



For Immediate

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## **DR LITHA MAGINGXA CO-CHAIRS THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF TSARA**

The CEO and President of the Agricultural Research Council Dr Litha Magingxa co-chaired the first General Assembly of Transforming Food Systems and Agriculture through partnership Research with Africa (TSARA) held on the side lines of the World Science Forum 2022 in Cape Town. TSARA was launched at the Paris International Agricultural Show on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022. It was initiated by two French research institutes, namely CIRAD and INRAE and developed jointly with around twenty (20) partners from universities and national research institutes from all regions of Africa. TSARA aims to strengthen cooperation in order to promote sustainable agriculture, food systems and agricultural, pastoral and forestry landscapes thus contributing to the priorities of the European Union and the African Union in terms of research collaboration, innovation and training.

Since the launch in March, eight (8) thematic groups have been working through webinars in order to draw up an inventory of scientific knowledge and to list the priorities to be addressed in the following areas: soil, water and forests under climate change; the agro-ecological transition of agriculture and livestock farming; food system sustainability; human, animal and landscape health; work and employment. The work of these eight thematic groups was presented at the General Assembly, providing the basis for TSARA's scientific agenda and its 2023-2025 action plan, to be implemented in the first half of 2023, and backed by a portfolio of research, training and support projects involving all stakeholders.

Dr Magingxa delivered the Welcome Address and thanked all TSARA partners and supporters for their dedication and invaluable contribution to the success of the inaugural General Assembly. He further extended a warm welcome to all in attendance and those participating virtually from all corners of the globe.

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***About the Agricultural Research Council***

*The Agricultural Research Council is a premier science institution that conducts research with partners, develops human capital and fosters innovation in support of the agricultural sector. The ARC provides diagnostic, laboratory, analytical, and agricultural engineering services, post-harvest technology development, agrochemical evaluation, consultation, advisory and food processing technology services, and various surveys and training interventions. For more information visit the ARC website at: [www.arc.agric.za](http://www.arc.agric.za).*