



**17**  
ISSUE

# MARRANG

NEWSLETTER



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# MARANG THE CITY OF JOBURG'S

newsletter on International  
Relations

**THEME: FOOD  
SECURITY**



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*We hope you enjoy the read!*

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**Dear Esteemed Reader,**

**According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO),** climate change, social unrest, and the economic downturn triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic have hindered the world's pace towards achieving one of the Sustainable Development Goals, which pledges to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Consequently, cities around the world are developing strategies and mobilising new technology to mitigate food insecurity while building resilient food systems to guarantee a balance between production and consumption.

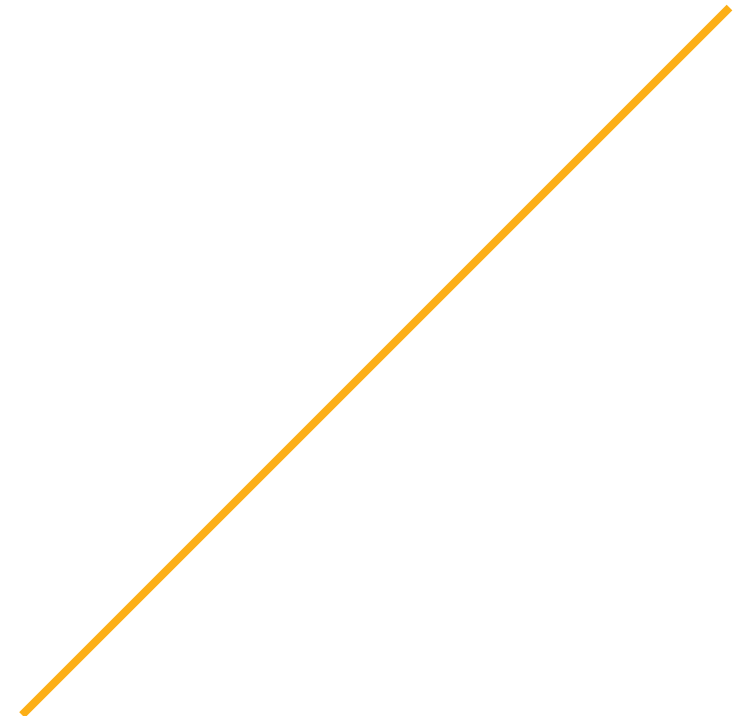
This edition is themed “**Food Security,**” which is defined by the **United Nations’ Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** as having physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food at all times for an effective and healthy life.

This 17th edition casts the spotlight on the City of Joburg’s food security projects. It opens with a feature by Dr Tinashe Mushayanyama and Sheila Dlamini on food insecurity and the need to build resilient food systems. The piece seeks to highlight urban farming initiatives driven by locals and Nongovernmental organisations committed to fighting hunger and promoting healthy lifestyles in their communities.

Furthermore, we give you a glimpse of what the cities of **Buenos Aires** in Brazil and **Victoria** in Canada are doing to respond to food insecurity. Their food gardens and urban agricultural programmes spurred by the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change are pertinent lessons to learn.

Enjoy the read.

**Editorial board – Kabelo Maseng and Lesego Ngobeni**



# Food security: challenges and prospects in Johannesburg

Dear Esteemed Reader,

The Covid-19 pandemic presents extreme shocks to food systems, including the disruption of global, regional, and national food supplies. The adverse effects of the global pandemic on social nets and food markets pose considerable risks to both lives and livelihoods. Unless food systems are redesigned, food insecurity will remain a permanent situation for a substantial proportion of the CoJ population. The municipality plans to invest in understanding the unique aspects of food systems in the hospitality and food industries, which account for a sizable portion of food consumption in the City. **Written by Dr Tinashé Mushayanyama, Director: Social Development Integrated Policy Planning and Research and Sheila Dlamini, Sub-Unit Manager:**

**Social Development Monitoring and Evaluation**

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## Self-reliance key to food secure communities

The City's Food Resilience Unit helps food-insecure urban communities grow their own produce. The initiative has so far established over 50 co-operatives, four farms and an urban Agri-zone that enables farmers to grow and sell food. These communities are now self-reliant and enjoy access to improved nutrition and related health benefits, increased individual self-reliance, and economic opportunities for a new generation of urban farmers.

[Click here to read more.](#)



## City provides pathways to commercial markets

The City of Joburg's mechanisation and commercialisation programme has produced scores of small-scale farmers over the last five years. It is committed to providing market pathways and platforms for sister departments to ensure emerging farmers realise the full benefits of commercialisation and mechanisation.

### Agro-processing

The City of Joburg's Agro-Processing Sub-Unit has a database of some 100 Agro processors in three tiers, who have been workshopped on the basics of Agro processing, business registration, and first aid, to list a few. The City is committed to ensuring Agro-processors are taken from subsistence to economic level, enabling them to run thriving businesses, produce locally manufactured goods and access mainstream economic sector value chains.

### Promoting food security

Through Agro-processing, the City aims to minimise the negative impact of hunger and famine by promoting food security, ensuring sustainable income for those involved in Agro-processing, creating jobs, and encouraging market competitiveness.

