

Main Program Elements

- Farmers learn about business planning, farm management, setting goals and how to achieve them.
- Farmers learn how to co-operate and find collective solutions.
- Farmers cultivate their own land, and together cultivate demonstration-plots. From this they learn methods of increasing yields and raising product quality.
- Farmers are mobilized to practice sustainable low-cost solutions.
- Farmers eventually advance to a point where they can earn extra income and/or diversify sources of income by engaging in small-scale agro-processing.
- Farmers learn about nutrition, hygiene practices and sanitation.
- Farmers are supported to jointly market what they produce.
- Farmers learn how to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Collaborations and Networking

The program is based on (collaboration) with existing actors such as farmers, traditional leaders, agricultural institutions and local governments. It aims at strengthening the relationship between the farmers and the other actors as well as creating networks which allow them to receive additional support and expertise which helps the farmers to sustain their business development.

In Botswana the Farmers' Club programme offers a great opportunity to assist Government to scale up the production of subsistence farmers. It will contribute to the implementation of existing programs like ISPAAD, LIMID and NAMPAADD.

Achievements

The Farmer's Club Program so far has reached out to 200,000 farmers around the world and has proven effective in increasing the production and the income and health of the small farmers' families.

The driving force in Farmers' Clubs is the farmers. They need partners to successfully achieve their ambitions. We encourage partners who can provide the financing of development projects to contribute with funds to the farmers' quest to increase food production.

Contacts

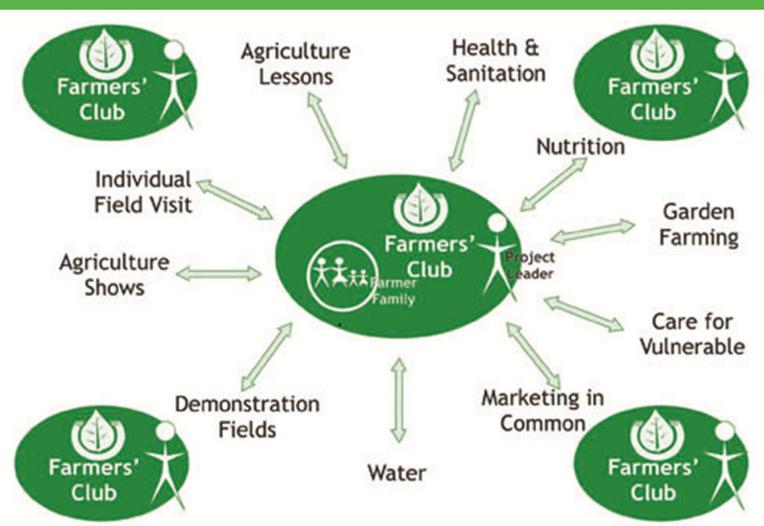
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Empowering subsistence farmers to organize themselves, work together and to produce effectively and abundantly



**A Program from
Humana People to People**



Role and Challenges of Small Scale Farmers in Botswana

Despite only contributing 2% to national GDP, 80 percent of the population depend on dryland rain-fed arable agriculture for subsistence and income. This makes small scale farming the most important source of rural livelihoods (income and employment) and indispensable to attain national food security.

At the same time Botswana's small scale farmers face many challenges:

- Poverty, lack of training, lack of success.
- Climate variability and change causing unstable seasons, droughts and floods.
- Outbreak of diseases in the prone areas.
- Shortage of safe drinking water for people and their animals.
- Dependency on limited variety of crops.
- Lack of sustainable farming knowledge and practice.
- Lack of access to markets and financial institutions

Farmers Club Approach

Common practices are not easily changed from outside. Therefore any change has to come from within the communities themselves. In accordance to this, the Farmers' Club Program seeks to organize the farmers to come together to share their skills and knowledge in order to create better results for the whole community.

The Aim of the Farmers' Clubs program

The Farmers' Club program empowers small holder farmers to produce effectively and abundantly to become part of the national economy and become wiser by following new development in small scale production ways, means and methods.

The farmers are brought together to be empowered through cohesion in the community and supported to achieve their potentials. Through this they can increase their productivity and means to create income.

Goals of the Farmers' Clubs

1. Increase in wealth.
2. Improve Food Security.
3. Improve Land-use Management
4. Improve Health and Well-Being
5. Improved Utilization of Available Water
6. Improve Farmer Organization.



The Organizational Structure

Farmers are organized in Core groups of 10 farmers together with a Step Up farmer, and in 5 clubs of 50 farmers with a development committee. 250 farmers make up a project.

The project leader lives among the 250 farmers; always available for the farmers, fighting shoulder to shoulder with the farmers until the farmers succeed. He is not a facilitator or instructor but deals with the same realities, encourages finding solutions together and points out the way forward.

By establishing a strong utilization of the club structure, farmers are benefitting from sharing experiences and learning to become more resilient, learning that together we can do it.

Elements in modern conservation agriculture:

- Crop rotation and mulching
- Improved seeds and Resilient crops
- Crop diversification and Intercropping
- Low tillage of land
- Use of Composting, manure, lime
- Organic methods when possible
- Low cost irrigation
- Garden farming
- Cattle rearing
- Husbandry low level
- Pass on loans

Gradually developing the farm over 5 or more years:

- A. Farmers Saving clubs
- B. Income generating projects
- C. Farmers participate in Contract Farming
- D. Farmers access to Micro Financing systems