

Narrative Interim Report

The report must describe in detail how the project has progressed and the results achieved so far, and must describe how the project funds have been used for the planned activities. The total length should not exceed 15 pages.

BMZ Project number:	6815
Project country:	South Africa
Project title:	Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CbCCA) to build resilience
Organisation:	Mahlathini Development Foundation (MDF)
Project duration:	01.10.2022 bis 31.08.2025
Period:	July-September 2023

1. General Information

The CbCCA project is based on working with Climate resilient Agriculture (CRA) learning groups of smallholder participants. These groups are set up at a village level across three provinces: KZN, EC and Limpopo. They work on an annual cyclical planning and review process for implementation of CRA practices (Field cropping, homestead food production and livestock management) – which are supported through training, mentoring and implementation support. The intention is to support both existing learning groups in the three provinces to deepen their implementation and to initiate new learning groups.



Figure 1: Map of SODI-CbCCA villages across EC, KZN and Limpopo

CRA learning group members also undertake a range of other associated activities according to their need, meaning that not all groups undertake the same activities:

- Setting up and running village savings and loan associations (VSLAs), with membership from the CRA learning groups and beyond, for savings and small loans for consumption smoothing and productive activities.
- Enterprise development and local marketing committees and groups, mostly to run the joint monthly produce markets in nearby towns, but also includes egg and broiler production and sales, livestock auctions and more formal market contracts.
- Water access and management through water committees linked to local governance structures, for planning and implementing integrated water management activities and
- Livestock committees, for development of conservation agreements for rangeland management and local livestock auctions.

The diagram below indicates the interactions with these local or micro level groups at the meso- level through clusters and platforms with multiple stakeholders and at the meso- and macro level through more formalized organizational forums and networks.

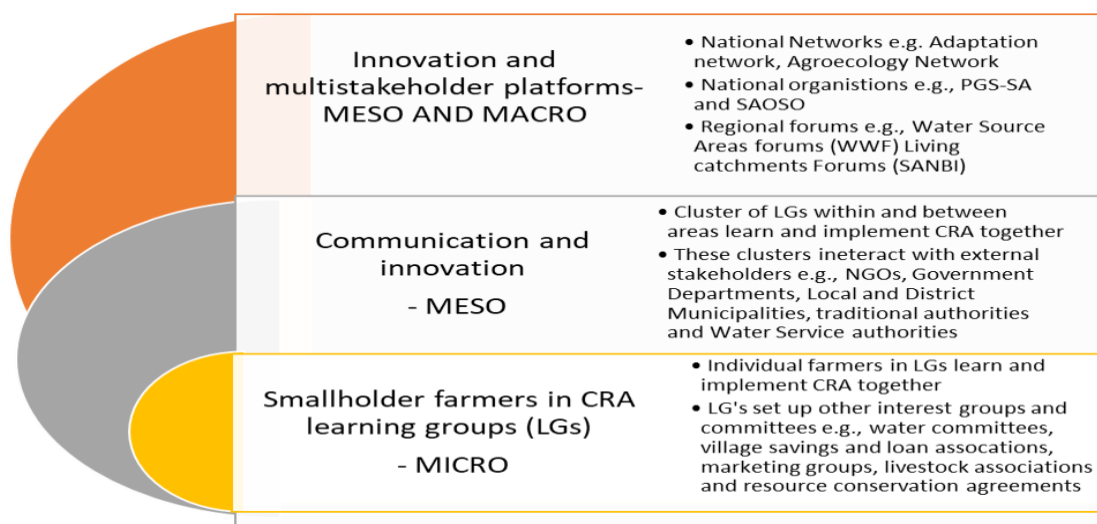


Figure 2: The micro-, meso- and macro-level interactions for the CbCCA programme and the Communities of Practice (COPs).

Quarterly project reports outline the training, field-based activities undertaken with the CRA learning groups and their progress related to economic empowerment (VSLAs, marketing etc.). Information on activities related to the innovation and multistakeholder platforms is also to be included in summary form.

Integrated water and natural resources management activities are more discreet in nature and will be reported on as progress is made. This also applies to the development of evidence-based indicators and the monitoring and evaluation handbook development.

1.1. Project Description / Project Objectives

The COVID-19 pandemic, global economic downturns and internal political and economic instability have exacerbated the already significant negative impact of climate change on smallholder farmer communities in South Africa. Unemployment is very high (60-80%), with very low incomes primarily through social grants (around R2000/month per household of 4-5 members). Smallholders need to find ways to provide for a sustainable livelihood for themselves through farming and resource use in their villages. The climate resilient agriculture practices have been piloted and have been shown to significantly improve both livelihoods and social agency and now needs to be deepened and expanded.

The project objectives and outputs are summarized in the small table below.

Overall objective (impact)	Communities have improved their livelihoods and their capacity to adapt to climate change and have strengthened their resilience climate change risks and shocks	
Project outputs/objectives	O1	<i>Capacity is developed for creation of and strengthening institutional frameworks and mechanisms for including proven multi-benefit approaches that promote collective action and coherent Community based Climate Change Adaptation (CbCCA) implementation.</i>
	O2	<i>The farmer level decision support system for implementation of CRA is upscaled in eastern SA.</i>
	O3	<i>Appropriate frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of environmental benefits and agro-ecosystem resilience are developed at multiple scales</i>
	O4	<i>Improvement of water and natural resources management and governance through community ownership</i>

1.2. Source of Information

Each activity set within the project has a focused monitoring and evaluation process, to encompass the range of environmental, agricultural, economic and social indicators used for reporting. Monitoring forms include for example the CCA baselines, crop and garden monitoring, poultry production monitoring and fodder supplementation monitoring. Databases are collated for the monthly VSLA (village savings and loan associations) records and monthly market stall sales and incomes. Seasonal reviews for each learning groups consist of focus group discussions and individual interviews. Resilience snapshots and participatory impact assessments provide more summative evaluative content.

In addition, the provincial field team leaders (Betty Maimela and Mazwi Dlamini) provide monthly reports on training and implementation undertaken with the CRA learning groups. Photographs are included in these summaries and attendance registers are available. All interns are expected to provide monthly field work reports (for SODI – Sphumelelo Mbhele) and reports for events, workshops and meetings are submitted.

Erna Kruger uses these reports and databases to compile the SODI quarterly reports for the organization. Financial reports re compiled jointly by Erna Kruger and Sarika Ramsewak.

2. Project Status

Overall Objective (Impact): Communities are empowered to adapt to climate change and their resilience is strengthened.

Project Objective (Outcome):	Indicator		
	Base value (quantitative & qualitative) <i>Equivalent to proposal</i>	Target value (Quantitative & qualitative) <i>Equivalent to proposal</i>	Achievements (quantitative & qualitative)
Smallholder families in 3 provinces in South Africa apply climate-adapted agricultural practices and diversify their income opportunities in order to stabilize food security in the long term.	As part of an MDF pilot project, 345 smallholder farmers have gained initial experience with local agricultural practices for climate change adaptation. There is currently no coherent regional or local system for climate-adapted agriculture by smallholder	2,625 beneficiaries of smallholder farming families and 75 stakeholders in 3 provinces are organized in Communities of Practice (CoP) and implement at least 3 practices for climate-adapted agriculture according to developed standards.	809 participants, of whom 173 are in new learning groups (4 045 beneficiaries)

