

Use of Photovoice to Assess Quality and Safety of Peanuts along the Value Chain: A case of Youth in Nwoya and Tororo districts, Uganda

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The quality and safety of peanuts in Uganda is compromised along the value chain as a result of inadequate pre and postharvest handling. There is need to put in place procedures to enhance profitability for farmers including the youth. This study aimed at assessing the feasibility of using photovoice, a community participatory research technique as an alternative for assessing peanut quality and safety along the value chain in order to come up with appropriate recommendations.

Thirty rural-youth farmers aged 18-35 years in the Nwoya and Tororo districts of Uganda were trained in photovoice and provided with smartphones to take photographs over a six-month period about issues related to peanut value chain. Qualitative data from group discussions with the youth conducted monthly was analyzed using content analysis in Atlas ti version 6.

Preliminary findings suggest that poor produce at harvest, varietal mixtures, unsorted grains, poor processing environments, poor drying techniques, poor storage conditions, inferior packaging materials used, the safety of personnel in processing areas, and processing methods of the different products were factors associated with quality and safety along the peanut value chain.

Photovoice is a potential tool for assessing quality and safety of peanuts along the value chain.