# **OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM**



DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 11 June 2021 09:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships towards scaling up food systems solutions in South Africa
Convened by	Vangile Titi Msumza, Independent Chair of Fruit South Africa
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26902/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	South Africa

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

## **1. PARTICIPATION**



## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
6	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	2	Local authority
32	Small-scale farmer	266	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	1	United Nations
10	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
5	International Non-Governmental Organization	12	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	3	Consumer group
135	Science and academia	10	Other

## **2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT**

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The South African government entered the process in the middle of May with the appointment of the Convenor, having already made the determination to work on Action Tracks 1,2 and 5. Given that the country was on the path of developing multistakeholder driven Agriculture and Agro-processing Masterplan with a focus on Inclusive, sustainable and competitive value chains, it was felt that it was prudent for South Africa to include this as a fourth topic. There was a lot of catching up to do in understanding the envisaged process, convening a multistakeholder steering committee, appointing the convenor and identifying facilitators. A lot of work had already been undertaken on Action Track 1 under the auspices of GAIN and we sought to benefit from this experience by reaching out to Professor Sheryl Hendriks to assist. We also reached out to the Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz), the Bureau For Food and Agricultural Policy(BFAP), the Agricultural Research Council, the women and youth representatives, the Departments of Health, Education and International Relations to form part of the steering committee. The steering committee paid careful attention to inclusivity by striving for invite individuals from diverse stakeholder groups, sectors, gender, and provinces. This entailed going through various iterations of the invitation list, each member of the steering committee and the facilitators drawing on their respective networks. Facilitators were selected and briefed with care, to ensure they create a space for dialogue that is conducive to respect and trust.

## HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

In order to ensure that we get diverse opinions on the direction we should take to transform our food systems, we chose to follow the three stage approach. We used the national dialogue to initiate the process in the country and got a variety of stakeholders mobilized around talking about challenges in our food system and making propositions about actions needed to be taken. A list of potential participants drawn from inputs from both the national level and from the 9 provinces reflected the diversity of actors in the food system. The second stage was provincial dialogues in all 9 provinces, where dived deeper into context specific challenges and actions which will propel us towards achieving SDGs 2030. All participants embraced the principle of "acting with urgency" and participated with enthusiasm, recognizing the importance of accelerating the pace of change in their recommendations and demonstrating commitment to act. All were committed to contribute to the Food Systems. The Synthesis dialogue to follow will begin the articulation of pathways taking into consideration the diverse opinions and agreeing on tradeoffs to propel us towards a future that is free from hunger and malnutrition, to a food system that is inclusive, sustainable and competitive.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

In South Africa, we talk about unity in diversity. We do pursue win-win solutions, but do accept that this might not always be possible. In the end, we embrace the different opinions and look for trade-offs to help us move forward.

## 3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

✓ Yes

No

## **4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES**

## **MAJOR FOCUS**

South Africa's dialogues explored three action tracks 1,2 and 5. An additional topic which focused on inclusive, sustainable and competitive values was also dealt with. This 4th topic explored the South African Food System which can be classified as a combination of highly diverse value chains with a wide spectrum of producers linking to a range of formalised and sophisticated markets on the one extreme and completely unregulated and informal markets to the other extreme. Hence, the transformation of the South African Food System requires a multi-dimensional approach to address the reality that approximately half of the South African population cannot afford a basic healthy diet.

## **ACTION TRACKS**

1	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
1	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods

Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

## **KEYWORDS**

1	Finance	1	Policy
1	Innovation	1	Data & Evidence
1	Human rights	1	Governance
1	Women & Youth Empowerment	1	Trade-offs
		1	Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

1. The centrality of local communities in transforming food systems

Broadening South African food base by reintroducing indigenous foods by doing more research (heat and drought tolerance and nutrition content) and improving marketing and packaging. Find champions and innovative opportunities to encourage the development, marketing and consumption of healthy indigenous foods.