	farmers. So far, 9 community-based village savings and loan associations have been established by MDF	18 villages are organized by the project in their own village savings groups	38 VSLAs of which 5 are new
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Project Goals (Output)	Indicators		
	Base value (quantitative & qualitative) <i>Equivalent to proposal</i>	Target value (Quantitative & qualitative) <i>Equivalent to proposal</i>	Achievements (quantitative & qualitative)
1. Communities of Practice (CoP) are established at different levels and practices for climate-resilient agriculture are applied sustainably.	<p>1.1 Learning groups (18) at local village level have gained initial experience with approaches to sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.</p> <p>1.2 Currently, smallholders are supported by 2 government organisations (ROs) and 2 non-governmental organisations (NGOs)</p>	<p>1.1 CoP at local and regional level are implemented and operational: - 27 CoP / Learning groups for climate-resilient agriculture are established at village level for community-based climate change adaptation (CbCCA) - 3 regional CoP with representatives from the local CoP are established in clusters as innovation platforms for exchange, planning and development - 3 regional multi-stakeholder platforms (ROs and NGOs) for strategy development, policy interactions, coherent planning and awareness raising are established</p> <p>1.2 In the project regions, 6 ROs and 6 NGOs support smallholder farmers through learning and financing opportunities. From planning to implementation, they are involved in community-based adaptation to climate change activities.</p>	<p>27 of which 6 are new. -Mahhehle(SKZN) and Sophaya and Madeira (Limpopo), eMadakaneni and eMahlathini (Bergville), Ndlabeleni (Midlands)</p> <p>2 -CA: Farmers' Open day Bgvl (5 villages Bgvl, 3 villages Midlands -Mametja-Sekororo PGS (3 villages)</p> <p>3 - uThukela catchment partnership - Adaptation network -PGS SA – Participatory guarantee system South Africa</p> <p>6 -INR_Bergville: restoration work team of 9 youth -AWARD_Limpopo: Youth table network and transforming Giyani Programme (GLSCR-PWRC, Tsogang) -UKZN-Centre for Water Resources Research (CWRR)-Community level resource management mapping and planning -Adaptation Network; SEED-CSO funding for training of STI organization and farmers. -LIMA-RDF: Social Employment Fund .Training of staff and team leaders in CCA and food security in 9 villages across SA. -World Vision: Training in CCA methodology for new project in Sekororo (Limpopo). @ groups 50 participants</p>
2. A decision support tool	2.1 There are no specific	2.1 Indicators for	-MoU development with PMERL

<p>that takes into account climate-resilient agricultural practices will be further developed and applied by smallholder farmers.</p>	<p>criteria for the local assessment of climate-resilient production systems.</p> <p>2.2 So far, there are no standardized and target group-oriented approaches for climate-resilient agriculture for the project regions.</p> <p>2.3 120 smallholder farmers have developed an understanding of how to use a decision support tool for climate-resilient farming practices</p>	<p>monitoring and evaluating the impact of specific agricultural practices for adaptation to climate change have been identified together with smallholder farmers.</p> <p>2.2. A handbook has been developed and made available as a standard framework for use as "open source" for users at various levels (in digital and printed form).</p> <p>2.3 A total of 300 smallholder farmers independently use the decision support tool for climate-resilient agricultural practices to implement community-based adaptation to climate change</p>	<p>specialist Karen Kotschy. Review of indicators and resilience snapshots initiated. Livelihoods surveys designed and being administered.</p> <p>173 smallholder farmers (across 6 new learning groups), 50 farmers (World vision project)</p>
<p>3. Community-based water management will be institutionalised and sustainably improved.</p>	<p>3.1 At municipal level, there are insufficiently functioning structures for sustainable water management.</p> <p>3.2 Communities have only limited access to water</p>	<p>3.1. Six communities have been institutionalized and have a sustainable structure (e.g. Committee on Water Management)</p> <p>3.2 Three community-based approaches to sustainable water management have been developed.</p>	<p>3 Work in Vimbukhalo and Stulwane (Bgv), and Nkau (Matatiele) in progress</p> <p>3 Vimbukhalo and Stulwane water committees in Bgv active and developing Nkau in Matatiele EC: starting a water access process</p>

The table below provides a further summary of the project statues, outlining the CRA learning groups involved and broad activities within each group.

Annex 5

CbCCA -SA		2116ZA311	January-September 2023														
Province	Area	CRA LGs	No of participants	CCA w/s	CA	Towers	Tunnels	Gardens (seedlings)/seeds	Broilers	Layers	Multipurpose chickens	livestock integration	VSLA groups	Market groups	Water committees	Livestock Associations	
KZN	SKZN	Ngongonini	62		9	5	16	19	22	3			3	1			
		146 Centocow	26	26	2	10	10	20	10	1			2	1			
		Mariathal	32			15	10	25	10	4							
		Mahhehle	26	26	12	25	10	20	11	15	30	7	1				
	Midlands	Gobizembe	22	8	14	30	20	12	15	2				1		1	
		94 Mayizekanye	37	37	20	27	20	15	28	8							
		Ozwathini	35	15	23	25	25	17	35	10		12	2	1		1	
			Ndlaveleni	13	13			2									
	Bergillve	Stulwane	28		29	5	10	8	8	3	40	3	8	1	1	1	1
		128 Ezibomvini	24		23	3	11	10	5	3		2	2	1	1	1	1
		Vimbukhalo	32		35		10	6	2	2		2	2		1	1	1
		Eqeleni	28	23	15	3	10	3	6	2		2	2	1			1
		Emadakaneni	16		22		8	6	12	5		1	3				
		Emajwetha	22					5	17								
eZinyonani		8		8					3	1							
Limpopo	Mametja-Sekor	Sedawa/Mamet	42	42		7	14	42		1	50		1	1	1		
		309 Worcester	37	20		2	12	37					1				
			Willows	45	45			22	50	5			2	1		1	
			Santeng	32	20		17	11	32				1	1			
			Turkey	42	36		2	15	20				2	1	1	1	
			Sofaya	31	22			13	31	1							
			Madeira	80	80			2	84	6			2	1			
Eastern Cape	Matatiele	Ned	38	20			15	19	25		54			1	1		
		132 Nchodu	29	30			12	14	20					1			
			Mzongwana	22	18		20	10	9	7	7						
			Rashule	21	21		18	7	7	1	3		1		1		
			Nkau	22	22		14	11	13	5	4				1		
				830		212	214	295	502	249	70	174	29	35	14	7	8
		New	173	13	22	12	40	107	28	17		7	5	5	1		

Annex 5

NOTE: Funding support through WWF has been secured for the Bergville villages for Conservation Agriculture and water access implementation as well as from the Mazie Trust for conservation Agriculture in the Bergville and Midlands regions.

2.1. Explanations in the event of deviations from planning

No deviations at present.

2.2. Status of implementation

The table below is taken from the project agreement. A column has been included on the right in Table 1 below, outlining the quantities and activities involved for greater clarity.

Table 1: SODI high level work plan and budgeting per activity

SODI Work plan and Budgeting												
Measures & Activities	2022	2023			2024			2025			Activities and quantities	
1. Implementation of Communities of Practice (CoP)												
Introductory workshops for learning groups (LG) at village level in 3 provinces	x			x	x		x					9X 1day intro meetings
LG operation; Roles, responsibilities, visions and planning: Workshops for 9 LGs in 3 provinces.		x	x				x		x			9x1 day visioning and action plans
Training on capacity development for climate-resilient production systems			x	x		x	x	x	x			3x1day training in CRA for 9 groups (R17 500/month)
Cyclical implementation of the LG at village level: implementation and mentoring for climate-adapted agriculture for 27 learning groups at village level; development of local marketing initiatives (3) and local food security initiatives (creation of value chains, seed banks, etc.); Community-based management measures for natural resources		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		27 Learning groups in total - 9 per province (3 new). (67 days@R200/day, thus 10days/ LF/month x 6-7LFs (R13 551/month)
Entrepreneurial support for food security: village savings and loan associations as well as local marketing support and development		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Printing of savings books (Zulu, Pedi), 24 days@R200/day, thus 4days/LF/monthx6 LFs and/or paying for marketing costs (R7 968/month)
Cyclical implementation of innovation platforms and multi-stakeholder networks; Implementation and capacity building for innovation (3) and multi-stakeholder platforms (3); Meetings and exchange visits				x					x		x	1-2 events/year: farmers day, x visit, Multi stakeholder meeting, (R8 400/event)
2. Development of an M&E toolbox and a manual												
Development of M&E tools and indicators			x		x		x		x			Materials for M&E, Software for e surveys (R19 460/year)
Development of the Handbook on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change									x	x	x	
Regular M&E of MDF together with smallholders		x		x		x		x	x	x	x	
Seasonal evaluation by learning groups at village level				x		x		x	x	x	x	36 Resilience snapshots per year (min)
Participatory assessments improved climate resilience for a selection of village-level learning groups				x		x		x	x	x	x	3 PIA's per year (Min)

3. Sustainable water management												
Establishment and implementation of institutional structures such as water management committees		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Development of three concepts for sustainable access to water				x				x		x	x	
Investment		2022	2023	2024								
Amount per person												
Tunnels	R5 463,00	5	35	30								
Poultry	R2 021,00	10	45	45								
Seed (CA, veg) and poultry feed	R1 815,00	10	45	45								

To further outline the activities, annual targets and actuals have been outlined in Table 2. This table will be updated quarterly.

