



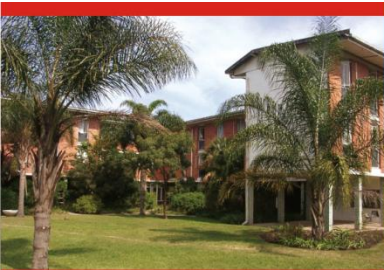
UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL™
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI



COLLABORATIVE & TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITY ENAGEMENT IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

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**AFRICAN CENTRE FOR FOOD SECURITY, UKZN
SOUTH AFRICA**



EDGEWOOD CAMPUS



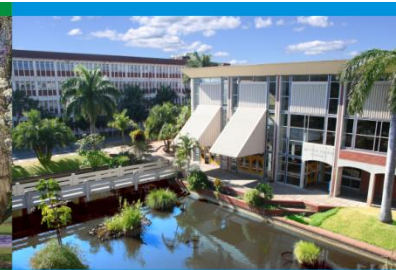
HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS



NELSON R MANDELA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS



WESTVILLE CAMPUS

INSPIRING GREATNESS

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR FOOD SECURITY (ACFS)

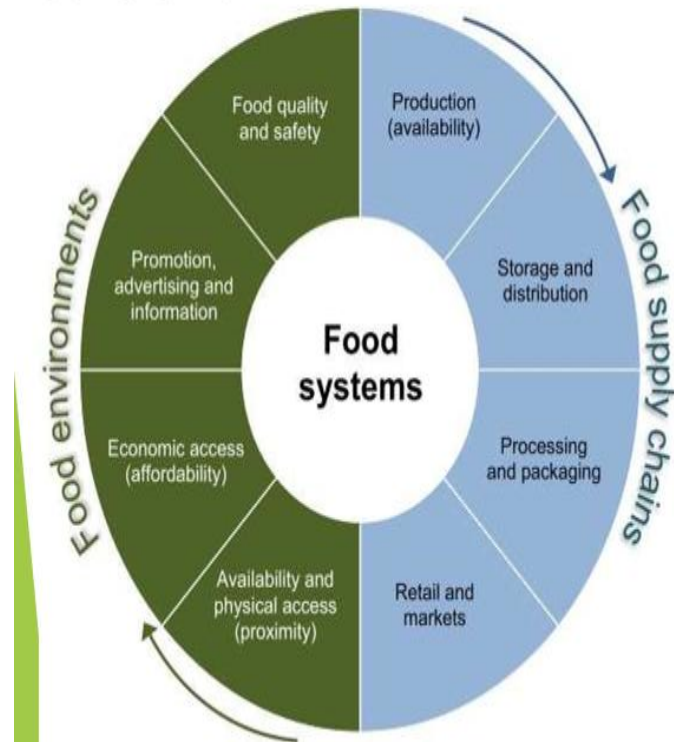


- The African Centre for Food Security (ACFS): conceived of in the **late 1990s** following University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) after a Conference in Zambia on the topic and need for Food and Nutrition Security education.
- **VISION:** the ACFS offer nationally & internationally unique and innovative transdisciplinary education and research opportunities to **develop capacity** for teaching, research and **collaborative community engagement** related to **food and nutrition security** and **sustainable food systems**.
- The ACFS is now a “**CORE Partner**” of the **ARUA’s COE** on Sustainable Food Systems.

ACFS embeddedness : School (SAEES) :

- **SAEES**: School of Agricultural, Earth & Environmental Sciences- consists of:
- **Production Sciences** & Post Harvest Science, **Food & Nutrition**, Dietetics, Agricultural Economics, **Food Security (6 Pillars)** & AES: **Microbiology**
- Other centres (**Farmers Support Group. CTAFS etc**).
- Earth Sciences & Geography (ect. **GIS**)
- **ACFS: Co-identify, Facilitate, Empower & Translate Science** with relevant disciplines for **impact**.

