



SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAMPAIGN

National and Local updates

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I. EDITORIAL

Restoring the balance of nature and reversing food insecurity starts with land reform

Mazibuko Jara

Daily Maverick's Our Burning Planet and Maverick Citizen are partnering with the Climate Justice Charter Movement to report on issues central to our survival – the climate crisis and people's democratic alternatives. This article is part of that series.

The seed for food sovereignty has been firmly planted on South African soil. It is this seed which must now grow into a stronger, bolder, impactful network that can take food sovereignty to the next level.

The Climate Justice Charter correctly calls for land redistribution and the transformation of South Africa's food system. In contrast to this, most agricultural economists who advise government on its food policy regard this food system as sacrosanct. Yet it leaves the majority without the land on which to produce food for themselves, their communities and regions.

These same landless people are also often left without sufficient food and without sufficient income to buy adequate food for basic nutrition. Many others suffer from malnutrition. These basic facts underline how sick South Africa's food system is.

Given how government is committed to serving the markets, it is not surprising that our country's land and agrarian policy pays inadequate attention to food sovereignty, as it is based on the mistaken belief that only large-scale farmers can produce our food.

At the apex of this food system is an industrial model of agriculture owned and controlled by individual and corporate beneficiaries of land dispossession, cheap black labour, apartheid state subsidies and the 1990s deregulation and liberalisation of agriculture. This industrial model of agriculture relies heavily on fossil fuels for running agricultural machinery and manufacturing fertilisers, pesticides and other inputs. It is not a surprise that after more than six decades of the heavy use of chemicals derived from fossil fuels, South African soils and the entire agro-ecology are exhausted and strained to the limit.

In addition, the industrial food system destroys forests and water systems, produces massive waste, its transport systems are energy-intensive, and its processing, packaging and refrigeration processes make a significant contribution to greenhouse gases. The industrial model has resulted in the situation where food is one of the key drivers of climate change: how our food is produced and arrives on our tables accounts for about half of all human-generated greenhouse gas emissions. In its critique of the industrial model of agriculture, the [Climate Justice Charter](#) argues that this model “*produces hunger, uses water inefficiently, destroys nature, releases carbon and is generally unhealthy*”.

Given this unsustainable and inequitable reality, the Climate Justice Charter believes that South African households and communities can feed themselves sustainably through the

alternative logic of **food sovereignty**. It then posits the food sovereignty pathway as the direction that can offer *“food producers, small-scale subsistence fishers, informal traders and consumers the power over their own food commons systems to ensure that culturally appropriate and nutritious food is available to all”*.



Eikenhof Farm in Johannesburg. Given this unsustainable and inequitable reality, the Climate Justice Charter believes that South African households and communities can feed themselves sustainably through the alternative logic of food sovereignty. (Photo: Gallo Images / Sharon Seretlo)

The food sovereignty alternative promoted by the Charter is emancipatory, goes beyond organic agriculture as a middle-class fad, is in line with land and ecological justice, is transformative and ecologically sustainable. Globally, the food sovereignty alternative is championed by [La Via Campesina](#), the global small farmer and peasant movement. La Via Campesina has conceptualised food sovereignty as primarily being about the rights and autonomy of countries and communities to define and develop their own land, agricultural and food policies where food production and consumption are organised to sustainably meet shared social needs. La Via Campesina also emphasises democratic social control over land, water, and seed as well as productive resources. In this regard, the Climate Justice Charter believes that this extends to biodiversity, control of seeds and resources for production in ways that *“affirm the importance of indigenous knowledge, local markets, control of the water commons, the ecosocial function of land, and good health”*.

The Charter also calls for big farms *“to be deconcentrated to ensure land justice, but in a manner that is fair, strengthens reconciliation and builds solidarity”*. From the food sovereignty standpoint it is clear that apartheid land ownership, together with deregulated and liberalised agriculture, undermine the goal and logic of climate justice.

The Charter’s emphasis on reconciliation is correct as it is a principled critique of EFF-like populism. But this emphasis on reconciliation can be misread to leave historical injustices unaddressed or to mean compromises that leave most land resources among white owners. As global land reform history shows, there is not a single case of redistributive land reform that has been possible without the most thoroughgoing transformation of land ownership and property relations. If such transformation is resisted and undermined by current landowners, it is only logical that militancy and anger around land and food will increase.

In other words, even the food sovereignty logic and the Charter’s call for reconciliation must not mean the avoidance of sustained mass mobilisation and pressure including the occupation of land by the land-hungry. There is not a single case of successful land reform without mass struggle directed at land owners. Such mass struggle does not have to mean

chaos or racial hatred. However, in the struggle for food sovereignty conflict may be unavoidable, and it must be approached on a principled basis.

International examples of food sovereignty

There are many examples around the world based on systems of localised and decentralised food sovereignty in both urban and rural contexts. Havana in Cuba, Dehradun in India, Nairobi in Kenya and many cities in West Africa are examples of urban cities that have achieved varying degrees of food sovereignty.

Organisations such as GRAIN and La Via Campesina have shown through research and activism that the redistribution of land to small farmers and indigenous communities is a starting point when it comes to food sovereignty. They have also shown that this must go together with policies to support local markets and ecological agriculture. This combination of measures can cut global greenhouse gas emissions in half within a few decades, significantly curb deforestation, and meet the food needs of the world's growing population.

In South Africa, organisations such as the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC), the [Inyanda National Land Movement](#), the [Siyavuna Development Centre](#), the [Umgibe Farming Organics and Training Institute](#), and many others have begun to plant the seeds of a food sovereignty network reaching some 20,000 organic farmers in all of South Africa's provinces.

