

# LEVERAGING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS SCALING UP FOOD SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING AND BEYOND COVID-19

## PROPOSED PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUES

AUGUST 2021



**AUDA - NEPAD**  
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



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# INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Government recognition of the weaknesses in the current food systems to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, reduction of inequality and grow an inclusive economy by 2030.
- ❑ From national level and provincial consultations, game-changing solutions were identified to transform the food systems of South Africa to achieve goals of NDP 2030, the UNSDGs 2030 and the AU's Agenda 2063.
- ❑ There is agreement about the need to transform our national food systems to improve health and nutrition, livelihoods, resilience, the well-being of women and children; and the regeneration of natural ecosystems.



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# INTRODUCTION

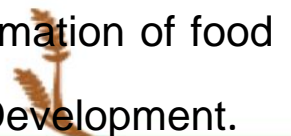
□ The path towards transformed food systems requires:

- Addressing the key challenges to advancing on the SDG and NDP agenda such as limited technical and financial resources; weak coordination among the various initiatives to leverage synergies; inefficient cross-sectoral collaboration, and poor and untimely data collection, management, and dissemination to stakeholders.
- 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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# FRAMING SA'S PATHWAY

The actions captured in this presentation, based on stakeholders' feedback in the national and provincial dialogues, seek to mitigate short-comings by:

- (i) identifying levers of change that will enable behavior change, partnership building, transparency and accountability - prerequisites for effective implementation.
- (ii) aligning proposals with existing policies and programmes such as the National Development Plan, the AAMP and the Food Security Plan and
  - ❑ Reconciling the NDP and SDGs 2030 as 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, community-based food systems.



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# A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

## 1. Support local production for local consumption

Smallholder producers, in particular women and youth should be comprehensively supported to ensure availability of food at community level.

This will entail improving local value chains with the resultant improvement in local economies as money would circulate in the community and less spent commuting to buy food from towns.

The support provided to smallholder producers should be comprehensive as allocation of farms or other relevant infrastructure without comprehensive support packages is detrimental.



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# A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

## 2. Food safety

Food safety standards should be improved throughout the value chain, starting with training of local producers and communities to ensure that only good quality food reaches the communities and the provision of clean water and sanitation..



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 3. Tracking and traceability

A tracking and traceability system should be built into our food system to enable anyone to be able to trace back whatever food starting from farm to fork.

### 4. Reintroduce Agriculture and other food production topics in School Curriculum

Establish education curriculum of food security and nutrition from prenatal through to post-school education to produce a balanced person.



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 5. Promote Breastfeeding

Awareness programmes are required on the benefits of breastfeeding to both mother and child to avoid stunting, child and adult obesity.

### 6. Education, training, research and extension

Develop capacity to treat new micro, smallholder and household producers as fully commercial enterprises with the assistance from education, training, research and extension institutions and private sector investors.



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 7. 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 in food system, land access and support to ensure food security at household level.



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# A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

## 8. Promote Indigenous knowledge systems

- a) Introduce consumer education about food preservation and reduction of waste and loss and how to produce at household level.
- b) Undertake research and develop recipes that cover indigenous crops, fruits, vegetables and other local products.
- c) Train, educate, research, promote and disseminate information about indigenous foods systems and their nutritional benefits; to contribute to the spread of knowledge and greater use and benefit within communities.



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 9. Promote Aquaculture and fish production as protein alternative

Marine and inland/fresh-water fisheries and aquatic farming need to be recognised for the significant contribution it can make to food security to address the present challenges faced by smallholder producers (fishers, harvesters and farmers).

### 10. Revise the South African food basket

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



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 11. Build networks of resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses

- Build social infrastructure, relationships and networks that are responsive to community crises.
- Take note of work done by civil society in the pandemic to channel resources to micro, smallholder and agricultural households in the rural areas and vulnerable communities in the townships and backyards, metro inner cities and informal settlements.
- Upscale social protection mechanisms in place.



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# A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

## 12. Improve food systems governance

Define a clear mandate for food systems at national, provincial and local government levels. Although agriculture is not a Constitutional mandate of local government, its role in the food system should be identified and facilitated. The role of cities and the urban spaces should be addressed.



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 13. Balancing interests in exports and local production

Balance production and export with basic food security whilst producing an affordable nutritious food basket to strengthen food system towards resilience.

### 14. 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.



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 15. Promote Agri-tourism markets

Agri-tourism markets should be used as a leverage 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.

### 16. Invest in the informal sector

The majority of women operate in this space. 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.



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 17. Promote healthier lifestyles

Promote healthier lifestyles through public awareness campaigns to educate consumers on quantity and quality of food to serve and their nutritional value; restrict domestic and imported food that is less nutritious and harmful, conduct national dietary surveys through academic institutions, monitor and enforce food security and nutrition interventions.

### 18. 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 and micro farmers and agribusinesses and agro-processors from smart villages to have inclusive, diverse, dynamic and prosperous markets.



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 19. Maintain effective biosecurity systems

Government, business and communities should maintain an effective system of biosecurity across the entire food systems with the capability for early recognition of pests and diseases, continuous diagnostic and surveillance, control and neutralise to ensure credibility and success.

### 20. Extend and maintain biological resources diversity

Extend and maintain South Africa's established biological resources diversity to include a wide range of indigenous breeds and the "forgotten" and neglected crops to broaden the food basket and mitigate food security risks through diversification – including honeybees.



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## A. ACTIONS TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

### 21. Establish community land and water systems for good governance

Establish community land and water systems for good governance and effective administration to supervise equitable access to quality water, energy, infrastructure, food safety, food loss and food waste for rural and urban communities.

### 22. 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, community, household and smallholder producers on a sustainable basis.



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## B. LEVERS OF CHANGE

### 23. Effective Governance and Leadership System

A central coordination structure is required to coordinate and monitor all food systems interventions to avoid duplication of programs in fighting hunger, poverty and malnutrition, unemployment and economic growth.

### 24. Finalise the farmer Database

Establish the National Agricultural Household Information System about the 3 million micro, smallholder and household farmers and their members in the former bantustans, commercial farms, mines, rural towns, townships, informal settlements, government, metros.



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## B. LEVERS OF CHANGE

### 25. Research and Innovation

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

### 26. 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, provide education about food waste



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## B. LEVERS OF CHANGE

### 27. The Competition Act drive of efficiency and competitiveness

Examine the Competition Act drive of efficiency and competitiveness in the food system to unlock billions worth of exports and jobs.

### 28. Government and Business Procurement

Government and business procurement should be redirected towards micro, smallholder and household farmers and agro-processing enterprises to incentivize sustainable community-based production and consumption.



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# B. LEVERS OF CHANGE

## 29. Stakeholder collaboration

To build inclusive, sustainable and competitive value chains collaborative engagements 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.

## 30. Financing

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



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# B. LEVERS OF CHANGE

## 31. Institutionalization of Game Changing Solutions

- Having defined the key changes that are needed to transform South Africa's food systems, the following concerns were highlighted
  - (i) how to ensure that proposals for food system transformation were aligned to existing strategies and initiatives and
  - (ii) how to move from proposals to action, particularly given multiple existing programs, weak coordination, and limited resources.



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# B. LEVERS OF CHANGE

## 31. Institutionalization of Game Changing Solutions

- Policies and programmes such as the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan, CASP/Ilima-Letsema, the National Food Security and Nutrition Policy, the Blended Finance, the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support – all suggest it is possible to anchor the implementation of the identified solutions on the existing policies and programmes and make adjustments .



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# The End Thank You



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