





VISION

MISSION

TCOE envisages a society where the rural poor, both men and women, have access and rights to land, marine and other natural resources for food security and the creation of sustainable livelihoods – a society that is responsive to the needs of the poor and that recognises and values the potential of all its citizens.

TCOE commits itself to building a mass based national formation of poor rural peoples organisations with strong, democratic and accountable leadership that is able to organise, mobilise and co-ordinate the struggles of all sectors of the rural and coastal poor, including women, small scale farmers, commodity groups, fishers, farm workers and youth, for control and ownership of natural resources.

Such a formation will actively forge links with urban and rural organisations and institutions at local, national, regional and international levels that advocate for basic services, economic rights, social and environmental justice and an end to poverty.

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This report is written against the backdrop of South Africa's longstanding challenge of a land reform programme characterised by pathetically slow redistribution of agricultural land to the black population.

After 29 years of constitutional democracy in South Africa, the ANC-led government, which in 1994 promised to redistribute 30 per cent of agricultural land to blacks within the first five years of the advent of democracy, has redistributed less than 20 per cent of this land. Much of the limited redistributed land has been grabbed by people who are linked to politicians, relatives of politicians, and state officials. There are also cases of white commercial farmers who are involved in the capture of land reform projects through share equity partnerships.

Additionally, land that was reserved for African occupation in the former bantustans is under threat of being expropriated by transnational and national corporates, as well as white commercial farmers in pursuit of mining and commercial agricultural interests. Traditional authorities in rural areas of Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Eastern Cape are implicated in these "land grabs". They enter dodgy deals with these corporates.



The above is made possible by the fact that the administration and control of land in the rural areas of the former reserves is controlled by unelected and thus unaccountable traditional authorities. The latter administer and allocate land in these areas. This is the reason why it is possible for them to enter into questionable agreements with private companies. They often act without any consultation with the citizens who are directly affected by their decisions and who are often smallholder producers who end up being displaced from their land.

With respect to local government and the provision of services, many municipalities have been exposed as dysfunctional in numerous Auditor-General's reports. Despite being elected, and even though the South African Constitution puts an obligation on local government to involve the broader communities in the formulation and implementation of its policies, there is a glaring lack of community involvement in municipal processes. The current ward system of local government, which is supposed to facilitate community participation does not suit rural areas under traditional authorities. These areas are scattered and the infrastructure is poor making it almost impossible for citizens to attend meetings.

In the years since the establishment of Inyanda, almost ten years ago, TCOE and Inyanda have been actively involved in struggles for land and for accountable municipality officials and politicians. In recent times, as this report shows, TCOE and Inyanda are beginning to move beyond just complaining about the lack of service delivery to actively developing alternatives to land use and governance systems more broadly.

But more needs to be done. TCOE must re-double its efforts to build the capacity of the smallholder producers it works with in alternative ways of land use and organisation that are based on agroecology. In the era of climate change and climate justice, agroecology is an essential mitigation strategy.

The TCOE National Board of Trustees would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all TCOE staff, the Inyanda National Land Movement as well as its affiliates and all our donors for your hard work, perseverance and tireless support.

Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza
Chairperson

NATIONAL COORDINATION



This year TCOE returns to the planning table. The previous external evaluation and strategic plan (2021-2023) took place virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic in a period of great uncertainty and stress. Given that it was conducted remotely, the scope of the evaluation was curtailed by a few constraints.

The current planning cycle is being conducted during a period of multiple crises. We are surrounded by mounting global tensions between the global powers and the Ukraine-Russia war which continues to have a ripple effect on global economies and world food prices.

Globally, as well as in South Africa, Covid-19 recovery continues following public policies which not only disrupted livelihoods of millions of poor communities during Covid-19 but it also prevented the informal sector, particularly women, from making any income due to the lockdown restrictions. We saw extensive job losses both resulting from the Covid-19 restrictions but also as corporations ceased the opportunity to restructure and reorganise.

A veil of hopelessness stretches over our country. Daily we witness how social violence permeates almost every facet of our lives. Both rural and urban communities are gripped by fear as gang violence rules our streets. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) has reached pandemic proportions and children, especially youth at schools, are not spared. The economic crisis has weakened the social fabric of our society. This requires us to more urgently rebuild, reorganise and develop interventions which can break through this destructive cycle of violence.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created opportunities for reimagining and designing remote working possibilities and how we use technologies in the interest of the poor and the marginalized. However, the pandemic put a spotlight on the deep North-South divide and how the North, continue the control of technology, research and patents, especially big pharmaceutical companies. This happened despite the looming pandemic in global South. This notwithstanding, the moment also unlocked a conversation about how to reimagine the global food systems.

Currently, it is evident that globally we have seen weak structural growth and the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated socio-economic challenges, especially inequality and poverty globally.



1. Context

1.1 Unemployment, Poverty and Inequality



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“High levels of unemployment and poverty are a high national security risk to South Africa as they are drivers of crime and instability, and feed into unrest”

Dr Jabu Mtsweni,
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Many analysts draw their analogy from the 2021 political explosion. A recent report by the Borgen project suggests that the “unrest occurring in July 2021 was incredibly damaging, leading to hundreds of deaths and hundreds of injuries. In addition, numerous businesses were damaged or destroyed. Estimates indicate that the unrest damaged a minimum of 40,000 businesses”. Consequently, there were close to half a million fewer jobs at the end of 2022 than at the end of 2019. According to the World Bank, women and youth were most particularly impacted. Inequality in South Africa remains among the highest in the world, and poverty amongst the population was estimated at 63% in 2022 based on the upper-middle-income country poverty line, only slightly below its pandemic peak.

It seems most unlikely that there will be much change to this already bleak economic outlook given the ongoing energy crisis, the ever-worsening loadshedding and the infrastructure problems linked to water, rail and electricity.

According to a study conducted by Vayda Megannon from the University of Cape Town’s Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa, “approximately 14 million South Africans were already living in poverty (defined as less than ZAR18.34 per person per day), the socio-economic consequences of a nation-wide lockdown only worsened poverty and inequality.” Throughout the pandemic, data on employment trends have varied; however, several sources suggest that by the end of 2020, two million people had experienced job loss (Statistics South Africa, 2021).

More and more South Africans have also become dependent on the meagre monthly R350 (18 USD) Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant which was introduced in May 2020 and later extended until March 2024. The socio-economic challenges were further exacerbated by rising fuel and food prices, especially breads and cereals, which disproportionately affected the poor.

Presently, social grants are the second-most important source of income for most South African households after salaries and the main source of income for nearly a quarter of households nationally. In most of the rural regions where we work, particularly the Eastern Cape and Limpopo, deepening poverty continues to bite deep into the social fabric of our society. In these rural areas grants are the main source of income for many households.

South Africa has struggled to claw back the jobs it lost in the first few months of the pandemic in 2020, when 2.2 million people found themselves without work. In the quarters that followed, the official unemployment rate rose to record levels, until the beginning of 2022. According to the Stats SA data, the expanded unemployment rate — which also counts job seekers who have given up on the search — was 42.6% in the fourth quarter of 2022, down from 43.1%. The majority of jobs created in the quarter were in the financial services industry, which employed 103 000 more people. But the community and social services industry lost a whopping 122 000 jobs.

Our youth population is severely affected by unemployment and youth remains disengaged from the labour market. As per Stats SA's Quarterly Labour Force Survey report for the first quarter of 2023, approximately 10.2 million people aged 15 to 24 were not in employment, education or training, with a concerning 36.1% identified as Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Indeed, South Africa has one of the world's highest youth unemployment rates despite a high demand for skilled labour, because employability remains severely hampered by a persistent vertical skills mismatch.

The high rate of youth unemployment in the country also must be understood in relation to the skills mismatch that is primarily characterised by technical under skilling, as perceived by potential employers: even at the level of basic numeracy and literacy skills required to enter the labour market.

There is ample evidence to show that young people progress through the South African basic education system without gaining sufficient levels of corresponding competence, including when they do complete their schooling (De Lannoy et al., 2020). As a result, a high demand for skilled workers co-exists with persistent high youth unemployment rates. This is despite the government's efforts to enhance youth employability through upskilling programmes.

Therefore youth unemployment and particularly, young women's situation remains a real challenge that we hope we can contribute to through our Food Sovereignty and land rights programmes.

1.2 House Household Food Insecurity

Household food insecurity is quite dire. Studies suggest that nearly a fifth of households are considered food insecure despite South Africa being considered a food secure country given that the agricultural sector produces enough food to feed the population at a national level. Our current food system does not adequately meet most of the population's social needs in terms of food accessibility, affordability, and nutritional sufficiency. The inequalities are partly rooted in a highly unequal agro-food system of production and ownership. A mere 15 000 large-scale farms produce the bulk of the food supplied to commercial markets, while some 2.3 million, largely Black, smallholder landholders produce food for subsistence and informal markets.

The April 2023 Household Affordability Index reports that by April 2023 the average cost of the Household Food Basket is R5 023,95. It also tells us that month-on-month, the average cost of the Household Food Basket increased by R57,75 (1,2%), from R4 966,20 in March 2023 to R5 023,95 in April 2023. This represents a 10,6% year-on-year increase. The report further says that some foodstuff increased by 5% or more in April 2023.

These food price increases must be reviewed against the backdrop of income of workers. The National Minimum Wage is R25,42 an hour and R203.36 for an 8-hour day. In April 2023, with 17-working days, the maximum National Minimum Wage for a general worker's family of four persons, the NMW, is reduced to R864,28 – this is below the upper-bound poverty line of R1 417 per capita per month.

The increase in food prices have reached untenable levels and hundreds more households are unable to feed their families. This will only increase because in South Africa, there is a very close link between unemployment, poverty and inequality. The 2021 Statistics South Africa reports indicated that the unemployment rate, expanded definition, was 44.4% whilst 25% are well below the poverty line.

Devereux 2022 reports that Child Stunting, an indicator of chronic undernutrition, has plateaued at around 25 per cent in South Africa since before the democratic transition in 1994. This means that one in four children under 5 years old has displayed stunted growth for at least the last 30 years.

A TCOE and Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) study some ten years ago argued that most farm workers on commercial wine and fruit farms in South Africa experience hunger in winter when there is very little seasonal work. This has been confirmed by the Devereux report. Several children in the Eastern Cape lost their lives because of acute malnutrition in early 2022 – a phenomenon that is also emerging in other provinces.

1.3 Rural Municipalities and Governance

It is common knowledge, that most municipalities are dysfunctional and facing financial distress. Corruption and mismanagement are certainly some of the reasons municipalities are in financial trouble. The bigger problem, however, relates to what is called

the fiscal framework – which includes how much money national government distributes to local government, and the expectation for municipalities to be self-sufficient through cost recovery approaches.

The corporatisation of services and public utilities means that the basis under which these public institutions operate has changed. They function in the same way as any other private company. This approach is the central problem. The model is founded on the assumption that municipalities and public utilities can generate sufficient revenues to cover all its costs by selling services to end-users (consumers). For instance, based on the 1998 white paper on local government – municipalities are expected to raise 90% of their own revenue.

Municipalities generate revenue through property taxes and selling services – for example water and electricity. Municipalities purchase bulk electricity and water, to sell at higher tariffs, to generate revenue. In 2020 for example, municipalities purchased water for R6bn and generated approximately R12bn in income from sales. Similarly, with electricity, municipalities purchased R18bn of electricity, and sold it to “end-users” generating approximately R28 bn in revenue. This cost-recovery strategy is unsustainable, especially in a context where half the working-age population is unemployed, and most people are living on an income of less than R1500 per month. In our view this is the basis for deteriorating levels of service delivery in the country.

1.4 Traditional Authorities

The tensions and conflicts between Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and traditional authorities have not eased in the past year. Late last year, the National Assembly passed the amended Traditional Courts Bill in a plenary session. In its current form, the Bill excludes the right of citizens to opt-out of the traditional court processes. This means rural residents are forced to work within the prescripts of the traditional courts.

TCOE joined progressive Civil Society Organisations (CSO) who argued that this Bill is probably one of the most undemocratic bills. The CSOs along with rural communities have made tireless efforts and submissions to parliament to safeguard their democratic rights, including the rights of women. Since 2008, rural people have made it clear to parliament they will be locked into the jurisdiction of a traditional leader and a traditional court without any choice if the Bill failed to include an explicit opt-out provision.

By passing this Bill into law implies that rural citizens are restricted to the jurisdiction of traditional authorities based on geography instead of voluntary affiliation. The Act undermines the nature of living customary law and the freedoms introduced by the Constitution. We maintain that the passing of this Bill into law undermines rural democracy and parliamentarians have allowed this to happen by not heeding the pleas of rural voices.

1.5 Land and Agrarian Transformation

The governments' Land and Agrarian programme has literally grounded to a halt in the past 10 years or so. Below are two small extracts from the minutes of the Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development that speaks to the problems which exist in the key arm of government responsible for Land and Agrarian Reform.

In October 2022, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development raised concerns about the slow pace of land redistribution and voiced their concerns. The members said they were disappointed with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's (DALRRD) failure to spend R1.3 billion of its budget allocation and about the poor operational performance. The members recommended that the department looks into its internal controls so that it can meet the government's standard of professional performance.

In another meeting (September) the Portfolio Committee of Parliament also highlighted the fact that the Department was underfunded. Yet, they expressed concerns regarding lack of the financial controls which included weaknesses in internal control measures; non-compliance with legislation, which is responsible for irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure; and the poor management of the Presidential Economic Stimulus Initiative (PESI) voucher programme. The poor management of PESI was of great concern given that this was support that was meant for poor smallholder producers. But even more importantly is the fact the government's annual budget to drive land redistribution in South Africa has significantly shrunk over the past few years.

But even more importantly is the fact the government's annual budget to drive land redistribution in South Africa has significantly shrunk over the past few years.

This bleak picture becomes even more concerning when research conducted by the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), at University of the Western Cape, reveals that instead of the land reform budget targeting the poor and vulnerable and farmworkers, the department has shifted its support to those who can afford to engage in "the conventional practice of large-scale farming that pursue commercial success instead of land redistribution". Prof Ben Cousins highlighted the fact that land access and resourcing have "become the preserve of the well-off, with 44% of beneficiaries being urban based "business individuals, taxi or transport operators, former state bureaucrats and local politicians, with access to material resources, knowledge and information".

In our view, this situation will not lead to a meaningful transformation of the skewed landholding patterns that currently exist. Moreover, it will also not lead to a different way of land use and greater access to land by poor communities for household food security. The Rural Women's Assembly One Woman, One Hectare will continue to fall on deaf ears.

1.6 Climate Change

Climate change is possibly the greatest threat that humanity faces. In 2022, climate scientists linked to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that Africa and South Africa face numerous climate risks. According to the IPCC, Africa is one of the extremely vulnerable regions in the world to climate change.

In 2022, every part of the continent was affected by extreme weather events, ranging from wildfires in Algeria to catastrophic flooding in South Africa. In recent years, multi-year droughts have impacted severely on South Africa's southern coastal parts such as Gqeberha and Cape Town. In the latter case, it has been assessed that climate change has already increased the likelihood of 'Day Zero' type droughts to occur by a factor of three.

The South African think tank, the Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ), warns that "trillions of rands are required to avert the climate crisis and to ensure that a 'just' energy transition is a key outcome of the decarbonisation agenda". South Africa's Just Energy Transition-Investment Plan (JET-IP) has set its ambition to raise and mobilise R1.5 trillion over the next five years. The JET-IP, therefore, represents an important start to responding to the climate emergency".

