

**COVER PAGE**

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Title of project: **Co-producing knowledge for resilient food systems in the Western Cape**

## 2. ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 crisis has disrupted food systems in the Western Cape, contributing to loss of livelihoods, deepening poverty and food insecurity, and ultimately heightening social tensions. These disruptions are affecting diverse food system domains, posing novel challenges and opportunities for the Government of the Western Cape. This project aims to help explore these and reach recommendations for action. Particular areas of concern identified in the initial project proposal include the impact of Covid19 lockdown on informal trade, emergency food relief, urban agriculture, supermarket retail and formal sector consolidation, fisheries, and social food networks.

**The project is aligned** with the WC Draft Strategic Framework for the Provincial Strategic Plan (PSP), which identifies food security as one of four cross-cutting themes. It advances several of the Vision Inspired Principles (VIPs), namely *VIP 1: Safe and Cohesive Communities; VIP 3: Empowering People; VIP 4: Mobility and Spatial Transformation; VIP 5: Innovation and Culture.*


**To date**, the project has achieved important milestones.

1. The project convened a **panel of experts** as a reference group to refine the approach, methods and outputs. The panel has been expanded to ensure greater racial and gender diversity.
2. The project conducted **6 CoP gatherings** in pursuit of this project's aims, including one each on informal trade, urban agriculture, emergency food relief, formal retail, food price monitoring and two on thematic areas extending beyond the scope of the original proposal, namely food waste and childhood nutrition. Both were identified by WC and CoCT officials as being important and findings are informing the project implementation and will be incorporated within the project output.
3. Project members **participated in several related online workshops and seminars**, including regular gatherings of the WC Food Forum convened by the WCEDP as well as the City of Cape Town's informal Food Working Group.
4. The issues discussed within CoP gatherings informed the development of **three policy briefs** on themes identified as being of primary importance: urban agriculture, informal trade, and civil society food aid. Smaller follow-up consultations were held with stakeholders and experts to review and refine the policy briefs, and inputs have been consolidated.
5. A **science communications expert has been recruited** who has formulated the outputs in an accessible and engaging manner, incorporating key soundbytes and video recordings of the CoP gatherings. **The policy briefs are available** on the website of the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security:
  - a. [Civil Society Organisations: CSOs should have a central role in food governance.](#) (Download low-res version [here](#))
  - b. [Urban Agriculture: Quick fix for urban food insecurity or site of struggle for deep, just food systems change?](#) (Download low-res version [here](#))
  - c. [Leveraging Informal Trade: Governance strategies to cultivate resilient, inclusive food economies](#) (Download low-res version [here](#))
6. A CoP gathering was convened to present the final draft policy briefs for review and to discuss a dissemination strategy.
7. **An infographic is currently under development**, and will likely include links to the policy briefs. [Download draft infographic pdf here.](#)

# CHEC WCG Innovation Grant Call 2020 - Final Report: Co-producing knowledge for resilient food systems in the Western Cape

## THE FOOD PROBLEM

Food systems are made up of more than just agriculture. They are large, complex networks that include all people, groups, private companies, public institutions and activities involved in the production, processing, packaging, distribution, selling and serving of food, linking commercial and small-scale farmers to supermarkets, street vendors, spaza shops and restaurants. Although production largely takes place in rural areas, many elements like processing, packaging, distribution and retail are clustered in cities and governed by municipalities.



### VULNERABILITY

Our food systems are brittle and increasingly stressed. They can be disrupted by shocks like the Covid-19 lockdown, fuel price hikes, extreme weather caused by climate change, droughts, or civil unrest. These food systems failures cannot be fixed by growing more food or improving efficiencies.


### WHY DO FOOD SYSTEMS IN SOUTH AFRICA NEED TO CHANGE?

South Africa's increasingly concentrated food system delivers a bitter harvest.

- Obesity and non-communicable diseases caused by low diversity, calorie-dense diets and ultra-processed foods
- Widespread food insecurity
- Child stunting due to chronic malnutrition
- Environmental destruction
- Job losses

### TRANSITIONS

To adapt to these threats, to promote an inclusive economy, to nurture health and protect ecosystems, we must transform food systems.




### INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE


Inclusive place-based governance can promote food system transformations by growing local knowledge and cultivating stakeholder networks across sectors, including civil society, research institutions, government and private enterprises. Stakeholders must interrogate what kinds of food systems should be promoted, and which kinds discouraged by new governance arrangements.

