

# ACB communications and media report

September 2022 – February 2024



**AFRICAN CENTRE**  
FOR BIODIVERSITY

# Programme 1:

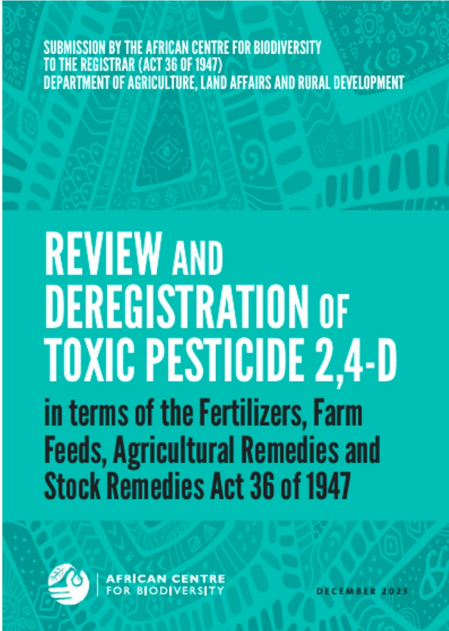
## GM & Biosafety

# Publication web views



7 December 2023

## Call on South Africa to deregister agrotoxin 2,4-D



Country ▾ ×	↓ Views -----	Users -----
	125 0.26% of total	93 0.86% of total
South Africa	112	81
United States	7	7
France	1	1
Nigeria	1	1
Tanzania	1	1
Uganda	1	1
United Kingdom	1	1

# Web post views




30 January 2024

## No to GM wheat!



Country ▾ ×	↓ Views -----	Users -----
	207 0.89% of total	138 3.18% of total
South Africa	97	51
United States	41	33
Canada	12	9
Tanzania	9	4
Ethiopia	6	3
United Kingdom	6	5
Germany	5	5
Netherlands	5	5
Italy	3	2
Belgium	2	2

# Media mentions



News and comment on genetically modified foods and their associated pesticides


NON-GM SUCCESSSES  
GM VIDEOS  
GM MYTHS  
MYTH MAKERS  
SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS  
DONATE TO GMWATCH

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Articles  
Donations  
Videos  
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About

### Organisations around the world warn of GM wheat risks and low yields

Published: 28 February 2024

Share Post Share





GRAIN is a small international non-profit organisation that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems

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### No to GM wheat! Global alliance seeks UN intervention against GM Wheat HB4 cultivation



## Página12

13 de marzo de 2024 | Edición Impresa | PDF

Newsletter Associate Iniciar sesión

SECCIONES Y SUPLEMENTOS

El país | Economía | Sociedad | Espectáculos | Deportes | El mundo | Ciencia

Sociedad

Trigo HB4

### Solicitan la intervención de la ONU para regular el derecho a la alimentación saludable

## Organizaciones de todo el mundo advierten sobre los riesgos del trigo transgénico

En un documento conjunto, Asia, África y América Latina afirman que el trigo HB4 de la empresa Bioceres. No cuenta con estudios de inocuidad y denuncian que incluso tiene menos productividad que el trigo convencional.

Por **Dario Aranda**

26 de febrero de 2024 - 00:01

Twitter Facebook Instagram WhatsApp Telegram LinkedIn



# Publication web views





5 February 2024


**Game-changer for regulation of genome editing and new tech as SA’s Ag Minister overrules Industry and Appeal Board**

Country <span>▼</span> <span>×</span>	<span>↓</span> Views -----	Users -----
	594 2.55% of total	406 9.37% of total
South Africa	186	135
United States	77	58
Ireland	46	1
France	29	19
United Kingdom	25	16
Japan	23	17
Kenya	22	10
Ghana	18	14
Canada	17	17
Malawi	15	14

# Media mentions

 **Biosafety Information Centre**





**Sections**

- ▶ Biosafety Science
- ▶ Agriculture / Organisms
- ▶ Traits in Agriculture
- ▶ Biomedical Applications
- ▶ Assessment & Impacts
- ▶ Trends in Industry
- ▶ Global Agreements and Fora

« **EU Path of Deregulation of NGTs Carries Environmental and Health Risks**

## Game-changer for regulation of genome editing and new tech in South Africa

SUCHE 

**Informationsdienst Gentechnik**  
Kritische Nachrichten zur Gentechnik in der Landwirtschaft

NACHRICHTEN

WISSEN

AKTIV WERDEN

UNTERSTÜTZEN

Von 

Bis 

>



**Südafrika: Neue Gentechnik bleibt Gentechnik**

13.02.2024

Die südafrikanische Landwirtschaftsministerin Thoko Didiza hat entschieden, dass neue gentechnische Verfahren (NGT) in der heimischen Landwirtschaft weiterhin dem Gentechnikrecht und seinen Zulassungsregeln unterliegen. Wie erst jetzt bekannt wurde, wies sie damit vor sechs Monaten Beschwerden der Agrarindustrielobby gegen eine frühere Entscheidung ihrer Gentechnikbehörde zurück. Für das afrikanische Zentrum für Biodiversität (ACB) ist das ein Wendepunkt für den ganzen Kontinent.

Die südafrikanische Agrarministerin Thoko Didiza 2019 bei einer Pressekonferenz. Foto: GCIS <https://lmy.de/OcLX>, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/>

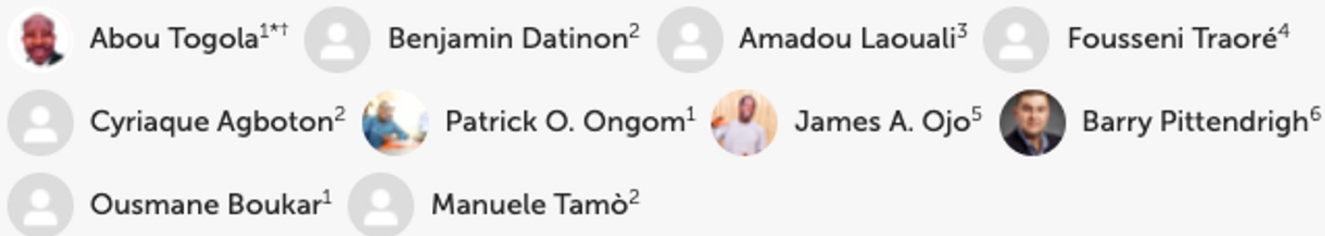
**Online-Redakteur\*in gesucht!**

Der *Informationsdienst Gentechnik* sucht zum nächstmöglichen Zeitpunkt eine Online-Redakteurin (m/w/d) in Voll- oder Teilzeit.

