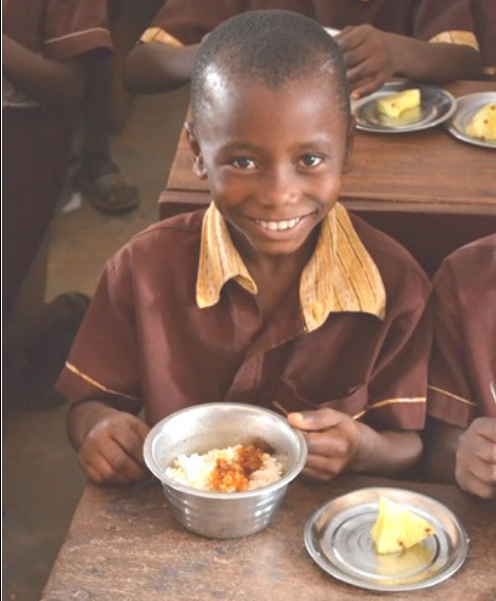




O'Meals - Why it's more than just lunch



Known locally as O'Meals, the Osun State Elementary School Feeding and Health Programme, is viewed as a means to combat hunger, increase primary school enrolment and to encourage local and state-wide economic growth.

Described as a win-win-win programme for children, smallholder farmers and small businesses operated by women and youths the programme provides hot nutritionally balanced school meals to over 252,000 children every school day. At the same time it provides employment and income to thousands of local caterers, farmers and traders.

Relaunched in April 2012 by the Governor Rauf Aregbesola's Osun State Government, O'Meals has grown to become globally acknowledged as a leading example of an effective Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme providing hot, fresh and nutritious meals, using ingredients procured from local smallholder farmers.

Since the programme's inception, the Partnership for Child Development (PCD), based at Imperial College London, has been providing technical support to the Osun State Government to develop a sustainable government-led school feeding programme.

Key Facts

Number of children enrolled in primary school (elementary class 1-4): 252,793

Programme coverage: 100%

Days school meals are provided: 200 (100%)

Cost per day of O'Meals: N12.6 Million (\$77,381)

Cost per child per day: N50 (\$0.31)

Annual total expenditure on O'Meals: N2.6 Billion (\$159,558,149)

Funding

Expenditure of the O-MEALS Programme is being shared by the State Government and all constituting Local Government Councils. The State contributes 40% whilst Local Government Councils contribute 60%.

O'Meals in Action

School enrolment and attendance: Within four weeks of the O'Meals launch, school enrolment increase by approximately **25%**. According to the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics July 2013 edition, Osun has the highest primary school enrolment rates in Nigeria- a feat largely attributable to O'Meals.

Creating jobs: O'Meals promotes and boosts income generation opportunities, particularly for women. To date, the programme has economically empowered over **3,000** previously unemployed women by hiring them as food vendors, to serve nutritious meals to pupils during the school term.

Scaling up fish-farming: The Osun State Government in collaboration with Osun-based Feg-Agro Farms Limited, and the Association of Aquaculture Farmers and Agro-Processors of Nigeria, invested N253 Million to implement the *Osun Fisheries Out-growers Production Scheme* (OFOPS). This scheme helps to improve the livelihood of **2000** fish out-growers for mass fish production in the state. Each week these fish out-growers produce approximately **5** metric tonnes of fish for the O-Meals. In tandem with this, 100 factory workers are involved in the fish processing. In the first three months of the project OFOPS generated a profit of **N2.5 million** (\$15,330).

Investing in Osun's Poultry Industry: The Osun broilers Out-growers Production Scheme (OBOPS) initiative seeks to boost the state's chicken production to enable it to supply the 15,000 chickens and 252,000 eggs required every week by the O'Meals programme. Similar to the fisheries model, the OBPOS programme contracts out the growing of chickens to a network of **over 2,000** smallholder farmers by supplying them with **3.1 million** day old chicks, leading to the production of **4.4 million** kg of broiler meat valued at **N1.7 million** for O'Meals. This scheme has earned a profit of **N 185 million** (\$ 1,129,770) from December 2011 to date.