### WHAT AREAS OF THE FOOD SYSTEM MUST CHANGE?

Opportunities for transition towards justice, resilience, and sustainability exist across food systems, including:

- Informal trade
- Urban agriculture
- Civil society
- Big Food retail
- Fisheries
- Waste
- Child Nutrition





## 3. INTRODUCTION AND AIMS / QUESTIONS

The overarching aim of this project is to support the Government of the Western Cape and wider stakeholders to respond to the immediate challenges to the food system posed by the Covid-19 crisis and to leverage the opportunity to reshape the policy space to enable a healthier, more equitable and sustainable South African food system. The project will also help strengthen the Western Cape Food Governance Community of Practice so that it can support the governance of the food system in the medium and long term including mobilising knowledge and stakeholders in the implementation of the WCG Household Western Cape Household Food and Nutrition Security Strategic Framework.

Specific project objectives include:

- To understand the policy and governance problems in each of the six challenge areas:
  - Informal trade
  - Civil society in emergency food relief
  - Urban agriculture
  - Supermarket retail and formal sector consolidation
  - Fisheries
  - Social food networks
- Develop networks and processes of knowledge co-production.
- Strengthen the CoP as a platform for participatory policy innovation and collaborative action.
- Inform policy and governance.

The project aimed to generate the following outputs:

- 3 thematic multimedia policy briefs with stakeholder voices;
- 1 infographic
- 1 concise overview report.

## 4. RESEARCH APPROACH AND METHODS

The project employed a knowledge co-generation approach, enabling the exchange and synthesis of practical knowledge from multiple sectors (academia, state, civil

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society, citizen) in a dialogic process. This entailed five interlinked phases for each thematic area:

- **Concept and Planning:** Developing thematic overviews, identifying potential speakers and panelists, setting dates and circulating invitations for workshops.
- **Recruitment:** Soliciting expert contributions for keynote presentations and panel discussions.
- **Facilitation:** Online workshops were facilitated by the CoP secretariat using the Zoom platform. Each workshop included an introduction to the CoP, the subject matter, a line-up of speakers and panelists, 2-3 presentations of 10-15 minutes each by keynote speakers followed by 4-6 reflections of approximately 5 minutes each, open discussion by call participants, conclusion and invitation to collaborate.
- **Follow-up:** The recordings of each gathering were uploaded to cloud storage and transcribed. Key themes and discussions were recorded in a brief workshop report that was circulated to all participants, usually within a week of the event.
- **Media design:** The key findings were synthesized in draft policy briefs which were circulated to sub-groups of concerned stakeholders for review and comment. The media design specialist attended most of these meetings, and has reviewed the drafts. The design specialist will be revising and editing the draft policy brief content to ensure that it is readable to a broad audience, and designing the infographic to reflect the key domains of concern. Consultation with state officials familiar with the institutional landscape and policy development process have made concrete proposals concerning the intended readership and dissemination strategy.

The approach taken differed from the timeline proposed initially, in that most of the CoP gatherings were held before work on policy briefs commenced. In addition, the two additional themes (waste and child nutrition) identified by members of the reference group led to dedicated online workshops.

Consequently, one of the thematic areas has not been taken forward, and may need to be re-considered:

**Community food networks:** due to a high degree of engagement with such networks by other research groups and negative perceptions around extractive research processes, prospective participants in this research theme appeared unwilling to engage.

A two-phase approach to the development of the formal retail policy brief was suggested by the reference group. While the first phase has been concluded, a second engagement was held in February 2021. While there is interest among CoP members to collaborate in developing a policy brief on this topic, resource constraints mean that additional funding and capacity will need to be leveraged to complete this.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION**

The knowledge co-production approach has worked well, developing several sub-groups of concerned subject-matter experts and practitioners and distilling key learnings and innovations. Below are summaries of the dialogues convened as part of this project, providing a broad overview of key findings.

