

An overview of SKZN and Matatiele



OUR FOCUS AREAS

- We work with smallholder farmers in SKZN and Matatiele on community-based climate change adaptation, conservation agriculture, natural and water resource management, intensive homestead food production, microfinance support (village saving and loan associations-VSLA), enterprise development, and local markets.

Community based climate change adaptation

- In these areas we aim in sustainable agriculture and integrated resource management.
- Participants work in village based CRA learning groups to implement CbCCA practices.
- Emphasis on CRA practices is at a household level, aiming to improve aspects of crop production, livestock, natural resource management, soil and water management.



Southern KwaZulu Natal (SKZN) areas

- The SKZN area covers the following villages:
 - Mariathal
 - Ngongonini
 - Centocow
 - Mahhehle
- Majority of the participants are females between the ages of 30 and 75 years.
- Most of these females are household heads depending on social grants, remittances, pensions and disability grants.
- The participants are smallholder farmers who mainly farm for household consumption and sell their surplus locally.
- Farming practices in these areas include crops (beans, maize, amadumbe, sweet potatoes, potatoes, vegetables) and livestock (poultry, goats, pigs).

Intensive homestead production



- Intensive homestead production includes vegetable, fruit and livestock production.
- Agroecological practices include; composting, deep and shallow trench beds, mixed cropping, mulching, crop diversification, natural pest and disease control, grey water management.
- Microclimate management; shade cloth tunnels.
- Irrigation practices; bucket drip irrigation.

Small stock production

- Learning workshops and experimentation: breeds, housing, feeding, nutrition, disease prevention and health.
- Poultry management workshops and implementation.



Conservation Agriculture

- **Minimal soil disturbance**
- **Diversified cropping**
 - intercropping
 - mixed cropping
 - crop rotation
- **Keeping living roots in the soil**
 - late season cover crops
- **Organic soil cover**
 - cover crops
 - crop residues and mulching
- **Integrate livestock**



Micro-finance support (VSLA)

- Village savings and loan associations (VSLA) aim to provide farmers with cash flows to contribute to their way of living, pay off loans, assist in establishing small businesses and farming.
- The VSLA's groups are established to create a pool of money locally which participants can borrow and repay at a 10% interest rate.
- Money is contributed and managed by the participants.
- The groups meet once a month to save and borrow, share-out is done once a year at the finish of their saving cycle.



Village savings and loan associations (VSLA) GROUPS IN SKZN

NO.	AREA	NAME OF GROUP	NO. OF PEOPLE	START DATE
1.	Ngongonini	Masakhane	22	February 20**
2.	Ngongonini	Ikusasaletu	26	June 20**
3.	Ngongonini	Umnothowethu	30	February 2023
4.	Centocow	Sizaneno	13	May 2023
5.	Centocow	Sizakahle	13	May 2023
6.	Mahhehle	Qedindlala	26	February 2023

Local markets

- Local markets are aimed at strengthening the local economy
- The farmers consume food first at home, and sell their surplus.
- Marketing options include:
 - Farmgate (selling within the village); small local potential with low income
 - Local market stalls (selling combines the whole village); set up monthly at pension points, or near taxi ranks to sell vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, craft and value-added products. There is a much larger range of products and a high income potential.
- Bakkie traders (individuals and groups in the village) selling maize, beans, cabbages, potatoes at larger quantities



Enterprise development

- **CASE STUDY OF SIMON DLAMINI : CENTOCOW**
- Unemployed. Looking after his wife, children and grandchild's
- 1 ha, mostly under maize, beans, potatoes, cabbages, spinach, mustard spinach and kale.
- Simon is past growing food for household consumption and is now concerned with satisfying his market with his local villagers.
- He supplies the St Apollinaris hospital staff and school feeding schemes.
- He has bakkie traders, local street vendors who buy cabbages, potatoes, spinach, and maize in large quantities. Monthly income R2000/month,
- He has 5 boschvelder hens that produce 30 eggs a week for house consumption or selling locally. each tray of 30 eggs is sold at R50.



Matatiele area

- The Matatiele area covers the following villages:
 - Ned
 - Nchodu
 - Rhashule
 - Nkau
 - Mzongwana
- 80% of the participants are females between the ages of 40 – 70.
- most of these females are breadwinners in their homesteads.
- Over 90% have no formal employment and depend on social grants, remittances, pensions and disability grants.
- The participants are smallholder farmers who mainly farm for household consumption and sell their surplus locally.
- Farming practices in these areas include crops (beans, maize, potatoes, turnip, pumpkins, butternut, vegetables), fruit (apricot, peaches, apples, prickly pear cactus), and livestock (cattle, poultry, goats, sheep, pigs, horses).

Intensive homestead production

- Agroecology practices for long term food security : composting, deep trenches, mixed cropping, mulching, crop diversification, natural pest and disease control.
- Microclimate management; shade cloth tunnels.
- Grey water management: bucket drip kits, tower gardens, keyhole beds.



Small stock production

- Learning workshops and experimentation on small stock and livestock production: supplementation, nutrition, housing, hygiene.
- Poultry management workshops and implementation.



Local markets

- The Ned community had a market day in January, making R584 on the day.
- Matatiele town had a lot of competition and time of arrival to the stall is important as cooking mamas and fresh produce markets source vegetables early in the morning.
- Farmgate (selling within the village); small local potential with low income
- Local market stalls(selling combines the whole village); set up monthly at pension points, or near taxi ranks to sell vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, craft and value- added products. There is a much larger range of products and a high income potential.



Enterprise development

- **CASE STUDY OF MMAPHAFUDI JONAS: NCHODU**
- On a 30m x 20m plot, Mrs Jonas plants potatoes and sells them in the village. 10kg is R85, 5kg is R45.
- She plants and sells spinach at R15 a bunch and cabbage at R20 –R25 a head.
- She also grows broiler chickens and at 6 weeks she sells them at R150 in the village and to cooking mamas in town. Mrs Jonas makes +/- R7200 a month from the broilers.
- On 1ha of land she plants soyabeans and maize for her cattle and sheep.