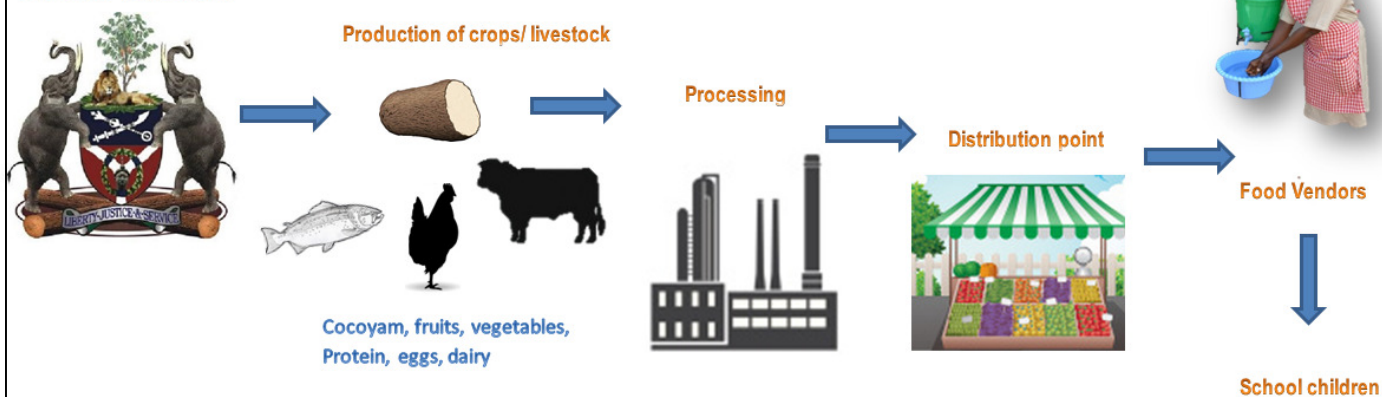


Imperial College
London

O'Meals Supply Chain – a Case Study

O'Meals Supply Chain

Financial input from
Osun State government



Promoting the production of nutritious food: The Osun State Government designed the Cocoyam Rebirth Programme with the joint aims of promoting the nutritional benefits of cocoyam (rich in vitamin B6, magnesium iron and protein), and improving the income of cocoyam farmers.

To date, over **1,000** cocoyam farmers have been trained in modern methods of cultivating cocoyam. To further support these cocoyam farmers the state has also provided funding for planting material and fertilizer to cultivate pink cocoyam.

Empowering youth: The *Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme (O-YES)*, is a programme designed by the state government to engage and include Osun's youth in the economic opportunities created by the O'Meals. To date, **over 300** O-YES youth have received training and loans of **N100,000** (\$USD 623,000) to act as cocoyam intermediaries between the cocoyam farmers and food vendors.

The investment into the Osun State's Home Grown School Feeding programme is proving to be cost-effective and sustainable. Not only does it produce mutually reinforcing outcomes through its various sub-programmes, but it also serves as a strong sustainable economic model. Farmers are able to increase their production capacity and income through a structured and predictable market. Additionally, women and youth are economically empowered through their participation in the food supply chain.

As O'Meals gathers momentum, it is leading the way in meeting the nutritional needs of school children and improving food security. In May 2014 following a series of High Level Federal and State Government convenings, representatives from 13 states released a communiqué calling on Federal and State Governments to expand school feeding programmes.

The evidence for the positive impact of school feeding programmes on the education, health and the economy of the beneficiary communities is clear. The example of O'Meals provides inspiration to other Nigerian states looking to develop their own sustainable school feeding programmes.

O'Meals Menu	
Monday:	yam + fish stew + orange
Tuesday:	rice + beans + stew + chicken + orange
Wednesday:	beans porridge + bread + whole egg + banana
Thursday:	rice + egusi garnished with vegetable + chicken + banana
Friday:	cocoyam porridge + vegetable + beef + a slice of pawpaw



Food vendor serving the children their school meal

"My joy will know no bounds if HGFS is extended to all the pupils in all the Nigerian schools"

H.E. Rauf Aregbesola, Governor of Osun State

The Partnership for Child Development
School of Public Health, Imperial College London

Further information and resources can be found at www.hgsf-global.org