

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Food systems for the future
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Consumer preferences and behavior
Keyword 2	: The future of food (systems)
Keyword 3	: Agri-food systems and the food environment
Title of Entry	: Contextualising food choice in the gastronomic system through expert elicitation
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Affiliation 2	: Senior associate scientist
Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	<p>: The gastronomic systems research (GSR) framework contextualizes food choices on the basis of socio-economic background and culturally specific context, which define various occasions and dishes for food consumption. Dishes are made with the use of specific ingredients by the process which is culturally defined, coded, and acceptable. The objective of the study was to capture food choice diversity and identify key nutritional and dietary interventions within the GSR framework among urban and rural households in low- to middle-income classes in Eastern India (West Bengal and Odisha) through expert elicitation (EE). Methods: Two EE workshops were conducted in July 2017, with one each in Bhubaneswar, Odisha and in Kolkata, West Bengal. Home scientists, nutritionists, a chef, restaurant owners, and food technologists participated. These food experts (n=17) were first introduced to the GSR framework and the overall objective of the EE workshop. Experts contextualized the GSR framework to the Eastern Indian gastronomic system by defining the various eating occasions, and identifying the associated dishes for each occasion and key ingredients. Results: Our result indicated the preferences and food habits which reflected nutritionally important components of food. Experts also recommended potential nutritional interventions such as ingredient or dish substitutions, proper storage and cooking methods, and the impact pathways required for implementation. However, these recommendations reflected the current nutritional concerns within the state and were not specifically based on the outputs of the EE. This could be addressed by designing another discussion round focused on developing possible interventions based on the different hierarchical levels of the GSR framework. The GSR framework may not be generalized at the country level due to the heterogeneity of food culture, but it can be easily grasped by participants from various sub-cultures or backgrounds. A good balance of expertise can be achieved if the objectives are clearly defined beforehand. This will also minimize potential subjective and regional biases. Conclusion: The framework can improve market studies and quickly identify culturally-defined food choices. Due to its unique approach of contextualizing food habits, GSR EE can potentially identify effective pathways for culture-sensitive and context-specific nutritional interventions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Read more»</p>

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