Second COFISA Provincial Foresight Workshop in the Eastern Cape

23 January 2008

Final draft report

KDS

Project Services

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1. Introduction

Foresighting refers to methods and techniques used to develop viable and sustainable futures for communities. The strength of foresighting over short term development strategies is in its proactive development approach towards desired futures. It is a departure from short term incremental planning, which typically focuses on *how to* solve present problems. Foresighting on the other hand focuses on what *can be* and then directing efforts towards systematically developing the desired futures.

2. Purpose

The second Foresight workshop, held at the Regent Hotel, East London, was the second in a planned series of three workshops intended to investigate realistic and implementable futures in the context of the development of regional systems of innovation in the Eastern Cape province. The purpose of the workshop was to further develop the thematic areas produced in the first workshop.

As in the first workshop, the participants were employed to use 3 specific foresighting techniques; i) The futures wheel, ii) the futures table, and iii) story writing to describe the chosen future issue. The second workshop focused on the following themes to create desired futures (green elephants);

Theme 1: Engineering for a Green Future;
Theme 2: **"**Green" Transport Engineering;
Theme 3: Food Basket for SADC: "Redefining Rurality".

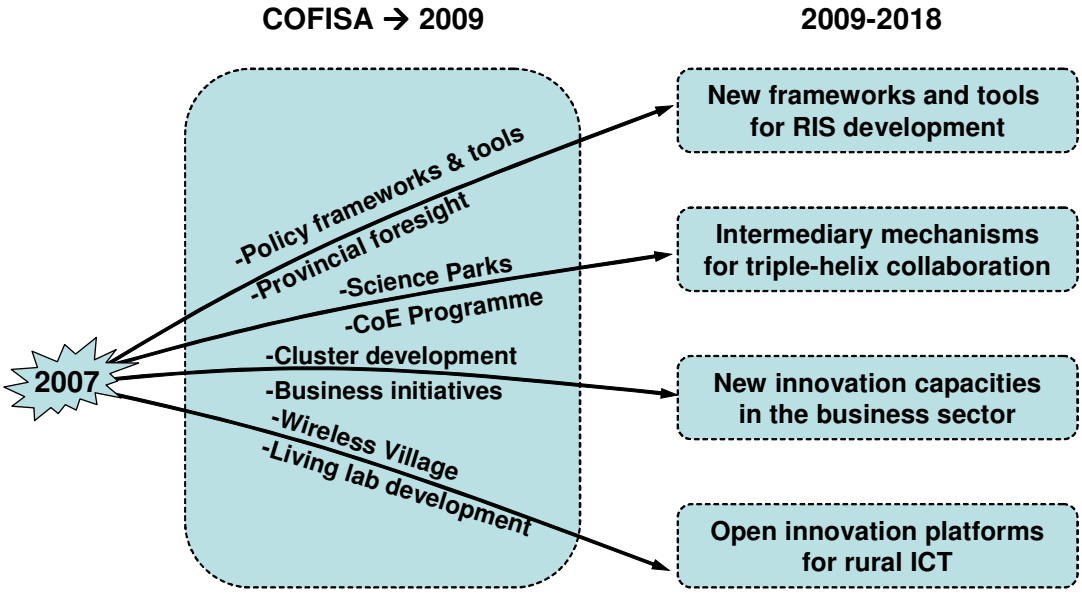
3. Preliminary Inputs to the Foresight Workshop

Inputs and expected outcomes

In welcoming the participants, Mrs. Nirvashnee Seetal, the COFISA National Coordinator provided an **overview of the aims and objectives of the COFISA programme,** which is summarised here:

> COFISA is a programme that has been developed jointly by the Governments of SA, through the Department of Science and Technology, and Finland, through the Embassy of Finland in Pretoria. Its objective is to contribute to the enhanced effectiveness of the national system of innovation contributing to economic growth and poverty alleviation. COFISA's three pilot provinces are Gauteng, Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

The figure below illustrates four key areas of innovation system development, grouping together key COFISA activities into four strategically important lines of action focusing on building structures and competences at the Provincial level. These form the basic building blocks of the COFISA contribution to SANSI development and link the Project to the national 10-year plan.



New frameworks and tools for regional innovation system development: The concept of a regional innovation system or policies related to its development is relatively new in South Africa. Yet, it is widely accepted that complementing a national innovation policy with a strong regional development focus has been successful in many countries in developing regional capacities to benefit from national or supra-national flows of resources.

National innovation policy must find concrete manifestations at the regional or local level. Furthermore, innovation processes occur between a large number of actors, such as companies, R&D organisations and the public sector. Regional innovation policy should exist to provide platforms for cooperation between these different actors.

