

Development, Division and Discontent in Informal Markets

Insights from Kampala

Overview

- ▶ Informal markets as central components of urban food systems
- ▶ To what extent can market vendors exercise agency to participate in urban development on their own terms?
- ▶ Agency is constrained as political competition and economic divisions lead to conflicts over market management and development
- ▶ Owino Market



The Politics of Informal Markets in Kampala

- ▶ Democratization and decentralization
- ▶ Political competition and privatization
- ▶ Domination and competing agendas
- ▶ Patronage and interference

The Economics of Informal Markets in Kampala

- ▶ Internal hierarchies around three axes of difference:
 - ▶ 1. Vending location
 - ▶ 2. Ownership status
 - ▶ 3. Employment status
- ▶ Views on market development

Owino Market

- ▶ Privatization
 - ▶ Opposition and intervention
- ▶ Conflicts over market management and development
 - ▶ Rival visions of market management and development
 - ▶ Political support

Insights

- ▶ Three central insights:
 - ▶ The importance of politics
 - ▶ The economic roots of market conflicts
 - ▶ Organization and agency
- ▶ The importance of independent, inclusive decision-making processes