with 14.7% OFSP respondents with an age range between 18-24 14.7% and 48% had an age range between 25-34 and the rest had an age range between 35- 54. Only 26.7% had a primary level education, but the rest had secondary level 62.7% and tertiary level 10.7%. The main occupation was the business of selling potatoes. See table 9.

 Table 9: Social Demographic Characteristics of OFSP Traders(N=75)

Social demographic Variables		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Males	39	52.0
	Females	36	48
Age (Years)	18-24	11	14.7
	25-34	36	48.0
	35-44	19	25.3
	45-54	9	12.0
Education level	Primary	20	26.7
	Secondary	47	62.7
	Tertiary	8	10.7
Main occupation			
	Self employed	75	100.0

## 3.2.2 Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) overall, among OFSP Traders

This study revealed a mean percentage scores OFSP food safety of knowledge at 63.1%, which is very low; this could be contributed by many factors, including lack of awareness about food safety transportation regulation and lack of enforcement of the laws available transportation. About 74.4% of OFSP traders had a positive food safety attitude which is below the cut-off point. The mean percentage scores of food safety KAP among OFSP traders was 67.4, which is below the cut-off point of 80% mean score, these results reveal a need to enforce KAP among the traders to improve food safety practices. The mean percentage scores For Safe Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of OFSP Traders See figure 2.



Figure 2: Mean percentage scores For Safe Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of OFSP Traders

3.2.3 Association between sociodemographic characteristics and Food safety KAP among OFSP traders

Socio-demographic characteristics were compared with the OFSP traders overall food safety KAP; results reveled that there was statistically significant association between education and food safety KAP p = 0.049, other demographic factors did not have any statistically significant association with food safety KAP overall. See table 10.

Table 10: Means Scores: Food Safety	Knowledge, Attitu	de, Practices an	nd Overall KAP	of OFSP	Traders
as per demographic characteristics by	<b>ANOVA and Test</b>				

Demographic variable		N	Knowledge	9	Attitude		Practices	
			Mean±SD	p-	Mean±SD	p-	Mean±SD	p-
				value		value		value
Gender	Males	39	64.1±14.8	0.530	75.6±21.4	0.631	67.8±18.0	0.235
	Females	36	61.9±14.7		73.1±23.4		62.0±18.3	
Age (Years)	18-24	11	60.9±13.7		76.5±30.7		67.5±22.2	
	25-34	36	64.8±16.0	0.581	77.3±18.1	0.584	65.9±20.3	0.793
	35-44	19	59.7±13.2		71.1±23.5		62.0±13.4	
	45-54	9	65.5±13.8		67.6±24.8		61.6±14.7	
Education								
level								
Primary		20	61.0±15.8		79.5±24.5		60.9±16.7	
Secondary		47	61.9±13.7	0.049	71.9±21.7	0.438	64.3±18.0	0.146
Tertiary		8	75.0±14.7		76.0±19.6		75.9±20.9	
Mean			63.8±4.6		74.3±3.7		65.3±4.7	

3.2.4 Food Safety Knowledge among OFSP Traders in Nairobi Kenya

The results reveal that OFSP traders did not have sufficient knowledge about transportation. Although about 85.3% of OFSP traders know the importance of food safety and have heard about food bone illnesses, a high percent 37.3% of OFSP traders did not know what causes foodborne illnesses. About 45% of OFSP did not know any transport regulations, and 52% do not follow any transportation regulations available. About 70% of the traders do not control temperature while transporting their products. See table11.

 Table 11: Food safety knowledge responses by OFSP Traders (N=75)