For example, the Siyavuna Centre works with more than 2,000 farmers in KZN's South Coast to grow pesticide-free, naturally grown vegetables for farmers' own consumption and trading the surplus for income generation – sold under the Kumnandi brand. Umgibe works with more than 50 women-led cooperatives in the eThekweni municipality. Through its work, the Umgibe cooperative network has enabled communities to access locally grown, healthy food, and developed the community by training community members in organic farming, crop production and food processing.



Given how government is committed to serving the markets, it is not surprising that our country's land and agrarian policy pays inadequate attention to food sovereignty. (Photo: Unsplash / Markus Spiske)

Environmentally, the Umgibe system has seen its members reducing the amount of water used in food production, diversion of more than 10,000 plastic bags from landfills by utilising them as growing bags, and reducing carbon emissions by reducing transport activities in local food provision. The Umgibe network provides a sustainable source of income for more than

497 families that are members of the partner cooperatives. Part of this income comes from contracts with hospitals.

For its part, the Inyanda movement has also established some 20 cooperatives and five indigenous seed banks, and has produced more than 50 advanced agro-ecological farmers.

These examples demonstrate that the seed for food sovereignty has been firmly planted on South African soil. It is this seed which must now grow into a stronger, bolder and impactful network that can take food sovereignty to the next level.

As the words of the Climate Justice Charter proclaim, food sovereignty can stop climate change and feed us all. This belief requires the transition to a mixed farming sector initially – a sector that includes different scales and types of production, including the subdivision of large commercial farms with a strong focus on food production allotments for household consumption.

Key measures to achieve this transition include:

1. Radical and fast-tracked land redistribution;
2. The promotion of low-risk, low-cost technologies for primary production and some value-adding;
3. Increasing state support to agriculture, notably greater support for low-input and small-scale primary production while also allowing the endogenous development of farmer-led solidarity economy funds and resource networks;
4. Subsidised production inputs and interest rates for ecologically sustainable agriculture;
5. The promotion of and public investment in agricultural cooperatives for supplying, processing and marketing inputs;
6. Public investment in ecologically sustainable agricultural technology, irrigation, processing, storage and transport infrastructure geared to support smallholder production;
7. Overcoming monopoly power over product markets, and limiting the exposure of primary producers to risk due to fluctuations in the market prices of inputs and outputs;
8. The efficient regulation of skewed agricultural product markets as well as support for the development of alternative markets;
9. Altering the agricultural labour regime towards one of self-employment and labour-intensive and living-wage production where there is waged employment; and
10. Opportunities for non-farm economic activities in rural areas, aimed at strengthening diversified livelihood strategies.

These measures are only initial steps towards a long path of transforming agriculture away from domination by large-scale industrial agriculture where conditions for food sovereignty from household to national level may be possible and irreversible. **DM/MC**

Mazibuko Kanyiso Jara is an activist, trainer and popular educator based in Keiskammahoek.

Article source: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-02-07-restoring-the-balance-of-nature-and-reversing-food-insecurity-starts-with-land-reform/>

II. NATIONAL NEWS

2.1 Launch of UBIG policy proposals document and upcoming #UBIGNow assembly



The special COVID-19 SRD grant ended on the 30th of April 2021. The termination of this grant and the suspension of outstanding payments will further intensify the existing hunger and unemployment crisis that this country faces. Although the continued need for these grants may be clear, there is also a broad consensus across society that we must go beyond this and to do so we need a #UBIGNOW.

Earlier this year SAFSC and the CJCM put out the first Climate Justice Charter Movement Policy, detailing the policy approach and proposals for a #UBIGNOW. View the document here: https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UBIG_Policy-Approach-and-Proposals_FEB2021.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2Gazou6jnrhLwkQTelYnQXNDwZy7xGr56_T-TQapQrD9D7oWbUfklIKP4

Later this month, we will be hosting a People's assembly to Launch Alternative Macroeconomic #UBIGNOW approach and scenarios document by Asghar Adelzadeh from Applied Development Research Solutions (ADRS). We will also be screening an educational UBIG animation at the assembly to be distributed in the campaign to help educate and spread awareness of the #UBIGNOW as a policy solution.

Join us on the 18th of May [15:00-17:00] for this assembly.

Let's end austerity, inequality and suffering!

Register at this link to receive your unique Zoom link to join the webinar on 18 May:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gyxEgB0wQTmooMAsnkekEg

2.2 National Food Crisis Forum Updates

The National Food Crisis Forum (NFCF) was established coming out of the Covid-19 crisis and initial shocks on the food system and hunger in 2020. Over 100 organisations endorsed the call by SAFSC to establish a partnership between civil society, government and the Solidarity Fund to provide a coordinated response to the hunger crisis. The forum has been meeting ever since to discuss relevant issues, as they pertain to the hunger crisis, including a food sovereignty strategy for South Africa, water stressed community support and the #UBIGNow campaign.

The Forum commenced again in February 2021. The first forum criticised the pro-business austerity budget of Minister Mboweni. Business centred rather than people centred development perpetuates inequality, hunger and poverty. The forum rejected the government's economic recovery plan which is not people centred. The second forum on 31st of March discussed the worsening hunger crisis in South Africa. Both forums discussed the importance of solidarity with progressive forces, the continuing water crisis, growing unemployment and food inflation. Both forums called for urgent implementation of a universal basic income grant.

