

# Department of Land Reform and Rural Development – Outcomes Review - Group 2 Report – Food Security

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*Birchwood, 6-7 October 2011*

The Presidency requested the group to discuss and understand rural versus national food security and then work on the sub-outputs for output 2, namely: “Improved access to affordable and diverse food (reduce the percentage of the population experiencing hunger from 52% to 30%)”.

## **Introduction to the Output**

The chairperson, Professor Sheryl Hendriks, from the University of Pretoria, then summarized the objectives of the output and its sub-outputs, adding some statistics.

The output relates strongly to UN MDG 1. Having said this though, there is no agreed measure for it and we have to think cleverly about affordable food, high food prices currently and how to balance the consumption side and with the production side. Farmers have been crying about prices for a long-time. We should not undermine the viability or profitability of farming. The sub-outputs in the text were introduced as follows:

1. Households producing part of their own food. In South Africa this has not been the same as the Malawian self-sufficiency programme involving the distribution of fertilizer. In South Africa there are many people on margin land.
2. Local storage minimizing losses and deterioration of food, and seasonal availability. Storage losses are 40/50% on farm already.
3. Nutrition for children under 5 is strongly related to brain power and parasites. In South Africa, fats, oils, animal protein and starch are not always part of own food production.
4. People downgrade their food basket when they are without money / cash strapped and this can increase health problems such as high blood pressure and type II diabetes.
5. As regards early warning systems, do we have the potential to predict how many people are negatively impacted by rising food prices.
6. A Food Security policy framework does not exist. The Integrated Food Security Strategy was not accepted at cabinet level and there is work on a new version within DAFF.

The original text contains the following indicators:

1. Reducing hunger 52% to 30% using the National Food Consumption Survey (NFCS)
2. Reducing under-nutrition (wasting) from 9.3% to 5%
3. Keeping CPI food lower than average inflation
4. Increasing the number of households producing some food for themselves

## Group Discussion

Q. Do we link indicators to sub-outputs?

A. Food Security is a complex topic and it is not easy to separate out into parts. There is an international move from availability and access to building resilience to cope with price and income shocks to reduce the need for emergency provision. SA is already committed to achieving MDG 1 by 2015.

Q. Can we look at reducing the number of indicators, if necessary? Our Portfolio Committee complains about starter packs i.e. giving seeds and inputs with no follow-up or indication of success. Starter packs are seen as political patronage. So, indicator, 2.1.4. "Number of starter packs distributed" on page 6 of 17 is problematic.

A. Generic indicators are useful. Those that can universally measure impact on hunger and nutrition are helpful.

The constitution states that every citizen at all times should be able to meet their daily nutrient requirements through purchase or own production.

## Discussion of Sub-outputs (Day 1) and Activities (Day 2)

***“Text in Bold Italics”*** – Changes that were accepted by the people in the group.

(Integer) – the new proposed sequence in the Delivery Agreement document. Sub-outputs have already been re-ordered in the table below.

Paragraphs denote a different speaker.

<b>Day 1 - Sub-output, From Page 12 of the Original Delivery Agreement</b>	<b>Day 2 – Discussion</b>	<b>Day 2 – Activities / Process Plan (Some Example) – Page 26 What can be done differently</b>	<b>Targets</b>
<p>5.2.2.7(1) <b><i>“Comprehensive policy frameworks for food security alignment and effective coordination”</i></b></p>	<p>There is currently no policy. DAFF is busy working on a revised one. The last one did not go through parliament.</p> <p>We need an integrated, comprehensive policy for food security. One that guides different role players.</p> <p>Are we comfortable not mentioning children? Weight monitoring at health care facilities is up to 18 months of age. From 18 months to school is not currently catered for through government programmes. Doctors are meant to weigh kids each time they are brought to the health care facility. Doctors don't weigh consistently.</p> <p>SA could focus on preschools. Europe has free care for children for women at work. We don't have those systems in SA.</p>	<p>The activity of policy drafting or policy framework development should span from local to national. Provinces have started policy work already.</p> <p>There are also international global frameworks to draw on.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, is currently occupied with food security by focusing on food balance sheets and national food security. The DLRRD Green Paper aims to bring citizens in from the sidelines and do things differently. People themselves are responsible for developing the country. DLRRD has a chief directorate on social mobilization.</p>	<p>Measure: Take cue from DLRRD Green Paper first. CRDP dialogue process informing draft before 2013. Draft policy end 2013. Policy in place by 2014.</p> <p>Measure: CRDP forums participating in policy dialogue. All 21 Districts consulted within 2012, get cue. All dialogues completed dialogues by 2014. CRDP is the standard. Increase ownership.</p>

