



Inter-provincial Dialogue on the Right to Food: Gauteng, Limpopo and North-west Province

26-27 March 2014
Johannesburg

CONFERENCE REPORT

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Cooperative and Policy Alternative Centre (COPAC) would like to thank the Foundation for Human Rights for their financial support in conducting the entire right to food dialogue process.

COPAC would also like to acknowledge the role played by the right to food reference group in developing the programme for and organizing the inter-provincial dialogue.

Lastly, COPAC would like to thank all those individuals and organisations that participated in the process and who made it such a success, and whose vibrancy and hope will drive the right to food and food sovereignty campaign.

FOREWORD

This report summarises the main discussions and outcomes of the Right to Food Inter-provincial Dialogue that was held in Johannesburg on 26-27 March 2014. Various constituencies – community organisations, small farmers, trade unions, faith groups, NGOs – from the provinces of Gauteng, Limpopo and North-west participated in the dialogue. The process of the Right to Food Dialogues arose out of the fact that the right to food of every South African is guaranteed in Section 27 of our Constitution. However, there is a major contradiction: although the right to food is guaranteed in the Constitution, at least 12 million South Africans suffer from hunger. This is a crisis.

Given this crisis, the right to food dialogue process aimed to bring together these various constituencies to discuss the main issues, challenges and experiences relating to food, land and agriculture. The main components of the process were three provincial mapping workshops held in Gauteng, Limpopo and North-west Province respectively and an inter-provincial dialogue that brought these three provinces together to consolidate what was learned in the mapping workshops and further lay a basis for a right to food and food sovereignty campaign. The Right to Food process that was run by the COPAC and the broader campaign therefore had the following objectives:

- An enquiry-based engagement with relevant stakeholders to understand food challenges in South Africa, both provincially and nationally;
- Developing a dynamic and grounded understanding of the right to food;
- Map state policies and responses to hunger;
- A mapping of existing food initiatives and practices that affirm the realisation of the right to food;
- Developing partnerships and networked relationships to champion the right to food;
- Ensuring the dialogues engender a platform for advocacy for the right to food in South Africa;
- Prepare for and help to shape the national conference on the right to food.

To achieve these objectives, the components of the right to food dialogue process included:

- 3 provincial mapping workshops (Gauteng, Limpopo and North-west Province) to map food issues and challenges in the provinces to inform the development of a discussion document to be presented at the inter-provincial dialogue;
- Photo mapping exhibition – disposable cameras were given to some activists in each workshop to take photographs of the food situation in their communities, to be exhibited at the inter-provincial dialogue, the national conference, and beyond;
- Development of grassroots advocacy tool on the right to food and food sovereignty;

- Teleconferences with reference group – a reference group was nominated out of the provincial workshops to work together on developing the programme for, and organizing, the inter-provincial dialogue on the right to food;
- Two day inter-provincial dialogue on the right to food – based on the above, an inter-provincial right to food dialogue was organized to consolidate the whole process through engaging with a discussion paper, learning from the photo exhibition, test the grassroots advocacy tool, and prepare for the national conference on the right to food;
- The present conference report.

The dialogue process was guided by the idea and practice of food sovereignty, and of evolving and developing this practice in a South African context, based on experiences of communities, farmers, workers, faith groups and so on. This is because it is important to see achieving the right to food as not just a question of a few policy changes or tweaks that are needed, but to understand the power relations in the food system – from who controls land to who controls production and distribution of food – in order to understand why we have hunger. Food sovereignty proposes a more radical and democratic alternative to ending hunger, aimed at broader social change and people and communities taking back control of the food system. Food sovereignty therefore means:

- placing control of food production, distribution and consumption back into the hands of the hungry citizens;
- it is about ensuring zero hunger and an end to malnutrition in a community, town, village, city and country;
- it is about nutritious and healthy food produced through environmentally sustainable ways of farming;
- the state providing support to citizens to realise the right to food through food sovereignty.

