



QSA NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 3 2014

Welcome to this QSA Newsletter where you will meet new people, learn about our projects and join us in helping to change lives. We encourage you to let us know your thoughts and get involved. This month we visit Dabane Trust Water Workshops in Zimbabwe. We hope you enjoy reading it. This project is funded by QSA and Australian Aid from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

People

Meet...

Meet the women who are benefitting from the installation of solar energized pumping systems. The women say that they no longer use as much energy as they did for handpumping – they now have more water available for less effort. Consequently the women have more time to attend to their gardens and chores at home. Production at the garden had almost ceased as members could not use the handpump due to its heaviness as many of the women were elderly or had chronic illnesses. After a month of using the solar powered system, production improved considerably with most beds in the gardens having vegetables such as choumolier (a green leaf vegetable), carrots and onions.



Places

Where we work...

The project is located in the Gwanda District, Matabeleland South Province of Zimbabwe. The Gwanda district has little rain fall so pumping water is vital for growing crops.



Projects

About....

The aim of the project was to reduce the workload of rural women by developing solar energized pumping systems. Project activities include : the identification of pumps and systems; procurement of materials and equipment; and design, manufacture and testing of the mobile solar panel, battery and pump stands.

Training and feedback workshops were conducted. The groups were taken through sessions on various topics which included garden layout, bed-making, types of beds, mulching, manuring, compost making, market research, cropping calendar, crop rotation, pest and disease control and indigenous knowledge systems used by the people in Gwanda to address these issues. Practical sessions were held on land preparation, types of beds, planting of common vegetables and pump operation.

Groups were also trained on the use of solar pumping systems as it is a new technology to Dabane gardens and for small-scale garden group. These trainings focused mainly on trouble shooting as well as general maintenance of solar powered systems so farmers can fix the pumps if anything goes wrong. As the primary users of water in their communities, ongoing activities will seek to strengthen women's participation in community based water management committees, and their right to access, and be the owners of the knowledge and care of water resources.

Photos of the month



The old way of pumping
Photo credit: QSA



New solar pumps
Photo credit: QSA

Donate

If you wish to **donate** towards a specific project or to our general fund to allow us to continue our work please see our website for details. www.qsa.org.au

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