

**Abstract 3 Table 1** Differential cost statement for an organic vis-à-vis a conventional thali (in ₹)

Cost Items	Female			Male		
	Organic	Conventional	Differential Cost	Organic	Conventional	Differential Cost
<b>Panel A: Lunch</b>						
Direct material cost	82.55	51.99	30.56	92.81	58.50	34.31
<b>Panel B: Dinner</b>						
Direct material cost	85.61	58.86	26.75	111.74	73.92	37.82
Total differential cost on meals/day (&#x20B9.)			<b>57.30</b>			<b>72.13</b>

**Note:** The differential cost between organic and conventional thali is the same for direct labour and kitchen overheads.

active work. The quantities and nutritional value of dishes are based on Nutrient Requirements for Indians (ICMR-NIN, 2020). DietCal was used for dietary calculations. Two stages of accounting led to cost accumulation and assignment to the cost object, i.e., the thalis. Further, differential costing of the organic vis-à-vis conventional thali was determined.

**Results** From a nutritional point of view, the Indian thali is a balanced meal providing both macro- and micro-nutrients. However, organically grown ingredients are relatively more expensive than conventional ones, from between 4 per cent to 358 per cent. The total cost per day of two square meals (in terms of organic thalis) is ₹215.66 for females and ₹252.05 for males. Further, the organic thalis are slightly over 50 per cent more expensive than conventional ones (table 1).

**Conclusions** The trade-off between sustainability and affordability challenges our food system. Direct organic marketing initiatives can be a win-win situation for producers and consumers, leading to a ready market and better access at lower prices. From a policy perspective, a gradual expansion of organic agriculture and the integration of best organic management practices into conventional farming is the way forward.

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## Health systems

### 4 THE MEDIATED EFFECTS OF ADIPOSITY AND GLYCAEMIA ON LOW CARBOHYDRATE DIETS AND MARKERS OF CVD RISK: FINDINGS FROM THE UK NATIONAL DIET AND NUTRITION SURVEY (NDNS) 2008–2016

<sup>1</sup>Claudia Raulino Tramonnt, <sup>2</sup>Saad Mouti, <sup>1</sup>Marjorie Rafaela Lima do Do Vale, <sup>1</sup>Xunhan Li, <sup>1</sup>Christine Delon, <sup>1</sup>Sarah Armes, <sup>1</sup>Rajna Golubic\*, <sup>1</sup>Sumantra Ray\*. <sup>1</sup>NNEdPro Global Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health, Cambridge, UK; <sup>2</sup>UCSB PSTAT Department, USA; \*Joint corresponding authors

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**Background** Lower total carbohydrate intakes could have beneficial effects on cardiometabolic risk markers. However, the effects of low carbohydrate diets (LCD) on lipid markers and clinical end-points remain largely unknown. This study aimed to examine the associations between LCD and cardiovascular conventional risk factors and investigate whether these associations are mediated by body mass index (BMI), waist circumference (WC) and haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c).

**Methods** We included adults aged 45–80 years from the UK NDNS programme (2008–2016) with data on dietary intake,

anthropometric and biochemical parameters. Four interventions were examined including LCD, Low Carbohydrate and High Fibre Diet (LCHF), Low Carbohydrate and High Saturated Fat Diet (LCHS), and Low Carbohydrate and High Unsaturated Fat Diet (LCHU). Obesity was measured by BMI and WC. Biochemical markers included HbA1c, total cholesterol, HDL and LDL cholesterol, triglycerides, systolic and diastolic blood pressure and C-reactive protein (CRP). BMI, WC and HbA1c were used as mediators of the effects. The analysis was adjusted for sociodemographic status, lifestyle factors and antihypertensive medication. Causal mediation analysis was used to investigate the total, indirect and direct effect of LCD on CVD markers.

**Results** BMI, WC and HbA1c fully mediated the association between LCD and triglycerides and fully mediated the effects of LCHF on LDL, although BMI and WC were sufficient to fully mediate the effects of LCHF on triglycerides and CRP. BMI alone fully mediated the effects of LCHS on HbA1c, triglycerides, LDL and CRP. None of these mediators explained the effect of LCHU on CVD risk markers.

**Conclusion** This study demonstrated that individuals on LCHF improved their CVD markers as expected, but those on LCD who increase fat intake had no effects on CVD markers mediated by obesity and diabetes. More research on the mechanisms underlying the significant increase in HDL cholesterol in people consuming LCD is needed.

### 5 CHANGE OF DIETARY AND LIFESTYLE HABITS DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN IN CYPRUS: REPEATED CROSS-SECTIONAL SURVEYS

<sup>1</sup>Maria Kyprianidou, <sup>1</sup>Stavri Chrysostomou, <sup>2</sup>Costas A Christophi, <sup>1</sup>Konstantinos Giannakou. <sup>1</sup>School of Sciences, European University Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus; <sup>2</sup>Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health, Cyprus University of Technology, Limassol, Cyprus

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**Background** People's dietary and lifestyle habits appeared to be influenced by restrictive measures imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This study aims to examine the differences in dietary and lifestyle habits during and after the lockdown measures in Cyprus.

**Methods** Two online cross-sectional surveys were conducted, using a self-administered, anonymous questionnaire to collect information on sociodemographic and anthropometric characteristics, smoking habits, physical activity, and dietary habits. The first survey was conducted between the 6th of April 2020 until the 20th of June 2020 (during national lockdown)