

Case 7: E S W A T I N I (Swaziland)

National Integrated Tinkhundla Fruit Tree Programme (NITFTP)

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The NITFTP project was started to become an extension of the existing programme called “One Homestead One Product” which is motivating and facilitating the concept of every homestead to have at least one income generating product. The project seeks to cover and empower every homestead to plant a minimum of 10 fruit trees per homestead (seedlings given as seed capital to all homesteads), 100 trees per school for schools and 50 trees per Neighbourhood Care Point (NCP) for all NCP’s. The approach to be used to implement the project will be the Cluster approach where every homestead joins a cluster of 10 homesteads.

Implementing Organization	Small Enterprise Development Company (SEDCO) Add : P.O. Box A186, Swazi Plaza, Mbabane, Eswatini. Email : dubep@sedco.co.sz WEB URL : www.sedco.biz
Funding Source	Various Sponsors
Implementing Period	12/2014 – to date
Project site	Eswatini (Countrywide)

Key Words: Clusters, Homesteads, Seed capital



Fruit tree orchard at school:
School children taking care of the citrus trees in the school orchard.



Produce at harvesting:
Mr. Mamba and his wife, showing the harvest from their orchard.

Background of the Project

The NITFTP project was started in 2014 by the Ministry of Commerce in collaboration with other Ministries and was later handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture to continue with its implementation in 2017. The project is targeting the 70% of the population that is living in rural areas on Swazi Nation Land with access to free agricultural farming land and in some cases free water supply. It also exploited the fact that Swaziland has different climatic conditions for the different ecological regions which allows a wide range of fruit trees to be grown. The rationale for choosing fruit trees amongst possible crops that could have been grown was the fact that the country spent more than E70 million to import fruits that are eaten locally in a year whilst the country has suitable climatic conditions for fruit tree production. This was started as a poverty combating initiative through wealth creation whilst also promoted as a climate justice initiative for painting Swaziland green. The beneficiaries of the NITFTP included households, schools and Neighbourhood Care Points. The project empowers every homestead to plant a minimum of 10 fruit trees per homestead (seedlings given as seed capital to all homesteads), 100 trees per school for schools and 50 trees per Neighbourhood Care Point (NCP) for all NCP's. The project implementation approach is the Cluster approach where every homestead joins a cluster of 10 homesteads growing the same type of fruit tree for easy marketing.

Overall Goal and Objectives of the Project

Goal: Create a critical mass of relatively diverse fruit trees by Swazi homesteads leading to increased food availability and income generation hence creating wealth and eradicating extreme hunger and poverty whilst promoting a green Swaziland.

Objective 1: Exploit the country's ecological zones which are suitable for the growing of most of the fruit types.;

Objective 2: Establish orchards with a minimum of 10 same type fruit trees in every Swazi homestead using high value seedlings that will fruit effectively within 3-4years.

Challenges and limitations of good practice implementation

Some of the challenges included the frequent occurrence of drought which has increased the mortality rate of fruit trees. Another challenge is choice of fruit trees where people prefer fruit trees that are not favoured by the climatic conditions. At the end of the day it was the climatic conditions that was considered for the choice of fruit tree and some households neglected the trees.

Major Activities

- ✓ Community mobilization
- ✓ Trainings on planting and caring for fruit tree.
- ✓ Procurement of tree seedlings
- ✓ Seedling distribution and planting
- ✓ Trainings on fruit tree management
- ✓ Training on marketing and Fruit tree processing

Direct Outputs from the Project

- ✓ Fruits of different types

Indirect Impact of the Project

- ✓ Improved diet for children in Neighbourhood Care Points.
- ✓ Increased household income

Intervention of Central/Local Government

- ✓ Various Government Ministries (Deputy Prime Ministers Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development, Ministry of Commerce and Trade) came together to form a Steering Committee that guides the implementation of the project.
- ✓ Government Ministries seconded staff to provide technical expertise during the implementation of activities

Way Forward

A drip irrigation system has been adopted to counter the drought effects especially water shortage in winter. Continuous engagement and training has helped change the attitudes of communities towards selection of fruit tree types and as a result, the communities are the ones helping programme implementers on the suitable fruit trees for the different areas. The communities have acquired more fruit trees on top of the 10 given seedlings as seed capital for the project.

Reference Documents/Materials

- ✓ NITFTP Report for July 2017
- ✓ Fruit tree map cover for Swaziland

Resource Persons

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**Field Demonstration:**

A demonstration during a field day on management of the fruit trees by the extension officer.

