



Western Cape Food Forum

Thursday, 2 - 3.30pm, 26 August 2021

Report

Welcome and apologies (attendance list can be found [here](#)¹)

Agenda:

- Update on national Social Employment Fund (SEF)
- Feedback on WC Food Forum Strategy Session
- Feedback on Western Cape Government Nourish to Flourish (N2F) programme
- Overview of global food politics & the United Nations Food Security Summit (UNFSS)
- Introduction to the Stellenbosch Food Security Working Group (SCAN)
- Introduction to rules and regulations on nutritional supplements
- Information updates, knowledge sharing and learning

Social Employment Fund

The newly designed national Social Employment Fund (SEF) has been allocated R800m for the creation of 50 000 jobs as part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Package for the current financial year (2021-22). The SEF is one of 15 new employment programmes that are to be announced by national government:

- The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) will be issuing a SEF Call for Proposals to civil society intermediaries in the next 4-6 weeks. The bid window is likely to be quite short, and the pressure to sign contracts and getting employment programmes going is intense.
- 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.
- Work for the common good includes placemaking (safe streets, cultural facilities), health and community care, community safety, greening, food and nutrition security (community kitchens, community gardens, nutrition programmes),

¹ 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 rhonda@wcedp.co.za

education support and ECDs, youth support, digital inclusion, community and public art, informal settlement upgrading, etc.

- The Fund will support a total of 100 days per annum per person. The allocation of this time is flexible depending on the needs of a given organisation: e.g. it can be broken into half days or aggregated month.
- A minimum of 80% of the costs of approved contracts must go to wage costs. The allocation of non-wage costs will vary by programme but should cover inter alia the programme management fees of the implementing agent, protective gear where required, tools and materials, and training and technical support costs.
- The application process is likely to in two phases: 1) proof of concept, and, then, only if successful, 2) compliance paperwork, to relieve administrative burden on CSOs.
- A digital payment and reporting system will be utilised.
- One of the bid requirements will be **scale**, i.e., a minimum of 1000 jobs per programme. This means that those applying for funding will need to consider forming coalitions and partnerships:
 - i) With other intermediaries,
 - ii) With smaller grassroots organisations involved in social value work
 - iii) Across different sectors and themes
 - iv) Across different geographies, e.g., urban and rural.
- A formal announcement will likely be made in the coming days. In the meantime, any organisations interested in taking this discussion further and gearing up to consider bidding to please [let EDP know](#). If there is sufficient interest, we can convene a separate discussion to get into the detail. We will reach out to involve CSOs beyond the food and nutrition sector: ECDs, public space, clean up campaigns, community safety, etc.

Feedback on Food Forum Strategy Session (19 August).

- Read meeting report [here](#); and feedback on the session [here](#).
- The workshop agreed to propose that the Food Forum in its next phase focus on collaborating around the theme of **Local Production for Local Consumption**:
 - i) Promoting short food supply chains. These are supply chains involving fewer intermediaries, committed to cooperation, local economic development, and maintaining close geographical and social relations between food producers, processors and consumers. It is one of the ways to drive change in the food system.
 - ii) A short food supply chain is based on geographic proximity (shorter physical distances), social proximity (direct connections between producers and consumers, connection with local food traditions and identities), and economic proximity (exchanges through different types of markets, money circulation, local governance), and can generate social, environmental, and economic benefits.
 - iii) There are many different ways to mobilise, organise, educate and build relationships: e.g., farmer's markets, community-supported agriculture, consumer cooperatives, food hubs, box schemes, on farm selling, internet sales, business cooperatives, grow your own initiatives, etc.
 - iv) There is an opportunity to reach out to and engage with stakeholders in different parts of the regional food system:
 - (1) Local small-scale producers and farmers, processors, manufacturers
 - (2) Informal food traders and vendors
 - (3) Food waste and composting initiatives
 - (4) Food nutritionists and health workers

- (5) Organisers of neighbourhood markets
- (6) Institutions that need food: kitchens, shelters, ECDs, schools, canteens
- (7) Promoters of local food culture and identity
- (8) Campaigners for better management of natural resources and biodiversity protection, etc.

In other words, an **inclusive, integrated and cross-cutting approach**.

