



# MAKING ZERO HUNGER A REALITY!



## Eradicating Hunger and Poverty through Agri-entrepreneurship with the Youth

### 1. Introduction

The World is challenged with the ugly face of hunger, poverty and malnutrition. According to the World Food Programme of the United Nations, 821 million people – one in nine – still go to bed on an empty stomach each night. Even more – one in three – suffer from some form of malnutrition.

In 2015 the global community adopted the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development to improve people’s lives by 2030. **Goal 2 – Zero Hunger – pledges to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, and is the priority of the World Food Programme.**

Times Lives reports that malnutrition remains a serious problem facing South African children, with Gauteng, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal having the highest number of young children who are stunted - while the North West and Western Cape have the highest percentage of children who are underweight.

This is contained in a report released by Statistics South Africa on the latest evidence on the realisation of government’s early childhood development (ECD) goals for children aged from birth to six years.

The report found that Gauteng (34.2%), Free State (33.5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (28.5%) had the highest percentage of children who were stunted, compared to other provinces. North West (12.6%) and Western Cape (11.9%) had the highest percentage of children who were underweight.

The question is.....how do we address this challenge and make **ZERO HUNGER A REALITY** in South Africa?

As the Institute of Rural and Community Development (IRCD), we have taken up this challenge, and have implemented the Farmer Kidz Programme ([www.farmerkidz.co.za](http://www.farmerkidz.co.za)) with the specific aim of ending hunger amongst our youth, creating a mechanism for food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.



### 2. Background to the Farmer Kidz Programme

The Farmer Kidz is sustainable agri-focussed development programme for the very young and youth, that is directed fighting hunger and poverty, by creating a new generation of farmers and agri-entrepreneurs through the training and implementation of basic farming skills. The Programme is supported through technology that includes the Garden of Life Veggie Tyre hydroponic system and cell phone-based applications.

### 3. Objectives of the Farmer Kidz Programme

The objectives of the Farmer Kidz are as follows:

- 2.1 Create an awareness in the youth about the need for farming as a sustainable source of food production
- 2.2 To improve and develop young people's awareness of their environment, and to care for, and optimise for our natural resources as a platform for food production
- 2.3 To establish a sense of responsibility and interest in terms of playing a role in food production and a means to eradicate hunger and poverty
- 2.4 To stimulate interpersonal skills through teaming with other young people in building and maintaining their farms as food production units.
- 2.5 By using technology, teach and instil entrepreneurial and business skills through enterprise opportunities created by farming.
- 2.6 To evoke a love for nature and the outdoors because .....FARMING IS FUN!!

### 4. The Garden Of Life Hydroponic Food Production System.

The Garden of Life is a basic farming technique that teaches the skills of raising vegetable crops on a small scale in areas which would be deemed as unsatisfactory for vegetable growth. Through the use of waste, such as 2 liter cold drink bottles and tyres, Farmer Kidz can create a basic hydroponic system in which they can grow and harvest their own vegetables within a period of 8-12 weeks.



### 5. The implementation of the Farmer Kidz programme, and the cost per school.

The implementation of the Farmer Kidz Programme is as follows:

- The training scholars, community members and teachers (3 sessions in one day) per school.

- \* 1st session = Community members and teachers: The need for urban, and rural micro agriculture, and its impact in facilitating a community's economy - 1 hour.
- \* Second session = Teachers, community members and scholars: The theory of Garden of Life micro farming system including the movie (20 mins) MPHOTO AND THE GARDEN OF LIFE. - 1.5 hours.
- \* Third session = Teachers, community members and scholars: How to build your Farmer Kidz Garden of Life. Practical building of garden demonstration at school - 1.5 hrs

- Material supplied includes:

- # Growing Calendar branded per company / organisation sponsoring the school.
- # Training guide on the Veggie Tyre vegetable gardening system per learner.
- # 18 e-lessons on various vegetables (See [www.farmerkidz.co.za](http://www.farmerkidz.co.za)). [Tammy Tomato example] Sent to school/training centre monthly electronically with PDF printout capability or downloaded on school's computer system for use as, and when, required by the school.
- # The School is to be helped to set up garden. IRCD is to supply seedling plants assist in the building of the first Veggie Tyres. The school is to supply tyres, compost and ground for the demo garden (5-10 tyres). Thereafter they are to grow the seedlings themselves.
- # Follow up visits to be done by our training support staff. Twice a month in the first and then monthly for 3 - 6 months thereafter

The cost per school will be determined by the specific area where the project is held and the specific needs of the school. This is to include training, material, pre-visits, follow up, transport, meals and accommodation costs (This cost can be decreased if a large amount of schools in an area are to be done in sequence). A detailed budget will be drafted per project which will be confirmed as part of a service level agreement per drafted per project.

The economies of scale to implement the Programme are there a specific number of schools per initiative to maximise the investment and impact.

We have developed the pricing structure as per individual school. The costing would reduce should there be more schools in an area. We have now shown with the Elunidini school project that the project has an impact on the whole community and other schools are now interested in implementing the project in their schools. The more schools per area, the lower the cost.



