

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: Dry Lands Demonstration and Training Center

Year: 2023

Name of the Program: Dry Lands Demonstration and Training Center

Year of activity: 2023

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Function of the report's writer: Director of Development

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Number of active participants in the program:

- 241 participants in inputs trainings (each participant is part of a household of approximately 5, thereby multiplying the benefit of each training according to number of household members)
- 36 participants in malaria training
- 28 participants in the Youth Service Program
- 200 participants in nutritional training
- 2 agronomists

Estimated number of impacted participants:

- 1,200 impacted by trainings
- as many as 1,500 impacted through increased access to drinking water.
- as many as 1000 goats and cattle supported by new access to water.
- as many as 3500 impacted by benefits of anti-malaria training

Give the actual state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

Tevel b' Tzedek (Tevel) is pleased to report that we have made significant strides in implementing our project in the Mphande village region of Zambia including advancement of important community-based initiatives and agricultural training. In keeping with our commitment to ensure community-based intervention, we remain in ongoing discussion with the village leadership and community representatives and in consultation with our Zambian partner organization Africa Access Water.

During this reporting period, Tevel's Youth Service Program has made substantial progress in empowering local communities. Welcoming 16 new participants, the program provides extensive training to young leaders in financial literacy, project planning, management, and agronomy, which they in-turn teach to village farmers. The initiation of the Inputs Project

provides financial capital for quality inputs like fertilizers and seeds together with climate-smart agricultural training for project participants, reinforcing sustainable farming practices. Collaboration with intern agronomists who provide weekly training to both YSPs and the broader community, has led to the success of Tevel's production unit initiative on the demonstration farm, thereby ensuring sustainability and scalability of the project. Additionally, the establishment of a tree nursery and water infrastructure projects, demonstrate the holistic and impactful nature of Tevel's model project in Zambia. The organization has also gained international media and PR international with recognition in Forbes Magazine for its groundbreaking rural intervention model.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

Dry Lands Demonstration and Training Center:

With the assistance of the Matanel Foundation, in 2022 Tevel established a Dry Lands Demonstration and Training Center on our 10-hectare farm. In 2023, Tevel expanded our work on the farm, focusing on the following:

Youth Service Program (YSP):

- Welcomed 16 new participants, reaching a total of 28 individuals aged 18 to 28 from the 3 Mphande villages on our full time 2 year program and equipped participants with training in financial literacy, project planning, management, leadership, and agronomy
- Completed training with the District Agricultural Coordinator, enabling YSPs to teach village farmers climate-smart agricultural techniques.
- Initiated new Inputs Project, providing village farmers with financial capital for quality inputs like fertilizers and seeds alongside climate smart agricultural training for project participants
- Participated in a seminar in Lusaka, gaining exposure to different agro-businesses, marketing strategies, and emphasizing the importance of savings groups.

Inputs Project:

- Launched pilot project for approximately 120 farmer families in response to the need for adaptability due to scattered rain patterns influenced by climate change.
- Provided financial capital for essential inputs like fertilizers and seeds for village farmers
- Conducted a series of six training sessions in each village (18 in total) led by YSP participants and intern agronomists, focusing on sustainable farming techniques and climate smart agriculture practices
- YSPs provided ongoing guidance to farmers during land preparation, ensuring eligibility for low-interest loans based on the proper application of climate-smart techniques.

Work with Intern Agronomists (IAs):

- Successfully integrated three dynamic Zambian agronomists into Tevel's project, all graduates of the 11-month work-study program at Ramat HaNegev International Training Program for Agriculture in Israel.
- Provided weekly training to both YSPs and the broader community, enriching the project with their expertise.

- Effectively oversaw Tevel's production unit initiative on the project's demonstration farm, contributing to the success of the integrative model.

Production Unit:

- Successfully cleared several acres of land on Tevel's training farm and demonstration plots
- Installed drip irrigation systems to enhance agricultural efficiency.
- Achieved the first harvest of [tomato seedlings](#) for the initial agricultural cycle of the production unit.