The challenges experienced and perspectives surfaced during the dialogue process affirmed the approach of food sovereignty and the need to look systemically at the food system and what changes need to be made in order to ensure the right to food of all those who live in South Africa is met. With this in mind, the content of the inter-provincial dialogue included the following:

1. Opening panel discussion on 'Hunger, the agrarian crisis and food sovereignty – the Right to Food in South Africa';
2. A presentation and discussion on the discussion paper produced from the provincial mapping workshops;
3. An engagement with the photo exhibition mapping community food issues;
4. An engagement with a draft of the right to food and food sovereignty activist tool;
5. Input and preparation for the national conference on the right to food.

PROGRAMME

Right to Food Inter-Provincial Dialogue

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 – 26 March	
-10h30	Arrivals
10h30-11h00	Registration
11h00-11h30	Introduction Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and introductions Objectives Overview of the programme
11h30-12h45	Session 1: Panel Discussion: Hunger, the agrarian crisis and food sovereignty – the Right to Food in South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NgoniChikowe – ZIMSOFF and Via Campesina Jacklyn Cock – Sociology, Wits University Brand Nthako – Nkuzi Development Association and MACUA(Mining Affected Communities United in Action) Open discussion
12h45-13h30	LUNCH
13h30-15h15	Session 2: Discussion Document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of document Panel responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olive Strachan – Small farmer Adam Mabunda – Mopani Farmers Union Vasco Mabunda – Nkuzi Development Association Open discussion
15h15-15h45	TEA
15h45-17h30	Session 3: Photographic Mapping Exhibition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition walkabout and note-taking Report-backs and discussion: drawing out main themes Next steps: what to do with the exhibition
18h00	DINNER
DAY 2 – 27 March	
08h30-09h00	Summary and overview of Day 1
09h00-10h45	Session 4: Testing and Using the Grassroots Advocacy Tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the tool Commissions to discuss the tool Report backs
10h45-11h15	TEA
11h15-13h00	Session 5: Towards the National Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign building Objectives of the national conference Content of national conference Demands Report-backs
13h00-13h30	Way Forward and Closure – VishwasSatgar
13h30	LUNCH and Departure

DAY 1

SESSION 1:

Panel Discussion: Hunger, the Agrarian Crisis and Food Sovereignty – the Right to Food in South Africa

To help set the scene for the dialogue and stimulate discussion, the opening session involved three speakers who spoke on key themes around the question of hunger, the agrarian crisis and the right to food in South Africa. **Chikowe Ngoni** is from Zimbabwe and is a member of Via Campesina, the global peasant organisation that is advancing the alternative of food sovereignty. He is also a member and coordinator of ZIMSOFF, the Zimbabwean Small Scale Organic Farmers Forum. Ngoni's contribution was important in that he represents an organisation that is at the forefront of fighting for food sovereignty to end hunger in the world and so was able to share experience and practical perspectives to the dialogue participants on the food sovereignty alternative.

Jacklyn Cock is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Wits University and a committed activist who has been doing research on the food system in South Africa, and who benefits and who loses from it. Her contribution was important in stimulating participants to think about the broader structure of the South African food system in which to locate experienced food challenges in. In all the provincial mapping workshops mining emerged as a key factor that communities are struggling with and which is undermining communities' right to food.

Brand Ntako, who is a long-time activist and now anti-mining activist, therefore spoke about mining, especially in the platinum belt of Limpopo Province, and the devastating impacts that it is having on communities and their right to food.

These three inputs made an important contribution to understanding the context of hunger in South Africa, as well as highlighting the alternative of food sovereignty.

Ngoni Chikowe – Via Campesina and Food Sovereignty

- Ngoni gave a brief history of the global organisation called La Via Campesina (which is Spanish for 'The way of the peasants'). The organisation was formed in 1994 in response to the dispossession of peasants (small scale farmers), who in fact produce most of the world's food, caused by land dispossession, corporate control and so on. It has over 200 million members organised in over 80 countries in the world.
- Via Campesina and its farmer members came up with the concept of food sovereignty in 1996 as an alternative to the idea of food security, which fails to ask who controls food production,

the resources needed to produce food, and who benefits from its production and distribution. Food sovereignty, on the other hand, calls for the control of the food system by those small and family farmers who actually produce most of the world's food. It is also about communities controlling their food systems, and food being produced in ways that do not harm the environment.