Bewerbungen inkl. Arbeitsproben bitte

# General media coverage

## Recent advances in cowpea IPM in West Africa



<sup>1</sup> Department of Cowpea Breeding, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Kano, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup> Department of Entomology, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Cotonou, Benin

<sup>3</sup> Department of Entomology, National Institute of Agricultural Research of Niger (INRAN), Maradi, Niger

<sup>4</sup> Department of Entomology, Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

<sup>5</sup> Department of Entomology, Kwara State University, Ilorin, Nigeria

<sup>6</sup> Department of Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, United States

Cowpea is an important and climate-resilient grain legume for human and livestock nutrition worldwide. Its grains represent a valuable source of protein for rural families in Sub-Saharan Africa while its haulms offer nutritious fodder for livestock, especially, in the Sahel regions. Cowpea production,

This review examines recent advances in West Africa in cowpea Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches, highlighting research on host plant resistance, biological control, biopesticides, good cultural practices, and on-farm participatory research and training undertaken to support sustainable cowpea production.

ACB's cowpea [report of 2015](#) is referenced in this review.

## Programme 3: Corporate Expansion

# Publication web views



19 September 2023

## Financialisation, dematerialisation, digitalisation & distancing of Africa’s agriculture



Country	Unique Page Views
	134 % of Total: 3.72% (3,599)
South Africa	37
United States	34
Germany	8
Tanzania	8
United Kingdom	5
Eswatini	5
Canada	4
Brazil	3
Ghana	3
Indonesia	3

# National policy dialogue on a just transition and adaptation in the food system and related outputs



The **National policy dialogue on a just transition and adaptation in the food system** took place in Ekurhuleni, South Africa. Organisations representing the labour movement, smallholder farmers, farm workers, labour tenants, informal traders, waste reclaimers, food and land justice organisations, civil society, and policymakers came together to discuss building a coordinated understanding and policy approach to a just transition in the South African food system across sectors.

It was hosted by the Alliance for Rural Advancement (AFRA), Biowatch South Africa, Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ), African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), LandNNES, Tshintsha Amakhaya, Climate Champions for Adaptation, Adaptation Network, Environmental Monitoring Group, and the National Labour and Economic Development Institute (NALEDI).

# Web post views



28 September 2023

## Just transition and adaptation in the food system: national policy dialogue

Country ▾ ×	↓ Views -----	Users -----
	459 3.93% of total	283 13.95% of total
South Africa	277	150
United States	37	23
Germany	16	14
United Kingdom	14	9
Nigeria	12	4
Kenya	10	8
Netherlands	6	6
Canada	5	5
Ethiopia	5	2
Georgia	5	5

# Publications



FACT SHEET 01

**Towards a just transition in South Africa's food system**



FACT SHEET 03

**Climate change emissions in the industrialised food system**



FACT SHEET 02

**The South African food system and the need for a just transition**



FACT SHEET 06

**Towards a just and climate-resilient food system: agroecology for food sovereignty and climate justice**



FACT SHEET 04

**Impacts of climate change on South African agriculture and the food system**



FACT SHEET 05

**Overview of the agriculture sector Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (CCAMP)**

In the lead up to the National policy dialogue on a just transition and adaptation in the food system, a series of six fact sheets highlighting some of the key issues were produced in English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, isiXhosa and Sepedi. Two versions of each were produced - a pdf for web and a pdf for mobile.

ACB released various reports in the lead-up to and following the dialogue:



