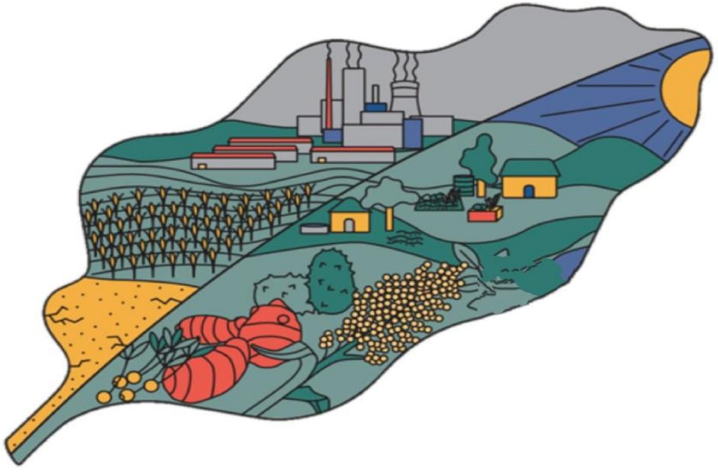
FEED OURSELVES THROUGH FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

A Climate Justice Charter Policy to Address the Hunger Crisis and the Risk of Climate Famine



SAFSC
SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY CAMPAIGN

CLIMATE JUSTICE CHARTER MOVEMENT

FEED OURSELVES THROUGH FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

A Climate Justice Charter Policy to Address the Hunger Crisis and the Risk of Climate Famine

October 2024

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Introduction

The Climate Justice Charter provides a set of goals, principles and 'systemic alternatives for transformative change' to enable and support a deep just transition. According to the Charter, "through addressing the climate crisis, which affects everything, we can also advance solutions to all socio-ecological crises and more generally end the war with nature. Systemic alternatives are necessary to address the causes of climate change, its risks and pressures for systems collapse." (CJC 2020:5). One of these systems experiencing pressures and risks due to climate change is the food system. Pressures on the food system have been felt throughout history, however the climate crisis is exacerbating these pressures and will continue to throw millions more people into poverty and hunger. These pressures, particularly in the South African context, are compounded by an already unequal society where millions of the population are facing hunger and its associated conditions, such as malnutrition, stunting and obesity. Hunger is also a driver of interpersonal violence and a source of stigma, exacerbating intergenerational trauma. This is in part due to the legacies of apartheid, but also the effects of a globalised industrialised food system. The climate crisis is making an already volatile situation worse.

South Africa's Constitution (1996) states in Section 26 and 27 that 'every citizen has a right to have access to sufficient food, water and social security' and that 'the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the realisation of this right.' However, this right is not being met despite the government's various policies, legislation and efforts. Between 23 and 30% of the population have inadequate access to food or are at risk of hunger (Kushitor et al 2022: 884). Furthermore, South Africa's industrialised food system produces up to 30% of greenhouse gas emissions; pollutes air and water; destroys soils, biodiversity and ecosystems through clearing land for further food production (for a few monocultures for export),through mass agrochemical application, and through "cheap" single-use plastic packaging which

breaks down into microplastics that bioaccumulate (build up) in soils, water and air, affecting human health in multiple ways, some of which are not yet properly understood.

Fundamental changes at a systems level are required to address hunger and its associated conditions, to overcome the gendered, racialised, discriminatory systems that perpetuate the poverty and exclusion that lead to intergenerational food inequality, and to address the climate and environmental challenges perpetuated by the industrialised, corporate food system. We require transformation towards agroecology and food sovereignty pathways and commons systems for all, regardless of age, gender, social standing, location, and physical ability. We need small scale farmers, gardeners, communities, small scale fishers, informal traders and consumers to control the food system, to bring the food system within the boundaries of eco-systems and earth relations, in an ecocentric solidarity economy that serves people and planet.

The systemic alternative proposed by the Climate Justice Charter to address this issue is Alternative number three, '*Feed ourselves through food sovereignty*'. By focussing on food sovereignty principles and approaches we would be able to tackle at their roots the above mentioned socio-ecological crises such as hunger, violence and social exclusion, and further address biodiversity loss, super exploitation, land dispossession and climate change.

This Policy document for Food Sovereignty aims to provide a framework to ensure that all individuals and communities enjoy the right to sufficient, culturally appropriate food, that is produced in harmony with nature and delivers shared wellbeing. The framework is informed by CJC Systemic Alternative 4, as well as the People's Food Sovereignty Act No1 of 2024 and other relevant local and international examples. This policy aims to:

a) Provide context to the hunger crisis in South Africa, in particular providing empirical evidence about the problems in the food system, how these are exacerbated by climate change and the corporate-controlled, industrialised food

system; and government's existing approaches to address the hunger/malnutrition crisis and their limits.

b) Define and provide examples of people's alternatives to these problems, in particular, food sovereignty, food commons, an ecocentric solidarity economy and a hub and pathway approach that are crucial to accelerate the deep just transition from below to ensure transformative decarbonisation, adaptation and regeneration.
c) Provide a food sovereignty democratic systemic reform framework for a triple transition of the commercial, small scale and ocean-based food system informed by principles and policy measures that incorporate people's alternatives to solve the host of socio-ecological crises in South Africa that cause hunger.

PART 1: The Crisis of the Globalised Food System

1.1 Hunger, Climate change, Inequality and the Food System in South Africa

1.1.1 Hunger in South Africa and associated conditions

South Africa's food system is highly contested. The Apartheid legacy underpins a dualistic agrarian system in which a handful of players control everything "from seed to store", driving high levels of social-economic inequality and poverty. As a direct result, we still face a higher level of food insecurity and malnutrition but also inequality than other countries of comparable income levels and are undergoing a nutrition and epidemiological transition (Kushitor et al 2022). According to Stats SA, in 2017, around 6.8 million people in South Africa experienced hunger, while 20% of households had inadequate access to food.

The true size of the crisis became apparent during the Covid-19 pandemic and accompanying lockdown, when "almost 23,6 per cent of South Africans in 2020 were affected by moderate to severe food insecurity, while almost 14,9% experienced severe food insecurity" Stats SA(2020)

The National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (CRAM) conducted during the South African lockdown offered devastating conclusions. The study was done with 7000 households and found that 47% of these households stated that they had run out of money for food in April 2020 as opposed to 21% of households the year before lockdown.

The food system impacts directly on obesity and malnutrition, affecting people differently according to gender, and at different stages in their life. South Africa has a malnutrition burden among its under-five population, which also offers an insight into the particular burdens of hunger born by women and girls, who are overburdened as caregivers while also being deprived of access to land, water, agricultural inputs and other forms of support. In 2016, the national prevalence of under-five overweight was 13.3%. The national prevalence of under-five stunting was 27.4%, which is greater than

the developing country average of 25%. South Africa's adult population also face a malnutrition burden, 25.8% of women of reproductive age have anaemia, and 12.6% of adult women have diabetes, compared to 9.7% of men. Meanwhile, 39.6% of women and 15.4% of men are obese, half of all adults are overweight or obese. By 2023, South Africa was listed as among the most obese countries in the world.

Hunger, obesity and malnutrition cannot be grasped from a narrow food security perspective. Instead, food inequality is a more relational approach to understand the systemic challenges that manifest as food-related ill-health (Satgar and Cherry 2020). It prompts us to ask questions that also support the need for food sovereignty. Such questions include:

- What are the rich eating? What quality of food are they eating? Where do the rich source their food? What is the environmental footprint of the food rich people consume?
- Why are the poor not eating? What quality of food are they eating? Where do they source their food from? What is the environmental footprint of the food poor people consume?