Table 2: Targets and actuals for project activities

	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025
No CCA Intro w/s	2	2	5	Eqeleni, eMadakaneni (Bgvl), Sofaya, Madeira (Limpopo), Mzongwana (EC)	2			
No CCA Planning w/s	2	2	5	Eqeleni, eMadakaneni (Bgvl), Sofaya, Madeira (Limpopo), Mzongwana (EC)	2			
Training days (demos)	6	10	12	17 (EC), 4 (Bgvl), 4 (SKZN), & (Limpopo): Tower gardens, mixed cropping, pest and disease control, trench beds, tunnel construction, VLSLA's value adding	12			
No of LGs	18	23	23	25	27		27	
No of participants - monitoring			108	60(CA) + 107 (gardens) +55 (poultry)+ 65 livelihoods survey	108		108	
Platforms (3 Ips, 3 Multi stakeholders)	2	2	6	3 Ips, 3 multistakeholder (SANBI, AN, WWF), - CA open days (multiple villages and areas, provincial CA forum and National CA forum) - Joint Livestock farmer's day with KZNDARD, in Mayizekanye (Midlands) and continuation of joint livestock associations learning events - Marketing review and planning (5 villages) Bergville	6		6	
Cross visits				-1: Community level (10 Midlands farmers to Bgvl for CA open day – March 23) -1: Organisational (12 Wagenegin/UFS students to Bgvl for Land dynamics course) -1: CRA farmers and restoration teams under INR, cross visit to Bgvl (April 2023) -1: Amazizi and Amangwane Development committees cross visit to Stulwane re CRA implementation and water access (27 th Sept 2023) -1: Ezibovmini cross visit to Stulwane re community-based resource management planning and implementation (29 th Sept 2023)				
No CCA prioritization planning sessions	2		8	3(Bgvl-Eqeleni, eMadakaneni, eMahlathini), 5 (Limpopo-Sofaya, Madeira, Willows, Sedawa, Turkey),	8		18	
No CCA review sessions	2	12	8	5 CA review sessions in Bgvl (Stulwane, Ezibomvini, Vimbukhalo, Emajwetha, EMadakaneni)	8		18	
No CCA re-planning sessions	2	12	8	5(EC-Ned, Nchodu, Nkau, Rashule, Mzongwana), 2 (Midlands-Mayizekanye, Gobizembe)	8		18	
VSLAs (360 participants, 18 VSLAs)			18	38	18		18	
Water access scenarios (min 2)			1	4 (Vimbukhalo, Stulwane, Ezibomvini, Nkau)	1		1	
Livestock			1		1		1	

agreements (Min 3)						
Local facilitator days (6-9), total 114 days each		38	Noah Mhlongo:35 +45+38 Isaac Malatji:17+11 Phumla Nyembezi:15+ 12+13+15 Jerida Popela: 25 Moses Mogofe:30	38		38
Tunnels	5	35	40	30		
Poultry	10	45	28 broilers, 17 layers, 174 Boschvelders (multipurpose chickens)	45		
Seed (CA, veg), poultry feed	10	45	Seed – 502 (seed/seedlings vegetable production) Poultry feed – 45+150	45		

This information is further outlined according to the measures and activities, with dates and descriptions of activities provided in Table 3. Again, this table is to be updated quarterly.

CRA learning group summary

Province	Area	Villages	No of participants
KZN	Bergville	Ezibomvini, Stulwane, Vimbukahlo, Eqeleni, Emadakaneni, eMahlathini Majwetha	128
	Midlands	Ozwathini, Gobizembe, Mayizekanye, Ndlaveleni	94
	SKZN	Mahhehle, Mariathal, Centocow, Ngongonini	146
Limpopo	Sekororo-Lestitele	Sedawa, Turkey, Santeng, Worcester, Sophaya, Madeira, Willows	309
EC	Matatiele	Ned, Nchodu, Nkau, Rashule, Mzongwana	132
	5	27	809

Table 3: Description of measures and activities with dates and areas outlined: November 2022-September 2023

Activity No	description	Date	Activity
1.2.1.	Establishing learning groups at village level.	2022/11/25, 12/09 2022/11/15, 11/29, 2023/03/03 2023/02/09, 02/16 2023/01/18 2023/03/27 2023/05/25, 06/08, 07/07	Limpopo: Sophaya SKZN: Mahhehle -CCA workshop x 2 days, VSLA introduction workshop Bergville: Eqeleni EC: Ned, Nkau Limpopo: Madeira KZN Midlands: Ndlaveleni, Montobello, Noodsberg, Inkuleleko primary school
1.2.2.	Training and mentoring for climate resilient agriculture	2022/12/02 2022/10/26 2022/10/08-14 2022/11/23, 24, 29 2022/02/10 2022/02/27, 03/28 2022/03/08, 03/17, 03/28 2022/03/15 2023/03/07, 08 2023/03/29, 30 2023/03/24, 27, 30 2023/04/, 2023/05, 2023/06 2023/04/21, 25 2023/04/19, 20 2023/07/05 2023/07/14 2023/07/19 2023/07/20 2023/08/07, 08, 10	Midlands: Ozwathini contouring workshop SKZN: Mahhehle – tower gardens EC-Matatiele: Drip irrigation workshops in 5 villages SKZN: CA demonstration workshops in 3 villages SKZN: Plainhill Drip irrigation training Limpopo: Sofaya trench beds SKZN: Mahhehle tower gardens, poultry production, trench beds SKZN: Mariathal gardens and experimentation Bgv: Madakaneni, Mahlathini – gardening training EC: Ned, Nchodu poultry production EC: Nec, Nchodu, Mzongwana- Pest and disease control Limpopo and KZN: trench bed training with assembling of tunnels for 45 households across 8 villages, including distribution of seedlings, mixed cropping and mulching learning inputs and drip irrigation Limpopo: Willows, Sedawa, Mametja – Natural Pest and Disease control Bergville, SKZN: Poultry production: eMadakaeneni, Mjwetha, Mariathal, Mahhehle, centocow SKZN-Mariathal- Soil and water conservation SKZN- Centocow_Soil and water conservation Midlands: Mkhakhasini_Poultry production Limpopo: Madeira-Trench beds (13) Matatiele: Multipurpose chicken production and cage construction (Ned(13),rashule(22), Nchodu(23)
1.2.3.	Cyclical implementation through mentoring for capacity development for LG at local level	2022/08/16, 17, 18, 19, 30 2022/10/16 2022/11/21-24	CCA review and planning workshops -Bergville: CA review and planning (5) -Midlands: CA review and planning (3) -Limpopo: CCA review and planning (4)

