

# South Africa



**Organization:** Ruliv

**Location:** Amatole Basin, Eastern Cape, South Africa

**Solution:** Increasing resilience to climate change through creating integrated and sustainable food gardens

**Factsheet Period:** First round of UNDP-AFCIA funding (16 months);  
Second round of UNDP AFCIA funding (12 months)



In the Amatole Basin community, South Africa, an organization creates integrated, sustainable food gardens - @RULIV

In the Eastern Cape's former homeland areas, climate change, insufficient potable water, and ongoing drought conditions have created significant challenges for agriculture, particularly the cultivation of dryland crops like maize. Despite the region's agricultural potential, most households depend on government grants, which fall short in addressing the rising costs of living. To tackle these issues, Ruliv develops food gardens in the Amatole Basin, aiming to enhance food security in both the short and medium term. Focuses on diversifying crop and livestock production, improving access to land and essential resources such as water storage and quality seeds. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of comprehensive training and capacity building for farmers, while actively engaging the community, especially women and youth, to ensure inclusive participation and ownership.



## Key achievements

- 1 hectare of crops planted and harvested for consumption and sale.
- 3 active gardens developed with the Mqhayise site being most sustainable with over 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land under active crop cultivation and 6 women engaged.
- 6 men participants actively involved in the beekeeping project.
- 41 community members (46% women) trained in organic farming, composting, soil management, vegetable cultivation and beekeeping. Demonstration gardens were established to apply these skills.
- At least 50% women's participation achieved across all activities.
- 1 hectare of land improved, contributing to reduced food insecurity.
- 1 water tank installed at Mqhayise garden site.
- 12 men and 9 women scholars benefited from outreach and awareness.
- Women managing the Mqhayisi garden received support to form a cooperative, strengthening long-term sustainability and local enterprise.



## Social impact

- Prominent women leadership in Amatole Basin, with women playing key community roles.
- Extensive community consultations and stakeholder engagement.
- Support of household food security and savings on food purchases through the gardens.





### Adaptation benefits

- The introduction of food gardens helped revive farming in the Eastern Cape, encouraging communities to return to agriculture.
- Developed flexible, community-led solutions that adapt to local climate challenges, ensuring long-term resilience and sustainable benefits.
- Water harvesting, beekeeping, food gardens and long-term crops (with a life span of five years or more) are adaptation solutions which communities can sustain.



### Replication potential

- Connected to existing training centres and agricultural input sites, with potential for scaling the model to 13 neighbouring villages.
- Potential to scale beekeeping and organic honey harvesting in the Eastern Cape.
- Short to medium-term solution with a 5-year lifespan for food gardens, making these food gardens easily adoptable by other communities.
- Expecting scaling to 16 additional sites in the Amatole Basin region. Each site will expand to operational capacities of 25+ hives.



### Innovation

- Participatory approach leverages community engagement and local resources.
- Focus on agro-ecological organic farming and community resources.
- Protection of gardens from livestock, using indigenous vegetation for pollination.
- 3 by-products developed: compost, worm tea and vermicompost.



### Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US\$125,000 (initial grant) and US\$80,000 (scaling grant).

### Investability

Revenue per year	<p>Revenue Streams include vegetable sales, processed foods, honey, compost and seedlings. (Vegetable sales contributed to household income by approx. 25% increase and decrease in household vulnerability index by 12%.)</p> <p>Revenues are projected to grow from ZAR 12,050 in Year 1 to ZAR 71,850 in Year 5.</p> <p>Breakeven is expected in Year 3 per site, with margins improving annually.</p>
Sustaining criteria	<p>The solution aims to support farmers in the co-op to start generating enough income to become self-sustaining upon grant conclusion, with beekeeping to become a potential income opportunity for community members</p>



To read their story, visit [UNDP-AFCIA](#)

To watch their video, click [here](#)

To contact the initiative, visit [Ruliv](#)