# Just Transition in the South African Food System

Synthesis report on pre-dialogue consultations

SEPTEMBER 2023



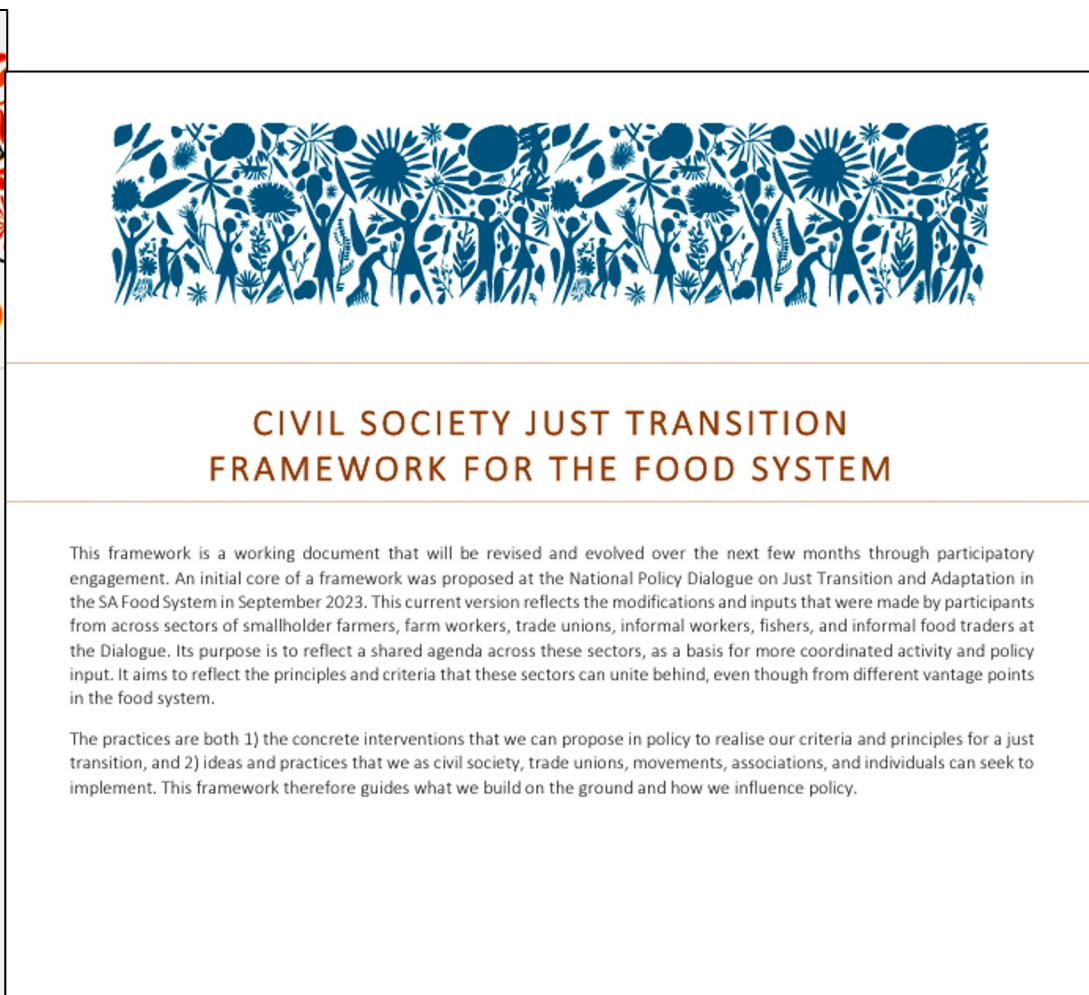
AFRICAN CENTRE  
FOR BIODIVERSITY



TSHINTSHA AMAKHAYA  
Working together for rural change



# Other reports...





26 September 2023

# Ambitious action to phase out world’s most dangerous pesticides urged

Country	Unique Page Views
	94 % of Total: 2.61% (3,599)
United States	43
South Africa	39
United Kingdom	2
Zimbabwe	2
Bulgaria	1
Côte d'Ivoire	1
Germany	1
India	1
Portugal	1
Romania	1

## Outputs of meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Sabrina Masinjila participated in the Convention on Biological Diversity's 25th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Nairobi, Kenya, 16-19 October 2023. This was an important convening following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022.

Key items on the agenda include biodiversity and climate change. As a subsidiary body of the COP, SBSTTA is to report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work. Multidisciplinary and open to participation by all Parties, SBSTTA comprises government representatives competent in the relevant field of expertise.

[Web post](#) views



19 October 2023

ACB attends 25th SBSTTA meeting in Kenya

Country	Views	Users
	24 0.21% of total	12 0.59% of total
South Africa	14	4
Kenya	4	4
Canada	3	1
United States	2	2
Nigeria	1	1
United Kingdom	0	1

## SBSTTA side event



ACB's Sabrina Masinjila spoke at a side event at the 25th SBSTTA meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, 17 October 2023, hosted by the ETC Group and HOMEF Nigeria in collaboration with the CBD Alliance, AfriTAP, and the Hands Off Mother Earth! Alliance.

The event aimed to affirm the CBD's leadership in taking precautionary decisions on geoengineering, urging for the world to take real climate action and avoid false solutions.

ACB contributes articles to CBD Alliance's publication, ECO

# ECO

[www.cbd-alliance.org](http://www.cbd-alliance.org)  
twitter: CBD\_Alliance

Follow the daily  
online ECO here



## **NbS, the myth of a solution for our multiple crises**

**Financialization of nature won't solve the crisis - agroecology will**

By the African Centre for Biodiversity

**Governments urged to consider the interconnectedness between  
agricultural biodiversity, farmers' rights, food systems, and climate  
change.**

By the African Centre for Biodiversity

# Web post views

## World Food Day 2023: Working towards a just food system for all

This World Food Day, marked annually on 16 October, we're connecting the dots between agriculture, our wider food system and the multidimensional crises we face, which includes climate change.



Country ▾ ×	↓ Views -----	Users -----
	18 0.15% of total	9 0.44% of total
South Africa	14	6
Italy	2	1
Germany	1	1
Kenya	1	1

# Publications

In a new series focusing on ultra-processed food (UPF) on the African continent, we explore the impacts of shifting dietary patterns, with increasing reliance on low-cost UPFs globally, and in Africa in particular, in the context of an urgent call for a just, agroecological food system transition.

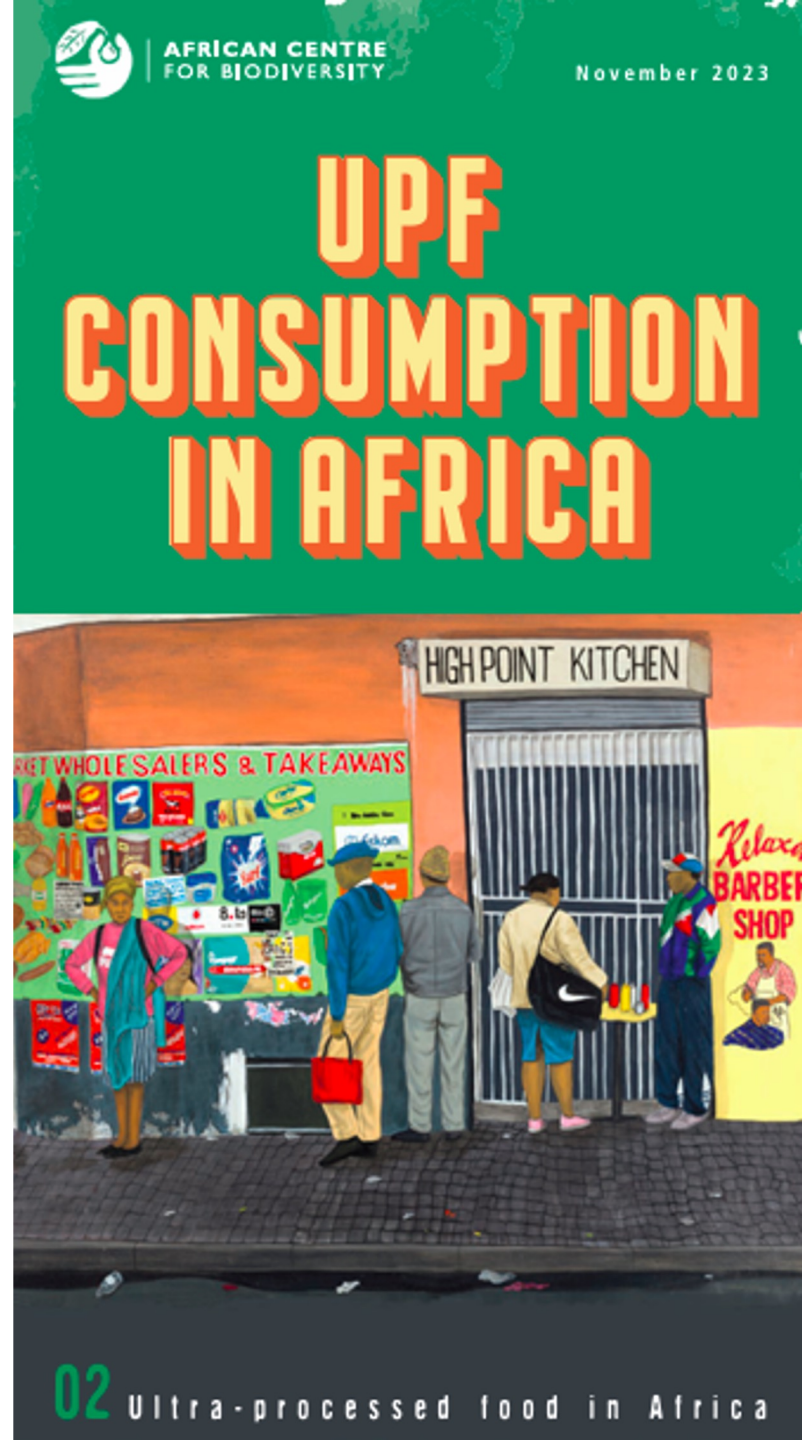
In the first part of the series, we attempt to succinctly describe and define UPF, how it differs from other foods and outline the major concerns with UPF.



