

Reduction and prevention of food waste in South Africa: Voluntary agreement & roadmap workplan



Julian Parfitt and Nicola Jenkin
2nd April 2019

What were we asked to do?

- Approaches to a voluntary agreement roadmap development and recommendations for a roadmap to deliver
- Review policies/ legislation relevant to food waste and food surplus in South Africa, identify gaps
- Assess food waste management practices across South Africa and how might these change in the future
- Approaches/ methods to identify food waste hotspots along the supply chain in South Africa
- Review status of food redistribution in South Africa and options for development
- Assess quantification and evidence base in relation to food waste in South Africa

Key findings and recommendations

- Proposed approach based on international benchmarks and based on the 5 pillars of success for voluntary agreement development
- Different approaches to voluntary agreement development in relation to food waste are apparent across countries with such agreements in place, such as Australia, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Norway.
- Under each pillar practical recommendations are provided for progressing the VA within South Africa.
- Recommendations are informed by South Africa's unique configuration of issues and opportunities linked to food loss and waste – hereon referred to as a 'nexus'.



Recommended roadmap steps and actions towards a voluntary agreement

- Having a clear plan or roadmap is a critical factor in a successful VA
- Dialogues and working groups need to engage with stakeholders and key actions agreed to progress towards VA targets
- Detailed stages for setting up and implementing a voluntary agreement

Phase 1: Initiation and Set-up

Phase 2: 'Pre-Hard Launch', dialogues/working groups

Phase 3: Preparation and Hard Launch of VA and Roadmap

Phase 4: Post-launch delivery towards SDG 12.3

- 1) Refine **VA Steering Group** (fill in any gaps)
- 2) Establish/confirm a **VA Secretariat**
- 3) **1st VA Steering Group meeting** (to inform workshops)

- 4) Wider VA stakeholder workshop (to define the foundations for a voluntary agreement roadmap and business plan, collect commitments)
- 5) Secretariat develops VA business plan & roadmap

- 6) Draft business plan & roadmap presented back to wider VA stakeholder group
- 7) Secretariat co-ordinates sign-off of the business plan & roadmap
- 8) Acquire 1st tranche of signatories

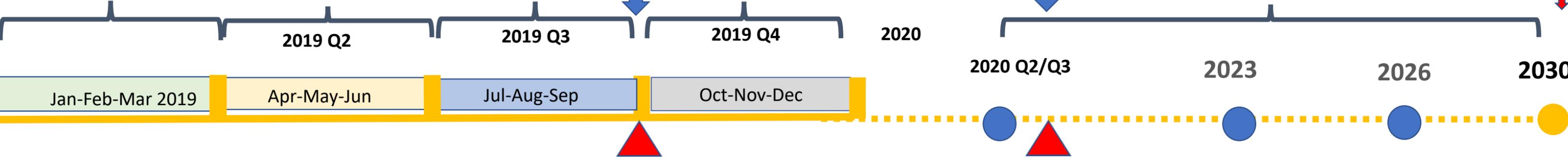
- 10) Steering Group agrees priority working groups [dialogues] & people identified
- 11) Secretariat organises 1st wave of working groups

- 12) VA Steering Group meets quarterly
- 13) Working groups agree as & when to meet (minimum quarterly)
- 14) VA signatory data collected and analysed Q2/Q3

SOUTH AFRICA ACHIEVES: UN SDG 12.3 target to halve per capita global food waste at retail and consumer stage and reduce food losses along the production and supply chains