	<p>South Africa does already have many ECD centres.</p> <p>There is a need to improve women's and children's health via a focus on the 1000 days from conception to day 2 and then the next 1000 days to 5 years.</p> <p>What about gender specific nutritional needs?</p> <p>How do we ensure that programmes meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups. This should be put as a specific output.</p>	<p>The second activity relates to public dialogue and community mobilization. Having been piloted, we can now use the CRDP of dialogue process that emphasizes community participation and writing and communicating in people's own languages.</p> <p>Is this different from Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)?</p> <p>No, it uses PRA methodologies. Forums are being formed from local to provincial level. We propose to use those channels. DAFF does not have this channel. The process was started by COGTA and it relates to technical forums /clusters e.g. of water engineers. Provincial level forums with the MEC heading the cluster, includes different departments e.g. Social Development or Agriculture.</p>	
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<p>5.2.2.1(2) Households <b>“sustainably”</b> producing part of their own food, <b>“beyond subsistence, where possible”</b></p>	<p>There is a need to clarify the distribution of starter packs. We are not sure of what happens with the starter pack. Even if we try to monitor, we do not have the capacity. There is a gap between what we want and what can be done. There is a need for partnership.</p> <p>The sub-output is an ideal to strive for. We encourage households to produce.</p> <p>The Portfolio Committee is shown pictures of household gardens when there is nothing there. Agriculture is seasonal.</p> <p>Should we amend the sub-output or activities now or later. For 1 person, the sub-output is already clear.</p> <p>Should the sub-output mention sustainability. Sometimes food is only available in one season. At other times, everyone is growing cabbages?</p> <p>We could include environmental and seasonal sustainability. If so, hybrid seeds do influence the design of support programmes.</p> <p>From research about the impact of gardens, people are only deemed well when they actually start to sell food. Children do not like vegetables and this common across cultures. When people sell produce they can</p>	<p>We need deliberate action to establish household food gardens and a guide on the design of these.</p> <p>What type of food gardens? Small farms have the same definitional issue.</p> <p>Food gardens can be defined by their: size, food basket / food mix, environmental aspects (heat units, chill units), localized context and soil deficiencies (e.g. nitrogen).</p> <p>How can there be consistent performance assessment of gardens across provinces?</p> <p>Provinces are not the same, it is not possible to have one size fits all. There are only a few types of productive gardens.</p> <p>Is it out policy or intention for every household in every CRDP site to produce part of their own food. It is not possible at every site. Before we are able to have household gardens, including institutional garden, we need to a feasibility study of each area. Know the terrain. Most serious, is the presence of water. A study</p>	<p>30% of households could be the target. Currently about 10% of households are engaged in agriculture.</p> <p>Interventions must be reported by garden type:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Backyard / Immediate gardens attached to homes. Here the focus is water harvesting technology.</li> <li>2. 1-3 hectare plots. Here the focus could be borehole water and fencing. Larger plots have two types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Community projects at crop fields beyond homesteads.</li> <li>✓ Institutional projects at Faith Based Organisations, schools and clinics.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>We agreed to set a target for feasibility studies for designs in all 21 District Municipalities. These studies must be made prior to next financial year i.e. 2012/2013.</p>