	Food Safety Questions	With	Without
		Knowledge	Knowledge
		(%)	(%)
1	Do you know/have you heard about food safety?	84.0	16.0
2	Do you know about food bone/food poisoning?	85.3	14.7
3	Do you know what causes food bone illness/food poisoning?	62.7	37.3
4	Do you have any challenges in transporting this product OFSP	74.7	25.3
5	Do you have transport regulations?	54.7	45.3
6	Do you follow those regulations?	48.0	52.0
7	Do you shelter your product OFSP when transporting?	66.7	33.3
8	Do you clean your trucks and vehicles before and after loading?	58.7	41.3
9	Do you have any storage facilities?	49.3	50.7
10	Are your storage facilities cleaned and maintained?	56.0	44.0
11	Do you have policy/procedures which specify handling/disposition of	53.3	46.7
	products?		
12	Do you control temperature while transporting your product?	29.3	70.7
13	Do you maintain suitable temperature in your storage facilities?	26.7	73.3
14	Do you apply hygiene practices when transporting your product?	77.3	22.7
15	Do you accept products that are exposed to contamination?	78.7	21.3
16	Do you have food disposal place for rotten food products?	81.3	18.7
17	Do you practice hygiene during packing the food product?	78.7	21.3
18	Do you use First in First out method of inventory?	65.3	34.7
19	Do you look for damaged and spoiled products?	94.7	5.3
20	Do you discard all expired food?	93.3	6.7

## 3.2.5 Food Safety attitude responses among OFSP traders in Nairobi Kenya

About 96% of OFSP traders have a positive attitude about food safety and know that safe product handling will prevent food contamination. However, about half of OFSP traders 49.3% did not believe that washing hands before and after handling products can prevent cross-contamination. Also, about 29% of the OFSP traders did not believe that produce need be shielded or covered during transportation to prevent products from

#### contamination. See table12.

Table 12: Table 4.Food Safety Attitude responses by OFSP Processors (N=75)

	Statement on Food Safety Attitude	Positive Attitude (%)	Negative Attitude (%)
1	Safe product handling will prevent contamination of food,	96.0	4.0
2	Produce must be shielded from contaminants e.g., dust, smoke etc.	70.7	29.3
3	Hygiene practices is important, and it is my responsibility	88.0	12.0
4	Food hygiene can prevent food bone disease	86.7	13.3
5	Washing hands before and after handling products can prevent cross contamination	50.7	49.3
6	Washing hand after visiting the toilet will prevent contamination of food.	66.7	33.3
7	Cleaning trucks and containers protects the product from contamination	76.0	24.0
8	Proper packaging of the product will protect the quality of the product.	61.3	38.7
9	Appearance of product shows its quality	65.3	34.7
10	Drivers and persons loading and unloading containers with produce should maintain good hygiene and be in good health.	70.7	29.3
11	Load must be covered to protect from rain, sun and dust and sources of contamination during transport	74.7	25.3
12	Load must be covered to protect from rain, sun and Dust During transport	86.7	13.3

## 3.2.6 Food Safety practices among OFSP traders in Nairobi Kenya

Most OFSP traders, 66.7%, do not check temperature and humidity daily during transportation. About 68% of OFSP did control pests in their stores, and about 45% did not clean ether trucks and containers after and before transportation. The result reveals that most traders do not follow good distribution practice which may contribute to food contamination. See table 13.

#### Table 13: Frequency of scores on Food safety practices among OFSP traders

	Food Safety Practices Questions	Appropriate practice (%)	Inappropriate practice (%)
1	Do you wash hands before handling products	85.3	14.7
2	Do you observe good hygiene practices	96.0	4.0
3	Do you the trucks and containers cleaned after and before transporting	54.7	45.3
4	Temperatures in transporting track is checked	22.7	77.3
5	Do you observe personal hygiene when handling products	94.6	5.4
6	Do you inspect food in stock	90.7	9.3
7	Do you check temperature and humidity daily	33.3	66.7
8	Do you discard all expired food	93.3	6.7
9	Do you store products above the ground	77.0	23.0
10	Is your storage facility cleaned and maintained	67.6	32.4
11	Are	32.0	68.0
12	Do you record harvests date's	38.7	61.3
13	Do you record type and amount of products loaded	72.0	28.0
14	Do you record person driving the transport vehicles	48.0	52.0

#### 3.2.7 Correlation between Knowledge, Attitude and practices of OFSP traders

The correlation between Food safety knowledge attitude and practice was determined in this study. Pearson's correlation analysis revealed a strong positive correlation between food safety attitude and food safety practice p=0.015. Similarly existed a strong positive correlation between food safety practice and food safety knowledge p < 0.001. See table 14.

