



WESTERN CAPE  
Economic  
Development  
Partnership



## Western Cape Food Forum

Thursday, 2 - 3.30pm, 30 September 2021

### Meeting Report

1. Welcome and apologies (attendance list can be found [here](#)<sup>1</sup> and the full session recording can be accessed [here](#).)
2. Overview of some food and nutrition system activities in the past month

There were many food related events in the last month. They included:

- [Food Dialogues](#), which brought together a variety of voices to reflect on food in Cape Town. Forum members are invited to contribute to the dialogues by sharing their stories [here](#) and [here](#), and to take part in the forthcoming [World Food Day Panel discussion](#) on 14 October with Jean-Paul Adam, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Jane Battersby, University of Cape Town, Nomonde Buthelezi, Food Agency Cape Town (FACT) and Prof. Julian May, Centre of Excellence in Food Security.
- The [#cocreate Design Festival](#) organised by the Craft and Design Institute (CDI) also took place this month and tackled, amongst other issues, the importance of co-designing the food system for better outcomes. The EDP took part in a discussion about whether a 'Department of Food' would be able to address some of the challenges in the currently fragmented food systems governance. The discussion also included an input from Petrina Pakoe from the Peninsula School Feeding Association on the devastating life-long effect on poor nutrition. Following on from the design events last week, CDI has opened applications for the RE:SOLVE Challenge 2021, looking for big ideas to solve some of SA's challenges in key areas such as the economy and job creation, healthcare, food security, and water and sanitation. More information can be [found here](#), the deadline is 31st of October.
- It was reported that the WCG Nourish to Flourish programme has continued to evolve. A presentation to the WCG Cabinet scheduled for 29 September was postponed and a report will be prepared thereafter to provide feedback about how the authorising environment is becoming more conducive and supportive of what needs to happen in the food and nutrition system.
- The EDP took part in a workshop led by the national department of Social Development looking at redesigning their food distribution models and shared

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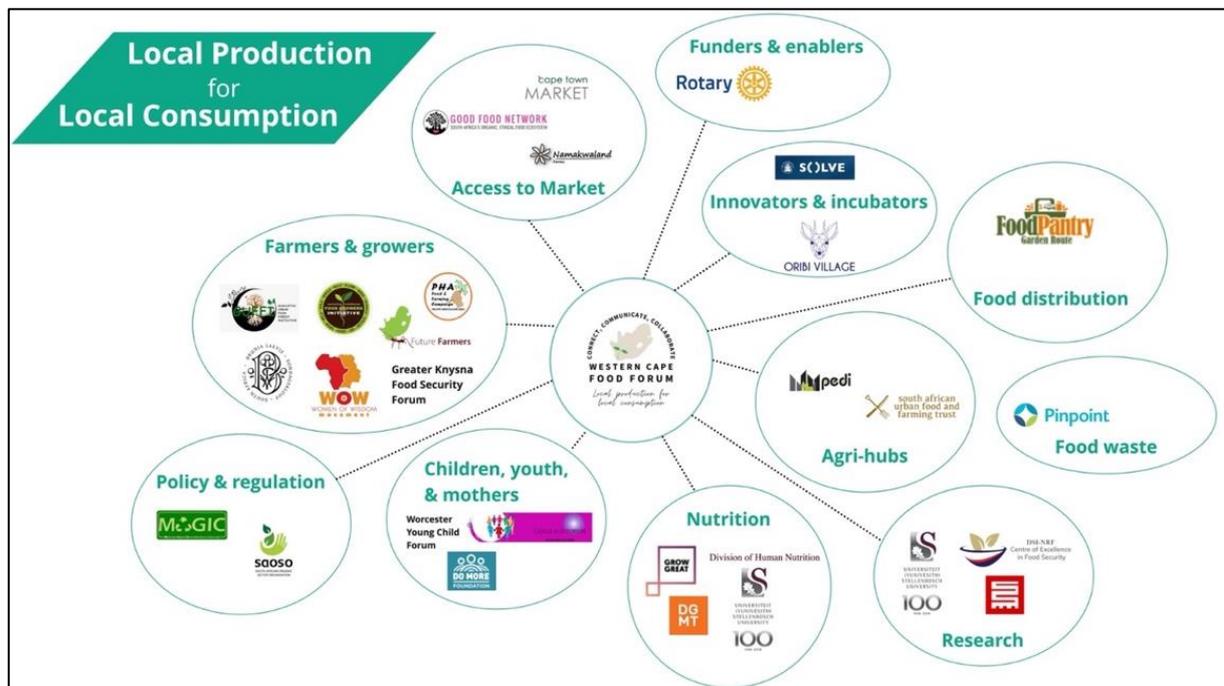
<sup>1</sup> The WC Food Forum has since its inception distributed an attendance register with the minutes of the meeting. The register has always included the email addresses of attendees, for the purpose of encouraging connecting, communicating and collaborating amongst Forum members between meetings. If you wish for your email address to not be included, please let us know by emailing [honda@wcedp.co.za](mailto:honda@wcedp.co.za)

some of the lessons learnt from voucher programmes. The presentation, on findings and lessons on the role of digital vouchers in food aid, can be found [here](#).

