AWARD_ **Milestone 5** Annexure _Open day _ Joint community based review of learnings to date and Local Facilitator training_Sedawa_20170424

Introduction

An open day was arranged at Christine Thobejane's homestead in Sedawa. The aims of this open day were as follows:

- To provide an opportunity for members form all 6 villages to visit a good working examples of introduced and implemented innovations and good practices in agroecology and soil and water conservation,
- To do a group review of learning and implementation to date,
- To do a group review of the principles in good practice implementation (five fingers)
- To showcase this work to relevant stakeholders including staff form AWARD, other NGO's government departments and the Local Municipality and
- To provide a learning and mentoring opportunity for Local Facilitators who would be introducing and talking to the different practices.

Attendance

(Attendance register attached)

Co-facilitation team: Erna Kruger and Sylvester Selala from Mahlathini, BB Mkhabela and Happy from AWARD, Trygive Nxumalo from Seeds of Light

-Community members: 60 participants from Botshabelo, Sedawa, Willows, The Okas, Finala and Lepelle. A number of new participants also joined this session as it was opened to community participation.

NGOs: Lima RDF 3 field workers and 6 local facilitators from Letsitele and Sekororo.

Government: 3 Extension agents for the local Department of Agriculture office confirmed attendance, but did not arrive. The Local Municipality as well agreed, but failed to send representatives. Three extension offices arrived from the Venda region (Taung) and participated enthusiastically.

Open day programme/outline

1. Welcome and introductions and Description of the AgriSi programme and implementation to date
2. Five finger outline and review of good practices
3. Small group stations: LF's hosted a station and described the implementation of various practices. Physical demonstrations were in place as well as a broad of relevant A4 photographs
    a. WATER: line levels, diversion ditches, ridges and furrows, banana basins, mulching
    b. TRENCHBEDS: packing of trench beds, mixed cropping, mulching, irrigation using 20l drip kit
    c. TUNNEL: Construction, microclimate creation, planting, mixed cropping and irrigation using 200l drip kit
    d. CONSERVATION AGRICULUTRE AND LIQUID MANURE: The three main principles minimal soil disturbance, soil cover and diversified cropping, planting – including close spacing, different cropping options including maize, millet, sorghum, legumes and fodder crops. Different types of animal and plant based liquid manures
4. Feedback session
5. Future planning

1. AgriSi programme

Working with learning groups explore the past, present and future of agriculture in a changing environment. Using a farmer experimentation approach work with local innovations and good practices and introduce further innovations in soil and water conservation (e.g. diversion ditches), intensive homestead food production using agroecological principles(e.g. trench beds and mulching) and climate smart adaptations (e.g. tunnels and drip kits). Also, in these learning groups undertake collaborative activities in soil and water conservation that would benefit householders (e.g. run-off and erosion control along the roads and verges close to the homesteads).

2. Five fingers review of good practices

The definition of the five fingers as broad principles in good practice for climate change adaptation was reviewed with the group. Participants names the five fingers (easily!!) and gave a few brief examples of what they meant

Good practices were elicited from the group and then assessed using the traffic light method for how well they are being implemented by the groups in each village.

We arranged the scale as follows:

> RED_ We know about this but have not done very much
>
> YELLOW_ We have started implementing these practices, or a few individuals already use these, but there is room for expansion
>
> GREEN_ These practices are implemented by most of the participants.

The table below describes the outcomes of this exercise, participants were fully engaged and thoroughly enjoyed this process.

Note 1: The percentages in the last column comes from a hand count of participants present who have implemented the practices. This is indicative only as there were community members present who have as yet not been involved as well as a number of visitors.

Note 2: Light grey blocks in the practices column denote those where participants felt more input and mentoring would still need to be provided.

Principles	Practices	Assessments (traffic light)	Percentage implementation in the group
Water Management	Cut off drains and swales		Not yet implemented by most participants
	Diversion ditches		~20% (10/52)
	Greywater (filtration, use)		~8%
	Small dams		~14%
	Organic matter (incorporation in soil)- leaves, bones, woodchips etc buried to increase water holding and fertility		~60%
	Drip irrigation		~6%
	Saving water; Rainwater harvesting in drums, management of leaks of communal stand pipes, no longer letting irrigation water run 24/7 - Lepelle		All participants involved in some way in saving water
Control soil movement and erosion	Stone bunds		~24%
	Banana basins and circles		~22%
	Strip cropping (aloes, sisal) and planting grass to reduce run-off		~8%
	Contours- water flow for collection		Not yet implemented
	Ridges and furrows-planting of crops on ridges; sweet potato, sunflowers…		~30%
	Sacks with sand for rehabilitation of gulleys		~2%
Crop management	Planting in basins, mulching and direct watering of basins only		~60%
	Close spacing in field crops and vegetables		~20% - Not everyone agreed with this practice
	Planting to provide afternoon shade and planting windbreaks		~22% - Not everyone agreed with this practice
	Crop rotation and intercropping		~52%
	Natural pest control		~18%
	Conservation Agriculture		~36% - more ideas still to be tried
Soil fertility	Trench beds		~60%
	Mulch		~60%
	Liquid manure		~20%
	Compost		~46%
	Application of manure (cattle, chickens)		~70%
	Legumes; planting for food and soil fertility		~68%
Looking after indigenous plants	Stop burning veld		No one doing and not needed or all areas
	Don’t chop whole trees- just cut branches		Most participants
	Plant indigenous trees in the yards to protect and save them		Most participants