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	<p>buy margarines and oils i.e. being able to provide a complete diet through income substitution from not having to buy vegetables and earning some cash.</p> <p>Should we make sense of the output as it stands or should we go to detail about how to achieve it? The sub-output is adequate, it does not need any further tampering with. We could add the education and finance motivation as there are quite a number of things involved in achieving the sub-output. On its own it is what we need.</p> <p>Some land and water is not safe for food production.</p> <p>We agreed to add “beyond subsistence”, “where possible” because of marginal land and food safety risks.</p>	<p>must be made prior to the next financial year to give estimates of the budget involved. In this particular area, it is JoJo tanks. In another it is drinking water and washing water. In some areas we could work with DWE to have taps. Windmills are only possible in certain areas.</p> <p>There is a need to redesign and make use of current information. For example, NISIS provides information about household that have gardens and crops. It could inform the design.</p> <p>Please think about demonstration gardens at Universities, colleges and municipalities. Communities can visit the demonstration garden and interact with staff.</p> <p>Consider the indigenous systems. Involve people in the design process.</p> <p>Understanding that we have had limited time for discussing things, this group could go to rural areas to discuss issues further. The group could be a subset of the Outcome 7 Implementation Forum. We should identify other</p>	
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		departments that are critical. e.g. for JoJo, tanks it is the Department of Human Settlements. There are problems of land and land ownership.	
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<p>5.2.2.2(3)  <b>“Improving”</b>  local storage and processing for <b>“minimized losses and deterioration and improved nutrient availability and food safety”</b></p>	<p>At a local level there is a need for maize storage. In Sekhukhune, Limpopo, communal grain storage is already taking place with commercial grain farmers. We could be more creative.</p> <p>The sub-output is ok as it is. Local storage, minimizing losses and deterioration and seasonal availability. It is well captured.</p> <p>The focus is on storage. Does it include processing? Where is the output on processing?</p> <p>Processing support can be through providing infrastructure and minimizing risks of volatile prices.</p> <p>It is a challenge to extend nutrient availability through processing. There are mangoes being processed in this way that are highly nutritious.</p> <p>Food safety is also a worry.</p> <p>Processing is contentious. Our foods are too refined already. You can see it in our distorted physiques. Processed food is denatured.</p> <p>Perhaps we could focus on the way that foods are preserved. There are very simple traditional ways of preserving certain foods, where people cannot afford certain costs.</p>	<p>Community storage systems (silos) could be supported in communal areas along with culture of cultivation and perhaps with support in management.</p> <p>Progress milling is storing community grain harvests and then processing into meal for relatively low fees. We could explore the involvement of private sector.</p>	<p>Measure: One pilot storage site per district. Community storage facility by the end of the next financial year.</p> <p>Measure: Establish an agri-park per year for each of the 21 districts to 2014.</p>
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	<p>It is also about influencing consumer tastes and how we bring our children up e.g. white and brown bread.</p> <p>If one tries to process some farmed produce at home at kitchen scale there can be limitations. For example, soya milk and soya protein products are challenging and processing techniques and technologies need to be taught.</p> <p>Processing can be taken care of under improving local storage instead of creating a new sub-output.</p>		
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<p>5.2.2.3(4)  <b>“Improved”</b>  access to ”, <b>and</b>  <b>knowledge of,”</b>  nutritious foods</p>	<p>When on purchases food one does not know what nutrients it contains to start with.</p> <p>There is a trend towards traditional foods.</p> <p>Food labeling is meant to support improved knowledge of nutrition.</p> <p>How many of our rural people actually go to supermarkets?</p> <p>We should conduct research and development on cultivar choices and vitamins at production level.</p> <p>Please alter this one, add “, and knowledge of,”</p> <p>Could we promote traditional foods? They grow well in rural areas. Commercialization would provide many opportunities.</p> <p>The text is too long, however, could we add “and value indigenous foods”.</p> <p>People only read the main sub-output.</p> <p>We should highlight that indigenous foods are disappearing.</p> <p>This sub-output is the only one that is close to indigenous knowledge systems.</p> <p>They are climate smart and drought</p>	<p>There could be changes to the school curriculum.</p> <p>We should work mostly with education and extension officers.