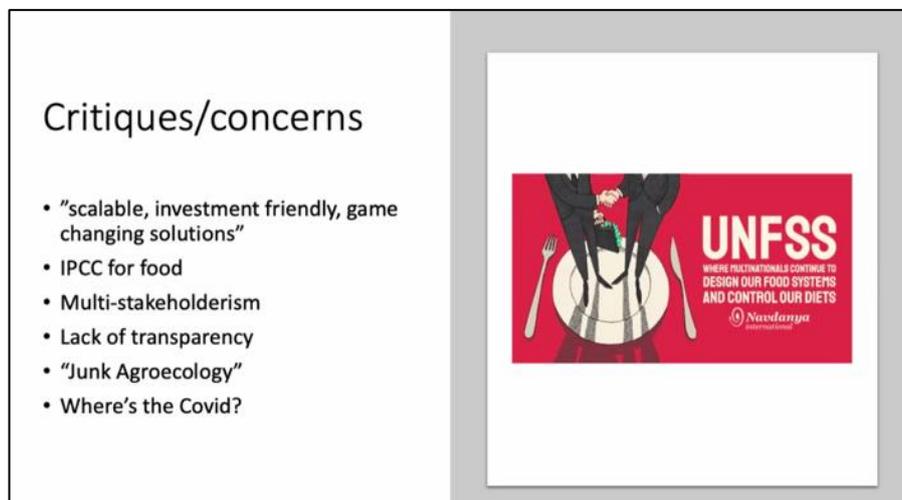
- v) This implies reaching out to include groups and organisations that are currently not involved in the Food Forum.
- vi) Further strategy sessions will be convened to develop the strategy in more detail:
 - (1) Goals we want to achieve together (areas of focus, themes, common agenda)
 - (2) Activities to achieve the goals (action at different scales, and time periods)
 - (3) Resources to give effect to the activities (realistic, effective change)
 - (4) Appropriate structures to sustain the activities (mobilising, organising, implementing, collaborating, decision making, knowledge sharing, learning, communicating).
- Nazeer Soday from the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA) Food and Farming Campaign highlighted there is a need to Invite others to broaden the discussion in the forum and deepen the goal of local production for local consumption; namely, farmers are not represented, particularly black small farmers. He also highlighted the need to incorporate issues of peri-urban farmland protection and small farmer development to create farmer enterprises and jobs while improving food insecurity. There will be an input on the role of the PHA at the next Food forum.
- The issue of what 'local' means was raised as everyone agreed this is not only about geographic proximity but also in terms of social networks and resilience. It was acknowledged that the forum must establish what 'local' means in practical terms for the Western Cape region. It will be necessary to interpret 'local' to mean organising at different scales at the same time.
- It was also highlighted that understanding the politics and economics that shape the system and potential change is critical in determining how to intervene.
- Rotary runs a bi-monthly webinar series on garden techniques for all scales. There was a suggestion to find ways to share this knowledge more broadly and to explore potential for work to be funded by the Rotary International Foundation.
- The forum agreed to focus on local production for local consumption as part of Phase 3 of the forum and to invite others who fall under this banner (e.g. informal food vendors, nutritionists, agri-tech, etc.). This will entail an iterative process.
- Local production for local consumption will remain a **standing agenda item** in each Forum meeting to help build knowledge and a collective strategy.

Feedback on WCG Nourish to Flourish (N2F)

- On 19 August, the N2F working group held a meeting where discussions were held about the progress on the 3 pilot sites (Langa, Worcester/ Breede Valley and Knysna/ Garden Route) as well as plans around collection of data; particularly to connect and actively work with different partners to make sense of data and to be proactive in working with different issues.
- Background to WCG's work on food and nutrition:

- i) WCG Wellbeing Focus as part of Provincial Recovery Plan: Strong foundations (First 1000 days and ECD); Wellbeing (nutrition, psycho-social support; Meeting basic needs (education, shelter food security); social cohesion (youth, volunteerism, safety, jobs)
 - ii) N2F programme part of Wellbeing Focus.
 - (1) Goal: Better food and nutrition security
 - (2) Strategy; Focus on 3 issues: Improving nutrition in children under 5; Support for local food and farming initiatives; Food data for improved decision-making
 - (3) Approach: Create enabling and supportive environment for local initiatives; mobilise across 10 WCG departments and local government
 - (4) Test approach in 3 areas: Langa; Worcester/ Breede Valley; Knysna
- The Breede Valley Young Child Forum held a meeting in Worcester on 25 August where there is a lot of great work going on in local communities around children and nutrition. The ECDs in Breede Valley are very keen to be involved more directly in food and nutrition issues, especially food gardens, and want to connect with both the WC Food Forum and WCG N2F. A key challenge is to find ways to improve their relationship with government (all spheres), and to get integrated support in terms of food growing, particularly, access to land, water, equipment, seeds, and training on how to sustain food gardens and to cook self-grown food in more nutritious ways.
 - A suggestion was made to ensure programmes that focus on pregnant and lactating women are incorporated in WCG's efforts.

