

## Innovative Agro-Processing for Climate-Smart Food Systems

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- **SDG 1: No Poverty**

- **Target 1.5:** Build resilience to climate and economic shocks.  
→ *Agro-processing enhances rural incomes and reduces vulnerability.*

- **SDG 2: Zero Hunger**

- **Target 2.1:** Ensure access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food.
- **Target 2.2:** End all forms of malnutrition.
- **Target 2.3:** Double productivity and incomes of small-scale producers, especially women.  
→ *The Chair improves nutrition and supports value chains for smallholders.*

- **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**

**Target 3.4:** Reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases through healthier diets and food environments.

→ By promoting safe, nutritious, and low-fat/sugar/salt processed foods, the Chair helps shift consumption patterns toward better health.

**Target 3.9:** Substantially reduce deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination.

→ Cleaner processing technologies and better food safety standards mitigate health risks linked to poor-quality food processing.

### SDG 4: Quality Education

**Target 4.3:** Ensure equal access for all to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education.

→ The Chair fosters university-industry collaboration and builds practical training programmes in agro-processing for youth and women.

**Target 4.4:** Increase the number of youth and adults with relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

→ Through innovation hubs and hands-on learning, the Chair equips rural communities with competencies for value-added agriculture.

**Target 4.7:** Ensure learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

→ Agro-processing is embedded in climate-smart and sustainability education, with a focus on local resource use, waste reduction, and gender equality

- **SDG 5: Gender Equality**

- **Target 5.a:** Equal access to resources, technology, and economic opportunities.  
→ *Empowers women through food processing training and enterprise support.*

- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
  - **Target 8.3:** Promote entrepreneurship and small enterprises.
  - **Target 8.5:** Achieve productive employment for all, especially youth and women.  
→ *The Chair promotes community entrepreneurship and rural agro-enterprises.*
- **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**
  - **Target 12.3:** Halve per capita food waste.
  - **Target 12.5:** Reduce waste generation through circular economy practices.  
→ *Focuses on reducing post-harvest losses and transforming food waste.*
- **SDG 13: Climate Action**
  - **Target 13.1:** Strengthen adaptive capacity to climate-related risks.  
→ *Climate-smart processing solutions enhance food system resilience.*

### **African Union Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want**

- **Goal 1:** A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- **Goal 5:** Modern agriculture and agro-processing for increased productivity and value addition.
- **Goal 7:** Environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient communities.
- **Goal 17:** Gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture and food systems.
- **Goal 18:** Empowered youth engaged in innovation, food enterprises, and technology transfer.

### **South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP 2030)**

- **Chapter 3:** Economy and Employment – stimulate agro-processing industries and promote inclusive growth.
- **Chapter 6:** Inclusive Rural Economy – support small-scale farmers, reduce post-harvest losses, and build rural agro-enterprises.
- **Chapter 10:** Health Care for All – improve diets through better food processing and nutrition.
- **Chapter 5:** Environmental Sustainability – reduce food system waste and promote efficient resource use.
- **Outcome 4:** Decent employment through inclusive economic growth.
- **Outcome 7:** Vibrant rural communities and sustainable livelihoods.
- **Outcome 10:** Protected environmental assets through sustainable agriculture.