The accessibility of the information on climate change to poor people is problematic. This makes ordinary people unaware of what is happening with the climate. It is thus necessary for TCOE to engage in far-reaching debates, dialogues, awareness raising programme and to meaningfully contribute to the current conversations on what constitutes a "just transition" from below. We have started to build and promote alternatives such as agroecology, Farmer Managed Seed Systems, Seed Saving, local markets and the Right To Say No to destructive types of development that impacts on the environment.

The experiences of the constituencies that we work with such as the rural women producers, small scale farmers, landless people and fishers have highlighted the fact that it is the poor and the most vulnerable that will be most impacted by climate disasters given the current inequalities in relation to social services (water, electricity, refuse removal, housing, health, etc.) food access, land and livelihoods. Already this was evident during the recent flooding and water crisis in the Eastern Cape.

TCOE is convinced that a great deal of work on popular education, awareness raising and the development of alternatives (both adaptation and mitigation strategies) will have to be done in the coming period to create a conscious, well informed popular movement that is able to lead the campaigns for climate justice and a Just Transition from below.

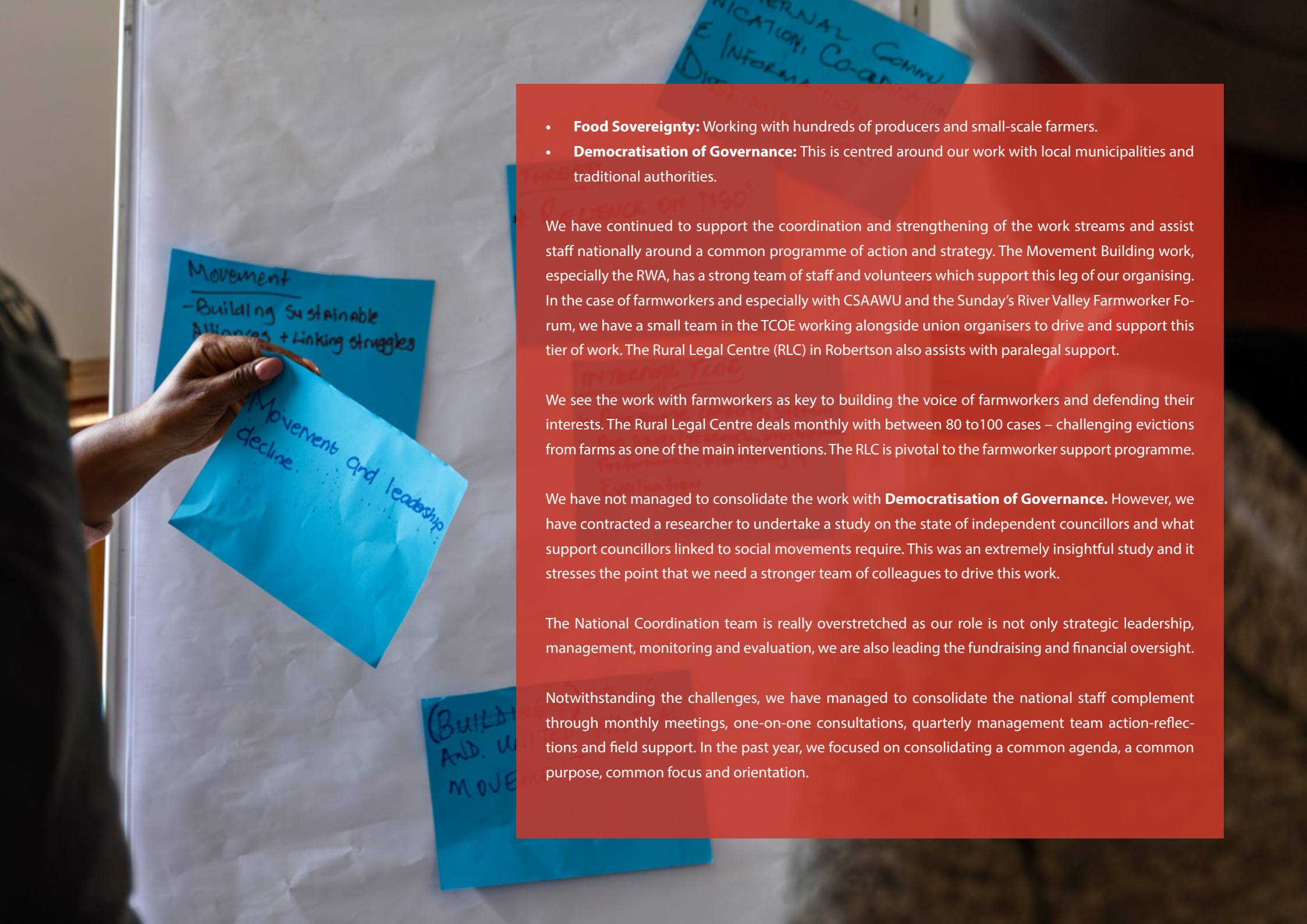
2. National Coordination

The overall programme report will speak to all the programmatic interventions and initiatives in 2022.

Restructuring and Strengthening the Organisation

The task of National Coordination continued along the path of restructuring and ensuring the three main pillars of our focus were strengthened and consolidated:

- **Movement Building:** Working with rural women and building the Rural Women's Assembly, facilitating and promoting self-organisation of small-scale farmers and producers by building Inyanda National Land Rights Movements; fishers in Coastal Links in the Eastern Cape and with farmworkers and farm-dwellers through CSAAWU (farmworkers union) and Sunday's River Farmworker Forum (Eastern Cape).

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- **Food Sovereignty:** Working with hundreds of producers and small-scale farmers.
 - **Democratisation of Governance:** This is centred around our work with local municipalities and traditional authorities.

We have continued to support the coordination and strengthening of the work streams and assist staff nationally around a common programme of action and strategy. The Movement Building work, especially the RWA, has a strong team of staff and volunteers which support this leg of our organising. In the case of farmworkers and especially with CSAWU and the Sunday's River Valley Farmworker Forum, we have a small team in the TCOE working alongside union organisers to drive and support this tier of work. The Rural Legal Centre (RLC) in Robertson also assists with paralegal support.

We see the work with farmworkers as key to building the voice of farmworkers and defending their interests. The Rural Legal Centre deals monthly with between 80 to 100 cases – challenging evictions from farms as one of the main interventions. The RLC is pivotal to the farmworker support programme.

We have not managed to consolidate the work with **Democratisation of Governance**. However, we have contracted a researcher to undertake a study on the state of independent councillors and what support councillors linked to social movements require. This was an extremely insightful study and it stresses the point that we need a stronger team of colleagues to drive this work.

The National Coordination team is really overstretched as our role is not only strategic leadership, management, monitoring and evaluation, we are also leading the fundraising and financial oversight.

Notwithstanding the challenges, we have managed to consolidate the national staff complement through monthly meetings, one-on-one consultations, quarterly management team action-reflections and field support. In the past year, we focused on consolidating a common agenda, a common purpose, common focus and orientation.



Leadership and Management

In 2023 the TCOE will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary. This is an achievement. We celebrate the fact that we have remained relevant and adjusted our strategies as the context changed and rebuilt the capacities and competencies of the staff to meet the changing environment.

This ability to read the need for a shift in strategy has meant the leadership gained experience and insights. However, we have become conscious that there are not enough new and younger experienced staff. We recognize the need to focus on strategy for renewal of leadership and management to carry the organisation forward for the next period. In addition to the need for younger staff, we have also identified the need for a succession plan. Both these are urgent tasks.

Repositioning the Organisation to Ensure Relevance

Earlier we spoke about the TCOE's capacity to be a learning organisation that constantly reflects, reads the conjuncture and responds politically. Therefore, there is an ongoing self-adjustment as we respond to new issues such as the water crisis such as the tailings dam bursts at Jagersfontein, for example, and the ecological and climate crisis.

The three-yearly external evaluations, the strategic planning and the regular leadership action-reflections have allowed the TCOE to be alert and responsive to the impulses at local and national levels.

Despite this strength, we have asked whether the staff, movements and the leadership that we work with have sufficiently developed new and innovative strategies for the downturn and fragility of popular movements in this post-apartheid, post COVID moment.

Financial Sustainability

The organisation has managed to sustain and consolidate its funding base. In fact, the National Coordination team has grown the funding support base for the Rural Women's Assembly. Presently the RWA has increased its funder base to over 10 partners. We have also succeeded in winning two partners linked to working in consortiums. One is **Rights Based and Agroecological Initiatives for Sustainability (RAISE)** which is a partnership with Swiss Funders that focuses on using the *Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Vulnerable People* (UNDROP). The second partnership is called **Feminists for Climate and Environment Alternatives (FACE)** which is centred on developing climate awareness amongst smallholder producers and women's groups.

We have also increased the capacity in the finance unit and currently we are attempting to develop stronger internal systems for the finance team, particularly reviewing the finance policy. Despite the achievements in building sustainability, there is still a great deal to achieve in building local capacity for community efforts to pay membership fees and mobilise local support for their work.

Build Networks and Alliances

A big part of movement building and repositioning the organisation is linked to how active we have been locally, nationally and regionally.

The big achievement has been the establishment of the Rural Women's Assembly in ten countries across Southern Africa. The RWA is a grassroots rural membership-based movement in which we both work and provide leadership. The TCOE acts as the fiscal agent for the RWA. Membership of the RWA assists the organisation to act locally, nationally and regionally.

The organisation has also partnered with the **People's Dialogue** (PD) which is a space for building perspective and dialoguing. Together with PD we are actively involved in building and supporting the **Thematic Social Forum on Extractives and Mining** (TSF).

This platform works on the **Right to Say No** to development practices based on destroying communities' territories with where MNC or mining houses want to advance their extractive projects. The TCOE has partnered **Alternative Information and Development Centre** (AIDC), **JA, Transnational Institute** (TNI) and **WoM** in the TNC campaign which is directly linked to the UN Binding Treaty process.

Other networks include the **Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa** (AFSA) which is an Africa wide network of peasants, small scale farmers and alliances promoting alternative food systems.

We are also active in several other networks such as the **Pesticides Campaign** which brings together farmworkers and farmers to expose the use of hazardous pesticides. **Churches and Mining** is a space where we link with church-based movements to raise awareness of extractives in the region.

The other South African network that we participate in is **Tshinsha Amakhaya** (TA). This partnership continues to attempt to link us around land and agrarian questions. In the past year TA has also participated with us in a campaign to have agroecology adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Lastly, our membership in the **Southern African People's Solidarity Network** (SAPSN) is key for engaging the Heads of States of SADC around our pro-poor demands, especially focusing on agriculture, climate as well as peace and good governance.



Developed Media and Communication Strategy

We made progress in consolidating our media and communication work. Already we have achieved greater visibility and presence. TCOE publishes the monthly print Inyan-da Community News, while also making these stories available digitally. During this period TCOE reconceptualized its website. In the last three years our media presence has increased, and involved more youth collecting and writing multilingual stories from across the country.

Good Governance

TCOE's **National Board of Trustees** (NBOT) has a balanced and very responsive board that participates in the life of the organisation. The board meets once a quarter. In the past three years, the membership to the board has expanded to include leaders from the popular movements that we are involved with such as the Inyan-da National Land Movement, CSAAWU and RWA. The Finance sub-committee and the Human Resource sub-committee supports the work of the board. The finance team is extremely active in overseeing the finances of the organisation.

Whilst we have achieved a great deal as this report will outline, there are some challenges that we have to address in the year ahead.

Challenges

2.1 Staff Shortage / Staff Capacity

In the past three years we have struggled to fill positions especially for the Democratization of Governance position. We have also struggled to have sufficient resources to appoint very experienced staff to assist with programme support and programme management at a national level. This task has fallen onto the desk of the national co-

ordination team. We must build internal staff development that can meet the growing challenges that stem from the changing context of work – this is another aspect that requires attention.

2.2 Limited PME System in Place

We have a Performance Management Evaluation (PME) system in place which includes ongoing assessments, reviews and one to one meetings. However, management struggles to create a more developmental approach to monitoring and support. It was also not sufficiently ongoing at all levels throughout the year. Our ability to implement stronger and more systematic system of review is limited by many other tasks. This is an area of management that must be strengthened.

One of the big challenges that has in recent time increased its pressure on the National Coordination team is the heavy donor requirements and pressure of donor meetings, field visits and reporting mechanisms. Working in donor partnerships and consortiums is time intensive.

2.3 Local Campaigns

The organisation has not sufficiently managed to take forward a sustained national campaign. Presently, throughout the country struggles are locally focused on access to basic services not challenging power or often lack a transformative agenda and are often short lived. From the local protests of many of the associations it is clear that communities are extremely angry and frustrated and the need for considered strategy and leadership are pushed aside in the attempt to express frustration. Because movements are fragile, and struggles are not sustained nor is there follow up of demands. Often there are no clear objectives as local struggles unfold. This is an arena of leadership and movement formation which requires more sustained intervention and education.

2.4 Youth

The TCOE, popular associations and movements are clear that working with youth is essential for renewal and innovation. However, we have lacked the resources to work at this level in a systematic and structured manner.

In our new cycle we have recognized the need to focus on climate justice and working with youth in this regard.

Again, popular community education on what is climate change and why justice is urgent is a sphere of work where we want to implement with the assistance of young people.

2.5 Just Transitions, Research, and Policy Analysis

More internal research, particularly Participatory Action Research Methods (PAR), and strategy development on key strategic questions such as land redistribution, reimagining local food systems and markets are needed. So is the need to include alliances on austerity and other issues such as the Basic Income Grant. The organisation will explore how this can be developed in partnership with universities, progressive academics and interns. Given the political stale mate at so many levels, building new imaginations and new pathways and transitions with the popular movements is directly linked to building hope and giving renewed perspectives for resistance and alternatives.

2.6 Conclusion

We are living in a time of multiple crisis where social media has managed to create many opposing narratives which have distorted our materialist analysis of understanding the crisis we are living in. Therefore, it is essential that we focus more energy and more time on popular education, especially community awareness which builds strong counter-narratives that also deals with issues of xenophobia, GBV as well as



gang violence, homophobia and the cultural and patriarchal norms that spread racism and hatred. Beliefs that say climate change is "God's punishment" must be strongly challenged as opposed to the idea that climate change is a creation of human action and greed.

2 GO MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS



The media landscape continues to render rural communities, their struggles and victories, almost invisible. Yet community organisations affiliated to the Inyanda National Land Movement, the Rural Women's Assembly and CSAAWU continue to challenge this dire status quo and present alternatives which will lead the way to agrarian and land reform. TCOE supports this labour of love in various ways including providing media and communications support and opportunities for media engagements.

The commodification of the commons, extractive industries as well as land, water and other resource grabs pose an immediate and grave threat to the countryside and is very often the underlying reason for many of the injustices and crises plaguing rural areas. TCOE and Inyanda National Land Movement affiliates are in the process of developing an integrated national campaign which incorporates the key demands that the commons must be protected and natural resources, such as land and water, shared equitably.





Ukulwa indlala ngokulima

Ezolimo ayizezabantu abadala kuphela; utsho uNtombizanele Kima ominyaka engamashumi amahlanu anesithandathu wakwa Nobuhle (kwindawo ese Khayelitsha) eKariega. Abantu abatsha kufuneka bakhuthazwe kwezolimo nasekufuyeni, ingakumbi kwindawo ezisemaphandleni, baqale ukulima besebancinci ukuze bakhule bezazi iindlela zokulima eziyimpumelelo.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Inyanda Community News

The most significant development in this period is the successful rollout of Inyanda Community News. While our goal was to produce and publish 10 issues of an 8-12 page newsletter, we are proud to have published 11 issues, all with 12 pages. We further produced four special supplements. The information contained in the supplements are of an educational nature for rural women, rural food producers and small-scale farmers, which is in line with our goal for disseminating information.