Table 14:	Correlation	between I	Knowledge.	Attitude and	practices o	f OFSP	traders
					P		

Level	Pearson correlation (r)	p-values
Knowledge - Attitude	0.087	0.887
Attitude – practice	0.286	0.015*
practices - Knowledge	0.771	0.000*

\*Correlation significant at 0.05 level (2 tailed)

#### 3.2.8 Effect of food safety knowledge and attitude on food safety practices

Adjusted linear regression was used to assess the effect of food safety knowledge and attitude on food safety practices. Results revealed that food safety practice was significantly impacted by both knowledge and attitude

## R2=0.578 F=49.6 p=0.000. See table 15.

Table 15: Adjusted linear regression assessing the effect of food safety knowledge and attitude on food safety practices

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	p-value
Knowledge	0.713	0.067	0.000
Attitude	0.291	0.073	0.000
		R <sup>2</sup> =0.578 F=49.6 p=0.000	

Variables significant at 0.05 (2 tailed)

#### 3.3 Orange Fleshed Sweet potato (OFSP) Street Food Consumers in Nairobi Kenya

#### 3.3.1 Social demographic characteristics:

The demographic characteristics of the respondents were analyzed. Out of 50 OFSP Street food consumers were recruited in the study, of which 40% were male, while 60% were female, with an age range spread between 13 to 65 years, with the majority 40% street OFSP consumers being between ages range of 25-34 years. About 30% of the respondents had primary education, and most respondents (6% attained secondary and 24%) tertiary education. See table 16.

Table 16: Social Demographi	Characteristics of OFSP Stre	et Food Consumers (N=50)
Tuble Tot Social Demographi		

Social demographic Variables		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Males	20	40.0
	Females	30	60.0
Age (Years)	13-17	1	2.0
	18-24	12	24.0
	25-34	20	40.0
	35-44	6	12.0
	45-54	7	14.0
	55-64	3	6.0
	65Years+	1	2.0
Education level	Primary	15	30.0
	Secondary	23	46.0
	Tertiary	12	24.0
Main occupation	Unemployed	5	10.0
	Full time employed	9	18.0
	Part time employed	4	8.0
	Self employed	25	50
	Others	7	14.0

**3.3.2 Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) overall, among OFSP street food consumers** The results reveal a mean percentage scores OFSP food safety consumers knowledge at 66.2%, which is below the cut-off point most street consumers did not have sufficient knowledge about food safety hygiene practices which could lead to serious foodborne illnesses. The mean percentage scores OFSP among OFSP Street consumers seem to be very positive at 87.3%, and the food safety practices among OFSP consumers seem to be appropriate 91.6%. The overall food safety knowledge, attitude and practice among OFSP street consumers were very good. The mean percentage scores For Safe Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of OFSP Street Consumers See figure 3.



Figure 3: Mean percentage scores For Safe Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude and Practice among OFSP street consumers

# 3.3.3 Association between sociodemographic characteristics and Food safety KAP among OFSP street consumers

Socio-demographic characteristics were compared with food safety KAP overall; the results revealed that lower

education level, was statistically significantly associated with inappropriate practices among OFSP street consumers p = 0.040. Other socio-demographic characteristics factors were not statistically significantly associated with food safety KAP overall among OFSP street consumers. See table 17.

Table 17: Means Scores: Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Overall KAP of OFSP Street Food Consumers as per demographic characteristics by ANOVA and Test