Tree Nursery:

- Successfully built a [greenhouse](#) on the project's training farm through collaboration with the Israeli Embassy in Zambia, with the capacity to cultivate up to 200 saplings at a time. This is a significant achievement for environmental conservation to address environmental degradation caused by widespread tree cutting for coal production during the dry season.
- Utilized the greenhouse for Tevel's production unit, including tomatoes, and for future use in kitchen gardens and family farms.
- Began to clear a designated area on the farm for planting an orchard, with plans to establish a training center for nursery farming, contributing to sustainable agriculture practices.

Infrastructure and Housing for Volunteers and Interns:

- Successfully constructed housing on the demonstration farm to accommodate Intern Agronomists (IAs), interns, volunteers, and visitors, with a maximum capacity of 18 individuals.
- Equipped the dormitory with solar electricity to provide lighting, computer and phone charging, and refrigeration, ensuring sustainable and reliable power sources.
- Hosted 18 out of 35 participants from the region who attended a malaria training in Mphande, utilizing the accommodations for their stay.

Malaria Training:

- Successfully launched an antimalarial campaign by training 35 Community Health Volunteers to conduct malaria tests and distribute life-saving medications, addressing the #1 health concern in Mphande.
- Established a collaboration with the Ministry of Health to support a comprehensive approach in combating malaria, raising awareness, and enhancing healthcare connections for the village.
- Initiated discussions to potentially bring a clinic to Mphande, addressing a top concern revealed in our baseline survey, especially crucial as the closest health clinic is currently 15-20 km away via dirt road.

Additional Activities and Achievements:

Water Infrastructure and Reservoir Project:

- Successfully implemented a solar-powered borehole in [Shamanjanji](#), the most water-deprived village, establishing a water kiosk and animal trough to address water scarcity.

- Deepened an existing borehole in Nanduba with a solar pump, installed a 5000-liter storage tank, water kiosks, and animal troughs, significantly improving water access for the community.
- Constructed a reservoir and three boreholes as well as fish pond on the demonstration farm, ensuring a consistent water supply for the production unit, even in the dry season. The aquaculture initiative on the farm serves a dual purpose as both a demonstration pilot and an additional production unit for the overall project.
- Conducted preliminary surveys for reservoirs in each village along with a detailed assessment of costs and stages for a community reservoir in Shamanjanji.

Partnership with Univeristy of Arizona

- Successfully partnered with the [University of Arizona and its Arizona Center for Judaic Studies](#) to develop a for-credit program for both undergraduate and master students.
- Implemented a successful pilot program with three students and one professor, laying the foundation for future collaborations and expansion of the program's scope in the upcoming year.

Fundraising:

- Successfully hosted the first-ever delegation of supporters from Israel and the United States, raising \$15,000 in increased donations during the August trip to Mphande as well as Zambia's national parks and safari.
- Launched a successful matching gift campaign during Rosh Hashana, raising \$26,600 in two weeks and mobilizing the community to support the initiative in Mphande (we decided to stop the campaign mid-way toward our goal of \$50,000 following the tragic events of October 7th the ensuing Israel-Hamas war). Click [here](#) to watch Tevel's YSP-Campaign video.
- Dr. Brian Kapotwe, the Zambia program officer of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), visied the Tevel project in Mphande and invited Tevel to apply for a three-year grant from IFAD, marking a significant step in penetrating international development funding and expanding the reach of the organization's model.

