

SYNTHESIS REPORT

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUES

South African Theme: “Leveraging Public-private Partnerships Towards Scaling Up Food Systems Solutions In South Africa During And Beyond Covid-19”

CEO’S FORUM

19TH August 2021



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Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Background
- Food Systems Summit Objectives
- The State of The South African Food System
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Game-Changing Solutions



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1. PURPOSE

To present the South African position on the United Nations Food Systems Summit, September 2021 to the CEOs Forum for noting.



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1. BACKGROUND

- *In 2019, the Secretary General of the United Nations called on Member States to initiate Food Systems Dialogues in their respective countries:*
 - ✓ To leverage the power of food systems to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals;
 - ✓ To come up with bold actions and solutions to food systems challenges;
- *The UN Food Systems Dialogue Summit will be held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York, in September 2021.*
- On 11 June 2021, Honourable Minister Thoko Didiza (MP), hosted the National Food Systems Dialogue followed by 9 Provincial Dialogues, attended by diverse key stakeholders and partners from the African Union and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- The dialogues noted that South Africa is perceived as the bread basket in Africa, yet about 3 million or about 25% of all households in the country face debilitating food insecurity, chronic poverty, endemic hunger and malnutrition that was declining promisingly from 2002 to 2007 but almost froze from 2011 to 2019.



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2. FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

The Food Systems Summit in September 2021 has the following objectives that will be addressed through five Working Groups/Action Tracks:

- **Action Track 1:** Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All.
- **Action Track 2:** Shifting to Sustainable Consumption Patterns.
- **Action Track 3:** Boosting Nature-Positive Production at Sufficient Scales.
- **Action Track 4:** Advancing Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution.
- **Action Track 5:** Building Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses.

His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa will lead the South African delegation in September 2021 to deliver South Africa's position (proposed pathways) on 1, 2 and 5 of the above Action Tracks.



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3. GAME-CHANGING SOLUTIONS AND PATHWAYS

- The national level and provincial consultations identified game-changing solutions which were to transform the food systems of South Africa to achieve goals of NDP 2030, the UNSDGs 2030 and the AU's Agenda 2063.
- National pathways acknowledge weaknesses in the current food systems to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, reduction of inequality and growing an inclusive economy by 2030.
- There is agreement about building new national food systems to improve health and nutrition, livelihoods, resilience, the well-being of women and children; and the regeneration of natural ecosystems.
- Reducing food waste through incentivising and repurposing of food, criminalising food waste, agro-processing opportunities, supporting redistribution of healthy food products and using 4IR to link actors and data management.
- Supporting public infrastructure investment and development to encourage participation and efficiencies in the food system.
- Creating public awareness and education on healthy diets and sustainable production and consumption at all levels, from prenatal, lactating, as well as updating the curricula of Universities and Colleges.



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3. GAME-CHANGING SOLUTIONS AND PATHWAYS CONT'

- Implement current policies and programmes that to support food systems, including the National Food and Nutrition Security Plan, The Agriculture and Agro-Processing Master Plan and multiple sector plans across health, education, agriculture, water, trade, human settlement, public works, social security, etc.
- Reconsider the model of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to include communities and academia as partners towards successful partnerships.
- Unlocking local food systems opportunities, especially for agro-processing at the local level and linking fresh produce markets and the informal sector players to create more safe, nutritious and diverse foods at the local level while stimulating production.

□ Components of South Africa's pathways:

- Changes to be made and decisions to be implemented in three years to meet defined expectations by 2030?
- Recognition of the power of collective action including partnerships and mutually reinforcing interventions.
- Drawing on science and traditional knowledge and sharing policy choices and practices towards sustainable food systems.
- Voluntary commitments from stakeholders to support the transformation of food systems to realise the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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3.1 NATIONAL PATHWAYS

- ❑ The NDP and SDGs 2030 are strategic instruments and compass to build, direct, monitor, evaluate, measure and certify progress to structurally transform food systems in South Africa.
- ❑ Government spheres, business and communities must integrate and streamline policies and legislation based on the NDP, NSDF, IDPs towards sustainable and community-based food systems.

3.2 ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

3.2.1. Support local production for local consumption

Smallholder producers should be comprehensively supported to ensure availability of food at community level. If smallholder producers are supported through improving the local value chains, local economies would also improve as less money would be spent commuting to buy food from towns and cities.