Strengthening local (community-based) centres of excellence by utilizing former Agric-colleges to cater for rural

communities at affordable cost). Continuous research work on indigenous foods, benefits of organic agriculture, evaluation of existing programmes, pro-Maintenance and development of infrastructure (water, electricity, roads, rail and ports) - Effective bio-security, including animal health, Product Standards Act,

 Comprehensive farmer support services, including mentorship, extension services, agricultural colleges
 Effective land reform and security of tenure together with rural safety
 Curriculum revision to include food systems, IKS, food security, food safety and nutrition in a range of programmes and to stimulate and conduct relevant research in these areas. Research and ensuring that smallholder and subsistence farmers play a role in the food value chain.

2. The need for coordination across government departments, with municipalities, non-government organizations, finance institutions and other formations of civil society

A central coordination structure is required to coordinate and monitor all food systems elements to avoid duplication of programs aimed at fighting hunger. A need to revisit and evaluate food security programs with a view to up-scaled for them to be effective. Greater involvement of communities and academic institutions is necessary to enable a ground-up approach. The coordination needs to go beyond food security and nutrition to involve other players in the food system

3.Recognition of Informal markets and value chains as important components of the food system. Limited official information exists to provide a comprehensive insight of the real magnitude and growth of this sector in the economy, with estimates ranging around 30% of the country's food and grocery sector.

4. Clear legislative and regulatory guidelines to ensure active participation of smallholders. Much fragmentation around 4. Clear legislative and regulatory guidelines to ensure active participation of smallholders. Much magmentation around enterprise supplier development programmes. Active mentorship and support from existing stakeholders required.
Re-educate agricultural practitioners and agro-processing w.r.t. sustainable practices. Balance with food-safety legislation.
5. Create partnerships for hand-holding to creating an equal environment. Driving local participation/coordination to more Lower level/municipalities, extension services, electricity, water critical. Consider multipliers/socio-economic implications. Emphasise service delivery, partnerships etc. at lower level. • Support NGOs and community groups that promote value-adding at the household level such as processing (e.g. canning of fresh produce)
6. Policy considerations for digital agriculture through embracing of 4IR to expand smart farming practices using advanced technologies and bits active using avertage using event mere and participation for the South South

technologies and big data. The early warning systems need more emphasis to manage these vulnerabilities before the South African food systems are weakened and rendered less effective in addressing food security and contribution to the economy. 4IR can assist municipalities by providing data about how much food is needed, prices and specific locations in rural areas as well as supply chain efficiencies. 4IR in the form of applications can also be used to distribute food among users, provide education about food waste and reduce food waste

7, Enhanced collaboration with neighbouring countries to ensure a harmonised approach, especially in the face of the recently ratified Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement.

#### ACTION TRACKS

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#### **KEYWORDS**

- Finance
- Innovation
- Human rights
  - Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy Data & Evidence Governance Trade-offs Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

TOPIC 1: Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All (enabling all people to be well nourished and healthy, progressive realization of the right to food).

South Africa identified the following challenges to food security:

Accessibility which can be linked to:

Unemployment: There is high unemployment rate (32.6%) in South Africa (youth unemployment currently 47%). Lack of income due to unemployment contributes to food insecurity and leads to social exclusion problems

Access to arable land, especially for women farmers who want to grow and become commercial farmers, is a challenge. Load shedding: whilst escalating electricity prices make consumers poorer, Load shedding contributes to lack of food access as some markets close when there is no electricity and to food waste as food rots

Urbanisation: migration of population from rural to urban areas result in increased influx putting pressure on resources, also exacerbate unemployment in cities of women and youth and nutritional deficiencies among children. Therefore, cities fundamental to food systems

Climate change: The WWF has identified South Africa as one of the 30 driest country in the world. The effects of drought, floods as a result of extreme weather conditions caused by global warming have a negative effect on food production. This affect the smallholder/subsistence farmers as they depend on rain-fed agriculture.