</p> <p>The priority is children before school going age and mothers with infants.</p> <p>We should draw in the agencies that render the nutrition education services. Department of Education, Department of Health, DAFF and the Municipalities. They could reach all sectors of the community.</p> <p>We work with orphans, vulnerable sector and youth. Some children are not in school. They stay with their grand parents.</p> <p>Policy could inform for later use.</p>	<p>Measure: Number of cultural events and celebrations related to Africa day and nutrition awareness.</p> <p>Number of community kitchens and clinics as knowledge dissemination centres, actively engaging in nutrition education, that includes an IKS component. For example, some facilities provide meals from 11am – 3:30pm for R2.00 for a complete plate.</p>
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	<p>resistant.</p> <p>In the West wheat is used too early as a weaning food. There should be more focus on non-allergenic foods, like sorghum. We go for western ideas, let alone the fact that most wheat is imported into South Africa.</p>		
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<p>5.2.2.4(5) Adequate income to buy food <b><i>“and assets and savings to ensure future access”</i></b></p>	<p>This involves government providing income grants.</p> <p>What is an adequate income to buy food really?</p> <p>There are many other types of activities that can take place to increase income to purchase food. Enterprise development can create incomes. As it stands it looks adequate.</p> <p>How about this item being composed of: 1) Grants, 2) EPWP, CWP, YDP for own production for sale.</p> <p>Bartering occurs inside communities.</p> <p>Seasonal agricultural labour is short lived.</p> <p>Are food vouchers an option, should we try to force the private sector to have a contribution via food stamps.</p> <p>The sub-output is more linked to access to nutritious food, mainly for vulnerable groups.</p> <p>One community leader once said that monthly grants could be used differently if they were provided in larger units than is currently the case for monthly grants. Bulk funds could be used for the purchase of productive assets instead of disappearing</p>	<p>We should focus on the design of public works programmes and the use of Public Works funds.</p> <p>There are working for food programme, where people don't get paid cash. People get food parcels.</p> <p>What is the content of the food parcels?</p> <p>After starting within working for food, people say they would rather have money and they could graduate to join other programmes. We take photographs at the beginning and end of the food for work programme as a form of assessment.</p> <p>We could request finance and treasury to communication messages about savings. Much like the Credit Act components, albeit targeting SA's low savings rate.</p> <p>Sub-output talks to job creation. BIG give people grants. Deliberate effort by government.</p> <p>What resources are there for people to earn in the rural areas.</p>	<p>Measure: number of possible economic activities identified in 21 District Municipalities.</p>
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	<p>into ordinary consumption expenditure. Some areas and some people within them have absolutely no income, except the grant income cross-subsidy.</p> <p>Leave this sub-output for outcome 3 to deal with. Don't promote the issues of grants.</p> <p>Leave it as is.</p> <p>How about a progression from those not able to find employment to improved chances of employment, i.e. a continuum.</p> <p>Grants won't result into adequacy. Let us find the relevant output for bridging the gap.</p> <p>Within the NARESEC programme we don't understand "adequate". It involves 2 years and then unemployment. It is not clear.</p> <p>Ethiopia limits grants to a number of years and then promotes starting employment and graduating to an incubator. One cannot stay grant dependence for ever.</p> <p>The idea that social grants build assets has not really happened. It provides more incentives to provide for themselves.</p> <p>We should refer to Output 3, sustainable livelihoods. E.g. bricklaying companies etc.etc. Businesses making profit can break</p>	<p>Speak of minimum income. Pensions given to people. Job creation funds that are there. As It Programmes of collective buying and selling increase the bargaining power of the people.</p> <p>Should we say that X% of Public works expenditure should be on agriculture.</p> <p>The Department of Social Development creates lots of gardens. Is there a more sustainable form of intervention. How do we fit in DSD?</p> <p>We should get funds from Treasury, to help give us the capacity to deliver this.</p> <p>Without going to treasury, there is the DBSA and other funders. At community level, we are not sourcing these funds and do not know about the utilization of these funds. I propose a workshop about funds and how to capacitate people to utilize them.</p> <p>Is this only about agriculture or is it also non-agricultural. We should create projects to generate income.</p>	
