

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME

NEW PROJECT APPLICATION - 2003

1. PROJECT TITLE

Ndwedwe Organic Vegetable Development Project

2. NAME OF COMMUNITY GROUP \ ORGANISATION

Makhuluseni Organic Farmers Association

Is this group registered? Y / N Registration Number :

3. CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS PROJECT

Name :

Address :

Phone : Fax :

Cell : E-mail :

4. PROJECT LOCATION

Nearest Town : Ndwedwe & Tongaat

Size of area covered : Approximately 50 ha

Site : Long. : -29.54719 (S) Lat. : 30.89630 (E)

5. FUNDING DURATION

Starting date : April 2004

Anticipated completion date : March 2005

6. PROJECT SUMMARY

The Makhuluseni Organic Farmers Association wishes to set up a water efficient crop production system, which is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. Makhuluseni have received some support in starting this from the KZN Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Community members have been trained in Permaculture and rainwater harvesting, and preliminary rainwater harvesting designs have been completed.

The primary arable area, totalling some 50 hectares which is available to Makhuluseni, was used for cultivation of casava more than 20 years ago. This area is between the Umhloti River and a district road that runs parallel to the river. There is evidence of substantial terracing of land for the casava cultivation. However, the majority of this land is not utilized, save for two small community gardens initiated by the KZN Department of Agriculture & Environmental Affairs. The terrain beyond the district road rises steeply to towards a main ridge which is bisected by several primary ridges and valleys that slope towards the district road. Makhuluseni has established some rudimentary fence lines alongside the upper side of the district road in order to keep cattle and goats away from the community gardens. Two areas of approximately 2 hectares each have now been identified within the total 50 hectares for implementation of the pilot project that is funded by the KZN Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

This application is now for the second phase, which aims to rehabilitate the full 50 ha area under water efficient organic management to its full potential. Rainwater harvesting structures will include; three small catchment dams to store water high enough up that the main arable fields can be gravity irrigated from the dams; diversion and irrigation drains; road crossings; swales (dead level contour bunds). The initial 20 homesteads assisted this year will be helped to consolidate their homestead production areas, and 20 additional homesteads will be assisted with initial rainwater harvesting and permaculture designs. *Jatropha* (for bio-diesel), Pigeon Pea (for windbreaks) and Vetiver (to hold the swales) will be planted. An extensive *Jatropha* belt is planned alongside the river for erosion control and to keep cattle out from the community across the river, and, a thinner *Jatropha* fence line will be used alongside the district road.

7. BUDGET SUMMARY

	Community Group & local contributions	Provincial govt. & other secured govt. contributions	Funding sought from NLP	Total Item Cost
Totals for 2003\2004				
Totals for 2004\2005	R100,000	R250,000	R1,679,800	R2,029,800
Totals for 2005\2006				
Grand Total	R100,000	R250,000	R1,679,800	R2,029,800

8 (a) PROJECT ISSUES AND BACKGROUND

The Makhuluseni group has long been scheming how to utilize the full potential of their land that was used for casava production some 20 years ago. Only two small community gardens have been established on this 50 ha tract of land which was extensively terraced during the casava years. The primary reason that this 50 ha tract of land has not been used is the lack of good irrigation and the threat of cattle and goats invading the land from the community across the river. Makhuluseni has benefited from the training in Permaculture \ organic farming that has been funded from the KZN Department of Economic Development & Tourism and now have newfound enthusiasm to develop all their arable land.

Makhuluseni realise that water is a major limiting factor in their agricultural production, hence the need for rainwater harvesting and organic farming, which is what they have been waiting for. They wish to keep the land for traditional crops, and do not want to use fertilisers and poisons. They have the support of the South East regional director, Mr Ntleko, who has allocated an Extension Officer for the area to promote organic farming. This officer has also received training in Permaculture and rainwater harvesting.

Makhuluseni have experience in cropping, especially with potatoes and vegetables, although yields have been low. They have been advised that soil acidity, exchangeable aluminium and soil nutrient levels need to be checked, and a scientific strategy must be developed to provide adequate nutrients and water. Organic certification and marketing are the other elements that will need to be addressed.