Here are two press releases which came out of the NFCF meetings:

First NFCF 25 February 2021: *National Food Crisis Forum Response to Tito Mboweni's and the ANC Government's Probusiness Budget.* [link](#)

Second NFCF 31st March 2021: *Hunger Worsens in South Africa.* [Link](#)

III. LOCAL CAMPAIGNING NEWS: BUILDING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN COMMUNITIES, VILLAGES, TOWNS AND CITIES

3.1. Residents of Vrygronde informal settlement are pioneering food sovereignty pathways

Chriszanne Janse Van Vuuren

The residents of the Vrygronde informal settlement in Graaff-Reinet are proving to be true pioneers of change. This informal settlement consists of an estimated number of 200 households who have been subjected to gross human rights violations for almost two

decades. Amongst other challenges, they have experienced a severe water crisis, with no access to safe and sustainable water resources, even before the adverse impact of the persistent drought became evident in the broader Graaff-Reinet community. During the national COVID-19 lockdown period early in 2020, the municipality supplied the community with two water tanks in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Two water tanks cannot possibly be regarded as sufficient for about 200 households, and, in addition, these water tanks were refilled on a very irregular basis. They were also never maintained and soon started leaking.



When the Eastern Cape received heavy rainfall in December 2020, what was considered a blessing to the people of the Karoo was yet another nightmare for the residents of the Vrygronde informal settlement. The majority of the informal settlement dwellings completely flooded, and several members of the community were literally left destitute. Subsequent to this, also during the national COVID-19 lockdown period, the Vrygronde community experienced yet another climate disaster when many of the informal dwellings were destroyed by gale-force

winds. As was the situation with many communities nationally, the lockdown period has also placed the spotlight on the serious socio-economic challenges that this community has been faced with for years.

True pioneers of change

The Support Centre for Land Change (SCLC) has been supporting the Vrygronde informal settlement dwellers since 2019 and, through regular engagements, local development, food- and energy sovereignty was identified as some of the key objectives. Together it was decided that it is crucial for this community to take ownership of their struggles. To this end several community-driven initiatives commenced. On 16 June 2020, as part of their Youth Day celebrations, the Vrygronde leadership established their own soup kitchen in response to the food crisis in their community. Initially the soup kitchen operated without any outside support, but the leadership has since managed to secure some donations from private individuals and local businesses.



After the floods, with support from SCLC and Churches without Boundaries, they also managed to repair their houses without any assistance from local government.



Towards the end of 2020, some of the residents started utilising water from the leaking water tanks to initiate their own home gardens. At present, they are also in the process of establishing their own agro-ecological hub. This concept was introduced by COPAC (Co-operative Policy Alternative Centre), SCLC and other national strategic partners as part of the SAFSC. The primary objective of the hub concept is to promote agro-ecology as an alternative to the dirty fossil fuel energy developments such as shale gas exploration (“fracking”) that has been promoted in our country, and particularly in the Karoo. Infrastructure and agricultural inputs were made available to the community by a local business, Montego Feeds, and the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, a German donor that has been supporting the #BanFracking Campaign that was launched by SCLC in 2015 to advocate for a ban on fracking in South Africa and a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy alternatives.



In addition to this, some of the Vrygronde residents have also been focussing on promoting the use of indigenous herbs for medicinal purposes in an attempt to break the dependence on pharmaceutical drugs that many people simply cannot afford.

During the week of 19 to 25 April 2021, the residents of Vrygronde, in collaboration with the Camdeboo National Park and SCLC, dedicated five days to the environment in celebration of Earth Day. On 19 to 20 April 2021, a delegation from Vrygronde visited the Camdeboo National Park for team building and an information session on the ecosystem, the impact of pollution on the environment, and the importance of protecting the environment. Twelve members of the Vrygronde community also had the opportunity to spend the night in the park’s camp site. Earth Day was dedicated to cleaning up in the Vrygronde community and the theme of the day was “restoring our environment to restore our dignity.”



On Friday, 23 April 2021, the Vrygronde community launched their newly established agro-ecological hub. Rosemary Scheepers, Socio

