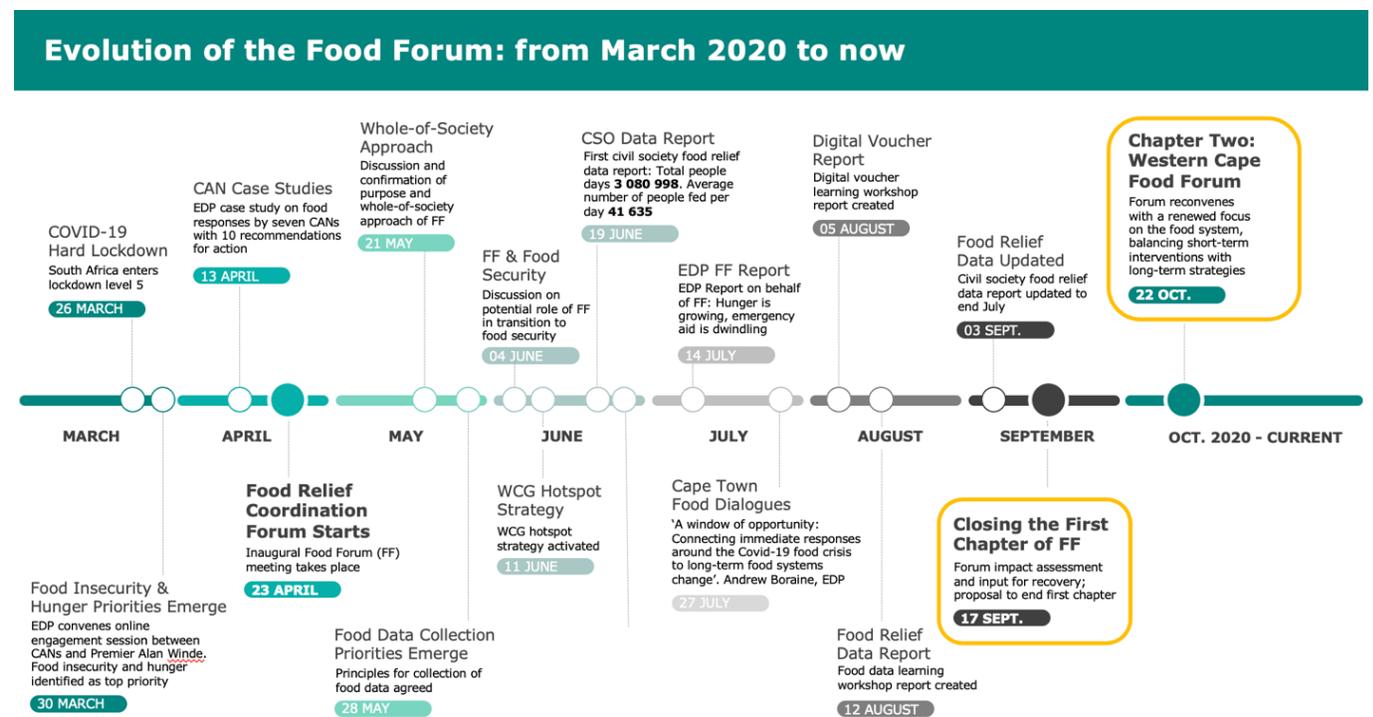




Marcela highlighted some of the key inputs collected through the survey as illustrated in the word cloud above and included the expectations participants surfaced; namely the desire to come out of the session with clear actions, a road map, leadership, direction and structure. It was clarified that this session might not deliver on all the specifics but that with a clear agreement on the focus areas, we could figure out those details as part of next steps.

Two additional inputs were presented by participants; namely, the need to focus on a particular objective and limit 'what the forum can do'; and to ensure that nutrition for children and mothers is incorporated into the discussion. All the original input collected through the survey can be found [here](#).

## Recap: The evolution of the WC Food Forum



Phase One (April 2020, timeline): food relief coordination during a time of crisis – parcels, kitchens, vouchers, raising donations, diverting surplus waste, extending solidarity, building relationships between grassroots organisations and NGOs, and between civil society and the public sector. Collected food relief data and communicated the contribution of the non-state sector and adopted the slogan: Connect, communicate, collaborate

Phase 2 (from October 2020): Food relief is necessary but not sustainable. Consensus around the need to transition to longer term food security, by building on the relationships forged during the crisis, and finding ways to change the food system. This phase emphasised the need for a 'whole of government' and a 'whole of society

approach' (no one sector can solve complex food systems problems on its own); and the forum was broadened by inviting researchers and food policy advocates and networks. During this period seven working groups were established.