Jacklyn Cock – Power and Control in the South African Food System

- The starting point of Jacklyn's presentation was the existence of inequality and how this relates to the existence of hunger in South Africa. She used the example of how while there are at least 12 million people that suffer from hunger in South Africa, there is a restaurant in Johannesburg that charges R7000 for an 8-course tasting menu – and it is fully booked for months in advance. While we have some extremely rich people, we also have a lot of very poor people. This has an important influence on the existence of hunger in South Africa.
- But to understand why we have hunger in South Africa, we should also look at corporate control of our food system and of key staples such as bread and mealie meal. In the last 4 years bread prices have risen by 80%. Bread is a staple food of the working class and poor, which means they are hit hard by these price rises. But why is the price of basic foodstuffs rising? One reason is that as South Africa we used to produce enough wheat for ourselves, but now we also depend on importing wheat which means we depend on what the world market price for wheat is. There is also the question of corporate power in the bread value chain – we see that most bread production is controlled by four companies who make massive profits from selling bread. The people who run the food companies are also making massive incomes from the food that they sell. For example, Christo Wiese, who is the managing director of Shoprite, earned a total of over R600 million in 2011.
- To see why we have hunger we should therefore look at who benefits from food production and how it is distributed. To change this, we have to look at alternatives like food sovereignty and the solidarity economy, to transform how resources are distributed. We have to build a vision from below, based on clear guiding principles.

Brand Nthako – Mining and Its Impact on the Right to Food in the Rural Villages of Mokopane, Limpopo: A View from Below

- Brand presented on the impacts that mining is having on communities around the town of Mokopane in Limpopo Province, and especially on their ability to realise their right to food. He started by analysing the right to food as a right that applies to all human beings, therefore not based on merit or being 'deserving' of the right. It is therefore not a privilege or charity.

- However, mining, especially surface mining, requires a large amount of land, and so when mining enters an area it usually results in small scale farmers being pushed off the land, and people being prevented from grazing their livestock on the land. Therefore whereas there might have been a significant amount of local food production to meet local needs taking place, this is essentially stopped, which impacts on hunger levels in the affected communities. When communities try to challenge being dispossessed of their land they face many barriers, as the state is usually more supportive of mining companies, because they see them as a source of jobs. But what we instead see growing around mining operations is shack lands of the unemployed and hungry. Local traditional authorities are also usually co-opted by the mining companies and hand over the land without consultation or consent of the affected communities. Mining companies then also use huge amounts of water and pollute existing water sources, thus further impacting the health of communities and abilities to produce food. They also result in loss of vegetation and therefore loss of access to herbal and medicinal plants etc.
- What Brand also pointed to was that the power of mining companies and the expansion of mining activities is not just a few bad apples or localised problems, but that the preference for mining and the power handed over to mining companies is part of government policy. It is therefore not only the direct food system itself and the policies relating to it that are undermining the right to food in South Africa but other government policies as well, such as those related to mining.

SESSION 2:

Discussion Document Presentation and Discussion

- A discussion document was produced by COPAC that drew from what was learned in the provincial mapping workshops and that suggested perspectives and issues for advancing a campaign process for the right to food and food sovereignty. Andrew Bennie of COPAC presented a summary of this document, the full version of which had been circulated to participants beforehand and included in their file pack for the dialogue. After the document was presented by Bennie, a panel of three respondents responded to the contents of the paper. They were:
 - **Olive Strachan** – Small Farmer, Randfontein, Gauteng
 - **Adam Mabunda** – Mopani Farmers Union, Giyani, Limpopo
 - **Vasco Madunda** – Nkuzi Development Association, Polokwane, Limpopo

