



JUST TRANSITION IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEM

**Thematic
synthesis and
priorities**

November 2023

Background

In the lead-up to the National Dialogue on Just Transition and Adaptation in the South African Food System, held in September 2023, co-hosting organisations facilitated a series of consultations with smallholder farmers, farm and food workers, fishers, informal traders, waste pickers, and staff of non-government organisations (NGOs). The objective of these consultations was to share information, discuss challenges, priorities and practices, and prepare participants to engage actively in the dialogue.

Preparatory consultations were held from July to September 2023 in Limpopo, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, with additional participants from Northern Cape, North West and Mpumalanga[1], which included over 250 participants, ranging from 20-40 in each workshop. Where detailed information was provided by organisers, approximately 64% of participants were women, and around 29% were youth. Participation of youth is an acknowledged challenge and requires attention.

The National Dialogue was held on 20-22 September in Gauteng, with 81 in-person participants (49% women, 19% youth) and at least 45 online participants (approximately 44% women) from the constituencies above plus government officials from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and the Presidential Climate Commission. This synthesis report highlights key themes and issues covered in the consultations and the dialogue, and draws out some priority areas for work based on the discussions.

Contextual overview

Just transition and the food system

The focus of a just transition in South Africa tends to be on energy. This is very important because by far the most emissions (81%) come from energy production and use. However, incumbent commercial and political interests are resistant to change, and the obstacles to rapid transition are political and social rather than technical. But beyond energy, the food system should also be looked at. In addition to direct emissions from production, the food system also produces emissions in transport, manufacturing, retail and waste. Obstructive financial and corporate power also dominates the system. At the same time, agriculture is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and diverse adaptation strategies are essential.

Elements of justice to be considered include environmental, food security/ sovereignty, and social and economic justice. Section 24 of the Bill of Rights highlights the right to a healthy and safe environment for all. There is also a question about the rights of nature. Justice also deals with the legacy of injustice inherited from apartheid. This requires a redistribution of resources and opportunities, and to secure basic needs for all with democratic decision-making. Section 27 in the Bill of Rights refers to the right to food. A just system will be one in which everyone gets their basic food needs every day.

What needs to be done to restructure the food system to meet this objective? This is a key question for a just transition.

[1] Hosted by Adaptation Network, African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA), Biowatch, Climate Champions for Adaptation Project (CCfA), Embo Yakwa Ntu, GenderCC, Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ), National Labour and Economic Development Institute (Naledi), Nkuzi Development Association, Support Centre for Land Change (SCLC), Surplus People Project (SPP), Tshintsha Amakhaya, and Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO), and Women's Leadership and Training Programme (WLTP).

Transition in the food system is from an unsustainable and unjust system towards a more sustainable and just system. Elements of these arose in the discussions, indicating multiple sources of instability in the corporate food regime. The dominant system has generated poor outcomes, including environmental damage, high levels of persistent hunger and malnutrition, social exclusion and marginalisation. Alternatives thus go beyond simply responding to climate change, to also look at the multi-dimensional crisis of capitalism, the impacts on the food system, and pathways out of this death spiral. A just transition is about the distribution of risks and benefits in the transition, and who decides about what is acceptable in trade-offs and distribution of risk.

Climate change in the food system

Overview

Agriculture is identified as one of the priority sectors for climate response in South Africa. Agriculture and the food system are very vulnerable to climate change impacts. It is also a source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but can also be a carbon sink if the correct practices are adopted. In 2015 the government developed the agriculture sector Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (CCAMP) to guide interventions in the sector. The Plan is meant to be reviewed every five years, and is overdue for the next review.

Agriculture in South Africa is not easy. All farmers, regardless of size, face similar challenges, such as high rainfall variability, extreme weather events (droughts, floods, wildfires), water scarcity, poor soils, bush encroachment and invasive alien plant species, and rising costs of production inputs. As a threat multiplier, climate change is expected to make all of these worse in the coming years and decades. Homestead and smallholder farmers will find it more difficult to adapt, because they mostly do not have the

resources or flexibility in production to respond as needed. Marginalised urban and rural communities, women, children and the elderly will be hardest hit by the impacts of climate change in South Africa. A just transition must ensure these groups are protected and supported to adapt as needed.

Overall, the coastal areas and the eastern edge of Mpumalanga and Limpopo will be the most vulnerable to climate change. Most of the country will get hotter and drier, with increased variability in rainfall, especially in the west and the north. Parts of the east may become slightly wetter overall. Maize and wheat yields will come under pressure. Suitable production locations are likely to shift, and production will become more concentrated, with fewer farmers producing higher yields under irrigation. There are dangers of displacement of rural populations, increased rural to urban migration, loss of livelihoods, and reduced quantities of food being produced, leading to higher food prices and insecurity.