In addressing the SANSI criticism that "there appears to be fairly weak integration between national level policy and organisations and innovation-related policy and support measures at provincial and local level "[1] the following mechanisms will be used:

- Creating structures and competences in the Provinces for regional innovation-based economic development strategies (targets, instruments, capabilities, policy coordination, priorities, etc.)

- Developing capacity within the DST Local Innovation Unit for regional innovation policy development, resulting in an action plan and a national framework for RSI development
- Regional foresight work as a tool for supporting planning, building strategic vision on regional innovation and creating collaboration in the triple helix.

Intermediary mechanisms for triple-helix collaboration:

The triple helix model postulates that collaboration among private, academic and public institutions is key for the promotion of innovation in a knowledge-based economy. Innovation intermediaries are entities providing infrastructure and services to undertakings involved in innovative activities. These almost universally include Science Parks and in specific cases programmes such as the Centres of Expertise (CoE) programme in Finland. Collaboration between the triple-helix players has to be actively promoted and resourced. Key actions by COFISA in this area include:

- Development of science parks as innovation-enabling mechanisms (networking, interactive learning, IP management, venture capital, etc).
- Capacitating the DST in coordinating science park development in South Africa. This learning will be disseminated widely, and could also form the basis of a "Science Park Strategy" for the country.
- Launching the CoE programme in Tshwane for piloting triple helix collaboration and promoting innovation in specific sectors. The programme, coordinated by the Innovation Hub, will provide input into the national Centre of Competence implementation.

New innovation capacities in the business sector:

A specific characteristic of the innovation environment in South Africa is the relatively modest involvement of the private sector in innovative activities. This is especially true of the SMME sector, whereas large companies are often well-resourced to carry out R&D and to innovate. The role of innovation in strategic business plans needs to be highlighted
and the SMME sector needs to be drawn into collaborative settings with other innovation players.

- Cluster development activities in the pilot provinces, e.g. development of the South African Maritime Cluster (Oil & Gas and Ship Repair) with respect to innovation networks and sectoral system of innovation.
- Awareness-raising and capacity building on foresight and strategic innovation in business development.

Open innovation platforms for rural ICT:

ICT-based rural development and rural innovation are currently carried out within individually funded project settings, resulting in challenges in terms of the sustainability of the models, practices, products or services. New platforms for open, user-centric innovation, testing and piloting of solutions and sharing of resources are needed.

- The Village Connection project in Dwesa in partnership with the Meraka Institute, Eastern Cape Universities and Nokia Siemens Networks aims to build cross-sectoral collaboration in rural connectivity and ICT applications and to launch a "Living Laboratory" in the Eastern Cape.
- Building national-level coordination in developing rural living labs, in close cooperation with DST ICT Unit and other living lab initiatives.

David Lefutso, the Eastern Cape COFISA Foresight Coordinator, next gave a presentation on the **status of the Eastern Cape COFISA Foresight Initiative**. He described the processes used in the first workshop, which were to be repeated in the second workshop, but on new subject areas. He highlighted the processes that led to the selection of the three themes forming the new subject areas. The presentation also placed the 2nd workshop within the full COFISA Foresight process, and its intended outcomes.

Next, Dr. Bob Day, the principal South African foresight consultant, gave an **overview of the three themes produced in the first Eastern Cape Foresight Workshop**, which would guide the proceedings of the second workshop:

The delegates were reminded of the main points that emerged from the Eastern Cape Baseline Data study as presented in the 1st workshop. This presentation is available on the COFISA web site (www.cofisa.org.za).

A brief overview was given of some important generic factors that ran across the outputs of (almost) all the Eastern Cape working groups. In particular, the *common values* included: social equity (integrity and ethics); quality of life; and environmental sustainability. Also, some *common obstacles* were identified, including: lack of capacity; lack of vision and/or imagination; vested interests at the global, national, and local levels; and corruption.

However, the bulk of the presentation dealt with a discussion of the three main themes produced in the 1st Eastern Cape workshop, and which would

be the focus of the activities of the working groups for the remainder of the 2nd workshop. For each theme, the main characteristics identified in the 1st workshop were listed, followed by some important issues if the 2050 scenarios are to be realised.

Theme 1: Engineering for a Green Future:

- E Cape to become a world class "Green" R&D Centre (& tourism destination)
- Leading to high employment in "Green" industries
- Via clean/renewable energy (GCC Mitigation)
- Via recycled products

BUT:

- Who will create missing R&D and Engineering Capacity? How and When?
- Who will "own" the vision, invest and take the risks?
- Start small and grow, or big-bang approach?

