



**Report on the Department of Water Affairs’
Integrated Water Resources Management
IWRM Programme funded
Irrigation and Food Security Projects
in the Lower Olifants River Water User Association
(LORWUA) region of the
Olifants-Doorn Water Management Area**

21 July 2009

Report compiled for DWAF / DWA

Nik Wullschleger / Informage
IWRM Coordination Western Cape

Tel 023 347 0336

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) II Programme



water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SALGA
South African Local Government Association



Background

The Lower Olifants River Water User Association (LORWUA) as the first Water User Association (WUA) to be established in South Africa has a particular responsibility to set an example to Transformed Irrigation Boards and other WUA's, to uphold and implement the National Water Act of 1998. WUA's, such as LORWUA, are specifically tasked by Government to ensure continuity of operations; to decentralise water resource management to local level thereby ensuring effective regulation; to empower historically disadvantaged water users through support and access to water; and to promote the integration of water resource management.

The Honourable Minister R. Kasrils in his speech delivered at the inauguration of the Ebenhaeser Balancing Dam in November 2003, stressed that "One of the important key performance indicators that (DWAF) will be monitoring will be the assistance provided by the water user association in the establishment of and support to emerging farmers from historically disadvantaged groups."

In light of the above, the Department of Water Affairs' (DWA) Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Programme proactively engaged with a number of community-based emerging farmer and food security projects in the Olifants-Doorn to test various aspects of the NWA and the effectiveness of the WUA's in assisting the DWA to address their needs around access to water. In addition access to other resources was also facilitated such as land, agricultural inputs, funding, technical know-how, capacity building, networking and markets.

The following are brief descriptions of the projects that are located within the Matzikama Municipality Area and receive water, directly or indirectly, from LORWUA.

CASKOR Emerging Farmers Ebenhaeser



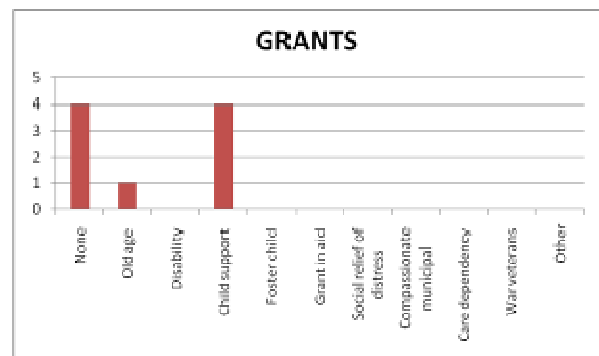
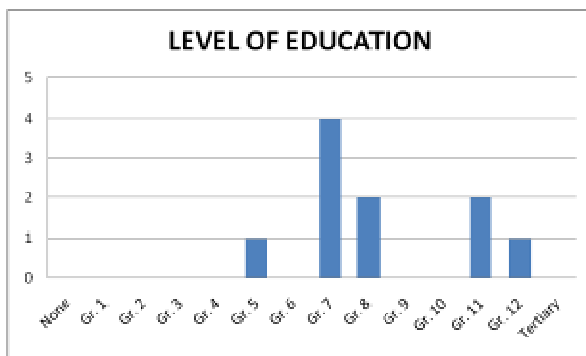
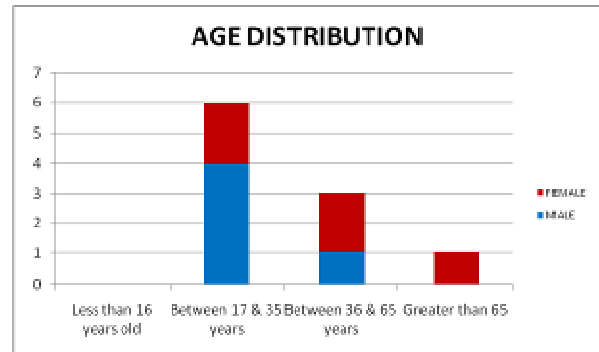
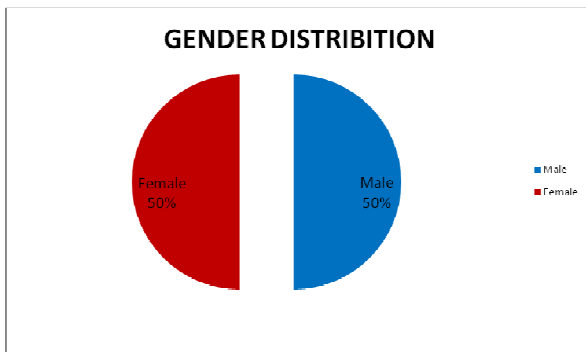
CASKOR Emerging Farmers farm in Ebenhaeser, along the lower reaches Olifants River at the very end of the LORWUA operated canal system. The emerging farmer association of ten members farm on 7 ha of land of which 4 ha is irrigated. The land is owned by the members and farmed collectively. The DWA IWRM programme funded this project to illustrate how water can be saved by using efficient irrigation systems to grow vegetable, seed and fodder crops.

