



Western Cape Food Forum

Thursday, 2 - 3.30pm, 25 November 2021

Report

1. Welcome and apologies.

(The attendance list can be found [here](#) and the full session recording can be accessed [here](#). The meeting chat can be found [here](#)).

In opening the last meeting of the year, Andrew thanked everyone for their contributions to food and nutrition security during another difficult year, and to the work of the Food Forum. He also pointed to the forum being featured in the Triologue 2021 Business in Society Handbook launched on 25 November. The Food Forum case study: 'Connect, communicate, collaborate: how to mitigate a food crisis' is available [here](#).

2. Overview of food and nutrition system activities – Andrew Borraine, EDP

- Charges withdrawn against Pretoria 'cabbage bandit' Djo BaNkuna who had been charged for growing vegetables on municipal property rather than grass, trees or flowers:
 - BaNkuna has extended his gratitude to all his supporters saying, "My patriots, once again thank you for the loud support. Without your vigilance, I would have been a certified cabbage criminal".
 - President Cyril Ramaphosa [promoted](#) pavement gardening, saying, "We will ensure the unrestricted development of urban and pavement gardens where crops can be planted to increase food security." Ramaphosa made the comment during the ANC's election manifesto launch in Tshwane on 27 September.
 - Grant Twigg, Mayco member, City of Cape Town [also stated](#): "From our side, we would encourage people to do exactly what the gentleman did, because one of the things we are encouraging is that people look after the area immediately adjacent to their property... In the City of Cape Town, we are actually encouraging people to start up vegetable gardens."
 - Asanda Mditshwa, a senior lecturer in the Department of Horticultural Sciences, School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the

University of KwaZulu-Natal, is of the opinion municipality by-laws should be progressive and must be consistently updated to address peoples' needs. "Foodscaping or edible landscaping is one the emerging global trends in the gardening landscaping industry. It is defined as the incorporation of edible plants for their aesthetic and nutritive value," Mditshwa said.

- This story points way for municipalities to be able to change their approach to using small pieces of land to grow vegetables and fruit trees. It will be a theme for the Forum to follow up on next year.
- National Food and Nutrition Security Plan is led by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)– bringing different policy positions together. It was acknowledged that SA does not have a single or coherent strategy, policy, or regulatory system to realise the right to food as set out in the Constitution.
 - National Food and Nutrition Security Plan 2018-2023: seven strategic objectives:
 - i. Establish multi-sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Council (DPME)
 - ii. Establish inclusive local food value chains to support access to nutritious affordable food (DALRRD)
 - iii. Expand targeted social protection measures and sustainable livelihood programmes (DSD)
 - iv. Scale up high impact nutrition interventions targeting women, infants and children (DoH)
 - v. Influence people across the life cycle to make informed food and nutrition decisions through an integrated communications strategy (DoH/ GCIS)
 - vi. Develop a monitoring and evaluation system for food and nutrition security (DALRRD/ DPME/ StatsSA)
 - vii. Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship skills (SBD)
 - Focus on development of provincial and local implementation plans. *Very interested in supporting area-based activities.*
 - i. Establishment of a National Council on Food and Nutrition Security, chaired by the Deputy President. Will include representation from government (10 Ministers and 9 Provincial Premiers or delegates!), business, civil society, research and academia, schools of agriculture, smallholder producers and entrepreneurs, schools of public health.
 - ii. Provincial Councils on Food and Nutrition Security? WCG N2F as a basis for this structure?
 - iii. Municipal Food and Nutrition Security Councils?
- What's happening on the ground?
 - [CTTFGI Facebook](#) page has a wealth of information on grassroots, community-based and non-profit initiatives: Elsie's River Community Food Garden (Feed the Future NPO); Young gardeners are building a fynbos corridor across the Cape Flats (GreenPop); establishment of 12 gardens in vulnerable areas to provide food for Lukhanyiso Safe House in Concordia South (Growing Upwards); Ocean View Organic Farmers; Langa Bicycle Hub and Composteria pilot compost project in the City Bowl. In Cape Town and WC there's an incredible wealth of community-led and NPO-led and entrepreneur-led food and nutrition projects. How do we connect these better to the authorizing environment without demobilizing what's happening on the ground?