	Incl: CCA workshops ,reviews and replanning	<p>2023/01/24-30</p> <p>2023/04/24-26</p> <p>2023/06</p> <p>2023/07/10</p> <p>2023/07/19</p>	<p>CCA prioritization of practices</p> <p>-Matatiele: 5 villages (Ned, Nchodu, Rahsule, Nkau, Mzongwana)</p> <p>-Limpopo: Worcester, Willows, Mametja five finger reviews and planning</p> <p>Midlands; CCA workshops- Ozwathini, Mayizekanye, Gobizembe/Ndlaveleni</p> <p>Mkhakhasini-Ozwathini: Review and expansion of existing group (21)</p> <p>Limpopo: Mametja-Bosholozhi: CCA introduction and prioritization of practices (20)</p>
1.2.4.	Income diversification and economic empowerment of local farmers (LG at local level)	<p>2022/10/02,11/03, 12/04, 2023/02/02, 03/02, 04/02, 05/08, 06/05</p> <p>2022/10/08,11/07, 12/02, 02/03, 03/03, 04/03, 05/02, 06/02, 07/04</p> <p>2022/11/05,06/07, 12/13, 2023/01/27, 02/07, 07/04, 08/05, 09/05</p> <p>2023/06/02, 07/07</p> <p>2023/06/03, 07/01</p> <p>2023/01/26</p> <p>2023/02/14</p> <p>2023/06/01, 06/28</p> <p>July-Sept 2023</p> <p>July-Sept 2023</p>	<p>Market days: monthly farmers markets</p> <p>-Midlands: Bamshela (Ozwathini)</p> <p>-SKZN: Creighton (Centocow)</p> <p>- Bergville: Bergville town</p> <p>-Wartburg farmers Market (Gobizembe)</p> <p>-Hoedspruit farmers' Market (Tala Table Network)</p> <p>Market exploration workshops</p> <p>-Midlands: Mayizekanye, Gobizembe</p> <p>-PGS follow-up w/s Limpopo</p> <p>-EC_Ned-Nchodu market day in Matatiele</p> <p>-SKZN: Mariathal</p> <p>-Limpopo: Mametja-Sekororo PGS – committee and assessments</p> <p>VSLAs</p> <p>VSLA meetings and share outs</p> <p>-Bergville: 9</p> <p>-SKZN: Ngongonini (3), Centocow (2)</p> <p>-Midlands: Ozwathini (2)</p> <p>Limpopo: (7)</p> <p>-Livelihoods survey – all areas</p>
1.2.5.	Implementation and capacity development for innovation (3) and multi-stakeholder platforms (3)	<p>2022/11/18</p> <p>2022/11/10</p> <p>2022/12/01</p> <p>2023/02/23</p> <p>2023/02/28</p> <p>2023/03/08,09</p> <p>2023/03/28,29</p> <p>2023/03/30, 06/02</p> <p>2023/04/26</p> <p>2023/05/09</p> <p>2023/06/04</p> <p>2023/08/07,08</p> <p>2023/08/08</p> <p>2023/08/14</p> <p>2023/08/29</p> <p>2023/08/30</p> <p>2023/09/04</p> <p>2023/09/08</p> <p>2023/09/13</p> <p>2023/09/22-24</p>	<p>-SKZN: Centocow P&D control cross visit and learning workshop</p> <p>-uThukela water source forum: Visioning and action planning – Bergville</p> <p>-Adaptation Network AGM</p> <p>-Regenerative Agric farmers' day in Bergville incl Asset research, uThukela Water Source Forum, uThukela Development Agency</p> <p>-Adaptation Network: CCA financing dialogue</p> <p>-SANBI_gender mainstreaming dialogue</p> <p>-WRC-ESS: Bglv Ezibomvini, Stulwane – resource management mapping and planning</p> <p>-Okahlamba LED forum</p> <p>-Farmers X visit between Bulwer (supported by the INRO and Bergville around CRA, fodder and restoration</p> <p>-PGS-SA: market training input: Online training Session 5</p> <p>SANBI Newsletter-CA implementation for adaptation</p> <p>STI training in Hammanskraal: (3 days – CCA, CRA, nutrition, value adding</p> <p>-Cedara field day and seminar on cover crops (30 farmers and field staff)</p> <p>-Giyani Climate resilience project: Input into WRC reference group meeting</p> <p>-KZN DARD_ Farmers' display at Bergville event</p> <p>ACDI: Dialogue on community adaptation and resilience (Stellenbosch)</p> <p>Food systems article for newsletter</p> <p>WWF-Business Network meeting (SAPPI Durban)- presentation</p> <p>Joint Bergville learning group local marketing review</p>

		2023/09/27	session Food systems dialogue: online event Uthukela water source forum: Multistakeholder field visit around community resource conservation in Stulwane (BgvI)
1.2.6.	Indicator development for evidence-based indicators, M&E and handbook development	2023/01/30- 02/03 2023/02/02 2023/01/18 2023/02/06-10 2023/01/18 2023/02/20 2023/08/04	Limpopo: Focus Group discussions for VSLA and microfinance for the rural poor x 3 (Turkey, Worcester, Santeng) Garden monitoring: -SKZN: Plainhill, Spring Valley, Mariathal, Centocow -EC: 5 villages BgvI:5 villages CA monitoring -EC:5 villages -KZN: Bergville -30, Midlands 15, SKZN 15 -Multistakeholder forum E&M framework development with Karen Kotschy
1.2.7.	Implementation of sustainable water management	2023/01/03-02/03 2023/03/07 2023/03/25, 06/15 2023/04/25, 06/01,02, 06/14, 08/31, 09/14,	KZN: Bergville: Stulwane – Conflict man and upgrading spring protection KZN BGV: Vimbukhalo system repair, committee meetings EC: Nkai: Water walk and meetings for spring protection and reticulation KZN: BgvI Stulwane_ Engineer visits (Alain Marechal) for scenario development and follow up planning meetings with community. Set up committee, work parties and start on quotes and budget outline. Work on scheme initiated
1.2.10.	Organisational & capacity development	2022/11/17 2022/12/05 2023/02/13 2023/02/09, 02/16 2023/03/06 2023/03/13 2023/04/17 2023/05/26 2023/06/12 2023/07/31 2023/08/15-17	-MDF AGM and organisational capacity development workshop -Mentoring and planning with new finance officer to implement SODI financial reporting system -Internal short learning event for rainfall and runoff results, as well as soil fertility and Organic carbon -Mentoring in CCA workshop implementation. Temakholo from Midlands assisted Bergville team -Team session on gender mainstreaming - UKZN- Ecological mapping and use of resource planning – BgvI team -VSLAs review and discussion re group based rules, BLF updates - Nutrient analysis for livestock fodder options: facilitated by Brigid Letty from the INR -Small business development support planning and Livelihoods survey -Whole team hand on training in value adding techniques -Whole team training in homestead food production practices – Empangeni Zululand

Below short narrative summaries are provided for some of the activities undertaken.

1.2.2 CCA training: learning and demonstrations

Trainings have continued in most villages including the following topics: Natural pest and disease control, drip irrigation, constructing and packing trench beds, mixed cropping, construction of tunnels, poultry management, soil fertility management and soil and water conservation

For each training session a learning outline is developed, handouts have been produced in isiZulu, isiXhosa, and Sepedi for distribution and reports are produced with photos and attendance registers.

Soil and water conservation

The winter season provides a perfect opportunity for farmers to plan and implement soil and water conservation practices in the absence of rains and cropping pressures. Practices such as furrows and ridges, diversion ditches, stone lines, check dams and stone bed designs (e.g. keyhole beds) are among some of the practices. These practices provide for in situ water harvesting and storage, and are also concerned with altering

the landscape to stop, trap and infiltrate water to reduce soil erosion. Furthermore, organic matter is incorporated into the soil to improve soil health for good quality crops.

Workshops were held in the following villages:

- Mariathal -SKZN_13 participants (07/05)
- Centocow_SKZN_7 participants (07/14)
- Nkau- Matatiele_11 participants (06/29)



Figure 3: Above Left to right: Mariathal and Centocow S&W conservation: Measuring contours, making furrows and ridges and building a keyhole bed.