### **Urban agriculture**

*Urban agriculture is a central part of both state and community responses to food insecurity, which has received increased attention with C19 lockdown. However, there is little evidence to support claims for its impact reducing food insecurity or poverty at scale. City-dwellers access most food through food environments made up of various retail outlets connected to the wider food system - the network of activities and relationships involved in producing, processing, distributing and selling food. Isolated focus on urban agriculture as a solution to food insecurity and poverty may distract from deeper, more systemic change. If urban agriculture is to play a more powerful role to promote food security and develop livelihoods, it requires a supportive policy environment that facilitates **access to key resources** such as land, water, seed and fertiliser, **infrastructure** including local farmers' **markets** and **packing facilities** that connect to urban farmers with food systems, and **systematic inclusion in spatial planning instruments**. However, to unlock the transformative potential of urban agriculture as a site of struggle for transition to agro-ecological food systems, social and political interventions are necessary. These could include **organisational development** to facilitate peer-based learning and innovation, as well as formally **recognised platforms** to engage the state and contest farmers' interests among other stakeholders in the urban food policy and planning arena. [Download meeting report 26 August 2020.](#)*

### **Informal retail**

*Informal retailers provide convenient and affordable access to food and create employment. State regulation of informal trade has been largely absent or restrictive. Traders lack both adequate recognition and infrastructure and the sector has been plagued by xenophobic tensions. National Covid lockdown regulations initially clamped down on informal trade and cut off food supply and traders' incomes, deepening poverty and hunger. However, some local government like the City of Cape Town responded rapidly to enable traders to resume activities. As lockdown is relaxed and efforts are underway to rebuild the economy, effective engagement and regulatory support of the informal economy presents opportunities to accelerate recovery, improve the resilience of the food economy, promote consumption of healthier food and ensure that poor peoples' access to food remains stable during future crises. Policy instruments should establish governance structures and dedicated budgets to promote inclusive and democratic governance of informal trade. Such structures could reduce the administrative burden on local government, provide a communications platform that enhances stakeholder buy-in and reduces tensions, and ensure that regulations respond to the needs and capacities of informal traders. This could include recognised forums for development of regulations, spatial planning and design instruments, allocation of budgets as well as development of trading amenities in key areas such as high streets, CBDs, taxi ranks, train stations, health and education facilities.*

[Download meeting report 28 April 2020.](#)

### **Civil Society and Emergency Food Relief**

*Although the pandemic lockdown has brought food insecurity to the attention of government and the public, government's capacity to address this issue is limited, and a whole of society approach is needed. The suspension of the national school nutrition programme, ECDCs and income losses due to lockdown increased the need for emergency food aid dramatically. CSOs played an important role in providing emergency food relief, building on existing networks and resources to respond rapidly and flexibly to the massive need. To enhance preparedness for similar potential future shocks, government needs to work with and empower CSOs. There is moreover an opportunity to collaborate to bring about systemic change in the food system to address the underlying causes of vulnerability and food insecurity. This can be advanced by shifting from 'participation' to 'partnering', by investing in strengthening relationships and networks with (and between) CSOs and by reducing the red tape for CSOs to access state support. Civil society and non-state actors also need to engage in different ways of working in intersectoral forums that provide safe spaces for radical dialogue that can inform more fundamental structural shifts in the food system.*

[Download meeting report 23 June 2020.](#)

[Download workshop report 11 May 2021](#)

### **Child nutrition**

*Child nutrition, an immediately realisable right guaranteed by the constitution, was severely compromised as a result of C19 lockdown, particularly the failure of National government to anticipate disruptions and safeguard children's rights, as shown by the suspension of the National School Nutrition Programme, closure of Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDCs) and the disruption of jobs and livelihoods. This will have severe long-term consequences for child development along the entire life course, from gestation via early childhood through to adolescence. The consequences include diminished physical and cognitive development as well as intergenerational impacts which predispose descendants to obesity and other non-communicable diseases into the third generation. A comparatively flexible approach by WC government enabled civil society food aid to buffer these impacts to some extent. Moreover, civil-society led legal challenges were instrumental in holding the state accountable for the realisation of children's right to food. Future state responses could avoid such costly and damaging proceedings by ensuring that school nutrition programmes and ECDCs have budgets, regulatory permission and emergency risk mitigation plans to continue to provide access to food, by leveraging the broad coverage of ECDCs and schools to extend the reach of conventional health platforms, by partnering with civil society, by shifting emphasis to the wider care-giving environment (especially parents and the prevalence of gender-based violence), by devolving greater decision-making powers to provincial and local government, and by consulting more widely and directly with educators, learners and parents in affected communities.*