Global food politics & the United Nations Food Security Summit (UNFSS): An introduction by Jane Battersby, African Centre for Cities (ACC)



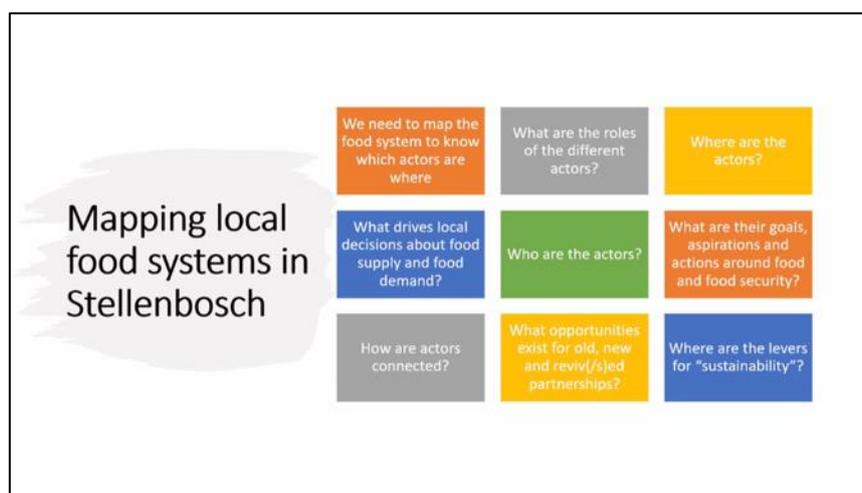
- UN Food Summit culminates in a digital discussion on 23 September. Its aim is "to deliver progress on all 17 of the SDGs through a food systems approach, leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems to global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty and inequality."
- They identified 5 action tracks
 1. Ensuring access to safe and nutrition food
 2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
 3. Boost nature positive production
 4. Advance equitable livelihoods

5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities shocks and stresses

- Ideas were collected and a network of champions established who are in charge of taking outputs forward; all has been done without transparency
- There has been push back about: how it is mediated, who is missing, promoting a particular agenda of 'junk agroecology' and Covid being omitted.
- For SA, this means the framing has been centered on the principle of private public partnerships for food solutions. In the Western Cape the focus almost exclusively on large commercial agriculture. The tensions and contestations that are globally apparent are also reflected locally, making it difficult to achieve a shared vision, common agenda and joint action in the food and nutrition system.
- The full presentation including Jane's personal position on this subject can be found [here](#).

Stellenbosch Food Security Working Group, Marli Goussard and Rhoda Malgas, Stellenbosch Civil Advocacy Network (SCAN)

- SCAN is a local network largely made up of civil society and includes the municipality, Stellenbosch university, and 60 NGOs out of 100 in town. In 2020 working groups were created around economic inclusion, substance abuse, education (ECDs and after school), youth, etc.
- When Covid started, the focus shifted to food relief and then to food security.
- In October 2020 people came together to look at the food system in Stellenbosch and started to map it.
- Local focus is key to the process and SCAN is keen to explore what this means at a small scale (e.g., local farmers selling to NGOs who receive international funding and can afford paying a small premium for instance).
- Through a research process aiming to answer what the food system looks like, it became clear that food needs and food responses were varied.
- The network used FAO's [City Region Food Systems tool](#) to map the system.
- Information has been gathered on what people collect, food choices, access to farmers, farms, land uses, etc.
- Research also identified other issues related to food sources, role of donors, external limitations (storage, energy, etc.)
- One of the unintended consequences is that people got to know neighbours and NGOs were able to identify vulnerable households.
- Rhoda's presentation can be found [here](#).



