

Food System Governance, Food Security and Land Use in Southern Africa - SAFGOV

Call: Food Security and Land Use Change

Type of Project: Type 1 - Short-term Community Building Project

Lead PI: John Ingram, University of Oxford

Partners:

Scott Drimie, Southern African Food Lab (SAFL) based at the University of Stellenbosch

Allison Johnston Peter, University of Cape Town

George New Mark, University of Cape Town

Gina Ziervogel, University of Cape Town

Elizabeth Oughton, University of Newcastle upon Tyne

John Gowing, University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Tracy Irani, University of Florida

Teresa Balser, University of Florida

Alexa Lamm, University of Florida

Catherina J.A.M.Termeer, Wageningen University

Kasper Kok, Wageningen University

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The overall objective of this project is to draw on research skills from South Africa, UK, US and the Netherlands to build an international community of researchers closely linked to a range of stakeholders across southern Africa's public and private organisations. This community will then be able to co-design and jointly undertake research on (i) the effectiveness and adaptiveness of food system governance arrangements for food security; and (ii) food systems governance as driver of land use change and implications for associated ecosystem services.

The research focus on governance arrangements in southern Africa's food systems is highly innovative. Earlier work has highlighted this need, but there has been little coordinated effort to address this at national level, let alone internationally. The multi-level approach spanning SADC-national-provincial-local levels, again strongly advocated by earlier work, is also innovative. Combining the governance angle with the multi-level work is the distinguishing feature of this proposal. Results will help inform both public and private policy making on the consequences of 'demand-led' decision making for food security and land use change, thereby complementing other work on land use change as driven by issues of food supply.