# Publications

In the second part of our UPF in Africa series, we delve into the consumption of UPF in Africa: shifting dietary patterns linked to food environments and personal motivations; where foods are purchased and the role of policy in shaping food accessibility and affordability.

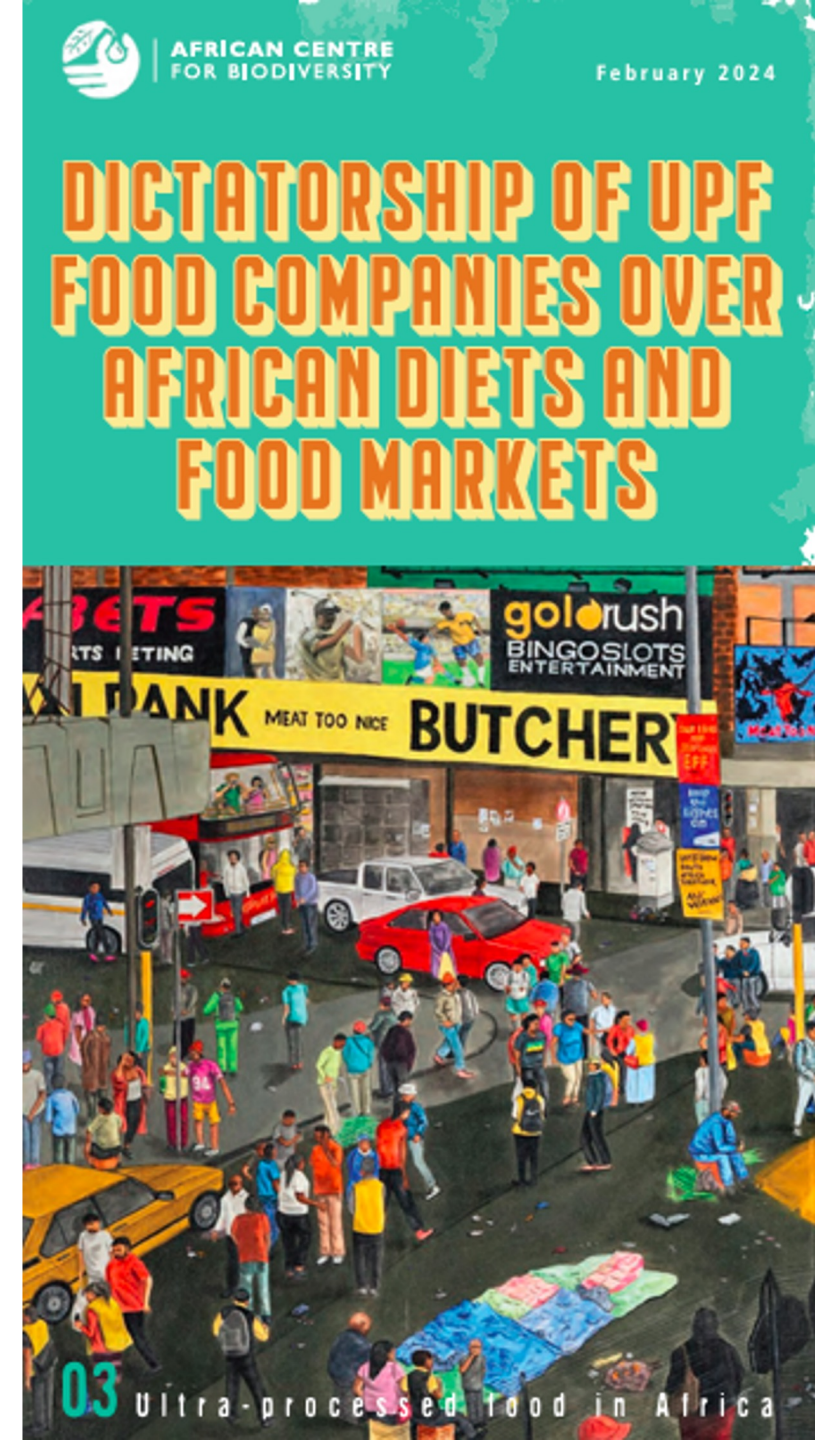
This fact sheet explores UPF consumption in both rural and urban areas; the relationship between food environments and food choice; systemic injustices and linkages between production, consumption and trade agreements, as part of the discussion on shifting dietary patterns increasingly dependent on readily available, cheap and nutritionally-void UPF.