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# Garden breeds life to concrete jungle



Refiloe Molefe's Bertrams Inner City Farm is in its 16th year of operation, and continues to provide affordable, healthy and nutritious organic vegetables to the community. Molefe started the farm because she saw there was a need in her community for no one to go to bed with an empty stomach. **Source: New Frame**

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## Locals grow vegetables in community garden

Community members in Orange Farm, Joburg's southernmost suburb, have started a small-scale farming project to promote agricultural education, food security, and domestic economic development. The project is inspired by Orange Farm's remoteness from the Inner City and the community's desire to bridge the socioeconomic divide of food costs.

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# City planning a lever to offsetting urban food insecurity

While food insecurity is commonly framed as a rural issue in South Africa, it is becoming increasingly concentrated in urban areas. Cities are where food system activities such as production, processing, retail, and waste take place. However, neither food insecurity nor the food system have received adequate attention or consideration in the design of cities.

These are the central tenets of 'Food Sensitive Planning and Urban Design – A Blueprint for a Future South African City?', a new working paper published by the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security. **Written by Mologadi Makwela (DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security)**

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# The mission isn't food charity, but food justice

Everyone in Canada has the right to food. Not the right to stand in line for canned green beans from a food bank, or the right to a hamper full of someone else's leftovers, but the right for everyone to feed themselves and their communities with joy and dignity. This isn't a radical idea. In fact, it's enshrined in law. In 1976, Canada proclaimed food as a human right when it signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In doing so, our government has become obliged to create the conditions for its citizens to be able to access good, nutritious, affordable food wherever they live. **Written by Paul Taylor**

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## Covid-19 spurs commercialisation of agricultural commodities

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to disrupt our daily lives, Johannesburg is working tirelessly to implement innovative measures to achieve resilient food systems through its commercialisation and mechanisation programme. Led by the City's Social Development Food Resilience Unit, the programme aims to address a critical challenge in the commercialisation of agricultural commodities, which has been the inadequate availability of produce due to scattered, small-scale production, low productivity, and competing uses for food and the market. The programme has managed to deliver advanced production technology to farmers to boost their levels of production and income. It has also capacitated several co-operatives dealing with crops and poultry farmers. **Source: City of Johannesburg Social Development Department**



# Towards a local and sustainable food system

The City of Buenos Aires is implementing urban agricultural programmes as part of its new Climate Action Plan 2050 to transition the city to a sustainable, nutritious food system. The transition is designed to promote social inclusion and resilience, but to also achieve co-benefits such as the improvement of air quality and citizens' health, the creation of green jobs, and to advance towards a circular economy. **Written by Renzo Morosi**

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## Climate change a threat to food security

Climate change will make it difficult for some parts of the world to provide sufficient food in the future. This is according to Professor Alan Dangour of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, responsible for Food and Nutrition for Global Health. Dangour believes the food system is going to be challenged due to the impact of climate change, if cities don't act to reduce their carbon footprint and change the way they treat the planet.

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## Youth-centred innovation at the crux of sustainable food systems

Food systems are the largest employer of young people, particularly in the Global South, but they frequently fail to provide decent and meaningful work or adequate livelihoods, as well as to strike a balance between the needs and rights of different generations. Approaches and policies to strengthen youth engagement and employment in food systems need to be based on the pillars of rights, equity, agency, and recognition. Youth require support, including redistributive and mediated market policies, to access land, water, forests, labour, knowledge, information, agricultural extension, finance, credit, markets, technology, and supporting institutions for sustainable food systems transformation. **Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

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## Joburg aspires for food resilience

The City of Joburg strives to promote food security and enhance urban agriculture while creating economic opportunities through various projects, including aquaponics, Agri-resource centres and skills centres. **Written by Thapelo Loabile: Sub-Unit Head for City of Johannesburg Social Development Urban Agriculture unit**

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## **Abaa is vanguard of food security in Orange Farm**

Tim Abaa, the founder of Ubuntu projects operates a food garden in Orange Farm's Arekopaneng community centre, where he trains people of all ages to cultivate vegetables so they can be self-sustainable.

[Click here to read more.](#)





## Victoria grows food gardeners



For the past five years, the Victoria City Council in Western Canada has been working to address food insecurity and ensure those in need have access to healthy, affordable food. As a result, we had a solid foundation to respond quickly when the Covid-19 pandemic struck.

**Written by Mayor Lisa Helps**

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## Siyakhana a hallmark of multisectoral collaboration

The Wits Siyakhana Food Garden has been running for over 10 years, and functions as a change agent to engage individuals and organisations in Johannesburg, Gauteng and across the entire spectrum of South and Southern African society to improve food security, as well as to promote healthy and resilient communities and environments. **Source: Solidgreen.co.za**

[Click here to read more.](#)



## Young people key to sustainability of Agri-food systems

“The future of food belongs to young people.” These are the sentiments of QU Dongyu, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). Dongyu was speaking at the 2021 UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on youth and Agri-food systems transformation, which highlights the importance of active youth engagement for a more sustainable food future for all.

**Source: World Food Forum**

[Click here to read more.](#)