3. Small group stations

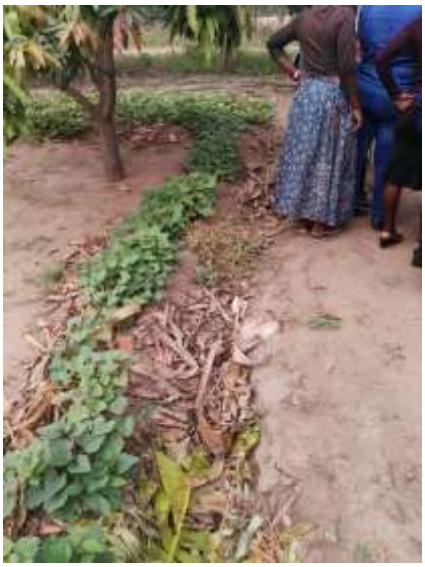
The Local Facilitators for all villages were introduced to the participants

Right: Sylvester introducing local facilitators including Christina Thobejane, Obed Mosiea, Florence Lewelle, Alex (Lepelle), Meisie and Esinah (Mmametja) – who would be running the different demonstration stations

Each station had a physical demonstration and a board of illustrative photographs

STATION 1: Water management (Obed Mosiea – Willows and Alex-Lepelle)

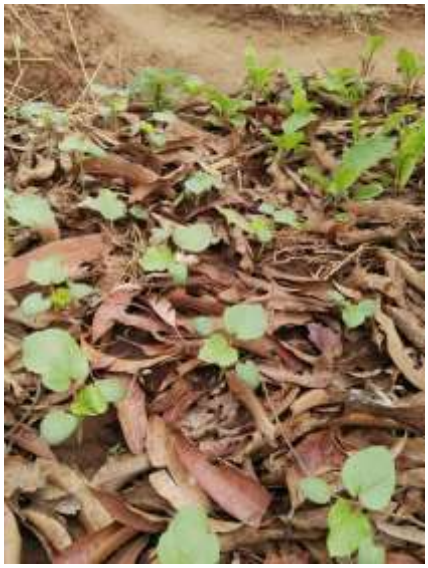
Here they discussed diversion ditches, waterflow line levels and making furrows and ridges on contour, planting on ridges and mulching



Above left to right: Mr Mosiea talking to the photo board with a small group of workshop participants. A diversion ditch mulched with the ridge planted to sweet potatoes. Level ridges nad furrows planted and mulched.

STATION 2: TRENCH BEDS, drip irrigation, mixed cropping (Florence Lewelle – The Oaks and Alex-Lepelle)

Here the packing of trenches was discussed as was mixed cropping, mulching and a micro drip kit irrigation system. The use of herbs as pest repellent plants and for nutritional and medicinal purposes was also discussed and demonstrated.

Clockwise from top left: Florence Lewelle discussed trench bed construction with a small group of participants using the photo board. A well mulched trench bed with mixed cropping (Okra, brinjal, onion and swiss chard) and close spacing. A micro drip kit set up on a 1mx3m mixed cropping trench bed with mulching. A trench bed planted to multipurpose herbs including parsley, coriander, mint, garlic chives and fennel

STATION 3: TUNNEL (Christina Thobejane, Sedawa and Fanuel Lewelle – The Oaks)

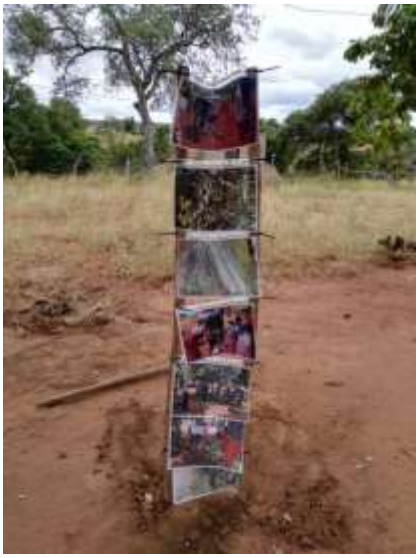
Here the Local facilitators took participants through the construction process of the tunnel and discussed advantages and potential disadvantages of crop production in tunnels. The larger drip kit (210 L) was also demonstrated and discussed. The drip kit is assembled on site by farmers and the ‘drippers ‘are homemade line drippers




Above left to right: Two views of the tunnel and drip kit. Christina explaining to a small group of participants and the photo board of the tunnel and drip kit construction process.