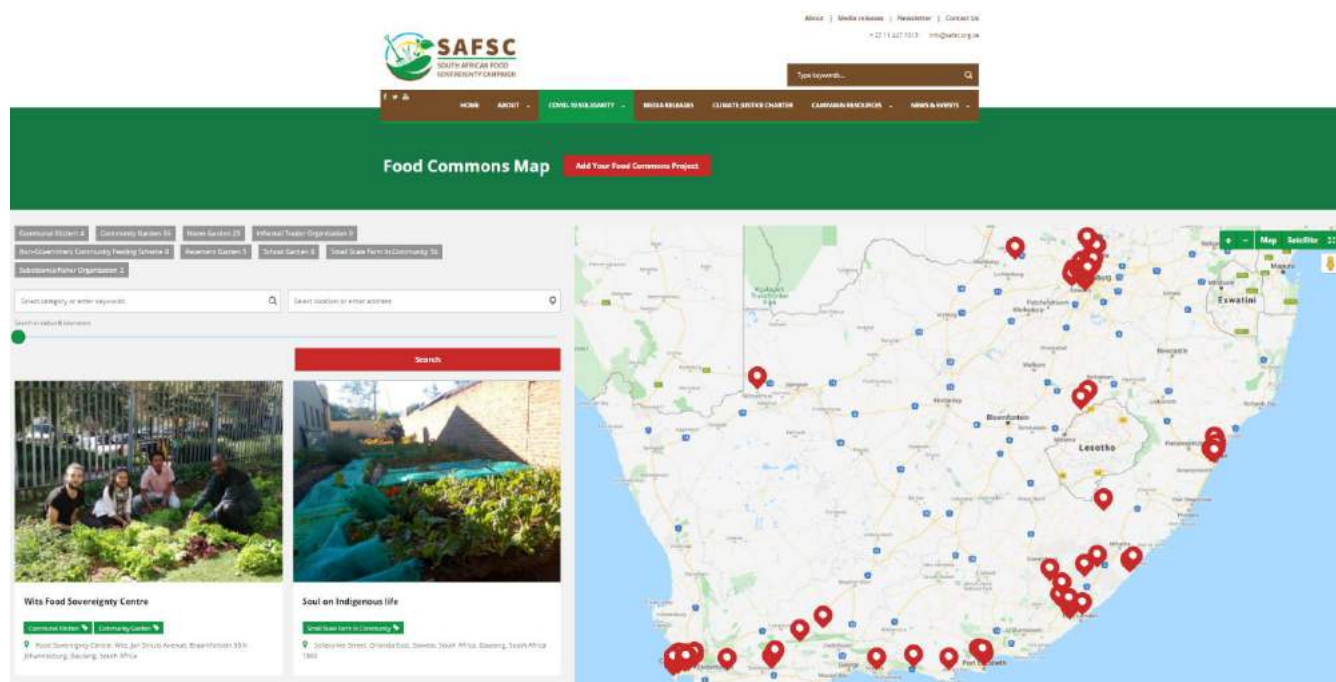


Economic Transformation Officer of the Camdeboo National Park, explained the ecological value of Spekboom, and demonstrated to the youth how Spekboom cuttings should be prepared and planted.

This was the first plant variety that was planted in the hub. The Vrygronde residents ended off their 2021 Earth Day celebrations by participating in the Camdeboo National Park's snare hunt on Saturday, 24 April 2021. An agreement was reached between the Camdeboo National Park and the Vrygronde residents that identified members of this community will be on the lookout for snares and will voluntarily guard the park against vandals and thieves who damage and steal the park's fencing.



3.2 Food Commons Map



During 2020, SAFSC put out a call for civil society to list their food commons initiatives. These include initiatives such as household gardens, community gardens, communal kitchens, food relief initiatives and so forth. We have had a number of people/communities list their initiatives, and the map is growing. These initiatives show that there is indeed an alternative food system taking root in South Africa. The map can be viewed at this link. Have a look, and be inspired: <https://www.safsc.org.za/food-commons-map/>

If you have a food commons initiative, please consider listing it on our map at this link: <https://www.safsc.org.za/add-your-food-commons-project>

Below are profiles of two food commons initiatives listed on the map:



Igalelo Labafazi Community Garden. This is an example of a community garden commons. This inspiring group is made up of five women. They produce delicious vegetables and herbs in Cape Town. Click this [Link](#) to find out more.

Cleric Gardens. This is an inspiring example of urban farming; A Pavement Garden that grows herbs, tomatoes, and Spinach in the busy metropolis of Johannesburg. It even has a lemon tree! Click the [Link](#) to find out more.



IV. SOLIDARITY ECONOMY NEWS

4.1 Cooperation among cooperatives in times of crisis

International Organization of Industrial and Service Cooperatives (CICOPA)

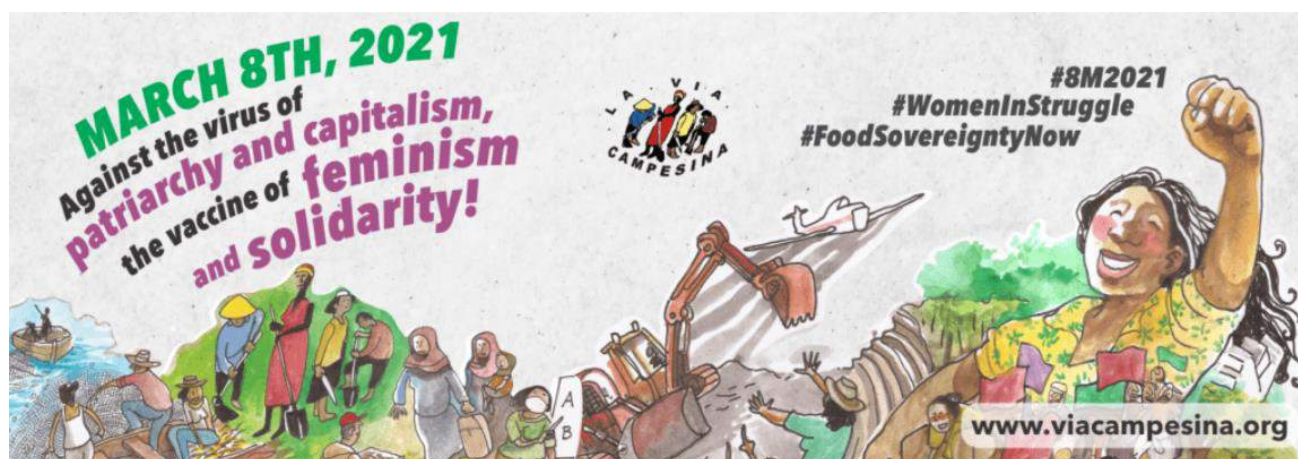
“On the 27th of April 2021, CICOPA hosted a roundtable for its members titled “Cooperation among cooperatives in times of crisis”. The event served as an occasion for members to gather and share their experiences on how they have been responding to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, what challenges they have faced, and what strategies they have put in place”

This discussion brought together 46 participants from 18 different countries. They shared their experiences of the pandemic and lessons learnt for their cooperatives. Strategies for strengthening social and worker cooperatives were duly identified as well as the need for horizontal cooperation and cooperative entrepreneurship. The discussion highlighted the need to improve communication between cooperatives and the urgent need for cooperative funds. Collective organising and aligning with public measures were also brought up in the discussion. Find more [here](#).

