



WESTERN CAPE
Economic
Development
Partnership



Western Cape Food Forum

Thursday, 2 - 3.30pm, 28 October 2021

Meeting Report

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies. (Attendance list can be found [here](#)¹ and the full session recording can be accessed [here](#).) The meeting chat can be found [here](#).
2. Overview of food and nutrition system activities – Andrew Borraine, EDP.
 - The Centre of Excellence in Food Security, in conjunction with the FAO, EU and CIRAD, hosted a series of discussions on food security, including a workshop on improved food system governance. The report presented to the workshop defined the goals of the food system as broader than food and nutrition security, to include a sustainable natural environment, livelihoods and socio-economic progress, spatially balanced and equitable development, and managing the trade-offs between these dimensions. It will be useful for the Food Forum to discuss these wider issues at a later stage. The workshop also discussed two potential levers to improve food system governance: 1) Placed based approach to planning and action, 2) improved and more inclusive stakeholder participation. Both these levers match what many Food Forum members are already putting into practice.
 - WCG Nourish to Flourish programme: The WCG is planning to visit Zweetemba/ Worcester (a N2F pilot area) in November for an in-depth look at the local food and nutrition system in the area. The outcomes of this work will be shared at a future Forum meeting.
 - The National Youth Employment programme has been launched. It is likely that the IDC will launch the Social Employment Fund (SEF) next week.
3. Local Production for Local Consumption (LP4LC) discussion – sharing different perspectives and examples of action.

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 not be included, please let us know by emailing rhonda@wcedp.co.za

Thematic observations by the Chair, based on engagements with local actors in the future and nutrition system:

- **Energy and commitment:** there is a lot happening in and around the space of local production for local consumption, especially with social entrepreneurship and non-profit models.
- **Newness:** many of these efforts are relatively new, which brings advantages (innovation, flexibility) and disadvantages (resource constraints, sustainability).
- **Innovation:** these efforts, initiatives, and businesses are innovative, nimble, and able to experiment (e.g., with topics like circular economies) and implement more easily than government programmes can.
- **Government:** this work is happening (mostly) separate from government efforts. There is an opportunity for government to learn from and support these types of initiatives, especially to assist with navigating government systems and processes, unlocking resources, and creating an enabling public sector environment.
- **Connect and communicate:** while these efforts vary in focus areas and missions, there is an opportunity to connect organisations and people to share learnings across this province and beyond.

a. Knysna Greater Food Forum: showcasing grassroots stories, David Thesen, (KGFSF)



Through [this video](#), different organisations show-case examples of collective action in the Knysna local food system impacting positively on education, social and family issues, intergenerational relationships, and interventions in different areas across the food value chain.

Support from the Knysna municipality comes in the form of providing meeting spaces, facilitating with other government departments and local economic development departments and sourcing tools for backyard growers. The Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) has also been helpful in setting up food hubs.

- b. Food Waste: Challenges and opportunities in turning waste into compost, Sam Smout, GreenCape, Circular Economy Lead, specialist in organic waste.

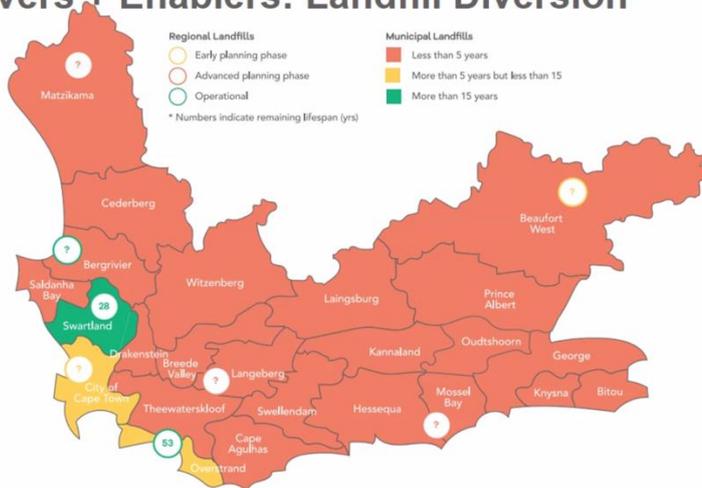
Key takeaways:



Food waste in SA happens at processing/ distributing and household/ restaurant/ hotels. Solutions lie in prevention, recovery and beneficiation, which is the treatment of waste into raw materials that have economic value.

In Cape Town there are currently three types of beneficiation projects underway, consisting of 1) six insect protein solutions, 2) two biogas solutions & 3) thirteen compost solutions.

