Food flows and food system flows - Making invisible connections count
Oranjezicht City Farm: Food Dialogues
Gareth Haysom
12 May 2014
South Africa’s dietary mix

- Cereals, 53.0%
- Vegetables, 13.0%
- Meat, 12.9%
- Sugars & Sweeteners, 10.0%
- Starchy Roots, 2.0%
- Milk (excl Butter), 3.0%
- Alcoholic Bevs, 5.0%
- Fruits (excl Wine), 1.0%

StatsSA, 2012
City of Cape Town’s Ecological Footprint

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Pasture</th>
<th>Sea</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Built</th>
<th>Energy</th>
<th>Total EF</th>
<th>Biocapacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EF South Africa 2006</strong></td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2003 data)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(pop: 45 Million)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EF Cape Town 2006</strong></td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24%</strong></td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Big contributors
- Energy 44%
- **Food 41%**
  (fresh produce about 11% of total food EF)

- 2.3 planets
- 112 349 square kilometres (CoCT = 2 461 km² = x45)
- Per capita footprint is 4.28 hectares

Source: Gasson, 2002 & Hansen, 2009

(Swilling, 2006; CoCT, 2009)
Stellenbosch Food Flows

Cape Town Fresh Produce Market

Central Distribution Centres

Packsheds

Major Franchise Retailers

Spar

Vendors

Other

Consumers

Wine grapes

Deciduous fruit

Vegetables

Livestock products

Tea/nuts

Export: Int

Export: Local

Stellenbosch Municipal Area

Stellenbosch Food Flows

Schulschenk, 2010
Photos: L Meterlerkamp; Concept: P Menzel, (Hungry Planet)
Audrey & David R565/Week

Photos: L Meterlerkamp; Concept: P Menzel, (Hungry Planet)
Photos: L Meterlerkamp; Concept: P Menzel, (Hungry Planet)
Photos: L Meterlerkamp; Concept: P Menzel, (Hungry Planet)  
Brendon & Anneke  R310/Week
Photos: L Meterlerkamp; Concept: P Menzel, (Hungry Planet)
Photos: L Meterlerkamp; Concept: P Menzel, (Hungry Planet)  
Nora R120/Week
Mat & Family R1200/Week
Audrey & David R565/Week
Pieter & Thelma R189/Week
Nora R120/Week
Brendon & Anneke R310/Week
Natasha R510/Week
Nora R120/Week
“In Eastern Europe and the countries that used to belong to the Soviet Union, even after the collapse of their planning systems there has been persistent and widespread puzzlement that any society could aspire to prosperity without an overall plan.

About two years after the breakup of the Soviet Union I was in discussion with a senior Russian official whose job it was to direct the production of bread in St. Petersburg. "Please understand that we are keen to move towards a market system", he told me. **But we need to understand the fundamental details of how such a system works. Tell me, for example: who is in charge of the supply of bread to the population of London?**

There was nothing naive about his question, because the answer ("nobody is in charge"), when one thinks carefully about it, is astonishingly hard to believe. Only in the industrialised West have we forgotten just how strange it is.”

(Seabright 2010, 10)
A re-emerging food focus ...
Slow Violence?

• We see what is immediate and dramatic.... Media-driven “events” capture popular opinion, and obscure the deeper and more systemic challenges – the volcanic eruption ...

• The unseen urban challenge of malnutrition, vulnerability and food insecurity - particularly invisible in our cities - is one such challenge. The Slow Violence?

• **What is the role of the city and food system agents in urban food governance?**

From Nixon, 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Availability</td>
<td>Food in sufficient amounts to meet people’s needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>People are assured physical and economic access to food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequacy</td>
<td>Food that is nutritious, diverse and safe in accordance with that needed to maintain health, while being produced in environmentally sustainable ways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptability</td>
<td>Food that is culturally acceptable and/or food produced and obtained in ways that do not compromise people’s dignity, self-respect and human rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Where people are empowered by a food system environment that ensures that policies and processes, driven by government, society or both, are in place, implemented and accessible so as to enable food security. Agency recognises that communities have specific knowledge about food system activities and seeks to validate and integrate this knowledge into processes and plans.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Food Security Coalition

US n=176
Scale oriented food governance typologies

US/CAN Excluding US state and regional scales (US n=105/CAN n=61)
How reliable is the information?

What impact does it have on food security?

What is the role of the media in all this?

What about big food companies?

Do governments have a role to play?
“The notion of ‘epistemic community’ is derived from the idea that knowledge-generating collectives can be convened to exchange vigorously perspectives within a broader shared commitment to find practicable ‘solutions’ to intractable social and economic problems”

and that

“one can argue that the purpose of the epistemic community is to challenge fundamentally the conventional orthodoxy about what is possible and impossible in terms of transformative urban development agendas”.

Pieterse (2006: 289)
Thank you

Gareth Haysom
Email: gareth.haysom@uct.ac.za
www.afsun.org

Thanks to Jane Battersby, Luke Metelerkamp & Maya Marshak