

5.7 A new digital approach to dietary data collection: GIBSONIFY

Understanding dietary diversity and levels of nutrition in varied settings and communities has been an important part of TIGR²ESS research. However, there is limited quantitative dietary intake data to support evidence-based decision making, in part because collecting and processing quantitative data is so time consuming and expensive.

Currently, quantitative dietary intake data is collected on paper forms that have to be digitised prior to analysis. This process is time and resource intensive, and risks introducing errors. Proprietary software to digitise the data collection process exists, but is too expensive for most researchers in low- and middle-income countries.

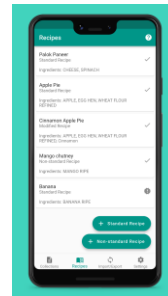
To address this challenge, TIGR²ESS researchers from ICRISAT and the Centre for Global Equality (CGE) teamed up with engineers from the University of Cambridge to develop an open-source, free-to-use digital dietary surveying app called Gibsonify.

The app uses the 24-hour dietary recall method developed by Gibson and Ferguson (2008) to evaluate the adequacy of macro- and micro-nutrient intake in people's diets. The survey approach of the Gibson method relies on multiple passes of questions to enhance the accuracy of the information captured.

<http://gibsonify.org>

The Gibsonify app provides a user-friendly interface to collect information about local recipes and nutrient intake, replicating the tested 24h-recall methodology. Data is collected locally and is managed using existing data collection protocols. It can be used on any smartphone, tablet or computer and works off-line, enabling surveys in remote areas.

The interface is currently being tested with users. This will be followed by iterative cycles of trial data collection, feedback and continued app development to enable effective processing and management of the data.



"Gibsonify will help us collect better data, faster, for less cost: we can't wait to start using it!"

Kavitha Kasala

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LEAD INVESTIGATOR, CO-INVESTIGATORS & PARTNERS:	Shazril Suhail, Adam Sroka, Kavitha Kasala, Alexandre Kaba, Lara Allen, Padmaja Ravula. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Centre for Global Equality

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