



Report: Western Cape Food Forum

Thursday, 2 - 3.30pm, 24 June 2021

Welcome and apologies (attendance list can be found [here](#).)

Overview of some food and nutrition system activities since the previous meeting – Andrew Borraine, Chairperson

National Food Systems Dialogue

South Africa has been selected by the UN as one of the countries to conduct a rapid food systems assessment through a national systems dialogue. There was a meeting last week hosted by Minister Didiza, the dialogue resolved that neither the government nor the private sector can manage and drive sustainable food systems in the country alone, but together they can transform and grow it so that every South African has access to safe and nutritious food.

Researchers, government officials, farmers, economists and retailers are part of the discussion, but *civil society not explicitly invited*.

Four action tracks were identified:

- 1) Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all (Prof Sheryl Hendricks, University of Pretoria)
- 2) Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns (Bonani Nyhodo, National Agricultural Marketing Council)
- 3) Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress (Dr Shadrack Moephuli, CEO, Agricultural Research Council)
- 4) Building inclusive sustainable and competitive value chains (Prof Ferdi Meyer)

The process will include provincial food dialogues, EDP will discuss this with the WCG Nourish to Flourish team to make sure that civil society is included. Julian May reported Provincial processes started today (as reported by FAO).

Julian proposes through the Centre of Excellence on Food Security which is working directly with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to engage with local stakeholders including CSOs, and to focus the discussions on potential solutions and actions rather than just on the 'challenges', given the wealth of research and conversations already had on 'problems'.

Many CSOs are boycotting the UN Food Security summit in September. Julian and the team are aware of this and have decided to engage strategically in the process and serve where necessary as a conduit for CSO voices.

Gareth Haysom shared that ICLEI-Africa also convened a consultation for the FAO food summit with City of Cape Town.

UN Food Systems Summit, September, for information

- Overview of critical issues: <https://www.slowfood.com/un-food-systems-summit-we-cannot-jump-onto-a-train-that-is-heading-in-the-wrong-direction/>
- Letter from 500 CSOs to UNSG: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/EN-CSO-Letter-to-UNSG-on-UN-food-systems-summit.pdf>
- Letter from 200 CSOs to CFS chair: <http://www.csm4cfs.org/letter-csm-coordination-committee-cfs-chair/>
- Scientists and researchers boycotting UNFSS: <https://agroecologyresearchaction.org/scientists-boycott-the-2021-un-food-systems-summit/>
- Letter from current and former UN special rapporteurs on right to food criticising UNFSS: <https://grain.org/en/article/6639-the-un-food-systems-summit-how-not-to-respond-to-the-urgency-of-reform>

Child Health Symposium - COVID, Food and Children Webinar with UCT Department of Paediatrics and Child Health.

EDP participated in the Child Health Symposium on Wednesday 23 June. The Department is keen to support the work of the Food Forum moving forward, especially at the intersection of food, nutrition, and children.

Local food and farming ecosystems and partnerships

Work is ongoing to map out what is happening in the three Nourish to Flourish focus areas: Langa, Knysna, Worcester. EDP and Nourish to Flourish are planning to host a learning network meeting with all local areas in August to share information. It will also be open to areas and organisations outside the three N2F locations.

Meeting with V&A Food Hub team

EDP met recently with the V&A Food Hub team. The programme focuses on finding ways to influence the V&A internal base (e.g., 80 eateries, 3 markets, corporate canteens, 16 hotels, etc.) to shift behaviour of food procurement business models and consumers to support local and ethical sourcing, waste reduction and regenerative agriculture.

Potential value of V&A precinct in the food system:

- Engage with market mechanisms and private sector roleplayers.
- Ability to experiment.
- Influence consumer behaviour.

Cape Town Fresh Produce Market site visit

CT Market plays an important role in the Cape Town food system in making fresh fruit and vegetables accessible in poor and vulnerable communities at scale through four tiers of informal traders. EDP wants to work with the CT Market to map out this distribution system and find ways it can be strengthened.