Other trainings in this period

Training theme	Area, villages, dates	No of participants
Natural pest and disease control	Midlands: Gobizembe, Maiyekanye:2023/06/23,27	22
Poultry production	Midlands: Mkhakhasini (Ozwathini):2023/07/19 Matatiele: Ned,Rashule, Nchodu (Boschvelders and cages) 2023/08/07,08/10	19 13, 22,23
Soil fertility and trench beds and tunnels	Limpopo: Madeira: 2023/07/20,25	13
Tower gardens and greywater management	Limpopo: Sofaya 2023/07/21 Matatiele: Ncodhu 2023/08/08	11 23
Seed saving	Limpopo: Worcester, Willows, Sedawa:2023/08/23,25,31	17,32,24

Below are a few indicative photographs



Figure 4: Above Left: Tema Mathebula facilitating a Pest and disease control workshop in Mayizekanye, trench bed training in Madeira (Limpopo), and tower garden construction in Sofaya (Limpopo)



Figure 5: Above left to Right: Participants in Nchodu (Matatiele) busy assembling the cages for the arrival of their 4 week old Boschvelder chickens, tower garden construction in Nchodu and tunnel construction in Madeira (Limpopo)

Figure 6: Presentation of seed saving information for the learning groups in Worcester and Willows, August 2023.



1.2. 3 Cyclical implementation

A number of seasonal and annual review and replanning processes have been undertaken to learn from the previous season's implementation and plan programme activities for the upcoming seasons. Some workshops have been undertaken in this period (July-September 2023, in the Midlands and in Limpopo).

As an example the Mamejja-Bosholozhi group in Limpopo undertook a review and planning sessions. This group of 21 participants have now started their own learning group, separate from Sedawa as their participation has increased and new members, including youth, have joined.

In a review of progress to date, they listed what they remember and what has worked well from previous learning sessions:

1. Natural insecticides- Farmers have used aloe and sunlight bar soap to make a pesticide for aphids, red spider and whiteflies on cabbages, tomatoes and kale.
2. Trench beds- Farmers agree that trench beds are the best, it requires hard labour for implementation, and good quality production. Farmers also acknowledge that trench bed helps with water management because they irrigate three times a week.
3. Bucket filter drip irrigations- Drip irrigation is also seen as best practice that allows one to use grey water and clean water for irrigation.
4. Tower garden- Tower gardens work best when one has no space in their homestead, but if one does not use it for some time, it dries out and has to be done again.

5. Mulching- Helps with retaining soil moisture, and mulch decompose to add organic matter to the soil and increase soil organic matter.
6. Physical traps using beer and light container in the garden, helped Maphefo to reduce ants' population in her garden.

They also requested the following learning workshops for the group:

1. Pests and disease control workshop
2. Tower garden training workshop
3. Mango training workshop
4. Keyhole beds practical demonstration
5. Compost practical workshop

Below are a few photographs of existing gardens monitored in Mametja-Bosholozhi. These participants have made their own arrangements for irrigation with water from pipes in the mountain or from collection in local streams and rainwater harvesting



Figure 7: Above Left to Right: Tomato production for Clara Mametja, Kacson Morema's garden and Shane Selete, a youth participant, showing his planting in tyres.

1.2.4 Economic empowerment and income diversification

Local marketing: Monthly market stalls

Generally the market stalls were irregular and not well stocked in the summer season, due to participants' habit of focusing on field crops during summer. This has been the case in all areas, although the Ozwathini (Midlands) and Centocow (SKZN) monthly farmers markets have continued throughout.

A trend also is that a small number of farmers remain committed to this avenue of selling over the longer term; usually between 5-9 farmers per marketing group. A Livelihoods survey is to be undertaken across all areas in the coming quarter to explore the sales for participants from their homesteads and those for the markets, to better understand the contribution of these markets to farmers' incomes, as well as exploring where they spend their money (related to consumption vs productive activities)

The markets are now gaining momentum again. Below is a summary table of markets undertaken, showing that on average 7 participants from 3 learning groups has joined each market since January 2023 and an overall amount of R21 300 has been made in sales.

Table 4: Summary of markets held Jan-Sept 2023

Summary of Marketing information for local market tables: January-September 2023						
Date	No of farmers	Villages	Amount	Ave per farmer	Market	Produce; in order of sales

2023/05/08,09	9	5	R3 385,00	R376,11	Ozwathini-Bamshela	onions, eggs, spinach, green pepper, cabbage, bottled chillies, pumpkin, avocaod, cowpeas, dry beans, frozen chicken, lettuce, herbs, kale, amadumbe, mustard psinach, sweet potatoes, scones.
2023/06/05,06	6	5	R4 025,00	R670,83	Ozwathini-Bamshela	Carrots, potatoes, spinach, beans, oranges, pumpkin, cabbage, eggs, sweet potatoes, scones
2023/07/03,04	10	5	R3 315,00	R331,50	Ozwathini-Bamshela	Beans, eggs, potatoes, psinach, bottled chillies, green pepper, cabbage, amadumbe, frozen chicken, naartjies, lemons, avocadoes, sweet potatoes, onions, tomatoes
2023/07/04	6	2	R1 558,00	R259,67	Bergville	baked cakes, carrots, chinese cabbage, eggs, beetroot, onoins, mamdumbe, spainch, cabbage, chillies, maize
2023/07/01	17	5	R1 955,00	R115,00	Hoedspruit-Tala table Network	Spring onion, lemon grass, rocket, coriander, spinach, jams, pickles, atjar, bottled chillies oranges, marula nuts, bettroot, chinese cabbage, beetrott, lettuce, mopani worms, peanuts, jugo beans, sugar beans, tomatoes,
2023/07/04	3	1	R880,00	R293,33	Centocow-Creighton	Spinach, kale, mustard spinach, cabbage, chillies, beans, pumpins, lemons
2023/07/07	5	1	R560,00	R112,00	Gobizembe-Wartburg	Dry beans, butternut, avocado, oranges, sweet potatoes, cabbage, charcoal
2023/08/05	7	3	R1 419,00	R202,71	Bergville	baked cakes, carrots, chinese cabbage, eggs, beetroot, onoins, mamdumbe, spainch, cabbage, chillies, maize
2023/08/02	3	1	R1 080,00	R360,00	Centocow-Creighton	Kale, cabbage, maize, mustard spinach, swiss chard, pumpkins
2023/09/05	1	1	R1 300,00	R1 300,00	Centocow-Creighton	Kale, cabbage, maize, mustard spinach, swiss chard, eggs
2023/09/05	6	2	R1 819,00	R303,17	Bergville	Baked cakes, chillies, spring onions, cabbage, chaines cabbage, spinach, yellow maize, broilers
	7	3	R1 936,00	R393,12		

Figure 8: Right and far right: Harvesting at the crack of dawn to supply the local market in Creighton



In addition, the Mametja-Sekororo PGS in Limpopo has convened to re-elect their PGS committee (Participatory guarantee System under SAOSO- South African Organic Sector Organisation) and to start their annual farmer assessment and review process. The field assessment looks at the farmer’s practices, including the use of organic inputs and methods, soil management, pest management, water conservation, and farming methods. During the assessment, the farmer must demonstrate that they are following organic standards and guidelines, so that the assessments can be used to make decisions around Organic endorsement and provision of Certificates and associated organic branding for produce. 16 farmers in Sedawa/Mametja and Turkey were assessed for organic certification this year.



Figure 9: Above left: The tala talble Netowrk meeting for re-election of the PGS committee and Above right: The committee nad volunteer farmers undertaking a PGS field assessment

In Bergville KZN, a marketing review and planning session was held on the 13th of Spetember 2023 as an innovation platform event, combining participants from the 6 active viallges (Ezibomvini, Eqeleni, Stulwane, Vimbukhalo, Ezinyonyane and Ematwetha, 34 participants). Here we analysed with the groups the suammry of market sales from their initiation in 2021 to date, to look at trends and issues and also held group discussions around future plans.