V. SOLIDARITY WITH STRUGGLES

5.1 Against the Virus of Patriarchy and Capitalism, the Vaccine of Feminism and Solidarity!

La Via Campesina



March 8, 2021 – Working Women's Day

(Harare: February 25, 2021) This March 8th 2021, organized in our diversity and together with one single voice we declare: *Against the Virus of Patriarchy and Capitalism, the Vaccine of Feminism and Solidarity!*, while highlighting the essential role of rural women and peasants as a whole, who represent around 60% to 70% of world food production and are the front line in the production of agroecological and healthy food that sustains life. On the 25th anniversary of the collective construction of Food Sovereignty, this is our tangible and sustainable way to face the different crises we live today. We need to end the systemic violence of capitalism and patriarchy, which today violate the rights of women, diversities, children, and the working class, even excluding them from public and free access to a vaccine, which should be considered, as well as food, a human right, as we advocate in our international call for the Right to Public and Free Health for all populations!

In this world, the political, social and economic role of women is vital, even more in the midst of this COVID pandemic, yet we continue receiving lower wages, we are in the informal sector, we face precarious employment, we are exploited, we are migrants, single mothers, agricultural workers, fisherwomen, and shepherds. We have less access to land, technology and public policies on health, protection against violence, education and culture. The greatest obstacle we face in the countryside is the lack of access to means of production such as the land. In the market, women barely own 1% of the land and yet we face the challenge of continuing to guarantee food and care for communities, families and the world under conditions of political, economic and social inequality.

That is why on this day we also demand that states implement the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas \(UNDROP\)](#). It recognizes women and peasants as subjects of rights. This UN Declaration is a strategic tool to strengthen the struggles and proposals of rural movements. It also establishes jurisprudence

and an international legal perspective to guide legislation and public policies at all institutional levels for the benefit of those who feed the world.

The prevailing agro-business model is standardized by the economic power of the agro-industry; it is the large multinational corporations that control what will be produced, what we eat, how much and at what the price; they lobby governments and even multilateral organizations, as we have [denounced is the case of the Food Summit organized by the FAO](#) for this year with the objective to continue monopolizing the food market even more. This dynamic generates high profits for corporations, and very serious costs for the health of societies and the planet.

Throughout history, we women have been in the struggle as subjects of transformation, mobilization and consciousness raising. Thus, as La Via Campesina we salute all the movements and comrades who resist in India, Colombia, Chile, Venezuela, Cuba, Kurdistan, Palestine, the Zapatistas, the diverse women organized in the World March of Women and other allied networks, who are actively participating in the changes that our societies need, for justice and dignity for the majority of the people.

#8M2021 #WomenInTheStruggle #FoodSovereigntyNOW

Cross posted from: <https://viacampesina.org/en/8m2021-against-the-virus-of-patriarchy-and-capitalism-the-vaccine-of-feminism-and-solidarity/>

5.2 Solidarity with the Philippi Horticultural Area Food and Farming Campaign

SAFSC affirms its solidarity with the Philippi Horticultural Area Food and Farming Campaign in opposing the proposed Oakland City Development of the PHA. The development would threaten the destruction of the aquifer that makes the PHA water sovereign. This would drastically cut the food supply as the area produces about 200 000 tons of vegetables and supplies 80% of Cape Towns' vegetables, about 6000 farm workers would lose their jobs affecting more than 30 000 indirect jobs.

Listen to Nazeer Sondag (PHA Chairperson) Interview [here](#).

Read more about the PHA [here](#).

VI. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

6.1 Globalise Hope: Film on the History of La Via Campesina

Cross posted from La Via Campesina



Watch the film here: <https://southasiaviacampesina.org/2020/04/12/globalize-hope-new-film-on-the-history-of-la-via-campesina-1h-13-mins/>

La Via Campesina is an international movement that brings together millions of peasants, landless workers, indigenous peoples and migrants – comprising women, men, youth and diverse identities – from all over the world. The movement brings them together under its banner of comprehensive and popular agrarian reform and food sovereignty. It is a collective expression of the struggle for recognition, legitimacy and dignity of peasant communities and rural people, in a neo- liberal world that is destroying them.

In recent years, globalization and the expansion of agribusiness and monocultural practices have destroyed tens of millions of small farms across the continents. Peasants and small scale food producers now have access to only 25% of the world's agricultural land. Despite these odds, peasant and rural communities continue to be the world's major food producers, providing for an estimated 80% of the food needs in non-industrialized countries.

Meanwhile, many governments are increasingly allowing the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other free trade agreements (FTAs) to govern their national agricultural and food policies. As a result, peasant agriculture finds itself in competition with low-priced imported foodstuffs. The survival of the peasants, who represent almost half of the world's population,

is therefore threatened. The consequences for healthy food systems and for humanity itself are dire.

Peasant agriculture carries within itself the solutions that humanity needs to face the challenges of the future. Therefore, its defence and the defence of the rights of peasants is essential.

This film chronicles how La Via Campesina was born more than 28 years ago, as an alternative that brings together struggles, dreams and challenges to build solidarity and secure our collective human future.