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	<p>the issue of grants. I support this sub-outputs removal.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>What do we mean by adequate? Are we talking about money. Are we going to support removing this sub-output.</p> <p>This sub-output is related to other sub-outputs. e.g. promoting household gardens increasing own production by some, not all, while others will produce for sale, grants and jobs are part of buying the food that is produced.</p> <p>Other outputs and sub-outputs will attend to it by increasing capacity to earn income.</p>	<p>What about the survivalist level and destitute families. We should identify them and roll-out a programme to graduate people from indigence. We could even provide food vouchers so that people can go and get a particular basket.</p> <p>There is a need for economic mapping in the 21 district areas to identify possible job creation projects in a specific area. Identification of economic activities in the 21 district.</p>	
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<p>5.2.2.5(6) Food prices stable and affordable “, <b>improving the bargaining power of producers and consumers through transparent market information systems”</b></p>	<p>This is about farmers being profitable. Farmers are not making any profit they are price takers. PnP pays after three months.</p> <p>Farmers are also squeezed by input and transport and fuel and tolls.</p> <p>The Competition Commission could play a role on the input side. Fertiliser for example.</p> <p>What is sustainable agrarian reform? That a struggling agricultural sector contributes to affordable and sustainable food prices?</p> <p>Make sure that farmers incomes are high enough.</p> <p>What about people who are food insecure?</p> <p>With retailers, the farmer does not even get anything anyway.</p> <p>There are monopolies. 15% of food companies produce the bulk of stock in the supermarkets. They are causing these problems. Have you seen the film “Food incorporated”. Small people do not know what is hitting us.</p> <p>As the bread price fixing scandal shows. Farmers know how the system works.</p> <p>With all these dynamics we shall stand helpless. Let people take initiative in</p>	<p>Organisation of rural purchasing coops creating opportunities for groups as compared to individual purchasing through negotiating better prices.</p> <p>Food Producer Associations to improve marketing prices.</p> <p>Shoprite was serious competition against PNP.</p> <p>This sub-output links to Agriparks.</p> <p>There are current changes with shops in rural areas. Recently all over that are being taken over by Somalis and the Chinese. Working as coops. Very good prices. Out people are not socialized in sales.</p> <p>Shoprite is also taking over shops. Local shopkeepers are closing stores. We need to empower people to maintain their status quo.</p>	<p>None defined as yet.</p>
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	<p>producing food and not be bulldozed to take it or leave it at any price.</p> <p>Improve the bargaining of rural producers.</p> <p>According to the NAMC, rural communities pay more for food than urban communities.</p> <p>Food price inflation is currently just above average inflation. Energy at 16% is giving us the problem. Processed food uses the energy. Raw food prices are not changing (sic). In Limpopo 92% of households connected to electricity, there is less money for food, oils and fats.</p> <p>This sub-output can only be achieved if food is available. Households producing and storage.</p> <p>Government can stabilize prices through bans and tariffs.</p> <p>We could improve the knowledge base of farmers and consumers to improve their bargaining position. E.g. expensive spaza shop buying in small quantities.</p> <p>What are we trying to achieve? What is the intention?</p> <p>Are we trying to protect the consumer or the farmer?</p>		
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	<p>We are trying to build the rural economy.</p> <p>Increasing production efficiency.</p> <p>Rural communities don't understand how markets function. Even urban communities.</p> <p>Adverts manage them. That is where they are killing us.</p> <p>Competition commission is sorting them out.</p> <p>Balancing the consumer and producers and their role in their market. With practical things to action that.</p>		