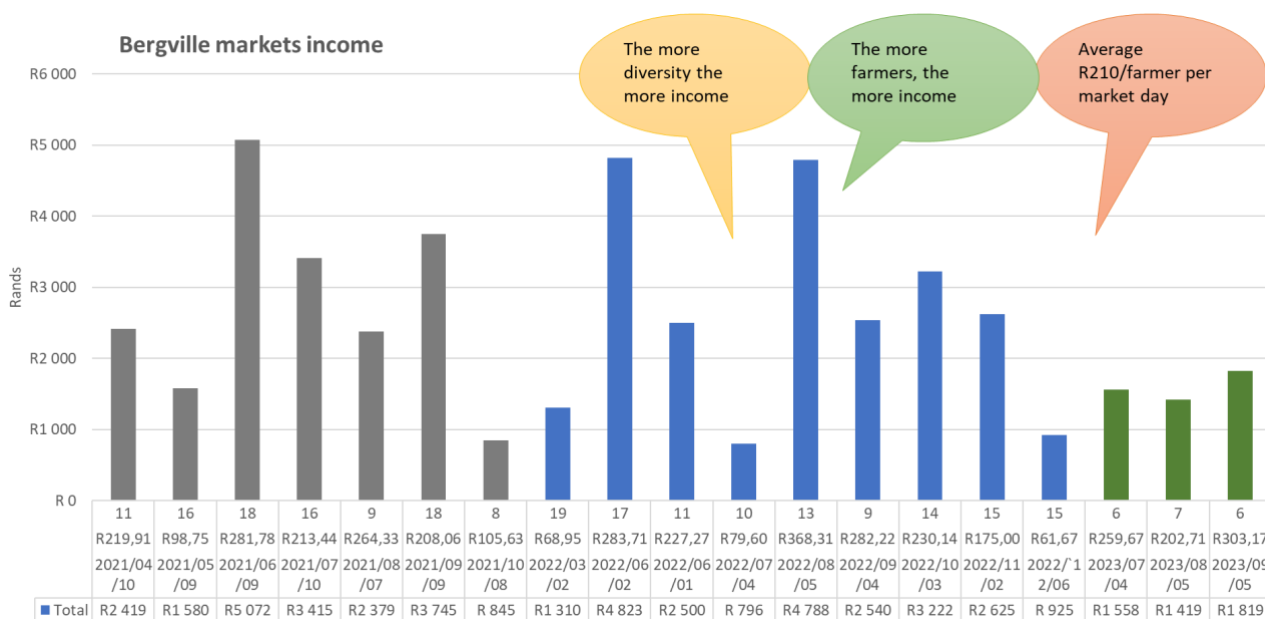


Figure 10: Analysis of market incomes and number of participants from 2021 to date for Bergville.

We discussed these trends in terms of produce quantity, quality and diversity and also the involvement of farmers and number of farmers selling. A number of issues were discussed in small groups and suggestions made for improvements. In addition each village undertook to set up a more formalized marketing committee to coordinate the production, availability, transport and sale of their crops for the markets. Below is a summarized list of proposed solutions:

- Farmers need to plan and communicate before the day of the market who brings what to avoid having no diversity.
- Agree on the same scales for produce that is to have the same price, use a rope or tape measure to scale, and have different prices for different ranges/sizes of produce.
- Having tower gardens, so that farmers will use grey water for irrigation, to partly address the water access issue.
- Have a market on a couple of consecutive days and consider having a market in Winterton as well during pension/grant payment days.
- Coordinate before and put on tags before getting to the market and choose one person to handle/keep the sales money to avoid shortages.
- farmers should support each other, promote unity, sell as one at the market and avoid promoting one's own produce only.
- Farmers should take produce and walk around town for produce to sell faster and improve sales to avoid having to reduce prices later in the day and produce staying too long in the heat.
- Produce must be clean and always packaged nicely, spinaches washed and tied nicely with strings, produce with dark spots and holes should not be taken to the market as such would create an unpleasant image to customers about the quality of the markets' produce and hygiene.
- Farmers must be punctual, and start the market early in the morning, to address the problem of starting late and going back home with produce as a result of having less time to sell.
- Farmers should buy or bring their own extra tables, to accommodate more produce.
- Display banners to attract customers.



Figure 11: Above Left and right: Small group discussions at village level to outline possible solutions to arising issues in the local marketing processes.

Village Savings and Loan Association

The table below summarizes the transactions for all VSLA groups in Limpopo and KZN being supported. In the EC – Matatiele region the savings groups are managed by SaveAct. At present quarterly summaries of VSLA information are still being compiled. Below is the information for the 22 Bergville VSLAs.

Table 5: Summary of VSLA transactions for the Bergville VSLAs as at end August 2023

No.	AREA	GROUP NAM	NO. OF PEOPLE	START Date	lastmth of records	# SHARES BOUGHT TODAY	VALUE OF SHARES (TODAY)	CUM # OF SHARES	VALUE OF TOTAL SHARES	LOAN REPAYD TODAY	NEW LOAN TAKEN	MONEY IN BOX	NEW BALANCE
1	Ezibomvir	Ezibomvini	19	Novembe	Mar-23	29	R2 900,00	144	R14 400,00	R150,00	R3 500,00	R310,00	R11 050,00
2	Ezibomvir	Ukuzama	13	August	Aug-23	28	R2 800,00	237	R23 700,00	R0,00	R2 800,00	R0,00	R20 900,00
3	Emazimbe	Nyonyana	23	October	Aug-23	50	R5 000,00	485	R48 500,00	R7 480,00	R0,00	R4 140,00	R55 980,00
5	Eqeleni	Masibambar	20	October	Aug-23	64	R6 400,00	553	R55 300,00	R5 080,00	R0,00	R44 440,00	R60 380,00
6	Eqeleni	Masithuthu	19	Novembe	Aug-23	55	R5 500,00	560	R56 000,00	R5 800,00	R0,00	R39 775,00	R61 800,00
7	Stulwane	Mbalenhle	20	Novembe	Aug-23	11	R1 100,00	213	R21 300,00	R1 640,00	R2 000,00	R8 340,00	R20 940,00
10	Vimbukha	Ukhamba	20	Novembe	Jul-23	109	R10 900,00	669	R66 900,00	R6 980,00	R16 100,00	R1 910,00	R57 780,00
11	Stulwane	Vukuzenzel	17	Decembe	Aug-23	41	R4 100,00	403	R40 300,00	R3 980,00	R2 600,00	R7 860,00	R41 680,00
12	Stulwane	Umtwana 2	16	Decembe	Aug-23	50	R5 000,00	323	R32 300,00	R3 670,00	R7 400,00	R1 810,00	R28 570,00
13	Stulwane	Umtwana 1	16	Decembe	Aug-23	30	R3 000,00	333	R33 300,00	R3 770,00	R0,00	R13 330,00	R37 070,00
14	Emadaker	Azam	14	January	Aug-23	16	R1 600,00	158	R15 800,00	R1 880,00	R500,00	R3 080,00	R17 180,00
15	Stulwane	lthembaeth	19	January	Aug-23	20	R2 000,00	301	R30 100,00	R3 120,00	R1 000,00	R8 440,00	R32 220,00
16	Stulwane	Zebra	14	January	Aug-23	44	R4 400,00	326	R32 600,00	R800,00	R7 000,00	R20,00	R26 400,00
17	Emahlathi	Senzakahle	36	March	Aug-23	41	R4 100,00	290	R29 000,00	R2 920,00	R1 600,00	R5 530,00	R30 320,00
18	Stulwane	Sondelani	14	Novembe	Aug-23	33	R3 300,00	354	R35 400,00	R3 540,00	R4 000,00	R8 960,00	R34 940,00
19	Stulwane	Mzizi	18	Novembe	Aug-23	50	R5 000,00	390	R39 000,00	R4 050,00	R3 500,00	R8 670,00	R39 550,00
20	Emahlathi	Masiphumu	10	March	Aug-23	37	R3 700,00	203	R20 300,00	R1 730,00	R0,00	R8 140,00	R22 030,00
22	Stulwane	Inkanyezi	19	Decembe	Aug-23	35	R3 500,00	291	R29 100,00	R6 510,00	R1 700,00	R13 480,00	R33 910,00
		Total											R632 700,00

There are 743 VSLA participants in the Bergville area who presently have R632 700 in their VSLAs saved and in circulation for small loans.