6.2 The Third AFSA Biennial Food Systems Conference and Celebration Report

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

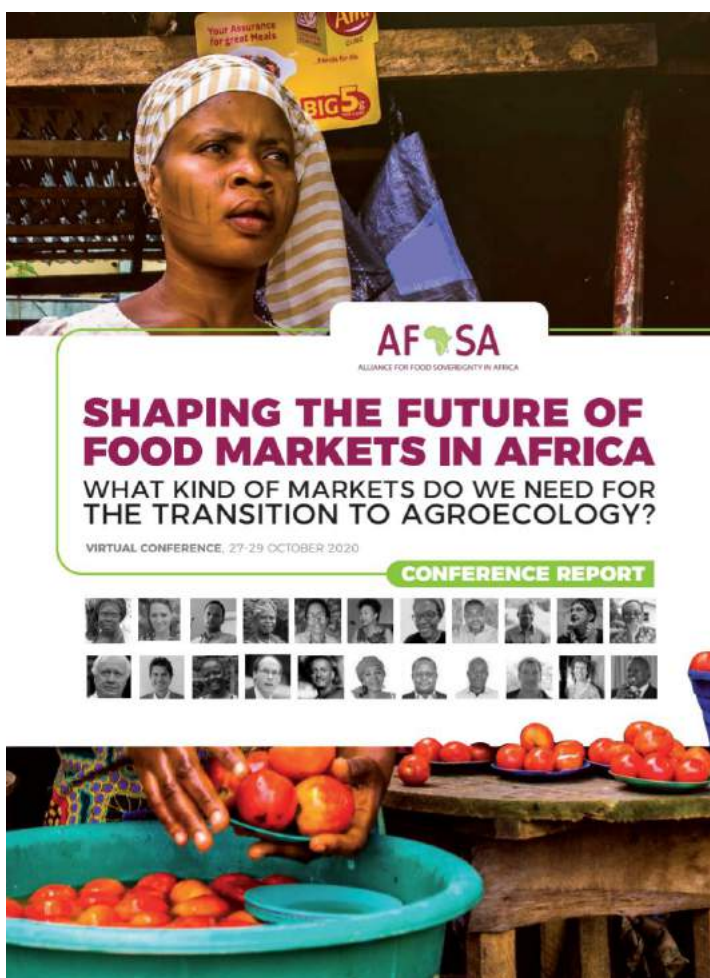
Shaping the future of food markets in Africa: What kind of markets do we need for the transition to agroecology?

From 27 to 29 October 2020, AFSA held its third Biennial Food Systems Conference and Celebration. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, AFSA decided to hold this conference virtually. The three-day event explored issues relating to “Shaping the Future of Food Markets in Africa: What kind of markets do we need for the transition to agroecology?”

Three main objectives informed each day of the conference:

1. Understanding African markets and trends,
2. Shaping the future of markets for the transition to agroecology, and
3. Changing policy towards markets for healthy food systems

Over the three days, the conference brought together over 200 delegates from 64 countries, 37 of which were African. Participants represented farmers, research and development institutions, governmental organisations, and nongovernmental organisations. AFSA created a conference website to promote the event and share presentations from the speakers.



AFSA Chairperson Dr Chris Macoloo and AFSA General Coordinator Dr. Million Belay gave a warm welcome to all the delegates. Both emphasised the importance of African markets in advancing the transition to agroecology. Dr Laila Lokosang, Advisor for Food and Nutrition Security at the African Union, gave the conference's official welcoming address.

Each day of the conference began with a unique component – food celebrations: a series of films, photography, art projects, youth voices, and stories from across the continent. Several films spotlighted community seed and food stories from different countries, emphasising the importance of preserving indigenous seeds, food, cultural knowledge and food markets.

Youth also shared their views on the problems in informal African markets through short video clips. The videos provided inspiration and excitement ahead of the excellent speakers each day.

Several speakers shared traditional rites or mystics from their regions, some performed songs or poems, and others shared their stories from the field. These creative touches set the conference apart from many other virtual events in 2020 by cultivating a sense of unity and human connection amongst participants.

There were four keynote speakers – Charles Dhewa, Dr Mamadou Goïta, Dr Jen Astone, and Prof Olivier De Schutter. Charles is the Chief Executive Officer of Knowledge Transfer Africa, Mamadou is the Executive Director of the Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development, Dr Jen Astone is the founder of Integrated Capital Investing, and Prof Olivier De Schutter is the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

Several speakers presented on a range of topics in parallel side events on Day 1 and 2. The speakers were: Bibi Giyosi, Prof Cecilia Onyango, Pat Mooney, Dr Naude Malan, Charles Dhewa, Hervé Bouagnimbeck, Susan Nakacwa and Dr Scott Drimie.

At the end of the workshop, Dr. Million Belay, AFSA's general coordinator, identified territorial markets as the primary focus. He summarized the conference deliberations on AFSA's way forward, specifically on areas of research, advocacy, mobilisation, and educational efforts.

Download the full report here: https://afsafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/afsa_2020-virtual-conference-report-final_compressed.pdf

VII. CLIMATE JUSTICE NEWS

7.1 Earth Day: meeting with SALGA

Charles Simane and Awande Buthelezi

The COPAC team met with representatives from the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) where we presented on and handed over the climate science document, People's Food Sovereignty Act, our online water tool (on the SAFSC page) and the Climate Justice Charter. We emphasised that these are our guiding documents towards a deep just transition.



Dorah Marema speaking in the Online meeting between COPAC and SALGA

We shared SAFSC's hub approach to food sovereignty and the potential of 1000 food sovereignty hubs to feed 10 000 000 people. If the hub approach was adopted by local government, it would be a game changer in the fight against hunger and corporate capture of the food commons. It would feed many communities while democratising the food supply and creating jobs. We also presented on the available activist tools for pathway building.