Our news collectors are actively involved and committed members of local movements and associations. These movements, through the activities, plans and campaigns interact directly with rural communities and through the course of their work use Inyanda Community News as a tool for political education and mobilization. Through this process, movements can give feedback on stories, suggest story topics or even generate content for Inyanda Community News.

The newsletter is published in English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, Sesotho and Tsonga. The limited funding we were granted meant that we would not be able to produce content in all the languages we would have liked to. We have an active and up to date Inyanda Community News page on the TCOE website featuring stories from all our past editions.

Reader Feedback

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“This is really good idea to have a local community newspaper, that can tell our own stories. The fact that it is free of charge is very helpful. It is also good that it comes in different languages.”

Please Visit

<https://www.tcoe.org.za/in-yanda-community-news/>

*Pictured Right:
Inyanda Community News*



Pictured Above: Youtube - "Rural Women's Assembly | One woman, one hectare"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cs901PFOOWs>

Media Coverage

The last year brought with it several opportunities for boosting the media presence of TCOE, CSAAWU, the Rural Women's Assembly and the Inyanda National Land Movement. In summary, the collective benefitted from coverage on the following platforms:

Bush Radio	EWN	SAFM Beyond the Headline
Cape Talk	Food for Mzansi	Street Talk
Cape Town TV, Cape Times	SABC Channel Africa	New Frame
Cape Argus	SABC News	NewzRoom Afrika
Daily Maverick	SABC The Watchdog	Weekend Argus, Workers World
eNCA	SAFM Sunrise Show	Media Productions



Pictured Left: RWA Annual Feminist Report

Inyanda Community News
 Supplements

Women's Month Water Crisis: Special
 Feature Articles, RWA Climate Crisis
 Briefing Note, RWA UNDROP Briefing
 Note, Agroecology

Pictured Left:
 "Often without water and long without hope,"
<https://www.newframe.com/often-without-water-and-long-without-hope/>

MOVEMENT BUILDING



South Africa's rural municipalities are collapsing. Movements have been stretched to the limit as the country battles multiple crises on several fronts. Under these unstable social, political, and economic conditions at local, national, and international levels, movements struggle with grassroots mobilization of a fragmented and weary working class.

This report reflects on the work of national and local movements involved in our collective movement building journey. This includes the **Inyanda National Land Movement** and its local associations such as the **Mopani Farmers Union**, **Makhukanye**, **Coastal Links Eastern Cape**, the **Botshabelo Unemployed Movement**, **Northern Cape Inyanda**, the **Mawubuye Land Rights Movement** and the **Rural People's Movement**. We provide individual reports of the work of the **Rural Women's Assembly in South Africa** and the **Commercial, Stevedoring, Agriculture and Allied Workers Movement (CSAAWU)**.

In 2022, the Movement Building Stream focused on three key campaigns: the water crisis; the anti-austerity campaign (which impacts directly on services and municipal capacities) and land access, including commonage land. These issues remain integral to strengthening local associations and movements. The national budget continues to exclude most poor communities and their active participation in budgetary and planning processes. The latest budget cuts on social spending and fundamental basic needs of marginalised communities are leading to increasing unemployment and poverty. This is the reason why the Inyanda Land Rights Movement and the TCOE joined the Cry of the Xcluded's Anti-Austerity Budgeting campaign.



Rethinking TCOE's Movement Building Strategy

As part of the organisation's annual action-reflection process, the movement building stream developed a strategy for rebuilding the Inyanda National Movement with a special focus on access to water and commonage land. The TCOE Inyanda National Review Meeting in May provided a further opportunity for rethinking the movement building strategy and reflection on the challenges of building the voice of grassroots organisations and people's power. This was necessary given the challenging political context and the fragility of many local associations. These fruitful strategic engagements culminated in a movement gathering in November in Bloemfontein led by the Inyanda leadership for implementing strategies to revive the movement.

Inyanda National Land Movement

Rebuilding the Movement

The Covid-19 national lockdown set back movements globally and Inyanda was no exception and local democracy proved to be a casualty of the lockdown. However, some of the work such as assisting farmers accessing the government's Relief Fund proved very effective. The lockdown put on hold several action plans at both national and local levels. We observed a decline in both leadership and membership which crippled the ability of the movement to devise meaningful responses to unfolding struggles in the countryside. During field visits, serious challenges of self-organising and leadership were observed. There are many organisational challenges which hampers the movement and needs to be dealt with systematically. These challenges include a lack of a comprehensive database of affiliates and their membership, no provincial structures

to coordinate and implement national resolutions, no strategy for resource mobilisation, a weakened national executive structure as well as no retention strategy for leaders and young people. From 28 to 29 November 2022, Inyanda convened a reflection meeting on the state of the movement to build layers of leadership at various levels and agree on a programme of action for revival.

Campaigns

Throughout 2022, Inyanda engaged in struggles for Land and Agrarian transformation, rural democratisation, lobbying for access to land, natural resource policy formulation and promoting alternative production methodologies such as agroecology for the realization of food security and food sovereignty.

Some of our struggles have had positive achievements in terms of accessing communal land. But traditional leaders, who are custodians of the land, are behaving in unethical ways and handing over land to big corporates and agribusiness creating new forms of dispossession such as land grabbing. As for municipal commonage, it is still a struggle as the municipalities are choosing to sell such land to the highest bidders. Farmers are provided with information on leasing farms from the Department of Rural Development, Land Reform and Agriculture. However, in the case of Upington in the Northern Cape, farmers declined to apply due to the far distances where the farms are located.

Inyanda rolled out various awareness programmes on climate change and the water crisis. Communities mobilised and participated in the struggle against the government's austerity budget. The movement formed part of successful court cases against seismic blasting and access to water by Coastal Links Eastern Cape and mobilised rural communities under the campaign for rural democracy to demand elected headman in their villages.



Water Campaign

The national water crisis continues to impact negatively on the lives of rural poor communities. The government is failing dismally to deal with the challenge of old water reticulation infrastructural systems and the racial disparities in water distribution. At the same time big businesses and industries waste this scarce South African resource. The Eastern Cape is one of the provinces most negatively impacted by the water crisis and in the Buffalo City Metro water has even been contaminated with sewerage. Communities are often forced to buy water for consumption and the destitute have no option but to consume contaminated water. This province further experiences continuous and poorly communicated water outages.

The water crisis campaign initially gained momentum in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northern Cape and then the Free State. A draft water crisis campaign strategy was developed and a national coordination structure established. The campaign

kicked off with a mass march in March in the Eastern Cape, targeting the Premier's Office, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation which generated a lot of media attention. In the Western Cape, Mawubuye Land Rights Forum and TCOE hosted a Speak Out about the water and sanitation crises in the Kannaland. In the Free State, Inyanda mobilized Botshabelo, Parys, and Theunissen communities where water coordination committees were established.

On 23rd February 2022, tragedy struck Zoar in the Western Cape when Rushian Rootman, a five-year-old young boy, fell into an unprotected sewerage dam and drowned. This tragic event shone a spotlight on the water and sanitation crises in Kannaland.

After consultations with activists in Zoar, Mawubuye Land Right Forum and TCOE jointly organised a Speak Out as a forum to publicly air and channel this frustration. The Speak Out took place in Zoar during March 2022 with over 100 people present. Those in attendance were mostly community members from Zoar, Amalienstein, Vanwyksdorp, Calitzdorp, Ladismith, Hoeko and Varkieskloof. Dr Louis Reynolds, Mr Henk Smith and Dr Monica Hendricks were invited by the TCOE to participate and compile an independent expert report to broadly assess the extent of the crisis which could then be used as an advocacy tool for activists. Finally, two officials from the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation were present.

A news article about the Water Crisis Speak Out in Zoar featured an interview with Marianne Mars from the Mawubuye Land Rights Forum and TCOE's Boyce Tom was published with the title 'Our human right is taken away': Kannaland water woes continue in the Cape Times in March 2022. A news story package featuring an interview with the TCOE researcher, Boyce Tom about the water crisis, was featured in a SABC News Afrikaans bulletin.

Communal Land and Commonage Campaign

Land Reform in South Africa is slowly going nowhere, and implementation of land reform policies is virtually non-existent. Since 2021, there has been ongoing pressure on commonage land for the development of a commonage land access framework. The Inyanda National Land Movement and TCOE place emphasis on awareness raising around what municipal commonage is, how the rural poor and civil society are excluded from policy debates and decision-making processes, such as in the Communal Land Tenure Summit. We also put a great emphasis on awareness raising around what is municipal commonage.

There is a growing trend of municipal commonage land being put on the market or to tender. Some municipalities are simply not even acquiring additional land. These trends are being exacerbated by the pressure placed on municipality's budgets because of national government's austerity budgeting. Women still struggle with accessing land in some provinces since traditional authorities restrict women's access to land.

In some provinces, women must be married and if single, they must be in the company of a male counterpart to be eligible for land. Poor access to municipal water continues to be a problem. Many projects rely on natural water sources such as rivers for irrigation, but many water sources are seasonal. Installations costs of boreholes are unaffordable for many rural communities.

In study circles in the Dawid Kruiper Municipality in the Northern Cape, the draft policy with small-scale livestock farmers was discussed. Small scale farmers are very angry at the current policy shifts. This led to a petition submitted by these farmers demanding broader consultation with those affected.

Building and Strengthening Alliances

The Movement Building team increased our presence in various alliances and networks as a strategy to increase and expand the reach of our movement building work and associated campaigns. A pleasing development is the expansion of Inyanda's footprint in the Free State and building solidarity with Abahlali baseMjondolo.

Participation in the National Anti-Austerity Budget Campaign

Inyanda participated in **Cry of the Excluded's** national Anti-Austerity Campaign. In February, a delegation participated in a national march to Parliament in Cape Town. The mass action provided a platform to engage with the contextual challenges facing the poor especially concerning government's austerity budgeting and its failure to implement a Universal Basic Income Grant of R1 500.

Abahlali baseMjondolo

TCOE and Inyanda organised an exchange visit to Abahlali Basemjondolo (ABM) given the synergies between the movements. Following the tragic flood disasters in KwaZulu Natal and in an act of solidarity, Inyanda and TCOE met with ABM comrades to provide ABM with material and political support. A follow up meeting was held in Durban to discuss opportunities for joint for action.

The ABM meeting included a visit to the Khenana Settlement, which has been occupied since since 2018. The Khenana commune practises agroecology to produce food for the commune. However, there has been several evictions and there is some resistance in the form of litigation against the settlement. In 2019 the court ruled against these "invasions". Some of ABM's activists and leaders have been assassinated but nobody has been arrested or prosecuted. These members have been in and out of prison and wrongfully accused of crimes that they did not commit. The exchange visit left a deep impression on the consciousness of Inyanda leaders and a meaningful partnership was created.

SAFTU Working Class Summit

TCOE and the Inyanda National Land Movement attended SAFTU's working class summit at the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality. Preparatory meetings were organised to assist communities with written proposals and Inyanda developed a submission. These engagements highlighted the impact of the multiple crises facing the working classes, the impacts on livelihoods and help to shape possible campaigns and alliance building.

Food Sovereignty Dialogue

A provincial Food Sovereignty dialogue was hosted by Zingisa in Berlin in the Eastern Cape in collaboration with DELTA. The dialogue created a platform for small-scale producers to share their struggles and experiences with accessing water, land and seeds. Discussions further explored alternative markets strategies and identified collective campaigns.

Tanzania/SA Partnership

In the Free State, Inyanda held discussions with the Botshabelo Unemployed Movement, Rural Women's Assembly and other local associations following the Jagersfontein tailings dam collapse to explore what Inyanda could do to support the devastated community. The decision was taken that TCOE's Movement Building stream together with the Food Sovereignty stream should assist with food production support and identify groups, movements, or organisations to work with. Inyanda led a joint drive to mobilize material support such as clothes, blankets and other materials.

Leaderships Building and Education Workshops

Leadership Building

In April 2022, Inyanda hosted Food Sovereignty meetings in the Amathole and Intsika Yethu District municipalities to build community consciousness about the impact of

government food security programmes on their livelihoods. Land is being grabbed through the Massive Food Production Programme, the Presidential Empowerment Stimulus Initiative, contract farming and GMO farming. Contract farming for ducks was cited as one case study which illustrated how poor farmers can become labourers on their own land. Communities in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo, the poorest provinces, are also being targeted.

Project Management

Field visits identified that the sustainability of local economic initiatives of Inyanda members was a challenge. This was often due to shortage of skills in project management, finances and mobilising resources. A Training of Trainers workshop took place in the Eastern Cape in January 2022 with 25 members in attendance, to assist trainees in replicating learnings at local level.

Financial Management and Resource Mobilization

Training was conducted in East London in February 2022 on how to ensure internal democracy and accountability with regards to finances and guidance on proposal writing.

Expansion and Consolidation to New Areas

Inyanda has increased its membership to new areas in the Eastern Cape such as Bedford, Cradock Sterkspruit, Middleburg Cape, and Burgersdorp.

Mopani Farmers Association (MFA)

Rural Democratization

Engaging Local and Traditional Authorities

MFA engaged local authorities on access to land for small-scale farmers as this is now a crisis. In the Selwane area, chiefs are fighting for territories and/or over boundaries. In other areas such as the Majeje Area, chiefs connive with white commercial farmers against small-scale farmers who occupied and work the land in communal areas. Small-scale farmers are given the option to get into lease agreements with the Traditional Authority (TA) or face eviction. They are also required, for the first time, to pay lease money for pastureland. Our intervention entailed engaging with the Traditional Authorities for land access, to stop evictions and stopping the payments of bribes. MFA started the engagement by organising lease money for communal land for those affected and had the first meeting with representatives from Majeje, Prieska, Xitlakati, Khaxani and Selwane early in the year. In the follow up meeting, affected communities resolved to demand that white commercial farmers who were given land which was initially allocated to small-scale producers must vacate that land.

Opposing Patriarchy

TAs are known to be evicting women from land they have been farming. MFA has become involved in two such cases. The first case concerns the highly productive Mzilela village women in the jurisdiction of Chief Dzumeri who were instructed to harvest their produce and leave the land, alleged to belong to the TA. It seems that they want to bring in another party who has been sabotaging the women's activities for the past three years. A case was opened with SAPS who have issued a protection order against the perpetrators. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has also become involved.



The second case involves women at the Mohlava Cross village who are being forced to leave the land they have worked for a long time, since it is now reportedly earmarked for residential purposes. RWA Limpopo has also become involved and submitted a memorandum of grievances to the TA.

Alliance Building

MFA and the Xitlakati Development Forum (XDF)

MFA collaborates with XDF in mobilizing communities in their struggles against the abuse of power by TAs in relation to land issues, alcohol and substance abuse amongst youth and the impact of climate change. The XDF is also mobilizing the Xitlakati, Khaxani, Zava and Mphagani communities to act on the bad conditions of roads, especially those that link commuters to government services.