Theme 2: "Green" Transport Engineering:

- E Cape has better "eco life", 30% of its energy is "clean"
- Alternative transport – free of fossil fuels
- Clean energy production technologies

BUT:

- Long term sustainability needs diversification, but short term profitability drives the "business as usual" approach
- Which market(s)? Africa? China/India? Global…?
- Green air transport?
- How will transportation change in the knowledge society?

Theme 3: Food Basket for SADC: "Redefined Rurality":

- E Cape has functional and eco-sustainable inter- and intra-rural systems (ideal rural society)
- Food security, competitive (quality, price, availability), economic independence
- Means of production includes small-holders

BUT:

- Can balance between agri-industrialisation and smallholders be found?
- Can urban migration "self-regulate"?
- Do bio-fuels represent a threat or a promise?
- Maritime opportunities – the last frontier?

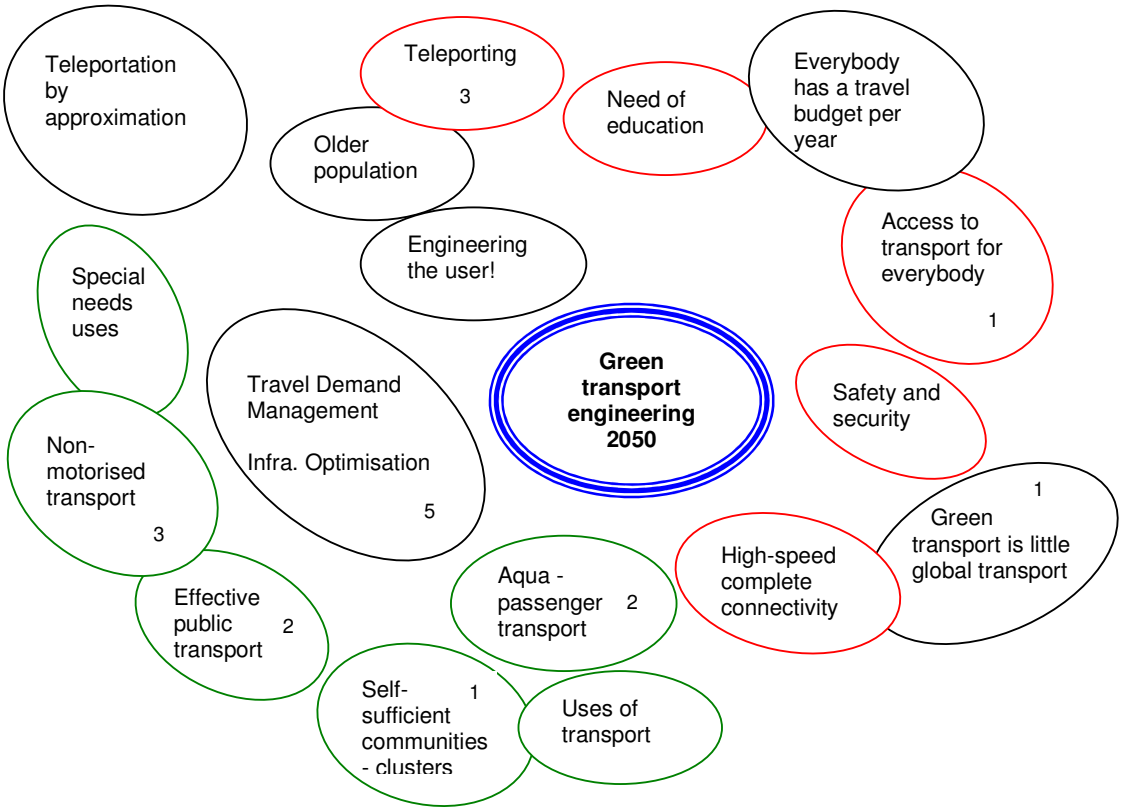
Dr Day and Mr Lefutso co-facilitated the COFISA workshop, assisted by several other COFISA team members. The full agenda is provided in Annex 1.

Twenty one participants attended the workshop (see Annex 3) and were pre-selected and placed in three groups according to their expertise and preferences (see Annex 2). In short, each group developed a 2050 futures wheel which was then used to identify 3 important issues (green elephants) central to their shared vision of the future. A single focused theme was chosen from these three issues using a voting process in which each participant had 3 votes to prioritise the focus areas.

This theme was then analysed and broken down using the ACTVOD Futures table for a more focused discussion of *what* issues mattered. Two to three scenarios were then developed using this table. Finally, the groups wrote a story based on their chosen scenario to illustrate the salient features of their vision for 2050.