- What are the problems with commodifying food?
- What's wrong with globalised food systems, and with their local manifestation in one of the most unequal countries on earth?
- How can the food system be transformed to address food inequality and decommodify food, so that food is affirmed both as a human right and essential need for production, reproduction and wellbeing of humans and the earth?

1.1.2 Impacts of climate change on food systems

Climate change can impact the food system, food production and food nutrition in many ways, and all of its impacts exacerbate the underlying problems of existing poorly-designed and unequal food systems. Climate change can impact yields directly, for example heat stress on crops, late or early rainfall, extreme weather events (Mbow et al

2019: 450). In Africa, acute food insecurity has already worsened due to flooding and droughts (IPCC 2022:11).

Climate change also impacts the food system indirectly as it affects water availability and quality and harmful or beneficial insects (and thus pollination). It is also impacting soil organic content as extreme heat kills living soil organisms making the soil more vulnerable to erosion; this problem is significantly worsened when soils are already damaged by the synthetic fertiliser inputs associated with commercial agriculture. In combination with changing CO2 in the atmosphere, the nutritional quality of produce can be reduced. Climate extremes can affect food safety of food in transit or in storage. Direct impacts of changing weather also have a negative effect on the health of the agricultural workforce as they are exposed to extreme temperatures (Mbow et al 2019: 450-451), and to increased use of toxins (herbicides and pesticides) input into unhealthy or degraded soils. Together, these factors can alter the physical and cultural health of individuals, through fluctuations in availability, safety and quality of food to meet their nutritional and cultural needs (Mbow et al 2019: 450-451), and shifts in agricultural practices away from agroecological and other Indigenous farming methods.

According to the IPCC, sudden losses of food production and access to food in addition to decreased diet diversity have increased malnutrition in many communities, but especially for small-scale food producers, low-income households and indigenous peoples, with children, elderly and pregnant women the most affected (IPCC 2022: 11). Climate change thus deepens inequality and this is particularly evident across the food system in South Africa.
Southern Africa is a climate change hotspot and will heat at double the global average, meaning that when global averages overshoot 1.5°C (possibly by 2034), Southern Africa will be at 3°C. The impacts on food availability and quality will be catastrophic, because most livestock and food crops will not be able to handle this climate shift. The impact

on the ocean commons, already overstressed due to over-extraction, pollution, mining and sea traffic, is also going to be telling. Coastal communities are already concerned about the dwindling snoek and sardine run, as well as the activities associated with

mining. The risk and threat of climate famine looms large. Moreover, without significant shifts in farming methods, small-scale farmers, in particular, will be hardest hit by extreme weather events such as drought, variability in rainfall and rising temperatures, and an associated rise in pests and crop diseases. Since most arable land in South Africa is rain-fed, climate shocks and droughts will have dire effects on food production, livelihoods and food prices.

Climate inequality will worsen existing inequalities, with particularly harmful effects on the very young, the very old, pregnant and lactating women, and people in precarious health. In South Africa's dualist food system, impacts of climate change will be felt differently by large scale commercial farmers and smallholder farmers who have limited access to and control of productive resources. Smallholder farmers who have lower capacity to cope will be hard hit, as will the poorest households who already spend as much as 80% of their incomes on food – in the face of further increases of local and global food prices due to rising food prices caused by climate change which globally will increase by more than 80% by 2050 (Biowatch 2022:4). Such futures thinking, based on current dynamics, warn us against continued corporate control of the food system.

In the face of existing climate change effects, including several years of drought and excess rain cycles causing flooding whose impacts are felt differently across the country, the South African government is not been learning lessons, or changing policy and other approaches to protect the food system from the impact of climate extremes

1.1.3 The industrialised, globalised food system

South Africa's agricultural system was built on a history of violent dispossession, genocide and ecocide (the mass scale destruction of human and non-human life). Under Apartheid, European ideas of a modernised food production approach served the profit motive of white South Africans while famines, hunger and food shortages plagued the lives of the majority. We will never know the full impact of the violence because even under apartheid, data about famines in African communities was not kept. South Africa's agricultural and food system has deep colonial roots which continue to define its super

exploitative approach to human labour and eco-systems. Farming in South Africa is all about conquest of nature, exploitation of resources, human and animal bodies and an extractive economy, and this must be kept in mind when thinking about agriculture's role in providing employment, income and food. South Africa's dual agriculture system still comprises a smallholder/subsistence-based production system (smaller farms, household farming, less investment, fewer inputs, minimal labour and produce sold at local informal markets) and over-developed commercial farming system and a commercial

fishing industry built for the profits of the few, not the wellbeing of the many. The latter is the more dominant system as it makes use of more land, thus larger farms, large economic investments, modern crop management techniques with high inputs including extensive use of pesticides and chemicals, heavy duty machinery, and the planting of genetically modified crops. It exploits labour and is focused on market based production (Beletse et al. 2015: 127-128). Commercial fishing uses industrial trawlers and processing systems. All of these activities are geared for exports and a small, wealthy urban domestic market with easy access to exclusive supermarkets and restaurants.

Through the commercial farming system and our dependence on international trade and agricultural agreements and inputs such as seed, fertilisers, fuel, etc., South Africa's food system is deeply integrated into the industrialised globalised food system. Yet it is this very system that is causing and perpetuating climate change, hunger and malnutrition. Commercial agriculture is responsible for up to 34% of emissions globally (Biowatch 2022), including from fossil-fuel derived inputs such as fertilizer. The amount of machinery and energy used to produce and distribute food has a significant impact on the environment. Mono-cropping of genetically modified crops and their associated input regimes causes the decline of soil fertility and reduces the amount of nutrients in the soil, which in turn increases the need for more chemicals. Industrial scale fishing and other polluting and extractive industries such as mining is depleting fish stocks, endangering many species and undermining marine eco-systems. The depletion of the ocean commons is placing immense pressure on the subsistence practices of coastal communities and small scale fishers.

In addition, the industrialised food system has "externalised the cost of malnutrition and disease, and impoverished and marginalised communities and workers who actually produce our food" (Biowatch 2022: 2). Its resource intensive inputs, massive scale and exploitative practices result in a number of social and environmental harms: **- Land dispossession, soil degradation and biodiversity loss**

° Land is being used for expanded production in an ever growing and globalising food system, however in South Africa we have witnessed land dispossession and land inequality. In attempting to address the apartheid legacies, land reform has failed. In particular, there has been failure to substantially deconstruct the colonial and apartheid land structures through redistribution, restitution or securing of tenure for those with weak land rights.

° In addition, we are witnessing land and soil loss and degradation. The average predicted soil loss rate for South Africa is 12,6 tons/ha/year, while

the average soil loss rate under annual cropland (grain crops) is 13 tons/ha/year, which is much higher than the natural soil formation rate of less than 5 tons/ha/year. Simply put, we are losing much more soil than we gain (Le Roux 2014).

° Globally, industrial agriculture is the single largest cause of land-use change and habitat destruction, accounting for 80% of all land-use change. Locally, intensive tillage-based agriculture, such as cultivation, is one of the main pressures on biodiversity and excessively high soil erosion rates in South Africa (Sanbi 2018:94; Le Roux 2014).

° The loss of natural habitat resulting from human activities is the principal driver of biodiversity loss in terrestrial ecosystems in South Africa.

- **Labour:**

° Farmworkers who produce our food are the most vulnerable to hunger.

° More than 80% of Northern Cape farm workers face seasonal hunger from April to August.

