



GWEBINDLALA!

a partnership between Government and Civil Society to
Create Jobs, Promote Shared Growth and
Build Social Capital for Development

FOOD GARDENING PROGRAMME

mobilised families using rainwater reservoirs
for food security & income generation

- Promoting the productive use of water for sustainable livelihoods, food security and shared growth, based on household rainwater harvesting reservoirs.
- Mobilising poor households to become self reliant through rediscovering their own potential and self worth.
- Mobilising civil society for development, through practical partnerships between NGOs, CBOs and government.
- Training and skills development.
- Strengthening policy on multiple uses of domestic water supplies, multiple water sources and support to resource poor farmers; and improving implementation guidelines.



Rainwater Harvesting Tank

Using water productively for sustainable livelihoods, food security and shared growth

One of the main constraints to expanding the practice of irrigated agriculture by poor families is the high cost of providing irrigation water and equipment. Other constraints include the lack of suitable land and the difficulty of ensuring the sustainability of collectively farmed community gardens. The Mvula Trust's *Gwebindlala!* Food Gardening Programme adopts an innovative approach to overcoming these constraints, based on the successful model developed by the Water for Food Movement in Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces.

Our approach is to focus on individual households and to use a generally ignored or under exploited source of water, namely rain water. The programme funds the construction of rain water harvesting reservoirs, built in the yards of mobilised and committed families, and trains these families in the techniques of integrated water management and trench farming. Results achieved so far have been very encouraging. Most families have managed to become self sufficient in vegetables and produce surpluses for sale.

Mvula has collaborated with DWAF in piloting the scaling up of the Water for Food Movement model in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo, as part of its programme to support resource poor farmers. We now seek funding for more projects in these and other provinces.



Irrigation using water from rainwater harvesting tank

Mobilising poor households to become self reliant by developing their potential & self worth

The key to Mvula's *Gwebindlala!* Food Gardening Programme is the focus on individual, poor families and on "mobilising the minds" of the women in particular, to regain their self belief and self worth, so that they can take control of their lives again and achieve self sufficiency through food production.

Families, usually led by women, are taught to manage the collection of rainwater and the re-use of waste water in a holistic way. They are also taught to produce fruits, cereals and vegetables using composting and the trench gardening method which maximises soil moisture retention.

Mobilising Civil Society for delivery and development

The Mvula *Gwebindlala!* approach is a powerful alliance of two key civil society role players in development, namely NGOs and CBOs. Mvula brings the people-centred approach, altruism and competence in community-based development of an NGO, while the CBOs we mobilise, train and support act as catalysts for mobilising the communities they represent, and form very effective partnerships with the municipalities responsible for service delivery programmes. Government's delivery capacity is thus increased on a sustainable basis.

At the same time capacitated CBOs strengthen existing mechanisms for articulating the voice of the community in engaging with municipalities. Household food gardening programmes implemented by Mvula thus strengthen the relationship between municipalities and communities.

Training and skills development

The *Gwebindlala!* Food Gardening Programme employs a combination of formal training and "mind mobilisation". Training is provided in integrated water resource management and the trench method of homestead food gardening, through a partnership between Mvula and Water for Food Movement activists, as well as Department of Agriculture extension workers.

Training is also provided to the builders who build the rainwater tanks and to the community members who participate on the project steering committees and carry out project management functions. These include storekeepers, site clerks, quality assessors and trainers in water management and food gardening.

Strengthening policy and improving implementation guidelines for multiple uses of water and support to resource poor farmers

Through Mvula's collaboration with DWAF in piloting the rain water harvesting programme, the lessons learnt by Mvula and other agencies participating in the programme have been incorporated into policy and implementation guidelines. The expanded *Gwebindlala!* Food Gardening Programme will generate ongoing lessons that will continue to enrich policy, through Mvula's collaborative relationship with DWAF.