### Phase 3 (August 2021): starting with this strategy

A reminder of today's strategy principles

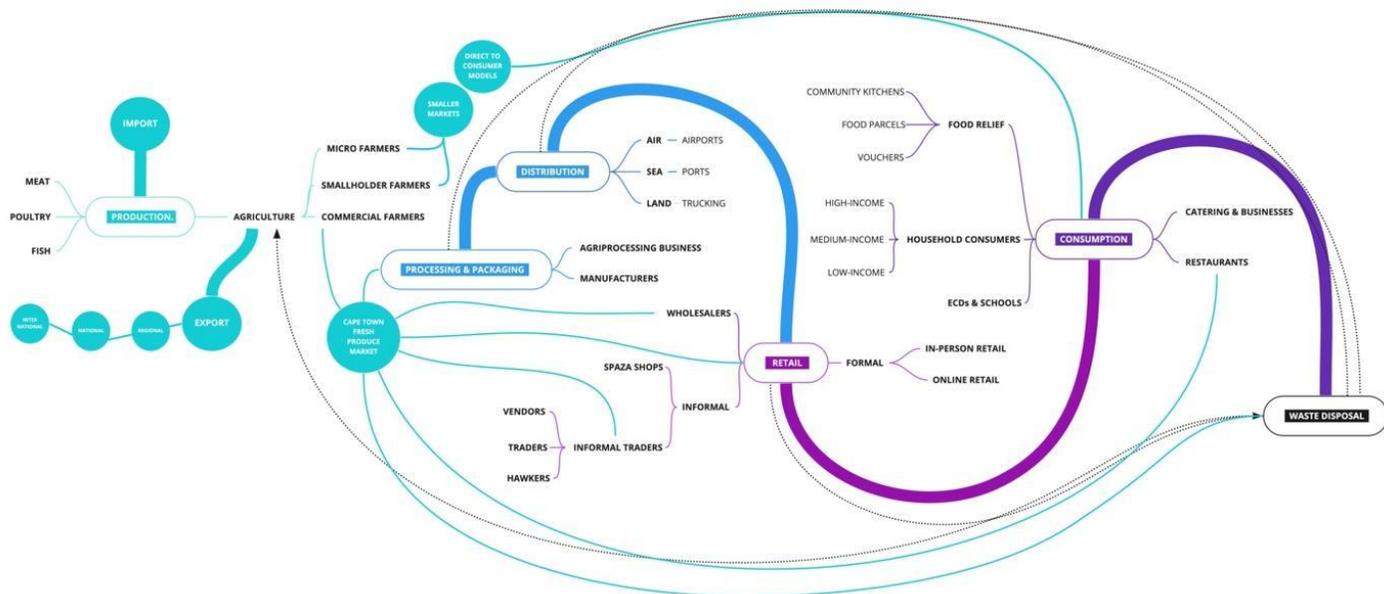
- **Goals** we want to achieve together (areas of focus, themes, common agenda)
- **Activities** to achieve the goals (action at different scales, and time periods)
- **Resources** to give effect to the activities (realistic, effective change)
- **Appropriate structures** to sustain the activities (mobilising, organising, implementing, collaborating, decision making, knowledge sharing, learning, communicating)

Strategy that simply lists what we want to do, without thinking about and incorporating the other three elements, will never be very effective.

One session is not enough and the group will need to keep coming back to these issues to deepen our strategy over time.

### Zooming Out: The Food System

"The Cape Town food system includes activities, actors and institutions connected to, and interacting in the production, processing and packaging, distribution and retail, and consumption of food as well as waste disposal."  
- Hungry Cities Report No. 3



The food system is complex, integrating social, environmental, economic and technological processes from production to consumption and waste disposal.

- Core system: plant and animal production, transport, aggregation and storage, processing and manufacturing, distribution, consumption, waste management, food imports and exports.

- Broader drivers of the food system: biophysical and environmental; governance and territorial; infrastructure and technology; political; socio-economic; demographic.

The current food system in SA is clearly not working, for many reasons, and from many perspectives. However, if we want to change the system in practice, we need to know where to intervene in different parts of the system and who we need to work with, and influence, to make the interventions a success.

A system is a collection of interacting parts organised as a whole to do something. A system is therefore complex, with many variables that interact with each other, many moving parts. We need to understand the connections and how the parts interact.