Andrew Bennie – Presentation of Discussion Document

The starting point of this paper is that we need food sovereignty in order to achieve the right to food. As is explained in more detail in the paper, food sovereignty is when farmers, citizens, villages, towns and cities control the food system democratically, rather than big corporations that see food only as something to make maximum profit from. Although the concept and practice of food sovereignty was developed by the world movement of small farmers, Via Campesina, an approach to building food sovereignty is also being developed in South Africa that is strongly linked to the solidarity economy alternative. A crucial aspect to the solidarity economy is building institutions that help to create new patterns of production, consumption and living, that places human need at the centre. It therefore provides important institutions that help to build food sovereignty and social control over food, such as worker and producer cooperatives, cooperative grocers and community marketplaces, and so on.

When exploring state policies and their impacts, one finds that the state is not playing a role that helps to build food sovereignty. Although the state has a whole range of policies that deal with food security, land and agriculture, many aspects of these policies are problematic, and their implementation also faces significant challenges.

In this context, the paper then turns to the challenges faced by various constituencies in relation to the right to food. These challenges include:

- Hunger and malnutrition
- Rising food prices
- Challenges Experienced by Small Scale Farmers
- Access to and control over land
- Lack of and inappropriate state support
- Lack of markets for small farmers
- Access to Water
- Genetic Modification Technology and Control over Seeds
- Lack of Finance
- Climate Change
- Mining
- The Struggles of Informal Food Traders
- Education and Awareness
- Exploitation of workers who produce our food

What is clear, therefore, is that with this range of challenges experienced, a campaign that unites the struggles of farmers, communities, workers, faith groups and NGOs is necessary to advance a campaign for the right to food and food sovereignty, and that is able to tackle these issues based on seeing them as inter-connected. The paper therefore gives a brief overview of the important initiatives, projects and campaigns that are happening in Gauteng, Limpopo and North-west Provinces that could form an important part of how to achieve the right to food and food sovereignty.

The last section of the discussion paper then deals with some challenges that a campaign for the right to food and food sovereignty would need to address. These include:

- Uniting struggles
- Uniting and networking alternatives and organisations
- Education, Capacity, Knowledge Building and Sharing, and Awareness Raising
- The Difference Between Small Scale Farmers and Emerging Farmers
- Creation of alternative markets
- Building the food sovereignty alternative in practice
- Land and Agrarian Reform
- Challenging Capital/Corporations in the Food Sector
- Challenging the State
- The Legal Route and a Food Sovereignty Act

Finally, the paper ends with a proposal for how organisations and communities can go back and start building the campaign, leading up to the national conference. It proposes that organisations run a 3-day workshop with communities on the right to food and food sovereignty, using the activist tool that will be tested at the inter-provincial dialogue, from 25-27 April 2014, to coincide with South Africa's 20 years of democracy. It also proposes that on the last day of the workshop, a declaration is drafted of how they are going to advance food sovereignty in their communities.

First Response: Olive Strachan



- Strachan emphasised the need for both unity between forces championing the right to food, between communities, farmers, faith etc, as well as accountability to each other – hence building democracy. Small farmers should also stand together and learn from each other, and learn to live from the land together with others.
- In relation to accountability, Strachan emphasised that a key actor to hold to account is the government: it has policies, programmes and obligations to give suitable assistance to farmers, but fails to do so. Small farmers need to work together to hold government accountable and ensure it performs proper training and so on.

Second Response: Adam Mabunda

- Adam Mabunda emphasised that being a farmer is something special – his parents were farmers and so he knew he would be one as well. Like Strachan, he emphasised the importance of unity between all the organisations that were present in the room, so that the struggle is fought along many different fronts.
- He stated that what could be added to the discussion paper is a stronger emphasis on climate change and its impacts, as well as the need for a democratic and accountable government that is responsive to the needs of different stakeholders, such as around climate change and the issue of genetically modified seeds. He also emphasised the need to create international unity by joining the global farmers organisation, Via Campesina.
- Lastly, Mabunda argued that the paper could be strengthened by adding more climate change information, by adding a perspective about stopping the exploitation of small farmers and increasing their power in the food system, how to raise awareness on these issues, and how to stop capitalism from undermining the right to food and to transform the food system towards meeting people's needs.

