











DECEMBER 2013 REPORT
Compiled by Kevin Johansson

OUR CURRENT GARDENS

GARDEN	TRAINERS	ATTENDEES	OUTCOMES
<p>McGregor – 53 Mill Street – Judy Eccles Cell; 082 779 2693</p> 			<p>This garden currently teaches composting techniques to members of the local community. Judy, who oversees the garden, is also establishing a satellite garden at a local skills centre, and is working with municipal authorities to set up home gardens. Presently, however, we do not have final figures for the number of people trained at this garden. Judy will also oversee the research program in Robertson.</p>
<p>Great Commission – 26 Mzwindile Rd – Khayelitsha Edward Pokomela Cell; 076 486 3541</p> 	3	11	<p>The vegetables from this garden will support Mrs Meintjies Day Center which offers rehabilitation for youths aged 16-34 years.</p>
<p>Oude Molen Garden Village –Alexander Road Ndabeni – John Kennedy Cell; 074 869 7290</p> 	3 (Two of these are Valkenberg patients who attend the garden training regularly as	1512	<p>This garden runs a number of projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The After School Programme: a daily afternoon programme from Mon – Fri for children aged 8 – 13. From Nov 2012 – Oct 2013 the garden trained 1497 children in this program.

	part of their rehabilitation program.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gaia Waldorf School: This is a sub-garden in Oude Molen garden that is run by 14 learners and their teacher. • The Valkenberg Psychiatric Hospital Programme: Valkenberg patients work in the garden as part of their occupational therapy program. This project is run by Peter, Bennett and Sam.
<p>Darling Focus – Cold Street – Darling Julia Albu Cell; 083 309 8283 Phillip van Breda – trainer</p> 	3	33	<p>This garden trains and supports Barney’s Angel Educare. It also trains people sent from the Ikutu Khoisan Project in the West Coast. This was originally one of our project gardens, established in 2010 and has been under preparation the past two years. It started training community members three months ago. Thus far, we know of 4 home gardens that have been initiated through this training.</p>
<p>Parish of All Saints – Dwars Street – Hopefield Rev Charles Williams Cell; 083 736 2136 Lizana de Jongh Cell; 073 100 0357</p> 	5	25	<p>With funds from Bread Line Africa and Department of Agriculture, a training container has recently been placed in this garden.</p> <p>Hope Farm, a rehabilitation center, also makes use of this garden and have now established gardens at their own premises.</p>
<p>Stellenbosch – Welgevallen Experimental Farm Suid-Wal Street, Stellenbosch University Brian Joffin Cell;072 380 1526</p>		42	<p>This garden will be part of the research program undertaken by Stellenbosch University in 2014.</p> <p>It has trained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 adults from Welgevallen • 4 adults and 12 children from South Peninsula School • 6 adults and 4 children from SEED Rocklands

				
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<p>Malmesbury – Ilinge Lethu Thusong Service Centre Hillary Balie Cell; 078 356 1864</p> 	2	64	<p>We took over this garden at the request of the request of Department Agriculture; the garden had died after they had invested a great deal in its infrastructure. Swartland Municipality was also actively involved in this garden.</p> <p>The garden serves the areas of Riverlands, Abbotsdale, Chatsworth, Goedgedacht and Tierfontein. So far, 20 town gardens have been initiated from this garden. We are also working to train a family of 15 disabled individuals from Fynbos Avenue in Tierfontein; these 15 trainees, however, are not included in the number presented here because we are looking to establish an independent garden for them and are currently negotiating with Swartland Municipality for this.</p>
<p>Edith Stevens Wetlands – Manenburg Lansdowne Road Christine Jansen Cell; 073 050 7483</p> 	4	Unknown	<p>This garden was quite active this year. We trained 4 trainers from Amy Bhiel Foundation who themselves run 14 project gardens. We also trained people from the Pedro Foundation, the Visilu Foundation and Sweet Well. There was a presentation at the Novalis Institute which showcased home gardens initiated from this training. Unfortunately we do not have final figures as the register was kept with Christine.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we will not be taking this garden forward because of a political dispute which has arisen between the Manenburg Community Centre and Luzann Isaacs, the Biodiversity Manager (Tel:</p>

			021 691 7375). The result has been that the site is now designated only for fynbos, not vegetable growing.
TOTAL NUMBERS	20	1687	These are figures we can verify but they are huge under-estimates since most trainers and trainees are not recorded.

