Permaculture and Food Security

This form of farming is ideally suitable for schools and community gardens as it is water-friendly, depends on few external inputs, and helps to improve the local environment by using natural, indigenous resources to maintain soil quality.

The model is not only applicable to rural communities as within our "urban" precincts there exists a massive need, and much under-utilized space.

Food Sovereignty for the masses is the first step towards building a nation that is strong, from root to tip.



Mama Betty's Story:

"I am Mama Betty Sangweni, I am 48 years old and I was born in Vryheid. Me and my husband we decided to move from Vryheid to Dukuduku at Khula Village in 1992...This permaculture system of garden is helping a lot because we are living in a sandy soil area and it was difficult to make a garden as we have to buy manure and fertilizers so that we can have a nice garden. Because of the permaculture garden me, children and granddaughters don't sleep hungry, we always having food to eat in the garden and I sometimes supply my neighbours Spinach so that they can eat. I also encourage everyone to have a permaculture garden at home"



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Agro-Ecological Farming Practices NQF Level 2

The African Conservation Trust is proud to present the Agro-Ecological Farming Practices course, an accredited National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 2 course. The course has been developed by ACT's Institute of Conservation Agriculture and on completion individuals will possess the skills to create self-sustaining gardens which work with the natural environment and require minimum input costs.

The 14 credit course is divided into 3 modules which are covered in a 2 to 3 week period. These credits come from 3 unit standards from the National Certificate: Mixed Farming Systems (South African Qualifications Authority ID No. 48977), these credits would count towards this qualification.









Agro-Ecological Farming Practices

Module 1: Interpret and Illustrate Permaculture Principles

(SAQA US 116109 - 5 Credits)

- Definition of permaculture and its benefits
- Ethical foundations of permaculture
- Principles of permaculture: working with nature, use of natural resources, recycling
- Planning and designing of gardens
- Preparation of beds: pit beds, trench beds, mandala beds and terrace beds

Module 2: Recognise and Identify the Basic Functions of the Ecological Environment

(SAQA US 116064 – 4 Credits)

- Understanding an ecosystem and its components
- Climate components (sunlight, wind, rain, frost and micro-climates)
- Natural resources including waste resources and alternative/renewable energy resources
- Use of sustainable agricultural principles such as natural pest control and crop rotation
- Recognising and combating environmental degradation
- Tree planting, recognising and removing alien species

Module 3: Sustainable Farming Habits

(SAQA US 116121 - 5 Credits)

- Crop production
- Natural soil fertilisers
- Natural pest control methods
- Companion planting
- Plant reproduction and propagation methods
- Seeds: germination, sowing, transplanting
- Agro-forestry
- Nutritional benefits of organic food