Mobilising the Youth

MFA and XDF engaged in awareness raising against alcohol and substance abuse, especially targeting the youth. The MFA lobbied the departments of Health and Social Development to support this campaign. On June 16 youth were mobilised using the

theme “Is the struggle for June 16, 1976 still relevant to the Youth of today?” Discussions centred on alarming levels of unemployment, lack of accountability by government and corruption, GBV, alcohol and substance abuse, climate change, poor services delivery and political intolerance. The programme included awareness about the high incidence of teenage pregnancies.

Another awareness raising campaign was hosted by XDF at the Xitlakati Clinic aimed school children. To reduce the problem of unemployment within Ward 27, XDF lobbied the local Municipality to create job opportunities and 60 people, from all five villages which constitute ward 27, were appointed through the local Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). We are optimistic that these and future planned campaigns will assist MFA and XDF to reach out to and mobilize more communities.

XDF Court Case

Previous reports indicated that a court case had been opened by some members of the Xitlakati community against other members of XDF who had collaborated with white commercial farmers in unlawfully dispossessing the community of their farmland. The charges against the former were for vandalism and instigating violence. The case was closed due to lack of substantial evidence but it was re-opened during local government elections. We think that it was a political strategy to destabilize our campaign. The Xitlakati community are fully in support of their members and pay for their court costs. The case is ongoing.

Xitlakati Development Forum Recruitment Campaign

XDF has organised a successful recruitment drive in the Nondwen. XDF also resolved the problem of farm workers that had been unlawfully dismissed in this area and they have since returned to work.

Makukhanye Land Movement and Khanyisa

Struggle for Access to Commonage Land

Struggles in Kariega

The farming conditions which poor farmers must contend with such as the lack of grazing land, poor farming support, livestock impounding, and stock theft led small-scale farmers in Kariega in Uitenhage to engage directly with the Nelson Mandela Municipality. Two public meetings were hosted in February and April 2022 with municipal officials and relevant departments responsible for urban farming in attendance to find out the Municipality's position on commonage land and farming support. It became clear that the Municipality does not have a commonage land management policy or a commonage land audit. Secondly, the Municipality said that the R50 million required for development of commonage land is too expensive and that it will rather use public funds to promote commercial farming through an 'incubation programme'. However, this programme will only benefit the few who will be 'promoted' into commercial farming. The meeting rejected the council position.

Mapping Local Commonage Land

As a way forward, a mapping exercise was undertaken in April and May to look at the commonage land in the area, what the land is being used for, who is using the land and for what purpose. About 20 documented municipal commonage lands were visited by Makukhanye members. Some areas were inaccessible since the gates were locked. The mapping exercise identified 480 hectares of commonage suitable for farming. The organisers subdivided the land into 3 x 5 ha for each farmer for occupation. In the nearby commonage of LAPLAND, the current occupiers agreed to share



the land and allocated space for six farmers. In May 2022, it was resolved that those who already occupy land must be engaged to share the land with the landless when there is enough to share. Engagements are ongoing.

Our initial findings indicate that: commonage land is not properly managed as many of the users have no lease agreements; some of the commonage land is used by commercial farmers without the knowledge of the municipality; the locals enter the land and occupy it; some of the land is not suitable for grazing because there is no water; some of the land is bushy and will need clearance; some of the occupiers of commonage land have abandoned it due no access to water.

Struggle in Kouga Municipality

In February 2022, the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) had a second consultation meeting with Kouga farmers to discuss a legal strategy with stock farmers. Litigation options include interdicting the Kouga Municipality from impounding livestock as well as directly approaching the Constitutional Court to force the local municipality to provide commonage land to local farmers. In preparation, farmers in all Kouga municipal areas were required to collect data such as the available municipal land in the area, list of small-scale farmers and receipts of people whose livestock have been impounded.

Lawyers sent letters to the Kouga Municipality seeking clarity on the relationship between the municipality and service providers such as the pound owners.

Struggle for Land in the Sundays River Valley Municipality

Following numerous meetings between the local farmers association of Paterson and the Sundays River Valley Municipality (SRVM) and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DARDLR) regarding access to commonage land in Paterson area, the Municipality agreed to give local crop and stock producers 21 ha of commonage land. A representative of the Municipality visited the farmers to verify beneficiaries and documentation was processed. The SRVM is asking the DARDLR to provide farming support such as fencing and equipment. The 21 ha is not enough for 36 beneficiaries. Other interventions will need to be looked at after this process.

Responding to the Water Crisis in Nelson Mandela and Sundays River Valley

The severe drought which engulfed parts of the Eastern Cape, accompanied by poor management of water infrastructure, resulted in a water crisis in the Sundays River Valley and Nelson Mandela municipal areas. The crisis is characterized by

erratic water supply, poor quality of water and misuse of public funds meant for infrastructure. In areas such as Bersheba in the Sundays River Valley, the municipality is installing water meters although there is no water in the area and communities' members have rejected this.

Khanyisa and Makukhanye, working with the Centre for Integrated Post School Education, have established a water crisis coalition in Nelson Mandela, composed of environmental, health and agriculture groups in the Nelson Mandela and in the Sundays River Valley municipal areas. Between March and April 2022, five Speak Out sessions were held, to facilitate broader community engagement on how to respond to water crisis in preparation for engagement with public officials and relevant state institutions.

A public meeting for which government stakeholders were invited, but did not arrive, turned into a strategy session on how to respond to the crisis. The strategy entails local actions, a media campaign, data collection, local and regional actions as well as meeting with the Human Rights Commission.

Since water is central to women's lives and for social reproduction, a workshop on women's experiences and perspectives was held in May 2022. Local pickets in areas such as Motherwell, Uitenhage and in Kwazakhele were undertaken to mobilize communities to form part of the water crisis committee. Community members have been encouraged to report water leaks to the municipality and the municipality gets monitored in its response. An effective strategy has been the use of media to expose inadequate interventions by the City. This exposure has forced the city to provide more water especially to highly affected areas such as Uitenhage. At this stage of the campaign, we are monitoring the contracts and performance of subcontractors contracted to provide emergency supply to communities.

Fighting Hazardous Pesticides

Khanyisa joined a coalition against the use of hazardous pesticides. The European Union has banned the use of 79 hazardous pesticides which are allowed in SA. The coalition will look at possibilities of litigation against government in failing to protect the right to health, as well as the mobilization of farm workers and those who are affected through a People's Tribunal.

Supporting Struggles Against Coastal Oil Exploration

We have been engaged in supporting struggles against coastal oil and gas exploration and participating in pickets for the court case in Gqebera from 30 to 31 May 2022 against Shell and the Minister of Department of Mineral Resources to stop the seismic blasts.

Deepening Understanding of Transformation

On 23 May 2022, Khanyisa and the International Labour Research Group (ILRIG) hosted a RAJA youth ambassador who is from a region in Syria. He shared their perspectives in relation to their philosophy of transformation, such as women and youth leadership, democracy, and confederation. Community and workers formations as well as other activists based in Nelson Mandela University were present.

Coastal Links Eastern Cape

Campaigns

Challenging Contract Fish Farming and Processing

Large companies, collaborating with government departments, continue to lobby coastal communities to establish partnerships which benefit these companies.

Communities then get involved in contracts without understanding the full implications. In this instance, fishers were persuaded into fish farming. A meeting was held to discuss how livelihoods are affected by such contracts and to develop a strategy. We cannot ignore the fact that fishers in general, especially those who are not part of Coastal Links Eastern Cape, are divided – therefore, awareness raising and mobilisation against Contract Farming is critical where farmers and fishers end up being labourers of the project while big business accrue profits.

Opposing Extractivism by Shell and Department of Mineral Resources

Coastal Links Eastern Cape mobilised fishing communities to support legal action against Shell and the Minister of Department of Mineral Resources to stop the seismic blasts that have a negative bearing on marine life, livelihoods of the poor coastal communities and the environment. Coastal Links Eastern Cape was supported by Inyanda National Land Movement, Rhodes University and other strategic partners. The court noted that the Department and Shell did not follow legal procedures that would allow them to continue with seismic survey.

Mobilising Against Mining

A community meeting was held in May to mobilize communities against mining. The chiefs in the area are collaborating with government and persuading the communities to sign agreements to allow mining in these areas. Coastal Links is involved in this campaign fighting against mining, seemingly there are community members who have been promised bribes and who may sign without consulting the broader communities.

Water Campaign

The coastal communities have consistently been engaging in struggles for access to water. The communities of Nombanjana took the government to court for the infringement of these rights.

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June 16 Commemorations

We organised a peaceful march and roadshow from Umngazi to Lungewu Beach. The objective was to organise youth by stopping at different points and have public talks about 16 June 1976, the challenges facing the youth today, the infringement and violation of fishers' rights, the exploitation of the working class and our rights to defend the commons and our environment.

Mendwane Community Meeting and Fighting Exclusion

The Eastern Cape Parks Tourism Agency and Rangers at Umbashe River continue to assault small-scale fishers and prohibit them from accessing vital marine resources from which they have lived their whole lives. We organised a meeting with Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), ECPTA, and CPA to condemn the killing of Mendwana communities must walk to the site allocated to them to fish is too far. The distance of about three and a half kilometres contributes to fishing where it is prohibited.

Community Outreach Programme

Coastal Links EC has outreach to two new areas namely, Tsweleni and Sintsana as part of its recruitment drive. We discussed issues affecting these communities and possible advocacy action.



Botshabelo Unemployed Movement (BUM)

Activities, Campaigns and Building Alliances

May Day Commemorations

SAFTU, NUMSA, Rural Women's Assembly, Botshabelo Livestock and B.U.M had a workshop with around 4, 500 activists in May 2022 with the theme "Right to Work Our Road to Freedom". We learned that to address the unemployment crisis we should fight for the Right to Work to be included in the Constitution and in the Bill of Rights.

IDP Draft Review

B.U.M held an information session in May regarding Integrated Development Planning (IDP) to enable participants make their inputs.

Fifty representatives of NGOs and community organisations and municipal officials attended, B.U.M had three representatives. This meeting was organised by the Mangaung Municipal Manager who did not show up which made people angry. They felt that there is no need to attend these events as they are not dealing with real issues of poverty, inequalities and unemployment. The people in this meeting waged a sit in for some hours refusing to move. Most of B.U.M members also attended a meeting at Naledi to stop the Mangaung Municipality from building a graveyard on the commonage land.

Opposing GBV

In August, B.U.M women's forum organised a workshop on GBV. This was in response to the escalation of merciless killings, abuse of women and children. Relevant stakeholders were invited to engage them in their role and responsibility in curbing this situation.

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Remembering the Marikana Massacre

The anniversary of the Marikana Massacre on 9 August was used to remember the brutality exercised by the ANC led government at Marikana and its inability to govern the country. B.U.M representatives travelled to Marikana on the day to show solidarity with the marginalized communities and participate in the political debates and commemorations.

Climate Change and Global Warming

B.U.M mobilized and organised community awareness raising activities about climate change and the impact on livelihoods of the urban and rural poor. This was followed by picketing at Eskom Offices as part of supporting the global climate change strike week. The necessary political materials were developed for educational purposes and profiling these struggles.

Health

B.U.M held a workshop with the Peoples Health Movement to engage with health issues and develop strategies of engaging the authorities to respond positively to local health challenges. In September, B.U.M led a cleaning campaign in Botshabelo Section E together with other CBOs and the PEP workers. This also enhanced building solidarity and local alliances.

Study Groups, Educational and Political Programmes

B.U.M is continuing with political platforms, which include running a regular study circle for political consciousness and leadership building. This an attempt to build a layer of leadership that will take up informed campaigns.

B.U.M continues to host educational and political programmes, reading groups and assisting learners with homework in an attempt to build the local movement consciousness and give educational support to local communities.

Strengthening B.U.M

In July, a delegation of 55 B.U.M branch executives attended a central strategic meeting to reflect on impact, challenges and chart a way forward. The gathering assisted in shaping and consolidating B.U.M plans as well as developing alternative strategies and interventions.

Northern Cape Inyanda

Livestock, Land and Water Struggles

Engaging for Municipal Commonage and Water

Since the 2021 Land Indaba in Gqeberha, livestock farmers planned a campaign to demand from the Dawid Kruiper Municipality information about where commonage lands are situated. The present commonage for the Rosedal livestock farmers accommodates 44 livestock farmers, whereas according to the agricultural department only four livestock farmers are supposed to occupy that land. It is even worse for those in Paballelo, whose land is much smaller than that of the Rosedale livestock farmers.

The Directorate of Corporate Services of the Dawid Kruiper Municipality provided information on where land is available but discussions are still continuing on how to relocate farmers. The municipality was also put under pressure by the small-scale livestock farmers for wetlands as well as for water infrastructure installations - about R100 000 is set aside by the municipality for the Hondejaag commonage land.

A certain wetland land near the Orange River was identified for small-scale livestock farmers to grow feed for their livestock and food for themselves. However, there needs to be some work done before they can occupy the land. It means, an arrangement for water rights with the Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation and with Agriculture for agricultural inputs.

Cooperation among Rosedale and Paballelo Livestock Farmers

Cooperation, sharing information and the safety of livestock was high on the agenda of meetings between the Rosedale and Paballelo livestock farmers. At meetings in March and September they agreed to: set up a WhatsApp group to assist in the dissemination

and strengthen communications between farmers; establish primary cooperatives and at a later stage a secondary cooperative and collective marketing of their livestock. A request has been made with the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) for an initial information session about cooperatives.

Mawubuye Land Rights Movement

Water Crisis Campaign

On 23rd February 2022, tragedy struck Zoar when Rushian Rootman a five year-old young boy fell into an unprotected sewerage dam and drowned. This sad event shines a spotlight on the water and sanitation crises in Kannaland. It represents a huge failure at a range of different levels. While the Bill of Rights in the South African Constitution guarantees basic human rights such as people's right to clean running water, but this constitutional protection is being violated as is the case in Zoar. TCOE and the Mawubuye Land Rights jointly hosted a Speak Out as a forum to publicly air how the crisis was impacting the community.

The Speak Out took place in Zoar during March 2022 with over 100 people present. Those in attendance were mostly community members from Zoar, Amalienstein, Vanwyksdorp, Calitzdorp, Ladismith, Hoeko and Varkieskloof. Dr Louis Reynolds, Mr Henk Smith and Dr Monica Hendricks were invited by the TCOE to participate and then compile an independent expert report to broadly assess the extent of the crisis which could then be used as an advocacy tool for activists. Finally, two officials from the Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation were also present.

The report included recommendations to use as a guide for developing an advocacy strategy. TCOE supported Mawubuye activists and community members to engage with the IDP process and ensure that resolving the water crisis remains a priority for



the event drew the attention of the Kannaland Water and Sanitation Forum who invited TCOE to make a presentation about our work. TCOE and Mawubuye Land Rights Forum representatives are now members of the forum which include representatives from local and national government. A few weeks after the Speak Out, the tap water supply was restored and TCOE had the water independently tested to ensure that it was safe to drink.

Political Education and Leadership Building Public Meetings

The movement organised political education open days in Barrydale and Zoar. The focus was on issues affecting women, consolidating our membership base in these areas, Food Sovereignty and strengthening local Food Systems.

Awareness Raising on Xenophobia

In rural areas xenophobic violence has been a reality in relation to the growing numbers of foreign national workers employed on farms. In March, this sadly resulted in xenophobic violence in Robertson. Migrant workers live in informal settlements in the back yards of township residents. Most of them are undocumented and are taken advantage of by farm owners. The Mawubuye Land Rights Forum used Human Rights Day as a platform to raise awareness on xenophobia and Afrophobia.