The challenge is no-one 'works' for the system and people find it easier to work in silos than together. We need to enable the system to 'see' itself, to hold the whole food system picture, to overcome siloed thinking and unconnected and isolated interventions.

Another challenge that we face is that SA public policy on the food system is fragmented, contradictory and highly contested, with the concept of 'food security' being used very differently, depending on the starting point or interest:

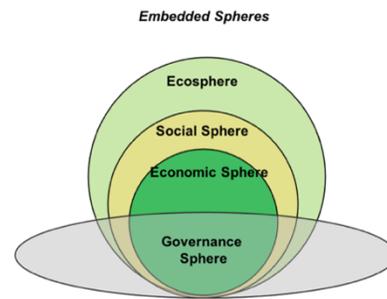
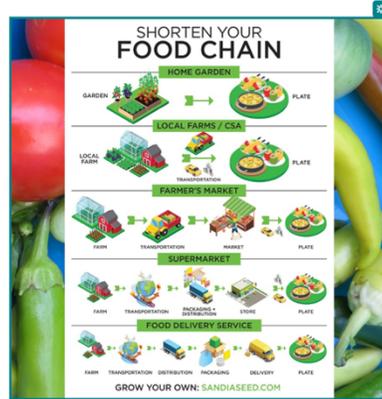
- Trade and investment (economic growth, jobs and exports in the food and beverage sector) -
- Agricultural production (food availability)
- Rural poverty and rural production
- Social development and welfare
- Nutritional outcomes, health and wellbeing
- Impact of global food supply chains on natural resource depletion, damaged ecosystems, threatened biodiversity, GHG emissions.

The idea is not to get bogged down in food policy debates, but to focus on what we can do within our spheres of control and influence. However, embedded in the food system are a whole range of social norms and values, mindsets, paradigms and behaviours. These need to be addressed if we want to change the way the system operates in the long term.

### **Zooming In: The Food Forum & Working Group**

# Local production for local consumption?

*Social, environmental, and economic benefits from shortening food supply chains*



Based on everyone's inputs and where many of the members are active, the proposal is to focus on **local production for local consumption**. It is not the only theme or issue we can focus on to drive change in the food system, but one of the ways to move from food relief to food security in the short to medium term.

Much of our food is supplied through global or long food chains. There is very little connection between producers and the consumers. Globally, more than 30 % of all food that is produced is ultimately lost and/or wasted through inefficiencies in the food supply chain. Excess food consumption is a similarly inefficient use of global agricultural production; with almost 1 billion people now classed as obese, 842 million people are suffering from chronic hunger.

'Local production for local consumption' means 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.

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.

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.

The idea is to build on the many historical and current 'local production for local consumption' initiatives in CT and WC that we need to learn from and to engage.

There is an opportunity to reach out to and engage with stakeholders in different parts of the regional food system: local small-scale producers, processors, manufacturers; informal food traders and vendors; food waste and composting initiatives; food nutritionists and health workers; organisers of neighbourhood markets; institutions that need food: kitchens, shelters, ECDs, schools, canteens; promoters of local food culture and identity; campaigners for better management of natural resources and biodiversity protection, etc. In other words, an inclusive, integrated and cross-cutting approach.

The core role of the WC Food Forum remains: to build relationships between non-state actors and the public sector, and to promote a more enabling and supportive public sector environment. Many challenges in our urban systems that impact on local production for local consumption: availability of land, access to water, quality of soil and air; quality of water in rivers, energy costs, availability of storage, transport, community safety, as well as institutional barriers such as a public sector institutional culture of regulatory compliance, and, as mentioned, fragmented and contradictory food policies.

Some inputs from participants follow:

- Important to be mindful of language. Some highlighted the need to use food freedom over food security; however, there was also the opinion that food security and food freedom are not mutually exclusive, and both are important.
- It was suggested that the group takes a 'territorial' approach. This recognises that there are different 'locals' and that some might be national or global. i.e. spinach might be grown in Philippi and sold in Mowbray and consumed in Woodstock, but the seed comes from Panaar, the bank loan from Pretoria, the packaging from Durban, and seed hybrid from a lab in Amsterdam. Similarly, different zones affect food. For instance, a municipality is embedded in trans-municipal structures, such as water management authorities, transport authorities and the like. These together make up the territory.
- There was support for the potential to start pilots/prototypes that could be adapted to other areas.
- Keep in mind that different crops require different scales.
- Local food should be a simplified alternative and adapted to the reality of a community, but it does mean that the food would have to be grown in close physical proximity to the household/consumer/buyers. Local food systems also draw

inspiration from how food is produced, how it affects health, the economy and the environment. Thus, in some ways, a local food system also incorporates the concepts of food security and food economy. Local food systems should not be about a prototype, but we will see various elements that shape this kind of food system is the drivers in in a particular community