The CCAMP proposes adaptation and mitigation options. Adaptation is about adjusting to the changing conditions and building resilience. Many proposed practices align with the environmental elements of agroecological principles, but the CCAMP is very weak on progressive social and economic dimensions. The model is mostly business as usual, with no expectation or suggestion of the need to change the agrarian structure or the food system.

Mitigation is about reducing GHG emissions. South Africa must reduce emissions. Energy is the most important, as production and use releases by far the most emissions, but reductions must happen across all sectors. Current national targets aim to reduce emissions by around 15-20% by 2030. The CCAMP underestimates emissions from the agriculture sector and the food system because it deducts forest and grassland carbon sinks from agriculture sector emissions. However, rough calculations show that the whole food system (not just

agriculture) produces around 18% of total emissions in South Africa every year. The main sources are livestock, land use change (e.g. converting land from grasslands or forests to agriculture production or settlement), intensive tillage (using heavy machinery to plough the land), and energy use in production and transport. Mitigation is mainly left to the market in the CCAMP, with farmers responding to market demand for lower emissions.

The CCAMP is framed with the large-scale commercial farming model taken as the norm. Actions are restricted to some changes in farming practices to become more environmentally friendly, but without any consideration of social or economic justice. Framing the plan on a just transition and agroecology is preferable, as it can accommodate environmental, social and economic dimensions, and link climate action with wider social redress and economic democratisation. Interventions will be needed to ensure that climate change response does not merely entrench concentrated economic and political power in the hands of a few.

Grassroots experiences of climate change

Participants in the consultations and at the national dialogue shared their experiences of climate change in the present. These include general environmental changes people are seeing, impacts on agricultural production and fishing, and socio-economic impacts.

On environmental changes, participants across provinces highlighted an increase in extreme weather events, including wildfires, floods, storms and high rainfall, extreme heat and cold, drought and dry spells, general increase in water scarcity, shifting seasons, shorter growing seasons, as well as unseasonal and changing weather patterns. Participants recognised that multiple practices contribute to making the situation worse, including deforestation, soil mining, building in sensitive areas such as on mountain tops, burning fields, littering, land use change from agriculture to settlement and mining, and water

contamination and soil erosion from mining. Impacts include salt water intrusion, high water temperatures, and infrastructure damage.

Participants identified numerous environmental problems caused by industrial agriculture that they experience, including poisoning the environment, biodiversity loss, green-house gas emissions, water and soil pollution, excessive water use, degradation, food loss and waste, and plastic pollution from fast food and packaging.

Impacts on production include animals in stress and high mortality, drowned animals, miscarriages amongst animals, animals coming to gardens to eat because of overgrazed rangelands, boreholes drying due to lack of rain and a very low water table, losing species and alien species coming in, poor crop yields, higher production costs, inability to plan properly due to unpredictable weather, crop damage, and new pests and diseases (e.g. locusts, ticks).

Fishers have experienced changing and stronger currents, higher water temperatures, changing fish migration patterns, rising sea levels, fewer 'sea days', changes to the coastline, shifting sand banks, and species changes.

The impacts of these changes include water shortages, declines in yields and incomes amongst smallholder farmers, disruptions in food availability, rising food prices, increasing food waste resulting from spoilage, greater poverty and displacement as households are less resilient in the face of shocks, infrastructure damage (including houses, schools and water infrastructure), employment losses on farms, reduced working hours, the rise in contract labour on commercial farms resulting in women in particular having to travel further and change their living conditions to find work, harsher farm working conditions (e.g. extreme heat), increasing illnesses, urban-rural migration, land dispossession, and lower profitability.



What are people already doing practically to adapt to the impacts of climate change?

Participants shared their practical responses to climate change impacts. It is important to recognise that local level actions are key and communities and producers don't need to wait for resources from above before acting. Participants proposed that these existing practices should be consolidated and built on.

Participants have adopted a range of production practices to respond to the impacts of climate change. These include agroecological practices, including rainwater and grey water harvesting for irrigation, scheduling irrigation for early mornings, greater focus on garden/farm layout and design to manage water flow in particular, construction of swales to channel and hold water, spring rehabilitation (working with the local municipality), distribution of JoJo tanks for household water storage, solar power, seed saving and exchange, seed banks especially of more resilient and drought tolerant varieties, use of indigenous and locally adapted livestock breeds and crop and tree varieties, shift from monocultures to mixed farming, farm workers and others planting home gardens, knowledge sharing by elders with youth on traditional production practices, compost and manure use instead of synthetic fertiliser, river cleaning, and planting trees to manage high winds.

