



The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
and the Green Youth Network (GYN)

cordially invite you to the

2023 World Food Day Webinar

titled

"Opportunities towards Sustainable Food Security in South African Urban Settings"

Date: 27 October 2023
Time: 10h00 to 11h30 (SA Time)
Platform: ZOOM Webinar
Registration: [Click HERE](#) to register (You will receive a meeting link immediately after registration)
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(@ASSAf_Official @dsigovza @GYI_RSA @FAO #FoodSecurity_Urban #WorldFoodDay)

BACKGROUND

World Food Day (WFD) is celebrated across 150 countries yearly on 16th of October. The theme for 2023 is **Water is life, water is food: leave no one behind**. The campaign intends to raise awareness worldwide on water as a foundation of life and food. According to the United Nations (UN), 2.3 billion people live in water-stressed countries (1), while 3.2 billion people live in agricultural areas with high water scarcity (2). These water constraints have a negative impact on food security and nutrition.

In South Africa a notable proportion of the population is food insecure, for instance, from almost 18 million households, 15% and 6% respectively have inadequate and severe inadequate access to food (3). Over 60% of these households were in urban areas, with the City of Cape Town (11,6%) and the City of Johannesburg (11,5%) having the highest proportions of households that experienced hunger in all the six metros. Urban food insecurity is characterised by low dietary diversity, high malnutrition and obesity, and distinct hunger seasons. It is estimated that by 2050, eight in 10 people will be living in urban areas, which means that the prevalence of food insecurity within urban Southern African communities will increase. There is therefore an urgent need to develop policies and solutions to address this "looming crisis" and to manage the water-food nexus in a more sustainable and equitable manner.

In light of this, the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the Green Youth Network (GYN) have partnered to host a webinar to commemorate WFD 2023. The webinar aims to explore youth driven solutions to strengthen food security in South African urban settings while preserving and managing water in a sustainable manner. The dialogue will: 1) engage on the status of food security in South African cities/urban areas; 2) explore and showcase solutions by the youth, that have a potential to strengthen food security in South African urban areas and cities, taking into consideration the challenge of water scarcity. The dialogue seeks to attract academics, researchers, entrepreneurs, women, youth, policy makers as well as members of the public.



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