- Important to emphasise the advantages that increasing the social proximity in the food system can bring, i.e., by developing 'sites of struggle' that we have discussed before in the Food Forum. Community kitchens and gardens food hubs, veggies box schemes etc. could be places where we gather and discuss/ contest the dominate narratives about the food system and develop new ones. We mustn't forget the political/ power issues at play in shaping our current food system.
- Large scale supply chains that seem sophisticated have proven to be very vulnerable in addition to their negative environmental impact. We must find ways to connect this localized strategy to jobs and livelihoods. This can be partly done by looking at what other cities are doing and learning from best practice.
- The focus on production is important but also crucial to think about the impact of how the city functions (transport, water, energy, planning, etc.) which ultimately determines how production and consumption intersect.
- A challenge many resonated with was the lack of sustainability of existing food relief efforts and the value of sharing stories and experiences to connect the dots and think about more holistic approaches.
- The example of backyard farms, a social enterprise was shared as an avenue to help bring sustainability; other ideas were shared about connecting with consumers and markets
- Education was an element that resonated with many participants, and it was suggested it is added as a sub-theme under local production. Similarly, the involvement of schools and the participation of youth in community gardens.

The full chat record can be accessed [here](#).

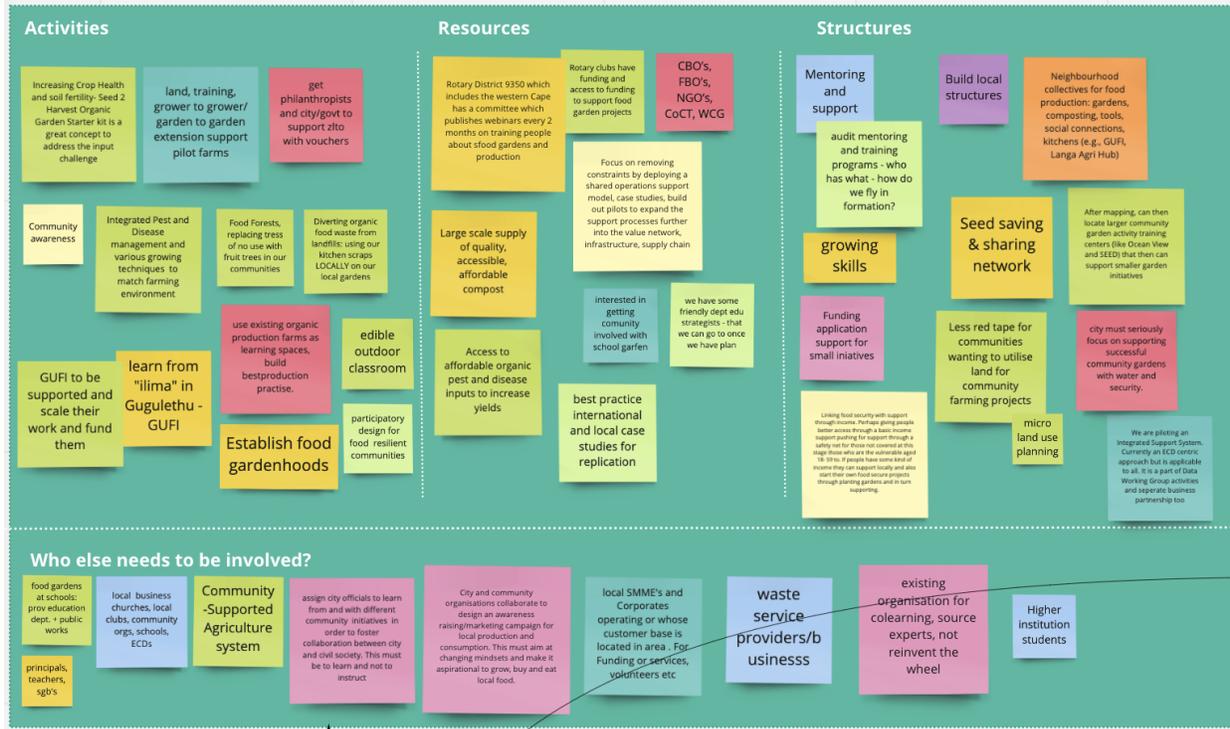
## **Break**

### **Group discussion**

The last part of the meeting involved an interactive exercise where people were able to input their ideas directly onto a [digital board](#). The question posed was: what would be needed to successfully work towards local production for local consumption? And the sections as illustrated in the images below included: *Activities, Resources, Structures, others who should be involved and next steps*.