° Farm worker wages are far below the living wage, and yet to keep wages below the farmworker minimum, farm owners accelerate unfair dismissals, replace permanent workers with seasonal workers or foreign migrants or simply refuse to comply (Devereux, Hall and Solomon 2019). As a result of intersectional injustices, including lack of access to communal land, women on farms are especially vulnerable (PLAAS/CGE 2024)

° Job shedding and casualisation in the agriculture sector is increasing. In the fourth quarter of 2022, the sector lost 12 000 jobs since Q3, net loss of 7000 jobs year on year. With more AI and 4IR technology displacement, this will increase.

° Farmworkers are exposed to dangerous agrichemicals such as pesticides, insecticides, fertilisers and herbicides which should not be used and yet farm workers are forced to work under these circumstances without being provided with adequate personal protective gear

- **Water use and pollution:**

° A large portion of South African agriculture comprises livestock farming or the cultivation of rain-fed crops. However, 30% of the crops produced

require irrigation. In particular, 1.5% of the land is under irrigation (about 1.2 million hectares of land), with the average size of a commercial farm being about 2500 hectares. Together, these irrigated farms use 60% of all water abstracted in South Africa (Baleta and Pegram 2014:3) and control 62% of the water allocation in the country. Even after the 1998 National Water Act was passed, identifying the people of South Africa as the collective owners of the country's water resources, race-based inequalities in access to water continue to hamper agricultural reform and redistribution.

° Industrial agriculture's use of fertilisers and pesticides also leads to water pollution and eutrophication resulting in the death of animals and plants living in the water body. This is impacting the quality of water and water supply more generally. These costs are externalised to the SA taxpayer; poor quality water used on crops can affect the health of crops and people.

° More than 70% of water abstracted from rivers and groundwater is used for agriculture, livestock and plantation forestry in SA (Sanbi 2018:94).

- **Seed**

° The commercial seed system in South Africa is monopolistic and is based on the private ownership over seed varieties by the commercial breeders. These seeds occupy a firm place in our commercial farming sector, as almost all commercial farmers use commercial seed.

° South Africa is used by the biotech industry as an experimental ground for both new and outdated GM varieties, which are then trialled in other countries.

° South Africa has an extensive history of cultivating GM crops – soya, maize and cotton. It is the only country on the continent to allow GM maize – a staple food for the majority of its population – which is now almost completely genetically modified, with little to no alternative options, despite active resistance over the years (Lewis and Masinjila, 2022). Linked to these GM seeds are toxic agrochemicals, such as Glyphosate.

- **Agrochemicals**

° South Africa is the largest pesticide user in sub-Saharan Africa with over 3000 pesticide products registered for use. It is estimated that only 0.1% of pesticides applied reach target organisms, while the remainder is free to move into non-target areas, contaminating soil and watercourses through surface run-off, spray drift and leaching.

° Chemicals in these products can cause freshwater pollution, affecting the health of fish and plants. Chemical pollution of water can cause endocrine disruption - thus disturbing normal hormone functioning, this can increase an individual's disease susceptibility and lead to various adverse health effects in humans and animals.

° The country's aquatic environment and wildlife are burdened by agrochemicals. These also threaten the country's rich biodiversity, soil, native microflora in the soil. (Horak, Horn and Pieters 2021). Pesticides also leave residues on fruits, vegetable sand crops and the consumption of these residues can cause a range of health-related issues in humans.

South Africa still uses 57 dangerous pesticides that are banned in other parts of the world like the European Union.

- **Food waste**

  ° Globally a third of the annual edible food produced, about 1.3 billion tonnes goes to waste or is lost

  ° In South Africa, 10 million tonnes of food goes to waste every year. This accounts for a third of the 31 mt that are produced annually in South Africa. Together, fruits, vegetables and cereals account for 70% of the wastage and loss and also impacts carbon emissions. Methane gas (the deadliest greenhouse gas) release is a serious problem with food waste.

  ° Much of this waste occurs at the production and retail level.

  ° About 1.7 km3 of water is extracted from ground and surface water bodies to produce food that is subsequently wasted in South Africa. This is around a fifth of South Africa's total water withdrawals (WWF 2017).

- **Greenhouse gas emissions**

  ° Globally, the industrial food system emits one-third of all human greenhouse gas emissions (or up to 34%). The main gases it emits are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The latter two are significantly more potent than carbon dioxide in their contributions to warming. GHGs from farming alone

  almost doubled between 1961-2016, with most increases coming from synthetic fertilisers, rice cultivation and livestock rearing (Biowatch 2022).

  ° In South Africa, industrial agriculture's contribution to GHG emissions is approximately 18%. This is lower than the global average, but only because of our reliance on dirty coal for energy, which makes an oversized contribution to total GHG emissions compared to other countries.

Farming is responsible for 6%, land use change about 1%, and pre-and postproduction processes about 10% (Biowatch 2022).

° In 2022, the Agriculture sector produced 53 519 Gg CO2e, which is 11% of South Africa's total emissions. The largest source category in 2022 is Enteric fermentation, which contributed 36 352 Gg CO2e (68% of the total agricultural sector emissions). The cattle population is the largest contributor to emissions from the livestock population data. (National GHG Inventory Report 2024)

- **Nutrition Transition**

° South Africa is undergoing a nutrition transition and abandoning wholesome traditional and predominantly plant-based diets for highly refined food typically high in energy, saturated fats, salt and simple sugars.

° These shifts occur concurrently with the adoption of sedentary lifestyles, rural to urban migration, non-communicable diseases and other degenerative diseases

° The transition is driven by interlinked factors including the process of urbanisation, increases in average per capita incomes, the growth of supermarkets and accessibility of cheap, non-nutritious foods, market liberalisation, foreign direct investment, and food marketing (Nyepi 2015:479).

Energy inequality, which drives up the costs of food preparation, also plays a role in inadequate nutrition in poorer households, and this problem is being exacerbated in the face of a slow and uneven transition to renewable energy.

- **Food price increases**

° Recent climate impacts that reduced crop productivity led to higher prices and increased trade of commodities between regions with

asymmetric impacts on producers and consumers. Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are the most affected areas (IPCC 2019).

° The cost of the average household food basket increased by R192,32 (3,9%) from R5 056,45 in June 2023 to R5 252,77 in June 2024 (PMBEJD).

° The annual food price inflation rate climbed to 13.4% in January 2023, the highest reading since April 2009 when the rate was 13.6%.[1]

° As food prices increase for consumers, food corporations continue to post healthy profits, and agriculture grew economically by 13.4% in 2020 and 8.3% in 2021. Food corporation CEOs from Checkers and Woolworths took home R63,46 million and 36.13 million respectively in 2022[2]

- **Oceans and Fishers**

° Commercial fishing in South Africa has had significant impacts on marine ecosystems, leading to the degradation and depletion of marine resources.

[1] https://businesstech.co.za/news/lifestyle/665081/price-shock-for-south-africa-as-food-inflation-hitshighest-point-in-14-years/)

[2] https://dailyinvestor.com/business/21175/shoprite-ceo-earned-1081-times-more-than-the-lowestemployee/

° Small-scale fishers' rights and livelihoods have been undermined, in particular they have had limited access to resources with inadequate support, have been excluded from decision making, had a lack of legal recognition. Degradation of marine resources by commercial fishers has reduced the availability of resources for small-scale fishers making it harder for them to sustain their livelihoods.

° Coastal communities reliant on the ocean commons are also experiencing challenges as fish stocks get depleted and as seasonal patterns, such as the snoek and sardine runs, get disrupted.