# Publications

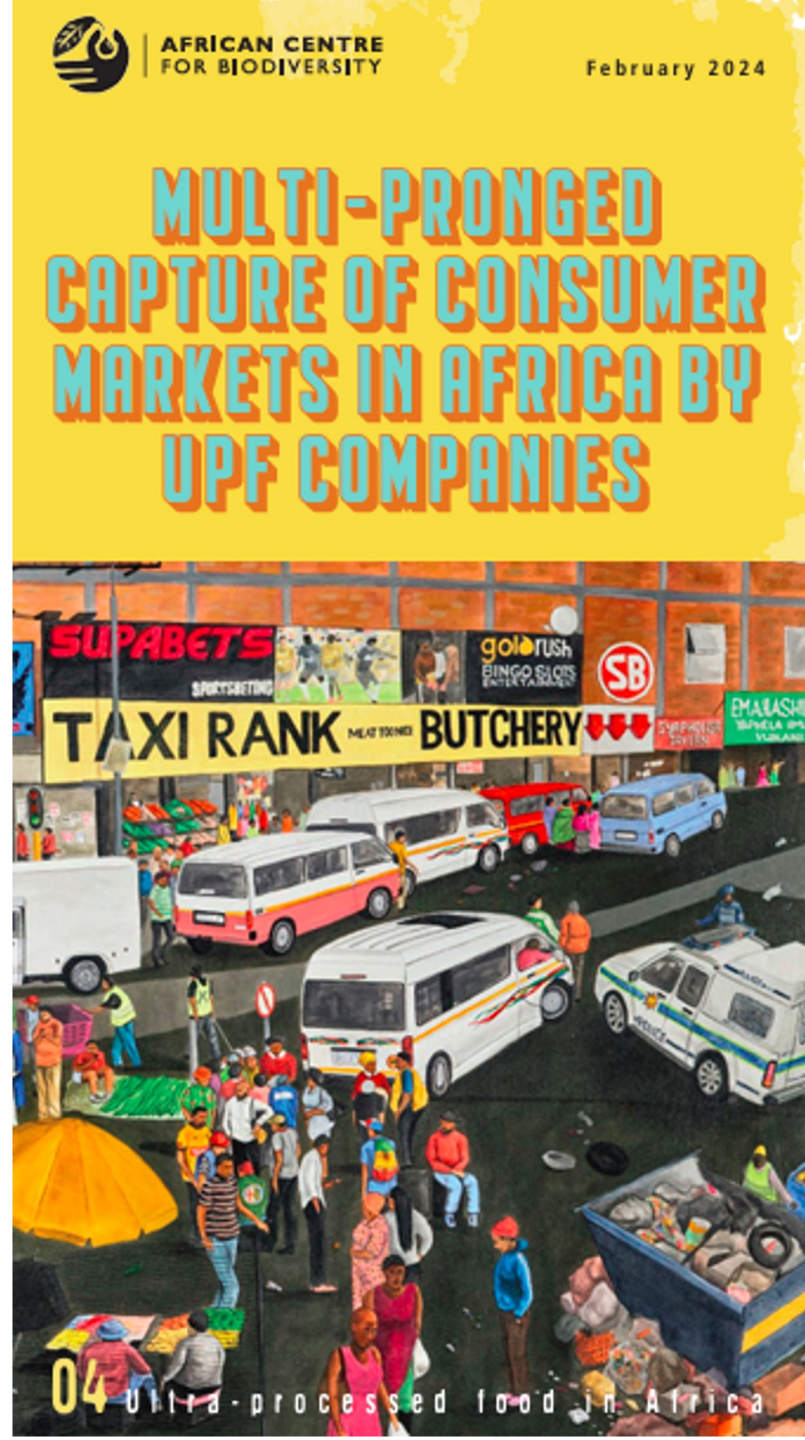
The third UPF fact sheet looks at how the ultra-processed food (UPF) market is dominated by corporations, with the most powerful manufacturers being mega multinational companies like Nestlé, PepsiCo, Unilever, Coca-Cola Co, Danone, Mondelez, and Kraft Heinz Co, from the Global North.

These behemoths held 53% of the UPF market in 2019, generating profits from multiple global regions through their own and franchised infrastructure. The UPF industry is already 1.6 times larger than the global food production and processing industry and generated more than US\$1.5 trillion in 2023.



# Publications

In this fourth part of our ultra-processed food (UPF) in Africa fact sheet series, we explore how mega UPF corporations (Nestlé, PepsiCo, Unilever, Coca-Cola Co, Danone, Mondelez, and Kraft Heinz Co, among others) use their excessive and undue influence and financial clout to embed and consolidate their power at the national level and subvert governments' attempts to regulate the advertising, marketing, and consumption of their “fake food” products. The actions of these companies and their products not only undermine public health, but contribute to its related crises.



# Publication contributions

Overview	>
Table of contents	>
Endorsements	>
Author bio	>
Editors bio	>

Downloaded: 2199 times



## African Perspectives on Agroecology

### Why farmer-led seed and knowledge systems matter

Rachel Wynberg

Seed embodies life, power, and culture. From Africa’s deserts and drylands to its mighty river systems and tropical forests, from those growing a multiplicity of grains, legumes, and vegetables, to others struggling to produce enough to feed their families, seed provides the mainstay for the continent’s 500 million small-scale farmers and is at the heart of rich and varied cultures.

But seed is under siege. With the world’s food and agricultural systems increasingly industrialized, homogenized, and privatized, seed epitomizes the struggles involved is symbolic of the deep injustices that have emerged.

These include everything from the policies that benefit commercial farmers and seed and agro-chemical companies – at severe cost to the environment, climate, and small-scale farmers – to the new wave of philanthropy, promoting Green Revolution approaches of genetic modification and quick-fix nutritionism as a remedy for the poor, despite their failure elsewhere in the world.

ACB’s Dr Stephen Greenberg contributed a chapter in African Perspectives on Agroecology.

His chapter looks at corporate expansion in African seed systems: implications for agricultural biodiversity and food sovereignty.

# Publication related web views

ACB [shares](#) background on the publication and additional relevant resources.



9 February 2024

**African Perspectives on Agroecology now available for free online**

Country ▾ ×	↓ Views -----	Users -----
	59 0.14% of total	50 0.61% of total
South Africa	22	18
Kenya	8	6
United States	6	6
Ethiopia	3	2
Malawi	3	2
Netherlands	3	3
United Kingdom	3	3
Zimbabwe	3	2
Ireland	2	2
Canada	1	1

# General media coverage

## FEATURE

### CRISIS OF FAILED AGRARIAN REFORM

## SOUTH AFRICA'S COMMERCIAL FARMING SECTOR SINCE 1994

By Stephen Greenberg



The ANC favoured large-scale commercial farming over smallholder farming. They supported "modernisation" of the agricultural economy.

### Under apartheid

WHITE FARMERS WERE ONE of the mainstays of the apartheid ruling bloc. They received substantial state support and protection over many decades. Farmers were organised into cooperatives with monopoly control over specific commodities. They supplied to single channel Marketing Boards, controlled by producers and government. They provided price guarantees backed by the state. The agrarian structure was split. On the one hand, well-supported, white, large-scale commercial agriculture. On the other hand, neglected small-scale black farming in the bantustans, mostly producing below subsistence.