- Visit to [De Rust Agriculture School](#), Patryslaagte, Grabouw: WC Education Department focus school, with over 1000 learners from ECD to Matric. Teaches subjects like agriculture management practice and agriculture technology, with emphasis on practical and vocational training. This school is an example of many different types of partnerships, e.g.: WCED leases land and buildings from NPO established over 50 years ago by local farmers; Groenland Conservancy, WWF and TESCO support the nursery; buying agreement with Food Circle for the local Spar to buy the beans and spinach; Haygrove and past pupils for the tunnels; etc. Main lessons - very strong enabling and supportive environment from private and public sector; good leadership, with an ability to engage with multiple role-players as potential partners.
 - WCG N2F visit to Zweletemba, Worcester (more below)
 - Social Employment Fund [funding application process](#)
 - Deadline: 08 December.
 - Two briefings for CSOs by the IDC on role of Strategic Implementing Partners (SIPs). Comprehensive FAQs on website
 - Feedback from forum members:
Brett – there are proposals/submissions from SOASO that went in for Youth Employment. There will be two bulk submissions into SEF – still receptive to people and organisations that need to attach to an organisation to apply – can reach out. (Contact Colleen@saoso.org for potential inclusion).
3. Information updates and knowledge sharing:
- Update on The Nourished Child research project, African Centre for Cities (ACC), UCT. Mark Spires and Scott Drimie presentation. Apologies from Gareth Haysom. Full presentation can be accessed [here](#). The Nourished Child project aims to learn what influences diets of children under the age of 5 and women of childbearing age:
 - Existing systems (food system, urban conditions, and systems of existing interventions) and how they influence nutrition
 - Improve nutrition
 - Community this approach to local and other decision makers
 - i. Community mapping happened with members of communities around three systems: the map will give readers a detailed view of study findings – including community retailers, gardens, public transport, access to water, toilets, dumping sites, community centres and libraries as well as presence of clinics, NPO food distribution points, schools, ECDs, places of worship etc.
 - ii. Research process has been driven by workshops with community members. Research participants have had opportunity to 'own' findings and make sense of them. They have also used other media like images to drive conversations.
 - iii. The project is now looking at next steps such as influencing food-sensitive approach to municipal IDPs and thinking about local food systems through things like vacant land, community health worker connections to informal settlements, etc.
 - iv. Research, policy, and practitioners coming together to create a triple approach to bottom-up food systems governance.

- Update on WCG Nourish to Flourish (N2F) programme, including recent visit to Zweletemba, Worcester. Tristan Gorgens, DotP, WCG



The WCG Nourish to Flourish Working Group and partners recently engaged with formal and informal food and nutrition systems in Zweletemba, Worcester, one of three pilot sites in the Western Cape.

The purpose was to 1) map how government can create a more supportive and enabling environment for grassroots non-government initiatives, and 2) consider how highly-regulated and compliance-driven government systems and structures can engage and support informality

- WCG N2F Working Group (approx. 30 people) went to Zweletemba in Worcester on a food and nutrition system learning journey – to ‘listen twice and speak once’ and to build upon coalition of data and activism that’s been happening in that space. The group included regional and head office staff and was hosted by a range of residents and organisations across 5 curated experience to allow people to understand different parts of the food systems – including nutritional prospects for children in Zweletemba. The process focused on immersing officials, and on learning how government can do things differently. The journey reinforced the lesson that addressing complexity of food and nutrition requires a multi-disciplinary team with an attitude towards change that looks for collaboration and building on existing energy (curious and humble engagement).
- There is a strong set of ECD networks in Worcester, which reinforced that message that the ECD sector plays an important role in ensuring children’s access to food as well as enabling the local economy by enabling parents to participate in the labour market. The next step is to discuss how government can be a support and enable community-based initiatives without falling into the trap of over-regulating or over-formalising, or taking a ‘cookie cutter’ single model for problem solving.
- Comments
 - a. Andrew: This is a real attempt by government to do things in non-hierarchical ways, demonstrating an attitude and culture shift to ‘listen twice and speak once’. Both formal and informal ECDs collectively determine whether households can survive or thrive. But how do we crack the difficulty of getting government to support informality?
 - b. Geraldine – can we simplify systems for unregistered ECDs? There are similar situations in Langa. The DSD introduced a pilot programme around ECD registration (Vangasali Programme) which is a tiered registration programme (bronze, silver, gold) which helps people get access government subsidies and changes what types of food they can buy. Even when reaching the first (bronze) level, the ECD is able to access the DSD R17 per day /per child subsidy, of which 40% of the subsidy must be spent on food provision. For more details contact

Faadiela Ryklief at ELRU (Early Learning Resource Unit, Faadiela@elru.co.za).