It was a productive meeting, with the aforementioned presentations being accepted with enthusiasm. The SALGA team requested that we give them a month to discuss our presentation and tools among themselves. They also said that they want a memorandum of understanding between COPAC and SALGA to shape the way forward for our engagements.

7.2 Climate Justice Charter Movement webinar series

Daily Maverick's Our Burning Planet and Maverick Citizen are partnering with the Climate Justice Charter Movement to report on issues central to our survival – the climate crisis and people's democratic alternatives. Activists in the SAFSC and CJCM have written articles for this series, and we have also commenced a webinar series based on the articles. Thus far we have hosted three webinars. These include:

1. Community-Owned Renewable Energy by Sunny Morgan. Watch [here](#)
2. Young People and the Climate Crisis. Watch [here](#)
3. Just Transition: South Africa's viable alternative. Watch [here](#)
4. Faith perspective on the sanctity of nature. Watch [here](#)



VIII. PRESS RELEASES AND SAFSC IN THE MEDIA

8.1 List of SAFSC's Latest Media Engagements

18 January 2021: Youth Activist, Raeesah Noor-Mohammed writes for our CJCM Daily Maverick series about young people and a dialogue about the climate crisis: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-01-17-a-bleak-future-young-people-and-a-dialogue-about-the-climate-crisis/>

27 January 2021: Vishwas Satgar interviewed on Newzroom Afrika on the Ivermectin debate.

31 January 2021: Vishwas Satgar's opinion piece *Trump may be gone but neo-fascism remains alive and kicking in mainstream American society* is published in the Sunday Times: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/opinion-and-analysis/2021-01-31-trump-may-be-gone-but-neofascism-remains-alive-and-kicking-in-mainstream-american-society/>

7 February 2021: Mazibuko Jara writes an article for our CJCM Daily Maverick series on food sovereignty and land reform: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-02-07-restoring-the-balance-of-nature-and-reversing-food-insecurity-starts-with-land-reform/>

23 February 2021: Awande Buthelezi interviewed by Femida Cassim on Itv News about the Climate Crisis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZAF0U5zqBE>

24 February 2021: Awande Buthelezi interviewed Connective Cities on Crisis Management and Digitalisation : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4WG9clnn40>

28 February 2021: Awande Buthelezi Interviewed on ENCA by Gareth Edwards about NCF press statement rejecting Mboweni's Austerity budget: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AfH1TLp5C4>

7 March 2021: The Climate Justice Collective writes for our CJCM daily Maverick series on building an intersectional justice movement: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-03-07-young-people-and-the-climate-crisis-the-challenge-of-building-an-intersectional-justice-movement/>

14 March 2021: Vishwas Satgar interviewed for a Daily Maverick podcast series on a UBIG <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-03-15-how-to-fix-it-could-giving-people-free-money-revolutionise-sa-society/>

17 March 2021: Ferrial Adam interviewed on Nigerian TV on Eskom and increased tariffs.

8 April 2021: Charles Simane interviewed on East Coast Radio about our 7 April press release on hunger which we put out after the NCF.

10 April 2021: Charles Simane interviewed on ENCA about our 7 April press release on hunger which we put out after the NCF.

21 April 2021: Charles Simane Interviewed on ENCA by Thulasizwe Simelane about the hunger Crisis, the failure of the government's social grants and the BIG.

22 April 2021: Awande Buthelezi Interviewed by Steven Grootes on Newsroom Afrika about UBIG

22 April 2021: Charles Simane Interviewed on CHAI FM by Howard Fieldman about hunger, food sovereignty pathways: <https://www.chaifm.com/podcast/2021-04-22-charles-simane-researcher-at-co-operative-and-policy-alternative-centre-why-are-south-africans-going-hungry/>

28 April 2021: Earth Day actions profiled in the Daily Maverick article: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-04-22-sa-activists-mark-earth-day-with-calls-for-adoption-of-climate-justice-charter/>

29 April 2021: Ferrial Adam writes for the CJCM Daily Maverick series on the water crisis: *Government must urgently deal with South Africa's deepening water crisis*

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-04-29-government-must-urgently-deal-with-south-africas-deepening-water-crisis/>

8.2 List of SAFSC's Latest Press Releases

12 February 2021: A Climate Justice Response to SONA 2021, https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Press-release_SONA-CJC_12-Feb2021.pdf

18 February 2021: For a Universal Basic Income Grant Now (#UBIGNOW): Launch of Transformative Policy Proposals, https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Press-release_UBIGNow_18Feb2021.pdf

26 February 2021: National Food Crisis Forum Response to Tito Mboweni's and the ANC Government's Pro-Business Budget, https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Press-release_NFCF-Response-to-Budget-Speech_26Feb2021-1.pdf

19 March 2021: Let's Stand Together Against the Threats to Our Constitutional Democracy - The Climate Justice Charter is a Compass and Beacon to a Rights-based Society!, https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Press-release_Human-rights-and-climate-change_21March2021.pdf