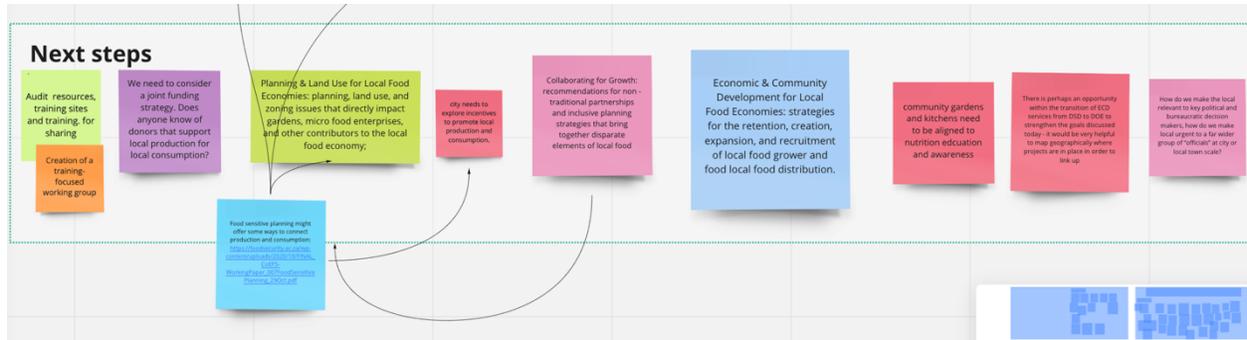
The images below capture the group discussion which will guide next steps in the implementation of the strategy.

# Local Production



# Local Consumption





The meeting generally endorsed that the WC Food Forum focus its strategy on **local production for local consumption and** agreed to recommend this to the Food Forum.

Further strategy sessions will be convened to develop the strategy in more detail. The full session can be watched [here](#); and the power point presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Highlights of this session will be presented at the next WC Food Forum meeting on 26 August, 2021.

### Annex A: Registered participants

First Name	Last Name
Abigail	Peters
Alison	Claassen
Andre	Nel
Andrea	Couvert
Andrew	Borraine
Angela	Niehaus
Barbara	Stemmert
Barbara	Miller
Camilla	Adelle
Cathy	Green
Claire	McGuinness
Dalene	Swart
Danny	Diliberto
David	Thesen

Debbie	Dreyer
Deborah	Dreyer
Dominic	Johnson-Allen
Dominic	Johnson-Allen
elmarie	malek
Eric	Smith
Erica	Inches
Fadly	Isaacs
funke	alaba
Gail	Jacobs
Gareth	Haysom
George T.	Mudimu
Geraldine	Nicol
Heinrich	Magerman
Helen	Lieberman
Issahaka	Fuseini
Janine	Glanz
Jenny	Soderbergh
Johan	de Lange
John	Thomas
Joy	Warries
Julia	Munroe
Julian	May
Julie	Goodness
Julie	Goodness
Karen	Cain
Karen	Hewson
Karin	Kleinbooi
Keshia	Hoaeane
Khanya	Qongqo
Leigh	Brown
Liesl	Stewart
Lindsay	Cessford
Louis Michael	Green
Lucinda	Beukes
Lynda	Levetan

Mangaliso	Mdlalo
Marco	Morgan
Margie	Pretorius
Mboneleli	Gqirana
Michael	Dingindlela
Michelle	Bagley
mikal	Lambert
Millicent	February
Mthunzi	Funo
nazeer	sonday
Neheng	Lephaila
Nicolette	Henney
Olufunke	Alaba
Org	van der Wath
Pamela	Silwana
Petrina	Pakoe
Ralph	Hamann
Richard	Cole
ruben	richards
Saadiqah	Saffodien
shaun	cairns
Shireen	Nkosi
sidwell	vumazonke
Siham	Salie-Abrahams
Siyabonga	Ngqame
Stephany	Rajagukguk
Stephen	Young
Tanya	Stone
Vuyiswa	Ndzakana
Wilma	Piek