

**Supplementary Table S1.** Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of study participants and the type of the maize which they traditionally consume at their homes.

|  | Gender, n (%) * |           | Age Group, n (%) |           |           |           |          |          |          | Education Level, n (%) |           |           |
|--|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|  | Male            | Female    | 18–20            | 21–30     | 31–40     | 41–50     | 51–60    | 61–70    | >70      | None                   | Primary   | Secondary |
| <b>Total</b>   | 46 (36.8)       | 79 (63.2) | 16 (12.8)        | 45 (36.0) | 26 (20.8) | 19 (15.2) | 11 (8.8) | 4 (3.2)  | 4 (3.2)  | 16 (12.8)              | 74 (59.2) | 35 (28.0) |
| <b>Flour type traditionally consumed by participants</b> |                 |           |                  |           |           |           |          |          |          |                        |           |           |
| <b>Soaked Dehulled Maize (SDM) flour</b>                 |                 |           |                  |           |           |           |          |          |          |                        |           |           |
| <b>Never</b>   | 24 (37.5)       | 40 (62.5) | 10 (15.6)        | 23 (35.9) | 12 (18.8) | 6 (9.4)   | 7 (10.9) | 3 (4.7)  | 3 (4.7)  | 8 (12.5)               | 34 (53.1) | 22 (34.4) |
| <b>Rarely</b>  | 5 (35.7)        | 9 (64.3)  | 1 (7.1)          | 5 (35.7)  | 5 (35.7)  | 1 (7.1)   | 2 (7.1)  | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)                  | 9 (64.3)  | 5 (35.7)  |
| <b>Occasionally</b>                                      | 10 (43.5)       | 13 (56.5) | 1 (4.3)          | 9 (39.1)  | 3 (13.0)  | 7 (30.4)  | 1 (4.3)  | 1 (4.3)  | 1 (4.3)  | 5 (21.7)               | 16 (69.6) | 2 (8.7)   |
| <b>Often</b>   | 7 (30.4)        | 16 (69.6) | 4 (17.4)         | 7 (30.4)  | 6 (26.1)  | 5 (21.7)  | 1 (4.3)  | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 3 (13.0)               | 14 (60.9) | 6 (26.1)  |
| <b>Always</b>  | 0 (0)           | 1 (100)   | 0 (0)            | 1 (100)   | 0 (0)     | 0 (0)     | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)                  | 1 (100)   | 0 (0)     |
| <b>Dehulled Maize (DM) flour</b>                         |                 |           |                  |           |           |           |          |          |          |                        |           |           |
| <b>Never</b>   | 19 (33.9)       | 37 (66.1) | 1 (1.8)          | 20 (35.7) | 15 (26.8) | 11 (19.6) | 4 (7.1)  | 3 (5.4)  | 2 (3.6)  | 11 (19.6)              | 35 (62.5) | 10 (17.9) |
| <b>Rarely</b>  | 12 (46.2)       | 14 (53.8) | 8 (30.8)         | 6 (23.1)  | 7 (26.9)  | 3 (11.5)  | 2 (7.7)  | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)                  | 11 (42.3) | 15 (57.7) |
| <b>Occasionally</b>                                      | 10 (41.7)       | 14 (58.3) | 5 (20.8)         | 13 (54.2) | 1 (4.2)   | 2(8.3)    | 3 (12.5) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 2 (8.3)                | 16 (66.7) | 6 (25.0)  |
| <b>Often</b>   | 5 (31.2)        | 11 (68.8) | 1 (6.2)          | 4 (25.0)  | 3 (18.8)  | 3 (18.8)  | 2 (12.5) | 1 (6.2)  | 2 (12.5) | 3 (18.8)               | 10 (62.5) | 3 (18.8)  |
| <b>Always</b>  | 0 (0)           | 3 (100)   | 1 (33.3)         | 2 (66.7)  | 0 (0)     | 0 (0)     | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)                  | 2 (66.7)  | 1 (33.3)  |
| <b>Whole Maize (WM) flour</b>                            |                 |           |                  |           |           |           |          |          |          |                        |           |           |
| <b>Never</b>   | 6 (30)          | 14 (70)   | 5 (25.0)         | 8 (40.0)  | 2 (10.0)  | 4 (20.0)  | 1 (5.0)  | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 1 (5.0)                | 12 (60.0) | 7 (35.0)  |
| <b>Rarely</b>  | 2 (13.3)        | 13 (86.7) | 0 (0)            | 4 (26.7)  | 7 (46.7)  | 2 (13.3)  | 1 (6.7)  | 0 (0)    | 1 (6.7)  | 3 (20.0)               | 9 (60.0)  | 3 (20.0)  |
| <b>Occasionally</b>                                      | 5 (45.5)        | 6 (54.5)  | 1 (9.1)          | 4 (36.4)  | 1 (9.1)   | 2 (18.2)  | 1 (9.1)  | 1 (9.1)  | 1 (9.1)  | 2 (18.2)               | 9 (81.8)  | 0 (0)     |
| <b>Often</b>   | 22 (44.9)       | 27 (55.1) | 9 (18.4)         | 17 (34.7) | 10 (20.4) | 7 (14.3)  | 6 (12.2) | 0 (0)    | 0 (0)    | 3 (6.1)                | 29 (59.2) | 17 (34.7) |
| <b>Always</b>  | 11 (36.7)       | 19 (63.3) | 1 (3.3)          | 12 (40.0) | 6 (20.0)  | 4 (13.3)  | 2 (6.7)  | 3 (10.0) | 2 (6.7)  | 7 (23.3)               | 15 (50.0) | 8 (26.7)  |

\* The values in bracket are percentages and those outside are frequencies as described in the heading of the table.