### 3. Local Production for Local Consumption – sharing different perspectives.

Following the design of a new strategy for the WC Food Forum, namely, *Local Production for Local Consumption*, which aims to improve nutritional outcomes, the EDP has begun engaging different research, advocacy, practitioner, and public policy stakeholders, and mapping the activities and connections between local food systems and nutritional outcomes. There are a great many innovative food and nutrition initiatives taking place at different scales, e.g., micro, neighborhood, town, and district, driven by many different actors in the food system, e.g., households, civil society organisations, farmers, businesses, and local authorities.

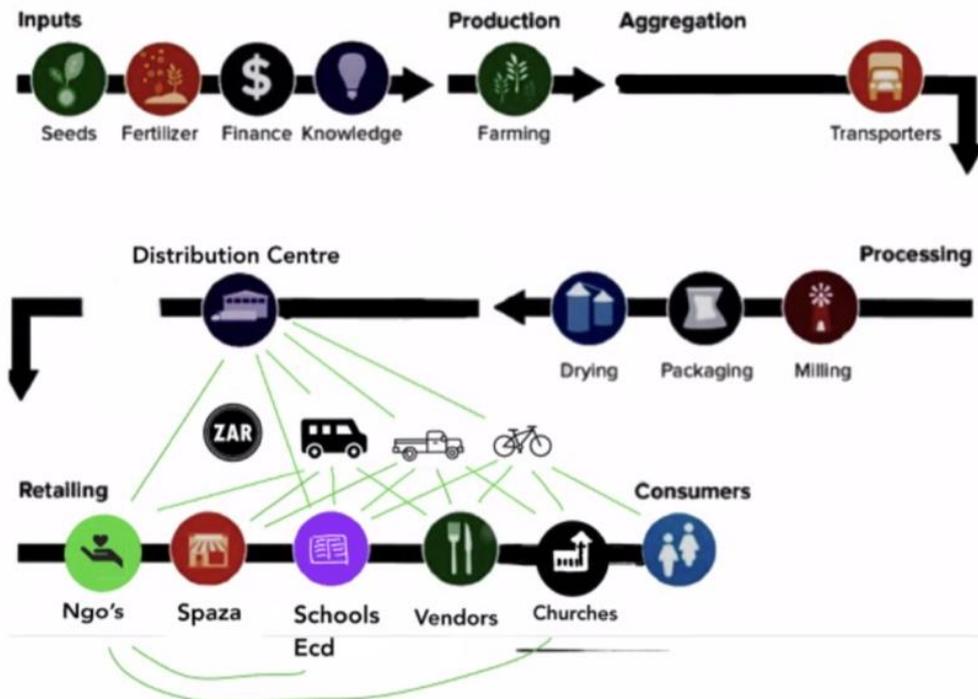
To date, the EDP team has engaged with the food and nutrition organisations represented in this slide (not an exhaustive list):





An example of a local food system from the Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading (VPUU) programme

There are many ways to intervene in the food supply system to bring producers and consumers closer together. One example is Namakwaland Farms, which has designed a community-based supply chain solution, replacing some of the conventional retail outlets through a Distribution Centre connected to NGOs, spazas, ECDs, vendors and religious groups.



Example of how to shorten the food supply chain and potentially reduce prices of fresh nutritious food

In another example, the [Phuhlisani](#) project in the Matzikama municipal area is an area-based planning process for employment intensive land and agrarian reform.

Through the engagement and mapping process, we are a.) identifying the challenges and blockages, b.) how the public sector can potentially provide a more supportive environment, and c.) how peer to peer learning can generate inter-project support.

Forum members are invited to identify additional organisations, groups and networks involved in building local food and nutrition systems.

*Presentation by Nazeer Soday, Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA)*

Nazeer has been farming for the past 12 years in Philippi and shared his lessons as a small-scale farmer along three themes: the trend of the average age of farmers getting older across SA, the distinction between urban agriculture and small-scale farming (both need to be part of a continuum of support, both have advantages and disadvantages) and the 'compost conundrum' for farmers, which calls for a link with other parts of the food system using a circular approach. His full presentation can be found [here](#).

The slide is titled "The small farmer's compost" in a green box. It features a photograph of a large pile of dark compost in a field. To the right of the photo is a red-bordered sign with the text "CATCH 22" in red. Below the photo and sign is a yellow text box with the text: "We cant make enough compost to increase production to have the income to buy compost to increase production".