Special Media and PR:

- Tevel's greenhouse was inaugurated at a prestigious event attended by key figures, including Israeli Ambassador to Zambia, Ofrah Farhi, and Dr. Lawrence Mwanayanda, Advisor to the President of Zambia who expressed support for the project and wrote a [letter](#) endorsing Tevel's development model.
- The official presentation of the greenhouse and a generous gift of 100 citrus trees from the Israeli foreign aid foundation MASHAV was broadcast nationwide on Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, garnering national attention.
- Achieved recognition in Forbes Magazine in September, highlighting Tevel's groundbreaking model for rural intervention in Zambia. The [article](#) emphasized the transformative impact of the Youth Service Program (YSP), describing it as a program that "taps into the energy and idealism of village youth to lift the entire village economy." Forbes acknowledged Tevel's "replicable blueprint" integrating advanced agricultural technology, empowering YSPs to guide the community's transition to sustainable small-scale commercial farming, ultimately breaking reliance on charcoal production and deforestation.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

In August, Tevel conducted its second midline survey, interviewing 204 Mphande residents over eight days to assess the impact of its intervention and agricultural training on food security, health, and livelihood. Unfortunately both Professor Aharan Troen and Michal Eliezer, integral members of the Tevel team responsible for the midline survey and program evaluation, are currently grappling with the fallout of the October 7th attacks and the subsequent war with Hamas. In the wake of these tragic events, they are navigating significant personal responsibilities. Professor Aharan Troen lost his sister and brother-in-law on October 7th, and he is actively involved in helping raise their two children. Michal, who played a crucial role in designing the midline survey and was set to contribute to its evaluation even during her maternity leave, is now facing increased parenting responsibilities as her husband has been called up for reserve duty. These unexpected personal challenges have impacted their ability to engage fully in the evaluation process.

Nonetheless, weekly evaluation meetings between Tevel Israel, Tevel Zambia, and Africa Access Water have been instrumental in making program adjustments. Several notable adaptations emerged from these evaluations:

1. Increased supervision for Intern Agronomists by hiring a senior agronomist as a farm manager.
2. Recognition of the need for a water reservoir on Tevel's land, and subsequent creation to address production unit water requirements.
3. Initiation of the Inputs Project in response to feedback from villagers, highlighting the limitation on production due to insufficient access to inputs.
4. The addition of English literacy training to the project after evaluating the YSP's proficiency in reading and writing in English.
5. Expansion of the livelihood program to include aquaculture, poultry, and non-crop-based livelihoods, following an evaluation of water resources in the entire village area.
6. After the University of Arizona program, an assessment of YSP participants' readiness to host intern volunteers resulted in the creation of broader internship programs, driven by the high level of enthusiasm from both YSP and villagers.

These adjustments underscore Tevel's commitment to ongoing evaluation, adaptation, and enhancement of its programs to ensure effectiveness and alignment with the evolving needs of the communities it serves.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

Youth Service Program (YSP) Expansion:

- In 2024, YSP participants will work in pairs, engaging with 50 to 70 households, teaching new skills, conducting training sessions on financial literacy and climate-smart agriculture, and establishing kitchen gardens and savings groups.

- YSPs will actively participate in advocacy training, promoting collective community action for essential infrastructure, and engage in farming activities on Tevel's demonstration farm, enhancing the production unit.
- YSPs will lead community farmers in demonstrations on the farm for poultry and fish farming
- The YSP initiative will document its methodology, create a curriculum, and replicate its youth service model in the coming years.

Inputs Project Amplification:

- Building upon a successful pilot, the Inputs Project will expand in 2024, reaching an additional 80 farming families, providing low-interest loans, and facilitating access to quality inputs.
- Tevel plans to rent a tractor to assist with labor-intensive conservation farming, demonstrating successful techniques that can influence Zambian agricultural policy.
- The establishment of a bulking center will provide ongoing support in bringing crops to market ensures sustained expansion.

Reservoir Project for Sustainable Agriculture:

- Tevel plans to construct a reservoir in Shamanjani, revolutionizing local farming by enabling cultivation during the dry season, benefiting approximately 100 families.
- Stocking the reservoir with fish for demonstrating fish farming and facilitating bulk purchases of inputs will further enhance the community's economic resilience.

Establishment of Kitchen Gardens:

- YSP participants, guided by IAs will assist in creating 300 to 500 kitchen gardens, providing essential nutrients to families and contributing to household income.
- Kitchen gardens serve as a step toward larger-scale vegetable cultivation once dry-season water sources are established.

