

PROGRAMME PROFILE: Organic Homestead Gardens – Project Preparation Trust KZN



Main objectives: The main objectives of this programme are to 1) establish organic homestead gardens 2) increase food security 3) develop agricultural and basic business skills with intention of contributing to the local economic development (LED) of poor areas.

Programme benefits: The programme will deliver a wide range of benefits including the following: 1) increase access to organic fresh vegetables, 2) improve agricultural skills for growers, 3) increase consumption of fresh vegetables which are nutritious, 4) promote better and more efficient land use whilst ensuring better food security, 5) participate in income generation initiatives and household saving through consumption of home grown fresh produce, 6) build social capital for the poor and vulnerable groups.

Service provider to PPT: Newlands Mashu Permaculture Learning Centre (NMPLC) is working in partnership with PPT to implement the programme.

Programme overview: The programme identifies suitable project areas (one of the preconditions is that communities have their own existing growing activities). Each project entails training approximately 30 growers in permaculture and organic planting methods, follow up on site mentorship and support, and assistance in pursuing income generating opportunities.



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

1) Project preparation: Initial community consultation and workshop: PPT and NMPLC undertake an initial community workshop with the Community Based Partner (CBP) to:

- identify local stakeholders and explain the proposed organic homestead gardens concept to the local community,
- assess the current growing activities, skills base, and needs of the community,
- survey the available resources and growing areas,
- set up a local grower co-ordinating / steering committee,
- identify approximately 30 local growers to participate,
- develop a training approach,
- coordinate a learning visit to the Newlands Mashu Permaculture Learning Center (NMPLC) for on-site training,

2) Project Implementation: Training of growers and establishment of gardens:

- Training and capacitation of growers: The following themes are condensed into 3 days. NMPLC provide training for the group of 30 growers covering the following basic activities: 1) Introduction to permaculture principles and organic farming for one day. 2) on site training including companion planting, 3) permaculture, land care, crop rotation, 4) mulching, composting, soil health, 5) pest and disease control, 6) introduction to resource assessment and management, 7) garden planning and development of 2 homestead gardens as practical exercise on site within the community.
- Purchase, supply and delivery of various seedlings: Purchase, supply and delivery of different seasonal seed varieties, ground stabilization and windbreak crops, pest control and attractant plants, and fruit tree seedlings if available.
- On site training and support for seedling nursery: Conduct a workshop on site, to train the growers on how to establish a seedling nursery and the produce seedlings.
- Support in marketing and distribution (further training workshops and support): Conduct a training workshop to:
 - develop marketing skills for the growers,

- investigate and develop distribution channels, including market orientation, research and field visits,
- introduce growers to potential retailers and markets for vegetable and fruit produce (6 representatives).

3) Mentorship, Monitoring and Impact evaluation: Mentorship, monitoring, and follow through support is provided for 8 months after establishment. Mentorship is provided to ensure that growers share their problems with their trainers / mentors to facilitate practical skills transfer. The mentorship stage is an opportunity for growers to test their new skills whilst trainers continue coaching. Monitoring of grower performance and basic impact evaluation is also undertaken.

Main Lessons: Organic homestead gardens have significant development potential and can be implemented fairly easily.

1. Organic homestead gardens have the potential to provide access to fresh produce which is healthy and nutritional for poor households.
2. It was noted that screening of growers who will participate in the training requires careful selection procedures to minimize favoritism.
3. Certain types of plants require special attention as soil conditions differ.
4. Impact of homestead gardens go beyond the individuals participating in the project as it also benefits their households and communities.
5. Establish a local coordination centre to be compensated for the services rendered.

Homestead garden projects prepared and implemented by PPT :

Project areas	Locality	Funding sources	Growers benefitted	Areas Benefitted
Esidweni	Umlazi - eThekweni	KZN Dept. Human Settlements (Special Projects), Leeds City Council and Corocoat	90	3
Amahwaqa	Dududu Ward 6 - Vulammehlo			
KwaShangase	Ndwedwe			
Siyathuthuka	Richmond	USAID	30	1
Esidweni	Umlazi - eThekweni		See above	See above
Madiba / Bottlbrush	Shallcross - eThekweni		30	1
	Total		150	1

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