

PRESS RELEASE

UKZN CELEBRATES WORLD FOOD DAY: SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER

On Saturday 16 October, UKZN will be celebrating World Food Day from 09h00-13h00 on the Pietermaritzburg Campus (Colin Webb Hall and on the Library Lawns). The institution will use this opportunity to tell the story of UKZN's Food Security Programme, and its efforts to make sure that every UKZN student is food-secure. This includes the endeavours of UKZN students to develop campus residence food gardens; the #StretchMyNSFASRand Competition; postgraduate student food security research projects; and the actions of the UKZN Food Security Task Team.

The event will also launch an externally-funded project of UKZN's to establish KwaSA – the KwaZulu-Natal Small-scale Agriculture Association – in collaboration with volunteer subsistence farmer organisations from five KZN Districts. With support from the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), the aim of KwaSA is to target women and youth to establish sustainable value chains supported by science and technology, agribusiness management training and the establishment of new climate change responsive “food systems” to promote traditional/indigenous foods with health/industrial benefits in partnership with the established business sector. A launch video of rural people telling their stories and outlining the three to five-year plan of action for technology innovation to change people's lives will be aired.

About World Food Day

World Food Day is commemorated annually around the world on 16 October in remembrance of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945 as an organisation that deals with global food and agricultural issues.

World Food Day provides an occasion to highlight the plight of some one billion undernourished people in the world. Most of them live in rural areas where their main source of income is agriculture. Global warming and the biofuel boom are now threatening to push the number of hungry even higher.

World Food Day aims:

- to inform South Africans about the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security;
- to heighten public awareness on issues such as food scarcity and to strengthen solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty;
- to promote food production and to stimulate national, bi-lateral, trans-national and non-governmental initiatives;
- to encourage research and technology development for the development of symbiotic ecological food production systems to ensure sustainable food production;
- to enhance the participation of rural people, particularly women and the under-privileged, in decisions and events impacting their living conditions;
- to heighten public awareness on the government programmes aimed at halving hunger in South Africa;
- to raise awareness of the public regarding the contribution of indigenous forests to food security and nutrition.

UKZN World Food Day Programme:

09h00: Arrival and Refreshments

10h00: Formal Programme Commences

- Welcome and Purpose
- UKZN World Food Day Video
- UKZN Food Security Programme Endorsement
- Campus Residence Group Food Garden Competition
- #StretchMyNSFASRand Competition
- Introduction of UKZN partners in the KwaSA initiative
- Supporting statement by the KwaSA funder – TIA

12h00: Lunch

- Open Activities on the Library Lawns

Enquiries:

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