Third Response: Vasco Mabunda



- The central thrust of Vasco Mabunda's response was the centrality of land to achieving the right to food. He said that the paper is comprehensive and covers all the issues raised in the dialogues, but that we cannot talk about the right to food without talking about historical land dispossession. He argued that there is significant power against thorough land redistribution, but that such far-reaching land redistribution is an essential component in shifting the balance of power in the food system to achieve the right to food. He also argued that it was necessary to link land reform to development and education, both in the practical needs to ensure the land is used in ways that are socially useful and contribute to ending hunger, and in human and social transformation. This also requires connecting struggles, locally, nationally and globally.

Discussion:

The session was then opened up for general discussion. Some of the key themes raised included:

- It is important to promote traditional farmers and to plan agroecological calendars so that planting and harvesting can be planned and ensure that communities have year-round local food supplies;
- It is important to discuss genetically modified organisms (GMOs), because they are being promoted by companies and government as ways to increase yields and therefore incomes of farmers, but the truth is that GMOs might create increased harvests in the short term, but where it was tested indigenous harvests fetched the same price and quality at the mill;
- It is important for farmers to save their own seeds in order to increase their independence and build their power. For example, the Mupo Foundation in Limpopo is developing a seed exchange programme for farmers, who can initially take seed to sow their fields with and to develop their own on-farm seed banks, but then have in return at least 3 times the amount of seed they originally took so that the seed bank grows;
- The issue of building the right to food in townships was also raised, as in townships there are very small yards and so it is difficult for people to grow their own food. This raises the importance of building an understanding of food sovereignty as not just about everyone producing their own food at home, but about transforming the food system more broadly to meet the needs of people;
- Further discussion was had on land reform and the challenges, especially relating to corruption etc.

SESSION 3:

Photographic Mapping Exhibition Walkabout and Discussion

As part of the right to food dialogue process, activists had been given disposable cameras to document through photos the story of food in their communities. These photos were developed and enlarged and exhibited around the dialogue venue. Session 3 consisted of participants walking around and looking at the exhibitions, speaking to the photographers, and making notes on the main themes and issues that they were learning from the photos about the experience of food in South Africa.



After spending about 45 minutes engaging with the exhibition, participants returned to plenary for a general discussion, guided by the following questions:

1. What are some of the main themes that you see coming out of the photos?
2. What have you learned about the right to food in South Africa from the photos?
3. Do you think this exhibition is valuable and should be used again to raise awareness? How can we use it to raise awareness?

Some of the main themes to emerge from this discussion included the below. However, what was also exciting is that the exhibition stimulated discussion beyond just the photos to issues around the food system in general, challenges experienced and so on:

- The role and struggles of informal traders – informal traders are important actors in the food chain in that many people, mostly in poorer communities, buy their food from them. However, they also struggle in terms of incomes and from repression from local governments. It was therefore raised how their interests and the interests of small farmers can be united, such as connecting informal traders with small farmers, thus providing small farmers with markets. Currently, most informal traders procure their food from large markets, food that has been produced by large established commercial farmers.
- Although the photos were aimed at showing the story of food among communities and difference constituencies, one of the first themes to emerge from participants was how inspired they were by the photos, showing how African people are dealing with hunger and poverty by taking action to grow their own food, from dwellers in shack settlements to small scale farmers in rural and urban areas. According to them, this shows that there is initiative and energy to change the food system and achieve the right to food and food sovereignty;
- Small farmers are capable of feeding the country and being successful, but they need finance to invest in production and other forms of support. Small farmers in rural and urban areas therefore suffer from a lack of resources;
- The photos also stimulated discussion on the question of land, the need to access it, and ways to access it. For example, one exhibition showed a farm in Limpopo that had been received through the Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programme, while another exhibition showed a land occupation in an urban township for food production;
- The photos show that we need to do away with mining;
- Small farmers are taking action but they do not have the confidence of government, which prefers large scale industrial farming;
- Another challenge experienced by small farmers is that they lack local markets, which are dominated by big retail chains who purchase from established suppliers;
- Much local agriculture and food supply is threatened by contaminated water from mining activities, such as acid mine drainage;
- There is a lot of knowledge on the ground in communities and amongst small farmers. It is therefore necessary for small farmers to share their knowledge and learn from each other.
- It was also strongly agreed that the exhibition is powerful and should be used to raise awareness. The main idea was that it should travel to different parts of the country and be hosted by organisations that have been involved in the dialogue process.