Savings Groups for Economic Empowerment:

In 2024, YSPs will undergo training to create 20 savings groups, promoting financial resilience and economic empowerment within the community. Tevel's support includes providing start-up financial contributions to catalyze the establishment and growth of these savings groups.

Mboza Farm Expansion:

Tevel has rented an additional 1-acre farm, focusing on repairing and upgrading infrastructure, including drip lines and a water tank, to enhance the Production Unit and demonstration plots.

Anti-Malarial Campaign:

- The antimalarial campaign will enable Community Health Volunteers to conduct tests, dispense medications, and collaborate with health authorities to combat malaria effectively.
- Discussions are underway to potentially establish a health post in Mphande, addressing a critical healthcare need in the community.

Official Land Tenure and Registration:

Tevel will support residents in formalizing land tenure through registration, enabling them to use land as collateral for financial opportunities. Moreover, Tevel's project is generating heightened government attention in Mphande, potentially leading to enhanced regional infrastructure, including improved road accessibility, which could increase land value and necessitates proactive measures to protect residents' interests against external attempts to acquire their land at less than market value. -

Project Expansion & Replication:

Leveraging successes in Mphande, Tevel plans to extend impact to another village in 2025, replicating the proven model, conducting baseline surveys, and recruiting participants for the YSP, demonstrating a commitment to scaling effective interventions and fostering sustainable development.

Please join photos – as JPG files – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as PDF document.

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.

- Click [here](#) to view the YSP 2023 photo album
- Click [here](#) to view a photo album of activities with video of YSP participant

Financial Report:

Tevel b'Tzedek Expenses 2023	In USD
Israeli Staff (Executive Director, Director of Development, Project Coordinator)	\$163,905
Israel Administrative Staff (Bookkeeping, Accountant, Bank, Insurance)	\$24,037
Zambia Staff (Zambian Project Director, Zambian Coordinator, YSP Facilitator)	\$40,954
Staff Travel Expenses	\$10,700
Agronomist Interns	\$6,294
Youth Service Program (stipends, food, transportation, educational seminar)	\$37,286
Malaria Project	\$1,452
Training Farm Infrastructure (classrooms, accommodation, greenhouse, water infrastructure for agriculture)	\$130,153
Farm Expenses	\$4,456
Zambian Administrative Staff	\$1,857
Inputs Project	\$28,303
Car Expenses	\$27,372
Midline	\$6,610
Safari Trip	\$10,587
Total	\$493,972

Income Sources for 2023	In USD
Carry Over from 2022	\$49,656
Africa Access Water	\$31,699
Ann Wimpheimer	\$5,144
Binyamin Gezuntheit	\$4,815
Brenda Wolfson	\$4,788
Daniel E and Joyce G Straus Family Foundation	\$7,407
David and Edna Wapner	\$9,629
David Hofstater	\$2,924
David Schwartz	\$5,144
Diana Lipton	\$3,209
Debra Pell	\$30,861
Effective Altrusim	\$4,145
Gail Schorsch Fund	\$15,431
Gary Carmell	\$15,431
Green Family Giving Account	\$10,287
Jewish Agency- Jewish Federation of Cleveland	\$3,451
Julian Yudelson	\$5,144
Mark Lipman and Helen Cohen Fund	\$5,144
Matanel Foundation	\$12,500
Melanie Roth	\$3,086
Pears Foundation	\$127,000
Rochlin Foundation	\$30,861
Sara Gottesman	\$9,467
Saul Singer	\$2,595
Shalom Corps	\$13,565
Tamara Gottstein	\$5,144
Tamara Gottstein	\$4,848
The Nagel Family Trust	\$4,115
University of Arizona	\$4,629

Expected small donations in December:	\$10,160
Small Grants	\$50,000
Zambia Trip	\$13,373
Total	\$505,646