Over time, tensions emerged within the apartheid social bloc, including between white farmers and urban financial and business elites. As the national economy industrialised, the social weight of farmers declined. Primary agriculture's share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined from over 15% in the 1960s to under 5% by the end of apartheid.

The main corporations in the food system, in the latter stages of apartheid, were mostly diversified conglomerates: Anglo-American, Sanlam and Liberty Life all had extensive food and agricultural interests. The food system was characterised by vertical integration: the cooperative and board structure facilitated strong interlinkages between production, processing and distribution.

Deregulation was the order of the day in the transition to democracy. Globally, agriculture was introduced into trade negotiations in the 1980s, culminating in the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

### Agreement on Agriculture in 1995

Internal issues in South Africa also shaped restructuring. These included struggles between different farming interests. On the one hand, more marginal commercial farmers relied on state protection to sustain themselves. On the other hand, export-oriented producers objected to government export restrictions and called for opening of markets to competition. As the apartheid economy entered into an "organic crisis" in the 1980s, the massive farmer subsidy and support programmes became fiscally unsustainable. The apartheid government and white producers also sought to escape any potential future control by a black majority government.

These processes resulted in the corporatisation and eventual privatisation of the cooperatives and removal of the single channel monopoly marketing system, food price controls, and farmer price guarantees. This set the scene for changes in the food system following the end of formal apartheid.

### Changes since 1994

Continuity characterised agricultural policy in the transition from formal apartheid: the ANC favoured large-scale commercial farming over smallholder farming. They supported "modernisation" of the agricultural economy. This was based on the exit of "inefficient" farmers unable to sustain themselves in the context of market competition, and the development of a commercial black farming class.

The impacts of agricultural deregulation and liberalisation were not evenly distributed within commercial agriculture. There was a concentrated core of agro-industrial producers and

processors; and there was also a decaying periphery of individual producers. Commercial farm units have declined to around 40,000 from a historical peak of 117,000. The 2007 Census of Agriculture indicated that 57% of commercial farmers had an annual gross income of R500,000 or less; a core of fewer than 250 units accounted for one third of total income from agriculture.

Labour (basic conditions, minimum wages) and tenure legislation was extended to farm workers for the first time, but systems of production were changing. Commercial farmers responded through increasing mechanisation and reducing their workforces. There was a wave of evictions (the vast majority illegal) and workers were moved off farms to circumvent legislation. This resulted in a further decline in employment from a peak of 1.6 million to around 750,000 at present.

A core of higher skilled workers has been consolidated, with a wider periphery of poorly paid casual and precarious labour. They live in informal rural and peri-urban settlements, and are forced to diversify their economic activities in order to survive. Women have experienced the brunt of these processes, as they have never had tenure security on farms, and their employment and housing have been tied to that of male relatives.

Black farmers have also experienced uneven benefits since apartheid. There has been a slow emergence of black commercial farmers, with fewer than 200,000 out of over two and a half million food producers. Commercialising black farmers are heavily dependent on integration into corporate value chains, where they have little negotiating power.

The land reform programme initially

targeted redistribution of 30% of land in the first 5 years after apartheid. It has been a failure. Currently less than 10% of land has been redistributed through this programme, and most of these farms are failing, as a result of fragmented or non-existent support. The state has opted for a "black industrialist" approach, investing heavily in a small number of black farmers, hoping to turn them into large-scale commercial farmers. This leaves the majority of mainly homestead and smallholder farmers without proper support.

New technologies have played a role in restructuring commercial agriculture. The introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the late 1990s resulted in massive yield increases in maize and soya. Maize has increased as a share of overall value of agricultural production, from 12% in 1998/99 to 16% in 2021/22, with a phenomenal increase in value from R5.4 billion to R61.8 billion over this period. Soya's share of total agricultural

Data and farm management companies determine what is produced and when, and this contributes to farmer deskilling.

### Restructuring in the food system

Deregulation and liberalisation removed the regulations and controls that strengthened the band of commercial farmers in relation to food manufacturers and retailers. Power in value chains shifted downstream to retailers and manufacturers, who are able to dictate terms and conditions, including what is produced and how. This coincides with the production and sale of unhealthy, ultra-processed products. These are based on refined carbohydrates (maize, wheat, sugar) that are cheap to produce and generate the greatest profit for retailers and manufacturers.

Meanwhile, corporate restructuring went hand in hand with financialisation. The past two decades have witnessed the rise of ownership by financial institutions

livelihoods, entrenchment of inherited patterns of ownership and control, marginalisation of millions involved in the food system, and a very slow pace of redistribution. More than a quarter of the population experiences regular hunger. Malnutrition is rife. This is strongly fuelled by the rise of ultra-processed products. Per capita consumption of key agricultural products is stagnant at best over the past 30 years and consumption of plant proteins has declined. The food system has failed to respond effectively to the constitutional right to food for all.

Environmental issues have become mainstream in commercial agriculture, in particular climate change impacts. There is excessive water use: commercial irrigation uses more than 60% of total water in South Africa. There is land degradation and biodiversity loss as a result of heavy machinery use, as well as agri-chemical pollution and growing resistance to chemical controls.

South Africa commercial farmers have responded through environmental initiatives. These include water use efficiency, conservation agriculture to reduce agro-chemical use, and regenerative agriculture to improve soil health. Farmers are also diversifying in response to the multiple pressures on production, for example by moving into game farming, tourism, part-time farming, and other economic sectors such as construction and transport services.

### Alternatives

Alternatives are needed. Entry points are the rapid redistribution of resources including land and water, the right to food, and agroecology. We need to place the right to food at the centre of the objectives of the food system. The system should be judged and adapted according to its ability to produce and allocate healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to every person, every day, to meet their needs, regardless of their ability to pay. This means de-commodifying food, and insisting on its use value rather than as a conduit to profit. Agroecology is an approach to food systems that incorporates these elements. It brings social and economic justice elements together with environmentally sustainable production practices.

Stephen Greenberg is a researcher at the African Centre for Biodiversity, working at the intersections of food systems transitions, agroecology, climate change, and biodiversity.



