Rural Action for Climate Resilience

Co-funded by the European Union

Hello, Friends!

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Rural Action for Climate Resilience (RACR) newsletter and the second issue for 2023.

We are in full swing with the RACR project activities. This newsletter will share highlights of all the activities that have taken place within the project RACR project in the last quarter.

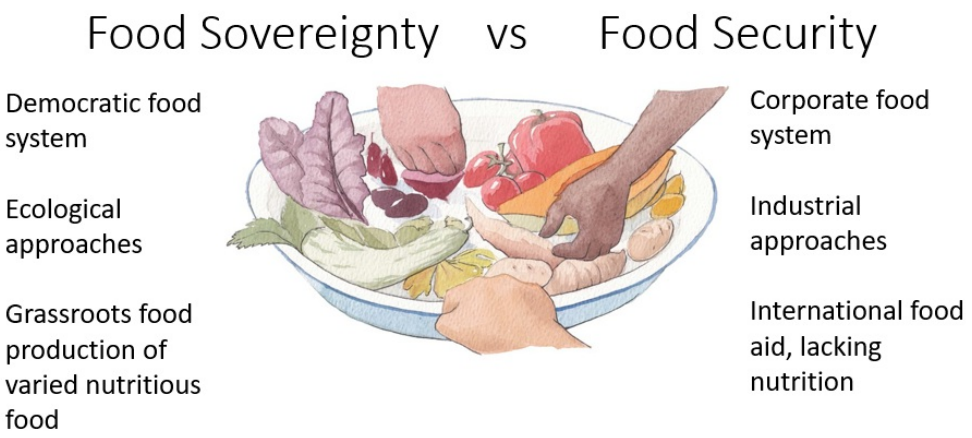
Online seminars

On 29 March 2023, the RACR project hosted an engaging and informative online seminar on food sovereignty as an approach to building resilience in the ongoing climate crisis.

Food sovereignty is an alternative approach to the dominant globalised, corporate-driven food system. In contrast to food security, it focuses on

addressing hunger and building resilient food systems through localised production, distribution, and access to nutritious food.

A fact sheet was also shared with the participants on how to encourage agroecology in our communities.



Climate Champions Core Grant (CCCG) recipients

We featured the following Climate Champions Core Grant recipients from our RACR project on our social media recently:

Thuso Advice and Development Centre, located in Pampierstad, Northern Cape.

With the grant, they support household vegetable gardening and tree-planting projects in two informal settlements in Pampierstad.

The grant is also used to provide gardening tools, seedlings, and trees to increase the production of healthy vegetables in the community and to equip the community and local schools with gardening skills.

Dordrecht Legal Advice Community Development Office, located in Dordrecht, Eastern Cape.

With the grant, Dordrecht Legal Advice Community Development Office is supporting household vegetable gardens in six villages in the Machubeni and Boniswa region with gardening tools, conducting workshops and monthly monitoring sessions, and providing trees to 500 households in the Harry Gwala and Munniksville project.

Mount Frere Paralegal Advice Centre, located in Mount Frere, Eastern Cape.

The grant is being used to support a vegetable gardening project consisting of three sites in Qoqa village (Mount Frere), namely Vulamehlo Vegetable Garden, Alikhanye Project, and Siyakhula Home-Based Care.

The sites are supported with gardening tools, Jojo water tanks, and materials for building structures to house nurseries for seedlings. The organisation is also hosting workshops to educate the community about climate-adaptive vegetable gardens.

Inter-Church Local Development Agency Office (ILDA), located in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape.

ILDA is using the grant to support gardening projects on two sites, namely Amanzi Estate Farm, a privately owned farm, and a community garden in Moegesukkel Informal Settlement.

The gardens are supported with Jojo tanks for saving rainwater, gardening tools, seedlings, green shade cloth structure to house a nursery, fencing, and stipends for volunteers who assist with the maintenance of the gardens.

Herschel Legal Advice Office, which is running a beekeeping project.

The grant is assisting with maintaining three beekeeping projects run by the Sunduza Bee-Keepers Project. Beekeepers have had the necessary bee-keeping training, and the grant has assisted with providing additional equipment and infrastructure for the project.

The additional equipment has expanded their operation and promoted the growth of the population of bees in the area.

Port St Johns Legal Advice Centre, located in Port St Johns, Eastern Cape.

The grant is being used to support vegetable gardens and a beekeeping project.
The vegetable gardens are supported with gardening tools, Jojo tanks, and fencing. The beekeeping project is supported with beekeeping equipment and hives for the bees.

Port St. Johns Legal Advice Centre is also hosting a series of workshops to educate the community about climate-adaptive vegetable gardens.

Berlin Legal Advice Centre, located in Berlin, Eastern Cape.

With the grant, Berlin Legal Advice Centre is running an Alien vegetation clearance and vegetable gardening project. They have removed alien plants from four hectares of land to make space for grazing cattle and to plant indigenous plants. The wood from the trees that have been cut is being sold to generate funds to reinvest in the project.

The grant will also support a vegetable garden with tools and equipment for gardening.

Merweville Advice and Development Office, located in Merweville, Western Cape.

With the grant, Merweville Advice and Development Office is supporting the newly established office garden as well as the soon-to-be-established community garden.

The dedicated team of gardeners is planning to establish ferro cement tanks that will be used to store water at the main gardening site.

Eastern Cape field visits

In April, two members of the RACR Team visited the Core Grant recipient CBOs in Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Western Cape alongside Permaculturist, John Nzira from Ukuvuna.

The purpose of the visits was to provide monitoring and support to the grant recipients. The CBOs were given a monitoring and evaluation form to check the progress of the community gardens they are supporting particularly regarding the implementation of permaculture gardening practices. John also provided onsite support to the beekeeping projects to enhance the production of honey during the colder winter months. Discussions were also held on how to advance the CBO's engagement with their IDPs as well as with their local or district municipality.

Regional workshops

We hosted a RACR Western Cape Regional Workshop in Cape Town from 9 to 12 May 2023 and the Eastern Cape Regional Workshop in East London from 23 to 26 May 2023.

The four-day workshop was attended by twenty participants in Cape Town and forty in East London, consisting of community leaders, faith leaders, and youth coming from rural communities in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape, and Northern Cape.

We had informative and engaging discussions about the causes and the impacts of climate, gender and climate change, gendered impacts of climate, and intersectionality.

The purpose of the RACR regional workshop is to engage on climate change issues with people from rural communities to help amplify their knowledge about climate change, build resilience against climate change, and learn how to cope with climate emergencies.

Youth Citizen Journalist Training

On 11 May-12 May 2023, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Office Cape Town held a training session for our Rural Action for Climate Resilience (RACR) Youth Citizen Journalists.

The training focused on different writing styles and how to conduct interviews. The aim was to help the Citizen Journalists identify different interview styles for different stories, teach them how to collate information in writing and show them how to put it together for the audience.

The training was facilitated by Thabo Molelekwa, our Youth Citizen Journalist Coordinator, and Stephan Lombard, a Communications Associate from the Global Strategic Communications Council (GSCC).

We look forward to reading more insightful and informative stories from this

talented young team!

Latest articles

Sewage pollution and climate change devastate livelihood of Noupoort farmer

Extreme weather conditions hit infrastructure in Eastern Cape

Adelaide, Eastern Cape, up in arms over flood response

What's Coming Up?

The next RACR Learning Festival will be held from 29 August 2023 to 1 September 2023 with participants from the participating CBOs .

Please note that this is an in-person workshop and the operations team will be in touch about registrations and travel.

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter; see you soon!

RACR Team.

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