Andrew suggested that compost and regenerative farming become a theme that the Forum should pick up going forward. It can be a win-win by helping to connect with City's goals to divert organic waste from landfill to make it available to farmers and food gardens.

*Presentation by Shawn Alimohammadi, UWC*

Shawn presented his research findings entitled "Explorations of inclusive food metabolisms in Cape Town, South Africa" which looked at the intersectionality of food, the false perception that food is only 'rural', the crucial role of the informal sector, and the importance of data on urban food flows, especially the 'hidden metabolisms'. His key recommendations are captured in the slide below and his full presentation can be found [here](#).

# Recommendations

1. **Commission a data collection initiative to map food flows, as close as possible to real time.**
  - Capture this in a digitised Sankey diagram to visualise community food & nutrition flows
2. **Commission a renewed Agricultural Land Review that prioritises food security and includes farming in civic areas and schools**
  - This must be a multi-stakeholder approach
  - Support agroecological production and job creation in located areas
3. **Provide interest free loans for small scale foodpreneurs (with a focus on the vulnerable and the youth), to catalyse vibrant regional food metabolisms,**
  - Set up resource responsible infrastructure for local community markets
  - Outcomes could be more accessible, culturally appropriate and affordable foods

*Presentation by Jay Naidoo, former Chairperson, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)*

Jay reflected on prior policy frameworks separating 'rural' from 'urban' approaches, instead of focusing on the continuum between villages, towns and cities. Tackling child malnutrition has been another key area of his work with the public and private sector. Jay pointed out how chemical industrialised farming has helped to destroy soil health over the past 70 years, leading to 'empty calories' and contributing to poor nutrition and the disease burden. With the disappearance of up to 40% of topsoil globally, Jay called on stakeholders to view the food value chain in a different way and to put small scale farmers at the centre, with more support in the form of legal title, microfinance, seed banks, irrigation, pack houses and distribution hubs. For example, in India, the [Naandi foundation](#) works with 25 000 tribal farmers across 700 villages. It uses an organising approach that has put 1000's of previously impoverished tribal farmers at the centre which has led to their incomes increasing by up to 800%.

## General discussion

The full 'chat' exchange can be accessed [here](#)

Gavin Andersson - inspiring to hear how people are weaving things together in this forum and starting to consciously plan and think through how to create stronger local food systems. For example, the ideas already provided to respond to the 'compost Catch 22' shows the power of collectively strengthening local food systems. There are many jobs and work opportunities in regenerative agriculture.

Chairperson- I agree, jobs and the food system are interlinked, and food is not just about the 'social' sector. We need to break down this false dichotomy. The food system is social, economic and environmental, whereas in government, there tends to be a rigid separation between the three because of departmental silos.

Matthew Purkis – The Food Forum is a good way to open participatory discussion, and to bring what's happening on the ground closer to structures. There are many solutions the sector has created which need visibility.

Debbie Shapiro – Excellent forum and willing to volunteer!

Brett Sander – a key need is to connect people on the ground and organised networks to have conversations with public institutions, and to access financial instruments. If we have a few political heavyweights to assist, this will add positivity to what is happening on the ground.

Carl van Blerk – excited to hear about fortified food, focused on nutrition rather than just providing food aid.

Lilian – works with women survivors of abuse/disabilities. Shawn's recommendation to provide support to vulnerable groups to help support more; people with disabilities in gardens is of great interest.

Makholwa – quality of compost not consistent. Many people in the chat recommended to consider making compost directly to ensure quality.

Tamsin Faragher – CoCT programme launched internally, and starting annual report, food sensitive planning and informal sector, policy work on metropolitan framework. Agreed action: City to present at the next forum

Geraldine Nicol --looking at international trends helps us to aim for a long-term strategy. We need to look at the macro picture. We must have someone looking at the recommendations to ensure they are feeding down to the groups. Food systems governance is important.

Shamiel Adams – from Cape Urban Farmer, working with poverty-stricken communities. Challenges in food security are complex, there is a need to demystify ideas of growing food in urban areas for urban communities.

Nazeer Sondag - compost made at the farm. As we scale up, there is need for more compost and cost becomes a challenge.

Jay Naidoo - All signs confirm that a 'perfect storm' is coming – an ecological emergency (air, water, soil, food) combined with inequality, joblessness and hunger. We need to change now. We need new thinking. We need to organise.