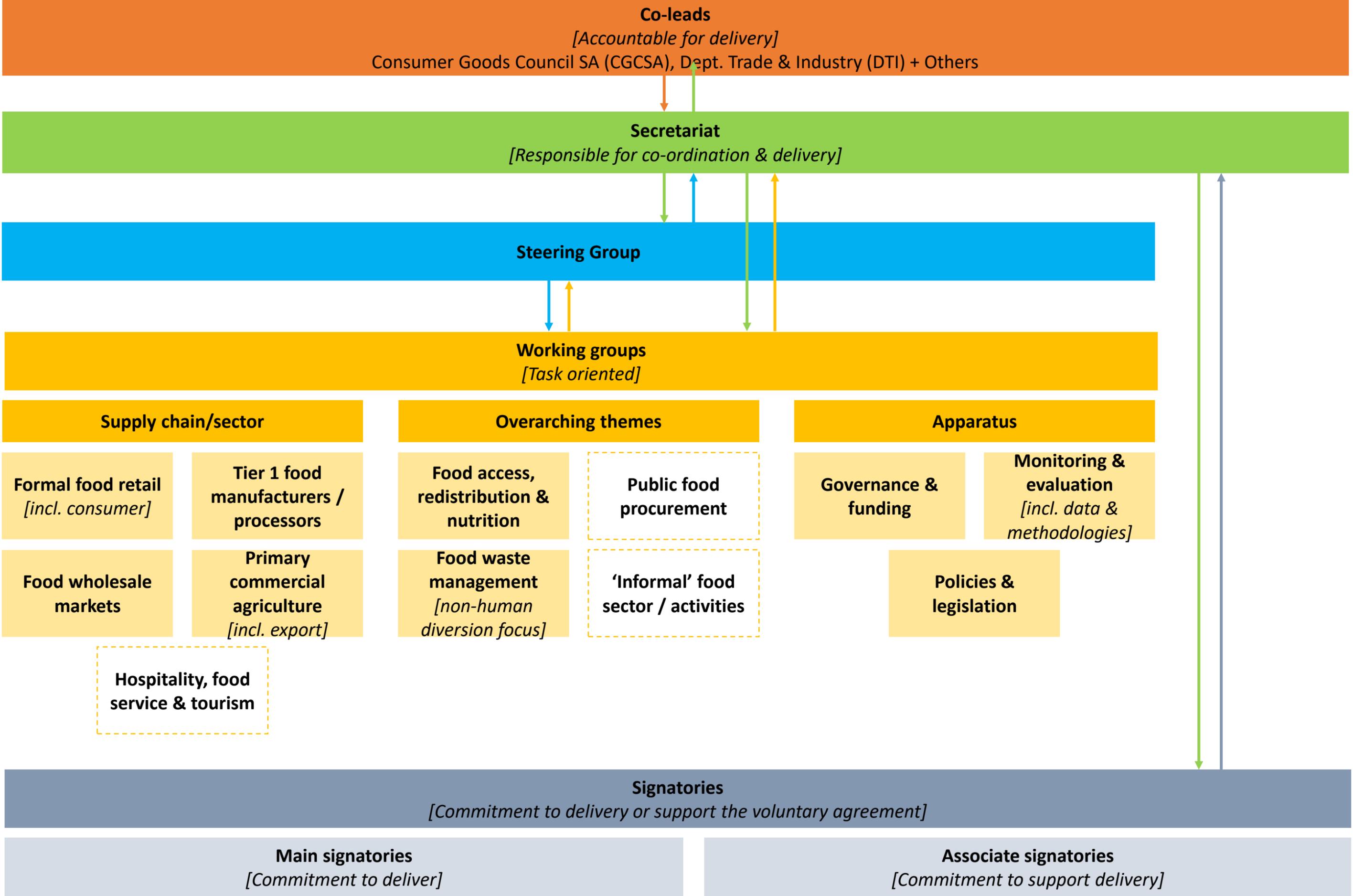
9) Launch of **VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT**

15) Annual VA Summit = Oct 2020



Governance and funding

- Establishment of a mission, values and policies of practice
- Alignment with Operation Phakisa
- Ensure the continuous monitoring of the agreements
- Effective implementation, by the members of the governing body of the agreement
- Secretariat / task team (responsible for co-ordinating, implementing and monitoring the voluntary agreement).
- Informed and guided by the voluntary agreement's Steering Group.



Key tasks in preparation for hard launch Oct/Nov

- 1. Secretariat to set up and facilitate 6-themed dialogues/ working groups (Mar-Apr 2019)**
 - Six dialogues/ working groups: 1) Food retail; 2) Primary food manufacturers/processors; 3) Food wholesale markets; 4) Primary commercial agriculture [x1 Mpumalanga and x1 Western Cape]; 5) Food redistribution; 6) Monitoring & Evaluation
 - Secretariat to recruit working group members (VA champions) and identify an initial chair per working group
- 2. Working group tasks and workplan (Apr-Jun 2019)**
 - Formalise make-up of the working group (filling in any gaps)
 - To produce an outline of key activities / targets to inform working plan; develop a running agenda for future meetings and confirm meeting dates
 - Develop workplan to achieve key activities and targets
- 3. Secretariat to develop VA draft business plan from working group workplans (Jun 2019)**
 - Draft VA business plan to be developed in consultation with VA Steering Group
 - Secretariat to disseminate draft business plan & roadmap to wider VA stakeholder group for comment

Recommended plan for action and working groups

- Actions should emanate from the task-oriented working groups and be aligned with the agreed target(s) and goals and focus on food loss and waste hotspots/themes within South Africa's food supply chain.
- Each working group has a Chair (who sits on the voluntary agreement Steering Group) and an agreed number of main and associate signatory representatives chosen for relevant experience fitting with working group sector/theme.
- Working group members should be willing and able to contribute expertise and time to the working group.
- The working group may also include (only where specific and value-add) selected relevant experts/specialists.
- Membership can be drawn from (where appropriate): 1) Government and Agencies, 2) Retailers and Wholesalers, 3) Primary Manufacturers, 4) Primary Farmers, and 5) Research and solution providers (e.g. food banks).

