Food and nutrition affect the long-term wellbeing of our communities and our children. The Western Cape Government works consistently to improve the food security of its people. Each year, over 457,000 learners at 1,028 schools and 65,000 children at early childhood development facilities are fed. More than 20,000 vulnerable children and adults in the province receive specialised nutritional supplements to improve their health. Support has been provided to 103 community food gardens, 13 school food gardens, and 1,356 household food gardens for communities to grow their own food. In 2016, 1,972 emerging farmers were given the tools they need to grow their businesses.

The food system has lasting consequences for the development of the province, especially our economic growth, environmental resources, and health and social systems. Because this is such an important issue, we ask you to comment on the Western Cape Household Food and Nutrition Security Strategic Framework.

This Strategic Framework aims to find a good balance between social and economic interventions, by protecting communities, while also addressing the underlying issues that shape the food economy such as the way cities are developed, how resources are managed and the access that communities have to fresh and nutritious food.

**Vision**

Our vision is that all residents will have access to and control over the physical, social and economic means to ensure sufficient, safe and nutritious food at all times, which meets their preferences, in order to meet the dietary requirements for a healthy life.

Food security focuses on three questions:

1. **How do we get food?**

   Many people are not able to get enough food to meet their dietary requirements. Limited resources, climate change, and long distances make it difficult for people to access food. Many people cannot afford to buy healthy food, and this creates an unhealthy society, which puts a lot of pressure on our health system and damages our economy.

2. **How do we use food?**

   The way that we choose, prepare, cook and store our food all affect our health. Unhealthy food creates an unhealthy society, which puts a lot of pressure on our health system and damages our economy.

3. **How do we ensure that there is always enough food for the future?**

   Government, the business sector and civil society must work together to protect our resources, and encourage an economy and society that allow people to access food now and into the future.
Food security is built on 6 pillars:

**Food assistance**
Objective: We will work towards better access to and use of nutritious food for children and vulnerable people by 2019.

In 2012, 14% of households in the Western Cape were food insecure, and 9% of households in Cape Town and 15%-20% of households in other Western Cape municipalities are seen as disadvantaged. Access to healthy food has led to many of our province’s children being overweight, and 21% of households in Cape Town, and 15%-20% of households had inadequate access to food. Also, 21% of people by 2019.

**Our solutions:**
2. Continue and strengthen programmes to share practices in and around our communities.
3. Support skills development in the food economy.
4. Support skills development in the food economy.

**Food awareness and safety**
Objective: We will work towards better food awareness, food safety, and healthier behavior by 2019.

What we choose to eat impacts our health. In South Africa, as in many countries, malnutrition is happening, along with increasing levels of obesity, under-nutrition, mental illness in Western Cape households, the highest body mass index range countrywide, and the percentage of stunted on the rise in higher than the national average.

Now we prepare food is also important. Malnutrition is also linked to unsafe water, poor sanitation and unsafe hygiene practices. Food safety and use of, nutritious food for children and vulnerable people.

**Our solutions:**
1. Ensure that the Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF) takes food security into account on the access, location, transport and distribution of healthy food and can make important improvements to food security.
2. Include food sensitivity principles into current municipal frameworks.
3. Promote the sustainable use of water, soil and energy.

**Food sensitive planning**
Objective: We will work towards the strategic integration of the food system into development planning by 2019.

The planning process is one of the most important tools for the government to influence spatial, social, green and other food-related infrastructure. The food system has an influence on the health, nutrition, health and well-being of healthy food and can make important improvements to food security.

**Our solutions:**
1. Include food sensitivity principles into current municipal frameworks.
2. Include food sensitivity principles into current municipal frameworks.
3. Develop or leverage existing monitoring and analysis of data and information to understand how food security governance also requires the collection, and analysis of data and information to understand how food security of the province can only be achieved by building partnerships between government and the business sector and civil society.

**Inclusive food economy**
Objective: We will work towards evidence-based integration of food security implementation and planning.

Food security governance also requires the collection, and analysis of data and information to understand how the food system is changing and affecting the lives of Western Cape citizens, particularly poor households.

**Our solutions:**
2. Establish a multi-stakeholder process to create links between partnerships.
3. Develop or leverage existing monitoring and analysis of data and information to understand how the food system is changing and affecting the lives of Western Cape citizens, particularly poor households.

**Food resource management for the future**
Objective: We will work towards the integration of climate change responses into all aspects of the food systems by 2019.

The food system and the farming sector go hand in hand. Farming, food production and distribution are all affected by the quality of the natural environment. At the same time, the food system also plays a lot of pressure on the natural environment.

**Our solutions:**
1. Promote a climate-resilient low-carbon agricultural sector and food production, consumption, recycling, reuse and reduction.
2. Promote the sustainable use of water, soil and energy.
3. Develop or leverage existing monitoring and analysis of data and information to understand how food security of the province can only be achieved by building partnerships between government and the business sector and civil society.
4. Use technology and innovation in household food security initiatives.

**Food governance**
Objective: We will work towards better access to nutritious, particularly for poor households, through the formal and informal economy.

In 2012, 14% of households in the Western Cape were food insecure, and 9% of households in Cape Town and 15%-20% of households in other Western Cape municipalities are seen as disadvantaged. Access to healthy food has led to many of our province’s children being overweight, and 21% of households in Cape Town, and 15%-20% of households had inadequate access to food. Also, 21% of people by 2019.

**Our solutions:**
2. Establish a multi-stakeholder process to create links between partnerships.
3. Develop or leverage existing monitoring and analysis of data and information to understand how the food system is changing and affecting the lives of Western Cape citizens, particularly poor households.

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