16 June 1976 Commemoration Day

Mawubuye Land Rights Forum and CSAAWU, joined by the community of Op Die Koppie and Panorama informal settlement in Robertson, organised two activities. One was a wood workshop session where 50 youth gathered to learn how to build benches, chairs, and tables. On the 17th of June, Mawubuye Land Rights Forum and CSAAWU united the youth in the informal settlement Panorama in Robertson and hosted a sports day in honour of Youth month. The youth played cricket, netball and indigenous games. A dance group from Montague and local youth from Zolani in Ashton had the youth on their feet with their dance moves and outfits.

GBV SMS Helpline Awareness Raising for Schools

The GBV SMS Help line has become a tool for women and children on farms in remote areas in farming communities to find immediate help. Since Mawubuye has started working closely with the farm schools, we have become aware of the high rate of bullying which contributes to early school dropouts, Gender-Based Violence, teen suicide, and early teen pregnancy. Mawubuye Land Rights Forum intends to build a strong relationship with local social workers, the schools and social media platforms to popularize the SMS line.



Establishing and Strengthening Livestock Farmers' Forums

Mawubuye focused on building and strengthening livestock farmers' forums within the Langeberg like Robertson, McGregor, Zolani, NKqubela, and Montagu to challenge government for access to commonage land.

Numerous demands and engagements with local municipalities have been made by livestock farmers from Suurbraak, Barrydale, Genadedal and Swellendam Municipality. A lack of access to water is still a serious challenge for these farmers, especially for pig farmers. The following action plan was developed:

- a) Host a roundtable discussion with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) as well as the Department of Water and Sanitation;
- b) Ensure farmers are registered on the DALRRD database;
- c) Request a land Audit from the local government to identify all commonage land;
- d) To ensure that we create a platform where farmers can engage and use the space to share information and knowledge.

Women's Access to Land

The struggle for land continues as we strengthen the "One Woman - One Hectare" campaign in all provinces. In collaboration with the Rural Women's Assembly (RWA), Mawubuye engaged with Swellendam Municipality to open discussions about accessing land for women. In the Western Cape we have accessed 2h of land in De Doorns, and we hope to gain more land in the province through the campaign.

Rural Peoples Movement

Community Action Against Gender Based Violence as Bathurst

A meeting was called to discuss and formulate some demands for the anti-Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign and these demands were then sent to the prosecuting council including that no bail must be granted to perpetrators. A picket was held near Grahamstown Court in this regard.

Land Access and Use

Cooperating with the Council of Churches and Setting up a Cooperative

In May, the Rural Peoples' Movement held a meeting to report on their engagement with the Council of Churches South Africa International whose objective is to support and promote productive and effective land use. The Council of Churches also promotes the establishment of cooperatives. The outcome of this gathering was to set up a cooperative management committee. Land was identified for production for this cooperative. Each member must pay a joining fee of R200 to facilitate registration of the cooperative and for hiring TLB to remove shrubs in the identified plot and clear the ground. The process to register the cooperative is unfolding. They then consulted the COCSAI for support and advised to develop a business plan.

There is a need to be more focused in areas with established support and for the movement not spread itself too thinly on the ground for maximum impact. There is also a need to develop a clear strategy on local support and building from below.

RURAL WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY



In the previous two years, the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on South Africans and the economy leading to an increase in unemployment and deepening of poverty. The effects have been devastating for women and research indicates that poverty rates among rural women are significantly higher than among their urban counterparts. Poverty rates among rural women are estimated to be around 70 percent. Ongoing loadshedding also makes it more difficult to carry out daily essential family care and tasks.

With the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in 2022 RWA was able to rebuild and strengthen the RWA, restart face to face engagements, increase visibility, work towards meeting the objectives set for 2022 and participate in public forums aiming at advancing the needs of rural women. RWA participates in national and international initiatives and events (e.g. National /International Women's Day, World Food Day/ International Rural Women's Day), including through hybrid webinars. RWA is growing and the members are demonstrating a heightened level of understanding of the issues in which they work, valuing the learning and sharing platforms created by the movement.



RWA Key Campaigns

In 2022, RWA South Africa intensified our advocacy and lobbying actions through various campaigns.

Expanding RWA South Africa

Launched in 2013, RWA South Africa is now active in seven provinces namely Limpopo, Gauteng, Eastern Cape, Free State, Western Cape, Northern Cape and the Northwest. However, we decided to place on hold engagements in the Northwest and Northern Cape so that we can conduct provincial support visits. Organisations such as the Southern Cape Land Committee (SCLC) and Association for Rural Advancement Land rights Advocacy (AFRA) in KZN have indicated that they would like to join. The year 2022 was also fruitful in the reintegration of fisherwomen in RWA. In the fishing communities, where livelihoods are dependent on the sea, it is evident that women find it difficult to be a part of the fishing industry. Most of the quotas are held by men, while women usually clean the fish. Due to climate change and pollution, fishing seasons are shorter, and men come home with fewer fish than before.

RWA South Africa meets virtually on the first Tuesday of every month with monitoring and planning for the following month. This has been useful in building a momentum for a learning and sharing space.

UNDROP

Levels of awareness raising on UNDROP have increased in each province popularising the rights contained in UNDROP and discussing strategies on how to influence policy and decision makers. RWA made a submission to the UN Human Rights Council through the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for South Africa.

The UPR gives each state the chance to outline the steps they have made to advance



the human rights in their nations and uphold their human rights duties. The SA RWA was one of very few organisations selected to participate in the UPR Review in Geneva. RWA advocated for implementation of UNDROP, with special focus on land, seeds and food sovereignty. RWA also submitted a joint statement with other civil society organisations. The recommendations were accepted but have yet to implement.

RWA produced an educational booklet on UNDROP and had some awareness raising engagements with traditional leaders and government at different levels. Although facing resource constraints to rollout our engagements throughout all provinces, RWA will continue to monitor and push for the implementation of the UNDROP. We believe that UNDROP is more than just a declaration. It is an opportunity to implement the human rights of all people working in rural areas, including their right to Food Sovereignty and to redress their systematic and historic marginalisation in SA.

Agroecology, Seed and Food Sovereignty and Climate Change

RWA continues to promote agroecology, seed and food sovereignty through the Agroecological Hubs, some of which are administered by RWA members, to contribute to scaling up climate resilience in food production. This can contribute towards livelihoods that can assist in tackling poverty as well as promote some level of women's independence and autonomy. RWA also arranged several community workshops about climate change and how to mitigate it. RWA participates in the ongoing Inyanda National Land Movement water campaign and encourages tree planting. The agroecology hubs have already planted 40 fruit trees. A letter was drafted and sent to the Department of Forestry and Fisheries telling them that we have a tree planting campaign and requested fruit trees.

"One Woman - One Hectare" Campaign and the Struggle for Land

In 2022, RWA was able to rebuild, reimagine, and revitalise the movement through the One Woman-One Hectare campaign. RWA engaged local municipalities and national governments in this regard, but with little success.

Nevertheless, some progress was made in 2022 and some RWA women have been able to access land and establish backyard / household gardens, communal gardens (e.g. 35 household gardens and four community gardens in the Free State) and guerrilla gardens, under-utilised and unoccupied land on dumping sites, public schools, commonage land, which is transformed into a resource for RWA members and the community (e.g. 2 hectares of dry land in the Breede Valley Municipality). Some people were given land without access to water and RWA members have had to resort to carrying water from nearby water sources.

During the Women's Month celebrations, RWA mobilised women to demand their right to land with water. The Deputy President was in attendance for one of the provincial commemorations, and we had over 200 women rallying behind this cam

paign. RWA has submitted a petition to the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) regarding the One Woman-One Hectare campaign, and we are still waiting for a response. Meanwhile RWA is in the process of building an alliance with the Legal Resource Centre (LRC) towards strengthening the advocacy strategy, by documenting cases on lack of land reform and lack of government responsiveness to rural women's land rights.

RWA has started a baseline study to monitor access to land by its members through the 'One Woman - One Hectare' campaign. So far, our data indicates that 148 women access 186 hectares in in the Western Cape, Gauteng, Free State, Eastern Cape and Limpopo.

Gender-Based Violence

RWA conducted a GBV Audit, with the help of ten GBV Coordinators. Data were also collected from institutions and CSOs working with women and/or girls, RWA survivors of GBV. The GBV Audit gave us an opportunity to gain insight into what is happening on the ground. Survivors were eager to tell us about their experiences and how the justice system had failed them and children. The audit also aided us in developing relationships with various groups working on GBV.

RWA held several activities during the 16 Days of Activism against GBV including awareness raising sessions in schools, clinics and other public platforms. RWA worked with the police, clinics, community health workers, churches, schools, non-governmental organisations and substance abuse groups. Many rural towns have no police stations; police stations are not survivor-friendly, and police officers are not trained to work with victims; there are no proper support systems in place for survivors and victims' such as safe houses. Most of the departments do not want to participate as they claim they do not have the authority to release information because of the internal policy of confidentiality. The churches were very receptive but some were of the opinion that because

of diverse religious views and GBV being perceived as a private matter, the subject is too delicate to be discussed in church. The Audit findings were used to inform the RWA 2023-2024 GBV Strategy.

Feminist School

RWA SA participated in the Feminist School in Namibia organised by the RWA Southern Africa. The Feminist School is used to build capacity for women in the form of political education and understanding of patriarchy. It was a teach-in about feminism, skill sharing and practical training (making of cream, how to use a seed bank, solar drying of vegetables and fruits, making liquid fertilizer, sausage making).

Rural Democracy

RWA's objective was for women to challenge legislation and their under-representation and lack of participation in ten traditional authorities, and their exclusion because of patriarchal values.

In Limpopo and the Eastern Cape, RWA has taken part in dialogues with traditional leaders and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). These following are some of the key achievements:

- Traditional leaders were made aware of UNDROP using our UNDROP booklets as an educational tool.
- In Limpopo, women challenged traditional leaders to re-institute the rights of burial on ancestral land. One of the chiefs had denied a RWA member permission to bury her husband. RWA SA women travelled to the traditional authorities' offices but after being disregarded, in defiance, RWA positioned the coffin on the chief's veranda while negotiating with COGTA and the man was finally buried by the local authorities.
- The rights of women and children in Maswanganyi in the Limpopo province, were violated by traditional officials. Women took

up the issue with the traditional leader and RWA members offered support for the victims.

There are significant power imbalances within rural communities, which can make it difficult for marginalized groups such as women to have their voices heard. RWA must improve the dissemination of information and accelerate education on the rights of women in rural areas to engage with and lobby traditional authorities and continue demanding the right to participate and be represented in "traditional spaces".

Media and Communications

RWA uses a range of media and communication tools to communicate with its members, the public and key decision makers. RWA South Africa also benefited from media coverage on the following platforms:

Daily Maverick; Ground Up, SABC Channel Africa; SABC The Watchdog; Street Talk; Workers World Media Productions, Cape Town TV, 1KZN TV, Mpuma Kapa TV

One highlight for the Rural Women's Assembly was being featured in a special episode of the Street Talk video series on the topic of Gender-Based Violence. This episode was broadcast on Street Talk's Social Media Channels and is available on the Daily Maverick platform for viewing.

Another highlight was that RWA secured multiple interviews on SABC Channel Africa, the international radio service of the SABC with broadcasts in West, East, Central Africa and Southern Africa, amongst others. Lungisa Huna was interviewed on Channel Africa about the Climate Emergency and UNDROP UPR hybrid Speak Outs.

eNCA's Ayesha Ismail travelled to McGregor for the RWA's World Food Day market and a video story on RWA's One Woman- One Hectare was placed on the eNCA YouTube channel in October 2022.

Articles about RWA's Hybrid Speak Out on the climate emergency were featured on the Daily Maverick and Ground Up platforms on 17 and 18 November 2022.

Monthly Inyanda's newsletter featuring stories from RWA country chapters. All stories are published on the RWA Blog.



2023 Focus Areas

- Continue UNDROP awareness-raising, make connections with likeminded organisations and engage decision makers
- Work with local formations and LRC to develop legal precedent to force government to develop proper redistribution policy guidelines to ensure that women obtain access to land.
- Develop an anti-GBV campaign action plan to target focus areas using the outcome of our study.
- Continue local awareness raising and support for survivors; lobby government for safe communities for women and children, for bigger budgets towards GBV preventative programmes and increased support to survivors.
- Continue support for community and guerilla gardening.
- Continue with RWA's and audit.

The struggle for land, water as well as seed and food sovereignty are interlinked as contained in the UNDROP. The UNDROP campaign is interlinked with the One Women-One Hectare campaign, and the use of agroecological principles to guarantee the right to food contribute to mitigating the impact of the climate crisis. Greater use of land for food will lessen hunger, create and improve livelihoods and increase women's independence and possibilities of moving away from abusive relationships. RWA must challenge government austerity budgets to push for greater support and allocation of resources to where the need is great.

19 FARM WORKERS AND FARM DWELLERS



In the TCOE fold, mobilisation and organisation of farm workers focussed on the Western Cape. However, over the last few years this has also expanded to the Eastern Cape. In the Western Cape, farm workers are organised in the Commercial Stevedoring Agriculture and Allied Workers Union (CSAAWU), while in the Eastern Cape they are organised in farm workers forums assisted by Khanyisa.

In the Western Cape, the focus of CSAAWU's organising was on the grape wine supply chain industry. But over the last few years CSAAWU has expanded its work into other sub-sectors (e.g. cheese production) and other areas. CSAAWU's reach in the Western Cape now covers several municipalities and areas (Cape Metro, Boland, Overberg, Langeberg/ Breedriver, Paarl, Grabow/ Hermanus/Gansbaai, Vredendal, Kannaland). The Eastern Cape farmworkers forums mainly operate in the western parts of the province, in citrus production areas. CSAAWU is now also expanding its reach to the Free State and the Northern Cape.





KEN JOU
REGTE!!!



Nuwe minimum loon vanaf 1 Maart 2022

Geen werker mag minder as R23,19 per uur nou verdien nie:

R208.71 per dag | R 1043.55 per week

R2087.10 vir twee weke | R4521.70 per maand

*Al doen jy stukwerk, moen jy die minimum loon ten minste betaal word.
En Meerder as jy Meer stukwerk doen!*

Enige Laag betalings, meld aan asseblief by die **Rural Legal Centre:**

30 Voortrekker Road, Robertson

CSAAWU, jou laaste hoop vir die toekoms!

Context and Challenges

Farm workers organisation and unionisation remains very low. Nationally less than 8% are unionised. Farm work has changed over the last 20 years or so - more casualisation, employment of migrant workers, greater use of labour brokers, mechanisation and feminisation of the work force. With the official end of apartheid, and the integration of South Africa into highly competitive global markets, the agricultural sector became increasingly oriented to the production of commodities for export.

Post-independence in 1994, farm workers were for the first time incorporated into South African labour law. Despite this, similarly to what happened during apartheid, farm workers organising continued to be neglected by mainly urban oriented trade unions. Farm workers continued to work and live in isolated areas, without access to information or knowledge of their rights and without external support. The state proved to be unable and unwilling to enforce its own laws and confront the powerful well organised commercial agriculture sector – seen as a key source of foreign exchange earnings for the country.

South Africa then recorded an increasing and unprecedented number of farm workers' evictions from white owned commercial farms. Currently, the high levels of unemployment and large reserve army of labour, weakened and discredited labour movement and a weak state, continue to perpetuate untransformed racist colonial and patriarchal relations on farms. Workers experience intimidation, including when attempting to exercise their rights of freedom of association and join a trade union and they fear of eviction from the farm, with nowhere to go. Women farm workers are particularly vulnerable as often their residence on farms is connected to and dependent on the employment of their male partners or family members. Parallel to this, South Africa has witnessed increasing land consolidation. New farm owners often do not honour any existing commitments and formerly permanent workers are replaced by workers recruited by labour brokers.