4. Outputs based on the three chosen Eastern Cape Themes

4.1 Futures wheel: Group 1 - Green transport engineering



Group 1 chose the focus area ***Fully Integrated Sustainable Transport Solutions Provider*** under the Green Transport Engineering theme.

4.2 Futures table: Group 1 - Green transport engineering

ACTVOD	Theme: Fully Integrated Sustainable Transport Solutions Provider
ACTORS	Department of Transport, Department of Education, Motor industry, Information & Communication Technology, Research institutions, Provincial government, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Local government, Department of Housing, Business, National government
CUSTOMERS / BENEFICIARIES	Commuters, Business, General public, Provincial and National government
TARGETS	Collaborative policy making, competent and skilled workforce, Research & Development, Technology, Entrepreneurial attitude / drive, Innovative thinking society
PRODUCTS / SERVICES / ACTIONS	Non-motorised vehicles, Integrated Transport Solutions, Personal Mobility Vehicle, Sustainable human settlement plans, Alternative transport modes (air / sea), Transport safety and security solutions, Teleporting
VALUES	Quality of life, Ubuntu, Environmental awareness, Creative thinking, Equity, Value-adding culture, Urgency, Innovativeness, Proactive society, Competitiveness, Transparency of information
DRIVERS	Limitation of resources – energy depletion – efficient use, Global protocols, Need to transport / for mobility, Champions (Government, etc. – population and economic growth), Open access to information
OBSTACLES	Lack of political will Lack of foresight Lack of coordination / collaboration Lack of human capital Silo mentality Lack of advocacy

Once they had created the above table, the group then considered 3 scenarios for the actualization of this focus area. The themes are shown as different colours (green, blue and black) in the above table.

4.3 Futures story: Group 1 - Green transport engineering

Fully Integrated Transport Solutions (2050)

Today was really a day! When I started I thought it would never end. Just picked my personal transporter and got the monitor telling me that the fluidynamic controls were malfunctioning. So I took the wind-propelled velocipede (no chance to use the sun, last few days were very wet) and got to the docking station next to the depot.

Mama Temba telephathed the request to be in Cape Town by lunch and I got her on the "hammer" to the port to board the Porto-Manzi there. This Porto-Manzi always amazes me: the people that design this stuff surely are top of the pack. How far we have come in only 40 years! Thank goodness government decided to make innovation a key point of the Constitution and reformed the education system. Even my six year old grand-child is talking about innovation and starting her own business. By the way, I hear that the 20 year-old government funded Transplanetary Commuter is almost ready at the university of East London and they plan to link it up with our system in July next year. This amazes me even more than the Porto-Manzi.

