Rural Action for Climate Resilience

Co-funded by the European Union

Hello, Friends!

Project Highlights

Welcome to our second Rural Action for Climate Resilience (RACR) newsletter. The newsletter is now on a quarterly schedule.

This quarter featured the first in-person RACR events with project partners in Cape Town and Gqeberha.

We launched the first booklet in the Popular Education Series at the Regional Workshops in May! The booklet is titled **“You Strike A Woman, You Strike The Earth! Gender Equality for Climate Adaptation”**.

Regional Workshops in the Eastern & Western Cape

The workshops took place in Cape Town from 9 to 12 May and in Gqeberha from 23 to 26 May.

It brought together community-based organisations and faith leaders from across the Eastern, Northern and Western Cape to learn, discuss and share experiences of climate change impacts in their communities.

Regional Workshop Highlights!

Vivienne Mentor-Lalu, Deputy Project Head at the Dullah Omar Institute at UWC took participants in the Western Cape Workshop through an engaging session to learn and explore how rural communities' voices can be amplified in national, provincial and/or local policy deliberations on climate change.

At the workshops we launched the first booklet in the popular education series titled "You Strike A Woman, You Strike The Earth! Gender Equality for Climate Adaptation". In the Western Cape, retired professor Astrid von Kotze spoke about the popular education series.

In the Eastern Cape AFESIS-CORPLAN's Lindokhule Vellem presented on social audits in South Africa and the Promotion of Access to Information Act.

A field visit to a local community gardening project in Motherwell in the Eastern Cape fostered reciprocal learning.

Undoubtedly the field trip to the Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA) was the highlight of the Western Cape Regional Workshop. Nazeer Sonday, farmer and activist shared many powerful lessons they learnt during their campaign to protect the PHA. Please see the next section for some of the powerful lessons he shared with us.

The regional workshops left us feeling invigorated and inspired to continue learning and working to promote climate change justice issues both at a local and national level.

6 Lessons In Lobbying from Nazeer Sonday, PHA Campaigner & Farmer

1.Do your protesting differently and peacefully, be creative.

2.A group of 20 people with placards surrounding a politician at the right time, i.e. when he is appearing on camera, can seem like a movement.

3.Learn about the issues you are dealing with, i.e. learn as much about climate change as you can. Don't just leave things to the experts.

4.Build solidarity with other activists and struggles so that reciprocity becomes the norm and a strong network of support is built. Relationships are important, people will support your issue if you support theirs.

5.The media loves a good story - if your story is good they will feature you so craft a compelling story about your issue.

6.Know the environment in which you are working so that you don't come up with half-baked solutions.

Microgrant Recipient Report

What is a Micro Grant?

A micro grant has a maximum value of R8,000 awarded to community partners to create awareness on the impact of climate change in their respective communities. We plan to award 50 grants on a rolling basis over the two year project period.

Merweville Advice & Development Office

Merweville Advice & Development Office reported on the use of their microgrant. Their climate change actions took place in April with a workshop on the 3rd and the cleanup campaign on the 22nd.
Their climate change workshop focussed on the impact of climate change on people, plants and animals. They partnered with the local municipality in the

river cleanup campaign. The municipality provided transport so that all the bags of trash could be picked up and disposed of in accordance with local bylaws. Sixty people, mainly women and youth, participated in the activities. Well done Merweville Advice & Development Office!

The RACR Team

In this edition we say goodbye to Sandra Mandaza, who left to pursue a new opportunity and we say hello to Phatiswa Somdaka who replaces Ncumisa Magadla, the previous communications coordinator for RACR. We also introduce another two Youth Citizen Journalists and Thabo Molelekwa, the Youth Citizen Journalism program coordinator.

Thabo Molelekwa

Youth Citizen Journalism Fellowship Coordinator

As the coordinator of the Youth Citizen Journalism Fellowship, Thabo's daily activities include mentoring the Youth Citizen Journalists, meeting with media houses and sub-editing the Youth Citizen Journalists' copies. He is also a contributor for Spotlight NSP and New Frame publications. Thabo has a background in health journalism which includes experience being a member of Treatment Action Campaign's Vosloorus branch as well as a journalist for Health-e News Citizen Journalism Project in 2013.

In 2016 he was named the International HIV Prevention Fellow with the International Centre for Journalists and was the finalist in the Discovery Health Journalism Awards competition in 2016 and 2017, respectively. In addition, Thabo won the Vodacom regional journalist of the year in 2017 for the story he wrote about the crumbling health care system in the Free State. In 2020 he won the Grow Great Journalist of the year award.

Phatiswa Somdaka

Junior Communications Coordinator

We welcome Phatiswa Somdaka who joined SAFCEI in May as a Junior

Communications Coordinator. She has a BA Honours in Corporate Communication and work experience in the field of communication, both internal and external communication. Her interest in her career field was sparked by her love for reading on current affairs & writing, and the importance of effective communication across all types of relationships. She believes that the different platforms of communication give us power to educate, influence, and change people's perceptions about environmental issues and we must take full advantage of that to ensure foodsecurity, climate resilience and climate adaptation for future generations.

Siphosethu Phikelela

Youth Citizen Journalist

Siphosethu Phikelela, is based in the Western Cape. Those of us who attended the Western Cape Regional Workshop were lucky enough to meet her. She spent a gap year working for Love Life as a MediaY groundbreaker where she cut her teeth in citizen journalism. In her own words, she fell in love with "activism linked with journalism with a purpose". The die was cast and she pursued a National Diploma in Journalism from which she graduated in April. She is currently pursuing a B Tech and working on her next story. Her first story which you can find on the RACR website, focuses on gender inequality in climate change. She looks forward to reflecting the voices of communities in her work and hopes that her activism helps to bridge the information gap between citizens and government.

Anilsa Yonto

Youth Citizen Journalist

Anelisa Yonto is no stranger to the journalism field. While she was studying, she worked for the Talk of The Town Community Newspaper in Port Alfred as a News Reporter. After completing her studies, she worked at the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform as a Communications Officer Intern. More recently, she worked as a Science and Technology Reporter for the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, based at Kumkani FM community radio station, where she was responsible for collating, writing, and reading news. Anelisa holds a National Diploma in Journalism from Walter Sisulu University. She says *"What I enjoy the most about being a Citizen Journalist is learning about Climate Change, taking that information and breaking it down to my community for better understanding and clear knowledge about the subject. I also love travelling for workshops, networking, and meeting new people."*

What's Coming Up

The Learning Festival originally scheduled for September will now happen from the 1st to the 4th of November. More information will be shared in the coming months but in the meantime please diarise these dates.

Until next time,
RACR Team

©2022 Social Change Assistance Trust | 160 Sir Lowry Street | 3rd Floor | Buchanan Square | Woodstock | 8100 Tel: +27 (0) 21 4182575

Web Version | Preferences | Forward | Unsubscribe

Powered by **Mad Mimi**®
A GoDaddy® company