Some Successes

Despite all the difficulties and obstacles CSSAWU's and farm workers forums in the Eastern Cape organising activities have seen some successes.

- CSAAWU held its 5th Congress on 25-27th November 2022, Cape Town. This was a major achievement as it was overdue because of its postponement due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions – these hindered not only holding the Congress but the ability of CSAAWU to travel, organise and support workers and weakened CSAAWU's branches. The congress was attended by CSAAWU shop stewards and members from different regions and received many messages of solidarity from national and international allies. Besides the key address by the President of SAFTU, Ruth Mamolaba Ntlokotse, the Congress was addressed by other speakers.

On the evening of the 26th, CSAAWU together with TCOE commemorated the 10-year anniversary of the 2012 Western Cape farm workers uprising at the Slave Lodge in Cape Town. Farm workers were reminded of the historical roots of farm work going back to the first colonial settlement in the Western Cape, land dispossession and enslavement of local and “imported” peoples. This also revealed the continuation of the past into the present. The CSAAWU Congress celebrated the spirit of resistance by farm workers during the Western Cape uprising and the farm workers' strike.

Highlights from CSAAWU Conference

Reflection on legislation impacting on land and agriculture; Presentation by Nomzamo Zondo, Socio-Economic Rights Institute – SERI) clearly showed us how our government and courts have failed us in implementing promises made in the SA Constitution, namely: equitable access to land and security of tenure.

A national land audit revealed the continuation of racialised inequality:

In 37 million hectares of land there are +/- 181,000 individual owners and land owned by individuals amounts to 9% of SA's land. Of these 72% are whites; 15% are coloureds; 5% are Indians and 4% are Africans. In terms of gender, 72% owners are male; 13% females and the rest are co-owned.

The need to understand the changing profile of SA agriculture and export markets:

Agriculture is a major employer and the number of workers in supply chains are indeed increasing. But the major exports sectors and destinations are changing. For example, citrus and derived products are replacing wine and the biggest buyers are China and in Africa. CSAAWU has depended on ethical trade agreements with Europe. But trade unions are weak in China and Africa.

- CSAAWU has started to expand into the Free State. This is a province with intense commercial agriculture, major producers of maize, soybeans, wheat, sorghum, sunflowers, potatoes, wheat, groundnuts and wool.
- CSAAWU has established international links and partners. CSAAWU continues its links with unions along the wine supply chain (Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway) and started links with workers in the citrus industry (e.g. in Brazil).
- Through the links with the citrus industry in Brazil, CSAAWU and the farm workers forums have started using Mapping, a tool to raise awareness of occupational health and safety issues, their long-term impact on workers bodies, health, working and personal lives, and that can be used during negotiations with employers. personal lives.
- CSAAWU in the Western Cape continues to work with the Rural Legal Centre (RLC) in Robertson.
- Some support processes for retrenched farm workers and impoverished households have been established such as soup kitchens and incentivising food gardens.
- Popular Education & Study Circles continues with a focus on pesticides, workers' rights, GBV and Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).
- We have established some support for processes for retrenched farm workers and impoverished households (soup kitchens, incentivising food garden).

Khanyisa and the Farm Workers Forums

Khanyisa and associated farm workers forums and have increased their internal capacity to deal with labour law violations and matters related to evictions. Leaders and members of the forums have regular executive and general meetings.

Khanyisa started working with the Nelson Mandela University (NMU) and the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA). The partnership with NMU allows for direct response to labour rights violations on farms (e.g. to claim UIF and pension benefits; deductions of wages; income in liquidated businesses) as well as to problems associated with living conditions and illegal farm evictions. The partnership with the CCMA is for farm workers to understand the CCMA processes and build their capacity to represent themselves during arbitration.

Improvement of Farm Dwellers Living Conditions

Illegal farm evictions and constructive evictions (cutting of water and electricity supply to make living conditions unbearable so that people move) have been prevalent in some areas of the E.C. (e.g. in Alexandria). We challenged farmers and referred cases to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and have capacitated farm dwellers on security of tenure law with the assistance of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies. Khanyisa also organised a meeting between Agri-Eastern Cape, farm workers forums, Sundays River Valley Municipality and ESKOM, resulting in a programme of action to install water and electricity on identified farms.

Farm Workers Struggles in Farm Share Equity Schemes

With the support of the Legal Resource Centre (LRC), Khanyisa has continued to challenge the exclusion of farm workers who are meant to be the beneficiaries of share equity schemes, where white farmers take advantage of grants provided by land reform programmes.

Occupational health and safety awareness raising: We had workshops on health and safety for farm workers, to assist them to understand relevant legislation and policies when injured at work. This was facilitated by Richard Spoor Attorneys and some of outstanding claims were referred to the firm for assistance.

As a result of our research on pesticides, Khanyisa and farm workers forums now participate in international networks and campaigns against the use and importation of deadly pesticides into SA.



Way Forward

- More collaborative work between CSAAWU and farm workers forums in the Eastern Cape
- Expansion of farm worker mobilisation and organising in the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and the Free State, in TCOE operational areas.
- Encourage women's greater involvement and attend to women issues in the workplace and places of stay.
- Expand and strengthening organising along supply chains.
- Investment in understanding political economy and organisational development to strengthen the workers movement. A lot of work still needs to be done in raising political and class consciousness, leadership and organisational development as well as improving administrative / membership systems.

In 2022, Khanyisa and the workers forums started engaging with the Sustainable Institute of South Africa (a body that monitors and regulates social standards on farms) regarding unacceptable living conditions of farm workers/dwellers. This will be an ongoing programme in 2023.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY STREAM 99



Climate change related events impacted on our small-scale producers. Rains have been very erratic and in some areas in the Buffalo City Municipality, potatoes were destroyed by too much rain in September 2022. Plagues of brown locusts in the Eastern Cape destroyed grazing and crops. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's futile efforts to control this through aerial spraying was to use chemicals which damage people and livestock. Other SADC countries, such as Zimbabwe and Zambia, were affected by an outbreak of quelea birds which feed on small grains such as millets and sorghum.

Land dispossession continues in some of areas where we work. In the Eastern Cape this comes with contract farming, where some farmers are cornered into producing for export markets. In Limpopo and Free State, we saw land dispossession driven by traditional leaders with vested interests. In both provinces, traditional leaders have been instrumental in assisting land grabs by Multinational Corporations (MNC) turning farmers into labourers on their own land. Moreover in Botshabelo livestock producers, who are also members of the Inyanda National Land Movement, are facing eviction from commonage land by the local municipality to make place for a graveyard and told to move to other already over-stocked commonages.

Farm Managed Seed systems continue to be neglected with minimum protection measures in place and unreasonable restrictions under the recently released Regulations to the SA Plant Breeder's Act (PBA) and Plant Improvement Act (PIA). Load shedding is severely impacting on poultry production. Water reticulation has been seriously affected production and high fuel costs impacted badly on the ability of small-scale producers to transport produce to the market. The food sovereignty stream continued to enhance food security and food sovereignty through land and water acquisition for crop and livestock farming, development of climate resilient alternatives and promoting localized food systems. We also continue to build agroecological capacity of small-scale farmers and fishers in agroecological hubs/nodes, strengthen the farmer-to-farmer extension programmes as well as alliances with partners.

Despite the harsh context, we highlight TCOE's continuing efforts to improve livelihoods, food security and promote food sovereignty.



Workshops and Field Schools

In 2022, we hosted 38 workshops and field schools in various provinces involving 546 people (356 women and 190 men).

Land Access and Land Use

The table below lists 2022 land acquisitions.

Farmer	Size of Land	Tenure Arrangement	Land Use
N. Ntsika	1.5 Ha (School Land)	A letter of agreement has been offered by the school	Vegetable and field crop production
Anglican Women Group	0.25 Ha (Church Land)	No written lease arrangement	Vegetable production
A. Molefe, Botchabelo, FS	1.25 Ha (5x0.25 Ha Homesteads)	Verbal arrangements with land owners	Vegetables, maize, beans and herbs
Methodist Church Group, Mncotsho, EC	3.5 Ha	Open lease on a 1 Ha church land and a PTO on communal land	Vegetables, field crops and vegetables
Grace land Coop in Keis Kammahoek, EC	21 Ha	Open lease from the member of the Coop	Crop and livestock production (currently having 15 Landrace pigs)
Kungawo Amandla Coop	1 Ha	7 year lease from the school	Crop production
Silwanendlala Coop (Manxeba AE Hub)	1.5 Ha	PTO from the local traditional leadership	Crops, livestock, seed bank, nursery
Total	30 Ha		



There has been some improvement in land use activities. This is probably due to the impacts of Covid which left many out of jobs with the only alternative to put food on the table being by working the land at their disposal.

In the Western Cape and parts of the Eastern Cape some land occupation continues to happen as people have developed the hunger for land as a result of our politicising and raising awareness on the importance of land access. Food gardens continue to increase at a very encouraging rate. We have also strengthened our working with schools in advancing the agro-ecology agenda.

Provincial and District Food Sovereignty Events in Eastern Cape

Provincial and District Dialogues

On the 29 March 2022, a provincial dialogue on food sovereignty was held in Berlin. This was followed by district food sovereignty meetings in Cofimvaba and Berlin in April and May. The purpose of these meetings was to create a platform whereby small-scale producers share experiences with accessing land and water, food production and markets and for promoting agroecological production. They also shared information on government programmes which support producers - e.g. the Presidential Employment Strategy Initiative, Solidarity Fund, Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP), Siyazondla (Food security programme) and contract farming.

The discussions revealed that land access for rural people is still a big challenge. Security of tenure is minimal, especially for farm workers and farm dwellers. They also revealed that government programmes which claim to support producers are not serving its purpose since it is mostly government officials and the middlemen who tend to benefit. The beneficiaries are exploited in the process. For example, officials prescribe where beneficiaries should source inputs regardless of the distances to be travelled, and they have to pay for their own transport, leading some to fail meeting the deadline for acquisition of the inputs.

Contract farming was also discussed in-depth. It tends to alienate producers from their land and also brings divisions among communities as there are those who do not go with the flow. In the meeting in Berlin it emerged there was a drive to take over land for duck production, allegedly for export to Chinese markets. The project targets individuals with at least 1.5 ha of land. Some have already fallen for this allegedly lucrative opportunity. Producers were advised to be cautious with projects that take over their land.

District Food Festival in the Eastern Cape

A district food festival was held in Misty Mount, Libode in May 2022. The objective was to promote indigenous seeds, overlooked traditional leafy vegetables and encourage healthy eating to boost immunity and prevent diseases. Seed sharing and traditional songs were part of this very successful food festival. Producers brought different crops from their fields and farmers shared different recipes. The most outstanding was porridge made from bitter melons, reminding many of the foods we used to eat in the olden days! A speaker from the Department of Health spoke of the importance of a balanced and varied diet. Another municipal official also spoke and pledged maximum support to small-scale producers. The municipality had also assisted Edabini Babafazi, a project in Misty Mount, with construction of a nursery.

Seed Project and Seed Banking

We continue to encourage our producers to save the right types of seeds and all our meetings are platforms for seed sharing.

Seed Trials

At the learning site in Berlin, interns are running seed trials and currently there are trials for pearl millet. This type of millet is very tolerant to bird attack as it has head projections that prick birds when they try to eat it. Once we have adequate volumes, seeds will be given to identified farmers for reproduction. We are also having trials for finger millet and Bambara nuts. The purpose of these trials is to check adaptability to our local climatic conditions. The stream acquired and distributed sugar beans and Okavango maize to some producers so that they can multiply and bring back a portion to the provincial seed bank. This will ensure that those who did not get these seeds will have a chance to get and multiply them.

Multiple Varieties

One farmer in Botshabelo has diverse maize varieties and herbs from which he saves seed for the next crop. He says that he barely visits the clinic as he has all the medication he wants from the herbs in his garden. The red maize is said to be very good for porridge and also when served fresh or even roasted. The yellow maize is good as stock feed (due to its high protein content), although it is also consumed by human beings.

Nurseries and Seed Banks

Our nurseries make it easier for producers to access organically produced seedlings. However, more needs to be done to capacitate those managing them to promote continuity of supply. We need to increase the number of nurseries as the current ones cannot cope with the demand. During the period under review, all the nurseries produced seedlings to share with local community food gardens. We advise producers to follow their own planting calendars for different crops as climates vary from province to province. We continue to encourage our nurseries to make their own seedling mix to save costs. Where possible seedlings are also grown on the ground, thoroughly mixed with decomposed organic matter or light applications of bokashi.



We plan to build two more nurseries - one in Mpumalanga and another at the AE Node in Fort Jackson. Some progress is already evidenced in the agroecological hubs being established. Each hub has already received a mobile nursery that is easy to mount. They allow the practitioners to easily remove them from unfavourable to more suitable sites without damage. These nurseries are going to be assisted and monitored to ensure that they operate optimally. This will include ongoing training of the practitioners. There are additional nurseries that have been acquired for the agroecology hubs. A report on these will be included in the next reporting period. The table below gives an insight into the number of nurseries in operation and the type of seedlings being produced.



Province	Nr	Location	Type of Seeds Captured	Sowing Method
Western Cape	4	Zolani, Robertson BO-DORP, Swellendam & Suurbraak, currently in production in the second quarter. Efforts are in progress to revive 2 others (in Bonnievale & Genadendal).	Cabbages, spinach, beetroot, butternut, tomatoes, beans, herbs and fruit seeds.	Seed Trays
Eastern Cape	4	Berlin, Xukwane, DELTA, Ntinga. One more nursery has been completed and in operation in Mxumbu village.	Cabbages, beetroot, spinach, turnip, onions, maize, butternut, pumpkins, tomatoes, different herbs, yellow and khaki beans, okra, melons, peas, forage oats, vetch, Moringa, sorghum.	Seed Trays and seed beds
Limpopo	3	Dzumeri (DAFA), Merekome and Maruleng and Mopane Farmers Associations.	Sugar beans, maize, okra, tomatoes, spinach, beetroot, watermelons and butternuts.	Seedling trays, polythene plant pots & seed beds.
Free State	2	Open lease on a 1 Ha church land and a PTO on communal land	Herbs, maize, butternuts, pumpkins, tomatoes, beetroot, spinach.	Seed trays & polythene plant pots.

Alliances and Partnerships

Whole Farm Management Training

This project is implemented by the Mopani Farmers Association (MFA) in conjunction with the Seriti Training Institute. We have identified 12 cooperatives which will offer skills trainings on land use for various agricultural activities. The training involves 100 members (79 females and 21 males, with youth constituting a high percentage) from different communities who are not farmers but have interest in farming.

Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS SA)

Through the Seriti Institute we joined the PGS SA scheme. PGS aims at opening up new markets for small-scale producers and promotion of organic production methods. In this partnership, farmers assist each other in adhering to organic farming methods and guarantee and certify each other as organic producers.

Agroecology Nodes

The Inyanda National Land Movement and Seriti Hubs

Through our partner Seriti, we have established two viable agroecology nodes in Limpopo and the other in the Eastern Cape. One of our agroecology hubs is now supplying the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development with organically produced seedlings

Limpopo

The hub in Dzumeri in Limpopo is on a 30 ha piece of land, acquired from the traditional authority. Only 3 ha have been fenced due to unavailability of resources. A borehole has been installed and plans are underway to use clean energy instead of the current diesel engine. Drip irrigation will be installed and 5 250L JoJo tank has been acquired. Workshops on land preparation and soil fertility have been completed.

