

CONCEPT NOTE

#African Nutrition

Africa Day 2022 Commemoration. Celebrating African Food by Africans

26 May 2022



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES
AFRICA OFFICE

PHILANTHROPY
CIRCUIT

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1. Context

The African continent is endowed with immense natural and human resources with diverse flora and fauna that thrive on the continent. With 16% of the world's population, it ranks highly in the quantity of world reserves of minerals like bauxite, cobalt, industrial diamond, phosphate rock and platinum group metals, and globally has 60% of unutilised farming land. Its population, the fastest growing in the world, is expected to increase from 1.2 billion people today to over 2.5 billion people by 2050 when it will continue to be the youngest in the world. The continent has rich heritage and so much to celebrate. The interacting effects of rainfall, temperature, topography and soil structures result in numerous types of plants and foods that are indigenous to the continent and have made their way to be staple foods of many African nations. Think of the barley plants in east Africa, cassava, green bananas and plantains in West Africa and of course Okra, kale and various green nutritious vegetables throughout the continent.

COVID19 and recent shocks to the continent has severely threatened food security in the continent. Climate change has also contributed to unpredictable rainy seasons, varying temperatures and destruction of steady food supplies. The ongoing war in Ukraine exacerbates supplies to the African continent. With the AU theme for 2022 focused on nutrition, it will be essential to turn attention to local food items indigenous to the continent as a way of promoting nutrition.

AU and member states commemorate Africa Day on the 25th of May. We propose to host an online public webinar on the 26th of May focused on showcasing African nutritious cuisine which utilises ingredients from the continent. The proposed webinar will showcase foods from the continent and innovative recipes by Africans. The webinar will also encourage giving/philanthropy to sustainable food security solutions.

Throughout the month of May we will also use social media to showcase indigenous food and uses of it. Something like cassava for example is a key ingredient for many recipes and NGOs have started supporting small scale farmers and ventures to improve food security. The social media posts will advertise the webinar on the 26th of May whilst showcasing African heritage in terms of food items. The posts will be geared towards Africans and diasporas who have become ignorant to the rich history and culture of the African Continent. With the belief that the future generation is more prone to accepting European ideologies as opposed to African traditions as they are eroding at the expense of civilisation and devaluing our African Heritage and our food.



2. Organisers

2.1 About MINDS

The Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS) was established in 2010 as an Africa-wide think tank. Its founding was based on the hypothesis that effective and sustainable development of the African continent can only be achieved if development policies and practices are founded on the cultural heritage, value and knowledge systems and institutions of the people who are the subjects or beneficiaries of the development interventions.

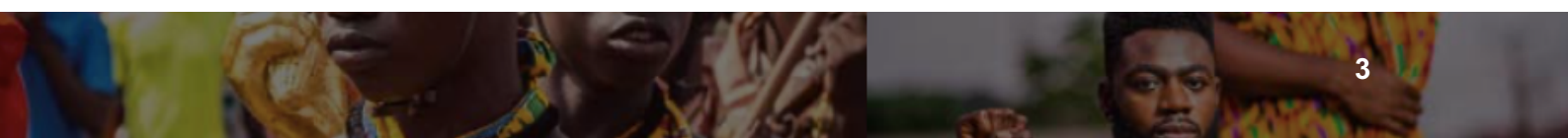
Informed by this conviction, MINDS bases its approach and philosophy on the concept of ‘Africanness’ as it seeks to bring change in the way Africans tackle the social, economic and political challenges facing them today and in the future. In this regard, MINDS provides a forum for dialogue, information dissemination and networking, underpinned by rigorous research on the different elements of ‘Africanness’ in order to shape policy and practice on governance, economic development and the evolution of African institutions.

2.2 About IFC World Bank Group

IFC—a member of the World Bank Group—is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. We work in more than 100 countries, using our capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities in developing countries. In fiscal year 2021, IFC committed a record \$31.5 billion to private companies and financial institutions in developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity as economies grapple with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, visit www.ifc.org.

2.3 About SAYoF

The Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF) is a regional development platform for youth in the SADC region, works with SADC Secretariat, among other regional organizations to empower young people and ensure sustainable inclusion. SAYoF is the official convener of the **SADC Youth Forum** and **SADC Youth Parliament** the



largest youth gathering in Southern Africa to co-create solutions for youth and regional development. SAYoF sits in the Steering Committee for Global Coalition for Youth, Peace and Security, a UN-CSOs partnership to advance youth for peace, SAYoF sits in the Dengue Advisory Group, and appointed by Africa Union (AU) to be part of the Africa Youth Front on Covid-19 a high-level policy and advocacy framework by the Africa Union (AU) Youth Envoy for young people to co-lead Africa's response to Covid-19. SAYoF sits in the Network for Religious and Traditional Peace Makers–Inclusive Based Community of Practice Steering Group. SAYoF is founded based on the increasing demand by young people to be important players and stockholders in regional and national processes, proffer solutions at national and regional level, and participation in sustainable transformation. As defined by the Youth Development Model (YDM) SAYoF believes that youth in the SADC region should be Stakeholders, Stockholders, Change Makers and Leaders for Transformation.