STATION $: Conservation Agriculture and liquid manure (Meisie, Sedawa and Esinah Malepe Mametja)

This station went through the principles and practices of conservation agriculture including the use of hand planters for no-till situations, close spacing and the importance of soil cover and diverse crops. Liquid manure from animal and plant sources was explained.



Left: Meisie busy explaining the CA principles to a small group of participants.

Far left: the photo board showing examples of CA plantings and the no till hand planters (MBLI planters). This station generated a lot of interest in the planters and many comments as to their usefulness.

A few other practices were also showcased during this open day including a selection of herbs and indigenous trees for planting, (such as lemongrass, num-num, marigolds, aloes, fennel etc. Well tended banana circles were also showcased

4. Feedback session

General feedback on the day and process

"This whole process has given people purpose. We are no longer just going to wander in the streets and gossip, but are going to be busy. We are going to see some health improvements in our communities".

- The way we taught ourselves was great- it opened our minds
- I was a bit overwhelmed by gardening and the difficulties but from these examples shown today things look doable
- We are impressed with how others have been able to grasp the concepts so quickly
- A lot of knowledge was gained today
- I liked the idea of waterflows and harvesting water off the road for your fields. I never knew this was possible
- This workshop helped refresh our memories of what we've learnt and how it all fits together
- The demonstrations helped us to see and understand and give one courage to go home and do things. I will now go and do the trench beds.
- I was afraid with this approach that I would be troubled by pests. I now realise I can use the resources I have to counter pests.
- This has built more relationships between farmers- we can talk about our issues together
- When we started building the tunnel I thought we were playing. Now I see what it does and think it is a good gospel to preach

- I am feeling a lot more confident as a local facilitator now that I have talked to people and explained how these practices work
- Newcomer – we learnt a lot and I was struck by the idea that one can improve the soil you have and do not have to rely on a bad soil.

Parctices: Water

- We learnt that we can collect water off the yard and even from outside the yard
- One can improve crop quality through using this run-on water
- I was bothered by my neighbour letting water run into my garden – now I realise I can use that water
- I am impressed by the line level- that one can use simple methods like that to measure complicated things.
- What used to be a burden (gardening) now is going to become gold
- I learnt the importance of mulching
- Now that I have visualised the workings and how all the practices fit together, now it makes sense what you told us in the training workshops and now I can go home and do it.
- I used to sweep up the leaf litter mad throw it away. Now I will use it for mulch
- It is important that furrows are level to get more infiltration of water
- Looking at maize, I can see how the crop quality can be improved- by the CA, ridges and mulching.

Practices: Trench bed

- Became more aware now of what goes into a trench bed
- Regarding the use of top soil versus sub soil in the trench bed I see now that the top soil is more fertile and so it is good to use in the bed. I initially thought you just put the soil back as it came out.
- I can see that people are using close spacing in the trench beds and it is working well
- Trench beds are also a way of cleaning the yard
- It is not all kinds of tins that can be used; cooldrink tins and perfume tins are not good
- Combining the trench bed with the drip kit seems like a very good recipe for saving water.
- Now- with permanent beds we will not be walking all over our beds and causing compaction. We should get better production that way
- Bones can also be used in the trench beds
- It is important to do companion planting in these beds

Practices: Tunnel

- It provides protection against pests, hail, wind and sun
- Improved quality of crops- they look a lot better and healthier than the ones grown outside the tunnel
- Drip irrigation seems like an easy way that can save water
- The relationship between the tunnel, the trench beds and the drip irrigation is now clear. Doing all three things together works well and reduces evaporation
- The Department of Health will also be very impressed to see that people are actually growing vegetables – sick people will now be eating healthy food
- The net and drip irrigation is a good system. Using this will cut costs of pest control

Practices: Conservation Agriculture

- Conservation of soil fertility
- It is better to plant in rows than broad cast seed. There is better germination and you use a lot less seed.
- We learnt how to plant maize using the MBLI hand planter. It works really well and then you won't need to plough
- How do we get hold of these planters? – For now let us all try the ones that have been given to the groups and if we like them then we can buy them