8 (b) PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Expand Pilot Organic Project (from 4 ha and 20 homesteads) to 50 ha and 40 homesteads through the following objectives:-

1. Land Use Management Plan.
2. Keyline water management & rainwater harvesting systems.
3. Development of 50 ha of arable land.
4. Development of 40 homestead gardens.
5. Establish erosion control systems.
6. Set up manure harvesting and composting systems.
7. Introduce Fruit & Nut trees.
8. Institutional strengthening & marketing of Small Grower Group.
9. Management, Training & Supervision.

9. PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The preparation of the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP) is the first critical task that will involve the entire community (some 40 households) to plan their area in consultation with a Project Team of farm design specialists. The preparation of LUMP will involve men, women and young people in the process, and will facilitate the vision building exercise for their land, from which, a detailed farm design plan will emanate for implementation. Although a project time table has been prepared based on the initial LUMP Concept, the finalisation of the detailed plan in consultation with the community will refine the project time table.

The implementation of LUMP will see each of the 40 odd homesteads and the commonage areas with a holistic water conservation plan totalling some 50 hectares of arable land that will be certified organic.

10. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Benefits should spread from the initial 20 homesteads of 120 people to 40 homesteads and 240 people. Homesteads will be able to move beyond food security and produce a healthy surplus for the growing market in organic products. The entire area of some 50 ha will be certified organic and the produce therefrom will be able to command a premium price at farmers markets and retailers such as, Woolworths and Pick-n-Pay. It is estimated that the average income per ha for organic products will be about R30,000, or, R1,500,000 for the entire community, which translates to approximately R37,500 income per annum per homestead.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT

The cornerstone of this project is based on community participation for the preparation of LUMP. For this reason, the community will be part of the decision making process, and as such, will be imbued with a sense of ownership of the process and the infrastructure arising therefrom. In any event, the nature of the infrastructure will be based upon sustainable technologies wherein maintenance factors will be low. The threat of cattle and goat invasion of the arable lands will also be contained through the establishment of a *Jatropha* belt alongside the river and another *Jatropha* fence line above the district road. The *Jatropha* barrier will also contain the cattle of Makhuluseni above the district road on the upper pastures of the valleys which will also have improved soils due to the water harvesting systems. Furthermore, as the income levels for each homestead increases, there will be a natural tendency to safeguard produce and infrastructure.

13. SUMMARY PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

	A	B	C	D=A+B+C
COST ITEM	Community Group & local contributions	Provincial govt. & other secured govt. contributions	Funding sought from NLP	Total Item Cost

1. EMPLOYMENT COSTS

Salaries \ wages (excluding casual labour)				
Consultancy \ Contractor		R132,000	R438,200	
Other Employment Costs		R27,000		
Employment Costs Sub-Total		R159,000	R438,200	

2. OPERATING COSTS

Casual labour	R100,000		R241,600	
Evaluation costs & completion report			R33,600	
Travel		R10,000		
Equipment hire			R241,600	
Other Operating Costs		R10,000		
Operating Costs Sub-Total	R100,000	R20,000	R516,800	

3. CAPITAL COSTS

Other Operating Costs		R71,000	R724,800	
Operating Costs Sub-Total		R71,000	R724,800	

4. TOTAL FOR 2004 \ 2005

Operating Costs Sub-Total	R100,000	R250,000	R1,679,800	R2,029,800
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14. TRANSFER OF TOTALS FOR 2004/05 TO BUDGET SUMMARY IN SECTION 7

See Section 7.

15. SITE PLAN OR CATCHMENT MAP

See attached Farm Layout Concept Plan.

16. PROJECT FUNDING REQUIRED FOR 2 YEARS OR MORE

Not applicable.

17. GIVE DETAILS OF ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2005/06

Not applicable.

18. PROJECT FUNDING REQUIRED FOR 3 YEARS

Not applicable.

19. GIVE DETAILS OF ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2006/07

Not applicable.