The projects total budget is R261 860; Total claimed to date given extended phase for additional R72 452.25; Total claimed to date R327 524.32 - primary purpose to establish efficient irrigation systems while paying for labour and agricultural inputs including seeds and fertilizers.

Lessons learnt around improved water use efficiency should be shared with the wider Ebenhaeser community and emerging farmers that still use flood irrigation. According to the project leader there is a problem at the LORWUA “verdeelkas” which creates poor water supply.

DWA IWRM Food Gardens & Emerging Irrigation Farmer Projects abstracting water from LORWUA

Member Information for Ebenhaeser Caskor Emerging Farmer Project (CE11)



Number of project participants: 10 (5 female, 5 male)

For more information about this project contact: Lourens Kordom (027 217 2252; 073 220 1237) or Phillip Casper (078-190 2741)

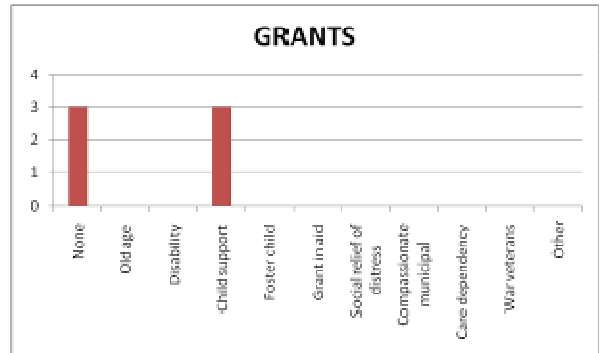
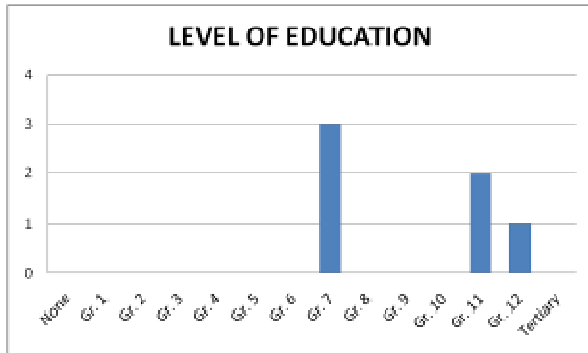
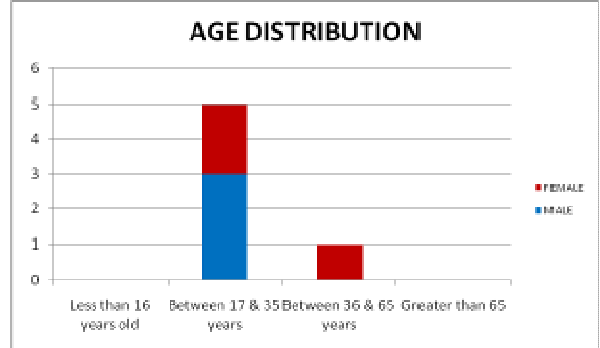
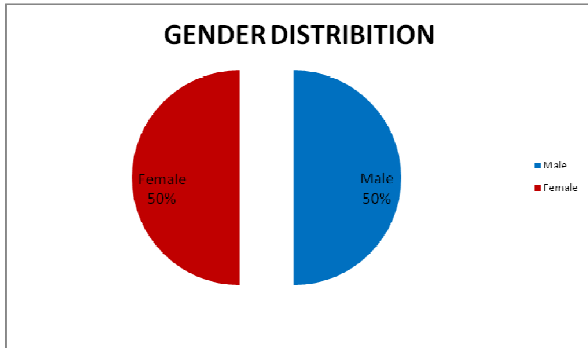
Lutzville Emerging Farmers



The Lutzville Emerging Farmers started in 2004 with the objective of securing 5 ha of water from LORWUA and then partnering with “Up to Date”, a commercial farming operation, to produce cash crops. The project suffered numerous setbacks and recently accessed 33 ha of commonage land close to the Lutzville Waste Water Treatment Works. The project has cleared and ploughed 1 ha land and now intends approaching LORWUA for water. The plan is then to install an irrigation system and plant cash crops.

