

UPCOMING SASUF EVENT:  
**AIMDAY – A VIRTUAL DIALOGUE FOR IMPACT**  
26-27 MAY 2026

- *Bringing together researchers, industry, and organisations from Sweden and South Africa*
- *One-hour meetings around shared challenges*
- *A chance to exchange ideas and explore new collaborations*
- *Linked to the open SASUF-NRF Seed Funding Call*

**The event is structured in the following themes**

**Democracy, Social  
Justice & Indigenous  
Knowledge Systems**



**1.**

**2.**



**Green  
Transition**

**Migration &  
Urbanisation**



**3.**

**4.**



**Sustainable  
Health**

# DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL JUSTICE & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

- How to leverage Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Democratic Innovation and Social Justice?
- How can local, traditional and indigenous knowledge inform practical preparedness models that strengthen community resilience during a green and just transition?
- How can collaboration between traditional healers, scientists, and technologists help standardise and improve traditional health products to ensure safety, efficacy, stability, and market readiness?
- How can South Africa build equitable, trust-based partnerships between traditional health practitioners (Abangoma), academia, and research institutions that bridge technical knowledge gaps, enable responsible innovation and entrepreneurship in traditional medicine, and ensure robust intellectual property protection—while also improving access to platforms such as Tech Stations and supporting the ethical mainstreaming of indigenous health products within an integrated healthcare system?
- How can a transferable and evidence-based model for youth participation be designed to strengthen young people's influence in democratic decision-making and local project implementation across countries?
- How do young people imagine the future they want through a sustainable development lens, balancing today's global challenges with emerging opportunities?

# DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL JUSTICE & INDIGEOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

- How can local digital platforms and data-driven insights be leveraged to drive genuine, long-term behavioural change towards sustainability at community level?
- How can academic curricula be better aligned with real-time business needs to ensure graduates are equipped with practical, industry-ready skills and experience?
- How can we measure gender-based violence (GBV) more effectively across provinces and coordinate stakeholders to transform community hotspots into violence-free zones?
- How can affordable, reusable menstrual products be designed, accepted, and adopted in underserved communities by addressing financial, infrastructural, and socio-cultural barriers?
- How can women-owned construction SMMEs access the technical training, capital, and supplier support needed to accurately prepare tender documents, secure project funding, and successfully deliver awarded contracts?
- How can school-based food gardens serve as a sustainable solution to food insecurity and inequality among students in South Africa, and what challenges might affect their successful implementation?
- How can the esports sector overcome challenges such as high equipment costs, poor internet infrastructure, load-shedding, and limited investment to support sustainable industry growth?
- How can we develop robust methods to measure and demonstrate the societal impact of community-based sports initiatives aimed at preventing youth crime and promoting positive life pathways?

# DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL JUSTICE & INDIGEOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

- How can strategic and operational challenges, particularly those faced by South African companies in entering and establishing a sustainable presence in the Swedish market—be translated into clear, problem driven questions that enable effective AIMday collaboration, and how can universities and their researchers provide targeted expertise and support to generate actionable, high impact solutions?
- How can multi-stakeholder collaboration be structured to co-design scalable, evidence-based solutions that strengthen community participation, environmental resilience, and socio-economic outcomes?
- How can stakeholders, including municipalities, civil society organisations and residents, co-create inclusive, community-led planning mechanisms that strengthen housing rights awareness, enhance environmental resilience, and improve service delivery?
- How can the Department of Agriculture design and implement evidence-based intervention protocols that address structural inequalities across South Africa's food system, enhance equitable access to nutritious food, support smallholder farmers, and strengthen inclusive value chains?
- How can farm management software integrate diverse data sources and build trust among farmers across varied scales and contexts in East and Southern Africa?
- How can agricultural high schools better connect their productive school-based farming programmes with nearby institutional buyers to close the gap between local supply and local demand?

# GREEN TRANSITION

- How can cleantech innovations be more effectively supported to move from pilot validation to scalable, commercially viable deployment through improved research, funding, and market collaboration?
- How can a municipality strengthen its environmental management systems to restore urban cleanliness, improve air quality, and implement sustainable waste management practices?
- How can a solar-powered energy storage system be designed and integrated to enable efficient generation, storage, and peak-period sale of electricity back to the national grid?
- How can a rural WiFi project using solar power, community hotspots, and voucher-based uncapped data be supported or expanded to better bridge the digital divide?
- How can simple and low-cost water-reuse technologies be developed and implemented in water-scarce regions?
- How can the absence of affordable technologies for detecting and monitoring water pollutants in remote areas be understood, and what strategies could effectively address this gap?
- How can scalable, cost-effective, and community-driven water harvesting technologies be designed, implemented, and sustained in Bhekulwandle and Malagazi to address water scarcity, enhance climate resilience, and support both household and small-scale agricultural livelihoods in the face of irregular rainfall and limited municipal water access?
- How can water systems effectively close the loop between monitoring, risk prediction, and treatment to enable a fully integrated “from data to action” approach?

# GREEN TRANSITION

- How can and Industrial hemp be efficiently converted into low-cost biofuels to support South Africa's 2027 blending mandate while enabling whole-plant value chains for small-scale farmers?
- How can a South African sawmill turn sawdust waste into useful products or energy while cutting electricity costs?
- How can the timber construction sector in South Africa change public perceptions and build trust so that timber is accepted as a mainstream building material?
- How can Durban develop a sustainable, integrated blue economy by aligning port-city planning with environmental, social, and economic priorities?
- How can scalable, innovative technologies be developed to prevent theft of critical infrastructure—amid rising copper prices—while ensuring the security and long-term reliability of power, transport, and communication systems?
- How can real-world solutions be refined and tested to improve grid stability, integrate renewables, and manage peak and non-essential loads—while protecting consumer equipment and supporting widespread EV adoption—to reduce reliance on costly, polluting peaking plants?
- What challenges, opportunities, and development pathways exist for establishing a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production industry in South Africa, given its strong feedstock potential, synthetic fuel expertise, and the absence of SAF production facilities on the African continent?

