

## Integrated Initiative in support of Urban and Peri-Urban Horticulture in Namibia

The important role of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA) is now being recognized in the international arena, especially its contribution to the lives of people in and around the towns and cities that are unemployed or underemployed.

The Government of Namibia and Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations (FAO) launched a joint project entitled “Integrated Initiative in support of Urban and Peri-Urban Horticulture in Namibia (UPH) funded by the Belgium government.

### Project Mission

- Contributing to food security by improving access to high quality fresh horticultural produce at household level all throughout the year
- Promoting employment and income for the less endowed population in the Urban and Peri-Urban environment.



*The Minister outlined the importance of the project such as food security in the household and high quality fresh produce.*

### Project Objectives

- Secure the access to natural resources (land, water,etc.)
- Secure high quality and safety of horticultural produce
- Secure the institutional capacity for a sustainable development of UPA in Namibia
- Secure the impact of the UPA initiative

### Institutional set up and Project Partners.

The project is hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) and more specifically under the Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services (DEES). An Agricultural Extension Officer, Ms Paulina

Shiyelekeni, at MAWF is the National Coordinator responsible for the overall co-ordination of the project activities and directly interacts with FAO and project partners for the implementation of the project work plan. Two Agricultural Extension Technicians each from Windhoek and Rundu, FAO / UNV project co-ordinator are attached to the project to monitor field activities and interact with project beneficiaries on a daily basis.

### The following are the project partners:

- Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture (demonstration & training)
- Ministry of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development (beneficiaries groups identification and community mobilization)
- Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (beneficiaries groups identification and community mobilization)
- Mashare Agricultural Development Institute (demonstration & training)
- Agri-Gro (seeds & fertilizers)
- Starke Ayres (seeds & fertilizers)
- Agra (seeds, tools & fertilizers)
- Sinclair Services (irrigation equipment & tools)
- Pupkewitz (tools & instruments)
- Dessert Green (horticultural pro-



*Honourable Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and FAO country representative Mr. M. Mokati visited the Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Project at the Youth Multi Purpose Centre in Katutura, Windhoek.*



*Group of women preparing micro-garden table at Family Hope Centre in Katutura*

- others:
- Integrated production and protection management techniques
  - Micro-garden system
  - Micro-irrigation techniques
  - Cultivation of improved and adapted varieties

ducers & hydroponics)

- Fruits & Veg City (wholesaler)
- Bio Dynamics (instruments & fertilizers)

**Target Project beneficiaries**

**The primary project beneficiaries are:**

- Urban slum dwellers, landless and marginal land farmers
- Previously disadvantaged group members
- Resource poor families
- Unemployed and underemployed
- Weak / old

**Technical specifications.**

The project is so far hosting six beneficiaries' group's gardens in Windhoek and in Rundu, which serve as demonstration plots for the respective communities. The project is farmer-participatory in design.

All technologies are evaluated at the demonstration plots prior to transfer to individual households or families in that community.

These technologies include among

**Advantages of urban horticulture production (micro-garden system):**

- Water usage efficiency
- Less insects and diseases



*Fresh lettuces ready for market and plant roots being which grows only in water mixed with nutrients solution.*

- Require less effort
  - Weak/old can also do it
- The project is providing the beneficiary groups for the beginning with the following materials:
- Vegetable seeds;
  - Fruit tree planting materials;
  - IPP compatible agro-chemicals, and
  - Small tool implements and equip-

ment.

**Key result area**

**1.1 Project delivery (Urban horticulture & home-based food garden)**

The Hope garden group is developing into one of the leading projects in Katutura which is situated on ±300m<sup>2</sup> of land. This project is made up of youth volunteers and they are all unemployed. A youth officer, Dawid Gawaseb, in the Ministry of Youth, National Services, Sport and Culture initiated the project.

They started 9 months ago, and the group asked UPH project to advice and support. Our field workers worked with the group and helped them start production, said Ms. Shiyelekeni, National Project Coordinator. To date this group serves as one of the demonstration and a train-

ing plot.

**1.2 Resource support.**

Supply of basic agricultural and horticultural inputs to the different beneficiary groups. The project is also supplying manure to the gardens.

**1.3 Training**

Vegetable gardening, horticulture courses, micro-gardening, low-pressure irrigation, and composting are all courses on offer.

**1.4 Organizational building**

To empower emerging groups to

become more independent. A workshop was held as a platform where all project representatives were invited to share information on how best to run the project. Delegates from MAWF, FAO-Namibia and project partners were also present.

**1.5 Networking and partnership.**

To maximize all-round service delivery to target groups, the project envisages in the near future to expand the micro-garden, nutrition education concepts to hospitals, schools and prison in order to have great impact

**1.6 Research, monitoring and evaluation**

To improve on practice, delivery and sustainability, substrates are accessible and cheap: crops that grow well in Katutura soil: establish major diseases and pests free crops: minimum water and fertilizer requirements: introduce a system where the best garden will receive a prize.

**1.7 Financial and organizational Sustainability.**


To provide practices and techniques that are cost effective.



*The beneficiaries preparing their seedling trays*



*Seedlings ready to be transplanted.*

*During site visit at Dordabis resettlement, the delegates were amazed about the progress made and started buy some fresh lettuce. looking on are the beneficiaries of the project.* 



*Measuring out the field for planting in rows and spacing.*



*Youth group preparing their demonstration plot at Windhoek youth Multi-Purpose Centre.*





*Two different hydroponic system. On left illustrates how plants grow only in a medium of nutrients and water. In the middle is the medium of gravel, little water and nutrients showing plants can also grow in such medium.*



*Mr. Albert Fosso explaining the transplanting methods to the youth.*



*Some people bought fresh produce at the Youth Multi Purpose Centre after hearing and seeing the good results of the project in the urban areas.*



*Visitors to the project are Messrs. P. Shiyelekeni, the national project coordinator (in red shirt), S. Hausiku based at Rundu (in blue jeans), W. Baudoin from Belgium (white shirt) and A. Fosso, the UNV volunteer and the project coordinator.*

**If need more information on Integrated Initiative in Support of Urban and Peri-Urban Horticulture Development. Contact the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry**

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*Micro-garden table with mature lettuce after six weeks*



*Women preparing the micro-garden tables at Family Hope Centre.*



*Mr. Sebastian Hausiku , the Senior Agricultural Extension Technician showing the egg plant fruit produced from the micro-garden.*



*Sweet corn crop successfully grown after the beneficiaries received training how to plant in rows and create proper spacing.*



*A Happy group of beneficiaries of Dordabis Resettlement harvested where they have sown.*



*Mr. Gerhard Kanguvi, the Senior Agricultural Extension Technician, who is doing the daily visits to the project sites and interacts with the beneficiaries in the urban and peri- urban areas in the Khomas Region.*



*Mr. Mokati talking to the youth about the future expansion of the project, food security and employment opportunities amongst the youth across the country.*



*Transplanting time.. here the woman is transplanting the seedlings in rows.*



*Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable Dr. Nickey Iyambo, (right) congratulated the horticultural expert, United Nation Volunteer Mr. Albert Fosso (left) of a job well done during the project site visits at the Youth Multi-Purpose Centre Katutura ,Windhoek*



*These ones grow very well...Mr. Albert Fosso, the project coordinator and UNV volunteer of the project, explaining to the on lookers..*



*Ms. Paulina P. Shiyelekeni, National Project Coordinator is responsible for negotiation and implementation of the urban and peri-urban (agriculture) horticultural development in Namibia.*