20. TRANSFER OF TOTALS FROM FUNDING YEARS FROM 17 & 19 TO BUDGET SUMMARY IN SECTION 7

Not applicable

21. GIVE DETAILS OF OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROJECT

1. Name of Group	Department of Agriculture & Environmental Affairs
Name of contact & phone	
How will they contribute to the project?	Provision of extension services, and, periodic assistance with liming and equipment.
2. Name of Group	Ilembe District Municipality
Name of contact & phone	Mr. D. Mhlongo -
How will they contribute to the project?	Provision of institutional leadership and management; ad hoc assistance with equipment needs; and, provision of seed and plant material where requested.

22. GIVE DETAILS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO YOUR GROUP\ ORGANISATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT

1. Name of Group	Newlands Mashu Permaculture Learning Centre
Name of contact & phone	Ms. N. Gasa -
How will they contribute to the project?	Provision of agricultural skills training, site planning and design, plant and seed material, on-site support and mentoring; and, institutional capacity building.
2. Name of Group	Rainman Landcare Foundation
Name of contact & phone	Mr. R. Auerbach -
How will they contribute to the project?	Provision of agricultural skills training, site planning and design, on-site support, and, facilitation of organic certification.
3. Name of Group	E. Gori & Associates
Name of contact & phone	Mr. E. Gori -
How will they contribute to the project?	Project management, and, site planning and design.

23. PROJECT LINKS WITH OTHER STRATEGIES

The full implementation of this National Landcare Project will ensure the following:-

- Adding value to initiative funded by the Department of Economic Development & Tourism by extending the net arable area for organic production in order to achieve economies of scale and substantial improvements in household incomes of the beneficiaries.
- Reducing rural poverty by maximising the latent productive capacity of impoverished households through the cultivation and supply of organic products to growing markets.
- Provision of landcare systems that preserve the catchments of this project and the ability of the terrain to sustain organic production and improved household incomes.

24. ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROJECT BY THE GROUP

The opportunity to seek funding from the National Landcare Programme arose as a result of the holistic concept farm plan which was prepared in consultation with the community. The funding from the Department of Economic Development & Tourism is only able to develop three areas of approximately 3 hectares each. However, the community wish to develop all the suitable land at their disposal. The holistic concept farm plan identified all areas to be developed and the extent of infrastructure needs. The community has also acknowledged that the holistic concept farm plan will need to be refined at the outset when the National Landcare project is implemented.

25. PROPONENT DECLARATION

I declare that the information given on this form is complete and correct and that the group is supportive of this project.

I understand that the information on this application form, excluding contact details, may be released for public information purposes.

Signature of representatives

Printed names of representatives

Position

Date : Date :

Phone : Phone :

26. TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY / GOVERNMENT / LANDOWNERS ENDORSEMENT

I am willing to have the activities described in this application carried out on land that I control and this does not conflict with the proposed land management practices or degrade environmental or cultural values.

Signature of representatives

Printed names of representatives

Position

Date : Date :

Phone : Phone :

27. CHECK REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS APPLICATION

Tick Box

- Budget summary in Section 7.
- All relevant questions answered.
- Copy of application made.
- Application is signed by proponents.
- Application is signed by representatives from the land owner.

FARM LAYOUT CONCEPT PLAN

12. PROJECT TIME TABLE AND WORK PLAN

Makhuluseni Farmers Association

1	2	3	4	5	6
Project Objectives	Outcomes	Project Activities & Methods	Completion Dates	Activity Costs	Funding Source
Pilot Organic Scheme					
Empowerment of SGG in organic farming systems	15 representatives trained.	Training in Permaculture \ organic farming techniques	Complete	R250,000	Department of Economic Development & Tourism
Site Planning	Delineation of pilot organic scheme & funding applications for extension of scheme.	Preliminary land use concept plan & funding applications.	Complete		
Site Establishment	Secure 4 ha of land for organic farming and assistance with development of 20 homestead gardens.	Establish rainwater harvesting systems, detention ponds & fencing, and, provide initial seed and plant material.	30 November 2003		
		Basic assistance to 20 homesteads through provision of tools, and seed & plant material.	15 December 2003		
Institutional capacity building.	Formalisation of SGG farmers association into a legal entity with a bank account and improved business approach towards organic farming.	Formalisation of farmers association	31 January 2004		
		Marketing and logistical arrangements for organic produce.	31 January 2004		
Organic Certification	Formal organic certification by an accredited organic institution.	Training of local organic inspectors.			
		Organic certification.	28 February 2004		
Management, Training & Supervision	Dedicated support to organic farmers during implementation.	Project management, site supervision & mentoring.	28 February 2004		