° Pollution poses a significant threat to our oceans and marine life. Plastics, effluents, chemicals, untreated sewage and other pollutants contaminate marine ecosystems, causing widespread damage. Plastic pollution is particularly insidious, breaking down into microplastics that are ingested by marine animals, entering the food chain and impacting human health. Chemical pollutants, including agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, and untreated sewage, degrade water quality, leading to dead zones where marine life cannot survive.

° Offshore oil and gas activities introduce additional dangers to marine environments and coastal communities. The exploration and extraction processes disturb marine habitats and threaten biodiversity. There is an urgent need ban all offshore oil and gas extraction.

- **Informal Traders and Waste Pickers**

° Informal traders face significant challenges and vulnerabilities, often not recognized as formal contributors to the economy.

° There is a persistent push for their exclusion from trading areas, as they are often treated as nuisances rather than legitimate business operators.

° Informal traders struggle with a lack of recognition and support, which exacerbates their economic insecurity and limits their growth potential.

° The absence of formal regulatory recognition means they are excluded from many benefits and protections afforded to formal businesses.

° Informal traders are not given adequate facilities to handle extreme weather conditions, making them highly vulnerable to climate extremes.

° Waste pickers have not been integrated into zero waste systems such that landfill is converted into bio spaces and organic food waste is composted to support food sovereignty transitions.

- **Threats to the food commons**

° South Africa's history of violence and dispossession has devastated the food commons, including land, water, and biodiversity, through eco cide. Industrial agriculture and agro-industrial exports have further disrupted ecosystems thus accelerating biodiversity loss and species extinction, posing a serious threat to the delicate balance of the food commons.

° Moreover, the historical trajectory of South Africa's development, marked by patriarchy, colonialism, segregation, apartheid, and capitalist expansion, has systematically eroded the customary/traditional land commons. The dispossession and concentration of land ownership, driven by patriarchal, colonial and capitalist interests, has marginalised

and displaced indigenous communities from their ancestral territories, particularly affecting women who are over-associated with food production while being excluded from land ownership. This process of land alienation has disrupted the traditional land tenure systems and socioecological relations that were once integral to the commons-based system. As a result, traditional/customary lands, rich in cultural and ecological significance, have faced continuous threats from the expansion of commercial agriculture, agro-industrial farming, and extractive industries. This ongoing encroachment upon traditional lands not only undermines the socio-economic livelihoods of local communities but also jeopardises the intricate balance between humans and nature that the common based system embodies.

Therefore, the current industrialised food system has displaced people, produces hunger, uses water inefficiently, destroys nature, releases deadly greenhouse gases and is generally unhealthy. Commercial fishing has also destroyed marine ecosystems and undermined the rights of subsistence fishers.

1.2 South Africa's food system policy and governance

Table 1: Food System Policies: 1994-2017

Date	Key Department	Policy
1994	DAFF	Broadening access to agriculture thrust
1994	DAFF	Zero vat rating of basic foodstuffs

1994	DRDLR	The restitution of land rights act
1996	DAFF	Marketing of Agricultural Products act
1997	DOH	White paper on the Transformation of Health systems in South Africa
1997	DLDLR	White paper on South African Land Policy
1997	DEA	White paper on the conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biological diversity
1998	DAFF	Animal improvement act
1998	DWA	National Water Act
1998	DEA	Marine living resources act
1998	DEA	National Environmental management act
1998	DEA	National forestry Act
1999	DEA	National Heritage resources act
1999	DEA	White paper for sustainable coastal development in South Africa
2000	DAFF	Meat safety act
2000	DOH	The primary health care package for South Africa – Norms and standards
2001	DLDLR	Land redistribution for agricultural development
2002	**DAFF**	**Integrated Food Security Strategy**
2002	DAFF	Animal Health Act
2002	DAFF	Animal identification Act
2002	DOH	Integrated Nutrition Programme
2003	DAFF	Agricultural produce agents bill, 2003
2004	DTI	Co-operative development framework for South Africa
2004	DOH	Regulations relating to the fortification of certain foodstuffs

2004	DOH	South Africa Tuberculosis Control Programme practical guidelines 2004
2004	DEA	National Environmental management: Protected areas act
2004	**DBE**	**National School Nutrition Programme**
2005	DSD	The Social Assistance Act
2005	DTI	Cooperatives Act of 2005
2007		National Industrial Policy Framework
2007	DOH	Tuberculosis strategy plan for South Africa 2007-2011
2008	DTI	Consumer Protection Act
2008	DTI	Standards Act
2008	DEA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act
2008	DEA	National Environment Management: Waste Act
2008	DNT	Intellectual Property right from publicly financed research and development act
2009	DEA	National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act
2009	DEA	The transfer of commercial fishing rights policy
2010	DAFF	Pesticides management policy for South Africa
2010	DWA	Ground water Strategy
2010	DWA	National Water and Sanitation Act
2011	DLDLR	The Green paper on land reform
2011	DED	New Growth Path
2012	DAFF	Integrated growth and development plan for the department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
2012	DAFF	National Animal Pounds Bill

2012	DAFF	Policy for the small-scale fisheries
2012	DTI	Integrated Strategy on the Development and promotion of cooperatives
2012	DPME	National Development Plan
2013	DAFF	Fertiliser and feeds bill
2013	DAFF	National bill for Agricultural training institutes of South Africa
2013	DOH	Roadmap for Nutrition in South Africa

2013	DOH	Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NonCommunicable Diseases
2013	DLDLR	Agricultural landholding policy framework
2013	DLDLR	Land tenure security policy for commercial farming areas
2013	DSD	Household food security and nutrition strategy
2013	DNT	Carbon tax policy paper
2014	**DAFF**	**National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security**
2014	DAFF	Agricultural policy action plan
2014	DOH	National tuberculosis management guidelines 2014
2014	DPME	Medium term strategic framework
2014	DEA	Marine living resources amendment act
2014	DEA	The list of protected trees under the National Forest act
2015	DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Strategic plan
2015	DOH	National consolidated guidelines for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIF and the management of HIV in children, Adolescents and Adults
2015	DOH	Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Obesity

2015	DOH	National Anti-Retroviral Treatment guidelines (updated in 2018)
2015	DSBD	Principles for good governance for Co-operatives Policy
2016	DOH	Last mile plan for elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in South Africa
2016	DOH	National Treatment Adherence guidelines
2016	DTI	Industrial Policy Action Plan 2015
2016	DNT	Taxation of Sugar Sweetened Beverages
2017	DOH	South Africa's Strategic plan for HIV, TB and STI's 20172022
2017	DLDLR	Regulation of Agricultural land holdings
2017	**DPME**	**National Food and Nutrition Security Plan**

Since the transition to democracy in 1994, the South African government has developed several policies address the structural factors that have sustained hunger and food-

related conditions (See table 1). In line with global debates, these policies moved beyond food production towards improvement in livelihoods, with more of a focus on individual and household nutrition security. Key policies included **Zero-rated Vat on basic foodstuffs** (1994), the Primary School Nutrition Programme (later revamped to the **National School Nutrition Programme** (2004), the **Integrated Food Security Strategy** (IFSS) (2002), **Integrated Nutrition Programme** (INP) (2002), the **Social Assistance Act** (2005), and the **Social Relief of Distress Grants**. Other policies also focussed on the redistribution of productive assets, especially land (Kushitor 2022).

By 2010, the National Planning Commission reported that South Africa was progressing slowly on its food security targets due to a general failure to implement policies and a lack of broad partnerships. As a result, the National Development Plan was developed to address this problem by 2030. the NDP is the overarching government development plan

across all levels of government. A number of policies were developed to support the NDP, such as the New Growth Path, the Medium-Term Strategic Framework 20142019, and the 2015 Industrial Policy Action Plan.

