

How Ghanaian migrants shape Almere's foodscape

Frank Ntim Kwaku, Master Student of Food System Innovation (2022)

Supervisors: Marjan de Boer and Esther Veen



AERES
UNIVERSITY OF
APPLIED SCIENCES
ALMERE

This research is about the food routines of migrants living in Almere. The specific research question is “How do Ghanaian migrants living in Almere shape Almere’s foodscape?” The aim of this research was to display how the existing Ghanaian migrants’ food culture has been shaping the current foodscape of Almere. Consequently, it provides insights for further research and integrated policies on how to support sustainable and healthy food choices of migrants living in Almere.

Background

In this research I cooperated with Flevo Campus. Flevo Campus connects entrepreneurs, educators, researchers and policymakers. The research institute is looking for solutions to urban food issues through research, innovations and experiments and aims to create a sustainable, healthy and accessible food system for everyone. Using interdisciplinary approaches, Flevo Campus looks for new solutions that harness healthy and sustainable urban food. The aim is that in this way citizens and producers are equipped to make more conscious food choices (<https://flevocampus.nl/>). Flevo Campus studies the food routines of migrants in Almere, and is specifically interested in how people use, change and adapt to Almere’s foodscape, in order to better understand food routines and associated food identity.

Food routines are influenced gradually by for instance economic forces, technological progress, historical legacies, political settings, environmental issues, sociological and cultural contexts and psychological determinants (Capone et al, 2014). Also migration plays an important role: as a result of migration, a more diverse food culture comes into existence, associated with a diversity of food practices and patterns.

Almere and its population

Almere’s population development is characterized by rapid growth. Behind this growth are the factors of migration, fertility, and mortality. The prognosis is that the total population will increase until the year 2033. The total Dutch population, on the other hand, is projected to decrease, while the non-western population continues to slowly increase. Almere is a multicultural city with almost 200 different ethnicities (Hammash and Marskamp, no date). The increasing diversity of migrant citizens in Almere means that food consumption diversifies, and that the foodscape changes accordingly.

Because of the historical relationship to food and the highly diverse urban population, Almere is an interesting field site for exploring emerging questions around urban food system transformations (Brons, 2022). The question is how the diversity of urban dwellers – in this case focusing on Ghanaian migrants - influences the present foodscape with respect to healthy and sustainable food choices, and how this may influence future