2.4 About Philanthropy Circuit

Philanthropy Circuit is a Pan-African-focused nonprofit media and research organization based in Nigeria.

The organisation is on a mission to create and provide access to critical knowledge, resources, and tools to strengthen nonprofit and philanthropic organisations in Africa, and facilitate collaboration among key development stakeholders.

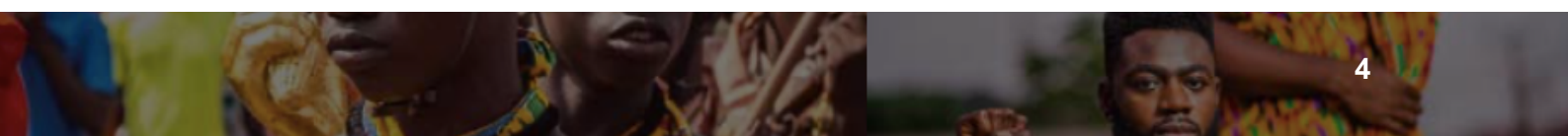
To deliver on this mission, Philanthropy Circuit produces new content, data and insights to drive and influence a new narrative and understanding of African homegrown giving and development.

Philanthropy Circuit has hosted nonprofit networking events, developed sector-related research and analysis, produced and collaborated on articles covering various development and philanthropy topics relevant to African Philanthropy.

2.5 About Wits-CAPSI

Located at Wits Business School in Johannesburg, South Africa, The Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment (CAPSI) was established to bridge the gap in the study, research and practice of philanthropy and social investment in Africa.

Global interest in the field of philanthropy and social investment in Africa and continents outside of Euro-America is growing exponentially. Recent years have seen a considerable increase in research and writings related to these topics. Despite this, the study of these fields is in a nascent stage, with very little formal academic research,



teaching and publications available in Africa. In response to this lack of dedicated, formal academic focus, Wits Business School and the Southern Africa Trust introduced the Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment.

The Centre aims to support the advancement of this field, by filling the current gaps in teaching, research, and publication. The Centre serves as a source of knowledge, a cultivator of partnerships, and a catalyst for innovation, community engagement and a heightened sense of citizenship and social responsibility throughout the African continent and beyond. From the outset, this initiative took on a wider pan African outlook – seeking to understand philanthropic behaviour in different contexts and histories.

3. Know African food Social Media Campaign

The promotion of African food social media campaign will be aimed at connecting the internet to African food. A digital way for Africans and the world at large to interact with the African food and take interest in investing in it. Through this Africans can learn positive facts about their food.

This campaign rests on the fact that we have become more connected to Western cuisine and lifestyle than we have been to African Heritage and our own cuisine. This campaign will use different elements of interaction to reach audiences in all corners of the continent and showcase how both producers and consumers utilise African food.

The campaign messaging will centre on unpacking messages on the following:

Week 1: Barley and wheat products in Africa

Week 2: African fruits (Marula, Figs, Kei apples, Matoke etc)

Week 3: African plantains and vegetable health benefits (Melons, amadumbe, amaranths etc)

Week 4: African beverages (Umqombothi, Amasi/ Mageu etc)

4. The Campaign and webinar

The webinar will be conducted as follows:

Webinar on: Showcasing African Nutrition through our food

An online webinar will be held to commemorate Africa month on the 26th of May 2022. Speakers will be invited to elaborate on the facts shared during the month (beverages, fruits, vegetables and recipes).



Key participants to be invited to join the webinar will include scholars and alumni, AU network, African Youth Network Movement members, Wits University community as well as students at MINDS selected universities on the continent. All partners will use the output from the webinar to contribute youth voices in its engagement with regional partners in marshalling a greater and coordinated response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and mitigating food security challenges.

The webinar programme will be as follows:

Date: Thursday 26 May 2022
 Time: 16:00 – 17:45 (SAST)
 Venue: ZOOM (livestreamed on You Tube/ Facebook)

Time	Description	Speaker
16:00 – 16:05	Opening and introductions	Facilitator: Bongani Bingwa
16:05 – 16:15	Purpose of webinar (African food, nutrition, and heritage) plus welcome remarks	Introduction: Zeinab Badawi (MINDS)
16:15 – 16:30	Zooming through African fauna and foods indigenous to the continent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barriers to issues on food security - Climate impacts on food security - Pan African solutions for food security and nutrition 	Keynote speaker: Prof. Patrick Lumumba
	Q&A for keynote	
16:30 – 16:40	Investments / private sector value add to mitigate food security challenges and climate change	Adamou Labara



		IFC Africa
16:40 – 17:15	<p>Showcase of African recipes/ cuisine and producers of indigenous foods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southern Africa, Mozambique/ Zimbabwe (Sayof) - East Africa, Kenya (Faith) - West Africa (Philanthropy Circuit) – Nigeria (Jipsari Maksum) - Central Africa, DRC (Dora) - North Africa, Egypt (Marwa Al Daly) 	
17:15 – 17:30	Open Q&A with audience	Facilitator
17:30 – 17:40	Overview of philanthropy education at WBS	<p>Jacob Mati</p> <p>Keratiloe Mogotsi</p>
17:40 – 17:45	Closing remarks, way forward and vote of thanks	Betty Ka (UN, WFP)

