



Western Cape Food Forum

Report of meeting held on Thursday, 24 February 2022

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

1. **Welcome and apologies.**

A warm welcome was extended to all new participants in the Food Forum.

Andrew noted that the purpose of WC Food Forum is to:

1. Map the people, organisations and activities in the food and nutrition system, and share information, knowledge and learning
2. Strengthen relationships between government and non-government sectors, and create an enabling environment for citizen voice and action
3. Promote local production for local consumption to shorten food supply chains
4. Support each other's efforts through collaborative attitudes and behaviours

The EDP also announced the upcoming launch of the [Changemaker Towns Network](#) on 02 March 2022 for those Forum members who may be interested in joining. The network will be a national learning and support network aimed at boosting efforts of changemakers in small and intermediary towns and regions across South Africa.

2. **Opportunities to connect with Western Cape Government** – Vusumzi Zwelendaba, WCG Department of Agriculture

Know your public sector policymaking, authorising and service delivery environment!
Full presentation can be found [here](#).

Food Security Directorate

Vusumzi Zwelendaba provided an overview of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, as well as the Food Security sub programme. In summary, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture is primarily responsible for promotion of agriculture, support services, and conducting research and based in Elsenberg. Its mission is to enable a united, responsive, prosperous agricultural sector in balance with nature. Its mission includes promoting production of affordable, nutritious, safe, and accessible food, fibre, and agricultural products, providing professional extension support services, and contributing towards alleviation of poverty and hunger

The Food Security sub programme falls under Agricultural Producer Support & Development. It includes producer support, extension services, and food security (household, communal, and school food projects/gardens and smaller holder farmers). CASIDRA is the implementing agent. The Food Security sub programme includes different initiatives to address household food insecurity, such as interventions that look at affordability, availability, and accessibility. There has been a growing recognition that the Department needs to look at both food and nutrition requirements.

Interventions include:

- Household food security initiatives
- Community food security projects/gardens
- School food security projects/gardens
- Support of smallholder farmers

How to access support:

Community and school gardens:

- Community projects and schools can receive support (no more than R170 000) mainly for irrigation, fence, production inputs, protective clothing and tools
- Can apply for an additional R30 000 to top up previous funding if needed
- Applications are assessed by the Food Security CPAC
- Criteria include:
 - o Access to land - in case of leased, minimum 5 year lease (letter stating this)
 - o Access to water – no municipal water
 - o Priority is given to women, youth, and people with disability
- Involvement of municipalities
- Training is compulsory
- Parents of learners should be involved in school gardens

Community and School Gardens

- Receives support to the value of no more than R170 000 – mainly for irrigation, fence, production inputs, protective clothing and tools.
- If more funds are required an additional amount of R 30 000 is granted to top previous funding but not more than R 200 000.
- Applications are assessed by the Food Security CPAC.
Criteria.
Access to land, in case of leased - minimum 5 year lease
Access to water – No municipal water.
Priority is given to women, youth, and people with disability
–Involvement of municipalities.
g is compulsory.
–Parents for learners should be involved in school gardens.

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Selection criteria – Community & School Gardens

- It has to be a land or agrarian reform project, including a lease agreement on private land for 5 years
- 3 year lease agreement on government or commonage owned land.
- 3 year lease agreement for development of Church land.
- The lease agreement can be in the form of a letter provided and signed by the authorised management of government or church land.
- The letter should clearly indicate the size of the land, the length of the lease and the availability of power and water.
- The letter should be co-signed by the beneficiary.



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Selection criteria – Continued.....

- The lease agreement may be reduced under the following circumstances:
- Applications for productions costs and removable assets to a total value of R 200 000 ONLY (Excluding strategic projects), may be allocated with a 3 year lease agreement on all land.
- All other cases with merit must referred to DPAC.
- It has contribute to food security.
- The project must have a potential to create and sustain jobs – contribute to the Expended Public Works Programme (EPWP).
- The project must have the potential to become viable and sustainable. I



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Household food production:

Items provided: grey water filter system, rainwater harvesting tank and gutters, Vermi Compost Kit, garden tools, production inputs, water tank with slabs and gutters OR chicken house, chicken house material, equipment.

- Applicants must have access to land (backyard)
- Can prove their interest and ability to do gardening
- Income is not more than R4500/household per month
- Priority is given to persons on indigent registers
- If chickens, builds own chicken structure
- Current agricultural activity present

Household Food Production

1. Household Food Garden Support

- Applicants must have access land (backyard).
- Applicants can prove their interest and ability to do gardening.
- Income should not be more than R 4500 / household per month.
- Priority is given to persons on the indigent registers.
- If chickens – build own chicken structure.
- Current agricultural activity present
- Items provided:

Grey water filter system.
Rain water harvesting tank and gutters.
Vermi Compost Kit (Wormery).
Garden tools and a watering can.
Production inputs.