Whole Farm Management and Work Place Training

This six month project is a collaborative project between MFA and the Seriti Training Institute. The association identified 12 cooperatives which can offer skills trainings on land use for various agricultural activities. The training involves 100 members from different communities who are not farmers but have strong interest on farming. A total of 79 females and 21 males are participating in this project, with youth constituting a higher percentage. Participants are encouraged to apply for agricultural land and prepare spaces within their own homesteads for which to implement what they would have learned from this project. We are optimistic that this will help us to mobilize and recruit more people to join MFA and encourage them to effectively work on the land to fight hunger and poverty.

Eastern Cape

The node in Fort Jackson in the Eastern Cape, is made up of three pieces of land. One piece is 0.5 ha and is used for inter-cropping maize, beans and pumpkins. We have already harvested 100kg of beans that were sold to the nearby community. The second piece (1 ha) has also been cropped with different vegetable varieties. The third one (5 ha) has just been acquired from the local municipality.

Agroecology Hubs (AE Hubs)

We have established 15 Agroecology Hubs in the period under review as follows: three in the Western Cape, five in the Eastern Cape, two in the Free State and five in Limpopo. Plans are underway to establish more in other areas.

Eastern Cape

Melisizwe Coop (Uitenhage)

About 1.2 ha was accessed from the local Municipality and has a Permission-to-Occupy (PTO) certificate which stipulates an indefinite period. There is one practitioner, one intern and four other members of the coop. Pigs are kept just 20m away from the main hub providing supplies of manure to boost the hub's soil fertility. Currently all the produce is absorbed by the local community but there is a need to find additional markets as production increases. A management committee meets once a month in order for planning purposes.

Pictured Right: Berlin AE Hub



Kungawo Amandla Coop (Makhanda)

This hub is operating at a school and a nearby clinic with the combined land amounting to about 1.5 ha. There is high demand for green produce in the town. The contract with the school entails supplying it with vegetables once a week. One practitioner manages the hub together with one intern and an established management committee. The hub has been given permission to use two offices at this school with one office used for tools storage and the other for a seed bank. The hub is working with 10 backyard gardens operating in Joza, Zolani and in recently occupied Enkanini locations. Since there is no established nursery for this hub, the group produces its own seedlings using seedbeds. The hub has a good relationship with the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) where they sourced a variety of seedlings to plant on the hub and support the homestead gardens such as spinach, beetroot and spring onion seedling. One major challenge is access to water in Makhanda, which seriously affects productivity.

Berlin AE Hub

This hub is situated in Berlin, 20km east of King William's Town, in one of the rain belts of the Eastern Cape. Currently this hub works with 20 homestead gardens and aiming to double this number by the end of 2024. This hub already has established features such as a garden, nursery, seed bank, orchard, storeroom, office and composting area. The livestock section is not yet established but there are plans to introduce indigenous chickens, mushroom farming and apiculture. A variety of vegetables and field crops are being grown as well as vetch, a leguminous ground cover that serves to boost soil fertility in winter and can be used to feed livestock. The hub has set up links with a market in East London near the harbour. This market is close to a prominent fish shop which presents opportunities for high demand for organic vegetables. The hub has also linked the homestead gardens and street vendors in Berlin.

Silwanendlala Coop (Manxeba Village, Sterkspruit)

This hub is situated in Senqu Municipality, about 100km from Aliwal North, one of the most arid areas of the Eastern Cape. The hub is run by a group constituted by about 80% youth, who were trained in agroecology practise in 2021. About 0.8 ha has been acquired for vegetable and herb production, with one practitioner and one intern leading the work. The hub has already established eight food gardens and works with the government's Community Works Programme for establishing home gardens. A management committee assists with directing the focus of the hub.

Makhotyana AE Hub (Libode)

This hub is on 3 ha of land which belongs to Development Education and Leadership Teams in Action (DELTA). The hub is very close to a water way making it easier to access water for irrigation. In September 2022, meetings were held at Makhotyana with the practitioner, intern and the executive committee where there were discussions on how to move forward with the seed bank, and to plan garden and which fruit trees we will be planting. The hub practise minimal tillage. Soil preparation has been completed, kraal manure applied, mulching laid on plots and planting has followed.

Free State

There are currently two AE hubs in the Free State and there are plans to expand to other areas. One of the hubs belongs to Botshabelo Unemployed Movement (BUM) and the other one belongs to the Free State Rural Women's Assembly (FSRWA).

The AE Hub of BUM

The BUM hub is located in central Botshabelo. It is on a well-secured 0.5 ha piece of land leased from a municipal complex with access to water. The land has been cropped with diverse vegetables. There is however a challenge with the irrigation system - currently the team is using watering cans and an old hose pipe. The practitioner has

initiated a very interesting undertaking, moving around with his team looking for homesteads with no gardens. Once they enter into an arrangement with the landowner - the team uses the land while the owner will have access to fresh produce once a week once it is ready.

The AE Hub of FSRWA

This hub is situated in the western part of Botshabelo. The hub serves multiple purposes: production of fresh food for the nearby community and as a training and learning site. The site also serves as a mobilising tool for the movement and will be used for advocating for land of their own, as this one is on a leasehold. This hub has given rise to more than 50 household gardens, as those trained in the hub are required to practise what they have learnt. Given the distance from the community some form of transport is needed, as there is a problem if the member who owns a car is absent and it is very risky for women to walk alone through the bushes. The FSRWA was thus given a bakkie by TCOE.

Limpopo

Agroecology Centre (AE Centre)

The Centre is run by a young man who is a qualified agroecologist to oversee all activities. The first project was for seeds multiplication. Income generating vegetable crops such as spinach, onions, okra, mustard and cabbages are grown and sold in an effort to make the Centre self-sustainable. The produce is sold to the surrounding communities at reasonable prices.

The Centre works with more than 60 homestead gardens in the surrounding villages (Daniel and Ndhambi villages respectively) that are benefitting from its programs. We also identified child-headed household to provide support to in the form of vegetables twice a week.

In 2022, the Centre hosted 10 youths (with an additional 70 others, whom we placed on other cooperatives for the same capacity building purposes) who received theory lessons from Gumela Projects and practical exposure from the Centre. Part of what they learned was how to select crops earmarked for seeds selection, mulching and the rationale for this practice, water conserving irrigation system and irrigation programs, pests and diseases scouting and the importance of crop rotation to mention just a few. The group has graduated from the program and received certificates of competence. These youth continue to volunteer their time to assist the production team at the Centre which is an indication of the impact we made in developing the love for land and land use amongst youth. We are hopeful that the involvement of this youth will attract many of their peers to begin participating in agricultural related activities.

There are selected individual cooperatives that have been identified to assist with the provision of practical knowledge and experience to youth that are linked to Gumela Projects. Ahitirheni Mqekwa is working with 25 participants, Mcezi Agriculture Cooperative. is working with 15, Dr Shongile Agricultural Cooperative is working with 23 participants, Seda Farm is hosting 5 participants and Vanyenge Farm is hosting 2. The total number of youth, including those that are at the Agroecology Centre, is 80. The Centre assisted with revitalizing a community food garden at Loloka village and purchased 3000 tomato seedlings. The food garden has six members, five of which are women. We have observed fair progress at the garden and we continue to provide technical support.

Agroecology Hubs (AE Hubs)

The association identified cooperatives with sufficient, arable farm land who agreed to make available some portions of their farms for the establishment of Agroecology Hubs. There are five cooperatives, including the MFA Agroecology Training Centre, which has offered to give such land.

The association has also identified five people with agroecology background as practitioners and five youth as interns. Each of the five Hubs has organized more than 30 farmers (predominantly women working on homestead gardens) whom they will be working with for the entire duration of the program. A supporting committee for each Hub has been established.

Western Cape

Genadendal

This 2 Ha hub is on a 12 Ha piece of land which belongs to Mawubuye Land Rights Forum farmer, Mr Johannes Hansie. This land is fairly flat and will be used for the production of fodder. There is high demand for Lucerne in the area and as such, the focus will be on its production which will be bailed before selling. The hub has a functional irrigation system.



Pictured Right: Genadendal



Suurbrak

This one hectare hub is run by five women. The hub has an on-site aquaponics centre. Depending on the season, vegetables such as cabbage, sweet potatoes, broccoli, lettuce, spinach, beetroot, butternut and cauliflower are grown. Seedlings are distributed to nearby home gardens, at Mawubuye Land Rights Forum meetings and on occasion to surrounding hubs such as the Genadendal hub. The site has a worm farm which produces worm team which is used as produce organic fertiliser for soil amendments. The hub has a contract to supply the provincial Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development with 50kg of spinach a week.

Robertson

This hub is stationed in the north of Robertson near the Langeberg mountain. The hub has a nursery and produces seedlings which is distributed to households in the surrounding community. The hub practises bokashi composting and also makes use of vermiculite. Various vegetables are grown at the hub, depending on the season, which include beans, onions, beetroot, green peppers, cabbage and potatoes. The hubs also have chickens, pigs and geese.

Pictured: Suurbrak

Organising and Mobilising Livestock Farmers

Northern Cape

The present commonage land used by the Rosedale livestock farmers accommodates 44 livestock farmers. However, according to the Department of Agriculture only 4 livestock farmers are supposed to occupy that specific commonage land. It is even worse for those in Paballelo whose land is much smaller. At the present moment, the Directorate of Corporate Services of the Dawid Kruiper Municipality has provided information on where land is available but discussions are still continuing on how to relocate farmers.

The municipality was also put under-pressure by the small-scale livestock farmers for wetland and as well water infrastructure installations and about R100 000 was set aside by the municipality for commonage land called Hondejaag. Wetland near the Orange River was identified for small-scale livestock farmers to grow their own livestock feed and to cultivate food for themselves. However, there needs to be some work done before they can occupy the land - water rights with the Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation and with the Department of Agriculture for agricultural inputs have to be negotiated.

The aspect of cooperation, sharing information and safety of livestock was high on the agenda of the Rosedale and Paballelo livestock farmers. At a meeting in March 2022 the two groups agreed to establish primary cooperatives and at a later stage a secondary cooperative that will provide services to the primary cooperatives as well as embark on collective marketing of their livestock.

Free State

Food sovereignty is being promoted through livestock production. Field visits in 2022 exposed some of the ills that livestock producers are facing. Poor access to fodder and water were cited as major threats as producers have to keep small numbers of livestock, especially cattle, as a result of poor grazing. They use commonage land. Three years back a wind pump was installed by the Department of Agriculture in one of the commonage areas in Naledi. There are no pipes that direct water from the main tank into individual kraals and producers have to finance their own water reticulation. Disease control is also a challenge as the farmers have very little access to livestock medication in the event of an outbreak. They are currently using some traditional methods of pest and disease control such as use of herbs and isolation, among others.

The Naledi commonage farmers have been threatened with eviction from the municipality, without the option of alternative land. This move will most likely destroy farmers' livelihoods. Currently the producers have vowed not to agree to leave this land if the municipality is not going to offer them alternative land and also assist with all the relocation costs. There is a need to train the producers in fodder production in order to minimize the cost of feeds.

Eastern and Western Cape

In the Eastern Cape and Western Cape negotiations are underway with farmers with reasonable sizes of land. We intend to support these farmers to produce fodder which will be used for the benefit of other livestock producers. Some discussions have been initiated with some Land Reform and Agricultural Development (LRAD) beneficiaries. They have shown great interest in the initiative. In Barrydale in the Western Cape, livestock farmers visited during field visits by the food sovereignty stream are getting reorganised.

Market Days

The Food Sovereignty stream organises market days for farmers and food producers. The Food Sovereignty stream has had three successful local market days in the Western Cape (Mowbray), the Eastern Cape (Kaisers Beach) and in Dzumeri in Limpopo. Prospective customers and stakeholders such as government departments are also invited.

In September 2022, the market was held at Kaiser's Beach on the Kiddlings Farm which belongs to one of the members of our PGS groups called Ilitha. Products on sale included a variety of vegetables, some processed herbs and ointments. Producers also had a chance to introduce themselves and their products as a way to market themselves. There were two key stakeholders attending this market. One of them is TNT, an organisation from Dimbaza which processes tomatoes. This became a great opportunity for farmers who normally just sell their produce at very low prices. The stakeholder promised to absorb all the tomatoes from producers if standards are maintained.

Western Cape small-scale farmers, local food producers and artisans showcased their produce and products at TCOE's pilot Mowbray Market in Cape Town in December. The market was hosted in collaboration with the Rural Women's Assembly, Mawubuye Land Rights Forum and the Inyanda National Land Rights Movement. The aim is to host the Mowbray Market on a monthly basis. The market featured fresh vegetables, endemic plants and herbs produced from TCOE's Agroecology Hubs in the Western Cape, amongst other offerings on sale from local producers. The Rural Women's Assembly members from Suurbraak Aquaponics sold fresh pumpkin, jalapeno, chilli, spinach and brinjals. Fresh



Achievements, Challenges and Recommendations

Food Sovereignty Achievements

We managed to link our farmers with more reliable markets and a multi-pronged marketing system is being practiced. We established 20 new community gardens, most of which are in schools and clinics. We saw a 30% increase in the number of agroecological food gardens nationally. In the Western Cape, we have managed to supply 232 small-scale farmers with seedlings, bokashi, biochar and worm tea produced by our own farmers. We assisted 13 food gardens from Barrydale and 12 in Genadendal to acquire water tanks and established 16 agroecology nodes. We have used agroecology as part of our outreach programmes in Mpumalanga and KZN provinces. We have outreached to five more districts nationally.

Challenges

Many people still struggle with poor access to land with many only having access to very small pieces of land which limits meaningful progress in their lives and livelihoods. People use various initiatives to lobby government to make more land available for food production. Those on commonage and communal land have no security of tenure as they can be evicted any time. Government provides skewed and limited for farmers.

Stock theft is still rampant, especially in the Free State. Sheep and goats are the main target. Thieves are said to connive with the police. Despite numerous reports to the law enforcement agents, no arrests have been made and producers are contemplating taking the law into their own hands. Extreme weather events and natural disasters such as drought and floods is a great hindrance to food production. Water bodies are drying leading to livestock trekking for long distances in search of water. This exposes them to theft and poor quality meat. Drought is now accompanied by outbreak of pests

such as the brown locusts in the Eastern Cape and some parts of the Karoo region. Floods recently destroyed arable lands as well as grazing land.

High cost of diesel fuel is making it difficult for farmers in the Limpopo province as they solely depend on underground water which needs electricity to be pumped. Some chiefs demand a lot of money for an applicant to get a PTO (R1500/ ha in the Dzumeri area). Farmers are required to have a water use license to access assistance from government but this is not easily accessible.

Recommendations

Advocacy campaigning for more land for livestock and crop purposes must be intensified. We need to continue to acquire seeds and run more trials of drought tolerant crops grown in the region. Farmers to incorporate fodder together with food crops to be used during the dry season.

We have to train more farmers on drought adaptation strategies such as rainwater harvesting techniques, choice of drought tolerant crops, hay and silage making as well as more Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions in identified provinces. It is advisable to embark on produce value addition, have more seed fairs and market days to link producers with prospective markets and establish neighbourhood watch committees to try and curb stock theft.