- c. Andrew – given that the ECD function is moving from DSD to WCED, we need to engage more with WCED next year around their role in food and nutrition via ECDs.

4. Local Production for Local Consumption (LP4LC) presentations

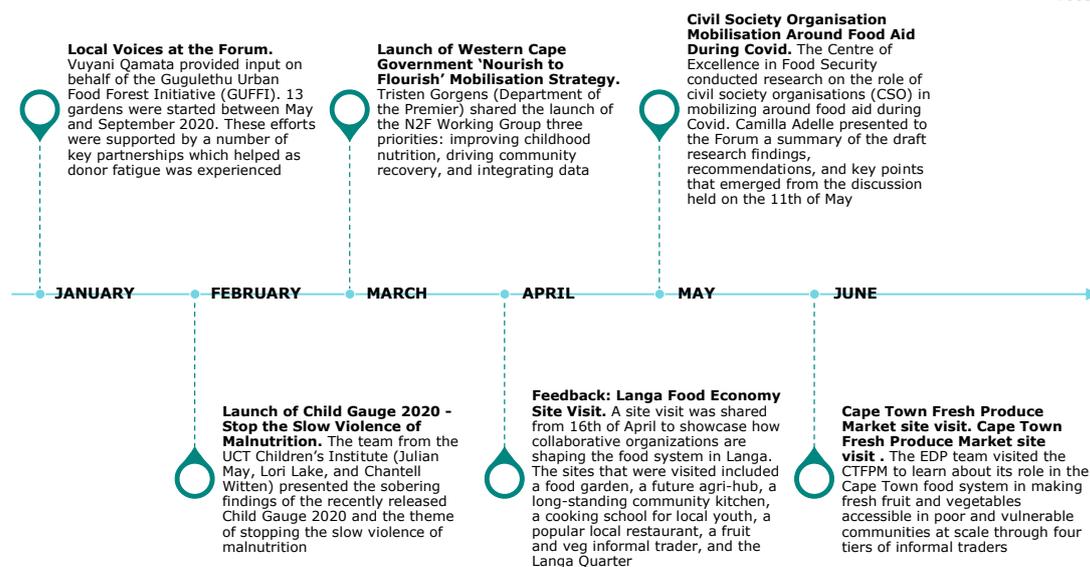
- Bellville Urban Garden, Craig Kingsley, Grow ZA. The EDP recently visited an urban food garden in the Bellville CBD called the Life-Changing Gardens which is hosted by [MES, a local faith-based NPC](#) working with people who are homeless (MES stands for Motivate, Empower, Serve). The project is supported by the Greater Tygerberg Partnership, Grow ZA and the City of Cape Town. Full presentation can be accessed [here](#).
 - Grow ZA looks at tackling social progress as expressed in SDGs and works with donors to build out programming around SDG 6 (water).
 - Bellville Urban Garden is “Lifechanging Garden” – established by MES as part of Step Up programme. It has become a place of safety for the homeless community and is supported by the Greater Tygerberg Partnership. It aims to connect communities, build trust, and work on local production and local consumption. The project is looking at integrating operation of garden into MES programming (Grow Programme).
 - Working on challenges around sustainable production and operations, maintaining crops, efficiency of production, composting and feeding the soil, expanding, land tenure (owned by TransNet and leased by MES), and supply chain testing with Bellville fresh produce market (have been open and progressive in terms of formalizing that partnership).
 - Water security work resulted in a borehole – water security needs were urgent – and have garden off the municipal grid (average water bill dropped from R1600 a month to R120 a month).
 - What is still needed for LP4LC? – skills development, business modeling, land tenure for expansion, hyperlocal marketing campaigns, access to markets, and positioning this as a case study to attract attention.
 - Comments
 - a. Andrew – theme around urban food growing and homelessness possibilities to support reintegration is an innovation that could serve many communities, as well as enabling intermediary infrastructure which is like Kurt's approach to agrihubs.
 - b. Kurt – question around water, and washing vegetables with non-potable water? Usually get pushback around hygiene certifications.
 - c. Craig – working with an organization around water quality and purification treatments (looking at using MES garden as a site for innovation).
 - d. Matt Purkis - Biochar filtration is a good option for water filtration practical micro solutions for cleaning of veg.
- Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve. Mark Heistein, CEO of Cape Winelands Biodiversity and a member of the Rotary District Food Gardens team. Presentation can be accessed [here](#).
 - Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve overview – work on conservation, development, and logistical support (scientific side).
 - Central Training Centre in Franschoek has 200+ veggie beds. A Care Career-Connections garden outside of Stellenbosch has set up a WhatsApp group