Responses beyond production include applying for government relief, use of government subsidies to employ people, efforts to engage with the government around participation in water management, calls on the government to provide water services, and economic diversification to rely less on primary food production.

Just transition in the food system: from what to what?

Experiences of the current system and proposed responses

Participants shared some of their own experiences of the food system in South Africa. It became apparent that climate change is another crisis imposed on us by capitalism. Longstanding experiences of the unsustainable and unjust food system inherited from apartheid indicate that climate change generally will make these worse, adding a new dimension that must be considered, but does not introduce a lot of qualitatively new issues. As such, solutions are also a reiteration of what people have been calling for since apartheid days and in the past 30 years. Participants indicated that they continue to experience a lot of discrimination, oppression and racism. The food system is under monopolistic control.

Across the consultations and the dialogue, a set of key issues emerged. These are: government policy and participation, access to and ownership of land and other natural resources, production practices and support, markets, health and nutrition, education and knowledge, financing and support, and organisation. These are dealt with topic by topic below, drawing from the consultations and dialogue, to indicate the experiences of the current food system, and the solutions or responses proposed by participants.



Overall, participants understand a just transition to be a shift from an unsustainable and unjust system to a more sustainable, equitable, fair and just system. This requires an anti-capitalist orientation, a constant interrogation of intersectional power relations, and a call for an immediate end to austerity budgets. A just transition is understood as improving the conditions of life for the majority, including environmental sustainability and social and economic justice. Workers, farmers and fishers should not bear the costs of transition while others reap the benefits. The polluter pays principle was highlighted as a key approach, and processes should be structured to ensure the application of this principle.

The climate crisis is part of a deepening multidimensional crisis of capitalism. There is a strong overlap in elements of a just transition related to climate and to wider food systems democratisation, reorganisation and agroecological transition. Climate response should be integrated into these wider approaches for systemic change in the food system.

Government laws and policies

Current situation

Laws and policies generally favour elites and landowners, they do not support small-scale farmers or fishers. Corporations and large-scale commercial farmers, fishers and agribusiness are dominant in the food system, and have the ear of government. They have free reign, determine prices, and pass risks to small-scale producers. Policies are not responding adequately to the people's needs. Smallholder farmers and fishers, including agroecology farmers, are not recognised. Government policies focus on exports. Conditions and criteria attached to policies, especially on land redistribution, make it difficult for farmers to gain access to support, or to choose how they want to produce and market

their products. Fishing rights allocations and licensing are huge problems. Corporations are receiving allocations and small-scale fishers are not prioritised.

There is recognition of the importance of policy to establish the grounds on which the government can act and allocate resources. Some good laws and policies are in place, but they are poorly or not at all implemented, enforced or monitored. This includes international agreements that the government has signed on our behalf. Many policies sit in draft form and remain unimplemented. At times the government comes up with policies that contradict their own legislation.

There are no good platforms for participation, and weak participation where there is space. Consumers are not involved in discussions on the food system. Quality and level of government consultations are poor and, when they happen, are more about sharing information than a proper deliberation to debate and inform policy.

Synthesis of key themes on government laws and policies

- Inclusive decision making and public participation, with particular attention to women and youth.
- Mandates must come from the ground, and feedback to communities.
- Effective implementation and enforcement of laws and policies and international agreements.
- Alignment, integration and coordination across sectors, departments and entities – in particular agriculture, land reform, environment, forestry, fisheries, water, health, small business development, trade and industry, education.
- Policy recognition, and material and immaterial support to smallholder and agroecology farmers, small-scale fishers and informal traders.

Identified policy processes

An important objective of the dialogue was to begin building a shared agenda across sectors on a just transition in the food system, and to link this to coordinated policy engagement. Policy processes were identified in the dialogue as listed below, along with organisations already working on these areas. Those marked in **blue** indicate existing high interest and activity.