To assess the value and progress in livelihoods contributed to the VSLA participant a livelihoods survey was initiated in July 2023 (See appendix 1 for the interview outline). This process is still ongoing for Limpopo and Matatiele. A few of the initial results for Kwazulu Natal are presented below.

RESPONDENTS Area	Women	Men	Total Interviewed	Total in VSLAs	Total not in VSLAs
Ngongonini	8	2	10	10	
Mariathal	1	1	2	0	2
Centocow	1	2	3	3	
Mayizekanye	6	0	6	0	6
Gobizembe	4	1	5	0	5
eQeleni	8	0	8	7	1
Colestone	6	0	6	6	
eZibomvini	5	0	5	5	
Vimbukhalo	5	0	5	5	
Stulwane	6	0	6	6	
Total	50	6	56	42	14

Basis savings groups are chosen as a livelihood activity	Respondents	Percentage
Access to cash: running an enterprise	33	58,9%
Access to cash: household consumption	29	51,8%

Pressure: save to buy household needs	11	19,6%
Peer pressure to save; participate in VSLA	6	10,7%
Education for children	2	3,6%

Household Expense (Non-productive)	Respondents	Percentage
Appliances	26	46,4%
Furniture	24	42,9%
Total appliances and furniture purchases	50	89,3%
House construction	27	48,2%
House renovation	16	28,6%
Total house construction and renovation	43	76,8%
Traditional ceremony	20	35,7%
Miscellaneous house needs	15	26,8%
Livestock: goats	12	21,4%
School fees (tertiary)	11	19,6%
Livestock: cows	10	17,9%
Farming inputs	10	17,9%
Livestock: chicken	9	16,1%
Fencing	8	14,3%
Jojo tank	6	10,7%

Business Expense (Productive)	Respondents	Percentage
Farming inputs: cropping	42	75,0%
Non-farming business inputs	23	41,1%
Broilers and feeds	22	39,3%
Fencing	15	26,8%
Retailing: tuck shop	12	21,4%
Egg layers and feeds	11	19,6%
Retailing: food vending	6	10,7%
Garment making	6	10,7%
Boschvelders and feeds	6	10,7%
Indigenous chicken and feeds	5	8,9%
Water infrastructure (pipes)	5	8,9%
Retailing: clothes	3	5,4%

Use of all VSLA drawings in the last 2 or 3 years	Respondents	Percentage
House construction	19	33,9%
House renovation	13	23,2%
Total house construction and renovation	32	57,8%
Appliances	24	42,9%
Furniture	23	41,1%

Use of all VSLA drawings in the last 2 or 3 years	Respondents	Percentage
Livestock: chicken	20	35,7%
Miscellaneous	13	23,2%
Traditional ceremony	10	17,9%
Livestock: goats	8	14,3%
Jojo tanks	8	14,3%
School fees (tertiary)	4	7,1%
Livestock: cows	2	3,6%

Use of VSLA share-out in the recent past	Respondents	Percentage
Household consumption	35	62,5%
Farming enterprise	25	44,6%
Non-farming business	19	33,9%
Food security	12	21,4%

These results indicate the central position of the VSLAs in the participants' livelihoods to provide for home construction and maintenance, access to appliances as well as running farming and non farming businesses and to contribute to food security. A more detailed analysis will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

1.2.5 Innovation platforms and multi stakeholder engagement

Multistakeholder forums

Mahlathini is involved in a number of regional, provincial and national forums, networks and processes. Activities are summarized in the table below.

Table 6: Summary of multistakeholder engagement: Oct 2022-September 2023

Organisation	Activity - Description	Dates
Asset Research-Maize Trust, SODI	Regenerative Agriculture farmers' open day in Bergville	23 rd Feb 2023
ESS research - WRC	UKZN research in ecosystem services mapping supported by MDF: water walks, focus group discussions, planning, eco-champs, spring protection work in Stulwane, thematic and mapping workshops in Ezibomvini and Stulwane, local level planning and implementation. Cross visit Ezibomvini to Stulwane to see resource management work there	23 rd September 2022 14 th October 2022 13,29,30 March 2023 1-30 th May 2023 29th September 2023
WWF Water source forum	uThukela catchment partnership: Stakeholder meetings, online and in person at OLM board room Bergville (new name: Northern Drakensberg Collaborative). Development of vision, membership profile, constitution and core team and full collaborative meetings WWF – Business network meeting at SAPPI Umhlanga-presentation uThukela water source forum core tema meeting Multistakeholder meeting and field visit to Stulwane (including Amangwane and Amazizi Traditional authorities)	29 th September 2022 10 th November 2022 11 th April 2023 23 rd May 2023 8th September 2023 23rd August 2023 27th September 2023
SANBI- Living	Social facilitation capacity building workshop – Western Cape;	3 rd -5 th October 2022

Catchment Programme	M Malinga Olifants' water indaba: M Malinga, N Mbokazi, H Hlongwane, B Maimela and E Kruger Video on local initiatives in catchment management	30 th Oct-2 nd Nov 2022 24 th March 2023
SANBI	Climate change adaptation and gender mainstreaming dialogue – presentation and participation SANBI newsletter- runoff impacts of restoration and CA	8 th -9 th March 2023 4th June 2023
Adaptation Network	Policy input and AGM Ongoing input and involvement in the Capacity development working group: to implement the new Civil Society Organisation Skills Enhancement and Excellence Development (CSO SEED) project, funded by the Flanders government. Some of these activities include youth-led participatory videos on adaptation initiatives and some thematic field visits and exchanges between AN CSO member projects. Meetings with AN to discuss capacity building and outline CCA training for Socio technical Interface NGO in Hammanskraal STI training in Hammanskraal: (3 days – CCA, CRA, nutrition, value adding Food systems article for newsletter Food systems dialogue: online event	13 th October 2022 1 st December 2022 7 th , 8 th Feb 2023 15 th March 2023 11 th May 2023 15 th June 2023 7th-8th August 2023 4th September 2023 22-24th September 2023
PGS-SA	Quarterly meeting: Discuss mapping of PGS organisations, finalisation of certificate and use of seals and logos. Finalisation of smallholder farm assessment form PGS-Certification working group Online market development training: Input into session 5	17 th Nov 2022 13 th Feb 2023 9th May 2023
Okhahlamba LM	Agriculture and Land summit: MDF presentation and marketing stall: All Bergville staff, farmers representatives and eco champs Okhahlamba LED forum meetings OLM – support with transport for farmers' markets and tractors for field preparation Okhahlamba agriculture forum meeting	30 th November 2022 30th March 2023, 7th June 2023 Ongoing 29th August 2023
Afromontane research Centre	Maloti-Drakensberg Climate Change Workshop Wageningen/UFS: Land futures course - Bgvl	12-14 December 2022 7-10 th March 2023
Water Research Commission	Giyani Local Scale Climate Resilience Project: Support for CCA and VSLAs GLSCRIP – reference group meeting WRC-DSSII (Community based CCA) ref group meeting	8-10 th May 2023 14th July 2023 17th August 2023

Other networking and stakeholder events and processes

Attendance of a range of networking processes, including an Agricultural Curriculum development workshop held by UKZN _School of Agric nad env Sience and Intiaition of a multiskeaholder forum for Climate change in gcumisa (Swayimane) in the KZn Midlands spearheaded by hte Institute of Natural Resources.