amongst local people and shops. On Wednesdays they send out messages about what will be picked and people come to collect (no distribution costs and no marketing costs). Its working very well, across 17 gardens in the WC.

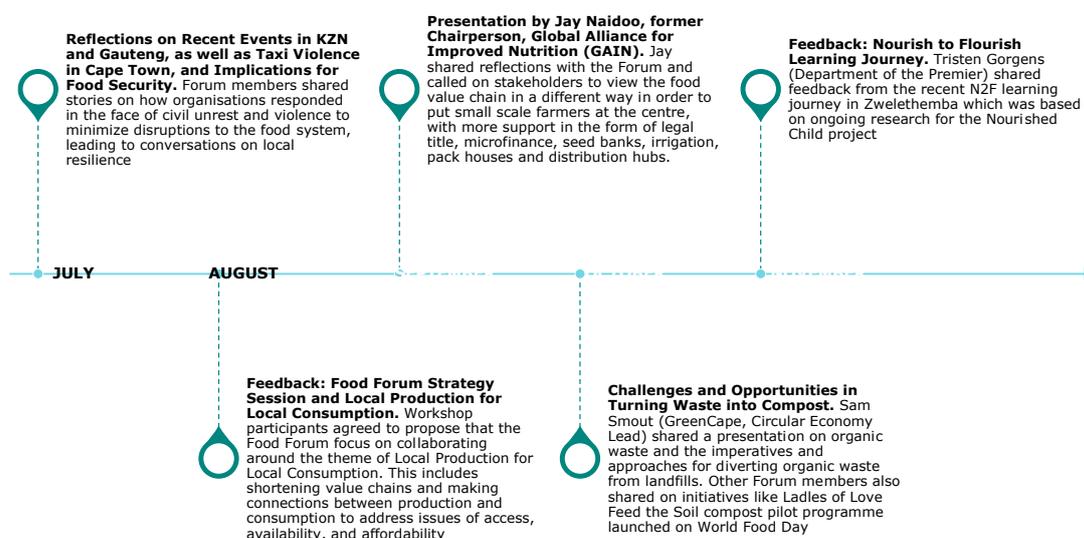
- The project has worked very closely with Dept. of Agriculture and is connected to government but work in all tiers of society and on the ground.
- Looked at costs that were associated with fertilizer and compost – now using soil enhancement microbes.
- Also looking at entrepreneurial skills training in wood working so that people can have livelihoods outside of food growing as well as a mobile career café in partnership with Action Volunteers Africa to get people interested in science and education around water and food gardens.
- Trying to set up pods across Western Cape – looking deeper than food security to family needs like education, airtime, and data, etc.
- Reached out to Elon Musk's organization that is planning how to grow gardens on Mars to challenge them to do it first on earth. They responded positively and now have correspondence on how to channel scientific experiments back into communities in South Africa.

5. Plenary discussion: Review of the Food Forum in 2021 and ideas for 2022

Western Cape Food Forum highlights 2021



WC Food Forum Highlights 2021 continued



Focus 2022?: models for food governance from below, through area-based approaches which bring together researchers, policy-makers and local partnering practitioners and community organisations.