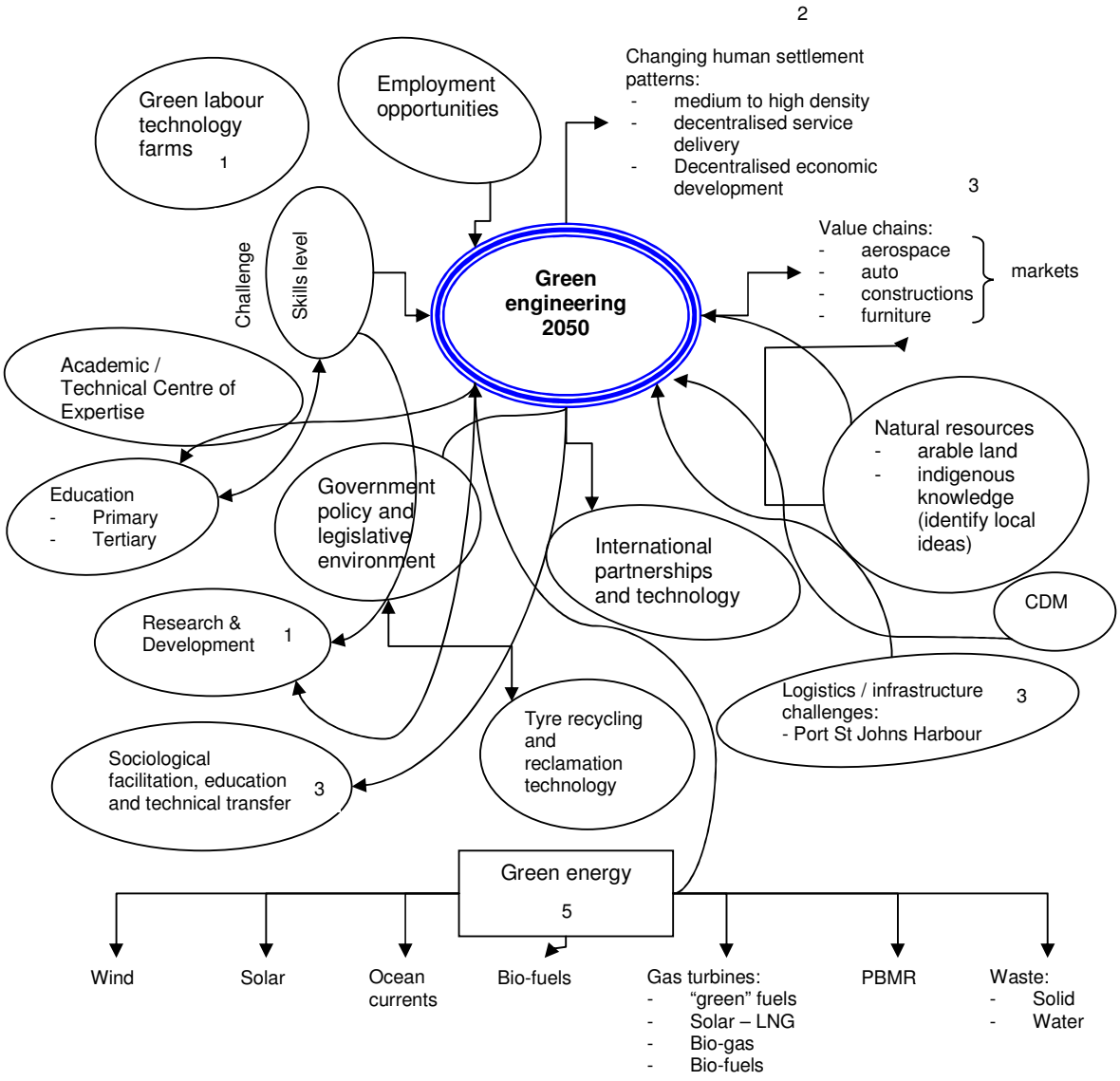
Mama Temba was visiting her mother (95). She had forgotten (as usual!) her pass, but fortunately her biometric data were loaded this morning so I didn't have to drive her back home.

My boss, An, was again on my case about the numbers of people we are moving these days. But, I ask you, what is wrong with 5000 an hour? In fact I would like to see them go down and use the other systems or check better if they could avoid travelling at all, via telework or the current version of teleportation run by Shesha.

The lunch was really a misadventure with the new cook. Nobody wants to be a cook any longer, because the competition online is too fierce - call it progress! So I downloaded a lasagne from Canzo in Italy but they put in too much chilly! (My poor ulcer!)

Once my personal transporter failed, I should just have rerouted the controls to my home and driven my amphibious hammer from there. Well, lesson learnt.

4.4 Futures wheel: Group 2 - Green engineering



Group 2 chose the focus area ***Green Energy (supply side)*** under the Green Engineering theme.

4.5 Futures table: Group 2 - Green engineering

ACTVOD	Theme: Green Energy (supply side)
ACTORS	National government Provincial government Local government Private sector Science Councils HEIs Consumers
CUSTOMERS / BENEFICIARIES	Industry Agriculture Households Transport Export market: - National - SADC - AU - World
TARGETS	Nett exporter of "green" energy and "green" engineered products. Satisfy Eastern Cape's market for all its energy needs – including the use of "green" energy.
PRODUCTS / SERVICES / ACTIONS	Green energy production technologies, green products & processes that are inspired by local innovation and indigenous knowledge
VALUES	Social sustainability Environmental awareness Employment - poverty reduction Gender and child equity
DRIVERS	Poverty alleviation Environmental concerns NEPAD, AU, SA Government policies and legislation Technology choices
OBSTACLES	Governance Logistics / infrastructure Lack of awareness

(1) ----
(2) ----
(3) ----

Once they had created the above table, the group then considered 3 scenarios for the actualization of this focus area. The themes are shown as different colours (green, red and black) in the above table.

4.6 Futures story: Group 2 - Green engineering

Self-Contained Green Habitat Facility (2050)

The World's first totally self-contained Green Habitat facility for use on Mars was unveiled in Port St. Johns today. This unit will be transported to the Kennedy Space Centre in California on the locally developed zero-emission ground effects vehicle.

Port St Johns boasts a newly established multimillion rand shallow water harbour facility which serves as the hub for the export of local innovation products.

The Unit is heralded as the first of its kind to offer a totally green self-contained habitat for Space Tourists. This is the first major export order that has been awarded to the Eastern Cape Green Technologies Innovation Centre.

The project is the brain-child of the Nobel Prize winning Professor Nompilo Luhlaza, born in the remote village of Dwesa Cwebe in the Eastern Cape. She is the grand child of Mrs. Nhlupeko, a graduate of the Dwesa Cwebe Living Labs project.