The Integrated Food Security Strategy was the first broad, interdepartmental initiative on food security. Other important strategic documents are the Roadmap for Nutrition in South Africa (2013-2017) and the DAFF Strategic Framework 2015-2020. The National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security was gazetted in 2013.

Overall, food/hunger-related policies post 1994 include initiatives such as supporting land reform, social protection programmes, field crop production, nutrition education, the school nutrition programme, and lowering the price of bread and some fruits and vegetables. After almost 30 years of implementation, there have been some impacts on improving conditions such as stunting and nutrient deficiencies, but not on overnutrition, micronutrient deficiency and biodiversity loss. Land reform has also failed and there has been failure to substantially deconstruct the colonial and apartheid land structures through redistribution, restitution or securing of tenure for those with weak land rights.

Despite several strategies and plans relating to different dimensions of the food system, these have not been effectively translated into tangible, practical plans with sufficient coordination and alignment. Policy development often occurs in silos and doesn't offer

solutions to the range of systemic issues underpinning the food and hunger crisis. During implementation, coordination across the different departments or domains has been poor (Kushitor 2022:885). Furthermore, most of the initiatives have focussed on agricultural productivity rather than the root causes of hunger, such as structural poverty, inequality and the negative impacts of large-scale industrialised agriculture (including land and biodiversity loss & GHG emissions) and the broken food system.

In addition, these policies and other measures of support services to agriculture provide limited support to small-scale farmers and fishers. For example, a number of institutions currently prop up industrial agriculture, agri-business and large farms, while limited

support exists for small-scale farmers. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural development promotes and regulates agricultural practices, favours industrial agricultural sector and large single- or corporate owner farms through its policies. Although there has been an increase in the DALRRD budget for support for small-scale farmers, in practice these efforts have been costly and ineffective as only a few farmers benefit. Agribusiness and large agricultural corporations also play a significant role in supporting and driving industrial agriculture. These entities have significant influence and investment in the agricultural sector. South African Farmers' Associations and Industry groups also favour the interests of industrial agriculture as they often align with the interests of large-scale farmers and commercial agricultural enterprises. Organisations offering financial assistance, such as the Land Bank and private institutions and banks primarily cater for those farmers who meet its risk profile (namely medium to large commercial farmers), this leaves a funding gap for emerging farmers (de Satgé 2020). Finally, extension services, which are typically provided by government agencies, agricultural organisations, and institutions to disseminate knowledge, provide technical assistance, and offer advisory services to farmers are also supposed to cater to small-scale farmers, however, due to the scale and economic significance of industrial agriculture, extension services often tailor their programs and resources to address the specific needs of largescale farmers. Other challenges include: continued adherence to outmoded models of extension, inadequate linkages between research extension and producers on the ground; capacity constraints and high costs (de Satgé 2020); patriarchal values and practices that exploit women on farms while preventing them from accessing the support necessary to own and develop land.

PART 2: People's Alternatives to Transition the Food System

2.1 Food Sovereignty Commons System

The Climate Justice Charter's Systemic alternative number three, ***Feed ourselves through food sovereignty*** states, "The current industrial food system produces hunger, uses water inefficiently, destroys nature, releases carbon and is generally unhealthy. Commercial fishing has destroyed marine ecosystems and undermined the rights of subsistence fishers. Every community must prioritise small scale, agroecological farming to meet local needs. The right to food must give 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. Moreover, biodiversity, control of seeds and resources for production needs to affirm the importance of indigenous knowledge, local markets, control of the water commons, the eco-social function of land, and good health. Big farms need to be deconcentrated to ensure land justice, but in a manner that is fair, strengthens reconciliation and builds solidarity." (CJC 2020:6)

Food sovereignty as defined by South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC) is: "the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define and control their own food and agriculture systems. It is an alternative to the corporate food system" (SAFSC 2018:8).

2.2 The People's Food Sovereignty Act – An example of a democratic systemic reform

Food Sovereignty has been translated into South Africa by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC) in theory in the form of the People's Food Sovereignty Act (2018), developed through a series of grassroots consultations. This Act lays out what small-scale food producers, landless people, the hungry, community organisations, activists and movements envision a just and transformative food system to embody. The Act proposes that a food sovereign system must driven and built from below.. As such, the Act does not cede all power to the government but sets provisions for the

government to ensure favourable conditions for food sovereignty practices and ideals to take root. At the same time, rights and responsibilities are conferred on all persons

and small scale food producers, as they have an important part to play as conscious agents in promoting a more just, sustainable, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and food sovereign system in South Africa.

In summary, the objectives of the act are to change the laws governing the food system, and for that purpose-

The objectives of this act are to change the laws governing the food system, and for that purpose-

- to give effect to the right to food in the constitution, provided under section 27 and to ensure that the right to food is realised by all people;
- to ensure that indigenous seeds and seed saving practices are protected to maintain the biodiversity of seed and food systems as part of our cultural heritage commons;
- to promote the ownership of land by food producing communities, and ensure that land is distributed and managed as a commons to maintain biodiversity;
- to establish the rights of persons and food producers in relation to the water commons (ocean and fresh water), and to promote the sustainable use of water in the context of climate shocks, such as drought, so as to maintain food production;
- to ensure that all food production is undertaken by methods that are ecologically regenerative, resilient,, in keeping with zero waste, safe and just and also contributes to local ecosystem preservation and restoration.
- to promote the consumption of adequate, culturally appropriate, indigenous and nutritious food for all persons;
- to ensure that all food producers have access to relevant financial mechanisms to improve food production and distribution;
- to promote community solidarity economy markets linked to small-scale food producers and processors for distribution of food and to ensure that local food supply is prioritised over trade;

- to provide for the setting up of national, provincial and local participatory mechanisms to ensure democratic planning of the food system;
- to limit, prohibit and push back through regulation the destructive practices of the existing corporate controlled food system;
- to democratise the food system and reposition the post-apartheid state in support of food sovereignty through active citizen's intervention from below;
- to amend and repeal any laws that give power to monopolistic food enterprises along the food chain, thereby maximising control of the people over their food production resources and food system;
- to support the triple transition of the food system and accelerate the deep just transition to achieve climate justice and mitigate the risk of climate famines. The triple transition includes the following:
    a) Transitioning of community food production (small-scale farmers, community gardeners, households, informal traders and public spaces) towards the food sovereignty commons,
    b) Transition from industrial scale fishing to small-scale and subsistence fishing as part of the oceans commons, and
    c) Transitioning of industrial/globalised/supermarket system to the food sovereignty commons system;
- to develop and strengthen systemic elements of food sovereignty pathways, hubs and alliances in communities, villages, towns and cities;
- to provide the basis for a food sovereignty commons-state partnership which will oversee the policies and management of the food commons as a strategic sector; and

to assist with the implementation of a food sovereignty policy for South Africa The Act also serves as a campaigning tool to SAFSC activists to create awareness about food sovereignty in communities, thus heightening social consciousness about the unjust food system and radical non-racial and non-patriarchal systemic alternatives; and to put food sovereignty on the national agenda, by entering into dialogue with other transformative actors, as well as relevant local, provincial and national government bodies. The Act also informs practice, and the process of developing the act, including dialogues and

