

Brief Report on Special Project Workshop held at Dzenza Primary School

Venue: Dzenza Primary School

Date: 10th October, 2009

Introduction

Dzenza Primary school is a participant in LCD's Link Schools Programme. It is linked with Gleniffer High School. They received a grants from their partner school to make a school garden and an orchard.

This report details the process for implementing the special project at Dzenza Primary School in Mthandiza zone. An initial special project workshop was organised by the Dzenza Head teacher Mr Kankwamba and he invited Link Staff to be the Guests of honour. The aim of the workshop was to train the communities on how to make compost manure (called Chimati) so that they can use manure in the school garden and orchard. Two extension workers led the training session.

LCD Staff Present:

Wilford Njala

Elyvin Nkhonjera

Extension Workers Invited:

Mr Zimba

Mrs Chingalangala

Other Participants

Head teacher, Mr Kankwamba

3 Teachers

5 School Project Committee members

10 Mother Group members

Chairman of PTA

Activities

The Extension workers started by explaining the complete process of making compost manure which is locally called Chimati. Following the theory, the communities started making the compost with supervision from the Extension workers. The process was as follows:



Mrs Chingalangala, the Extension worker explaining about the process of making manure.



Preparing the bed: The bed was made using banana tree trunks. The trunks were spaced at specified, regular intervals. In total, there were 5 banana trunks. On top of the banana trunks, they put small stems of trees which were approx. 1.5m long.

A single stem, 1.5m long was placed upright in the centre so the height of the heap could be specified.



Females chopping maize stocks/stems to be used in the compost manure



Heaped manure to be used in the compost process. This is livestock waste mixed with soil that learners brought to be used in the garden.



Community members putting the chopped maize stocks (mapesi) as first layer



First layer, well covered with maize Stocks



Women drawing water to be used in the manure making process



After putting the first layer of maize stocks and manure on the bed, at least 10 watering cans full of water were added to make sure that there was enough moisture in the compost.



Second layer also began with the maize stocks/stems - thatched grass could have been used if there weren't enough maize stocks available. Then more manure and water were added.



The process was repeated until the heap had reached a height of 1.5m



PTA Chair person added the final layer of compost manure.



Head teacher of Dzenza, Mr Kankwamba watered the final layer.



Community members with LCD staff preparing mud to seal the compost manure heap



Community Members sealing the compost manure with mud



The finished compost manure is called Chimati and this heap was nicknamed 'Link Chimati'

Key Successes

Good participation of the Community Members

Presence of the Extension workers and Link Staff motivated the community members

The training was particularly effective for the community members because it was followed by a practical session where the participants help to build a compost heap with guidance from the trainers.

Challenges

It was observed that no learners were included in the project. However the Head teacher said that the first training was for the Community members and a second will be held where the community members will become the trainers for a selection of learners and the skills and knowledge will be passed on.