**6. Participation of other organisations in support for this project, and the social facilitation to enable this project to be rolled out.**

Depending on what kind of participation and contribution would be taking place, the IRCD empowers local organisations and individuals to run the Farmer Kidz programmes in their local schools, churches and NGO's. We would have to define the organisations role and participation in the project in order to give a more accurate assessment of the project costs.

**7. Duration of a project in a school or organisation.**

**The Programmes focus is sustainable development of the specific community and is on going.** The objective is to bring about the infusion of this programme into the school curriculum. As with the existing schools who are doing the project, teachers are following the route of implementing two Farmer Kidz periods per class per week. Children will be using this in the biology, maths, environmental studies and other classes and subjects. Activities of the Farmer Kidz programme would include:

Competitions

- Region ( Inter School/Club competitions with production )
- Area (Inter School/Club activities)
- School / Farm (Food Production)
- Farmer Kid of the Year(Food Production)
- Products of the Year (e.g Biggest Pumpkin)

#### Activities

- Campaign Market Day
- Mandela Day
- Farm Stalls and fairs, open markets

The immediate, medium and long term development of the programme would be as follows:

#### 7.1 Phase 1 - Farmer Kidz - **Grade -1 to Grade 6**

Focus on training children individual food production through Garden of Life - Veggie Tyres methodology

Objective – How to grow and support own garden with at least 10 vegetables. Costing for each vegetable and how to sell vegetables at profit. Basic entrepreneurship.

#### 7.2 Phase 2 - Young Farmers - **Grade 7 to Grade 10**

Focus on developing and setting up food production units, and how to run a micro farm.

Objective – Understanding the fundamentals of farming and planning related to farming production. Creation of production and supply chain systems to supply clients.

#### 7.3 Phase 3 – Agri-trepreneurs - **Grade 10 to post school**

Focus on establishing agri-businesses, which will ensure self employment after leaving school

Objective – Self employed agri-trepreneurs who run community based businesses supplying vegetables to the community and commercial enterprises.

**KUNI VILLAGE, EASTERN CAPE**  
**21/22 FEBRUARY 2019**  
**WHERE SCHOLARS BECOME AGRI MENTORS**

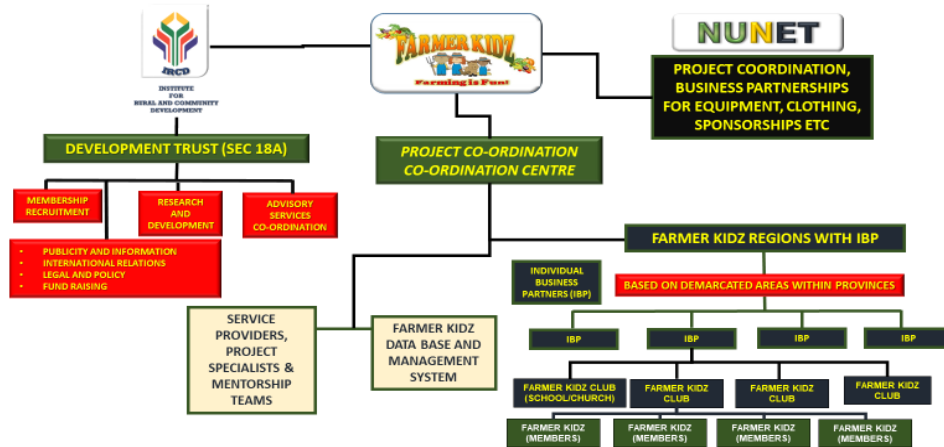
**TRAINERS THE NEXT DAY**

**TRAINED THE ONE DAY**

#### **8. The Farmer Kidz business structure.**

The objective is to establish NGO's, churches, schools and existing training centres as Farmer Kidz training hubs, where retired teachers and military veterans,(Independent Business Partners-IBP) who are empowered to run the programme in existing facilities in their own areas themselves, with material and training supplied by the IRCD /NuNet on an ongoing basis. The IRCD/NuNet will give direct ongoing support for the first 6 months to project through the IBP. Development and training support would be ongoing. Our long-term objective is to create a new generation of farmers across Africa within the local development process linked to Project Phakame through our network of IBP's. Our planned organisational structure on a national basis long term is as follows:

# FARMER KIDZ ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



## 9. The exit strategy for the IRCD/NuNet with the Farmer Kidz programme.

The goal of the IRCD/NuNet is to establish the IBP's as the representatives and implementers of projects in a specific region. The IBP's will be trained with new technologies and programmes to assist them in creating sustainable platforms for local economic growth. Once the project has been established in a specific region/area, it is handed over to the IBP of the specific region/area to maintain and monitor. The activities of the IBP are monitored and reports delivered on an ongoing basis.

## 10. The functioning of The Farmer Kidz programme as part of the Project Phakame local economic development strategy.

The Farmer Kidz Programme forms part of our development strategy of the Project Phakame! (See flow diagramme below)



It is planned to have pilot projects taking place per town in each region, rolling out to other schools/training centres in the town, using the pilot as a benchmark. The schools become the platform to influence and develop the local economic development activities of the whole region through agriculture.



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