Demographic variable		N	Knowledge		Attitude		Practices		Overall KAP
			Mean±SD	p-	Mean±SD	p-	Mean±SD	p-	Mean±SD
				value		value		value	
Gender	Males	20	63.7±16.1	0.313	89.3±7.9	0.239	92.6±7.2	0.566	81.6±15.8
	Females	30	67.8±11.7		$86.0{\pm}10.6$		91.0±11.4		81.7±12.3
Age (Years)	13-17	1	70.0		66.6		84.6		73.7±9.5
	18-24	12	63.7±18.3		86.1±9.6		94.8±5.9		81.5±16.0
	25-34	20	68.0±12.2	0.439	89.3±8.4	0.993	92.3±9.3	0.233	83.2±13.2
	35-44	6	75.0±5.4		91.1±10.0		96.1±6.4		87.4±11.0
	55-64	3	65.0±8.6		86.6±17.6		82.0±11.7		77.8±11.3
Primary		15	63.0±14.3	0.499	84.0±10.3	0.212	87.1±12.2	0.040	78.0±13.1
Secondary		23	68.4±12.2		$87.8 \pm 8$		91.9±9.1		82.7±12.6
Tertiary		12	65.8±16.3		$90.5 \pm 6.00$		$96.8 \pm 5.4$		84.4±16.3
Mean			67.04±3.6		85.73±7.1		90.92±4.9		80.8±3.9

3.3.4 Food safety knowledge among OFSP Street consumers

The knowledge of OFSP was assessed, and the results reveal that most of the OFSP street consumers' have knowledge on food hygiene. About 84% of the respondents have purchased orange-fleshed sweet potato on the streets and believe that OFSP is a nutritious crop and a good source of various nutrients. About 72% of the OFSP consumer believes that consuming the OFSP is good for children and the elderly and can reduce nutritional deficiencies in women and children. However, 28% of the consumers believe that street vendors do not adhere to hygiene principles. About 30 of consumers do not know that paper/polythene packs are unsafe for food packaging. See table 18.

 Table 18: Food Safety Knowledge responses by OFSP Street consumers (n=50)

	Food Safety Question	With	Without
	• -	Knowledge	Knowledge
		(%)	(%)
1	Do you know Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes?	88.0	12.0
2	Have you tasted Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes?	94.0	6.0
3	Have you ever purchased Orange fleshed sweet potatoes from street vendors?	84.0	16.0
4	Do you think the food vendors prepare and sell food adhering to hygiene principles?	72.0	28.0
5	Which type of sweet potatoes help with good eves right?	64.0	36
6	Orange fleshed sweet potato is a good source of energy	90.0	10
7	Orange fleshed sweet potatoes is a good food for children and the elderly	84.0	16.0
8	Orange fleshed sweet potatoes is a good source of fiber, this helps prevent	80.0	20.
	constipation.		• • •
9	Consuming orange fleshed sweet potatoes regularly can reduce nutritional	72.0	28.0
10	deficiencies in women and children	02.0	10.0
10	Which potatoes have least fat?	82.0	18.0
11	Do you feed your children with orange fleshed sweet potatoes?	76.0	24.0
12	Washing hands properly reduces risk of food contamination	76.0	24.0
13	Use of gloves reduces the risk of transmitting infection to consumers	90.0	10
14	Contaminated foods always have some change in color, odor or taste	80.0	20
15	paper/polythene packs are unsafe for food packaging	70.0	30.0
16	Consuming contaminated food can cause foodborne illnesses?	90.0	10.0
17	Practicing food hygiene is everyone's responsibilities?	88.0	12.0
18	How often do you buy food/snack/items/drinks from vendors/street sellers?	76	24
19	What time of the day do you usually buy food/snack items/drinks from	66.0	34
	vendors/street sellers?		
20	Where do you usually buy your breakfast/snack/lunch from vendors/street sellers?	92.0	8.0
			-

3.3.5 Food Safety Attitude among OFSP Street Food Consumers

The food safety attitude among OFSP Street Food Consumers was assessed. The results revealed that about 98%

of OFSP Street food consumers have positive food safety attitude and observant about hygiene practices before buying food from any street vendor. All 100% interviewed OFSP were positive and knew that Good personal hygiene could prevent foodborne illnesses. About 96% of the respondents know that foodborne illnesses can have deleterious health and economic effects on society. However, about 30% of the consumers did not believe that using gloves is important in reducing the risk of food contamination, and 46 % 0f the respondents did not believe that protective clothing can reduce the risk of food contamination. See table 19.

