

# FOOD RESILIENCE PRESENTATION

**Urban Agriculture and Food Security in Johannesburg**

**Joburg**

a world class African city



19 March 2025

Simon Motsusi



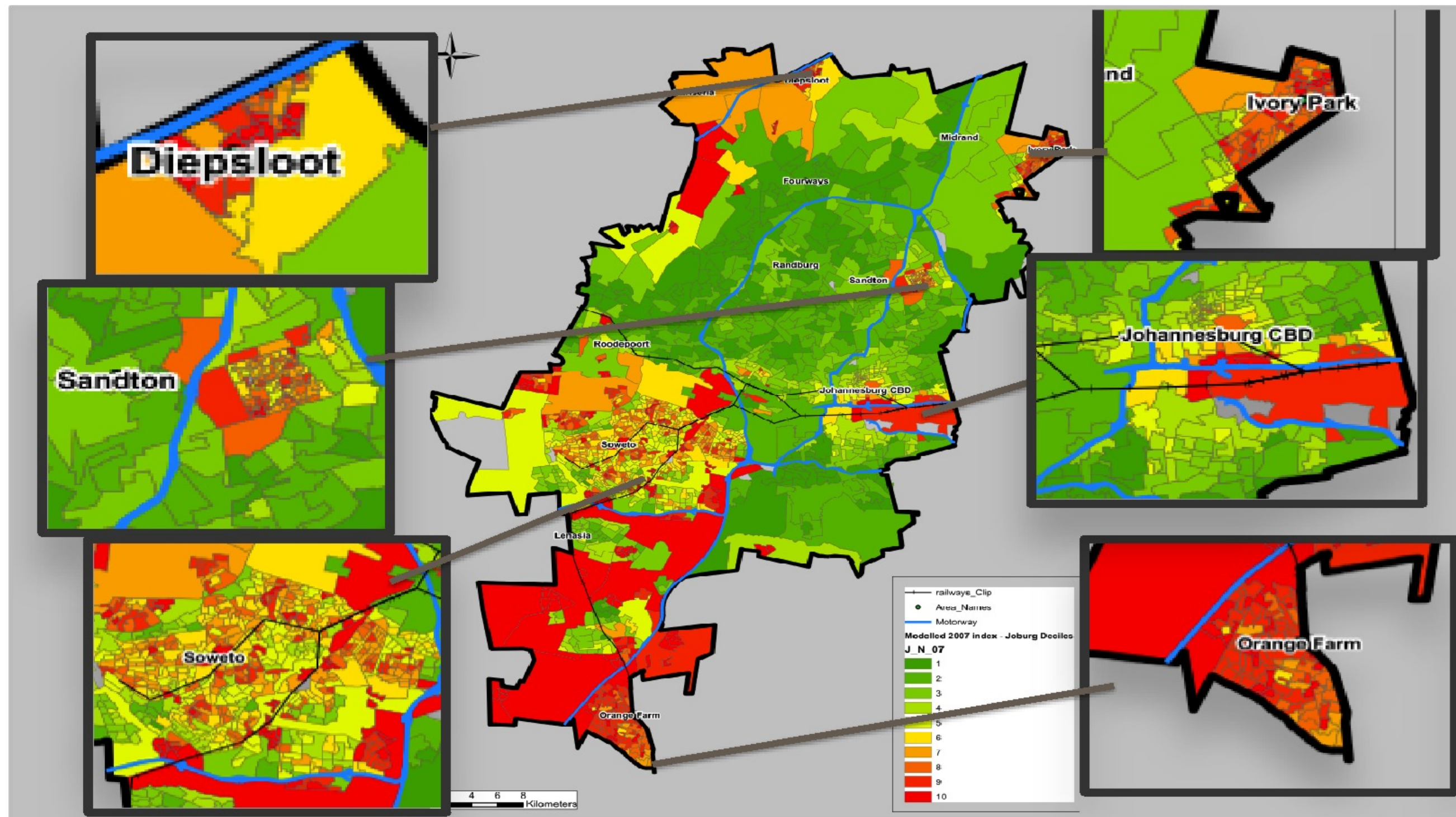
# Map of city of Johannesburg

<b>Region A</b>	Diepsloot, Kya Sands, Dainfern, Midrand, Lanseria, Fourways
<b>Region B</b>	Randburg, Rosebank, Emmarentia, Greenside, Melville, Mayfair, Northcliff, Rosebank, Parktown, Parktown North
<b>Region C</b>	Roodepoort, Constantia Kloof, Northgate, Florida, Bram Fischer
<b>Region D</b>	Doornkop, Soweto, Dobsonville, Protea Glen
<b>Region E</b>	Alexandra, Wynberg, Sandton, Orange Grove, Houghton
<b>Region F</b>	Inner City, Johannesburg South
<b>Region G</b>	Orange Farm, Weilers Farm, Ennerdale, Lenasia, Eldorado Park, Protea South





