



Komeho Namibia Development Agency

The Kalahari Garden Project Newsletter July 2008



Agnes Tsame in her garden, post 18

The Kalahari Garden Project now has a total of twenty nine gardens spread between three villages. Eighteen gardens are yielding produce, while the others have only recently been constructed and are either awaiting the germination of winter vegetables or the next sowing season in August.

Twenty four garden owners (and their families) have been trained in both summer and winter vegetable gardening. They are currently experimenting with winter crops, including beetroot, carrots, cauliflower, onions, peas and green vegetables such as chard, cabbage and kale.

Over the course of the year the project has made improvements to the water delivery system in each village, in order to try and ensure a reliable water supply. The systems in place continue to work well and we are providing ongoing support to the community management of these systems. As we move into two additional villages over the coming months, we will be making the same changes to their water systems. These include installing water tanks, new pipelines, taps and drip kits for the gardens and fixing any existing leaks in the main line.

The garden project local team has recently expanded and now includes two field workers from the region who are employed full-time and four San garden representatives in training. The full-time team have been trained in leadership, project management, garden construction and maintenance. The representatives are receiving training and mentoring in garden management and project supervision and will form a local garden project committee. They are responsible for conveying feedback between the beneficiaries and the project team and assisting the beneficiaries in finding solutions to technical and/or social problems associated with the project.

The field team, with whom the trainees are currently working includes Abraham Motlhaping (Assistant Coordinator) and Joseph Bessa (field technician). This on-site team are supervised by GDF's regional coordinator H Wells and Komeho staff, Gabriel Hangara and Bethel Kazapua.



Winter seedling bed

Our plans for the rest of 2008 include the following:

- Improve the water delivery system in Corridors 2, 4, and 15
- Build twenty more gardens throughout the project sites
- Plan and create a kitchen garden at the local primary school
- Conduct garden training workshops for beneficiary households from Corridors 2, 4 and 15
- Train the garden representatives and establish a functioning garden project committee
- Begin the documentation of San knowledge of wild edible plants
- Develop an indigenous vegetation demonstration garden
- Continue monitoring and evaluation of the project (e.g. household and food security surveys), statistically analyse the data and produce a report on the influence of the gardens on food security and nutrition
- Hold a workshop on the importance of improved nutrition for HIV infection related diseases
- Continue developing a guide to vegetable gardening in the Kalahari

Until the next newsletter we would like to thank you all for your continued support of this project.



Anna Barase in her winter garden, post 18



Joseph Bessa and garden representative Aaron Barman