

## Informed Consent

**Informed Consent:** *Before beginning the interview, it is necessary to introduce the household to the survey and obtain their consent to participate. Make it clear to them that their participation in the survey is voluntary. Please read the following statement in the language of interview:*

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. We are a research team from National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj working in collaboration with University of Reading (UoR). We are conducting a survey to learn about understand the trade-off between energy use and food choices among households in this area. You have been selected to participate in an interview as a representative of your community. The survey includes questions on topics such as your family background, dwelling characteristics, asset ownership, food consumption and energy/fuel use. These questions in total will take approximately 60-90 minutes to complete. A small gift will be given as a token of appreciation for your time. Participation is entirely voluntary and you are free to skip any questions or to withdraw from the survey or at any time you feel uncomfortable or unwilling to participate, and you do not have to specify a reason nor return the payment for your time. If you feel distressed in any way during the administration of the survey, please let the enumerator know, who will refer you for advice. Your answers will be completely confidential; we will not share information that identifies you with anyone. After entering the questionnaire into a database, we will destroy all information such as your name which will link these responses to you.

We will also interview other households in your Village and in other Villages in Telangana. We aim to survey 250 households in total. After we collect all the information we will use the data to make a study about the food and energy/fuel consumption patterns of people in this area. Do you have any questions about the study or what I have said?

If at any stage you have any questions regarding the study and the interview, or concerns or complaints we welcome you to contact us via the contact information below. The findings will be published in academic journals. This will not affect your anonymity. The anonymised data will be securely stored for use by the research team for a minimum of five years and deposited as open data in the UK Data service Reshare. If you wish to withdraw your answer, please contact Dr. Cherry Law before 31/10/2024, quoting the reference at the top of this page. The reference will only be used to identify your interview transcript and will not reveal any other information about you. After 31/10/2024 it will not be possible to withdraw your contribution from the dataset nor the results of the research.

This research project has been reviewed according to the procedures specified by the University Research Ethics Committee, and has been given a favourable ethical opinion for conduct. We will leave one copy of this form for you so that you will have record of this contact information and about the study.

*Please ask the participants (male and female) if they consent to the participation in the study (check one box):*

Participant: YES / NO

*If the household does not give consent to all of the data collection, stop the interview and inform your team leader. Team leaders will discuss the reason for this refusal and decide whether a partial data collection is possible for this household.*

*Consent form approved by University of Reading on July 11, 2024*

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