[Download meeting report 9 December 2020.](#)

### **Food Waste**

*Large amounts of organic waste are generated by food system activities, contributing to value chain inefficiencies, waste management challenges and costs. 80% of landfills in WC will close in the next ten years. WC province has decided to prohibit*

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*organics from landfill i.e. 50% of organic waste from landfill by 2022 and a complete landfill ban of organic waste by 2027. All waste management licenses issued by the department are being amended, municipalities are obligated to submit Organic Waste Diversion Plans. Important new governance instruments have been recently developed, including the National Waste Management Strategy 2020, a voluntary agreement by the Consumer Goods Council South Africa, and the draft second iteration of the Provincial Waste Management Strategy. Municipalities are developing waste diversion strategies and are leveraging higher landfill gate fees to reduce waste to landfill and encourage beneficiation. Beneficiation of organic waste can produce a variety of value added products, including mulch, compost, nutrient /chemical extraction; and bio-energy. Risks and barriers to beneficiation include low landfill gate fees, low end market demand, inadequate source separation, inadequate mechanism for efficient household collection. Due to the outsourcing of organic waste beneficiation to private sector agencies, mulch and compost is not available to urban farmers. Private sector agents should be mandated to make a quota of compost and mulch available to urban farmers to help close nutrient cycles and enable urban agriculture to be more productive. The consumer protection act discourages many large corporations from donating “waste” food beyond its sell-by date to civil society beneficiaries, suggesting a need for revisions of this legislation. Innovative beneficiation technologies such as dehydration could be used to divert food waste before it reaches landfill, making nutritious food available in a form that does not require cold storage, contributing to greater accessibility and availability of nutritious food especially during lockdown and future food shocks. There is a need to improve data collection and reporting of organic waste in smaller municipalities. Large retailers could be mandated to disclose food waste statistics along the value chain to incentivise greater efficiencies.*

[Download meeting report 30 September 2020.](#)

### **Retail food price monitoring**

*There is evidence of food price increases during early lockdown, and apparent price gouging by individual formal-sector retailers. Community-based food price monitoring of a basket of basic goods conducted by Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity Group (PMBEJD) and the Competition Commission shows significant food price increases just following lockdown in essential staples despite farm-gate price decreases, which makes food inaccessible to poor households. Moreover, prices were quick to increase, but slow to normalise. These increases were primarily at the processing and retail stage of value chains, and not in the wholesale stage. There was also a high degree of variation in fresh produce prices in smaller fresh produce markets not related to producer costs or transport, suggesting possible market manipulation. Intervention by the Competition Commission has reined in food price increases. Extension and increase of state COVID19 relief top-up grants could help ameliorate the impacts of food price increases. Food price increases in the informal sector have not been measured, suggesting the need to adapt the PMBEJD methodology to include the informal sector. Moreover, this methodology could be utilised by municipalities to monitor food price increases locally, thus providing data to more effectively regulate food prices and hold individual formal-sector retailers and smaller fresh produce markets accountable. At the National and Provincial level, effective food price monitoring, particularly based on foods commonly consumed by the poor, could better inform the allocation of social grants, which currently lie below the poverty line.*

[Download meeting report 28 October 2020.](#)