GARDENS THAT WERE NOT DEVELOPED IN 2013

Riebeeck West	We received funds from Department of Agriculture for this garden to late, once the year had already passed. We thus decided to transfer the funds to the Malmesbury garden. We did, however, place tunnels at the school training area.
Franschhoek	There were two gardens in Franschhoek that we had intended to develop. One was under Archie Jefthas from Drakenstein Prison where we planned to support the youth rehabilitation programme. The second was at Bridge Academy where a garden was initiated and the school intended to develop an educational curriculum around it. This garden, however, was washed out in the recent rains. We have told both gardens to reapply for our support at a later time.
Chwayita Food Garden – Nogolide Feni Cell; 084 712 8602	This was a garden which applied for our support via connections with the Great Commission garden in Khayelitsha. The garden was already established and functioning. We placed tunnels in the garden and conducted some training with 30 attendees, but did not develop our involvement further. The garden is still functioning and is supplying produce to the local clinic.

Below are figures for the number of home gardens that have been started following training at our gardens. These figures represent only the gardens we know about; below we discuss challenges to gathering such data.

HOME GARDENS	
Darling	4
Hopefield	4
Malmesbury	20
Edward – Khayelitsha	2
Edith Stevens	12
Chwayita	10
TOTAL	52

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED

1. Department of Agriculture and other funders were late in providing promised funds for the setting up of gardens and commencement of training. We have thus decided not to take on any gardens until all infrastructure is already in place.
2. We also have challenges with regard to monitoring and evaluation. As such, we struggle to gather impact data related to the following:
 - 2.1.1 No of trainees: The numbers presented above are those recorded in registers kept by trainers at our gardens. However, there are a number of reasons why these figures are huge under-estimates. Firstly, people often arrive for training outside of the designated, formal 'training days' recorded in the register. Secondly, trainers often don't record those who do attend official training days. A more disciplined system for recording trainees is needed. Thus far, only Oude Molen Children's Village is successful in this regard.
 - 2.1.2 Sales from gardens: For the same reasons as those mentioned above, produce sales that gardens make are also not recorded regularly and thus we have not been able to ascertain how much income each garden is able to generate.
 - 2.1.3 No of home gardens: The numbers of home gardens provided above reflect only those that we know about. However, we currently do not have the means to follow the impact of training beyond our gardens and in people's homes. Our only records presently consist of pictures that people have brought back to us on their cell phones to show us the home gardens they have started.
3. We have also struggled, during training days, with irregular attendance. Trainees come when they are able and we often have different people coming for each session. As such, trainers have to keep revising previous sessions for those who missed them. The curriculum has thus become erratic.

We will be addressing these and other challenges experienced at our start up workshop in the New Year.

PROJECTS INITIATED THIS YEAR TO BE FOLLOWED THROUGH INTO 2014.

Below is an overview of ideas and plans for new initiatives in 2014.

Farming God's Way	Carl and I attended a training session in September 2013 which was designed for accrediting field trainers. A 3 hector small holding has been purchased in Hopefield and we plan to establish it as a FGW training area, and a FBFA garden. There are similarities between the methodologies of FBFA and FGW (although FGW suits the small-scale emerging commercial farmer) and we would like to experiment with combining the two here.
South African Education Project	Brian will be working with SAEP to help them establish their own training garden in Philippi because they want to include vegetable gardens in their school curriculum.

<p>Research with Stellenbosch University and Hearts of Men</p>	<p>Two research programmes are being initiated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. University of Stellenbosch will be researching our models of gardening. Their research aims to assess the best mix for pest control, the best economic sustainability model, and ways of improving nutritional output. (Michael-John Freeborough 021 808 4737 University Stellenbosch Agri Sciences) 2. The second research project, which still needs to be confirmed, will take place in Robertson and McGregor. It is an action research project which aims to introduce a new intervention technique (combining vegetable gardening, men’s emotional development counselling, and an entrepreneurial and savings scheme called SaveAct) and assess its impact on the whole community. The study will involve about 50 men and their families. Robertson Municipality has given us an established training garden to use for this study and we have approached Julian May a Professor at UWC who has shown interest and is now awaiting research funds. (021 959 3846). Julian is highly regarded in the field of rural poverty and is himself a member of the McGregor community.
<p>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (Adriaan Conradie 021 808 7674)</p>	<p>We are working with the Department in our research project with Stellenbosch University and are also currently training their field officers. We have also taken over one of their gardens in Malmesbury. We are busy developing a training manual, with the assistance of Elsenburg, which will also be used to train our own trainers and our aim is to get the manuals accredited with the Department. Our aim is to be recognized by Department Agriculture as a service provider and accredited training organisation.</p>