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Questions:

Who to contact in each area to help with applications and information sessions on the ground? – have District managers with extension officers, 2-3 offices within each district, will share this information with EDP to share with this report

How can schools get access to this funding? – go through regional offices or contact Vusumzi's office (see below) and he will direct to the appropriate person.

For community projects, is there a formalized partnership with EPWP? Or is that communication with local municipality? – goes through local economic development with the Municipality.

For more information, contact sub-programme managers for districts or Vusumzi:

Vusumzi Zwelendaba
Director: Food Security
Agricultural Producer Support & Development
Tel: 021 808 5226
Cell: 065 937 4585
Email: vusumziz@elsenburg.com

Contact details for district offices can be found [here](#).
Application for subsistence financial assistance can be found [here](#).
Application for household garden support can be found [here](#).

3. **Agriculture and the green economy** – Sibusisiwe Maseko, Senior Agriculture Analyst, Sustainable Agriculture Team, GreenCape

Full presentation can be found [here](#).

Sibusisiwe shared information about GreenCape and its recent projects including research and annual market intelligence reports that speak to opportunities, market sizes, barriers, and macro environment. All reports are available on the GreenCape website, including market briefs and case studies to help people understand the pros and cons and investments for green technologies, and a one-stop-shop website for farmers interested in smart and green agriculture in collaboration with the WC Department of Agriculture <https://www.greenagri.org.za/>.

The recent Agriculture and the Green Economy project in Cape Town has focused on investing in green technologies for urban farmers. This project focuses on primary agriculture production – e.g., technologies that would result in increased yields and outputs. GreenCape has looked at three levels of technology interventions, as well as which technologies would be most application for different profiles and found that most opportunities are among small-scale and medium-large commercial farms. Urban farmers fall among small-scale commercial farms. The team visited many farms, including the Vegkop Farm in Philippi – whose primary constraints are soil health, high cost of compost, and composting technology – as well as uBuhle beNdalo in Khayelitsha – whose primary constraints include market access, accessing online markets, and growing organic foods market in Khayelitsha.

Overall, the project spoke to 11 urban farmers and visited 6 urban farms, and engaged with technology suppliers, markets, retailers. Areas for further investigation include market access, micro-financing and micro-credit, and circularity within urban farming.

For questions or comments please contact Sibusisiwe Maseko
Senior Agricultural Analyst, sibusisiwe@green-cape.co.za

Questions/comments:

- Soil fertility using fungi, bacteria and a natural composting stack is key for farmers.
- Need investment into shared service fertility compost inputs in every Municipality:
 - o Upcoming organic landfill ban can present an opportunity for waste solutions providers to act innovatively- please contact GreenCape if you know service providers who would be interested
 - o Ideal to also work through regional or farmers collectives – need to service the farmers on the ground (highest cost for them currently)
- Need to look at providing support that scales agroecology and organic farmers.
- Ladles of Love Feed the Soil programme has gained momentum, now also doing Oranjezicht and possibly Constantia coming up and connecting with a company that wants to distribute eco waste kits through their stores. Sent out first bags (60 bags) of compost to farmer last week.

4. Information updates and knowledge sharing – plans for 2022:

The Forum continued with updates about what is happening in different localities to share knowledge, 'join the dots' and consider how to support each other and work in a collaborative way to ensure collective impact in the food and nutrition system. Themes across the initiatives shared included:

- The impressive work of community/household/school/ECD gardens
- The incredible support networks and services available for garden and farming initiatives
- The interest and importance of food waste (both edible food rescue and food waste rescue for compost)
- The growing opportunities for green tech in food system

Ali Conn, SA Harvest

SA Harvest rescues food from going to waste and provides it to communities across the country. The food that is rescued is edible, and many know that food waste is a global problem. 12.5 million tonnes of food go to waste every year in SA. SA Harvest focus areas include:

- Food rescue & distribution – focus on logistics in rescuing and delivering food
- Data & technology – focus on data sharing with all NGOs and stakeholders
- Systemic intervention – advocating for changes to government policies

SA Harvest has doubled the amount of food rescued and more than doubled meals delivered between year 1 and year 2. The aim for 2022 is 15 million meals, a stronger focus on ECD and old-age, 2 more hubs in Lusikisiki & Nelspruit, collaborating with other brands and non-profits, and strengthening reverse logistics and oxidant (e.g. when trucks are traveling empty, utilising the space).

Ben Getz, Urban Harvest

Urban Harvest was founded in 2006 and provides edible garden support services and organic food gardens. Examples of Urban Harvest projects include school gardens, training, and building beautiful highly productive and biodiverse gardens

through permaculture. The focus for this year will be the Family Food Gardens programme, which is a programme of household-level interventions. Urban Harvest is also working in Langa with SA Urban Food & Farming Trust, and will be running more training courses this year for the broader Cape Town community. The Urban Harvest team is currently also setting up gardens at a school in Salt River and every month is setting up home gardens, community gardens, and occasionally gardens at hotels & restaurants. The work includes a focus on maintenance and education, and delivering resources to maintain projects.