### **Retail governance opportunities to promote transitions to sustainable, diverse food systems**

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*This session explored how retailers can be encouraged to systematically include small-holder producers as suppliers. Centralised procurement and distribution facilities have become dominant, driving efficiencies which retailers claim meet consumer demands for low prices. Large retailers require reliable delivery of sufficient volumes of produce that meet safety and hygiene standards. They also have to balance costs, prices, and affordability. Experiences with direct producer supply have been problematic and unsatisfactory for farmers and customers. International examples suggest opportunities in value-chain financing to support farmers to get produce to retailers and in producer associations to negotiate with retailers. De-centralised models of procurement have been developed by some progressive retailers eg Spar. There is need for multi-stakeholder dialogue involving retailers, consumers and producers. More appropriate safety standards for local value chains could aid small-scale producers to market produce not destined for export as global standards are onerous and very difficult for small farmers to comply with. Standards should be transparent, especially those claiming product sustainability. There are opportunities for large retailers to align their CSI and CSR investments with environmental and governance ratings to enhance their investibility and credibility with shareholders. The state could leverage its procurement budgets via preferential procurement systems working to establish a baseline quota for locally produced food and progressively expanding this once it can be reliably met. Spatial planning presents a key lever for local and provincial government to influence food retail. Decisions about shopping mall and supermarket development do not consider food security, food justice or food systems objectives, but foreground claims of employment generation, economic development, modernisation and redress of spatial inequalities, often favouring formal retail at the expense of informal food traders. With appropriate support and monitoring Informal trade could also be shown to meet these objectives. Planners need clearer guidance on standards for mall planning approval processes, which could include requirements to make facilities available to informal traders and local small-scale producers. Food systems impact assessments could be required as part of conventional (socio-economic and environmental) impact assessment requirements. Local government could provide cold storage facilities for small-scale producers, and also identify public spaces which could be developed as small-scale local farmers' markets. Finally, digital platforms are promising ways to link producers and consumers, offering shorter supply chains and flexibility enabling access to smaller producers and brands with minimal risk. Some initiatives are specifically seeking to supply small informal shops and exploring collective ordering. However data costs, connectivity and technology remain obstacles. Ultimately, community food activists and local food producers need to be able to engage in sustained dialogue with officials and planners to ensure that retail planning and governance is responsive to the lived experience of local communities. [Download meeting report 25 February 2021.](#)*

### **Fisheries**

*In South Africa the market is dominated by industrial fisheries. Covid-19 first impacted on the West Coast lobster industry in early 2020 when the export and tourist ban came into force. There were no special measures to address the needs of small scale fishers during the hard lock down. These hardships were reinforced by the movement ban which prevented fishers from following migratory patterns of fish. Many fishers experienced difficulties in getting permits during lock down, as officials were hard to reach and lacked data and capabilities to work remotely. The department is also very short staffed for small scale fisheries. Policing of compliance was intensified, and there were also reports of harassment, so fisherfolk could not get out to sea until fisheries were recognised as an essential service, risking hefty fines. Sharing of food within communities is becoming rarer as fish is sold outside*

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*communities to generate income. Restaurants were closed and that affected small scale fishers and informal traders which uses this market. Small scale fishers had to engage more and more directly with buyers. There is a reluctance to buy from them because they are not formalised and so it's difficult to get their products into the formal retail space. Despite interest in the retail sector, there is a lack of infrastructure to support market access by small-scale fisheries. This favoured large scale industry with their large storage capacity. They also brought up supplies at low prices at a time of food shortage. Food parcels which usually contained a Lucky Star tin favoured large corporations, but there were no moves to include small scale fishers. The burden of the hard economic circumstances has been placed on the family and especially women and many have been forced out of the industry. In addition they suffered the brunt of home schooling, with more mouths to feed with the closing of school feeding programmes. Vulnerable groups such as illegal foreigners were also under severe pressure from the loss of informal jobs and being outside of the grant system. Fishing community representatives suggested reviewing the way that fishing permits work: firstly to allocate quotas to households rather than individuals; secondly to streamline permit allocation so that these are available timeously; thirdly that permit allocation is based on local knowledge of seasonal availability of fish. Environmental activists pointed out that the looming impact of climate change is an even bigger threat. There is a need to get the small scale fisheries more organised to strengthen the resilience of our coastal communities and the marine ecosystems that they rely on for their livelihoods. But there is also a need for the state to support recognised platforms that express the needs and concerns of small-scale fisherfolk.*

[Download meeting report 13 April 2021.](#)

### **Recommendations:**

The online dialogue process was very effective in identifying key issues, surfacing contrasting perspectives, and highlighting options for policy and governance innovation. Several recommendations emerge from the insights gained through the implementation of this project:

#### **Knowledge Co-Generation**

The knowledge co-generation approach has been effective in collating the knowledge and concerns of stakeholders, revealing valuable insights into innovations. The process of developing and refining policy briefs has strengthened networks and a sense of solidarity and trust among participants across diverse sectors of society. Strong linkages have been developed with the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), with members of the City of Cape Town Food Working Group, and with other stakeholder groups including representatives of provincial governments and of informal trader associations (SAITA and SAITF). We recommend continuing engagement with these and other networks to build on the successes of knowledge co-generation thusfar achieved.

