



Western Cape
Government

Agriculture

FOR YOU



**Agricultural Producer Support and Development
Sub-programme: Food Security**

Background

Food Security is defined as a situation in which ALL people at ALL times have PHYSICAL and ECONOMIC ACCESS to SUFFICIENT, SAFE and NUTRITIOUS FOOD to meet their DIETARY NEEDS and FOOD preferences for an ACTIVE HEALTHY LIFE. Food insecurity, on the other hand, is defined as a LACK of access to adequate, safe and nutritious food and this is directly correlated with poverty.



FOOD SECURITY

The Republic of South Africa places food and nutrition security high on the development agenda within government. This is clearly demonstrated by the number of policy instruments and strategies that are put in place to realise this. The right to food is entrenched as a Constitutional Mandate in the Republic of South Africa, Section 27 of the Constitution.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT (APSD)

The Programme APSD has a sub-programme for Food Security. This sub-programme co-ordinates and implements various food production initiatives as highlighted and adopted in the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy for South Africa. It also provides information and facilitates training to community projects and households benefitting from these food security initiatives. In 2011, it was found that even though only 3% of households in the Western Cape had a backyard food garden, 94% of households with a food garden in the Western Cape never experienced hunger, which indicates that food gardens can make a significant contribution to the food security status of the province.

The vision of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDoA), is to ensure a transformed and sustainable agricultural sector thus ensuring food security and economic prosperity for all. As the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, we are committed to play our part in ensuring that the vulnerable households in the province have access to adequate, safe and nutritious food.



THE AIM AND INTERVENTIONS

Food security's aim

The aim of the sub-programme is to support, advise and coordinate implementation of various food production initiatives as highlighted and adopted in the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy for South Africa. This is done through coordination and implementation of household food security initiatives, community and school food gardens and supporting smallholder farmers.

Food security's interventions

The sub-programme has the following interventions i.e. household food security initiatives, community and school food security projects and supporting smallholder farmers. These food security interventions aim to ensure that all food security dimensions are achieved i.e. availability, access, utilisation, stability, nutrition and urgency. These food security interventions are briefly explained below.





Household food security initiatives

The WCDoA has allocated funding through their Food Security programme to support poor and vulnerable households to start their food gardens. Through this programme the WCDoA hopes to inspire communities to grow their own food, as a way to meet their immediate food needs. Under the household gardens programme, households with a total household income that is below R4500 per month, who want to start a food garden qualify for funding assistance. Applications are received on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Food production starter pack/kit

Qualifying households will receive vegetable home gardening and chicken production starter packs/kits and training.

Who qualifies for the programme?

1. Households with a joint income below R4500 per month.
2. Proof of previous growing experience (food or any plants).
3. Access to land (minimum of 2x3 metre space OR space for vertical garden).
4. Access to water source (roof for harvesting or well point or grey water use).
5. A household member available to attend training/demonstration.

What do I need to apply?

1. Application form
2. Applicant's copy of South African ID
3. Valid address with a house number

Community/school food security gardens

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture is giving support to community/school food gardens who are currently running or to qualifying people who want to start their own food gardens. The applications are received throughout the year. Applications are submitted to the nearest district office of the Department of Agriculture.

What does it include?

The support given will be in the form of seedlings, equipment, garden tools etc. (not money) and can include any of the following (subject to the need and budget availability).

Who qualifies for the programme?

1. Unregistered community groups with a GROUP NAME and LEADER.
2. Groups that have a minimum of three (3) members.
3. Land - own land OR 3 year lease if farming on government land OR 5 year lease if farming on private land OR letter of permission from school or clinic.
4. Access to non-municipal water (e.g. roof to harvest water from, borehole, a well point, dam, river or grey water system).
5. Prior experience in farming.
6. Available to attend the training (2 days minimum).

NB: Applicants must fulfil all six (6) of the above criteria to be eligible for funding.

What will strengthen your application?

1. The group has clear member roles and responsibilities.
2. The garden will be able to generate enough income to sustain itself.
3. The gardening project has a potential for job creation.
4. The applicants have already contributed towards the project themselves.
5. The applicants have partnerships with other established community gardens.
6. Your project has not previously received government funding.

What do I need to apply?

1. Completed application form.
2. A lease agreement (3-5 year lease), title deed or document indicating the right to occupy the land.
 - School garden: A letter signed by the Principal and School Governing Body (SGB) Chairperson on the Western Cape Department of Education's letterhead, confirming access (for at least 3 years) to the gardens during weekends & school holidays as well as access to electricity.
 - Church land: Approval letter for a period not shorter than 3 years from the Church Leader or Pastor on a Church letterhead.
 - Clinic garden: Approval letter for a period not shorter than 3 years from Clinic Manager on WCDoA letterhead.
 - City of Cape Town land: Confirmation letter for a period not shorter than 3 years from a councillor or any relevant owning authority. *These letters should indicate access to land (size), water and electricity.*
3. Copies of certified IDs for applicants and people working in the garden.