Programme implementation and costing

Pilot and Gear-up Phase (2 years)

This phase is necessary in order for Mvula to gear up the capacity required for a full scale programme in a number of provinces. It will include the following:

- Agree draft implementation policy & guidelines with client
- Select pilot project sites and build stakeholder support
- Set up funding arrangements
- Develop accredited training courses and materials
- Start pilot projects in at least 5 sites in the 5 poorest provinces within 6 months
- Implement pilot projects, to include:
 - mobilisation and training of 50 families
 - building of 50 reservoirs
 - collection of rainwater for productive use by 50 families
 - provision of a food gardening starter pack to each participating household to facilitate food production
 - skills training and capacity building (building, project administration, tank maintenance, food gardening, water resource management)
- Document and disseminate lessons
- Fine tune implementation policies and guidelines

Each pilot project, designed to support 50 families, will cost an estimated **R1,3m**, being comprised of:

- Construction of 50 reservoirs – R 750,000
- Training and community wages – R 200,000
- Project management by Mvula – R 350,000

Scaling up and Roll-out Phase

This phase will begin towards the end of the pilot phase. Key tasks will be:

- Expand programmes in pilot municipalities
- Support roll-out in other municipalities
- Support lessons learning, dissemination, advocacy
- Expand programme from direct implementation to providing support to municipalities and their implementing agencies to set up and implement projects
- Continue documentation and dissemination of experiences and advocacy of approaches

The cost of this phase will depend on the scale of the programme. Unit costs per family will be lower than in the pilot phase, in inverse proportion to the size of each scaled-up project.

The average cost of direct implementation is expected to be in the order of **R 20,000 per family**. The cost of municipal support and training will depend on each intervention.

The Mvula Trust's *Gwebindlala!* initiative

Objectives and Key Features:

- Increasing the job creation, local economic growth and skills development impact of government's basic services delivery programmes in rural and peri-urban areas, to support sustainable livelihoods and shared growth
- Developing social capital and sustainable businesses by prioritising the involvement of organised communities, households and local small business contractors and suppliers in programme delivery
- Training and skills development
- Developing practical partnerships between NGOs, CBOs and government
- Strengthening the EPWP approach, particularly in the MIG Programme, and government capacity to manage programmes
- Strengthening policy and improving implementation guidelines



Programmes:

- Basic **sanitation**, as part of the MIG Programme
- Household-based **food gardening** using rainwater harvesting tanks
- Rural **access roads** linking communities to the formal network, also part of MIG
- **Solid waste** removal and disposal

Role Players:

- **Political, administrative and funding responsibilities:** Municipalities and national and provincial government departments
- **Implementers:** Mvula, other NGOs and organised communities
- **Contractors:** CBOs, local artisans, local small businesses

The Mvula Trust: a key development NGO and government partner

Mvula has been in existence for 14 years and has made a major contribution to the development of the water and sanitation sector in South Africa. We have successfully facilitated community based sanitation delivery in 31 municipalities, to a value of over R200m over the last five years. Since its establishment, Mvula has worked with village water and sanitation committees and their municipalities to provide over 750,000 people with a basic level of water supply and over 500,000 with improved sanitation and health.

Mvula is not only a major player in service delivery, however. Although most of our work has indeed been in establishing community based project delivery models, with a strong job creation emphasis, and implementing large programmes, we only seek to complement government efforts. Increasingly we are involved in initiatives to enhance the capacity of other service providers and of local government itself, to accelerate service delivery, and to promote the developmental impact of water supply, sanitation and related programmes.

With our considerable experience with community based service delivery and substantial existing capacity to undertake policy, advocacy and programme support work, Mvula believes that we can make a contribution at large scale to the following:

- Contributing to the Asgi-SA objectives with the emphasis on the **'shared' component of growth**. We believe that this sharing of economic development gains implies improving livelihoods in poor communities and water and sanitation are closely linked to such a goal.
- Supporting greater involvement of development NGOs and CBOs in implementing government poverty eradication programmes, by partnering with them and **transferring skills and experience**.
- Supporting local government in rolling out **community based sanitation programmes**. In this respect Mvula can add much greater value than through only acting as a project manager on individual projects.
- Through using our experience with community based projects to support the EPWP in achieving its objectives in the **infrastructure sector**.
- Supporting the MIG programme to ensure that developmental gains are devolved to local communities both in terms of building community **capacity to manage village scale infrastructure** and in creating jobs outside urban centres.
- Supporting DWAF to pilot cost effective and sustainable models for poor rural households to ensure **household food security** through food gardening using rainwater harvesting reservoirs, and scaling up this model with funding from diverse government and corporate sources.