# Deprived areas in the city





# Global & Local Policy Framework

- **UN SDG 2030** – Aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **National Development Plan 2030** – Focuses on a national and inclusive rural economy.
- **Gauteng Provincial Government Anti-Poverty Strategy** – Supports efforts to reduce poverty and enhance food security.
- **City of Joburg: Growth & Development Strategy**  
**Goal:** Improve quality of life and resilience through food security, self-sustainability, and better health.

“Food security is not just about food. It’s about **security, stability, and peace.**” – **Jacques Diouf** (*Former FAO Director-General*)







# International Alignment

Strengthening local food systems is essential for reducing poverty and enhancing community resilience in urban areas worldwide.

## International Collaboration:

- **C40 Membership** – Advancing sustainable urban development.
- **UNEP Partnership** – Supporting organic & climate-smart farming.
- **Milan Urban Food Pact** – 200+ cities working on sustainable food systems





# FINDINGS: FOOD RESILIENCE POLICY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION





# Food Resilience Unit Mandate

- Improve Food Security & Livelihoods
- Enhance Agricultural Productivity & Nutrition
- Promote Urban Agriculture
- Stimulate Economic Growth

The first essential component of social justice is **adequate** food **for all** mankind.” – **Norman Borlaug**





# Unit Operational Structure

## Urban Agriculture

Food Gardens, Vegetable distribution, Agri-Resouce Centres, Empowerment Zones, Agri-Parks, Learning Academy and Sustainable organic farming (UNEP).



## Food Value Chain

Agri-Hubs, Small Agro-processing factories, Food Safety (*Quality Standard*), Training and Mentorship



# Urban Agriculture: Food Security Programmes

## Learning Academy

- Capacity building, Skills development and knowledge preservation
- Mentorship
- Network with potential partners
- Access to Funding
- Access to markets (formal/ informal - off-take agreements)



## Agri-Resource Centres

- One-stop agricultural service centre

### Services Offered:

- Tractor services, access to land, cooperative registrations, training and workshops, advisory services and agricultural inputs
- Production plans, technical support- and facilitate access to markets





# Food Security Programmes

## Food Distribution

- 12-14 kg of vegetable pack to assessed indigent families.
- Encouraged to establish own backyard gardens
- Short term Hunger alleviation strategy



## Food Gardens

- **Backyard Gardens:** Tea-Spoon sized seeds packs
- **Communal Gardens:**  
>1 Hectares Land  
Schools, Clinics, Dumping sites, Creches
- **Long-Term Strategic Approach**



# Empowerment Zones

Established on city-owned land and have the following elements:

- Large farm of at least 05 hectares under cultivation established via competitive proposal call with private sector partners.
- Minimum of 05 hectares distributed in 1-2 hectare via the Agri-resource centre to small-scale farmers
- **Four food empowerment zones** have been established in the City ranging from **5ha to 270ha**

“Food security is not just about food. It’s about **security, stability, and peace.**” – **Jacques Diouf** (*Former FAO Director-General*)





# Organic Farming Project

## (UNEP, GEF & ADBS / CoJ Collaboration)

Co-funded program (1 million dollar)