Rules and regulations on nutritional supplements, Lori Lake and Nicolette Henney

- Regulation 991 is about preventing the inappropriate and unethical marketing of breast milk substitutes. Critiques of formula include - price, hygiene requirements, artificial ingredients introduced into children's diets.
- South Africa has one of the lowest rates of exclusive breastfeeding [in the continent and world](#). Despite this, companies like Nestle have plans to try to keep expanding into the global south.

Benefits of breastfeeding

Improved breastfeeding practices could:

- save 820 000 lives a year
- prevent 1 in 2 diarrhoeal diseases + 1 in 3 respiratory infections in LMIC
- improve IQ
- reduce LT risk of obesity, diabetes and leukemia
- reduce mothers risk of breast and ovarian cancer

Only 23.7% infants **exclusively breastfed** at 4 - 5 months
2016 South African Demographic Health Survey

The infographic features a blue header with the title 'Benefits of breastfeeding'. Below the title, it lists five benefits of improved breastfeeding practices. To the right of the text is a simple line drawing of a person's torso and arms holding a baby. At the bottom, a blue bar contains a statistic: 'Only 23.7% infants exclusively breastfed at 4 - 5 months' with 'exclusively breastfed' in red, and '2016 South African Demographic Health Survey' in smaller text below it.

- Regulation 991 was passed in 2012 - it states that there is no marketing or promotion for formulas, liquid or powered milk for children or milk substitutes or promotion through healthcare personnel.
- News24 was advertising a Nestle branded and sponsored mum and child forum/stokvel to teach people about nutritional needs of new-borns and toddlers, they included brand ambassadors and co-opted a professional nurse and academic at the University of Joburg to be part of the panel - this was alarming to the nutrition community because it violated Regulation 991 in a number of ways (See [Nestle violates SA law](#) for more details).
- Nestle contested that they did nothing wrong, DoH said they would have violated Regulation 991 and the event was cancelled.
- If you see or hear of any potential violations, send them to Nicolette who corresponds with the national organization to help enforce Regulation 991 - Nicolette.Henney@westerncape.gov.za.

Information updates, knowledge sharing and learning

Living Soils Community Learning Farm, Erica Inches, CTTFGI

The different Nematodes and effect on plants and how to resolve an over population without using poisons is incredibly valuable information. The test results showing soil health and where soil components are out of balance was very insightful. Marigolds and more brown dry stuff is needed. Dry out and shred those leaves instead of sending it to landfill but make sure it is not diseased. When in doubt burn it! The recording of this workshop is loaded to Food Grower's Initiative YouTube channel [here](#). The presentation, video, 'question and answer' chat, are loaded to google drive [here](#).

Food Dialogues 6 Sept to 14 Oct, 2021, specifically 21-22 September and 14 October, Kurt Ackerman, South African Urban Food and Farming Trust. A flyer with details can

be downloaded [here](#). Registration (free) opens on 30 August; visit: <https://fairfood.org.za/food-dialogues/>



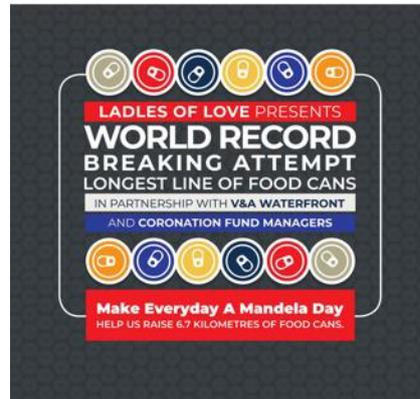
Forthcoming [events](#):

- Food Governance CoP webinar: Digital vouchers - Learnings from the Covid19 humanitarian response, 31 August 2021: 10.00-12.00. Zoom meeting. Register [here](#).
- Craft & Design Institute (CDI) #cocreate Design Festival 2021, Access to food security, 22 September, register [here](#).
- Food Governance CoP gathering: Promises and Pitfalls of Multi-Stakeholder Food Governance, forthcoming (date to be confirmed)
- Cape Town Together Dala Kitchen (more than a cookbook) book launch! When: Sat 28th August (10:00 - 12:30) Where: Gogo's Kitchen in Gugulethu (past event).



- Ladles of Love: This year, Ladles of Love will attempt to build the longest line of food cans and beat the current world record on 29 August at the V&A Waterfront. The lines in our soup kitchens continue to grow across Cape Town and we need to raise funds and food to meet the growing need. This year, we

invite you to help us build a 6,7 km line of food cans by raising 90 000 cans to donate to those in need while raising awareness of the hunger crisis in the Cape. So get your friends, family and colleagues together for some fun things to do in Cape Town on the 29 August between 9 am and 5 pm. – you can find more info on the Ladles [website](#).