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<p>5.2.2.6(7)  <b>“Timely communication of”</b> early warning of potential food security challenges <b>“with sound contingency plans, systems and reserves for efficient responses”</b></p>	<p>Disaster response needs to be more speedy. E.g. vaccines for Foot and Mouth Disease.</p> <p>Add “Timely” early warning.</p> <p>Somalia, USAID knew 9 months ago and did not raise the emergency level in time. Government refused to declare a crisis.</p> <p>We should have a communication system involving various departments and the veterinary services.</p> <p>In the USA, during Hurricane Katrina, the military airlifted 1 million people in one day. Imagine if that happened here. We don’t have that capacity. To move vaccines for example.</p> <p>Add “efficiently Communicating” early warning</p> <p>Add “timely communication of early warning.”</p> <p>We have some systems not contingency plans to deal with a crisis.</p> <p>We should have a system that is beyond crisis. That can predict how many more people could be affected.</p> <p>Please elevate the issue of food reserves.</p>	<p>Government has no information. The figures reported in 1994 have not changed.</p> <p>CAADP has five simple indicators. Assets, per capita income. % food in expenditure, diversity of foods, stunting, Road to Health Card.</p> <p>The early warning system relates to NISIS.</p>	
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	<p>In 2006 the government decided to use cash reserves not government physical grain reserves. Management of grain reserves is complex. World stocks are at the lowest in 25 years. One cannot buy physically. USA has 55 days of stock on average. The world has 79 days on average. SA has a 12 months storage capacity of 12 Million tons.</p> <p>What does that translate into in the number of days person?</p> <p>The owners can play the market with that 12 million tons.</p> <p>Don't try to fix something that is not broken.</p> <p>Communication cuts across all these issues. The media never reaches our rural clients. Those people down there.</p> <p>Knowledge is not enough by itself, it has to be disseminated. Early warning is also about communicating. Where reasonable price.</p> <p>In South Sudan areas were only accessibly by helicopter, despite this pastoralists in Juba could get market prices via cell phone.</p> <p>We are dealing where with ICT issues that need to be flagged. Those guys must assist us with what technologies.</p> <p>Having the plan and capacity to respond. Is</p>		
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	<p>that under activities?</p> <p>Our preparedness to meet the crisis. Let us have the food reserves. Flag as a separate output to the early warning.</p> <p>Locate it within storage.</p> <p>Existing companies produce big time, let us talk about local storage and the food banks.</p> <p>In times of crisis, remember, we are at the lowest level of food security. Survival.</p> <p>The reserves in the silos are for the big guys.</p> <p>Having the vaccines and contingency for multiple emergency.</p>		
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<p>5.2.2.8 (new)  <b><i>“Deliberate efforts to target the vulnerable with a special emphasis on women and children”</i></b></p>	<p>DSD supports about 120 000 ECD centres, however there is no proactive stand such as “an ECD centre in every village”. DSD waits for communities to make the request. Women need to be released for work and time to focus on food security.</p> <p>In Mpumalanga, for example, ward profiles have been completed. 7 of the most vulnerable wards include plans up to 2014 and as Agriculture, we have committed to 100 ECD buildings being constructed with DSD. This year 6 were built. As yet this is not a national move.</p> <p>We should influence the design of a community nutrition chain.</p> <p>If there is a focus within policy development, please choose children and nutrition.</p> <p>Should we say “vulnerable groups” instead of only “women and children”?</p> <p>Vulnerable groups is too broad.</p> <p>People living with, and affected by, HIV/AIDS are a subset of women and children within vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>We should bring back the old practices of monitoring children at school via health practitioners.</p> <p>You could review NISIS to pick up information about indigence and extreme poverty. Every 6 months, we go back to these families. Government information should be overlapped. StatsSA helped to design NISIS.</p> <p>The proposed activity is to establish ECD centres.</p>	<p>No measures defined.</p>
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