Fifteen projects agricultural projects for conversion

### Goals:

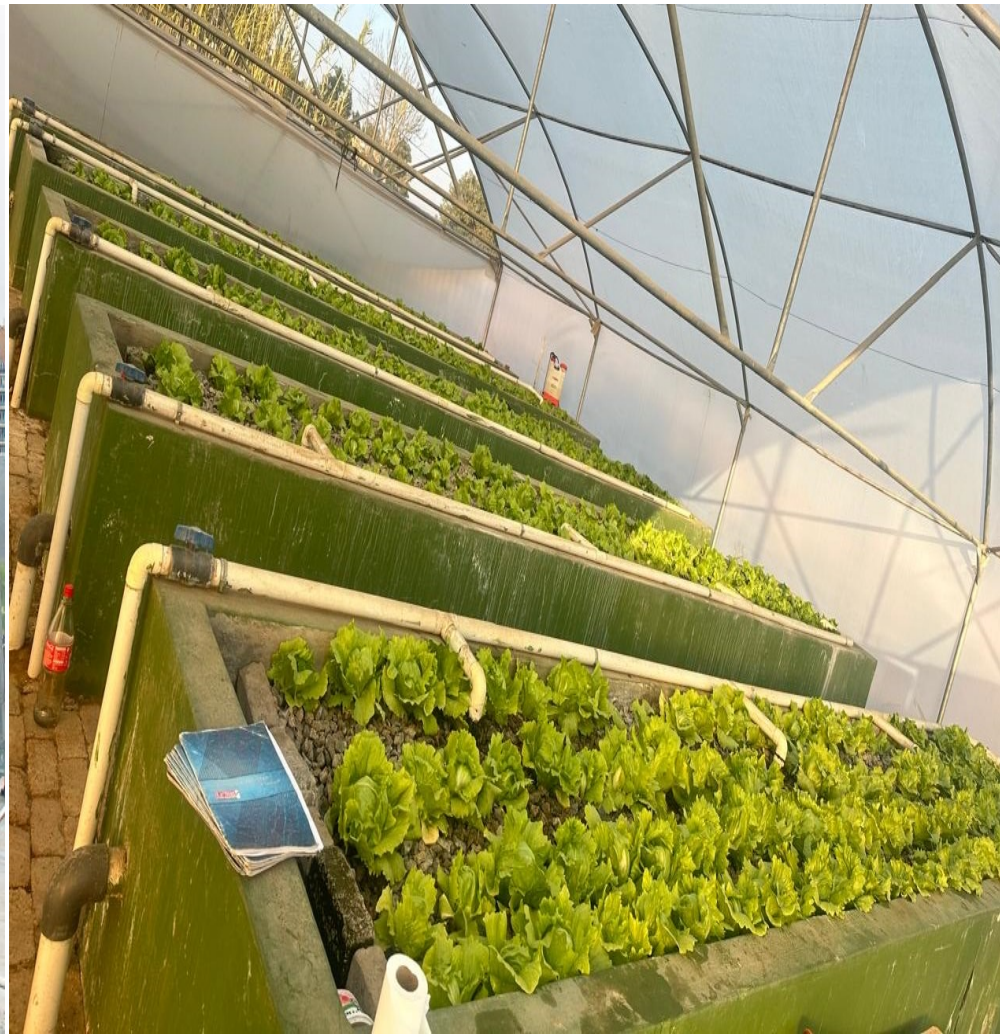
- Improve farming infrastructure, improving quality of the soil, increase the soil microorganisms (fauna and flora), improve the soil health.
- Access to organic or untreated seeds, access to tractor service, advisory and technical services (organic farming),
- Identify organic markets and business support.
- Research and policy development
- Training and development ( COJ officials & farmers)

“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Agriculture is the foundation of civilization and any stable economy.” – **Franklin D. Roosevelt**





# URBAN FARMS



## Innovations: Hydroponics, Aquaponics and Vertical Farming

Boosting food security in urban areas



# Agro processing and value adding

- Aspiring and existing agro processors register on the COJ database
- Needs analysis of the client
- Depended on resource availability COJ provide (packaging material and necessary equipment)
- Access to information on funding, branding, market access, available facilities for placement
- Training and development

“A country that exports raw materials remains poor; a country that processes its resources creates prosperity.” – **Ha-Joon Chang** (*Economist and Author*)





# Agro processing Hubs

- Two hubs in Regions A & G service small farms within the Coj as a central processing point
- Used as market day centres for agro-processors and for selling of different vegetables to the communities.
- More than 30 smallholder farmers have access to the hubs for cleaning, packing, grading and distribution to formal and informal markets.

“Value addition in agriculture transforms subsistence into wealth, ensuring sustainability for future generations.” – **Unknown**





## Opportunities

- Product diversification
- Quality certification
- Export opportunities
- Industrial associations
- Renewable energy integration
- Grants and subsidies
- Green spaces
- Climate change mitigation
- Technology integration
- Infrastructure development
- Skills development



★ “The greatest change we need to make is from **consumption** to **production**, even if on a small scale in our own gardens.” —

Bill Mollison (*Father of Permaculture*)



# Thank You!