Legislative and policy processes	Organisations currently involved
<p>Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Climate Change Bill -Agriculture sector Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (CCAMP) -Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET IP) <p>-Water sector climate adaptation plan – draft open for comment until 22 Dec 2023</p> <p>-Other sectors also with climate plan – search out and see which relevant to food system</p> <p>-Gender Action Plan on Climate</p> <p>-Local climate and disaster management plans</p>	<p>Biowatch, TA, AN, Cosatu, AFRA, CCfA, GenderCC</p> <p>ACB, Biowatch, AN, LandNNEs, TA, IEJ, SAFCEI</p> <p>Cosatu, ACRC, IEJ, SAFCEI</p> <p>EMG</p>
<p>Agriculture and biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -National agroecology strategy <p>-Norms and standards for Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA)</p> <p>-Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Bill – also on subdivision of agricultural land</p> <p>-Plant Breeders Rights Act (PBRA) and Plant Improvement Act (PIA) regulations – exemptions for smallholder farmers</p> <p>-Cannabis Master Plan</p> <p>-Forestry Master Plan</p> <p>-Agroforestry Strategic Framework</p> <p>-Food processing</p> <p>-National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>-International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)</p> <p>-Agricultural Products Standards Amendment Bill</p> <p>-Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP)</p> <p>-Procurement regulations and FMA re procurement from smallholder farmers</p> <p>-UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants – SA supporting a resolution for a mechanism for reporting</p> <p> Framework on Food Loss and Waste</p> <p>-UN Food Systems Summit and national pathways</p>	<p>TA, LandNNEs, ACB, Biowatch, EMG, TCOE, AFRA, SPP, FSC</p> <p>AFRA, TA, TCOE</p> <p>Biowatch, SPP</p> <p>ACB, Biowatch</p> <p>Saftu, Cosatu – Marc Wegerif can share info</p> <p>Saftu, Cosatu</p> <p>SPP</p> <p>Labour</p> <p>ACB</p>

Legislative and policy processes (cont.)	Organisations currently involved
<p>Water</p> <p>-Marine Living Resources Act - will be under review in 2024</p> <p>Sea Fisheries Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provision of Water on Privately Owned Land -Water Bill and Strategy -Ocean Economy Master Plan -Marine Protected Areas Act 	<p>Masifundise, Coastal Links, LRC</p> <p>Masifundise, Coastal Links, LRC</p> <p>AFRA, LandNNES</p> <p>EMG</p>
<p>Labour and traders</p> <p>-National Minimum Wage, can couple with National environmental Management Act (NEMA) on health and safety committees in workplaces, smallholder farmers and communities</p> <p>-Business Act s7 on informal traders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community Works Programme Road Traffic Act on where informal traders can trade 	<p>Cosatu, Saftu</p> <p>SAITA, WIEGO</p>
<p>Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Expropriation Bill -Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA) amendments and living conditions of farmworkers -Khoisan and Traditional Leaders Act -Land Donations Policy on access to land -Distribution of state land -Limpopo Traditional Leaders and Institutions Act No 6 of 2005 -Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Land Governance 	<p>AFRA, LandNNES, TA, TCOE, LRC</p> <p>AFRA, LandNNES, TA, TCOE, SPP</p> <p>Nkuzi, LRC, LandNNES, ARD,</p> <p>Lamosa</p> <p>AFRA, SCLC, SPP</p>
<p>Energy</p> <p>Gas Amendment Bill</p> <p>Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act</p>	<p>SCLC</p>
<p>Misc.</p> <p>UN Human Rights Treaty on Corporations</p>	



Proposed next steps on laws and policies

- Identify priority policies/processes for joint action over the next period.
- Consolidate groups interested in working together on priority areas and identify organisation/s to drive the process.
- For other topics, lead organisations already working on them to share updates from time to time, policy inputs, indicate upcoming events, invite others to participate and establish working groups as desired.
- Develop a mechanism for reporting back to the wider group from time to time.

Access to and ownership of natural resources

Current situation: land

Land access and ownership remains very constrained. Land redistribution for production is usually of very small pieces, poor quality and degraded (including through agrochemicals), and without accompanying water use rights. It is difficult for farmers to rehabilitate the land, and some of the farms are not productive anymore as a result of historical damage. In some places, women have no independent access to land in their own right. Property owners are still dictating selling prices based on market value, regardless of the quality of the land. The purchase of farms for redistribution is approved by people with no context or understanding of the area/ farm, who have never visited the farms.

There is an expectation for land reform beneficiaries to become commercial farmers. But commercial farms are owned by individuals. With land reform, beneficiaries are forced to hold land in Communal Property Associations (CPAs) but no support is provided for such structures. Land

access is restricted to rental or leasing, there is no model for full ownership through government redistribution and farmer support programmes.