The project has spawned a number of related small and big industries providing sustainable employment for the local people.

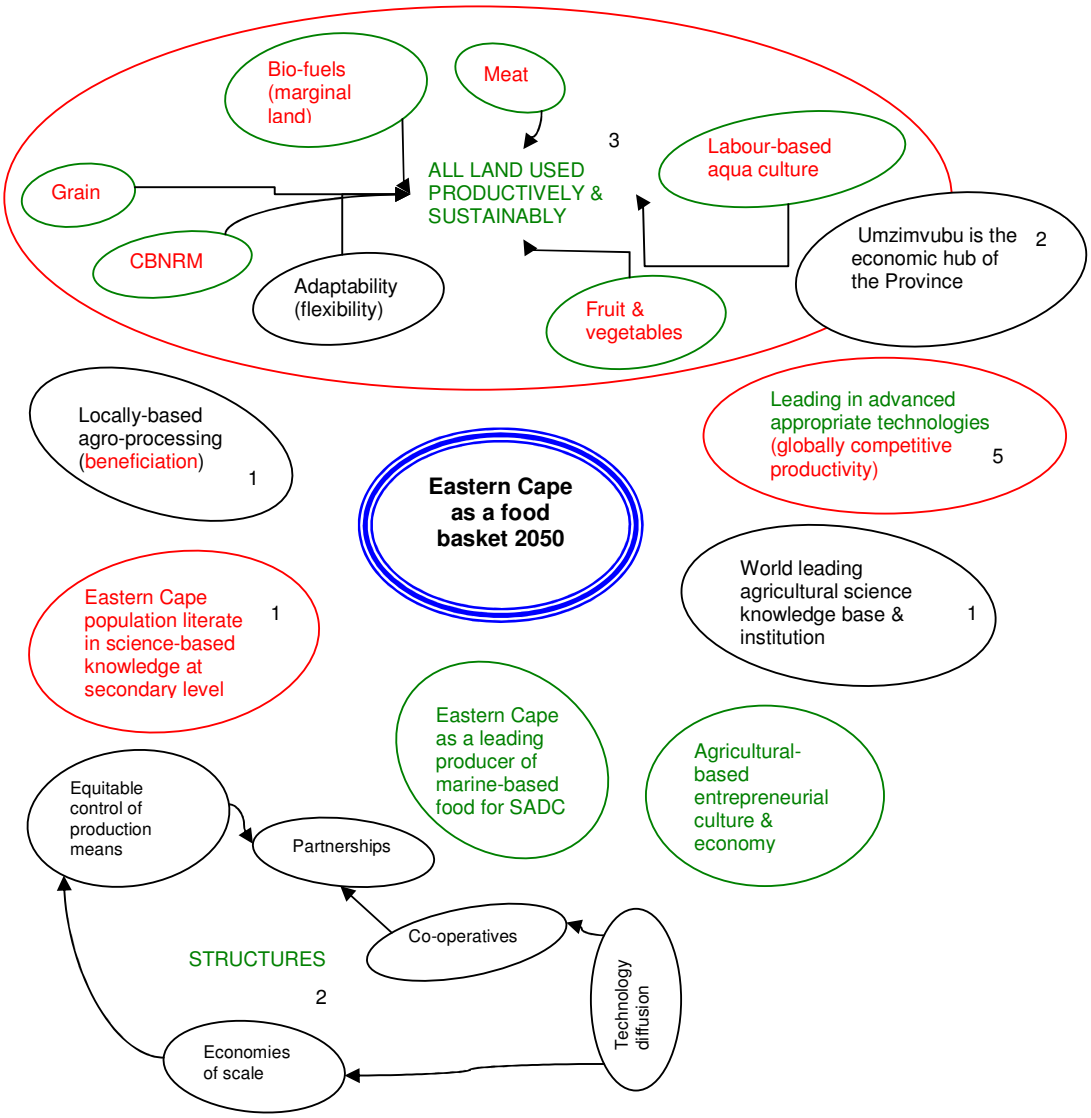
Since the launch of the first Green Module for export markets and the establishment of the self-contained habitat facility, the Green Technologies Innovation Centre in Port St. Johns has trained thousands of Green Technology graduates who then gained employment both in Port St. Johns and other parts of South Africa.

