



Bashumi Project Profile



Purpose

The project is intended to help mostly women and youth to put food on their table through sustainable farming. Secondly, the project teaches its members food production and basic farming skills. Lastly we encourage and assist participants to sell and trade the food products as a means of extra income. This is done by selling to people in the community as well as becoming full-time suppliers to vendors who sell vegetables for a living.



History

The project began as a partnership between three elderly women and the current chairperson (Phillipine Pila). The women were tilling the ground at a school in Soshanguve Block L but had no money to buy seeds or seedlings. Phillipine was interested in working with the school to grow her educational programme which at the time operated in Soshanguve, Mamelodi and Stinkwater. Phillipine offered her time and bought seeds for the women and the project was born.

One year down the line, more women have joined, better skills have been acquired and the project operates in two locations and vegetables are being successfully produced and sold by participants



Produce

In 2017 we bought and successfully produced cabbage, spinach, beetroot kale and onions and seeds for carrots. All members managed to get a share of the vegetables for consumption and the group made pickled vegetables from the cabbage and carrots produced, and the money made was used to buy insecticides (e.g. malasol). The same vegetables and slightly more are being produced in 2018 as well. Furthermore pumpkins, watermelons and mielies (corn) was planted, unfortunately due to being planted late and problems with accessing the premises during December holidays, the produce was of lower quality.



Current

The current garden is around 33m x 39m in dimensions. Each vegetable-bed is about 1m in breath. We have 8 beds of spinach that are 24m long. 2 beds of beetroot 24m long, 10 beds of kale 10m long, 17 beds of cabbage – 5 are 10m long and 12 are 14m long. We have 7 beds of onion, 4 are 24m long and 3 are 10m long. We have 3 beds of mustard spinach 10m long and tomato is planted on the edge of the garden.



Development and Growth

In 2018 February we moved to a bigger site. Currently onion, cabbage, beetroot, carrot, kale, and onion are being successfully produced. Kale and mustard spinach have already been harvested for consumption and selling.

The project has grown in its methods of farming and was joined by an experienced trainer in farming and food production such that all our current crops in 2018 have been successfully planted and grown and very few are near harvesting.



Future Plans

We intend to continue and expand the food processing aspect of the business and producing more pickled vegetables. We intend to train participants in vegetable preservation within food processing. Additionally, we are about to buy layer chickens so that we can sell eggs as well.

Our mission is to move beyond subsistence farming and go towards running a commercial project. With this we can create jobs, improve the members' livelihood and sustainably support old age homes, and orphanages in the community.



Contact

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