

## FAQs - Realising Food Secure Communities in Aotearoa

In May, we released our report on Realising Food Secure Communities in Aotearoa. We have been thrilled with the interest in the report and accompanying webinar. Here, we answer some of the more commonly asked questions about the report.

### Why did Kore Hiakai want to review these local plans and strategies on food security?

Kore Hiakai has embarked on a project that considers how we might build a collective understanding of what food secure communities look like, how we measure our progress towards this, and the tools and levers are to bring this about.

We were aware that a huge amount of mahi had been going on in the last few years by communities and felt that there was much to learn from these efforts. We wanted to elevate these voices. We also wanted to provide a resource that would support others considering how to realise a food secure community.

### Who was included / not included in your report?

We did an online search, and sourced what we knew of through our networks. We were looking for reports that had a full or partial focus on food security, kai sovereignty, food resilience, sustainable food systems and related terms. We were looking at documents released in the last 10 years, and that focused on food security across a locality, rather than about individual initiatives. Some reports included were plans to alleviate food insecurity, for example through greater support to foodbanks, but this was not our focus.

Most commonly the mahi was led by community organisations, local authorities, Healthy Families initiatives, and public health organisations. A few documents were led by Māori for Māori, but many were influenced by Te Ao Māori, or involved partnerships with mana whenua. We were not able to find any specifically by Pacific for Pacific documents.

Food systems are broad so there are for many possible angles for the reports. Many took a health or social lens. Some had a climate or environment focus or were focused on supporting local food production.

### If a community was wanting to look at how to go about developing a plan or strategy to become food secure, how can they use this report to go about that?

Our intent is that the report will give a starting point for some of the things to consider in a strategy, and where to look for further information. There is a lot to learn from the work that other local communities have done. We have highlighted a couple of great organisations who went through really great processes such as Healthy Families East Cape in Tairāwhiti, and Poutiri Trust in the Western Bay of Plenty.

We would love to see more strategies that are guided by Te Ao Māori values. A number of organisations used values driven frameworks to guide their mahi such as the Kore Hiakai Mana to Mana Practice framework, or Te Waka Kai Ora and its Hua Parakore framework.

### What are some of the other things that community organisations do to help realise food secure communities?

There are many ideas through the reports, but here are a few ideas:

- Instigate food security networks that include mana whenua, local government and others across the food system that collaborate and support each other with a view to strengthening local food systems. Use these to advocate for a local food strategy or for changes to local food systems.
- Investigate ways to elevate mātauranga Māori, such as learning from kaumatua and kuia, researching sites and practices of significance, sharing knowledge between generations, and celebrating ancestral kai knowledge and stories.
- Ask large businesses in your area to support their employees to be food secure by paying a living wage.
- Develop social food hubs, to connect people across the food system, from growers to eaters, and to support people and whānau to learn and share with each other.
- Look at ways to increase access to fruit and veges e.g. fruit and vege coops, urban farms, fruit trees in communities, supporting backyard gardening.

You talk quite a bit about the importance of local government. Why is this important and what can local government do to support local food systems?

The UNDP have said that ‘making our food systems more sustainable is among the most powerful ways to change course and make progress towards all 17 Sustainable Development Goals’.

What is most critical here is applying food systems thinking across the council portfolio. By developing a strategy with a focus on sustainable local food systems, in partnership with mana whenua, local government can work in Te Tiriti partnership across a range of areas to make progress on the health and wellbeing of its people, strengthening the local economy, protecting the environment and reducing climate emissions.

What do you think central government should do?

There is a lot of talk about the need for a national food strategy. Looking at other countries, there are many ways this could be focused. A major take out from this report is that a national food strategy should focus on shifting towards sustainable *domestic and local* food systems, and shifting away from centralised food systems that export most of our good food away, or that funnel our food through supermarkets.

Alongside this, central government agencies could look at how they can be restructured to better support local food production and local food economies.

What do you think businesses should do?

One important thing large business can do is to pay their staff a living wage and thus enable them to be food secure.

What do you most hope that people will take away from having read the report?

- People have a stronger sense of what food secure communities look like, and how we might realise these.
- An understanding of the need to decentralize our food systems and shift towards local food systems for the benefit of local people.

- People use the report as a resource for considering how their community might become food secure.

#### What engagement have Kore Hiakai had with this report with local and central Government?

We have sent the report to a number of Ministers, political parties and all the mayors, and have had some positive responses from some of these. We will continue to use it as an advocacy tool. We hope that this will be a useful tool for anyone to help to advocate with local and central government for transformation of our food systems.

#### Where can I find more information about initiatives discussed during the webinar and others that align with this kaupapa?

In Aotearoa:

- Sign the petition to [Fix our Food System](#) calling for a community-led, government enabled, values based national food strategy.
- Learn about the [National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land](#) – ensuring the availability of our most favourable soils for food and fibre production, for now and future generations.
- Read the guide on [Implementing Mahinga Kai](#) as required by the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.

Internationally:

- See the UNDP [Guide for Effective Collaborative Action](#) for Systemic Change in Food and Agricultural Commodity Systems.
- Read the High Level Panel of Experts report on [Food Security and Nutrition: Building a Global Narrative towards 2030](#), which outlines the most promising policy directions to realise food security and sustainable food systems.