Update from Food Forum Working Groups - Marcela Guerrero Casas, EDP

Data, Claire McGuinness: the data working group now has a growing group of people with a mix of backgrounds and is in an exploratory phase and gathering information through tools like surveys. The group is actively looking for participation from those with a variety of experiences (technical and non-technical) who would like to participate in the group. The latest Data Group meeting notes as well as the initial status can be found [here](#).

Urban agriculture, Erica Inches, Cape Town Together Food Growers Initiative (CTTFGI):

- **Land leases of government property stream:** gathering real-life examples of interaction with the public sector, identifying appropriate public sector officials, and convening a meeting to showcase examples and work through solutions jointly. Issues: Gugulethu land identified, other successfully working community gardens being stopped by COCT. What is working: Tours done to: Deep South, Fungi Forest Pavement Tour, Babylon by Bus Sustainability Angus Tour, PHA Food Revolution Tour - showcasing what working. See CTTFGI [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook group](#). Want to create a land forum to inform the developers forum that exists with CoCT. What do we need from WCEDP: Partnership in identifying the right officials and Departments to engage with, and help in convening meetings.
- **Circular economy stream:** co-learning series: Bokashi (June) from scratch on a Zero budget – completed; Biogas (July)– TBD. Nepal inventions synergy being investigated. Feedback shared in April and May Food Forum meeting. Meeting minutes for May incorrectly captured points raised. Report created. Ready for EDP to take [YouTube recordings](#) to show CoCT and WCG what civil society is doing. Civic society wish to create an Enabling Urban Agriculture Forum like the Developer Forum already in place.
- **Soil regeneration:** June - Launch of Living Soil series, in collaboration with PHA Campaign and Nemlabs. National Dept of Agriculture needs to understand there a South African Soil Food Web and stop pushing foreign information and practices. Next up: mid Aug: Soil sample analyses. Thanks to Nemlabs for Sponsoring tests.
- **Water:** Water harvesting series loaded on CTTFGI YouTube - Design workshops continue. Request for EDP assistance to bring correct govt departments to table, educate them on water harvesting. Start by viewing the water harvesting recordings to educate WCG and COCT what is possible and correct way to regenerate local weather system using water harvesting and planting the rain in the soil. Intend to collaborate with COP to help Govt 'find their backbone' and do what Government is meant to do which is look after the commons for all the people and future generations.

The Chairperson agreed to a follow up meeting between CTTFGI and EDP to discuss an engagement strategy with relevant government people and departments.

Food aid, Gill Cullinan, EDP

- EDP has resumed the third digital voucher project with funding from DSD and are happy to report that vouchers have started and will be supporting 250 selected kitchens until the end of the year.

- There is interest in having a voucher-specific dialogue to address the potential, challenges, etc. Florian Koll from UWC has expressed interest and in the meeting. Craig Stewart and Erica Inches also expressed interest to join.
- Julian May shared that Bill Tucker at the University of Stellenbosch is a computer scientist with good experience in designing user friendly ICTD solutions. He has a voucher-based proposal with the WCG through the Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC).

Working groups strategy session (13 July), Jenny Soderbergh, EDP

A strategy session will be held with all working groups to discuss what has been done to date, plans for the future, and options to potentially consolidate groups based on activity. This is the [Zoom link](#) for those interested in taking part. Please remember the working groups are the following (in alphabetical order):

1. Coordinating Food Relief
2. Creating an Enabling Public Sector Environment
3. Data for improved decision making
4. Enabling Urban Agriculture
5. Food and Nutrition Awareness and Security
6. Reducing Food Waste
7. Strengthening Local Food Economies

All documents related to working groups can be found [here](#).