People are reduced to tenants of the state instead of having full ownership of the land. There are a lot of landless people, yet individuals allocated land are occupying large areas / hectares on their own.

Traditional authorities are using their authority as custodians of communal land to dispossess black inhabitants and allocate land and water to commercial producers for export production (e.g. citrus, peppadew in Limpopo). In recent times, traditional authorities are allocating land for settlement but not for smallholder production. Where people are returning to the communal areas to farm, land is being overgrazed and is not being used sustainably.

The development and expansion of mines is damaging the land. Fracking and oil and gas exploration are threatening the livelihoods of farmers and small-scale fishers. Access to traditional fishing and harvesting areas is being limited by mining rights being granted in beach areas. Generally there is a lack of knowledge about natural resource use.

Synthesis of priorities on land

- Rapid redistribution of assessed good quality land with water access for production
- Gender equity in allocation and access to natural resources
- Integrate conservation and sustainable use of natural resources into post-settlement support, based on ecosystems approaches
- Diversity of land ownership models to accommodate everyone – private, public, group, title deed, lease, rental

Current situation: water

Limited water access and quality. Where access is granted, water is at times restricted through water metres, or supply is discontinued. Commercial farmers control the rivers. Corporations have captured water allocation and management processes. The media only highlights urban water issues e.g. Cape Town Day Zero. But many communities, e.g. in the Karoo, have been going without adequate water for a long time. Water is often polluted, including by agri-chemical runoff.

Access to government farming and land support requires water rights, but this is difficult for smallholder farmers as it is not in their control. The Department of Water and Sanitation tells farmers there are no more water rights remaining. Lack of water undermines farmers' ability to produce quality crops and livestock, pushing people to buy food in town.

Synthesis of priorities on water

- Water rights and effective provisioning of quality water for households and producers
- 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
- Remove/manage tree plantations that are excessively absorbing groundwater; clearing of alien invasive species from rivers and rehabilitating the natural ecology along rivers; spring protection
- Democratisation of Water Boards

Current situation: seed

Seed is owned and controlled by corporations, who impose genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on farmers.

Synthesis of priorities on seed

- Promote seed saving, exchange and farmer seed systems at all levels
- Incorporate seed into agroecology processes
- Input supply programmes to diversify to include organic and farmer seed, and remove GMOs from these packages.

Production support

Current situation

The dominant production system is environmentally damaging, wasteful, and unhealthy for people, including excessive agri-chemical use for both crops and livestock (synthetic fertilisers and pesticides). Mines also pollute the environment. Lack of government recognition or support for agroecological or organic farming, and government only provides support and inputs for conventional agriculture. Costs of purchased inputs for organic production are high, and farmers are struggling to produce organically or generate a profit as a result. Generally, smallholder production is challenging, because of the need for volume in production, lack of resources to support production, and theft. Whatever profits women generate from production often go to their husbands. Huge amounts of food waste are being dumped in landfills. Waste pickers face prejudice and ill-treatment.

Synthesis of priorities

- Oppose the corporate food regime
- Promote and adopt agroecology and food sovereignty for ecological sustainability, climate resilience, and social and economic justice in both rural and urban areas
- Differentiated support tailored to producer needs
- Focused support for women and youth in production
- Recognise and support the key role of waste pickers in sustainable management and reuse of waste.
- Minimise waste, separate and recycle waste wherever possible.

Markets

Current situation

Access to markets is weak. Even if farmers do plant, they don't have outlets to sell. Markets are controlled by a minority, especially those with money and privilege. Supermarkets have a stranglehold on food supply. Consumers tend to go to the shops to buy, even if farmers are producing and selling locally for cheaper. Consumers lack confidence in smallholder farmers' products. People buy their food rather than growing even a portion of what they consume.

Farmers are "price-takers", they don't have much power to negotiate prices they receive for their produce. Food producers (small-scale farmers and fishers) are getting low prices for their products. Retail food prices are very high, but farmers are not receiving additional money for their produce. Food prices rise with fuel prices, but don't come down when fuel prices drop. Food price rises pose a threat to informal traders, who have to undercut supermarket prices and have to try to avoid passing on rising prices to retain customers.

Transport prices are increasing, and GHG emissions are produced from long-distance transport. Distribution channels through long supply chains are slow in bringing food to people, resulting in loss of freshness. Food quality is also compromised by the role of middlemen.