Some of the industries that have developed since the inception of the programme include the following:

a) The hemp fibres agro-forestry project producing high content hemp fabrics for local and international markets.
b) Totally self-sustainable renewable energy from wind ocean currents and bio-fuel plants.
c) Energy producing waste disposal plants.
d) Animal waste digesters to produce bio-gas

The entire energy requirements of the region are satisfied through renewable energy. The Eastern Cape is now the net-exporter of renewable energy to the SADC Region. It is the first region to be awarded a zero-carbon footprint in the recent (2048) Global Study.

4.7 Futures wheel: Group 3 – Eastern Cape as a food basket



Group 3 chose the focus area ***Knowledge-based Integrated (Agriculture) Food Sector*** under the Eastern Cape as SADC Food Basket theme.

4.8 Futures table: Group 3 – Eastern Cape as a food basket

ACTVOD	Theme: Knowledge-based Integrated (Agriculture) Food Sector
ACTORS	Land owners, Institutes of tertiary learning, ECDA, Agro-processors, Farmers, ARC, CSIR, SABS, District and Local municipalities, LED policies, Uvimba, IDC, DBSA, ECDC, Schools
CUSTOMERS / BENEFICIARIES	Farmers, Consumers, Youth, Institutions of Higher Learning, SADC
TARGETS	All land used productively, Food basket for SADC, Leading in advanced appropriate technologies, Effective and efficient technology diffusion, adaptability, Employment
PRODUCTS / SERVICES / ACTIONS	Locally-based agro-processing, Research institutions, Food, High-quality low-cost technologies, Research & Development, Collaborations
VALUES	Sustainability, Agricultural entrepreneurship, Equity, Quality of life, Culture of learning, Solidarity, Work ethic, High-quality low-cost food products,
DRIVERS	Successful transformation of rural economy, Education, Resources, Skills, Appropriately organised structures, Organisational innovation
OBSTACLES	Safety and security, HIV/AIDS, Limited capacity, Image of farming, Outward migration – brain drain, Unpredictable climate / weather, Limited resources, Educational systems

Once they had created the above table, the group then considered 3 scenarios for the actualization of this focus area. The themes are shown as different colours (green, blue and red) in the above table.

4.9 Futures story: Group 3 – Eastern Cape as a food basket

Leading the Way (2050)

Having welcomed international delegates to the Conference on Advanced Agricultural Technologies 2050, the Premier of the Eastern Cape leads a tour of delegates to study prominent food sector developments around the province. First stop is Umzimvubu Institute of Agricultural Technologies, where they are shown some of the new growing technologies for artificially climatised areas. The institute was originally formed through a consortium comprising the Universities of NMMU, Rhodes and Fort Hare as well as the CSIR and ARC in 2020. In the adjacent Agricultural Science Park a special unit for technology transfer for the Province's farmers makes it affordable for small farmers to adopt new agricultural practices and technologies. There has also been a surge in the Science Park of new knowledge-intensive businesses that support the sector all over Southern Africa.

Next the delegation also visits the largest co-op in Southern Africa. The Chinese are especially keen on learning about the business-model, as they are realising that creativity is high in this part of the world. The co-op is comprised of over 200 farms, specialising in traditional indigenous exotic fruits and new fruit hybrids for the demanding Asian market. The farms are a mix of big and small, each enjoying similar status, and focused on sustainable innovative food production.

Agriculture begins at schools. The children are exposed to this now trendy sector from an early age with a fun combination of maths, science and agricultural economics. The delegation visits a school expo at a local science centre where they see the children’s interactive presentations of what they would like to grow and how. It seems that the sky's the only limit for them.

The renaissance of Eastern Cape agriculture has been a product of a creative low-cost high-tech approach developed and adopted in the 2010's. It recognised agricultural entrepreneurship as a real opportunity for young people, supported by visionary land use and the adoption of the latest technology. The first new agro-millionaires emerged in the 2020's, and the first agro-billionaires in the 2030's.

The delegation leaves with licensing deals in their pockets. They all receive the local hit product "The Instant Herb Garden" as a souvenir by the Premier.