- Regenerating South Africa [backabuddy campaign](#): 1000 000 BIOCHAR INDIGENOUS SEED BALL CHALLENGE. The Wild Food Revolution will be travelling through the 9 Biomes of South Africa in our Vintage 1980 Piaggio Tuk Tuk which will be used to transport our Biochar Seed Balls, these will be shot all around South Africa to regenerate Indigenous Landscapes through a soil improvement and indigenous seeds distribution method, a duo approach for double impact. Track our progress with Google Map and our snapshots per season to watch the regeneration process from all our efforts of these landscapes. Over the 3700km we have a goal of dispersing 1 000 000 Biochar Indigenous Seed Pods around the 9 Biomes of South Africa. You can help by purchasing a seed pod pack ONLINE which will help us get these seeds back to their home. These will be manufactured by the CTT Food Growers Initiative to aid in skill set development, indigenous species education and community expansion business models to ensure sustainability of this project and its ongoing process.

Food and nutrition articles and materials

- Hunger is the story of our time <https://www.newframe.com/hunger-is-the-story-of-our-time/>
- Thousands mobilize to call for food systems that empower people, not companies <https://www.csm4cfs.org/thousands-mobilize-to-call-for-food-systems-that-empower-people-not-companies/>
- How to put women at the centre of Africa's food systems <https://theconversation.com/how-to-put-women-at-the-centre-of-africas-food-systems-165972>
- "It's not really about the food" an analysis of women's position in urban food systems in South Africa, Master Thesis by Saskia Kronenberg https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mWil5EO2H6GLkFnz_Z_hnuadEG_oMyFQ/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113001897694218852389&rtpof=true&sd=true
- SA retailer calls on women-owned small businesses to join supply chain <https://www.food24.com/sa-retailer-calls-on-women-owned-small-businesses/>
- What's missing in South Africa's strategy to get breastfeeding levels up <https://theconversation.com/whats-missing-in-south-africas-strategy-to-get-breastfeeding-levels-up-165548>

- 45% of available food supply in South Africa wasted, shows new CSIR study <https://www.csir.co.za/food-supply-south-africa-wasted-shows-new-csir-study>
- Jeffrey Sachs' speech at the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit (full speech) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ1xc491mnU>
- Traditional is the dish at seed and food fair <https://www.newframe.com/traditional-is-the-dish-at-seed-and-food-fair/>
- A people's food policy https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByOC-u0iVRMGLUVKem12RHNhMU0/view?resourcekey=0-DrXM3IHq4_DHLjRAbigdmA
- Planning for Food Secure African Cities (podcasts by Jane Battersby, ACC), <https://www.africancentreforcities.net/programme/planning-for-food-secure-african-cities-podcast/>
- Erica Inches: Soil health: <https://youtu.be/Aw16LPVnNco>
- Violence, hunger and seeds of care by Sanelisiwe Nyaba and Haidee Swanby <https://www.criticalfoodstudies.co.za/violence-hunger-and-seeds-of-care/>
- Podcast: uPhakantoni? (What are you dishing?) <https://soundcloud.com/user-374323030/uphakantoni-first-episode>. This is a food podcast series by Food Agency Cape Town. Uphakantoni questions the content of what's being dished up.
- Paul Moustier: On July 6 2021, we held a workshop on "Priorities for inclusive urban food systems transformations in the global South" as a side-event to the Science days of the Food Systems Summit. It was based on the FSS brief on this topic ([link](#)). The workshop was organised by Cirad and Vaas in collaboration with RUAF, MSU, CNRST and UNESCO Chair in World Food Systems. The video of the event is available on [chaine YouTube du Cirad](#).
- Resources for measuring food and nutrition systems
 - [Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\): Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition](#), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - [Food Security and Livelihoods Indicators Handbook](#), Global Food Security Cluster (fscluster.org)[Publications](#), World Food Programme
 - [Food Security Indicators](#), World Food Programme
 - [Food Security Indicators](#) (PowerPoint Presentation) (FAO)
 - [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021](#), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - [Food Security and Nutrition Indicators for 20 Priority CAADP Countries](#) (umn.edu)

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 30 September 2021