Informal traders are not well-organised in relation to suppliers. Traders only buy what they can afford. They tend to buy from the fresh produce markets or supermarkets, but because they have limited funds to purchase, they end up taking poorer quality produce at the end of the day that is cheaper because it is already going off. This produce cannot be stored for long and must be sold quickly. Traders have struggled to maintain their enterprises following Covid. Existing trading spaces are dangerous, and lack facilities (e.g. water access, cold storage). Some municipalities (e.g. in Limpopo) are creating local market spaces for people to sell. However, in many places, municipalities view traders as a nuisance and just want to move them away.

Waste pickers receive very low prices for waste they gather.

Synthesis of priorities

- Prioritise production for local consumption.
- Promote and support alternative market channels, including local and farmer markets, informal traders, social events, public procurement and buying from each other.
- Link local producers and consumers, including through participatory guarantee schemes (PGS).
- Dialogues with consumers and other food system actors to promote healthy eating, indigenous foods and the benefits of agroecology.

Nutrition and health, right to food

Current situation

One in five households in South Africa are not food secure. There is an increase in consumption of junk food, causing health problems. Food comes with a lot of toxic chemicals as a result of production methods. Food prices are a key issue of concern, and have risen in recent times, including after the 2021 riots in KZN and Gauteng. In South Africa consumers are not asking questions about where their food is coming from.

Synthesis of priorities

- Consider practical ways to decommodify food to realise the right to food for all e.g. price controls/food subsidies, community food banks and food relief distribution points
- Start your garden with what you have, be active in practice
- Consumer awareness on healthy food and healthy eating, including the value of indigenous crops

Education and knowledge

Current situation

The content of education is not resonating practically with farmer needs. Extension officers are not adequately trained on agroecology. They only have conventional agriculture content. People don't know about climate change. It is only after the flood in KZN in 2022 that people started realising it will have a heavy impact. Early warning systems are there but the information is not accessible to people.

Synthesis of priorities

- Bring to the surface and build on indigenous knowledge. Promote blended knowledge systems incorporating indigenous knowledge and formal education.
- Feminist methods of facilitation and knowledge sharing.
- 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.
- Peer to peer learning and exchange, and producer-led decentralised learning sites. Use local expertise to share information.
- Mentorship and experiential learning for youth.
- Awareness raising and capacity building on agroecology, healthy food, nutrition, food preparation and preservation options and techniques, environment, adaptation, climate change, El Nino, land reform, disaster preparedness, zero waste and waste recycling is needed in communities, with government officials and in the media.
- Communications strategy to synthesise, simplify and share information in easily understandable forms and in local languages.



Financing and support

Current situation

Producers face a lack of equipment and infrastructure, including alternative technologies. Input costs, including ecological inputs, are becoming prohibitive, and farmers struggle to make a profit. Farmers are blocked from sources of funding as a result of bureaucracy, funding requirements that go against farmers' preferred practices, and complicated forms. Farmworkers are not receiving any meaningful support from the government. The Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) neglects precarious categories of workers, such as temporary and seasonal workers. Farmworker housing faces damage from floods. Women are not well recognised in terms of support.

Synthesis of priorities

- Accessible financing for farmers, fishers and informal traders
- Revise farm input subsidy and other farmer support programmes to include agroecological inputs and training
- Living wage and social protection throughout the food system – benefits for informal workers (e.g. UIF, pensions, maternity leave, health care); sea accident fund for fishers; gender equity in wages, benefits and working conditions; protection against sexual harassment in the workplace
- Infrastructure to support economic activity for farmers, fishers and informal traders
- Public employment programmes, universal basic income grant
- Joint fundraising for joint activities / pooling of resources with collective decision making on joint activities.
- Reduce dependency and find ways to fund our own activities.



Organisation

Current situation

Efforts to engage with the government generally fall on deaf ears. There has been a support system for years, but departments are not aware of the various NGOs in these sectors. Civil society organisations tend to work in isolation, and remain tiny in relation to voice and impact.

Synthesis of priorities

- Keep the momentum going actively within this network.
- Feed information from the dialogue back to communities to build the process. Open lines of communication into communities so they know what is happening and can participate.
- Build alliances and partnerships across sectors and actors, and develop a common agenda on land, production, climate etc. at all levels (local, provincial, national). Continue to strengthen and expand connections between farmers, fishers, workers, traders, waste pickers and consumers.
- Finalise our Just Transition Framework as a common frame, and use it in our advocacy work.
- Develop mechanisms to take forward joint work on a just transition in the food system, reporting back, monitoring and ongoing sharing and learning.
- Engage with multiple actors and promote cross-sectoral integration within government and communities.