Access to markets: There is a challenge of subsistence and smallholder farmers unable to penetrate the food value chain. Distribution centres are only found in certain Provinces (Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and Western Cape) and this is a problem for local producers in other Provinces and in rural communities

Food safety: Food safety is prioritised for food products that are imported and exported, while local food production by smallholder and subsistence farmers is neglected.

Lack of integration in the government spheres: There is no integration between government spheres to fight hunger and malnutrition in the affected areas, each government sphere is working in silos Proposed solutions:

Technology: use technology to address issues of climate change, preserving indigenous food through infused technology and tracking food insecure people at a community level. Establishment of the Department of food: that will play the supervisory and management across food system elements and stakeholders

Integration and collaboration: Integration of policies (across sectors and including the NDP, IDPs etc), collaboration and alignment of National and Provincial Departments towards a sustainable food system.

Indigenous food: Broadening South African food base by reintroducing indigenous foods by doing more research (heat and drought tolerance and nutrition content) and improving marketing and packaging Education: Food safety and nutrition should form part of Basic Education curriculum to educate children of the impact of food. Further empowering farmers with product Incorporating food security, food safety and food nutrition as part of curriculum in schools and at home will ensure that children grow up knowing the impact that food has on their overall health and future (school gardens and household backyard gardens)ion, Agro-processing and well as ensuring that extension officials have the relevant skills to offer support.

Practice Organic Agriculture: The method regenerates the health of soils, ecosystem and people, unlike conventional agriculture that destroy soils which results in negative effects for the future resulting in food insecurities.

ACTION TRACKS		KEYWORDS		
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	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production	Human rights	Governance	
	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods	Women & Youth Empowerment	Trade-offs	
	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress		Environment and Climate	

**TOPIC 2: Shifting to Sustainable Consumption Patterns** 

Food Wastage: over a third of food (worth over 1 trillion US dollars) produced annually is lost due to wastage. Persistence of food waste and spoilage at household level, supermarkets, all levels of production value chain, with each node needing to improve to reduce this problem. There seems to be no policy on food wastage which can guide how to curb this problem. Population Growth: Increase in population leading to increasing demand of sustainable and unsustainable food systems, Climate change: The phenomena of climate change seem to be exacerbating the problem, leading to increased frequencies of devastating weather shocks. This also seem to worsen incidences of pests and disease outbreak.

Indigenous Knowledge and processing facilities: Disregard of indigenous knowledge systems or lack of small processing facilities and practices that could reduce food waste at household level. Continued lack of processing capacity and cold storage facilities near production areas.

Infrastructure: Long distance to markets/town for households, prompting them to buy in bulk, leading to food waste. Consumer education: Asymmetric knowledge of food composition behaviours on traceability of the products and associated climate change effects e.g. buying local poultry vs imported poultry with less value because of brine content. Further usage of unsustainable production patterns that result in environmental degradation causing soil erosions and emissions of carbon dioxide.

#### Proposed solutions

Educating farmers about crop rotation and diversification: Support to smallholder farmers to engage in crop diversification and Crop rotation, thereby improve both production and soil fertility. Policy shift to encourage production of nutritionally sufficient quality wise food for the needs of the population. In terms of food wastage, educating producers how to prepare food thereby increase their nutritional value and also increase

their shelf life. Further criminalize food waste by supermarkets and large-scale producers. Need for research institutions to provide scientific knowledge in the repurposing of spoilt food for other use such as animal feed.

