WWF INTENSIVE HOMESTEAD FOOD PRODUCTION TRAINING REPORT



DATE:23-25 March 2021

VENUE: Doris Chamane in Ozwathini

PARTICIPANTS: MDF: Erna, Nonto, Sipho, Lungelo, Thabani, Nkanyiso, Mazwi, Tema, Michael. AFRA: Nokuthula, Ayanda and youth: Sibonsio Malinga, Nontobeko Zondi, Sabelo Malinga, Nokuthula Sithole and 6 local learning group participants participants (English medium, translation to isiZulu). 24 Participants in total.

CATERING: Water, juice fruit, meals (3xlunches)

Table 1: Intensive organic	homestead food	production training	outline	23 25 Marc	h 2021
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Day 1 Natural farming - Garden layout and design; Orientation, aspect, slope Demos and practicals: 4-5 - Handouts -Waterflow diagram -Waterflow diagram hrs - Flip charts, stand, kokis x 10-20. Da projector, leads, Screen (Sipho) -Waterflow -Waterflow diagram and design of cut off -Buy: line levels, poles (10x1,6m), strupegs, (Mazwi) -Wind - Contours, line levels, -Cut off drain, contour -Spades, picks, forks (Mazwi) DDTat dittates infiltration Basks of datases (Mazwi)	ta ing,
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Pris: alteres, innitration - Rocks and Stones (Mazwi)	
Soil and water pits -Erna: Napier fodder, irises	
conservation -Plant windbreak, -Buy: Aloes, lemongrass, Kei apples	Mazwi)
Day 2	
Introduction to - Nutrient cycles - sausage and bottle 6-7 - Handouts	
natural soil -Introduction to soils; tests, discussion hrs -On site: Min 6 bags grass and weed	s, 6
fertility Physical, chemical, bags manure (Mazwi), ash, bones, st	cks,
managementbiological- Practical demos:water	
- Manures, compost Fertility pits -Banana tree seedlings (Tema)	
-Bed design Trench beds -Buy 2 buckets w lids, orange pocket	s, milk,
-Liquid manure Shallow trenches sugar, bonemeal, lime	
Eco-circle -Buy one large bin (50l)	
PPTs; Animal and foliar feed Erna: Ash	
CC, organic matter	
Day 3	

-Mixed	cropping; crop	-Seed bed preparation	3 -5	-Handouts
mixes f	for good nutrition	-Planting a mixture of	hrs	Buy: Herbs, multipurpose plants; parsley,
-Natura	al pest and	seed and seedlings		coriander, thyme, rosemary, garlic chives,
disease	e control	-Mulching		bulbinella, comfrey, fennel (Tema, Nonto)
- Nutriti	ion	-Watering		Veg seed: selection of small packets,
		-Pest control brews		Seedlings: Marigolds, Chinese cabbage,
PPTs:				mustard spinach, spring onions, (Tema,
Mixed of	cropping			Nonto)
Natural	I P&D control			
Nutritio	on			

1.1 SUMMARY OF LEARNING AND DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES.

The learning consisted of a combination of presentations, discussions, small group activities and practical demonstrations and activities.

The indoor sessions consisted of talking through the issues to consider in garden layout, including waterflow, slope, aspect, and wind. This was followed by a practical group exercise to carefully observe all these elements in the garden and propose some solutions, according to those presented: e.g., stone lines, contour ditches, diversion ditches, swales and check dams.



Figure 1: Above left: 2 small groups doing the garden walk and drawing their garden layout maps. Above centre: Tema and Madondo drawing in their proposed solutions to observed issue and Above Right: Mr Wiseman Ndlovu from DARD presenting his groups layout map to plenary.

The soil and water conservation practises were then presented in more detail and a group decision was made, including Mrs Chamane about which interventions could be tried out.

It was decided to do one ditch and bund and two small stone lines on contour. Thereafter construction of linelevels for measuring contours was demonstrated and participants worked in two groups to implement the practices.



Figure 2: Above left: Doing the construction of a line level, Above centre; Doing a stone line and planting deep rooting irises behind the stone line to spread out,, slow down and sink in the water that channels in between the houses and Above right: Doing contour bunds/ ridges at the edge of another house with severe run-off.

On the second day the presentations focused on soil types, structure and fertility and natural ways of improving soil fertility. We discussed making compost, using different types of manure, where to find the main nutrients, Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potassium from natural sources, bed design (mainly trench beds, but also eco-circles, keyhole beds and shallow trenches) and liquid manures.

This was followed by a practical session of filling trench beds and constructing the small shade net tunnel over the beds when completed.



Figure 3: Above left: Filling the 5m by 1m trench beds with organic material: manure, dried material and green or wet material and sol in layers. Above centre: Placing the tunnel template over the bed to measure where the arches would be placed and Above right: bending the metal arches (foreground) and sewing the netting together (background) in preparation for putting up the tunnel.

Figure 4: Right: Putting up the arches by pushing them into the holes prepared, note the two end arches already have their netting sewn on and Far-Right: Finalising the anchoring lines once the arches have been put up and the netting pulled over and sewn onto the frames.



This was followed by a session on mixed cropping, discussing the principles of inter cropping, crop rotation, pest repellent plants and positive plant associations. Small groups spent some time designing beds with crop combinations according to these principles and then the seedlings brought were planted in the trench beds-These were a mixture of herbs, flower and vegetables including for example marigolds, mustard spinach, coriander, parsley, thyme, lemon grass, spring onions, kale, lettuce and chillies. Figure 5: Right: AFRA youth presenting their crop combinations in their beds to plenary and Far right: Tema discussing with the group the planting of a bed to a mixture of crops – crop compatibility and spacing are important considerations.



The third day was given to finalising the tunnel and planting the trench beds. Presentations and discussion sessions were held on Natural pest and disease control and demonstrations were done for two pest control brews (Chilli, garlic and soap and onion with paraffin). In addition, liquid manure preparation was demonstrated, and a foliar feed was prepared which contains a wide range of 'ingredients' and is the organic version of a liquid feed for plants.

Participants were all provided with training manuals and handouts in both English and isiZulu.

Below a short summary of training review comments from the participants:

- > We learnt a lot about tunnels, natural pest and disease control and how to control moles,
- > Learning about the brews was good, this will lead to less use of chemicals on our side,
- MDF has helped the community a lot by brining Conservation Agriculture and now they are also doing this. We will be growing a lot of health, beautiful crops. You love us and we appreciate that,
- > Thanks for the food we ate well,
- > We would love more trainings like this,
- We learnt about soil types and how to make a garden and had a lovely time visiting this community (AFRA youth who stayed over in Ozwathini),
- > We want to thank AFRA who gave us this opportunity. We will definitely implement what we have learnt here,
- We should encourage more youth to do this kind of work as it is worthwhile, and they need to take over form the older members.

1.2 ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Att. R.Z.	1	DAY	<u> </u>		25/03/2021
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