#### Table 19: Food Safety attitude responses by OFSP Street Food Consumers (N=50)

	Statement on food safety Attitude	Positive Attitude	Negative Attitude
		(%)	(%)
1	I always observe hygiene practice before buying food from any street vendor	98.0	2.0
2	Food safety knowledge will benefit personal life	94.0	6.0
3	Food safety Knowledge will be of benefit to consumers	100.0	0.0
4	Safe food handling is important and is everyone's' responsibility	94.0	6.0
5	Good personal hygiene can prevent foodborne illnesses	100.0	0.0
6	Washing hands before handling food reduces risk of food poisoning	84.0	16.0
7	Producing safe food is more important than tasty food	86.0	14.0
8	You are satisfied with hygiene practices where you buy food	78.0	22.0
9	Food should not be touched with wounded hands	86.0	14.0
10	Using gloves is important in reducing the risk of food contamination	70.0	30.0
11	Protective clothing reduces the risk of food contamination	54.0	46.0
12	Foodborne illnesses can have deleterious health and economic effects on the society	96.0	4.0
13	Food hygiene training for workers is an important issue in reducing risk of food contamination	98.0	2.0
14	Well cooked food is free of contamination	76.0	24.0
15	Raw and cooked foods should be stored separately to reduce the risk of food contamination	96.0	4.0

## 3.3.6 Food Safety practice among OFSP Street Food Consumers

Food safety practice among OFSP street consumer was assessed, and the results reveal that the consumers are knowledgeable about food safety practices. About 98% of OFSP believe that a clean vendor can prevent food contamination. All 100% of the OFSP consumers believe that washing hands before eating food is a good practice to avoid food contamination. However, 18% of the OFSP street consumer had an inappropriate practice of not washing hands before and after touching unwrapped raw foods. This percent is too high to cause food contamination, resulting in an outbreak of food-borne diseases. See table 20.

#### Table 20: Frequency of scores on Food safety Practices

	Food Safety Practices Questions	Appropriate	Inappropriate
		Practice (%)	practice (%)
1	A clean vendor can prevent food contamination	98.0	2.0
2	Washing hands before eating food	100.0	0.0
3	Washing hands before touching unwrapped raw foods.	80.0	18.0
4	Washing hands after touching unwrapped raw foods	82.0	18.0
5	Using soap/detergents to wash hands	96.0	4.0
6	Washing hands after touching prepared food	96.0	4.0
7	Cleaning the utensils for use during eating	96.0	4.0
8	Washing hands after using the washroom	100.0	0.0
9	Using tissue/cloth when coughing or sneezing	88.0	12.0
10	Using detergent to clean equipment	94.0	6.0
11	Drying equipment before use	86.0	14.0
12	Rubbing hands on face, hair, etc. while eating	74.0	26.0
13	Smoking in the workplace	98.0	2.0

#### 3.3.7 Correlation among Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of OFSP street consumers

The correlation between food safety practice and knowledge was determined in this study. Pearson's correlation analysis revealed a positive weak correlation between food safety knowledge and food safety attitude p=0.332. Similarly, a positive weak correlation was found between food safety attitude and food safety p=0.197. There was also a positive weak correlation between food safety practice and food safety knowledge p=0.186. See table 21.

Table 21: Correlation	on among Knowledge, Attitude and Practices o	f OFSP street consumers
Lovol	Poorson correlation (r)	n voluos

Level	Pearson correlation (r)	p-values
Knowledge - Attitude	0.140	0.332
Attitude – Practice	0.186	0.197
practices - Knowledge	0.190	0.186

## \*Correlation significant at 0.05 level (2 tailed)

## 3.3. 8 Effect of food safety knowledge and attitude on food safety practices

Adjusted linear regression was used to assess the effect of food safety knowledge and attitude on food safety practices. Results revealed that Food safety knowledge and attitude had no statistically significant effect on practice R2=0.062 F=1.55 p=0.222. See table 22.

