

Informal economy crucial in stopping hunger



PHOTO JORG HACKEMANN / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Around the world, small informal businesses are crucial in giving people access to food, concludes a Wageningen report published in September. It is high time to involve such businesses in plans to eradicate hunger, say the researchers.

In developing countries, informal businesses such as market stalls and food stalls are the main sources of food. Governments, investors and researchers often overlook these businesses, but most people who live in poverty depend on this informal economy for affordable food. The UN goal of zero hunger by 2030 can only be achieved if the informal sector is involved too. ‘And that is not happening,’

says Bart de Steenhuijsen Piters, one of the authors. ‘We need the informal businesses. They can help reduce waste in the food supply chain and thereby keep products affordable. We need a better understanding of the informal economy so that we can use it to help achieve public goals. We won’t manage that without these small businesses.’

Info: emma.termeer@wur.nl