DAY 2

SESSION 4:

Testing the Grassroots Activist Guide on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty

Through the right to food dialogue process COPAC has developed a guide for grassroots activism on the right to food and food sovereignty. A draft of it was briefly presented at the inter-provincial dialogue and the participants were then divided into commissions to each engage with and discuss one module of the guide.

Module 1: Using the Guide as an Activist Tool

Module 2: Understanding Hunger and the Food System

Module 3: The Food Sovereignty and Solidarity Economy Alternative

Module 4: Advancing Agroecology as a Key Component of the Food Sovereignty and the Right to Food

Module 5: Organising and Mobilising for Food Sovereignty and the Right to Food

Their discussion and report backs were guided by the following questions:

1. Do you find the guide useful?
2. Will you use the guide to build capacity and how will you use it?
3. Do you have further ideas or suggestions on the content of the module?



The commissions reported back on their discussions with some excellent comments and suggestions on the guide. Some of the main comments and suggestions included:

- The guide is straightforward and easy to read. Can it be translated into other languages?
- It is important because it raises awareness and consciousness and promotes independence and autonomy;
- It is good that government policies relating to food and agriculture are highlighted and how they are failing so that we can challenge government;
- Stronger focus could be given to the land question;
- There should be stronger focus on GMOs and their impacts and comparing it with other approaches like agroecology;
- How farmers can come together to create coops could be included. (It was noted here that COPAC is working on a guide especially devoted to how to set up a worker cooperative).
- The issue of how to access finance needed for advancing institutions for food sovereignty could be included;
- The guide could include more case studies on successful small scale farmers;
- Can the guide include a data base page showing where to go for support?

It was agreed that COPAC will work on revising the guide based on the input at the dialogue and it will be ready for use in the following few weeks as well as for launching the campaign.

SESSION 5:

Towards the National Conference

The focus of this session was on shaping the national conference. The participants re-assembled in their commissions to discuss the national conference, guided by the following questions:

1. How should we coordinate the building of a national campaign as a build-up to the national conference?
2. Are the issues on pg15-17 of the discussion document the correct issues a campaign should focus on and which we should take to the national conference?
3. What should be the objectives of the national conference on the right to food?
4. What demands do we want to take to business at the national conference?
5. What demands do we want to take to government at the national conference?

After this discussion the commissions reported back on these questions. Below are some of the key themes.

In terms of coordinating the building of a national campaign towards the national conference, it was proposed that further work be done to bring various stakeholders together, media strategies be put into practice, t-shirts developed etc. It was generally agreed that the issues in the discussion document that a campaign should deal with were suitable, and including further objectives such as supplying local markets as a first aim (linked to developing alternative markets), challenging the workings of the international and national market for food, and so on.

Objectives of the National Conference

It was argued out of the commissions that the objectives of the national conference should be to:

- Create a platform government can be engaged and challenged;
- Define the role that the state should be playing in tackling hunger;
- Create a space for us to put our ideas and experiences forward as to why policies relating to food, land and agriculture are not working;
- Engage further with others nationally around struggles and alternatives;
- Find a way to deal comprehensively with the land issue as part of achieving the right to food;
- Further develop a national campaign for the right to food and food sovereignty
- Discuss and propose a Food Sovereignty Act.