Submission of a case study in community level CCA implmentation to the African Calime development initiative, attendance of a webinar (15th August) and attendance of a dialogue and reivew session in Stellenbosch (31st August 2023), to specifically strengthen debates around gender mainstreaming in adaptation and appropriate ifnancing mechanisms nad processes for gorund level implementation.

Training support has been provided in two different processes:

- Livestock associatin trainings ffor a number of viallgesi n KZN Midladns in association with the KZN Department of Agriculture. MDF's inut focusses on livestock integration and fodder production and supplementation within Conservation Agriculture systems,
- and undertaking of a CCA and food secuirty training of trainers series for LIMA-Rural Development Foundation – 9 x 2 day trainings across South Afirca (Zululand, Southern KZN ,Matatiele, North West



province and Limpopo) in support of their Social Employment Found process.

Figure 12: LIMA-RDF Social Employment Found trianing of trainers in Matatiele – showing natural pest and disease control, tower gardens, and a trench bed with drip irrigation being demonstrated practically to trainees

1.2.6 Indicator development, Monitoring and evaluation.

To date, informal monitoring has taken place. An arrangement has been put in place with Karen Kotschy, an M&E specialist, to assist in the process of indicatro and handbook development. As she will be working across three different projects within MDF, this work will be spread across these budgets as well. Karen will specifically assist with tidying up the present sets of indicators MDF use a field level to provide a coherent qualitatie nad quantitative set of indicators nad work on frameowrks for M&E of innovaiton and mutli stakeholders platforms.

1.2.7 Sustainable water management

KwaZulu Natal

There are three funcional village level water committees in Bergillve – Vimbukhalo, Ezibomvini and Stulwane. Presently funding nad implmentation support is provided with small budgets provided by the WWF and the Water Research commission (Ecosystem services research in association with UKZN-CWRR).

In Stulwane the process of water reticulation from abstraction from two mountain streams has continued and has now entered the implmentation stage. A total of 75 households are invovled, vidied into two smaller areas based groups: Stuwlaen A and B. Each has it's own committee. Commuity members have been very entusiastci and completed hte digging of hte ditcehs for pipes some time back. A workshop to finalise arragnements as well as ocmunity financial contributiuns was held on the 13th of September. This has been followed by procurement and building of wiers and initial systems to the top break pressure tanks is to commence on the 10th of October.



Figure 13: Above: Community members from Stulwane B finalizing their household access and pipe layouts for their water reticulation process.

Assessment of progress

The project is on track and no major deviations in the project planning and implementation is envisaged.

Other comments

In the coming quarter the following activities are to be focused on in addition to ongoing activities:

- Writing of funding proposals for water access activities
- Finalization of the livelihoods survey report
- Initiation of seasonal dryland cropping activities and
- Indicator development and initiation of handbook
- Exploration of support for local creche in Stulwane (Bergville)



Figure 14: Ms Zondi above is spearheading the establishment of the local creche in Stulwane. They already have around 29 children in the group and want to register the creche to be able to provide the Grade R entrance requirement to primary school, that has become a recent government requirement

Appendix 1: Livelihoods survey questionnaire

VSLA Interviews and Observation Schedule

Mahlathini Development Foundation

June 2023

Purpose

Informal observation is one of the data collection tools in research. Broadly, this observation tool will be used to help Mahlathini Development Foundation better determine the extent members of the Farmer Learning Groups (FLGs) use Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) to improve household livelihoods. Specifically, this observation schedule want to examine the extent members have used VSLAs: (i) to acquire assets; and (ii) to operate income generating activities. Generally, observations are used by researchers to better understand a specific social phenomenon.

Instructions to the interviewer and observer, that is, MDF staffer

- Greet the participant in IsiZulu. Seek consent from the participant to take part in the informal observation. Explain that you request to see and discuss (probe) about things the VSLA has helped her/him to achieve.
- Explain that the information that the participant will provide will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality.
- Ask for permission to observe/see things that the participant has done or bought in her/his house using money drawn from a VSLA. Ask permission/consent to take pictures.

Brief details about a VSLA

Date of Interview:	Name of Interviewer:	
Name of Respondent:		Gender:
Name of VSLA:		
Name of Community:		

Things to observe

1. There are many things people do with their money from VSLAs. Mark with **X** for items (and activities) that the participant is happy to talk about. You must use the responses received from tables 1 – 4 below as basis for further discussion to probe, and mainly about the use of VSLA drawings (loans and share-outs) and income derived from their enterprises. Try your best to mine deeper for all farming-aligned enterprises.

Key probing question to start a conversation on big ticket expenses

Ask: What have been your biggest expenses in the last 2 or 3 years?

Big ticket expenses		Notes
House renovation		
House construction		
Traditional ceremony		
Appliances		
Furniture		
Jojo tank		
School fees (tertiary)		
Livestock: cows		
Livestock: goats		
Other:		

Table 1

Key probing question to start a conversation on enterprise expenses

Ask: What is your main farming activity that brings most of the income in your household?

_____ **Ask:** What are other income generating activities that you do?

Business enterprise expenses		Notes
Farming inputs		
Fencing		

Business enterprise expenses		Notes
Water infrastructure (pipes)		
Retailing: clothes		
Retailing: tuck shop		
Retailing: other		
Garment making		
Broilers		
Egg layers		
Other:		

Table 2

Ask: Do you have other expenses that drain your income? What are they?

Other expenses		Notes
School transport		
<i>Isipheko</i> for traditional ceremonies		
<i>Isipheko</i> for funerals		
Funeral insurance		

Table 3

Other expenses not listed (describe them below)

Table 4

Key probing question to start a conversation on items/assets bought, activities done and expenses paid for by drawings from the VSLA (loans and share-outs)

Ask: In the last 2 or 3 years, what you bought or done with the money you have received from your VSLA/Savings Group? Are you happy to show me what you have done?

- 2. While walking around the household/or sitting in the house, record everything that you see and that contributes to household livelihoods. For instance, in the yard you may see newly installed fence and gates, jojo tank, fruit trees, well-cared garden, cattle kraal, indigenous chickens, goats, stack of concrete blocks, sand and stone, cement, baking pans, lounge suite, stoves, deep freezers, refrigerators, television sets, DSTV dish, etc.

Record of what you see (observation)

3. Discuss in detail (probe) about things shared by the participants in table 1 – 4 above. Use a timeline of activities/expenses to probe and to capture responses in detail. Start with timeline of expenses in table 5 – before moving to incomes (revenues) made by each income generating activity (enterprise) in table 6. Please do not forget to capture all points of sale used by the farmers: (i) farmers market days, (ii) farm gates, (iii) home and other points of sales.

Timeline of Expenses		
<i>Description of Expense</i>	<i>When (months in the year)</i>	<i>How much?</i>

Table 5

Timeline of Income		
<i>Description of income from an enterprise activity</i>	<i>When (months in the year)</i>	<i>How much?</i>

Table 6

Table 6 should complete the interview, however, you must ensure that the following questions have been asked during your discussion.

4. Questions you must not miss.

4.1. What are your main sources of income?

4.2. Is your participation in your savings group/s a livelihood activity? Please explain in detail.

4.3. On what basis did you choose your savings group/s as your livelihood activity? In other words, what are the main benefits that you get by participating in your group/s?

4.4. Do you participate in more than one group? How many? _____ Why do you participate in these groups?

4.5. Do you take loans from your savings groups? _____

4.6. In the recent past, what have you used loans for? For food? For farming? For a business? Probe deeply.

4.7. In the recent past, what have you used your share-out for? For food? For farming? For a business? Probe deeply _____

4.8. What other assets have you accumulated since participating in your group/s?

4.9. What types of income generating activities (enterprises) do you have now?

4.10. Where do you want to see your VSLA in the next 10 years? _____
