



Call for Expressions of Interest in Becoming a Member of the RSM2SNF Research Team

“Research Supporting African MSMEs to Provide Safe and Nutritious Food” (RSM2SNF) is a research project that dives deep into the wholesale, logistics, processing, and retail segments of the value chains of several products, such as fish and tomato. The goal is to understand the midstream of these food value chains with a focus on micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and to inform policies and interventions to support MSMEs in providing safe and nutritious foods at affordable prices. This five-year project (2022–2026) is led by Michigan State University (MSU) working with partners in Nigeria and Tanzania. The project began in Nigeria in 2022 and will begin working in Tanzania in 2023.

More information about RSM2SNF can be found at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/fsg/projects/rsm2snf>. The scope of work for the RSM2SNF project can be accessed <https://bit.ly/3WbTes1>.

A central piece of RSM2SNF is a set of activities to better understand agrifood value chains and MSMEs, including a rapid reconnaissance exercise, market-level and meso-level data collection, and stacked surveys of actors all along the value chain. These activities will be focused on a small number of regions within Tanzania. In addition to this core set of activities, RSM2SNF will also undertake activities related to understanding stakeholder perceptions of the food system in Tanzania; raising awareness and promoting dialogue around agrifood policies; piloting and/or evaluating an intervention intended to support MSMEs along agrifood value chains; and developing metrics that can be used to characterize under-studied aspects of markets.

Rapid reconnaissance

- Field visits and stakeholder consultations understand the structure of the value chain, identity of stakeholders, and perceptions of key issues

Market and meso-studies

- Key informant interviews to understand the structure and governance of markets and region-level drivers of change

Stacked surveys

- "Stack" of surveys of representative samples of actors at various nodes along the value chain, with data collected on MSME operations and outcomes

RSM2SNF is now forming a research team in Tanzania. The team will be comprised of several faculty at institutions of higher learning and researchers at national research institutes, as well as several early career scholars who are typically graduate students. Fields that are relevant to RSM2SNF include agricultural economics, food economics, nutrition, food safety, agroecology, fisheries, and environmental studies, among others. For faculty, the level of engagement is expected to be 1–3 months per year, depending on agreed upon roles and responsibilities, and you will be compensated for your time. Early career scholars will receive a stipend equal to about USD 1,000 per year. Faculty are highly encouraged to suggest/recruit several early career scholars for this project.

To express interest in being part of the RSM2SNF research team in Tanzania, please submit the following items:

- An up-to-date CV with three references
- A transcript/statement of result (*applicable for early career scholars only*)
- An example of a peer-reviewed publication or research report in which you have played an important role, along with a paragraph describing your role
- A 1–2-page statement explaining why you are interested in being a member of the RSM2SNF research team; what you can contribute to a project focused on supporting MSMEs in Tanzania to supply affordable, safe, and nutritious food; whether you have recruited at least two early career scholar applicants (*applicable for faculty only*); and one research question of relevance to RSM2SNF in which you have interest and capacity to pursue. The last section can include a problem statement, hypotheses to be tested, proposed methodology, and expected outputs.

Please submit these items to Mrs. Grace Amadi at grcraji@gmail.com by **January 10, 2023**. Shortlisted candidate may be contacted for an interview. The review of submissions will be completed by February 10, 2023.