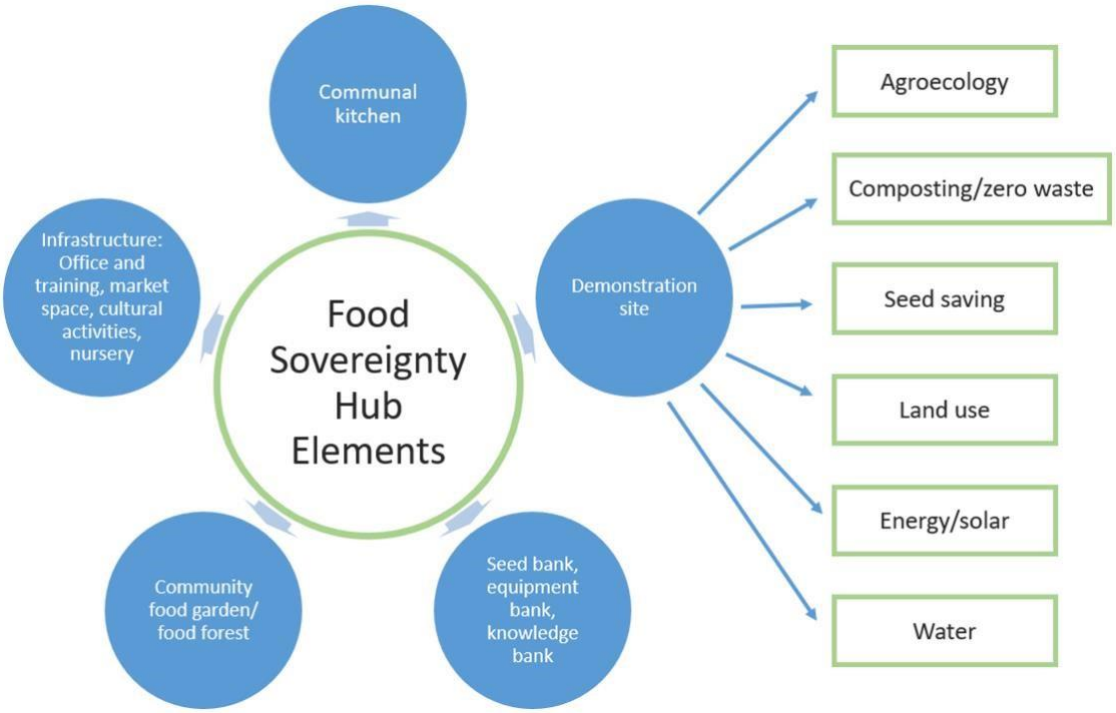
continuous consultation within the SAFSC and with other actors, has informed SAFSC's hub and pathway approach to transition from the industrialised food system to a food sovereign one, as discussed below.

2.3 South African Food Sovereignty Campaign's Hub and Pathway Approach to the Deep Just Transition

The SAFSC's hub and pathway approach entails setting up thousands of hubs across the country by building on those food sovereignty sites/hubs and pathways that already exist in South Africa. These are spaces that promote one or more of the following: agroecological practice, eco-centric food production, zero waste, food commons, communal kitchens, seed saving, agroecological training, solidarity economies and localised food systems. A key thrust of food sovereignty pathways is also to deconcentrate and transform existing commercial farms into food commons, smaller community farms or hubs, which utilise agroecological inputs and restore nature. Communal land should also be protected and utilised for food sovereignty and biodiversity ends, where applicable.

The food sovereignty hub approach by SAFSC entails rolling out food sovereignty hubs into communities and all provinces to provide support and training to networks of households, small scale and community farmers, local public institutions (hospitals, clinics, schools, universities and libraries) and local solidarity economy enterprises (cooperative bakeries, community markets etc) and markets across South Africa, and

thus strengthening alternative food sovereignty systems in South Africa. Such hubs are anchored by grassroots organisations for commoning, as learning spaces and coordination spaces for local food sovereignty alliances. Hubs serve as spaces to train households, community gardeners, small scale farmers and promote ethical care for forests, oceans and veld based commons, that might be available to communities. The elements of a hub are illustrated below:



Integral to these pathways is creating a zero waste approach to local food systems, so that they are self-sustaining and zero input cost on the production side, in that they save seeds, have seed banks, nurseries, make their own compost, and manage water sources effectively while also creating a wider food commons with food forests. In terms of the consumption side, farmers' markets are integral as well as worker cooperatives for bakeries and food processing, even people's restaurants and communal kitchens, but also networking with existing consumption side operations, such as informal traders, susbsistence fishers, community restaurants etc. Essentially food sovereignty also deepens its transformative

logic as it links production, finance and consumption through solidarity economy mechanisms, systems and practices.

2.4 The importance of food sovereignty pathways for the deep just transition

Embracing Food Sovereignty pathways through the hub and pathway approach is an integral step toward making South Africa's food system more accessible and just. This approach includes different connected parts that together change how we interact with nature, our communities, and the food we need:

Land Justice: In the context of the deep just transition, Food Sovereignty holds paramount significance for land justice. This is because when people have control of their food and land for production, they get to decide on how it is used and shared amongst the community. Land justice coupled with food sovereignty involves reclaiming and restoring ancestral lands, particularly customary lands that hold cultural and ecological significance. By recognising the rights of indigenous and local communities to govern these lands, food sovereignty ensures a holistic approach to land management, rooted in resilient practices and traditional knowledge systems. Land justice fosters equitable access to resources, dismantling historical inequalities perpetuated by dispossession, and creating a foundation for resilient and community-driven agricultural systems.

Agro-Ecological Practice and Carbon Sequestration: Embracing agro-ecological practices is a cornerstone of the deep just transition. By prioritising agroecological farming techniques, such as zero tillage, crop rotation, agroforestry, inter-cropping, and cover cropping, food sovereignty mitigates the environmental impact of agriculture while enhancing soil health and fertility. These practices, coupled with strategic carbon sequestration efforts, contribute to combating climate change, creates climate jobs and ensures long-term food equality. Agro-ecological systems prioritise the well-being of both ecosystems and communities, encouraging a harmonious relationship with the land.

Decolonial Knowledge Archive: Food sovereignty serves as a vessel for decolonial knowledge, acknowledging and revitalising indigenous agricultural wisdom that has

been marginalised over centuries. By incorporating traditional practices, seed saving, and land management techniques, food sovereignty centres on a knowledge archive

that respects diverse worldviews and fosters intergenerational learning. This decolonial approach challenges dominant Western agricultural paradigms and empowers local communities to define their own food systems.

The Commons: An essential tenet of food sovereignty is the recognition of land, water, biodiversity, creative labour, energy, cultural heritage, public infrastructure and the earth system as life enabling systems that necessitate collective and ethical stewardship. This commons-based approach emphasises resilient and inclusive democratic practices, resisting privatisation and ensuring equitable access to such systems. By promoting collaborative decision-making, food sovereignty strengthens community cohesion and protects the long-term well-being of both ecosystems and society.

Localised Solidarity Economy Institutions and Markets: A key element of the deep just transition is localised solidarity economy enterprises and markets as an alternative to profit-driven models. Food sovereignty supports the establishment of local food networks, farmer cooperatives, and community-supported agriculture, worker cooperatives, cooperative banks to foster direct relationships between producers and consumers. By redirecting resources back to local communities, food sovereignty enhances economic resilience, wellbeing and minimises vulnerability to external market fluctuations. Most importantly solidarity economies constitute forms of democratic power and control from below: structural, movement, direct and symbolic.

Ending Hunger and Malnutrition: A core objective of food sovereignty is to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by prioritising food as a basic human right. By ensuring equitable access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food, food sovereignty addresses the root causes of hunger. Through diversified and locally adapted food production, food sovereignty empowers communities to meet their nutritional needs

sustainably and without dependence on global markets and corporate controlled value chains.