Government to provide leadership in healthy lifestyle: Government should be at the forefront of promoting healthier lifestyles through public awareness campaigns to educate consumers on quantity and quality of food to serve and their nutritional value. Impose strict regulations on imported food which tends to be less nutritious, together with monitoring and enforcement

Academic institutions also have a role in promoting food security, such as conducting national dietary surveys to inform policy design/interventions,

Establish agricultural hubs in or near rural areas. These localized markets will provide space to absorb smallholder farmers' produce as they struggle to be integrated into central markets. Further support NGOs and community groups that promote value-adding at the household level such as processing (e.g.

canning of fresh produce). Encourage community-based organizations to establish food banks,

Establish Department of Food: Establishment of a Food Department and adopting a holistic approach in addressing food and nutrition issues

Re-Introduce traditional water management practices and food preservation methods to minimize food and water waste. Policy formulation to promote organic production and technologies that recognize ecological forms of production. Taking advantage of the 4IR: 4IR can assist municipalities by providing data about how much food is needed, prices and specific locations in rural areas as well as supply chain efficiencies. It can also be used to distribute food among users, provide education about food waste and reduce food waste

#### **ACTION TRACKS**

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## **KEYWORDS**

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Action track 4: Building inclusive, sustainable and competitive value chains.

The South African Food System is highly diverse with wide spectrum of producers linked to a range of formalised and sophisticated markets on the one extreme and completely unregulated and informal markets to the other extreme. Therefore, the transformation of the South African Food System requires a multi-dimensional approach to address the reality that approximately half of the South African population cannot afford a basic healthy diet. Over the past two decades, the more formalised value chains have performed well despite a combination of adverse external factors like consecutive droughts and biosecurity breaches. In the case of informal markets and value chains, limited official information exists to provide a comprehensive insight of the real magnitude and growth of this sector in the economy, with estimates ranging around 30% of the country's food and grocery sector.

Proposed solutions:

Farmer Register: the country need to collate and finalise the Farmer Register as matter of urgency. This will give proper commodity mapping for policy intervention purposes.

Aggregator models: finalise Aggregator model through a PPP currently developed in the AAMP to unlock and scale these opportunities.

Women Empowerment: Fast track growing number of women to participate in food system, access to land, and ensure implementation of commitments.

Competition Act: Competition Act drives efficiency and competitiveness and therefore must fully be enforced to unlock billions worth of Exports and Jobs. Government also needs to step up on basic service delivery and ensure investment friendly environment. Otherwise competitiveness of the sector will remain under pressure and as a consequence increase the dualism of the industry even further since tighter margins will favour large-scale operations

Value addition: Unpack opportunity of integrated value chain and value addition through import replacement and opening of export markets to expand demand for high-valued products.

Review Act 36: the current act 36 is outdated and promoting a traditional food system that does not comply with latest requirements

Capacity Building: Develop capacity to treat new producers as fully commercial to enter markets by partnering with private sector for targeted investments.

Collaboration across stakeholders is needed. This would include sharing of data and databases to help identify bottlenecks within the value chain and assist in building a business case for their resolution. It will also promote Investment in research, learning and development.

· Address the bottlenecks identified as a matter of urgency.

 Using Agri-tourism markets as a leverage to transform food systems' sustainability and market access. Agri-tourism presents opportunities for diverse and dynamic markets and also creates sustainable jobs. Investments into this sub-sector allows citizens to be in a better position to afford the cost of food.

Good governance will ensure inclusivity and sustainability. Good governance will also reduce inefficiencies within the value system.

Maintain diversity within the system. Some of the strengths of the current food systems was the multiple pathways of products from produce to consumption meaning that there are diverse mechanisms to get produce to the consumers. The diversity in the value chain should not be lost as it ensures inclusivity. Investment into supportive infrastructure is therefore necessary and critical. Areas of Convergence

- Establishment of Department of Food
- · Policy regulation to curb or address the food wastage
- · Broaden food basket by also encouraging consumption of indigenous crops
- Tap into indigenous knowledge for production, processing and preservation of food
   Education in the context of food production, preparation and consumption
- Need for an all-encompassing appreciation of the stakeholders involved in the agri-food sector.

