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)

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

IIn 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

- 10,000m^2 of crops planted and harvested for consumption and sale
- 29 community members trained in organic farming
- At least 50% women's participation achieved across all activities
- 1 hectare of land improved, contributing to reduced food insecurity

Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US$125,000 (initial grant)

Social impact

- Prominent female leadership in Amathole Basin, with women playing key community roles
- Extensive community consultations and stakeholder engagement

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

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

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 Eastern Cape
- Short to medium-term solution with a 5-year lifespan for food gardens. With a five-year lifespan, these food gardens can be easily adopted by other communities

Investability	
Revenue per year	Planting and harvesting revenue to be calculated at the end of season.
Sustaining criteria	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.

ADAPTATION FUND Climate Innovation Accelerator

ADAPTATION FUND

To learn more, visit UNDP-AFCIA

To contact the initiative, visit Ruliv