Transitioning Beyond the Agro-Industrialised/Supermarket Food System: Food sovereignty envisions a departure from the agro-industrialised and supermarket dominated food system. Instead, it promotes diversified, commons-based systems that prioritise ecological biodiversity and social justice. By reducing reliance on monoculture farming and multinational corporations, food sovereignty challenges the dominant paradigm and encourages a shift towards local, decentralised, just and climate-resilient

food systems. Food sovereignty treats the food system as a strategic sector to meet the needs of human and non-human life.

Accelerating the Deep Just Transition Through a Food Sovereignty Commons Democratic System Reform: The transition of the food system to a food sovereignty commons system begins in local hub and pathway building processes but is connected and located in a national process of transitioning the entire food system through a people and worker driven democratic systemic reform, the People's Food Sovereignty Act, which is about democratic planning and treating the entire food system as a strategic sector.

Food sovereignty pathways for the deep just transition encompass a range of interconnected strategies that promote land justice, agro-ecological practices, carbon sequestration, decolonial knowledge, social inclusion, commons-based approaches, localised markets, solidarity economy practices and the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. Crucial is accelerating the deep just transition from below including through a food sovereignty commons democratic system reform. By centring food as a use value and advocating for a departure from the industrial food system, food sovereignty fosters a regenerative and just food system that promotes harmonious relationships between people and the planet.

PART 3: A Policy Framework to promote food sovereignty pathways and a commons system to accelerate the deep just transition

The Climate Justice Charter sets out a pluri-vision to address the legacies of apartheid, address the current polycrisis including the worsening climate crisis and seeks to secure just, liveable and democratic future. Central to this is how we deal with the food system as part of the deep just transition. Thus, to address the host of challenges facing South Africa's food system, the Climate Justice Charter proposes the following: "Every community must prioritise small scale, agroecological farming to meet local needs. The right to food must give 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. Moreover, biodiversity, control of seeds and resources for production needs to affirm the importance of indigenous knowledge, local markets, control of the water commons, the eco-social

function of land, and good health. Big farms need to be deconcentrated to ensure land justice, but in a manner that is fair, strengthens reconciliation and builds solidarity" (CJC 2020:6). The practical ways of realising such a vision and more are detailed in the following section.

Goals:

The objectives of the food sovereignty policy are to influence laws governing the food system, and for that purpose defines and outlines policy measures to guide the triple transition required for the deep just transition. The triple transition includes:

a) Transitioning of community food production including small-scale farmers, community gardeners, households, informal traders and public food spaces towards food sovereignty
b) Transition from industrial scale fishing to small-scale and subsistence fishing and coastal foraging.
c) Transitioning of globalized industrial /supermarket system to the food sovereignty commons system.

This involves building on the Food Sovereignty Campaign's hub and pathway work in South Africa, and the People's Food Sovereignty Act, and taking these initiatives further in terms of the triple transition, to provide guidelines and policy measures that would ensure that the food sovereignty system becomes a strategic sector that can meet the needs of country and ensure we do not experience climate famines

3.1 Policy Measures and Roles

The following policy measures are required at three levels; (i) community and ward, (ii) workplace level and (iii) national government level, to tackle the systemic roots of the hunger crisis and promote the triple transition of the food system.

3.1.1 Community, farmer and ward committee level:

- Small-scale farmers, together with the community and ward committees are to define and develop local food sovereignty plans and policies to ensure a local hub and pathway approach, thus securing:

    ° Local production of nutritious and culturally appropriate food using agroecological methods through a hub and pathway approach, including closing the loop (water, waste, seed, compost), thus defining their own food system

    ° Access of nutritious and culturally appropriate food to each person in the community/ward through food commons, local markets and communal kitchens

    ° Revival of indigenous seeds and establishment of community and household seed bank networks

° Accelerate land reform in local communities for the purpose of food sovereignty production and climate jobs creation

° Connect all local food production and consumption into solidarity economy mechanisms such as local markets, community supported agriculture and worker cooperatives for instance

° A cooperative bank in each ward to build up a local capital pool to support the food sovereignty, solidarity economy and climate jobs thrusts. The state to channel subsidies, grants and other financial resources through such mechanisms to communities

- Ward committees are to support the development of feeding programmes at places of need, schools and universities:

° School feeding programmes are to be linked to local gardens in and around schools and common areas, serving as hubs where possible. These feeding programmes are to be extended to all Sector Education Training Authorities (SETA) institutions and Universities.

- Ward committees, together with community members and farmers are to initiate and strengthen Hubs and pathways, including the following:

° Hubs are to be established in each community. 6 000 hubs are required across the country to feed 60 million people

° Networks of hubs are established to support localised food production and food commoning

° Communities are to establish hubs while waiting for state funding

° Sharing of resources, knowledge amongst and between communities to revive indigenous knowledge and to assist with establishing new hubs

° Each hub/community to have their own local seed bank with indigenous, OPV seeds

- Ward committees, communities and small-scale fishers are to ensure commons management of the oceans and water sources as a source of food.

° Establish community-based fisheries management systems that empower local fishing communities to manage and conserve the marine commons sustainably.

° Provide training and resources to fishing communities to improve their understanding of fisheries management and conservation practices.

- Communities and ward committees should actively engage in the mapping of existing boreholes and ensure that any new boreholes are registered and regulated:
    - Promote the sustainable use of boreholes by monitoring water usage to prevent depletion of groundwater resources.
    - Establish guidelines for the equitable sharing of borehole water, prioritizing access for small-scale farmers and community gardens.
    - Incorporate borehole management into local water governance plans to safeguard water sovereignty, particularly in times of drought.

3.1.2 <u>Workplace level (in particular, agricultural workers and farms):</u>

- All large farms (larger than 100 hectares) are to be deconcentrated to provide for two to four-hectare size small farms and transitioned to achieve food

sovereignty and establish food sovereignty hubs and pathways. However, it is important to consider the welfare and livelihoods of the labourers currently employed on these large farms. The following policies would ensure that the farm transition is also just:

° Farmworker Cooperatives: Encourage and support farmworkers in forming cooperatives to collectively manage and operate the land. This empowers farm workers to become owners and decision-makers in agricultural production.

° Land Redistribution and Tenure Security: Ensure that as large farms are deconcentrated, the land is redistributed equitably, with a focus on providing land to farm workers who have historically been marginalised;

and implement strong land tenure security measures to protect the rights of farmworker-owned cooperatives and individuals.

° Skills Development and Training: Invest in comprehensive training programs for farm workers to equip them with the necessary skills to transition into small-scale agroecological or cooperative farming and; provide training in agroecology, closing the loop, financial management, and business skills.

° Access to Resources: Facilitate access to resources such as seeds, equipment, and capital for farm worker cooperatives to enable successful farming operations and also to transition to renewable energy; and create programmes that offer low-interest loans and grants specifically for farmworker-owned cooperatives.

° Technical Assistance and Support: Establish extension services and support networks dedicated to assisting farm worker cooperatives in crop management, agroecology, pest control, and marketing; and offer

mentorship programs connecting experienced agroecology farmers/hubs with those transitioning from labour to ownership.

° Market Access: Help farmworker cooperatives access local and regional markets by providing infrastructure and market linkages; and foster relationships between cooperatives, communities and local food businesses to ensure a stable market for their products.

° Social Safety Nets: Develop social safety net programs to provide temporary assistance to farm workers during the transition period, including access to healthcare, housing, child and elder care, and education for their families. Implementing a universal basic income (UBI) can provide financial stability for workers transitioning to small-scale subsistence and foraging systems, ensuring they have a steady source of income as they adapt to new livelihoods.

° Worker Buyouts: Explore mechanisms for farm labourers to gradually buy out large farms through cooperative ownership over time, allowing for a smoother transition and minimising disruption.