Detailed areas of focus for priority working groups [dialogues]

- Based on hotspots along the food supply chain/ consumer level and areas of pertinence to a South African voluntary agreement
- Active members / signatories (e.g. retail, Tier 1 suppliers & primary agriculture) engage in discussions to inform South African food waste roadmap, voluntary agreement, targets and future activities around themes



Example working group: Redistribution

WORKING GROUP: Food access, redistribution & nutrition				
Reason for working group	Focus	Ambition(s)/goals	Proposed members	Actions / responsibility [including deadline]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is important in a country where 43% of households are vulnerable to poverty, that nutritious edible surplus food is redistributed to those in need. - 18% to 35% of South Africans suffer from food insecurity and have nutritionally poor diets. Food redistribution provides an opportunity to for people to access nutritious food. - More surplus food could be redistributed – mechanisms are required to catalyse this opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surplus food redistribution for human consumption (in particular those in need) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To close the gap between surplus food wasted and malnutrition (access to nutritious food by those in need) - To increase surplus food collection and redistribution for human consumption - To identify, understand and quantify surplus food availability (barriers & opportunities) - To develop mechanisms (e.g. legislation, capacity building programmes, transport, improved cool storage) to alleviate surplus food redistribution challenges 	<p>Main signatories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food retailer (tbc) - Tier 1 manufacturer (tbc) - Food wholesale market (tbc) - Primary commercial producer/trade association (tbc) <p>Associate signatories e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consumer Goods Council SA - WWF-SA - Food Forward SA (and/or other redistributor) (tbc) - Werksmans - Dept. of Health - Dept. of Social Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop an agreed set of ambitions/goals pertinent to the redistribution of surplus food for those in need to meet the overall VA target(s) - To develop a set of actions (incl. time plan) to meet the working groups ambitions/ goals - To implement, monitor and report on ambitions/ activities - To identify and encourage sign up of new signatories (2nd tranche) - To report back activities etc to the Steering Group and Secretariat

Data and reporting requirements for a voluntary agreement

- The gap analysis identified different data sources in South Africa that could be adapted to form a food waste baseline for South Africa.
- It is recommended that CSIR leads the Monitoring and Evaluation working group and provides input into the construction of a baseline as well as an improvement plan to fill gaps in the evidence, where needed.
- CSIR's role would add credibility to the independent reporting of progress by the VA in establishing baseline and fits with the wider role in reporting progress towards SDG 12.3.

Data and reporting requirements for a voluntary agreement

- SA's country-level data is in a far better position than the majority outside the EU and North America
- SA doesn't need to play catch up – there is enough adequate data to set a baseline
- Initial estimates always have a level of uncertainty – that's ok
- We can commit to continuous improvement over time – to improve estimates where necessary
- Identify data gaps for improvement using e.g. the World Resource Institute's (WRI) food loss and waste reporting protocol
- We'll need to decide on what approach works best for South Africa – what do we need to report, our indicators (e.g. water, nutrition, cost), what methodolog(ies) will we use, who will report, confidentiality (there are many examples to draw on and adapt for our unique circumstances)?

This is a iterative learning process with data improving over time

In conclusion

- The South African government is a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, of which Target 12.3 sets out to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.
- South Africa's food loss and waste data is in a far better position than most countries outside the EU and North America – from which a baseline can be set.
- A voluntary agreement should contain commitments for continuous improvement over time.
- Food surplus redistribution will be a critical component in an environment where food insecurity and malnutrition are significant – however, legislation is not the only path.
- Needs to best match the opportunities and challenges presented by the South African food supply chain and its potential for more sustainable and higher value options.
- Linkages with other food chain initiatives, such as agri-hubs with the potential to improve crop utilisation and develop higher added value uses for surplus produce.
- Requires strong and committed governance, with a clear leadership mandate, capacity and financial support to develop, monitor and maintain a successful voluntary agreement.

Important there is a sense of ownership – country-led and put together by South Africans for South Africa, in consultation with those who've been before us