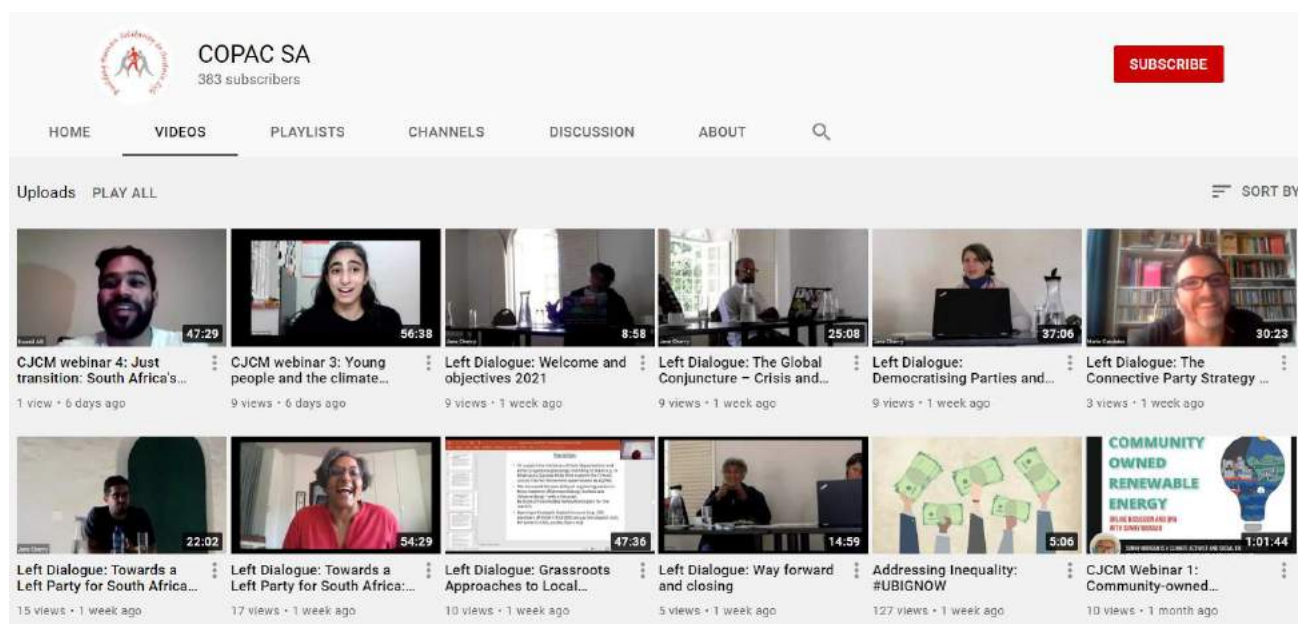
7 April 2021: National Food Crisis Forum: Hunger Worsens in South Africa: https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Press-release_NFCF_7-April-1.pdf

21 April 2021: Earth day: Call for SALGA, local and provincial governments to adopt the Climate Justice Charter, https://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Press-Release_Earth-Day_21April2021.pdf

IX. ACTIVIST RESOURCES

9.1 Online Webinar and Left Dialogue Forum Recordings

In addition to the webinars listed above, we have had a number of other exciting webinars, events and public talks. All of these have been uploaded to YouTube and can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/COPACSA/videos>.



In addition, Copac hosted the **Left Dialogue Forum** on 26-27 March: From Capitalist Crises to a Left Party? What strategy, form and programme? All inputs were also recorded and can be viewed at the links below:

Welcome and objectives (Vishwas Satgar): <https://youtu.be/K4Dgk9WKxTQ>

The global conjuncture: Crisis and possibilities - Vishwas Satgar (Neo-Fascism in teh US) and Sunny Morgan (Is it time for a Left Party?): <https://youtu.be/XvdvfOdDRnY>

Democratising Parties and Market Democracies - Michelle Williams (Reflections on Mechanisms and Practices) and Awande Buthelezi (Political Party Funding Act and Individual candidates for SA parliament): <https://youtu.be/MnHZsYzDDU>

The Connective Party Strategy & Left Projects in Europe (Syrizia, Podemos and De Linke): What lessons can be learned? - Mario Candeias <https://youtu.be/KZ-j-NGsyxQ>

Towards a Left Party for South Africa (Part I) - Niall Reddy (Towards a party of a new kind): <https://youtu.be/D7GG4rSJBQI>

Towards a Left Party for South Africa (Part II) - Natalya Dinat (Approach to a Socialist Party), Mzibuko Jara (Strategic possibilities for a left historic bloc), Mike Smith (The non-racial challenge to left party building): <https://youtu.be/zNa9lOn-vxI>

Grassroots Approaches to Local Government Elections - Stephen Marais (Sharp#), Thulani Bukani (The Queenstown Civic), Chriszanne Janse van Vuuren (Graaf Reinet Community Struggles) and Jane Cherry (The Climate Justice Charter Movement Approach to Local Government Elections): <https://youtu.be/2qbwEzYk7TA>

Way forward and closing (Vishwas Satgar): https://youtu.be/6ZQ_8td8zqA

9.1 Activist tools for bulk buying and fishers



Challenging hunger: A workbook for bulk-buying groups

This workbook was written for use by community educators and self-organised community groups interested in understanding and claiming the right to food. It brings together information about the South African food system and unpacks critically how this system works. It positions bulk-buying as a democratic collective activity which has the potential to challenge the existing food system by reorganising food distribution to poor people in urban and rural areas.

Download the booklet here: <https://cipset.mandela.ac.za/getmedia/4751d9fb-f7ad-4be5-a111-8acd122529c9/CHALLENGING-HUNGER-WORKBOOK-FOR-BULK-BUYING-GROUPS?disposition=attachment>

Let us not be slaves until we die: The lives of the chokka fishers

This booklet is a collection of life histories from fishers gathered through in-depth interviews and research. “this is not the story of boat owners, or squid rights’ holders, or processors and exporters of chokka – this is the story of chokka fishers, through whose hands have passed every single squid fish that make up the 8500 tons of squid that created a wholesale value of about R782 million in 2017.”

Download the booklet here: <https://cipset.mandela.ac.za/getmedia/8c4686eb-0694-4c6f-8df7-aa1fc2779f35/LET-US-NOT-BE-SLAVES?disposition=attachment>