- In Lepelle people said the hoes were better and did not want to use the MBLIs. But now we see how well it can work with the planted
- I have seen the importance of intercropping for soil cover
- The zig zag planting pattern also helps with controlling water flow and reducing erosion – the water movers around and percolates into the soil
- It is an efficient use of labour
- The facilitator at the station was explaining that it is easier to do this in 10mx10m blocks to make it easier to remember the spacing arrangements
- No cost on tractors
- CA doesn't go without mulching – you need the mulching for it to work well
- Use of available resources to do liquid manure such as weeds, banana stems and manure

Stakeholder comments

Lima took the opportunity to introduce their food security programme through Wesbank which will be implemented also in these villages in the near future. They talked about gardening as a small business option and that they would assist in training and monitoring, as well as helping people to look for markets. They said that they would need learning groups of 20-25 people to be able to start.

The DoA staff from Venda explained that they were very impressed with the level of commitment and the community based approach here. For them this is vindication that starting at household level and working inside the homesteads with organic methods is a good approach. The Department itself does not support this approach and people in the Department are there to make money. They emphasised that they were here because of their love of farming and the community.

5 Future planning

The activities for the winter season were discussed:

- Learning sessions would continue in the various villages and specific attention would be given to topics participants have highlighted for more attention. Refresher mini-workshop will also be held to include the new participants and bring everyone up to speed. Local Facilitators will play an important role here.
- Local facilitators will now start to visit all participants to support and mentor them and also monitor their progress with implementation of the innovative practices.
- The winter season when people are at home is a good time to start on the collaborative erosion control efforts in and around the participants' homesteads
- *The implementation of a process for participants to access tunnels and drip kits was introduced. In both cases a limited number of kits can be provided by the implementation team. Participants are required to show their commitment by digging and packing the required trenches prior to receiving materials.
- *For the piloting of underground RWH tanks it was suggested that participants who do not have access to municipal water in any form be prioritized. Also volunteers are required to do all the labour and demonstrate an active interest in gardening to be considered. These criteria were ratified by the group present as reasonable and acceptable.

*Note: Participants volunteered for the tunnels, drip kits and RWH tanks by placing their names and contact details on lists provided.

NO	Surname	Name	Village	Contact number
	DRIPKITS			
1	Motseo	Thompson	WIllows	
2	Shaai	Melida	Willows	0791323721
3	Sekgobela	Prisilla	Sedawa	079634019
4	Mashinye	Tiny	Mmametja	0798596901
5	Malepe	Magdeline	Sedawa	0824029303
6	Mojela	Russel	The Oaks	0630726967

7	Nkgogo	Betty	The Oaks	0761588927
8	Lewelle	Florence	The Oaks	0785743175
9	Malepe	Derick	Sedawa	0762476290
10	Malepe	Esinah	Sedawa	0789181535
11	Malepe	Seliki	Botshabelo	0608219523
12	Malepe	Miriam	Botshabelo	0609500897
13	Nhlamo	Florah	Botsahbelo	0609500897
14	Morema	Dronah	Mametja	0722634753
15	Mametja	Winnie	Mametja	0793573001
	TUNNELS			
1	Mojela	Russel	The Oaks	0630726967
2	Malepe	Maqdeline	Sedawa	0824029303
3	Malepe	Esinah	Sedawa	0789181535
4	Malepe	Lina	Sedawa	0726669111
5	Nkgogo	Betty	The Oaks	0761588927
6	Malepe	Makgale	Sedawa	0762476290
7	Sekgobela	Prisilla	Sedawa	079634019
8	Mametja	Winnie	Mametja	0793573001
9	Morema	Makibeng	Mametja	0720247231
10	Mahlako	Norah	Mametja	0724019018
11	Moloto	Martha	Mametja	0723277068
12	Moloto	Sophy	Mametja	0790819126
13	Morema	Dronah	Mametja	0722634753
14	Mashinye	Tiny	Mametja	0798596901
15	Morema	Rebecca	Mametja	0824281355
16	Lewelle	Florence	The Oaks	0785743175
	RWH TANKS			
1	Mojela	Russel	The Oaks	0630726967
2	Mametja	Winnie	Mametja	0793573001
3	Mashinye	Tiny	Mametja	0798596901
4	Morema	Dronah	Mametja	0722634753
5	Mahlako	Norah	Mametja	0724019018
6	Leshike	Innocent		0795352118
7	Morema	Rebecca	Mametja	0824281355
8	Thobejane	Christina	Sedawa	
9	Morema	Makibeng	Mametja	0720247231
10	Malepe	Lina	Sedawa	0726669111
11	Seotlo	Joyce	Sedawa	0820467795
12	Makina	Thapelo	Sedawa	0795372746