Ideas:

- Debby: mentorships for those who are starting off.
- Erica: seeing a need for circular economy, CoCT is producing strategic plans for waste management and water – could be supporting using what exists in the community, highlighting what is out there and working to help scale it up in waste management and water harvesting. There are lots of entrepreneurs and innovative things happening in places across Cape Town which don't always come to light.
- Geraldine: could possibly set aside a small research group to follow suggestions from Jay Naidoo to keep in touch with global trends. We need to take note of what is happening outside of SA so that we don't play catchup all the time.
- Angela: need to start focusing on the Southern Suburbs – Lavender Hill, Grassy Park, etc.
- Vusumzi: want to start working with the City and Southern Suburbs.
- Makholwa: take a role in food security through food gardens in schools (Dept. of Education), Out of 1,000 schools, 688 have food gardens that vary in size and production. The aim is to have learners see how food is being produced and educate themselves and their families. Also think that Department of Public Works/ Public Works Programme should be included in the Forum for labour for gardens and ECDs.
- Brett– how to engage in Waste Implementation?

Erica's feedback on waste consultation process: objections and suggestions to COCT waste and water management plan: We had our first zoom meeting and on looking at the document found:

1. It lacked vision and strategic thinking
2. did not include the community stakeholders
3. only further entrenched what they are currently doing and know
4. they need proper visioning workshop and shift from what they know,

5. start doing pilot projects that are local and within the existing communities
 6. look into decentralisation, and local solutions that have already been implemented successfully
 7. suggest a waste management forum that create a plan for WM (like the developer forum) consisting of all stakeholders
 8. (WCEDP can help facilitate a first meeting on this with relevant COCT depts)
 9. There is plenty of waste and enough to go around for everyone, nobody needs to feel threatened or excluded. For water similarly, needs a water forum to guide it made up of civic stakeholders. Here is [the link to participate](#) and please give in your suggestions.
- o Andrew: it would be good to engage more formally with WC Education Department in 2022.
6. Recent food and nutrition articles and materials
 - a. 17 November, Agroecological Transitions and Local Governance online seminar, by Food Governance Community of Practice. Full recording [here](#).
 - b. Florian Kroll paper: "Kroll argues that agroecology, a philosophy of a sustainable farming practice that reimagines the relationship between humans and the environment, faces an uphill struggle in South Africa because of an ambiguous food governance environment. In his paper, Kroll outlined several food governance hurdles to improved adoption of agroecology in cities like Cape Town and Johannesburg. These included a complex food system where 'Big Food' dominated, supplying a hybrid formal and informal food retail network; fragmented government responsibilities; a policy patchwork that doesn't always make a whole; fraught departmental power dynamics in government; and ideological tensions." Food production has to get greener, [study shows](#).
 - c. "Building resilient food systems requires sustainable planning at territorial level. Better understanding their city region food system, its main actors, and its vulnerabilities and exposure to shocks and stresses, allows the local and regional governments of the Antananarivo, Melbourne, and Quito to make informed decisions, plan interventions, and prioritise actions that increase their food system resilience. Diversifying food sources and value chains, including boosting local food production, promoting shorter food supply chains, and strengthening urban-rural linkages can contribute to resilience building of city region food systems. Moreover, fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration for inclusive governance is another key element to build resilience to multiple shocks and stresses." Two FAO authors: Building Resilience to COVID-19 in City [Region Food Systems](#).
 - d. [Building climate resilience](#) important for agriculture, forestry and land use sustainability.
 - e. [What is Food Sovereignty?](#) (SeedChange, Canada)
 7. Forthcoming events
 - a. Oude Molen Food Garden Village Permaculture Food Forest Open Day, 5b Park Road, Rondebosch, 9-1, Saturday 27th
 - b. CTT Food Growers initiative: Next Water Harvesting Workshop 7th Dec both onsite and on Zoom. 10am. Topic: CTT Food Grower's Initiative Water Harvesting [Workshop](#).

- c. Join the PHA Food and Farming Campaign, Heinrich Böll Foundation and Natural Justice on the [9 December from 10-11:30](#) am as various academics, lawyers and experts present on the Cape Flats Aquifer
- d. Aquifer Festival, [11 December](#) (PHA Food and Farming Campaign)

8. Date of next meeting: Thursday, 27 January 2022