3.2.2. Promote Breastfeeding

Awareness programmes are required on the benefits of breastfeeding to both mother and child to avoid stunting, underweight and child and adult obesity. Current breastfeeding awareness must be upscaled



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ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

3.2.3. Elevate women and youth in the Food System Agenda

Recognize women and youth in transforming food systems. Prioritise and fast track youth, graduates and women participation in food systems, land access and support to ensure food security at household level.

3.2.4. Promote Indigenous knowledge systems

Undertake research and develop recipes that cover indigenous crops, fruits, vegetables and other local products. Introduce consumer education about food preservation and reduction of waste and loss and production at household level. Inclusion of the indigenous foods in the food basket should also be considered from the costs of producing these foods and nutritional aspects. Train, educate, research, promote and disseminate information about indigenous foods systems and their nutritional benefits.

3.2.5. Revise the South African food basket

SA's food basket is not healthy or high in nutrition as it consists of basic staples and oils. This must be revised to reflect healthier food items.



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ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

3.2.6. Support ecosystem resilience

Ensuring continued productivity of natural ecosystems through improved land and water-use planning and environmental governance promotes food security particularly to low-income communities that depend on natural resources for their subsistence and livelihoods.

3.2.7. Invest in the informal sector

Observe the system of informal trade and how it operates. Equip traders with necessary resources to succeed. Empower and develop the informal sector to build the entire industry and value chain.

3.2.8. Establish food and agricultural hubs

Establish food and agricultural hubs in or near rural and peri-urban markets to absorb the produce of household, smallholder, agribusinesses and agro-processors from smart villages to have inclusive, diverse, dynamic and prosperous markets.



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ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

3.2.9. Effective Governance and Leadership System

A central coordination structure (Food & Nutrition Security Council) is required to coordinate and monitor all food systems interventions in fighting hunger, poverty and malnutrition, unemployment and economic growth.

3.2.10. Research and Innovation

Research and innovation must be at the center of food systems interventions. Intensify research on production, processing, packaging and marketing of crops such as sorghum, millet and other crops that can be grown in two seasons with less water.

3.2.11. Promote the use of 4IR

Promote the use of 4IR to assist municipalities by facilitating the provision of digital data about food demand, prices and specific locations in rural areas as well as supply chain efficiencies to distribute food among users, and provide education about food waste. The 4IR and digitisation opportunities across the food system need to be pursued for a variety of purposes, including:



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- a) Sharing information – from supporting farmers to improve soil microbiology to price and market opportunities;
- b) Mapping and tracking community-level food insecurity and responses;
- c) Climate-related and agronomy feedbacks – two-way communications;
- d) Waste management and linking actors to reduce waste;
- e) Linking stakeholders in the food system;
- f) Early warning systems and alerts; and
- g) Monitoring and tracing zoonotic diseases

3.2.12. Government and Business Procurement

Government and business procurement should be redirected towards smallholder and household farmers and agro-processing enterprises to incentivize community-based production and consumption. These markets could support smallholder farmers to produce for guaranteed markets

3.2.13. Promote the establishment of aggregators

Promote the establishment of aggregators in the villages, rural towns and townships to ensure sufficient throughput of products and services from schools, communities, households and smallholder producers.



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3.2.14. Promote Agri-tourism markets

Agri-tourism markets should be used as leverages to transform food systems' sustainability and market access because it presents opportunities for diverse and dynamic markets and creates sustainable jobs. Investments into this sub-sector allows citizens to afford the cost of food.

3.2.15. Stakeholder collaboration

To build inclusive, sustainable and competitive value chains, collaborative engagements across stakeholders is needed. This would include sharing of data to help identify bottlenecks within the value chain and assist in building a business case for their resolution. Invest in proper infrastructure for storage and agro-processing to support inclusive food value chains. It will also promote Investment in research, learning and development.

3.2.16. Financing

Align public and private investments for smallholder producers and communities to access production capital. Agricultural Credit Board as alternative platform of funding farmers in the form of loans to supplement grant funding.



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RECOMMENDATION

- The CEO's Forum to note the South African position on the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021



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The End
Thank You



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