300 people evicted from the Klein Akker farm near Wallaceburg in KwaZulu-Natal. There was a wave of evictions (the vast majority illegal) and workers were moved off farms to circumvent legislation. This resulted in a further decline in employment from a peak of 1.6 million to around 750,000 at present.

value has grown from 0.5% to 4.7% over the same period. Maize and soya are both core ingredients of animal feed, and this expansion has consolidated the grain-livestock complex at the heart of South African agriculture. Despite the successes, it is not clear that GMO technology can sustain this growth indefinitely. There is rising pest and disease resistance, and growing environmental damage, especially from the use of toxic pesticides.

More recently, technologies based on digitalisation are being used. An example is precision agriculture which gathers detailed on-farm data and generates algorithm-driven production advice.

throughout the food system, with asset managers and pension funds leading the way.

Corporatisation and privatisation of cooperatives and their assets resulted in the consolidation of ownership and control, especially in grain storage, fruit packing, and massive animal feedlots. A few very large corporations, either multinationals or local companies now mostly with majority foreign ownership, dominate food manufacturing, retail, and fast food chains.

The outcomes of this dominant system have not been positive. They include loss of employment and

ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg contributed to Amandla 90/91 by Roger Etkind in September 2023.

He provides an overview of the commercial farming sector in South Africa under apartheid and the changes made since 1994 in the post-apartheid era. He also looks at how the food system has been restructured and potential alternatives, such as agroecology.

# General media coverage



## Critiques of Gates Foundation agricultural interventions in Africa



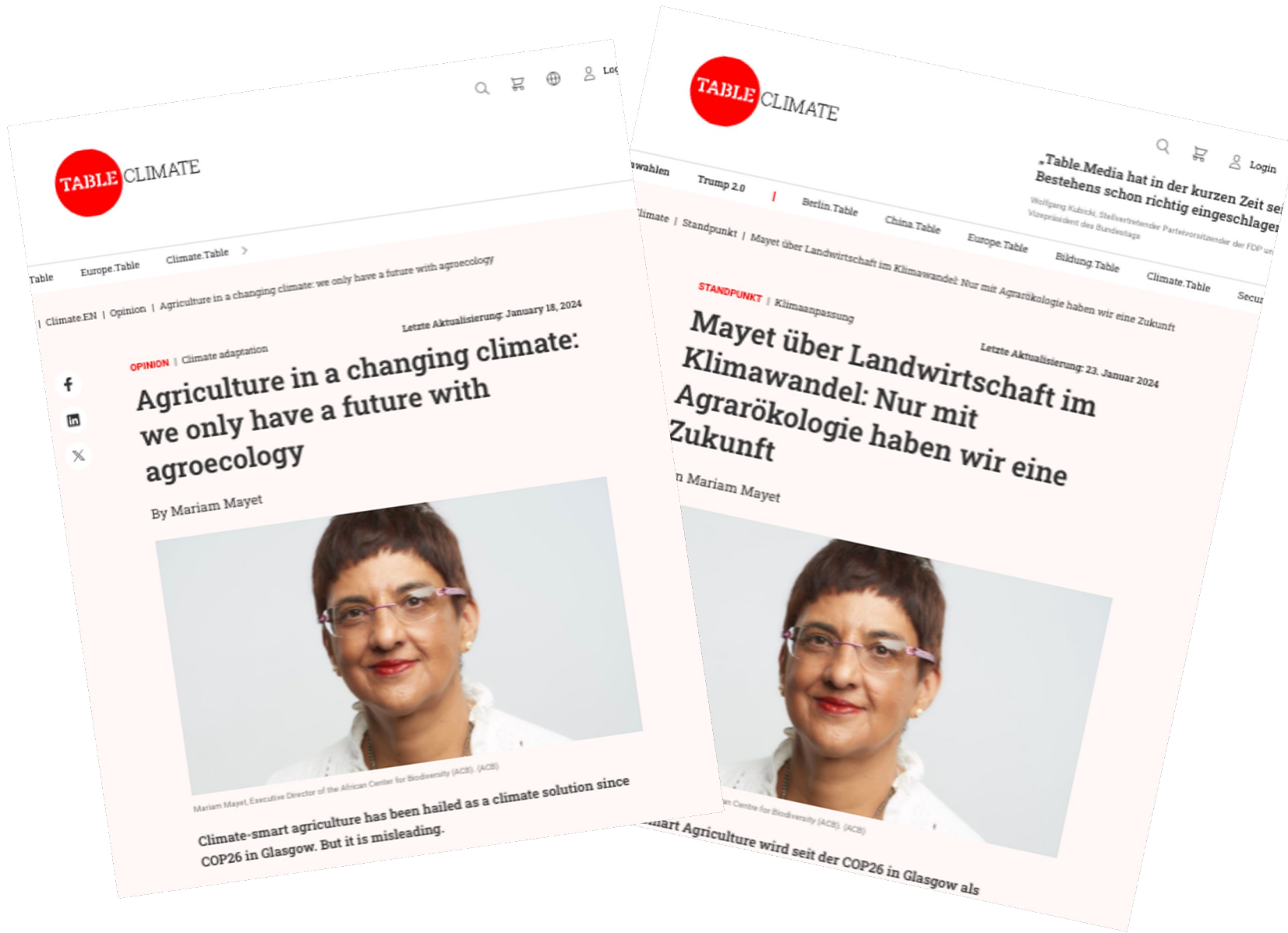
Posted: December 1, 2023 by [Stacy Malkan](#)

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is a major influencer and funder of agricultural development in Africa, with little accountability or transparency. Leading experts in food security and many groups in Africa and around the world have critiqued the foundation's push to expand high-cost, high-input, chemical-dependent agriculture in Africa. Critics say this approach is exacerbating hunger, worsening inequality and entrenching corporate power in the world's hungriest region.

In this article, putting forward a critique of the Gates Foundation's agricultural interventions in Africa, the work of experts and expert organisations from around the world is cited, with links to reports and news articles documenting these concerns provided.

The ACB's work over many years, including its most recent publications, are cited in the article, highlighting the numerous problems associated with the Gates-led "green revolution" for Africa.

# General media coverage



Mariam Mayet wrote an op-ed, in January 2024, for [Table Media](#) on how promoting climate-smart agriculture as a climate solution is misleading and noted that agroecology is essential if humanity wants to have a future on the planet.

