



food dialogues

Cape Town 2021

6 September – 14 October | fooddialogues.info



The persistence of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown have made hunger and food insecurity the lived experience of more people across South Africa.

Listening to their voices and hearing their stories of food and the food system can help in responding to their continuing needs. These perspectives, too often unheard, can also help in shaping a post-pandemic food system that is less harmful and more healthful.

The 2021 Food Dialogues, taking place from 6 September to 14 October, will prioritise and amplify these local voices of ordinary residents who will share their perspectives and experiences on hunger, food insecurity, health, and other challenges. Through the event, attendees will hear local voices, see local realities, and by doing so have the chance to broaden their own perspectives.

“The Food Dialogues provided a space to engage deeply in the complexity of the Cape Town food system. They refused to have a single story. They refused to amplify a single set of voices. They provide the starting point, and not the end point, for many sets of complex, difficult and messy conversations about food.”

Jane Battersby, Assoc. Professor
African Centre for Cities
University of Cape Town

Event Programme

This year's free online event includes the following components:

6-21
September

Local Voices

A remarkable opportunity to hear local voices, see local realities, and broaden one's perspective.

6 September: A series of pre-recorded interviews covering the perspectives of ten ordinary residents will be launched. Drawing on the realities of the pandemic and lockdown, and the prominence of hunger and food insecurity in the lived experience of so many during this time, there is much to share and much to learn by listening to these voices and their perspectives on food and our food system.

6 – 20 September: Anyone is welcome to record and send in their own 30-60 second perspective inspired by or in response to one of the Local Voices interviews. Selected “vox pop” submissions will be shared on the event platform for viewing by those registered for the event.

21 September: Some of those interviewed will participate in a live virtual panel discussion, where ideas for solutions to the challenges, dreams for the future, and opportunities for ordinary people to help one another will be shared. Moderated by Leonie Joubert, *Daily Maverick* journalist and author of *The Hungry Season* and *Tomatoes & Taxi Ranks*, the session will include opportunities for viewers to ask their questions and share their own perspectives and experiences.

22
September

Dialogues through Food

How can food itself speak to us? In a virtual panel discussion, three chefs will each present a plate of homecooked food that they have prepared and use this to help us think more deeply and broadly about the food we eat, share, choose, prefer and celebrate. Journalist, Writer, and Food Activist, Ishay Govender will be joined by noted chefs Mokgadi Itsweng, Khanya Mzongwana and Jane Nshuti to talk about the ways food connects us with each other, with our heritage, our land, beliefs and ideals. They will also ask some of these provocative (and tasty) questions: What is the role and power of food culture in our society? What could it be? And is it okay for food to sometimes just be delicious?

14
October

World Food Day: Global events, local insights

What relevance do major international events, such as the UN Food System Summit, happening elsewhere in the world, have to our local situation? Local actors may offer contributions and contestations, but what is the significance of these in the big picture? Consideration of these global-local dynamics will help illuminate our problems and opportunities in Cape Town and make it possible to draw lessons and insights we can put into practice as we struggle with the challenges of our local food systems. A virtual panel discussion in recognition of World Food Day will see Professor Julian May, director of South Africa's National Centre of Excellence in Food Security, moderating a group of local, national, and international experts on these important issues. Viewers will also have the chance to ask their questions and share their perspectives.



Registration: fooddialogues.info

**To register and for further details on the programme,
speakers and themes**

“The Food Dialogues are critically important because they provide a rare opportunity for citizens and other stakeholders to learn from grassroots activists alongside government officials, university professors, and business people. Only by connecting these different perspectives and knowledges will we be able to foster meaningful change in our food systems.”

Prof. Julian May, Director, DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security, University of Cape Town



Key Dates

Registration opens:	30 August
Local Voices interviews released:	6 September
Vox Pop recording submissions:	6 – 20 September
Local Voices panel discussion:	21 September
Dialogues through Food:	22 September
World Food Day panel discussion:	14 October

food 
dialogues



Communications and media

Follow the event on social media with #FooddialogueSA and #FDLocalVoicesMatter and on the following channels:

Facebook: fb.me/FairFoodSA

Instagram: [@food_dialogues](https://www.instagram.com/food_dialogues)

Twitter: [@food_dialogues](https://twitter.com/food_dialogues)

LinkedIn: [LinkedIn.com/showcase/food-dialogues](https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/food-dialogues)

Contact: Kurt Ackermann: kurt@fairfood.org.za +27 83 508 1066

Media enquiries: Noni Sophe: noni.sophe@fooddialogues.info +27 78 233 9509

About the SA Urban Food & Farming Trust

Founded in 2014, the SA Urban Food & Farming Trust (Reg. IT20812/2014, PBO 930052666) is a non-profit public benefit organisation that works through food and farming to strengthen South Africa's urban communities and the ecosystems that sustain them. Details at fairfood.org.za



south african
urban food and
farming trust



SOLVE

A V&A Waterfront initiative to solve for better futures.



DSI-NRF
Centre of Excellence
in Food Security



WESTERN CAPE
Economic
Development
Partnership



Western Cape
Government

Partners and sponsors

Food Dialogues is hosted by the SA Urban Food & Farming Trust with co-host and sponsor SOLVE @Waterfront.

Co-sponsored by the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security, event partners include the African Centre for Cities, the Southern Africa Food Lab, ICLEI Africa, City of Cape Town, Western Cape Government, Western Cape Economic Development Partnership, Oranjezicht City Farm and Derrick.