° Community Development: Encourage farm worker cooperatives to engage in community development initiatives, such as establishing community gardens, supporting schools, and improving local infrastructure.

° Monitoring and Enforcement: Implement robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that large farms comply with deconcentration regulations and that farm workers are treated fairly throughout the transition.

° Land Use Planning: Collaborate with local communities to develop land use plans that consider ecological sustainability, food production, and the needs of farm workers.

° Policy Advocacy: Empower farmworker organisations and cooperatives to engage in policy advocacy to ensure their voices are heard in the development of relevant regulations and policies.

° Workers in Industrial Scale Fishing and Processing: The workers in industrial-scale fishing and processing sectors face numerous challenges, including poor working conditions, low wages, and job insecurity. Transitioning these workers into small-scale subsistence and foraging commons systems can offer numerous benefits, both for the workers and for the sustainability of marine resources. The transition process should include comprehensive support for workers, including training, resources, and infrastructure to ensure they can successfully adapt to new practices.

3.1.3 National Government level:

At the national level, support and interventions are required for the three distinct transitions: As a first step, the national government should:

- Initiate a state-commons partnership to manage the food commons, comprising small-scale farmers, small-scale fishers, informal traders, national government representatives, NGOs working in the food space, co-operatives, academic institutions/think tanks and climate scientists. This partnership will oversee the policies and management of the commons as a strategic sector.

- Furthermore, under the guidance of the state-commons partnership, national government shall create an enabling environment for a transition to Food Sovereignty pathways and agroecology and food sovereignty commons system by:

    ° Adopting the People's Food Sovereignty Act to promote democratic planning of the food system, to accelerate the deep just transition and to serve as the backbone for the commons-state partnership.

    ° Providing favourable conditions for all small-scale food producers, including sufficient infrastructure, training, access to land (by deconcentrating large farms), credit and inputs.

    ° Procuring from local food sovereignty hubs and pathways for all government feeding programmes or catering.

    ° Providing funding for the hub and pathway approach to enable localised production

    ° Develop agroecology training and research institutions (also through converting existing agriculture institutions, colleges, and extension services) to promote food sovereignty education, particularly in reskilling of farmworkers in agroecological production

    ° Subsidising production in food sovereignty hubs and pathways

- National government shall develop policy measures that regulates the power of the agro-industrial sector, by ensuring the following:

° Limit the monopolistic tendencies and power of agro-industrial and food retailers in the dominant corporate food system (including producers, suppliers of inputs, retailers and distributors)

° Deconcentrate large farms through the People's Food Sovereignty Act

° Provide conditional subsidies to big commercial farmers so they transition through:

- Restoring the land through regenerative agriculture,
- Developing deconcentration plans including for sharing water rights
- Participating in food sovereignty planning system - established by the Peoples Food Sovereignty Act
- Partner with small scale farmers

° Promote through regulation:

- Phasing out use of agrochemicals and replacing them with agroecological practices
- Promotion of biodiversity of nature and seeds in all agricultural practices.
- Ban on import and marketing of unhealthy foods, with a "polluter pays" policy to ensure producers take responsibility for producing biodegradable and other non-polluting packaging

- National government shall establish policies and regulations that support smallscale fishers and coastal communities to support the second transition including preserving ocean biodiversity:

° Ban industrial scale fishing in South Africa, consistent with the rights of nature policy of the CJCM. Moreover, this ban to be supported by the following policies, measures and interventions to transition workers in the industrial fishing industry and secure the rights of coastal communities as custodians of the oceans commons.

°

Establish policies and regulations that support community-based fisheries management. This includes creating legal frameworks for community participation in decision-making and control of the ocean commons.

° Allocate fishing rights and quotas to small-scale, artisanal fishers and communities Women to be given priority.

° Set clear targets for the establishment and effective management of marine protected areas (MPAs) to conserve critical marine habitats and species but together with local communities. All existing marine protected areas to be reviewed to strengthen such frameworks.

° Emphasise the importance of sustainable fisheries management by implementing science-based policies and regulations.

° Promote ecosystem-based fisheries management that considers the broader impacts of fishing on marine ecosystems.

° Incorporate integrated coastal zone management principles to protect coastal biodiversity and ecosystems.

° Develop strategies that balance economic activities, such as tourism and fisheries, with environmental conservation.

° Mandate rigorous EIAs for all coastal and marine development projects to assess their potential impacts on ocean biodiversity. All mining operations along the coast to be reviewed. All off-shore oil and gas extraction to be banned and all effluent, including untreated sewage, dumped into the ocean to be stopped. This is also a measure called for in

° the water commons policy for South Africa developed by the Climate Justice Charter Movement.

° Facilitate solidarity market access for local fishers through trade policies, market linkages, and support for local seafood branding and marketing. Priority for market success will be to meet the needs of local communities and the country.

Fund and oversee fisheries and marine research and data collection efforts to inform sustainable management decisions and monitoring programs to assess the state of ocean biodiversity and track changes over time.

° Support research on climate-resilient marine ecosystems and adaptation measures for coastal communities.

° Support for biodiversity registers and coastal land and ocean use protocols developed by coastal communities.

° Develop policies and programs to help fishing communities adapt to climate change, including measures to provide early warning, alternative livelihoods during extreme weather events or temporary fishing bans. Food sovereignty hubs and pathways to be established in all fishing communities as the basis for alternative climate jobs.

° Enforce fisheries laws and regulations, including coastal surveillance through satellites and drones, heavy penalties for illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.

°

° Engage with fishing communities, stakeholders, and experts in the development of fisheries policies, ocean biodiversity policies and regulations to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness.

° Ensure that ocean biodiversity conservation is integrated into broader food sovereignty policies, acknowledging the interconnectedness of marine and terrestrial food systems.

° Establish mechanisms for regular reporting on progress toward ocean biodiversity conservation goals and targets.

° Hold government agencies accountable for the effective implementation of conservation measures.

- National government shall establish policies and regulations that support and protect informal traders who, as part of the solidarity economy, need the following to be done:

Establish a standardized set of regulations for informal workers across the country to ensure consistent treatment and protection.

° Simplify the legal requirements for informal traders to operate, reducing bureaucratic hurdles and costs associated with compliance.

° Implement infrastructure projects that provide informal traders with safe and secure trading environments. Build community market spaces that offer protection from extreme weather conditions and climate changes, ensuring traders can operate year-round. Equip these facilities with essential services such as sanitation, waste management, and security to improve the overall working conditions for informal traders.

-
- Encourage local governments to adopt inclusive urban planning practices that designate spaces for informal trading.

PART 4: Campaigning for Food Sovereignty

4.1 The CJCM will support all the campaigning efforts of the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign to update the Peoples Food Sovereignty Act and accelerate the deep just transition through hubs and food sovereignty pathway building in communities, villages, towns and cities. These bottom up pathway building processes are not only building the next food system but also contributing to constructing a Climate Emergency Social Contract for South Africa.

4.2 All CJCM activists to be immersed in building food sovereignty pathways in local spaces, reaching out to farm workers and working with coastal communities. Intensive awareness raising has to happen to make the links between food sovereignty and the acceleration of the deep just transition in communities, workplaces, sectors and the state.

4.3 All the tools of the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign and the Cooperative and Policy Alternative Centre can be used immediately to get CJCM forums and local structures and movement building process activated to drive food sovereignty work as part of accelerating the deep just transition from below.

4.4 The CJCM to work with SAFSC to develop the national food sovereignty commons map for South Africa that will highlight the making of the next food sovereignty commons food system. This can be utilised as an organising tool in local spaces to accelerate the deep just transition.

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