# General coverage

## From Local Initiatives to Coalitions for an Effective Agroecology Strategy: Lessons from South Africa

by  Stephen Greenberg <sup>1</sup> ,  Scott Drimie <sup>1,\*</sup>  ,  Bruno Losch <sup>2</sup>  and  Julian May <sup>3</sup>  

<sup>1</sup> Southern Africa Food Lab, Stellenbosch University, Cape Town 7505, South Africa

<sup>2</sup> Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique Pour le Développement, ART-Dev, University of Montpellier, 34293 Montpellier, France

<sup>3</sup> DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security, UNESCO Chair in African Food Systems, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town 7530, South Africa

\* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

*Sustainability* **2023**, *15*(21), 15521; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su152115521>

Received: 22 September 2023 / Revised: 18 October 2023 / Accepted: 26 October 2023 /

Published: 1 November 2023



The paper provides an in-depth case study of the importance of promoting agroecological transitions. Following a qualitative research methodology based on a literature review for context, preparatory discussions with local contact points, and semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with local actors in the field, the paper describes, analyses and characterises the agroecological transitions in the Overberg District in the Western Cape.

# General coverage



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190  
Views

0  
CrossRef  
citations to date

55  
Altmetric

Research Article

**Justice in nature conservation: limits and possibilities under global capitalism**

[Aby L. Sène](#)  

Received 28 Nov 2022, Accepted 18 Oct 2023, Published online: 31 Oct 2023

 [Cite this article](#)

 <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2023.2274901>

 [Check for updates](#)

In this journal article, in which Aby L. Sène argues that "justice whereby the rights and self-determination of Black and Indigenous peoples are upheld is incompatible with global conservation", ACB is cited as an African-led organisation that is working to protect Africa's biodiversity by resisting corporate-industrial expansion in the continent's food and agriculture systems while working towards food sovereignty and agroecology.

# ACB participates in WFP event and forms part of the panel discussion



Dignity and Decent Livelihoods through a Just  
Transition of the Agricultural System

8 November 2023



Women on Farms Project (WFP) hosted its annual **National Farm Worker Platform** (NFWP), 6-8 November 2023. This year, NFWP focused on the current state of landlessness, hunger and health of workers who are precariously employed on farms. The theme was 'Dignity and decent livelihoods through a just transition of the agricultural system'.

ACBs Mariam Mayet joined the panel on alternatives to the dominant industrialised agricultural model practiced in South Africa and shared the thinking and strategy behind the People's Pesticide Tribunal.

# ACB participates in HLPE event and forms part of the panel discussion

DATE: Wednesday, 22 November 2023  
TIME: 10:30am to 12:00pm

Please see registration link below.

## Multiple Perspectives, One Goal: Food System Transformation

**SPEAKERS:**

**Tony Gerrans**  
Who benefits and who pays for industrial animal agriculture—hidden costs of industrial agriculture.

**Dr. Andrew Bennie**  
The necessity of a just transition in the South African food system: key issues and competing perspectives.

**Sonia Mountford**  
Looking at avian flu and encouraging a systemic perspective when defining imperatives and solutions of the One Health approach.

**Dr. Stephen Greenberg**  
Elaborating on the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) 13 principles as a framing for agroecology.

**MODERATOR:**

**Haidee Swanby**

The complexity of South Africa's food system needs a complex system approach—bringing diverse skills and perspectives.

This collaborative webinar will explore these interconnected challenges and the goal of sustainable food systems that are not extractive but nourish communities and the environment.

Joining other experts on the South African food system in a collaborative webinar, ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg presented on the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition's 13 principles as a framing for agroecology. The webinar explored the complexity of the food system, its interconnected challenges as well as what type of interventions should be taking place.

# Meetings and events attended by ACB



## **AFSA's Climate convening. Africa's roadmap to adaptation through agroecology: defining Africa's position for COP 27, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

The event aimed to provide a space for diverse climate actors to discuss and shape a roadmap for diverse climate actors to discuss and shape a road map for the transition to climate adaptation and community resilience through agroecology. ACB's Sabrina Masinjila was one of the speakers of this event who shared her expertise on how WEMA is a false solution to climate change.

# Meetings and events attended by ACB

The **Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights** was organised by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization, 12-15 September 2023. It was attended by more than 500 delegates from 60 countries, including the National Focal Points of the International Treaty, more than 150 farmers, and more than 100 foreign participants. ACB's Rutendo Zendah-Chirape attended the symposium as a continuation of our work on farmers' rights under the Plant Treaty, giving political support to African CSOs and governments on various issues pertaining to farmers' rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.



# Meetings and events attended by ACB



Biovision hosted a regional workshop, 11-13 October 2023, on the development of national agroecology strategies (NAS) in East and Southern Africa. Participants included CSOs and government officials involved in the development of NAS in their countries. ACB's Dr Stephen Greenberg was in attendance. Countries represented were Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Rwanda, Zambia and Malawi.

The first day was participation in the Global Landscapes Forum in a session on NAS, co-hosted by Biovision, the Agroecology TPP, and the Agroecology Coalition. The next two days were a closed peer-to-peer exchange with the Biovision participants. The agenda included making the case for a NAS; linking strategy to action; prioritising policy interventions; and funding.

# Meetings and events attended by ACB



The ACB was invited to attend the Swiss Cooperation Partners meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe, 19-20 October. The meeting agenda included sharing news from the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency; discussing important context developments and emerging priorities; narrow-in outcome orientation, monitoring, and evaluation topics; and fostering collaboration and synergies among Swiss-supported initiatives for the Cooperation Programme for Zambia and Zimbabwe 2023-2026.

ACB's Rutendo Zendah-Chirape attended the meeting as an SDC partner under the Strengthening Agro-Biodiversity in Southern Africa (SASA) project.

## Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Sabrina Masinjila attended the 3rd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference (NAEOAC), 8-9 November 2023, in Dodoma, Tanzania, and participated in a panel discussion on agrobiodiversity and improved nutrition.

## Meetings and events attended by ACB



ACB's Mariam Mayet, Dr Stephen Greeneberg and Sindy Peters attended a meeting of the Agroecology advocacy group in Cape Town, 23-24 November 2023, hosted by partners ACB, Surplus Peoples Project, Trust for Community Outreach & Education, Tshintsa Amakhaya, Biowatch, Association for Rural Advancement Land Rights Advocacy and Environmental Monitoring Group. The meeting, which also hosted small-scale farmers, focused on the way forward for the group in terms of focus work areas over the coming year.