RESEARCH



This report covers research on two areas of work: land access and land tenure in communal and on commonage land; work on the production of the book reflecting the work of TCOE and the Inyanda National Land Movement in rural areas under traditional authorities (communal land), peri-urban areas (municipal commonage), and farming areas (privately-owned land) ensuring that it covers the work of women and youth.

2022 started with a review of the plans related to the various campaigns by TCOE and Inyanda focusing on: access to basic services; strengthening land access and tenure rights of residents in both communal and peri-urban areas. This emanated from resolutions of the land dialogue held in November 2021 that involved the TCOE, local movements and partner organisations such as Tshintsha Amakhaya and the Legal Resources Centre.



Book Project

In 2022, the research team consisting of Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, Fani Ncapayi and Boyce Tom finalised the structure for the book. The agreement is that the book will consist of two sections: a) the broad land reform context and the work of women and seed saving; b) case studies covering work of TCOE and Inyanda in communal areas, municipal commonage, and in farming areas. On communal areas, the book will cover work of Coastal Links in Centane and Mopani Farmer Association (MFA) in Limpopo. On commonage land, the book will focus on the work of Makukhanye in the Coega Municipal area, the work of Mawubuye in the Western Cape and the work of the BUM, FSRWA and the Livestock Farmers Forum in Botshabelo in the Free State. In the farming areas, the focus will be on the farmworker equity scheme in the Western Cape and Blaauwkrantz in the Sundays River Valley in the Eastern Cape.

The research team also developed a plan on how the book's production would unfold. The research plan includes field visits to the MFA in Limpopo; Cambridge in East London; Free State Rural Women's Assembly (FSRWA), Botshabelo Unemployed Movement (BUM) and the Botshabelo Stock Farmers Association in the Free State.

The team adopted an action-research approach in that team combined research with actively supporting the members of Inyanda during the fieldwork. For instance, in the three visits to the Mopani Farmers Association in 2022 the team met with members of the MFA to provide advice, including workshops, to farmers regarding their challenges. During the first visit in August, the team visited and provided support to MFA farmers threatened with eviction by a white farmer acting in collusion with a local traditional authority. A workshop was also organised for members of the MFA on land reform and the role of traditional authorities on rural governance. Whilst using the information for the book's chapter, the visits culminated in a resolution to support the MFA members

in their struggle to protect their tenure rights. The team linked the MFA with the Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI) for legal advice. During the visit to FSRWA, BUM and the Botshabelo Stock Farmers the team conducted interviews with the stock farmers, members of FSRWA and BUM. The fieldwork also included visit to the FSRWA leased farm as well as discussions about the challenges of the farm.

Access to Commonage Land for Smallholder Farmers

Access to municipal commonage land continues to be a pressing issue in the work of TCOE and Inyanda. There is a lot of demand from smallholder farmers in peri-urban areas for access to commonage land.

Municipal Commonage in the Free State

From April 2022, the researchers, working with the Movement Building stream, visited three areas in the Free State (Botshabelo, Parys, and Theunissen). These visits were prompted by requests from FSRWA who had been approached by smallholder farmers in the townships of the three areas.

In Botshabelo, about 500 farmers utilise the commonage land. However, the land lacks infrastructure such as fencing and water for gardening and livestock, leading to stock losses. The municipality was not forthcoming with infrastructure support.

At a meeting in Parys with about 50 farmers there were similar reports about lack of municipal infrastructure support. In Theunissen, where we met with more than 200 farmers, they also complained about the lack of support from the municipality. The farmers further reported that individuals with political connections monopolise commonage land, carving and fencing large portions for their personal use, with no intervention by the municipality.

We adopted a common approach to the three groups. We went through the legislative framework around land reform, which includes municipal land. Land reform provides that commonage land needs to be governed for the benefit of smallholder farmers. It was further highlighted that the issue of commonage land is linked to the local municipalities' Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). There was agreement that the farmers should actively participate in development processes of their local municipalities. The farmers in Botshabelo resolved to join Inyanda. The Parys and Theunissen farmers also indicated interest in joining Inyanda.

Municipal Commonage in the Western Cape

In the Langeberg municipality, the council has advertised the tendering process involving various portions of commonage land. This happened amidst several attempts to engage local municipality around access to commonage land. The council have been telling the farmers that there is no commonage land in the area that is available for their need and that the only land available is municipal land. This created a confusion amongst the farmers in the area who are faced with losing their livestock due to impoundments owing to lack of access to suitable grazing land.

Land Tenure and Land Grabbing in Communal Areas

South Africa has not resolved the issue of land tenure in communal areas since 1994. The TCOE Research team, the Movement Building stream and Inyanda members participated in policy development processes on communal land rights and administration by the provincial and national governments. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) hastily organised a national workshop and provincial hearings that coincided with the national workshop. This meant some Inyanda affiliates missed out on the workshops as they were not timeously advertised

On the other hand, five representatives of TCOE and Inyanda National Land Movement attended the national workshop DLAR in Johannesburg in May 2022.

Following the national workshop by the department, TCOE and Inyanda held internal discussions to reflect on proposals made during the national workshop of DLAR. The internal discussions culminated in a consolidated policy position that is opposed to the proposals giving traditional authorities absolute power over governance of communal land. The rejection is based on resistance by local farmers in various parts of South Africa. In the Eastern Cape the farmers are engaged in struggle against land deals that traditional authorities and government officials have brokered with investors, such as in Centani and Xolobeni. Similar struggles are unfolding in the Limpopo province where traditional authorities embark on land deals with white farmers against smallholder farmers. TCOE's and Inyanda's views were shared with the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development through a written submission.

Opposing Land Grabbing

The lack of clearly defined tenure in communal areas has opened communal land areas to land grabbing. Land grabbing represents a new form of land dispossession by local and multinational companies. Part of the challenge is the government's drive to attract foreign direct investments which has opened the country to exploitation by multinational companies (MNCs) and local companies. These MNCs target rural land, alleging that they are bringing development to rural areas. Traditional authorities, who often pretend to be owners of rural land, position themselves as beneficiaries of the so-called development and enter into agreements with MNCs. Traditional authorities are also instrumental in the process of massive evictions of landholders for local investors and white farmers.

Land Grabbing in Limpopo

From July to November 2022, the research team worked with the MFA to understand the challenges facing their members. During the visit the team witnessed the evictions of smallholder farmers where their chief, working with a commercial farmer, allowed graders to sweep clean ploughed irrigated fields of the farmers.

As stated earlier, the research team adopted two-pronged approach. Firstly, a capacity building workshop was organised in September 2022 for the MFA leadership on the role of traditional authorities in land governance. Representatives of the affected farmers participated in the workshop. Strategies to deal with the challenge of the farmers were developed: engagement with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). The DALRRD promised to come to the village to meet with the farmers but this promise was never fulfilled. The smallholder farmers also confronted the white farmer who confessed to have been misled by the Chief who told him that he owned the land. The team also engaged the Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI) that promised a response at the beginning of 2023.

Secondly, the research team visited the villiages of the farmers with serious challenges. For instance, we visited a coopeartive of 14 women that has been in existence since 1987.





The group uses a 25ha plot that was part of an agricultural scheme by the Gazankulu homeland. The group's problems started in 2017 when a local young man approached them, promising to assist to improve production. He proposed to be made part of the group, which was accepted by the women. But soon he took steps to destroy the women's production. And when they reported this to the headman, he supported the young man and instructed the women to vacate the land, claiming to be the owner of the land. The women have refused to leave the land and managed to repair damages to equipment and the tractor by selling grass. MFA and the DALRRD were roped into the matter. There seems to be two issues in this case: a) a typical case of violation of provisions of the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act (IPILRA) of 1996. Section 1(iii)(c) stipulates that the Act applies to anybody who has been in occupation of the land for a period of "not less than five years prior to 31 December 1997"; b) Section 2(1) of the Act prohibits taking of decisions that deprive others of land without the consent of the person utilising the land.

Moreover, during our visit in November we met rural residents from Phalaborwa whose rights were equally violated. According to the representatives, their traditional authority is autocratic and does not entertain the involvement of the residents in decision-making processes. The delegation reported instances of their chief even infringing various rights in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution, e.g., Freedom of expression, Freedom of association, and Freedom of movement. The chief had applied for a court order stopping some community members from attending community meetings.

Pictured Center: Cala 2023



Land Grabbing in the Eastern Cape

The ongoing case of the Australian mining company in Xolobeni at Mbizana in the Eastern Cape is one of many examples of land grabbing by MNCs. The case of land grabbing experienced by Coastal Links in Centane, where a locally-owned black company got into agreement with traditional authorities, is another such example. The company took over landholders' arable land. This is an issue that has been going on since 2018 and entered a new phase at the beginning of 2022. Up to the end of 2021, the landholders have been fighting with WIPHOLD to stop using their land. From the beginning of 2022 members of Coastal Links in Nombanjana approached the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) for legal assistance. However, the legal representative of LRC disappointed the landholders in that she never took the case forward and stopped responding to communication.

The issue of communal land tenure and the failure of the current government to democratise rural governance is part of ongoing struggles. The claims of land ownership by traditional authorities is given strength by legislation being developed which gives traditional authorities power over governance of land in rural areas. For instance, Section 24 of the Traditional, Khoisan and Leadership Act of 2019 gives powers to traditional authorities to enter partnerships, agreements and contracts with companies about land in their control. Yet, there have been judgements to the effect that traditional authorities do not own land in rural areas. The court judgments on the Ingonyama Trust Land and the Xolobeni are the cases in point. The Xolobeni judgement also emphasises that traditional authorities cannot take decisions on the land without the consent of the community – the women in this case.

Intervention in Water Crisis in the Western Cape

The water campaign has also gotten off the ground in the Western Cape in 2022. Following the Speak-out sessions that TCOE organised in the Kannaland Municipality, there has been keen public interest. Despite an initial negative response positive

relations have now developed with the National Department of Water and Sanitation and the municipality. TCOE has now become a regular participant in the Water Crisis Forum in Kannaland. At the last meeting in August 2022, we were invited to make a presentation of our work as an organisation.

Department of Rural Development and Farm Workers' and Dwellers' Rights

Farm evictions are a never-ending source of suffering to farm dwellers and workers across the country. The Parliamentary oversight committee held a public consultation process on farm worker tenure rights issues. The Mawubuye and the Rural Legal Centre presented a testimony on a recently evicted and assaulted family member on a farm near Robertson in the Western Cape, although they had to overcome visible attempts by the chair to prevent them from speaking. Mawubuye managed to present the case of Isaak Visser and his wife who had been sleeping outside in the freezing cold. The case received immediate attention, was resolved within a few days and they were allowed back home with the farmer having to pay R4000 for damages to assets. TCOE raised the problems regarding farmworker equity schemes and urged the government to establish systems to monitor what is happening on those farms as farm worker beneficiaries continue to face evictions whilst also being subjected to poor labour practices.

In the Sakhisizwe area in the Eastern Cape, farm dwellers are constantly confronted and threatened with evictions by African farm owners. The recent case of farm dwellers in Lillydale Farm in the Beestekraal area is a case in point. The new owner of the farm has informed the farm dwellers that he expects them to leave his farm after three months. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has promised to assist in looking for and purchase a farm for the group.

We have made efforts to assist the farm dwellers in the Beestekraal area to acquire land of their own. Towards the end of the year, we contacted the landowner about his land which seemed underutilised. The landowner positively responded to the approach by confirming that he was not utilising the land and was open to discussions. We will pursue the issue at the beginning of 2023.

Building Alliances

As part of the network of land rights organisations under Tshintsha Amakhaya (TA), we held a meeting to see how to pool together our strengths to fight evictions and extending the campaign to communal areas where the state is the biggest perpetrator. The LRC continues to work in support of individual organisations struggles including a commitment to assist in commonage-related struggles.

In July 2022, TA held an Indaba where movements such as Abahlali Basemjondolo and LPM were amongst those invited. It is desirable that TA expands its membership beyond the current scope of ten organisations and the communities they work with and increase solidarity actions of the working class across all struggle fronts.

The farmworker coalition led by Western Cape organisations such as Women on Farm Project, TCOE, Surplus People Project, and CSAAWU have continued to hold solidarity with farm workers' struggles.

Research on Municipal Governance

Towards the end of 2022, TCOE commissioned Mr Peter Lobese – the former mayor of the Bitou Municipality (Plettenburg Bay) to conduct research on the experiences and challenges faced by municipal independent candidates where TCOE and Inyanda operate, who they collaborate with and why and possibilities for consolidation of efforts.

Mr. Lobese conducted virtual and physical consultations in a wide area including Plettenburg Bay, Makanda, Queenstown, Botshabelo and Giyani. The research report is expected in early 2023.

There is an interesting development in the Makanda Municipality where the Unemployment People's Movement (UPM) and the Makana Civic Front (MCF) are part of the municipal council where there is an apparent political power shift, with the UPM and MCF gaining some recognition. For instance, in December 2022 the UPM and MCF organised a workshop for ward committee members which was endorsed by the municipal council. Thus, committee members from almost all the wards attended and Fani Ncapayi was tasked to facilitate the workshop and take the participants through relevant legislation. This is an interesting development that should be viewed as building towards the democratisation of governance in municipalities.

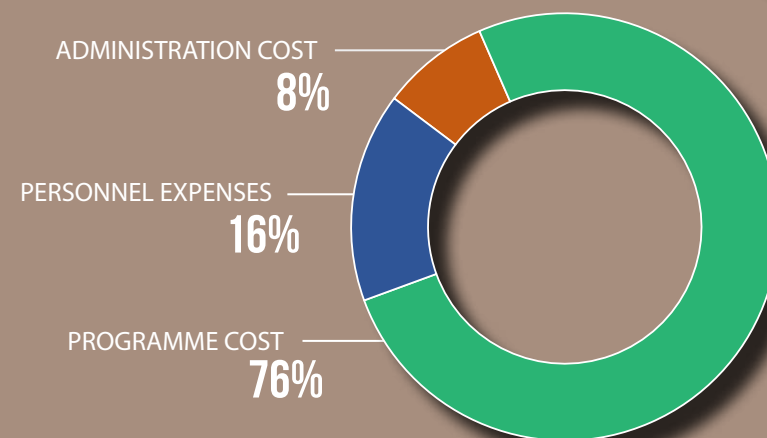


TRUST FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ending 2022

INCOME	25,677,917.00
Grants	25,591,664.00
Sundry Income	86,253.00
ADMINISTRATION COST	2,115,640.00
Catering and Cleaning	154,927.00
Bank Charges	195,370.00
Telephone and Fax	141,505.00
Insurance	76,563.00
Auditors Remuneration	309,969.00
Fundraising	132,651.00
Office Accommodation	108,726.00
Lease rental on operating lease	370,511.00
Petrol and Motor Vehicle Expenses	148,112.00
Depreciation of Assets	401,442.00
Repairs and Maintenance	75,864.00
PROGRAMME COST	19,633,242.00
Annual Report	43,009.00
Equipment Rental and Maintenance	527,957.00
Stationery and Printing	238,927.00
Programme and project costs	18,823,349.00
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	4,101,205.00
Salaries and Contributions	3,916,950.00
Provision for Leave pay	62,922.00
Compensation commissioner	8,142.00
Staff Development	113,191.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2022	25,850,087.00
Deficit from operating activities	172,170.00
Donations and sundry income	564,122.00
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	391,952.00

Expenditure Analysis 2022



TCOE DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The TCOE Collective and all the communities that we work with would like to express our appreciation to the following donors for their continued support.

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