Brett Sander, Food for Thought/Cold Mountain Vineyards

Food for Thought is a local NGO in Stanford working to establish food security programmes locally and a community garden. Last year, Food for Thought got approval from the Municipality for a 10-year lease on a 3-hectre plot which is serviced by the Community Work Programme. The hope for this year is to clear a larger portion of the plot and start expanding the food security programme. The programme has been an experiment in governance between local NGOs, municipality, legislation, and community markets. The group has collaborated with SAOSO, PGS, and MAGIC to enhance governance as well as with the local LED and farmers forums and youth programmes.

The main questions from this experience including how to support a growth path from community gardens to smallholder gardens, and how to build landless farmers into small commercial growers that can add value to local economies.

5. Feedback on Urban Food System Toolkit workshop

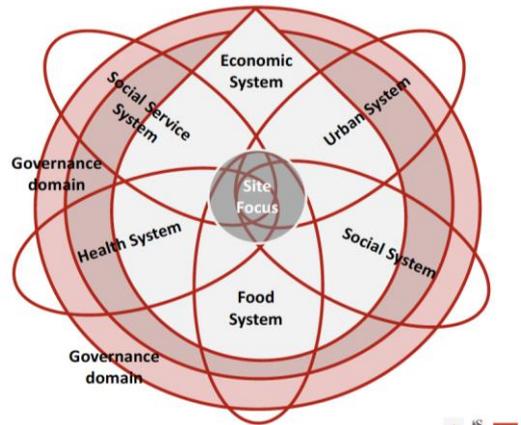
At the previous Forum meeting, Tatjana von Bormann, Southern Africa Food Lab, presented a draft Food System Thinking in Cities Tool developed in collaboration with WWF. It aims to help people and institutions to think in new and practical ways about the food system. A follow-up workshop was held on Monday 14 Feb to discuss the tool in more depth. Key takeaways include:

- It can be used throughout the food system, not just city areas. New working title: *Food System Thinking: A step-by-step guide for practitioners in towns, cities and regions*
- Through a 13-step 'onion' approach, it is useful for mapping and engaging with the food system at many different scales, levers and actors, from households and neighbourhoods, to local food production and supply chains, to physical and ecological infrastructure, to participatory governance.
- The tool can be used for two-way unpacking of the food system: from the micro to the macro, and vice versa, and can be used to map who is intervening in different parts of the system, and where the potential overlaps and gaps are, in order to promote integrated and coordinated action.
- How do *food system issues connect to other systems*? This starts becoming very complex and potentially demobilising. The challenge is to be able to break the system into manageable pieces, to be able to mobilise and organise voice and action around specific issues and spaces, and at the same time, to conceptualise and be able to intervene at a food systems governance level.
- There was agreement to test the toolkit in Langa.

What children under 5, and society more broadly, eat has the potential to be influenced by policies and interventions affecting the social service system, the social system, the health system, the food system and the urban system. These are all embedded within an economic system.

These systems intersect with each other to affect the availability, access, affordability, appeal and aspirational value of food for children under 5 and their households.

The intersections between these policies and interventions are mediate, enabled, constrained and facilitated through governance approaches and actions




TheNourishedChild

Graphic showing relationship between the food system and other systems courtesy Dr Gareth Haysom, African Centre for Cities, UCT

6. Recent food and nutrition articles, materials, upcoming events, and announcements

Nourished Child Project: [Feeding Nosipho: Working together to secure nutritious diets](#)

The Nourished Child project has released a short video capturing child-centric food system impacts. Watch "Meet Nosipho" to find out more about the factors that shape children's diets and health in South African townships and systems approach enable new policy approaches.

Ladles of Love Feed the Soil campaign expands

You can now find Ladles of Love every Thursday from 8h00 – 12h30 on the Sidmouth Road side of Van Riebeeck Park in Oranjezicht. They will have 'food waste kits' and delicious fresh produce for sale and if households already have 25 litre buckets filled with waste, they can pay R25 to swap them out and generously pay forward their waste. The programme will continue running in Sea Point as well, at the Sunset Beach parking lot on Wednesday mornings.

Upcoming events:

Saturday Seedswap in Gugulethu, Cape Town Together Food Growers Initiative.
More details [here](#)

Food Governance Community of Practice

What is the Role of Faith Communities in Food Governance? **Wednesday 2 March 2022, 10.00-12.30**. Please register [here](#) for the meeting and to receive a zoom link.

Date of next Forum meeting: 2pm, Thursday, 31 March 2022 (Theme: Food safety)

Possible theme for June: *youth and entrepreneurship*. If there are other themes that participants would like to suggest, please do so by responding to this report or raising in the next Forum meeting.