

COORDINATION MECHANISMS FOR PROMOTING FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION – THE GARDEN WORKING GROUP IN ZIMBABWE.

**Presentation by Delilah Takawira – FAOZW
PROFAV, African Regional Workshop – Arusha,
Tanzania, 26 – 30 September 2011.**

GROUP PURPOSE

○ Purpose

- to provide a forum that promotes dialogue on current and emerging issues in rural and urban gardens and facilitate exchange of improved practice and strategic information and experiences so as to ensure closer collaboration and networking between partners in the area of gardens.



GROUP OBJECTIVES

- To encourage a critical analysis of gardens and to further technical discussion on current and key emerging issues in household gardens in Zimbabwe
- To disseminate information on improved practices to the NGO community and integrate it into the Ministry of Agriculture.
- To develop mechanisms for cooperation and working collaboratively to implement solutions for issues of mutual interest.
- To link up with the UNICEF led Nutrition Cluster.
- To develop a resource data bank on available information on gardens.



GROUP STRUCTURE & MEMBERSHIP.

- Co-chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.
- Secretariat - FAO
- Members;
 - Donors
 - UN Agencies
 - NGO's, FBO, CBO's
 - Other Gvt Ministries – Education & Gender
 - Universities and technical colleges.
 - Research Institutions.
 - Individuals



SCOPE OF WORK

- Production aspects;
 - Crop diversity
 - Production calendar
 - Use of organic and inorganic methodologies.
 - Production technologies – irrigation, conservation farming
- Outcomes and impacts;
 - Monitoring and evaluation/coordination
 - Attitude change
 - Impact evaluation
 - Review of existing practices



SCOPE OF WORK

- Cross cutting issues;
 - Nutrition
 - Marketing / Livelihoods
 - HIV Impact Mitigation.
 - Gender – women empowerment.



HOW DOES THE WORKING GROUP FUNCTION?

- The group operates through;
 - Regular meetings
 - Taskforces and sub-groups that are formed and disbanded as necessary.
 - Consultancies to do the various tasks – development of guidelines, M&E .



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Development of guidelines;
 1. The Healthy Harvest Manual.
 2. Urban Agriculture Guidelines.
 3. School Gardens Manual.
 4. Recipe Books
 5. Guidelines for Solar Drying of fruits and vegetables.
- Harmonizing practice within the country.
- Mobilizing financial resources for programming.



THE HEALTHY HARVEST MANUAL



MODULE 1: THE PRINCIPLES OF NUTRITION

module ONE

principles of nutrition

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this training module participants should be able to

- identify and describe the different food groups, their basic functions and what they comprise;
- describe the proportions of food that need to be consumed during the day by different age groups;
- define malnutrition and recognise the basic symptoms;
- explain the main causes of malnutrition in their community and develop some ways to address these causes.

Nutrition is the process of receiving or supplying food that contains substances you need to grow, function and maintain your body



MODULE 2: GROWING NUTRITIOUS FOOD

module TWO

growing nutritious food

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this training module participants should be able to

- understand the benefits of setting up nutrition gardens in their homes and community;
- identify different areas in their community where individuals, families and groups can set up nutrition gardens;
- understand the environmental, social and economic problems underlying food security and malnutrition and be able to identify ways of overcoming these problems in their community;
- identify useful nutritious crops and plan where and when they can be grown;
- design, plan and implement their own nutrition gardens using environmentally sustainable techniques.



Food and the family



module THREE

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this training module participants should be able to

- explain the different nutritional requirements for babies, children, women and the elderly;
- prepare meals for people suffering from digestive problems, respiratory problems, irritating infections and HIV and Aids.
- understand the issues surrounding the medicinal use of herbs.



Harvesting, storing, preparing, and processing food

module FOUR

harvesting, preparing & preserving food

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this training module participants should be able to

- explain the precautions needed when handling and preparing food;
- demonstrate ways to prepare and cook food so as to preserve as many nutrients as possible;
- demonstrate practical ways to process and preserve food.



CHALLENGES

- Resistance to change by the communities – monocropping and diversified production for sale and not for household consumption.
- Field-cropping makes garden production seasonal.
- Water challenges in most communities.
- Access to land a challenge in many urban areas.
- Sort funding cycles for most NGO's.



CHALLENGES;

- School gardens neglected during the school holidays.
- Marketing of produce difficult for most farmers leading to huge post harvest losses.
- Inadequate knowledge on post – harvest processing.



IDENTIFIED GAPS

- There is need to establish the food consumption pattern of Zimbabweans.
- Measurement of garden produce has been difficult There is need to establish a system similar to that of field crops.
- There is need to conduct a nationwide behaviour change communication campaign on promoting consumption of a variety of fruits and vegetables – guided by the identified consumption gaps.

