



CIVIL SOCIETY JUST TRANSITION FRAMEWORK FOR THE FOOD SYSTEM

This framework is a working document that will be revised and evolved over the next few months through participatory engagement. An initial core of a framework was proposed at the National Policy Dialogue on Just Transition and Adaptation in the SA Food System in September 2023. This current version reflects the modifications and inputs that were made by participants from across sectors of smallholder farmers, farm workers, trade unions, informal workers, fishers, and informal food traders at the Dialogue. Its purpose is to reflect a shared agenda across these sectors, as a basis for more coordinated activity and policy input. It aims to reflect the principles and criteria that these sectors can unite behind, even though from different vantage points in the food system.

The practices are both 1) the concrete interventions that we can propose in policy to realise our criteria and principles for a just transition, and 2) ideas and practices that we as civil society, trade unions, movements, associations, and individuals can seek to implement. This framework therefore guides what we build on the ground and how we influence policy.

Principle	Indicators/criteria	Practices
Meet human needs		
<i>Labour justice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decent work: fair payment and working conditions throughout food system • Improved quality of life for workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decent and safe working conditions for all farmers and informal workers - Living wage - Gender equity in wages, benefits and working conditions - Protection against sexual harassment in the workplace - Ongoing training and capacity building, up- and re-skilling - Reduce salary gap to maximum 3x top to bottom - Right to effective representation, including in workplace structures - Worker ownership and comprehensive social welfare - Access to free basic services – education, health, social protection (including sea accident fund for fishers), mental health support - Affordable housing, electricity and food - Access to bursaries as workers, especially farm workers - Access to land - Transport and safe working conditions for farm workers - Right to dignity for farm workers (e.g. allow burial on farms) - Special legislation to protect informal workers based on domestication of ILO Convention 190 - Insurance for workers in the informal economy
<i>Just food chain structures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair and mutually agreeable relationships between food system actors • Fair food value chains that create green decent jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to unpack what we mean by fairness and what it looks like - Fundamentally change relationships throughout food system – strengthen local markets - Food price policy using lens of fairness - Revise permit system so fishers enjoy benefits - Redistribution of value in food systems for those with least power including workers, traders, smallholder farmers - Fair distribution of land - Break up monopolies and decentralise

Principle	Indicators/criteria	Practices
<i>Right to vital goods (e.g. Right to food, land, water)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for all to sufficient nutritious, adequate, and safe food at all times • Resilience of food supply chains to shocks • Supporting farmer resilience in the face of shocks and stresses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritise nutrition & producing healthy food in the food system - this will then shape what type of production, distribution, and forms of food - Access to local markets for smallholder farmers to sell directly to community - Public community markets as alternatives to supermarkets - Promote local food production to counter hunger & prioritise community food security before marketing produce - Prioritise more local food systems - better prices for producers & more affordable & fresh food for communities - Land ownership and water rights - Prioritise land & water rights for food over extractive industries (mining, plantations) - Gender equity in allocation and rights to natural resources - Household water storage infrastructure such as JoJo tanks - Flexible market contracts to allow farmers to share fulfilment obligations - Conserve and promote seed saving, exchange and farmer seed systems at all levels - Input supply programmes to diversify to include organic and farmer seed, and remove GMOs from these packages - Diversify what & how we farm for climate resilience - Subsidise provision of nutritious food - Address critical shortage of water (recognising 'Day Zeros' already, pollution, choices between drinking & food production) by limiting high water uses, fair water allocation, stopping pollution sources, fixing leaks & by regenerating ground water sources - Water infrastructure refurbishment, installation and maintenance, leak repairs, household water storage infrastructure e.g. water tanks - Water licencing for equitable access (farmers, farm workers), lower rates for water to homestead and smallholder farmers - Water rights to accompany land redistribution - Democratisation of Water Boards - Food system & food producers considered and included in Disaster response plans

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<i>Livelihood opportunities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved producer livelihoods and quality of life • Workers and farmers own and have secure access to the land they work, especially women • Interests of smaller and non-corporate actors in food supply chains (workers, smallholder farmers, informal traders) are promoted and supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local one stop shops for farmers for ongoing support and ecologically appropriate inputs - National health insurance for small-scale farmers and farm workers - Access to information on available services and support - Participatory monitoring tools on support received and how used to eliminate corruption and misuse - Effective access to land reform programmes - Long-term (99 year) leases for land access, also to enable access to resources - Diversity of land ownership models to accommodate everyone - National and provincial fora on commonage land users to advocate for their land rights - Farm workers first right of refusal on sale of farms - Water access to go with land access - Land audit prior to redistribution and support to restore and maintain land - Local control of water, seeds, land and food - Appropriate government support to smallholder farmers and farm workers including choice of agroecological inputs & farmer seeds (not agrichemicals & GM seed) - Protect natural resources - Small-scale fishers consultation and co-management of resources - Fishing permits to be more flexible given volatile weather conditions to allow for sufficient “sea days” - Policy support for localising markets - e.g. influencing procurement policies - Build community/local markets from the ground - pension pay points, community market days, village markets, individuals market together - Legislation on local markets and buying from local farmers - Provincial government to play bigger role in helping smallholders to access local markets - More focus on small scale food processing to enable local sales & better incomes for small producers - Promote and support urban agriculture (including access to urban land & markets) - Dialogues with consumers and other food system actors to promote healthy eating, indigenous foods and the benefits of agroecology