Demands to be made to business at the national conference:

- Label products properly, especially those containing GMOs;
- Stop profiting off basic foodstuffs;
- Stop imposing unsuitable technologies like GMOs on small farmers.

Demands to be made to government at the national conference:

- End landlessness – real land reform now
- Proper support for small scale farmers;
- Promote agroecology
- Regulate private business to stop their profiteering from food;
- End the corporate control of food;
- Access to clean water – protect water resources and give equal rights to water to farmers;
- Agrarian reform;
- A Food Sovereignty Act;
- Stop mining's destruction of the environment and community livelihoods.

WAY FORWARD

Based on the proceedings of the inter-provincial dialogue, Vishwas Satgar, the Chairperson of COPAC, consolidated a way forward for the dialogue. He began by saying that what we had been doing at the dialogue was going past the number of 12 million hungry in South Africa to explore what it actually means for the communities who suffer from hunger, to understanding how the challenges faced by small farmers is linked to this existence of such widespread hunger, and to more broadly why we have this situation. He argued that there is a hunger denialism in South Africa and that we have to challenge it as HIV-AIDS denialism was challenged. To do this the poor, those who suffer under our unequal society and food system, have to find their voice and build their power. To win this battle against hunger and the forces creating it, Satgar argued that the way forward is through food sovereignty, through all grassroots and progressive social forces starting to talk about and act on food sovereignty. We must see a situation where even COSATU is talking about food sovereignty rather than food security. We have to win a place for our solutions in society. Key to this is to build a right to food and food sovereignty campaign as well as to start living the alternative now and through collectively building the alternative in our communities. To this end, he pointed to the proposal agreed to at the end of the discussion paper (see below), involving reporting back to communities on the right to food dialogue and holding workshops to launch the right to food and food sovereignty campaign.

Satgar also raised the important issue of land and said that the Landless Peoples Movement is essentially dead and so we are left without a national movement for land. Tackling the land issue and pursuing greater equality in land ownership in South Africa is crucial to food sovereignty and the right to food. We are therefore going to have to deal with this issue seriously as we move forward, and think about how we rebuild a movement that is organized around the land question and that can effectively mobilise to fight for proper land and agrarian reform in this country.

Towards the national conference, Satgar said that we are going to take the exhibition that was engaged with at the dialogue to the national conference. We are going to make clear demands – Satgar emphasized making demands as opposed to begging government and business to change, in the context of the debates we have been having and debates relating to hunger and the right to food in South Africa. We will also make a demand for a food sovereignty act, which will further help give us voice and power and entrench our demands on the state. We will tell the private sector that they cannot profit from food because this creates hunger. We will make clear that we do not want GMOs in our food system as we refuse to be human guinea pigs for unproven GMO technologies, and we need our biodiversity to adapt to climate change.

We need to bring all of this into a national campaign that builds power and inspires those who suffer that there is an alternative – we need to use the campaign to render visible those who are hungry. We can do this by going to bakeries with our t-shirts and blocking their entrances, with our messages of how their profiteering is causing hunger and suffering; we can go to supermarkets and lie in their parking lots with banners, t-shirts and pamphlets challenging their dominance and their role in producing hunger. But we will also advance the alternative in practice by building ways of meeting our community food needs that are socially focused, democratic and grounded in values and principles of solidarity and care – we will hence develop an activism within the campaign that demonstrates “a militancy that is grounded.”

Agreed way forward schedule:

	Action	Deadline
1.	Interprovincial dialogue	26-27 March
2.	Report-back meeting to organisation and planning for community workshop	10 April
3.	Draft and distribute pamphlet to inform and invite community members to workshop	15 April
4.	Hold teleconference to report on preparations	20 April
5.	Hold workshop	25-27 April
6.	Draft declaration at workshop on local food sovereignty campaign	27 April
7.	First teleconference to report on declaration and campaign-building plans	6 May
8.	Second teleconference to report on campaign building and preparation for national conference	15 June
7.	Build local campaign to national conference	July

[illegible]

[illegible]