FOOD SYSTEM



HISTORICAL WORK

- **SADC'S Centre for Vulnerability Assessment 2009-2016**- offered professional capacity building through:
- **Short courses** to food security professionals in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)
- **Post Grad Diploma, Masters & PhD's (continues)**
- **MOU** with five SADC universities (Tanzania, Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe & South Africa)

APPROACH FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY (FNS) AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS (SFS)

CAPACITY BUILDING & RESEARCH

- Post Grad Diploma & Coursework Masters, Research Masters & PhD's, Short Courses (FNS)
- **Collaborative** (communities, researchers, government, private sector, NGOs and other development agencies, individuals: student/researcher as “change agent”: Social
- **Participatory Research** (Social, Gender, Empowerment/Agency, Economic, Environmental/Agricultural/Climate/ Food Environments)
- **Interventionist approach** ➡ transform the system



Example :Water safety, produce safety (FNS Pillar: Access, Avail, Utilization)



- Objective: assess water quality, safety, risk and access for urban producers

Results : fresh river water analysis demonstrated that uMsunduzi Rivrer consistently exceeded the recommended water quality, VS stored river water was of higher quality due to innovative farmer practices may serve as a replacement. (long sun exposure:

ACFS ACTION : FEEDBACK and SCALE UP THE PRACTICE)

Team:

=Microbiologists

=Smallholder Farming System & Food & Nutrition Security

=Agricultural Economist



Community Engagement- Policy Contributions

- South Africa (SA): National Food Systems Pathways and New Food Security Policy Drafting Contributions (**since 2024**)
- SA is currently holding **G20 Presidency**): By invitation, **ACFS**, UKZN, is currently contributing to G20 discussion and policy-Agriculture & Food Security, Task Team.

SFS RECENT-CURRENT-FUTURE RESEARCH PROJECTS & COLLABORATIONS

- National Water Research Foundation (WRC): **The empowerment of small holder urban & peri-urban for improved market access & food and nutrition security through water use security in agro-processing(2021-current): SFS []**
- National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC): **Research on the Red Meat Production and Marketing Scheme in KwaZulu-Natal: A Baseline Study: SFS**
- Kellogg Foundation: (5years) ***Thinking through Food in South Africa: Identity-making, Embodiment and Representation-ended December 2025. (UKZN-UP-Western Cape)- SFS***
- Through UKZN & other Universities in Africa & Abroad (Collaboration)
- ARUA: advance participation in Core SFS

SMART ACFS-CORNELL UNIVERSITY (since 2013..)

- The African Centre for Food Security (ACFS) and hosts short international collaboration with Cornell University
- To strengthen community assets in improving food system through asset building and interventionist
- In 2025, [Project: focused on red meat production capacity in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) by smallholders]



ARUA Co-SFS WINTER SCHOOL PROJECT



- ACFS nominated early career researchers from different African countries with different historical
- (Food Security & Climate change & Agrometereology @ CLAB African Summer School, (2023 @ UP and –2024 in Lilongwe Malawi.

PARTICIPATION AT THE GLOBAL COMMITTEE FOR FOOD SECURITY CONFERENCE (FAO)

- ACFS @ Global Committee for Food Security (CFS) Conference held in Rome from 19 to 25 October 2024.

Topic- **Strengthening Local food systems**

- The event brought together global experts, policymakers, and stakeholders.
- It addressed major challenges and solutions in food security and sustainable agriculture.



Current Work SFS

- The **Red Meat Project** - Role of smallholder farmers in the meat production & setting performance indicators (40-50% of cattle in RSA is with smallholder farmers in KZN).
- Boosting protein accessibility and supporting local **food system** & economies through job creation and market stability.
- Advance Market Access for smallholder farmers for sustained food systems . A **Water Research Commission (WRC)**- establish **Packhouses** within these schools (community asset) for aggregation. , serving as hands-on learning spaces for food production and processing.
- **ARUA** Conference Steering Committee Member.
- **Recently** did a road show and information session to the SAEES for more participation- Roadshow of Core SFS (engaging with survey).