



## WARWICK MIELIE SELLERS AND COOKERS

In 2012 PPT with Asiye Etafuleni commissioned a preliminary investigation into mielie enterprises at Warwick Junction (Durban CBD) in order to better understand the enterprises, the value chain and to determine how they can best be supported. This forms part of a bigger PPT project focusing on several informal sectors at Warwick Triangle.

The value chain:

- Traders purchase mielies from farmers outside Durban by the bakkie load (typically 250 dozen or 3000 cobs per bakkie). Local traders (cookers) pay R36 per dozen (R3 each / R9,000 per bakkie). [“Bakkie” is a South African term for “pick up truck”.]
- Mielie sellers purchase shopping trolley loads of cooked mielies at R20 per load. Cooked cobs are sold to people on the street at R7 per cob.
- Selling one bakkie load of mielies ( $\pm 3000$  cobs) generates turnover of  $\pm R21,000$  if all cobs are sold.
- $\pm 10$  bakkies loads are supplied each day.
- **The local value chain is  $\pm R120,000$  p/day and R840,000 p/week and supports a large number of livelihoods.** The total value chain is  $\pm R210,000$  p/day and  $\pm R1.47m$  p/week (incl. outside growers).
- Others in the local value chain include: 1) person’s paid to clean the area where the mielie cobs are cooked and assist with cooking; 2) person’s delivering water at R4 per 20L (each drum requires 60L) 3.) person’s that deliver wooden packing pallets (which are used as fuel for cooking) at R5 per load.

### Key challenges faced by the mielie sellers:

- Permits: Sellers are uncertain of the regulations and find permits costly.
- Those involved in the value chain are not organised which presents difficulties in negotiating with authorities and accessing training.
- Trolleys are used without supermarket’s permission which brings traders into conflict with the police.
- Trader’s feel that they are treated unfairly by the police.