Drivers + Enablers: Landfill Diversion



Risks and barriers include inadequate gate fees, onerous certification processes for compost, inadequate separation at source, too much focus on dry recyclables instead of organics and inadequate mechanisms for efficient household collection.

[ORASA](#) is the association representing organic waste sector in Cape Town.

The CoCT has just released its [waste management plan](#) (2022-2027), for public comment - deadline is 26 of November. Sam recommended the Forum submit feedback as a collective which will have more impact than individual voices. If you are interested in being part of this discussion, [please email us](#). Green Cape's Market Intelligence report has also been updated for 2021 and can be used as a reference.

The group discussed the challenges City faces in engaging private service providers. There is a growing interest amongst small enterprises and community groups to engage with organic waste and benefit from its use on their lands, rather than having it diverted to big business players. It was highlighted that money and risk are drivers and that City will only put tenders out if they know someone will take all the waste all the time. This means City needs to work with accredited waste managers, which acts as a barrier.

You can access the GreenCape presentation [here](#).

4. Information updates and knowledge sharing:

- i. *Feed the Soil, Danny Diliberto, Ladles of Love – circular economy composting initiative.* Feed the Soil campaign launched on World Food Day (16 October) with first drop on 27 October. They are using a decentralized depot model for food waste, turning it into compost for community farmers. Pilot takes place in Sea Point in partnership with Zero to Landfill Organics (ZTL). It works with people buying a kit - kit has a 25 litre bucket and 5 litre bucket, saw dust, and packet of bokashi for R200. Ladles will take it, for R25 you get another bucket and keep repeating the cycle. ZTL turns waste into compost which is then made available to farmers to collect at no cost.
- ii. *World Food Day, Nomonde Buthelezi, Food Agency Cape Town:* Community activists, indigenous groups and people of colour did not have a seat at the table at the recent UN Food Systems Summit 2021. According to CSOs, the UNFSS was talking "about us but not with us". A lot of organizations boycotted this year's UNFSS, as small-scale producers and indigenous people have been struggling for recognition in the UN system for many years, while agribusiness gets all the attention. Nomonde participated in the Food Dialogues hosted by the SA Urban Food & Farming Trust which has helped to enable conversations with local communities, giving them a voice to "unpack the broken food system and the stigma around hunger." Nomonde has been working with researcher Jane Battersby and a sister organization doing similar work in Kenya, and will present at a critical food studies conference in November.
- iii. *Communicating stories of the Food Forum, Marcela Guerrero, EDP:* Everyone invited to fill in this survey so that the Forum can showcase stories from the ground next year. Also, we will 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 us to highlight.
- iv. 3rd November 2021, Backyard Farms, Setting up a garden with your local community school or ECD. Webinar Zoom link: Meeting ID 836 4821 5630 Passcode: 994607. Contact Anton Lubbe for details lubbea58@gmail.com.
- v. 10th November 2021, 9am: CT Food Grower's Initiative presents, in collaboration with Nemlabs and PHA Campaign, the 3rd workshop of the Living

Soil Series: Plant Diseases. Please register [here](#).

- vi. Call for materials/curriculum for childhood education in outdoor education/eco skills in 2021 gardening club kind of way, environmental skills/personal development/traditional education. Please contact David Thesen dthesen@gmail.com
 - vii. City of Cape Town's Environmental Management Department has developed the Smart Living campaign. You can find handbooks and guides [here](#) and contact Smart.Living@capetown.gov.za for more information.
5. Recent food and nutrition articles and materials
- I. 28 October, 2021 [Small-scale food producers and traders hardest hit by lockdown measures](#)
 - II. 28 October, 2021 [EPIC-Africa and AfricanNGOs launch a second report to analyze the "Impact of COVID-19 on African CSOs"](#)
 - III. [Smart Agri Barometer](#), Western Cape Government
6. Competition & funding opportunities
- i. Applications for the [Youth Employment fund](#) can be submitted. Please find more information [here](#) and [here](#).
 - ii. 13 November, The New Organic Grower. Stellenbosch University Graduate School of Business is offering a free online workshop on gardening / farming. Register [here](#).
 - iii. Maverick Citizen pavement garden competition! Competition to find examples of community gardens, pavement gardens and 'edible' streets. Send photos and stories. First prize: R5,000 and R1,000 each for three runners up. Send entries to: maverickcitizen@dailymaverick.co.za. University course?
7. **Next meeting:** 25 November at 2pm. We will reflect on where we want to go next year. Ideas include:
- How can we improve our agency/voice/participation through Food Forum activities?
 - How can we combine on the ground efforts for collective impact at strategic and policy levels?
 - How can we support each other through collaborative storytelling to ensure what is happening on the ground reaches wider audiences
 - Also, food waste and composting; food, soil, and education.