4.10 Valuated futures themes in futures wheels

Second COFISA Foresight Workshop in the Eastern Cape 23.01.2008		
Valuated Futures Themes in Futures Wheels: Eastern Cape in the year 2050		
Group One	**Group Two**	**Group Three**
• Teleportation by approximation • Special needs uses • Non-motorised transport (3) • Effective public transport (2) • Teleporting (3) • Older population • Engineering the user • Need of education • Everybody has a travel budget per year • Access to transport for everybody (1) • Safety and security • Green transport is little global transport (1) • High-speed connectivity • Travel Demand Management – Infra. Optimisation (5) • Aqua-passenger transport (2) • Self-sufficient communities (clusters) (1) • Uses of transport	• Employment opportunities • Green labour technology farms (1) • Skills level (challenges) • Academic / Technical Centre of Expertise • Education – Primary – Tertiary • Government policy and legislative environment • Research and Development (1) • Sociological facilitation, education and technical transfer (3) • Tyre recycling and reclamation technology • Green energy (5) – Wind – Solar – Ocean currents – Bio-fuels – Gas Turbines (“green fuels, solar (LNG), bio-gas, bio-fuels) – PBMR – Waste (solid, water) • International partnerships and technology • Changing human settlement patterns (medium to high-density, decentralised service delivery, decentralised economic development) (2) • Value chains (aerospace markets, auto markets, construction markets, furniture markets) (3) • Natural resources – arable land – indigenous knowledge (identify local ideas) • CDM • Logistics / infrastructure challenges (Port St Johns harbour) (3)	• All land used productively & sustainably (3) – Meat – Bio-fuels (marginal land) – Grain – CBNRM – Adaptability (flexibility) – Fruit & vegetables – Land-based aqua culture • Umzimvubu is the economic hub of the Province (2) • Leading in advance appropriate technologies (globally competitive productivity) (5) • World leading agricultural science knowledge base & institution (1) • Agricultural-based entrepreneurial culture & economy • Locally-based agro-processing (beneficiation) (1) • Eastern Cape population literate in science-based knowledge at secondary level (1) • Eastern Cape as a leading producer of marine-based food for SADC • Structures – Partnerships – Co-operatives – Technology diffusion – Economies of scale – Equitable control of production means
Top Three Issues: • Non-motorised transport (3) • Teleporting (3) • Travel Demand Management – Infra. Optimisation	**Top Three Issues:** • Sociological facilitation, education and technical transfer (3) • Value chains (3) • Logistics / infrastructure	**Top Three Issues:** • All land used productively & sustainably (3) • Umzimvubu is the economic hub of the Province (2) • Structures (2)

Second COFISA Foresight Workshop in the Eastern Cape 23.01.2008		
Valuated Futures Themes in Futures Wheels: Eastern Cape in the year 2050		
Group One	**Group Two**	**Group Three**
	challenges (3) • Green energy (5)	• Leading in advance appropriate technologies (globally competitive productivity) (5)
Focused Substance Area: 1. Fully Integrated Sustainable Transport Solutions Provider	**Focused Substance Area:** 1. Green energy (supply side)	**Focused Substance Area** 1. Knowledge-based Integrated (Agriculture) Food Sector

Annex 1. Programme

science and technology
Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Programme for the 2nd COFISA Eastern Cape Foresight Workshop

Opening Plenary Session (~1 hour – 09h00-10h00):

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of outcomes of First Eastern Cape Workshop
- Inputs on the 3 chosen Eastern Cape Themes
- Selection of working groups (at least one group per Theme) for rest of workshop

First Group Session (~75 mins – 10h00-11h15):

- Working group development of 2050 futures wheel
- Working group election of the 3 most important issues in their wheel

Tea break (15 mins ONLY)

Second Group Session (~1.5 hours – 11h30-13h00):

- Working group development of ACTVOD table
- Working group selection of at least three "vertical scenarios"

Lunch break (45 mins ONLY)

Third Group Session (~75 mins – 13h45-15h00):

- Working group creation of a story, based on their preferred "vertical scenarios"
- The story will include both the vision (the "What?") of the 2050 future and "How?" to get there from the present situation

Tea break (30 mins)

Final Plenary Session (~1+ hour – 15h30-16h30):

- Each working group will report back *summaries* of their stories (10 mins/group, max.)
- Overview of next stage of process
- Wind-up and thanks

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Annex 2. Breakdown of groups and their themes

Theme: Transport engineering
Thomas Moyo
Fayaz Sacoor
Prof. Alfredo Terzoli
Benedict Khohliso
Kobus Labuschagne
Nirvash Seetal
Thembi Semwayo
Dr. Claudia Beck-Reinhardt

Theme: Green engineering
Kerryn Newey
Steve Szewczuk
Mzwakhe Clay
Lauri Kuukasjarvi
Mphathi Nyewe
Mzi Madikizela

Theme: Eastern Cape as a food basket of the Eastern Cape
Prof. Gavin Staude
Nangomso Mngoma
Nik Hugow
Aki Enkenberg
Pinda Sifunda

Annex 3. Workshop participants

KDS Project Services

Attendance register

Project	:	COFISA Provincial Foresight	**Project No.**	:	K/001/2007
Subject	:	2nd COFISA PROVINCIAL FORESIGHT WORKSHOP	**Date**	:	23.01.2008
Place	:	Regent Hotel – East London	**Time**	:	09H00

Present:

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