# GREEN TRANSITION

- How do we develop effective, user friendly, scalable and affordable waste and water treatment solutions to support small to medium scale industrial areas and local municipalities?
- How can innovative, scalable, and sustainable solutions be developed to manage and recycle e-waste, ensuring hazardous materials are safely processed, reducing reliance on the informal sector, and preventing environmental contamination?
- How can diverse waste streams be optimised for pyrolysis to maximise high-value product yields, accurately assess product quality, and establish pyrolysis as a scalable, sustainable, and economically viable solution for waste management and resource recovery?

# MIGRATION & URBANISATION

- How can we address the insider–outsider gap in housing markets—where established residents are favoured over newcomers—by identifying underlying patterns in South Africa and Sweden and developing strategies that enable migrants to access stable housing?
- Does money in your pocket make migrants safer?
- How can a coordinated, technology-enabled system be developed to improve the accessibility, reliability, and safety of roadside assistance services in South Africa, particularly in peri-urban and rural areas?
- How can sustainable funding mechanisms be developed to address unemployment and prevent xenophobic attacks against refugees, migrants, and other foreign nationals?
- How can municipalities implement sustainable and coordinated strategies to prevent and respond to infrastructure vandalism, theft, and illegal connections while strengthening asset protection, community stewardship, and continuity of service delivery?
- What integrated and evidence-based economic development interventions can a municipality implement to stimulate inclusive growth, expand youth employment, and reverse the current economic decline?
- How can South Africa sustainably shift development focus from cities to rural areas to support population and economic growth?
- How can cities create fair, sustainable solutions for informal trolley-based transport that protect livelihoods while reducing retailer losses?

# MIGRATION & URBANISATION

- How can safe, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure and energy solutions be developed to address persistent service gaps in under-resourced peri-urban and rural areas while supporting long-term social and economic development?
- How can we effectively bridge the scarce skills gap in rural areas, where resources are limited and opportunities are scarce?
- How can food insecurity be addressed in communities facing high unemployment and rapid population growth?
- How can youth unemployment be reduced in communities where many young people lack CV-writing skills, interview preparation, and early career guidance?

# SUSTAINABLE HEALTH

- How do we engage men in Perinatal Mental Health: Lessons Across South Africa and Sweden?
- How can technology companies and digital platforms meaningfully integrate children's voices into the design and governance of digital products—so that online environments better support children's wellbeing, safety, and development in both Sweden and South Africa (and beyond)?
- How can a comprehensive, context-specific intervention be designed to simultaneously address the mental health needs of child and youth care workers and strengthen their capacity to manage challenging child behaviours, in order to reduce burnout and improve care outcomes?
- How can independent living for people with disabilities be strengthened and supported in practice?
- What policy and regulatory measures are needed to protect consumers from fraudulent or ineffective agro-products while enabling the market uptake of scientifically validated biological alternatives?
- In what ways might broader access to health insurance in South Africa support progress toward universal health care coverage?
- How can community-based organisations and academic researchers co-develop participatory health equity assessment tools that centre the experiential knowledge of marginalised communities in environmental health contexts, and what institutional and methodological conditions enable this knowledge to influence policy?

# SUSTAINABLE HEALTH

- How can research partnerships support municipalities in analysing the chemical and genetic profiles of local cannabis strains to enable indigenous knowledge holders to genotype, register, and develop internationally compliant pharmaceutical-grade products?
- How can structured, student-centred wellness programmes be designed to help university students avoid or overcome drug and alcohol misuse while providing practical strategies for coping with psychological trauma?
- How can we design scalable regulatory and quality compliance pathways for health innovation in resource-constrained settings?
- How can intermediary models such as innovation hubs, accelerators, and investment-facilitation platforms be designed to scale health-innovation ecosystems by improving capital allocation and driving regional economic growth?
- How can new interventions derived from natural products help address the growing challenge of drug-resistant tuberculosis?
- How can we effectively and sustainably support children with incarcerated parents (or entire families affected by incarceration) so that they have the conditions to thrive, develop, and ultimately have the same opportunities as children without this burden?
- How can we create an affordable, non-invasive wearable patch that accurately monitors multiple health markers using smart materials and AI?
- What nutrition challenges exist within Early Childhood Development centres, and which evidence-based interventions can effectively strengthen food preparation, safe cooking practices, and age-appropriate nutrition to reduce malnutrition in children aged 0–5 years?

# SUSTAINABLE HEALTH

- How can communities support orphans, elderly people, and people with disabilities who rely on pensions and struggle to stay on chronic medication due to lack of food?
- How can indigenous foods be integrated into sustainable, resilient local food systems to reduce food and nutrition insecurity among vulnerable communities, especially children under five?
- How can under-equipped government hospitals and limited clinician skills be addressed to reduce examination delays, improve patient management, and prevent staff burnout, particularly in contexts where patients must travel long distances for adequate care?
- How can a collaborative, evidence-based partnership between health organisations, practitioners, and student leadership be designed to increase HIV and TB testing uptake, strengthen preventive practices, and sustain meaningful student engagement with measurable health outcomes?
- How can healthcare systems ensure that patient information accessed through third-party translation apps remains accurate, safe, and reliable, despite not controlling these tools—and what lessons can be learned from other sectors that have already confronted similar digital translation risks and challenges?