Lessons from the EDP's Community Economic Recovery Programme, from vouchers to food system support:

The EDP has implemented three different voucher programmes with other partners as a response to the need for support to community kitchens across the province. On 2 June, Gill Cullinan reflected on the experience at the Craft and Design Institute (CDI) Creative Exchange and shared seven recommendations from the EDP's experience of working with digital vouchers to support community kitchens during the pandemic. A summary was presented at the Forum. The full presentation can be accessed [here](#). The recorded podcast can be accessed [here](#) (start at 52m 30s). The key recommendations are as follows:

1. Put resources into supporting the user experience. Technology alone is not the answer.
2. Prioritise communication.
3. Identify potential risks up front and proceed if the partners are happy to accept the risks.
4. Design an adaptive process that enables participation by beneficiaries, one that allows you to learn and adapt when necessary.
5. Understand the context and make time for site visits to learn from the beneficiaries.
6. Give beneficiaries choice in what they spend their voucher on.
7. Acknowledge and value the investment that the voucher beneficiary is making to the process.

Information updates and knowledge sharing

Youth Day Realise a Dream (RAD) competition by Ladles of Love - Alison McCutcheon, Ladles of Love, Realise a Dream competition

The Realise a Dream programme provides a platform for food entrepreneurs through training and skills development. The competition encouraged young chefs and food entrepreneurs to apply, finalists went through a boot camp in the lead up to the pitching their products or solutions to judges. Participants said they learned more in those two days than in most of their studies. The competition had R800 000 worth of products and services provided and three winners will get help buying capital equipment as well as mentorship. All Finalists go into RAD club with mentorship and monthly meetings. Alison's presentation can be found [here](#).

The chairperson welcomed the focus on entrepreneurial support and development in the food system, especially amongst young people.

Feedback - Karin Kleinbooï reported that Solidaridad recently supported vegetable gardens in schools in Wellington and are looking at rolling out planting seeds to schools in the Winelands - potentially hosting a competition and would like to connect with Ladles of Love.

Progress report: Social Employment Fund.

The concept of 'social employment' expands the traditional definition of public employment (or public works) programmes that are run directly by the state, to recognise the role that non-state actors already play in creating forms of work that serve the common good or provide public benefit. The aim is to enter into partnerships, or 'pacts of collaboration' with diverse social actors from civil society organisations and the private sector to enhance public value creation. Non-state actors are encouraged to organise themselves in ways that ensure that while the contracting entity has the requisite capacities, there is a concerted strategy to partner with and build capacities in community-based organisations that may lack these. This can include partnerships, consortia, and other mechanisms of collaboration. Partnerships with public bodies are encouraged.

The funding for the SEF is awaiting approval of the Minister of Finance. If/ when approved, the Industrial Development Corporation will issue a call for proposals for programmes that can take this agenda forward. In the meantime, the EDP has been asked to gather feedback on the proposed partnering mechanisms and how they could work in practice.

Online workshop: Focus group of intermediaries and NGOs, Tuesday 29th, 2 – 3.30. *If you would like to participate, please send your name and email to Rhonda rhonda@wcedp.co.za.*

Forthcoming events:

Co-producing Knowledge for Resilient Food Systems in the Western Cape, focusing on creating impact through the three policy briefs: Informal Trade, Urban Agriculture, and role of CSOs. Date: Monday 28 June 2021 | 14:00-16:00 Venue: Zoom meeting [Register here](#).

Mandela Day is Sunday July 18th. If your organisation is hosting an event, please add it to the [shared events calendar](#). For example, Ladles of Love is inviting everyone to join their efforts in celebration Mandela Day. Read more [here](#).

Other events & updates:

Karin - Solidaridad is working with the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, on a food system transformation project - doing work on climate change and food systems and assessing countries. The NDC consultation processes ended at the end of May, setting up interviews with key stakeholders to see how NDCs address food systems in climate adaptations - <https://futureoffood.org/>

David Jacobs reported new collaborations in Fisantekraal. More to follow.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 22 July 2021