Supporting smallholder farmers/producers

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture supports a number of smallholder farmers across different commodity groups. They are supported through both financial and non-financial support. The financial support is through the national grant called Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP). The farmers are invited to apply for possible financial support through this grant. The application forms are always posted on the website of the Department. This is a once off application process with a closing date.



FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

In addition to the above-mentioned food security interventions, the WCDoA has the following flagship projects: One Home! One Garden, Nourish 2 Flourish, World Food Day (WFD), WFD school competition and Food Garden Competition.

One Home! One Garden

The WCDoA believes that it is very important for every household to have a food garden in the province. This will contribute towards food security in the province. There has been a growing interest over recent years to strengthen and intensify the growing of food at household level. Home gardens are an integral part of the local food systems and the agricultural landscape within developing countries all over the world and has endured the test of time.

The WCDoA wants to:

- Ensure the affordability, availability and accessibility of nutritious food for domestic consumption by means of household food production.
- Assist households to be able to produce enough food to meet basic household food security needs throughout the year.
- Improve family nutrition while generating additional income from sale of surplus production.
- Encourage the use of greywater systems due to water restrictions and water shortage.

Nourish 2 Flourish

As part of the Economic Recovery Plan after the devastating effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Western Cape Government (WCG) has put together a Nourish 2 Flourish (N2F) Mobilisation Strategy as a new approach that focuses on intervening directly in the food system along the priority areas i.e. jobs, safety, well-being and dignity. The Department of the Premier leads this but the WCDoA is fully involved in the implementation of this programme through our food security initiatives. The N2F approach focuses on the following food assistance for a flourishing life, improved market access to nourish food, enabling flourishing food systems for the future and governing a flourishing food system.

This is a collaborative action and results driven process with multidisciplinary stakeholders coming together to fight the scourge of poverty, hunger and malnutrition especially among the vulnerable groups in society i.e. children, youth, women, orphans, the disabled and the elderly.



World Food Day (WFD)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) was founded on 16 October 1945 after the World War II. FAO continues to lead the annual World Food Day global celebrations on 16 October, which has become the most celebrated event on the UN calendar. As a country, South Africa puts the issues of Food Security on top of the development agenda and has allocated the necessary policy framework and resources to address the issues. The country also joins over 150 countries across the globe to celebrate World Food Day.

As the WCDoA, we have made the World Food Day one of our Flagship projects. We do not just talk about World Food Day in theory but we celebrate it in action. We continue to put in our resources and efforts to tackle food insecurity challenges where it matters the most; that is at the community and household levels.



WFD school competition

One of the aims of World Food Day is to emphasise and create awareness on the importance of food and tackle food insecurity challenges amongst our communities. The purpose of the school competition is to foster this importance at an early age amongst school going youth.

The school competition is relevant to the curriculum and the theme of World Food Day each year. The winners are awarded prizes sponsored by WCDoA and other organisations that are involved in teaching and learning such as Die Stigting vir Bemagtiging deur Afrikaans.



Food garden competition

The food garden competition is an initiative of the WCD of AgriBurg aimed at encouraging subsistence farming (including households) to produce their own food sustainably and in this way respond to the challenges of food insecurity in rural, urban and peri-urban areas. The competition was introduced in 2011 and was traditionally linked to the World Food Day project, which seeks to heighten public awareness on the global challenges of hunger and malnutrition. The main aim is to ensure that gardeners are committed in terms of managing their gardens thus ensuring sustainability. The following considerations are key towards sustainability i.e. Good gardening practices (sustainable use of resources), variety of vegetables and other edible crops produced in the garden in order to strengthen household food diversity, water and soil conservation (use of recycled water for food production) and innovation. Top performers are identified and rewarded. The prizes are in the form of vouchers for agricultural items and the gift packs e.g. compost, fertiliser, different seeds packs. All this serves to encourage all gardeners to take care of their food gardens so that they can produce food in a sustainable manner.



For further information, please contact your nearest Extension Officer in your district area:

- Cape Metropole (Goodwood) 021 483 7779
- Cape Winelands (Stellenbosch) 021 808 7051
- Central Karoo (Beaufort-West) 023 415 3134
- Garden Route (George) 044 803 3757
- Little Karoo (Oudtshoorn) 044 272 6077
- North West Coast (Vredendal) 027 482 2153
- Overberg (Bredasdorp) 028 425 4807
- Swartland (Moorreesburg) 022 433 8901

Contact Details:

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