Principle	Indicators/criteria	Practices
<i>Livelihood opportunities (cont.)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture included in school curricula in urban and rural areas to build skills and knowledge - Engage with communities for local food sovereignty - Integrate with existing policies on tenure and housing (Sectoral Determinations, Extension of Security of Tenure Act) - Sustainable landscape management plans supported by local government, NGOs - Agricultural livelihood strategy or framework with government (especially local) and civil society – not limited to job creation - Collaboration between CSOs & farmers to monitor funding is used sustainably - support informal traders, small farmers & fishers with appropriate technology to keep produce fresh & avoid food waste & loss of income
Ecological integrity		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem health is improved – agroecology • Biodiversity restoration, conservation and expansion • Soil, water and air health is protected and improved • Natural resource use stays within planetary boundaries • Animals are treated respectfully, and their inherent value is recognised 	<p>Polluter pays</p> <p>Transition to Agroecology - including production, but also across food system</p> <p>Divert organic waste from landfills and compost for use in farming</p> <p>Rehabilitation of degraded land through agroecological and democratic management</p> <p>Integrate conservation and sustainable use of natural resources into post-settlement support, based on ecosystems approaches</p> <p>Revise farm input subsidy and other farmer support programmes to include agroecological inputs and training</p> <p>Pressure/regulate manufacturers to use biodegradable & recyclable packaging throughout distribution systems</p> <p>Recognise and support the key role of waste pickers in sustainable management and reuse of waste in food system</p> <p>Minimise waste, separate and recycle waste wherever possible.</p>

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Participatory and democratic		
<i>Just and participatory processes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making processes are transparent, inclusive, and provide fair opportunity for hearing different voices • Decision making does not simply reflect, create, or intensify power disparities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear, meaningful participation – everyone’s voice to be heard, looking at grassroots – not just representation but active participation - Special effort made to include the most marginalised e.g. farm workers, elderly, sections of the youth - Organise for the right people to be involved in consultation processes – people who are directly affected to speak for themselves - evidence that such people participated - Transport provided for people to participate - Adequate time for consultations to allow people to fully express themselves - include informal waste collectors in discussions on waste reclamation (buy-back centres rip them off) - More local involvement in determining what are staple foods & stabilising prices for these - Such participatory processes have an active influence over policy and programme content - Resulting policies and programmes are implemented accordingly - Mandates must come from the ground, and feedback to communities - Limiting influence of transnational corporations in our policy making
<i>Access to relevant information</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliable information about the impacts of food systems, climate change and different diets on humans and nature is available to all in decision making and action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of the way information is prepared and disseminated - Informed by grassroots and speak to people’s experiences and challenges - Use existing local spaces to share info - Disseminate info in ways that can be understood by everyone, tailored to audience - Information in all languages - Use local expertise to speak to issues they know about - Resources to produce materials and bring people together - Expose false solutions to the food & climate crises - Proper M&E on who is attending, who engaging, how successful, recommendations - Open and accessible tracking systems that are available to all - Social elements of production to be included on food labels - Information on rights and procedures for safe and decent work - Information about alternatives on production, markets etc

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Respect and be inclusive of diversity		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local, indigenous, and tradition knowledge is respected and given a voice • Diverse visions related to producing, processing, and selling food are respected • Specific effort is made for gender, class, and race inclusion, and everyone is equally recognised and valued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community groups to lead consultation - Respect and build on practices people are already undertaking to adapt - Strengthen CS partnerships - Diverse communications channels and methods, e.g. storytelling - Meaningful representation at all levels - Definitions of terms that are context specific - Resources: consultation/ outreach, esp. geographically remote, rural-urban exchange - Translation and use of local languages - Share recipes - Use of local suppliers - Amplify and restore indigenous growing methods - Diversify crops, indigenous crops - Teaching through food including sharing - Promote indigenous food - Open and welcoming spaces, e.g. child care at meetings - Education and knowledge sharing on justice, inclusivity, diversity - Feminist methods of facilitation and knowledge sharing - Meaningful representation of women, not just for numbers - Decolonisation of how we speak about land and climate to bring more people into conversations - Build communities of practices - Ongoing and honest discussions about gender, race and class - a Just Transition should change the narrative about young people
Capacity building		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing individual and collective skills for just transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bottom up processes - Feminist methods of facilitation and knowledge sharing - Merging indigenous and new knowledge- Train the trainers who can then pass knowledge further in organisations and communities, also government officials - Indigenous knowledge needs indigenous practice

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for collective action on just transitions • Appropriate technical and technological innovations are made available to relevant actors, especially marginalised groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find ways to recognise existing agroecology skills, and need to build AE capacity within communities, along with accredited version of AE qualification – both recognition of existing skills and through formal system - Integrate agroecology and nutrition into curricula at all levels (schools, universities, training colleges, extension services) with a strong practical element e.g. school and community food gardens, and recognition of prior learning. - Different types of information materials and be sensitive to what works – infographics, local languages, popular education approaches - Video clips and then discuss and debate - Participatory vulnerability assessments, provide participatory facilitation skills to those running these - Peer to peer learning and sharing - Funding required to make this happen – participatory processes take time and effort and are not once off - Appropriate technologies, also combining with indigenous knowledge - Learning sites to practice skills - AE hubs to connect, cooperate and learn from each other - Make policies easier to understand and create pamphlets – policies to speak to reality of people - Training in local languages - Creative, innovative capacity building to attract youth - Skills programme to reach the youth no matter where they are, build new careers in the food system - Capacity building for farm workers that helps overcome their structural marginalisation in labour markets - Guidance package on how farmers can position themselves to be effective in markets - Capacity building informed by demand on the ground - More funding to farmer training & education - without skills funding infrastructure is not helpful - Build awareness on healthy & nutritious food - Engage youth from primary schools up



JustTransitions