#### **Policy Briefs**

Three policy briefs and an infographic have been developed to speak to the three thematic areas revealed. However, several additional themes also were explored which warrant additional policy briefs. In view of the increased costs associated with developing high-quality and visually impactful policy briefs, these will need to be pursued outside of the scope

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of this project funding cycle. Further funding is needed to take these briefs forward, including leverage funding from within the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security as well as from CHEC and other sources. Additional policy briefs would include:

- Food waste
- Child nutrition
- Formal food retail governance
- Small-scale fisheries
- Food voucher relief schemes

The community food networks theme appears to be over-researched and compromised due to negative perceptions of research. Moreover there appears to be significant overlap with a previous CHEC grant awarded for the study of civil society. We therefore will not pursue this policy brief.

### **District Development Approach**

WC government is pursuing a district development approach to pilot new territorial governance approaches, applying WOGA (whole of government approach) in three key sites. These policy briefs could inform policy and governance deliberations in these sites and spark deliberations with local stakeholder groups.

### **Dissemination:**

The Online CoP gatherings included a number of stakeholders from other provinces, from National government, as well as from SALGA and the WCEDP. We feel that the policy briefs are sufficiently generalisable that they would be useful to stakeholders beyond the Western Cape.

While still contextualising the briefs in the Western Cape to demonstrate the province's leading role in the Covid-19 food governance response, we therefore intend to disseminate them through wider networks like SALGA, South African Faith Communities Environmental Institute (SAFCEI), the Southern Africa Food Lab (SAFL) and the WCEDP Food Forum to increase the reach and potential impact.

Due to the second and third waves of Covid-19 infections, convening a face-to-face dissemination workshop with stakeholders was not considered safe. Instead, we convened an online dissemination workshop with the CoP stakeholders to present the final drafts and to discuss a dissemination strategy. This workshop featured reviews by representatives of the Cape Town Together Food Growers' Initiative (CTTFGI), the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP), Women in Informal Employment - Globalising and Organising (WIEGO), and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). The policy briefs have been revised based on this final round of feedback.

To maximise the reach of the policy briefs, we will be circulating the infographic along with links to the policy briefs through the networks of these partner organisations. This will be done using various digital communication platforms including emails to the Food Governance Community of Practice mailing list (~700 members), to the Agroecology South Africa mailing list, and to key provincial and local government officials. The DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security hosts a website and a facebook page. All CoP gatherings were live-streamed to the facebook page and recordings can be viewed there. These platforms also will be leveraged to disseminate the policy briefs by using the infographic as an entry-point.

Strategic workshops are planned with WCEDP and with SALGA to plan more direct, targeted dissemination and engagement with local municipalities across the province and beyond.

## 6. BUDGET

Please reflect the actual spend to date against the budget included in the original proposal.

|              | Description of budget line item  | Amount Budgeted | Spent             |
|--------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| a.           | Data and incidentals to enable some participants to join zoom meetings   | 4,850           | 3,926.40          |
| b.           | Final COP 'face to face' meeting in March 2021 (venue (R1600), catering (R9600) Depending on COVID19 progression, appropriate provisions will be made for social distancing in terms of venue size and group deliberation processes. | 11,200          | 0                 |
| c.           | Design of 1 infographic (inc VAT)  | 15900           | 19,900            |
| d.           | Non-tenured researchers time (18*R2000 per day) (Please note that the Governance Programme of the COE does not contain tenured researchers)  | 68,000          | 79,200            |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |  | <b>R99,950</b>  | <b>R103026.40</b> |

### Budgetary Deviations:

We re-allocated the dissemination budget line item (R11,200.00) to the development of policy briefs and additional human resource costs. Additional HR costs were incurred as the process of compiling the policy briefs was more resource-intensive and time-consuming than initially expected. Shortfalls were covered by leveraging funding from the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security - Food Policy and Governance Programme. The original policy briefs were to be developed using a simple document template and the text reviewed by the CoE's internal public relations officer. However, the PRO resigned and design work was outsourced to a dedicated science communications company. Also, the layout and formatting of the PB templates did not meet our expectations for high-quality science communication. To make these outputs more visually impactful and compelling, the budget allocated to the "infographic" line item has been expanded with the budget for the dissemination event to prepare a set of three high-quality policy briefs with print-quality design, graphics and layout incorporating links to recordings of the CoP gatherings, as well as three low-resolution black-and-white versions of the same briefs aimed at community-based organisations, NGOs and civil society organisations for whom the printing of full-colour briefs could be prohibitive.