Table 22: Adjusted linear regression assessing the effect of food safety knowledge and attitude on food safety practices

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	p-value
Knowledge	0.168	0.070	0.246
Attitude	0.162	0.133	0.261
		R <sup>2</sup> =0.062 F=1.55 p=0.222	

Variables significant at 0.05 (2 tailed)

#### 4. Discussion

The results of this study revealed a big gap in food safety Knowledge attitude and practices dynamics across agri-foods value chains. Among the OFSP processors results revealed a fairly good food safety KAP with overall mean percentage score of 84.6%. The factor that was associated with food safety KAP was the education level which was statistically significantly associated with poor food safety practice among OFSP processors. This results compares well with the study by (Tuglo et al., 2021) in North Dayi District, Ghana, who found that among street-cooked food handlers in Ghana, the food handlers with secondary education were 4 times good at hygiene practices of food safety likened to no education [aOR=4.06, p=0.003]. Another study in Kenya by (Malavi, 2017) also found the overall mean percentage scores of 81% for knowledge, attitude, practices and overall KAP. The training among OFSP processors had a significant impact on knowledge (p=0.020), attitude (p=0.050), practices (p=0.006) and overall KAP (p=0.001). A study by (omar, 2020) found fairly good levels of KAP of food safety with overall KAP at 79.13% among food handlers, specifically during COVID-19 the food handlers were practicing good hygienic practices. Another study in Ghana by (Akabanda et al., 2017) found that food-handlers were knowledgeable about hygienic practices, cleaning and sanitation procedures. Almost all of the food-handlers were aware of the critical role of general sanitary practices in the workplace. A study by Ncube et al., 2020 determined the food safety knowledge, attitudes, and self-reported and observed practices of food handlers in 22 urban restaurants in Zimbabwe. Results indicated that food safety knowledge scores were significantly higher in food handlers who received basic food safety training compared to those who did not (p < .05). No differences in food safety knowledge and attitudes were noted based on the socio-demographic characteristics of the food handlers (p > .05).

Traders food safety knowledge attitude and practice among the OFSP traders was assessed in this study, results revealed an overall food safety KAP among OFSP traders was 67.4 which is below the cut-off point. This could be contributed by many factors, including lack of awareness about food safety on transportation regulation and lack for enforcement of the laws available for transportation. These results compare well with other study done among traders. A study done in Brazil by (Auad et al., 2019), determined food safety knowledge, attitudes, and practices among Brazilian Food Truck Handlers. Results of the reveal that, food truck handlers were likely to exhibit food contamination and are at a high risk of foodborne diseases; the results suggests that, understand food handlers' point of view is the initial diagnosis to guide educational strategies in the food truck sector.

Food safety Knowledge, attitude and practice was assessed among OFSP street consumers, results revealed an overall mean score KAP of 81.7% which is equally good. Although the overall mean score is good, still there are some aspects of food hygiene practices that are not appropriately done and need to be addressed. This is due to the fact that food safety issues are very sensitive and a small percentage of contamination in food can result to huge outbreak of foodborne illnesses. These results are comparable to other studies conducted among the consumers. A study by (Hossen et al., 2021) evaluated food safety knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) among food vendors in Bangladesh. Results revealed that, while 72.5% vendors had good knowledge of food safety, only 33% and 0.5% had good food safety attitude and practice, respectively. Over 90% vendors did not use any personal protective equipment, 4.5% had diarrhea, 8.5% did not wash their hands after going to the toilet and 28.5% reused previous leftover oils. Level of education showed significant influence (p = 0.005 and 0.015) on the food safety knowledge and practice of the vendors. Another study by (Le Nguyen et al., 2018) explored the knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) of customers regarding the practices of food facilities as well as potential associated factors; Results revealed that the highest mean score of 98.4 (SD = 10.1) was found in knowledge, however most of customers considered the processing and selling of hygienic meals without leaving any food overnight as the most important feature for food facilities (73.8%) and about 63.2% of participants chose not to report food safety violation by facilities to authorities.

#### 5. Conclusion

This study reveals a gap in food safety knowledge, attitude, and practice in the food value chain. These findings call for authorities to act and strengthen food safety systems by training human resources, improving infrastructures for better operations, food safety culture, and enforcement of laws and regulations of food safety. Supervisions and follow-ups are also important to encourage positive behavior among food handler traders and consumers to improve food hygiene status; this is important because people sometimes may possess knowledge but do not translate into strictly hygienic practices during handling food products. Adequate guidelines should be provided to improve food safety practices, and reduce the growing food borne illnesses.

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