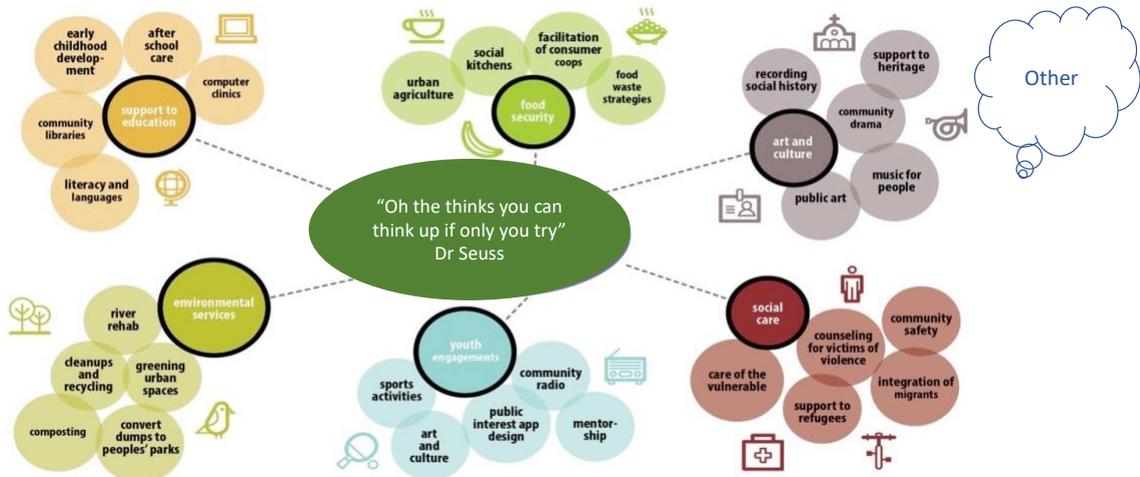
4. Information updates and knowledge sharing. As a reminder, you can access and add to the list of events [here](#). Forthcoming events:

- i. 4 October, 14.00-16.30, The Promises and Pitfalls of Multi-Stakeholder Food Governance, Food Governance Community of Practice, 14.00-16.30, Zoom meeting, Register [here](#).
- ii. 14 October, 9.00, World Food Day, Food Dialogues, [World Food Day Panel discussion](#).

5. Update on the proposed Social Employment Fund (SEF)

The SEF is due to be shortly announced. The DG Murray Trust, together with the EDP, as members of the SEF Advisory Group, have been hosting informal briefings for CSOs as potential applicants to the SEF.

This grant recognises and supports work for the **COMMON GOOD**



CSOs are advised to 'start their partnering conversations now'. The Social Employment Fund is based on a 'whole of society approach'. This means that organisations are encouraged to work together to submit funding applications and manage work programmes. The SEF is a national programme and funding is expected to be allocated equitably across regions. This means that local organisations within regions will need to be strategic about partnering to avoid competing with each other. The funding application window may be quite short. This means that if CSOs wait for the formal call for proposals to be announced by the IDC to start looking for partners, it may be too late.

#### Partnering considerations

- **Partnering for delivery at scale.** The minimum bid needs to include 1 000 participants. Many CSOs on their own do not have this capacity. CSOs may therefore want to consider teaming up with other CSOs (and private sector and donor partners) to strengthen their overall administrative, managerial and reporting capacity to be able to deliver at scale.
- **Partnering for grassroots inclusion.** Government will not be able to contract directly with informal grassroots organisations because of public sector rules and procedures. This means that to participate in the process, smaller informal organisations will need to partner with larger CSOs (intermediaries) that have the formal capacity to contract with government. Intermediaries, on the other hand, will need to demonstrate grassroots participation in order to succeed in the funding application process.
- **Partnering for collective impact.** Applications may be sector specific, where organisations tend to have a history of working together, but it also makes sense to consider partnering across different sectors and organisations within a geographic region to achieve integration and collective impact within space.

#### 6. Recent food and nutrition articles and materials

Why global food prices are higher today than for most of modern history: <https://theconversation.com/why-global-food-prices-are-higher-today-than-for-most-of-modern-history-168210>

DALA Kitchen: More than just another cookbook: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-09-30-dala-kitchen-more-than-just-another-cookbook/>

Grains of Truth: New EAT-GlobeScan Global Consumer Research on Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems: <https://globescan.com/affordability-availability-biggest-challenges-to-healthy-sustainable-diets/#GoodFood4All>

Data flows. This work collected some very useful information across certain food types from page 20: [https://hungrycities.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Thesis-Urban-Food-System-Vulnerabilities\\_Mira-Berger.pdf](https://hungrycities.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Thesis-Urban-Food-System-Vulnerabilities_Mira-Berger.pdf)

CTT Food Growers videos can be access here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3S5eHIVUDhY6bgrpRiJLSQ>

7. Funding opportunity

**10 October deadline**, The Global Agriinno Challenge 2021: Connecting Youth-Led Innovation to the Agri-food Sector: <http://www.fao.org/e-agriculture/global-agriinno-challenge-2021-connecting-youth-led-innovation-agri-food-sector>

**Note: we will also continue to distribute a newsletter between forum dates to share information, resources, and funding opportunities. Please let us know if there is anything you'd like for us to highlight.**

8. Date of next meeting: **Thursday, 28 October 2021**