#### ACTION TRACKS

KEYWORD	S
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Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all		Finance	1	Policy
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Food Systems Summit Dialogues Official Feedback Form

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## **OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4**

Action Track 3: Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses

There is a need to eliminate vulnerabilities and build resilience throughout the agriculture value chain. Eliminating vulnerabilities and building resilience require an understanding of challenges and the appropriate interventions that will build a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector.

South Africa has made much progress in the policy space in addressing vulnerabilities and stresses in agricultural sector. These include the climate change sector plans and strategy. The challenge remains with implementation of developed policies and plans to realise the intended benefits from such. There is a call for mobilization and prioritization of financial resources to support implementation of these efforts and plans. Proposed solutions

Post-harvest losses: Endeavours to achieve sustainable food systems should include addressing postharvest losses and give this area more attention.

Market Harmonisation: Animal improvement schemes need to be improved and market price intelligence and interventions to be developed to support farmers and ensure harmonization of certification nationally and regionally.

Agro-processing: To make interventions to be broader than production we also need to cover other aspects such as processing (value-addition), distribution and retail, thus addressing the entire value chain. Taking some agro-processing activities closer to production areas in rural areas – thereby encouraging public private partnerships – this will also assist on the challenge of food loss.

Enhanced Coordination: There is a need for enhanced coordination of the three spheres of government, research institutions, non-government and community based organisations and educational institutions.

Indigenous knowledge: Indigenous knowledge systems were acknowledged as integral part of our food systems. There is a

need to increase efforts to build capacity of smallholder farmers across the agricultural value chain Biosecurity measures: Food security depends on the successes of biosecurity across the food systems. We need to recognize the pests and diseases which attacks our food systems and ensure continuous efforts for control. Therefore we

need to ensure diagnostic and surveillance programmes are implemented. Biodiversity: South Africa is one of the most biological resources diverse country in the world. We need to relook the animal production schemes. Need more inclusivity also covering indigenous breeds and the "forgotten" and neglected crops to broaden the food basket and mitigate food security risks through diversification. Honey bees are also to be considered as an integral part of the biodiversity and needs more attention and inclusion. Build the social infrastructure, relationships, and networks: Take note of the work that is being done by civil society during the pandemic to channel resources to the vulnerable communities.

Strengthening inter-relationship between the formal and the informal parts of the food system chains to create resilience Balancing production and export on the one hand with basic food security on the other whilst producing an affordable nutritious food basket would strengthen the food system towards resilience.

## **ACTION TRACKS**

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## **KEYWORDS**

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**Dialogue title** 

## **AREAS OF DIVERGENCE**

The following areas were raised in the dialogues and will require further work to enhance the discourse on food systems and prioritization of actions and solutions: Framing the discussions around food systems is not inclusive nor does it address the issues around production and

Framing the discussions around food systems is not inclusive nor does it address the issues around production and provision of food. There is lack of understanding and no knowledge dissemination in the entire food system.

Lack of information regarding the informal sector was noted as a threat to building resilience within the food system.
There's not enough information about the role of the informal sector in the whole food security process.
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 Mandate - no one owns the food production/consumption mandate in South Africa. The system is fragmented. Different departments and at different levels of the governance system sit with part of a mandate to deliver on agricultural needs. There unfortunately is no coordination and alignment of services and a lot of information slips through the gaps. The inexplicit mandate that local government has in regards to food systems makes the allocation of financial and human resources difficult within municipalities

Using the land for biodiversity. The Agro-ecological approach has not been optimized. While land needs to be made available for farming, people also need to be taught about using the land correctly as wrong production would create more problems and would be costly in the long run.

Food waste and losses is very prevalent in the production cycle and during consumer use. This needs to be improved especially during the COVID pandemic.

Availability of water, energy and infrastructure as some of the important drivers of food systems

### ACTION TRACKS

## **KEYWORDS**

and Climate

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and Finance Policy nutritious food for all Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable 1 Innovation Data & Evidence consumption patterns Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive Human rights Governance production Women & Youth Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods Trade-offs Empowerment Environment
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress