

## Profile: Fruit Tree Establishment Programme – Project Preparation Trust of KZN

(as at August 2010)



**MAIN OBJECTIVES / BENEFITS:** The main objectives and benefits of the programme include:

- Improved household food security (through the availability of various fruit types to local households),
- Livelihood and income generating opportunities (e.g. barter / sale of surplus fruit, training and temporary employment for local field marshals),
- An improved and greener living environment (e.g. shade and aesthetics),
- Mitigation of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions (carbon sink),
- Grey-water utilization (for watering trees),
- Soil conservation / stabilization,
- Up-scaling and mainstreaming of fruit tree establishment.



**OVERVIEW OF MODEL:** Suitable fruit tree varieties are provided to 500 selected households within a particular community or settlement (a total of 1,500 trees). Local people are trained and capacitated to ensure that trees are properly planted and that beneficiaries know how to care for their trees. In some projects, some indigenous trees are provided along with the fruit trees.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

**Project stages:** Each project has three main stages 1) preparation, 2) implementation, 3) monitoring and evaluation.

**Preparation:** This entails assessing soil and climatic conditions, identifying suitable trees for the local conditions, engaging with local

community leadership, establishing a baseline for impact evaluation, selecting local people (e.g. unemployed youth) to be trained as field marshals (supervisors), and identifying suppliers for seedlings, compost and spades.

**Implementation:** This commences with the training of field marshals who are responsible for distributing seedlings, assist households to register, and provide on site training and support to ensure that trees are correctly planted. A total of 1,500 fruit trees are established within each settlement (three trees within each of 500 identified households / homesteads). Field marshals train households in planting and caring for the trees. Once field marshals have completed their work, households sign a register to confirm that trees have been planted. A random independent monitoring check follows, to assess whether trees were planted correctly and have survived.

**Monitoring and impact evaluation:** Monitoring is an ongoing task as the field marshals undertake regular inspection of general tree health and survival rate. Impact evaluation is conducted three months after the completion of the planting (implementation) phase. Five percent of the targeted households are surveyed by means of site visits and interviews. This includes a general observation of health status and survival rate of trees and includes taking photographic records.



**PPT**

Project Preparation Trust of KZN

**FRUIT TREE PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY PPT TO DATE:**

Areas	Municipality	Funding Sources	Households benefiting	Number of fruit trees established
Amahwaqa \ Dududu	Vulamehlo	National Development Agency (NDA)	1,000	3,000
Richmond	Richmond	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	500	1,500
Amahwaqa \ Dududu	Vulamehlo		500	3,000
Madiba (Bottlebrush)	eThekwini		500	1,000
Welbedacht	eThekwini		500	1,500
KwaShangase	Ndwedwe		500	1,500
Mount Moriah	eThekwini	eThekwini Water and Sanitation (DWAF IWRM funding)	500	1,500
Mount Royal	eThekwini	Leeds City Council	500	1,500
Tshelimnyama	eThekwini		500	1,500
Ridge View	eThekwini		500	1,500
Quarry Heights	eThekwini		500	1,500
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>6,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>



**COSTS:** Costs can vary, but a budget of approximately R80,000 is usually sufficient per project (500 households / 1,500 trees). This equates to a total cost of approximately R53 per planted tree which includes the cost of the tree and all the work outlined above.

**SERVICE PROVIDERS TO PPT:** The bulk of the work on the ground has historically been undertaken by Newlands Mashu Permaculture Learning Centre (NMPLC) which is a partner organization of PPT.

**MAIN LESSONS:**

1. Fruit tree establishment has significant developmental benefits and can be delivered fairly easily at a relatively low cost.
2. There is significant potential for replication and mainstreaming of fruit tree establishment (both within existing human settlement projects such as low income housing as well as independently as in deep rural areas).
3. The capacitation of local field marshals for distributing fruit trees and overseeing planting is an important success factor.
4. Selection of field marshals and tree beneficiaries requires careful screening to ensure that only local people with a real interest in fruit trees participate.
5. Knowledge / information resources on planting and caring for trees need to be stored in a community library to enhance accessibility.
6. Monitoring & evaluation needs to be undertaken on weekends as most households work during the week.
7. RDP houses have small sites and residents prefer fruit trees instead of indigenous trees.