12. PROJECT TIME TABLE AND WORK PLAN

Makhuluseni Farmers Association

1	2	3	4	5	6
Project Objectives	Outcomes	Project Activities & Methods	Completion Dates	Activity Costs	Funding Source
Expand Pilot Organic Project (from 4 ha and 20 homesteads) to 50 ha and 40 homesteads					
Land Use Management Plan.	A holistic organic farm plan for 40 homesteads utilizing 50 ha of arable land	Participatory Land Use Planning. Design keyline and rainwater management systems. Prepare an implementation plan with detailed programme & budget	30 June 2004 31 May 2004 31 May 2004	R21,000 R42,000 R14,000	NLP NLP NLP
Keyline water management & rainwater harvesting systems	50 ha of land planned for sustainable water use.	Construct three high catchment dams to store water. Construct series of keyline detention ponds, diversion and irrigation channels. Construct road crossings for diversion \ irrigation channels.	30 September 2004 30 September 2004 31 October 2004	R300,000 R300,000 R50,000	NLP NLP NLP
Development of 50 ha of arable land	Expand Pilot Project from 3 ha to 50 ha	Rotavating of soil. Initial organic fertilizer and soil conditioning plants. Integrated pest management plants. Initial seedlings for mass production. Establish a Jatropha belt alongside the river and alongside the upper side of the gravel access road as protection against cattle (free seedlings). Install fencing protection against cattle & goats.	15 December 2004 31 January 2005 31 January 2005 28 February 2005 28 February 2005 31 January 2005	R35,000 R50,000 R20,000 R20,000 R10,000 R100,000	NLP NLP NLP NLP NLP NLP

12. PROJECT TIME TABLE AND WORK PLAN

Makhuliseni Farmers Association

1	2	3	4	5	6
Project Objectives	Outcomes	Project Activities & Methods	Completion Dates	Activity Costs	Funding Source
Development of 40 homestead gardens	Improvements and expansions to 40 homesteads with rainwater tanks and water efficient vegetable gardens.	Provision of 40 rainwater tanks	31 August 2004	R48,000	NLP
Establish erosion control systems	Swales with vetiver and wind breaks of Pigeon Pea & Jatropha.	Provision of a Permaculture starter pack of soil conditioning plants, herbs and vegetable seeds. Construct swales with vetiver grass.	31 August 2004	R8,000	NLP
Set up manure harvesting and composting systems.	Effective use of manure and compost systems for each homestead.	Establish wind breaks (Pigeon Pea, Jatropha, etc.)	30 November 2004	R125,000	NLP
Introduce Fruit & Nut trees	Provide homesteads with at least 10 fruit \ nut trees.	Establish kraals for livestock. Establish composting systems.	31 January 2005	R40,000	NLP
Institutional strengthening & marketing of SGG	Improved skills to SGG Farmers Association to take advantage of landcare development benefits.	Provision of small nursey for fruit & nut trees (Avos, Mangoes, etc.), complete with root stock. Provision of initial seedlings for homesteads.	30 November 2004	R40,000	NLP
Management, Training & Supervision	Dedicated support to organic farmers during implementation.	Set up effective marketing system. Business skills training. Examine potential of niche crops, eg, essential oil production, export variety avos, etc. Set up Internal Control System for Organic Certification. Project Management Contract administration & site supervision of engineering works On-site training in Permaculture \ organic farming techniques Mentoring of organic farmers	31 January 2005	R20,000	NLP
			28 February 2005	R14,000	NLP
			28 February 2005	R14,000	NLP
			31 March 2005	R14,000	NLP
			31 March 2005	R14,000	NLP
			31 March 2005	R14,000	NLP
			15 December 2004	R56,000	NLP
			15 December 2004	R14,000	NLP
			31 March 2005	R168,000	NLP
			Total NLP Funding	R1,679,800	