The project LU01 & LU01X (Lutzville emerging farmers) Total Budget in first phase was R99,111.90 of which a total of R8,947.27 was spent. The second phase was granted and extended to November 2009, with total budget of R111,273.45 of which R62,606.66 has been claimed to date, the remainder available from 1 July 2009 to November 2009 is R48,666.79

Member Information for Lutzville Emerging Farmers Association (LU01X)



Number of project participants: 6 (3 female, 3 male)

For more information about this project contact: Joseph Claase (084 739 6340) or Len Lategan (072 418 5996)

Vredendal Samewerk Boere (VSB) Emerging Farmers

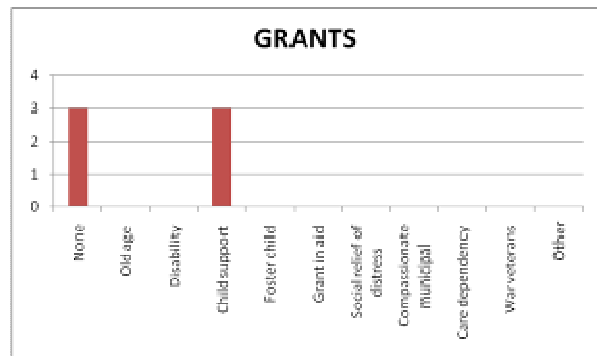
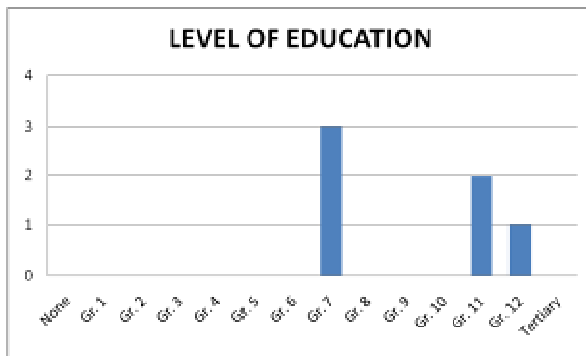
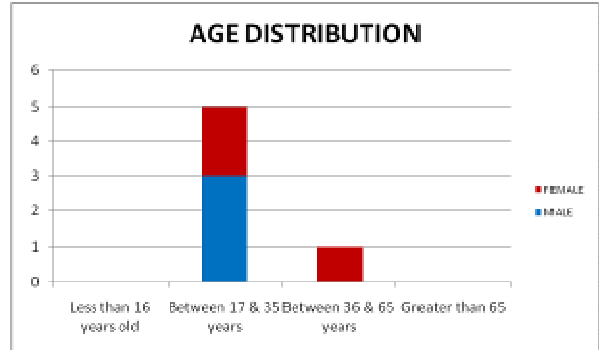
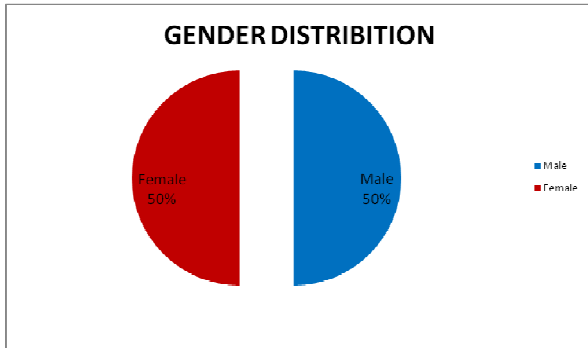


Vredendal Samewerk Boere started in 1998 when a group of unemployed, previously disadvantaged people were given the opportunity to farm on 20 hectares of commonage land belonging to the Matzikama Municipality. The project currently farms five hectares of wine grapes, which produces about 40 tons of grapes per year, and about five hectares of cash crop. The farm has 15 hectares under drip irrigation and purchases water at industrial rates from the municipality. The group has negotiations an additional 5 ha of water from LORWUA at about R1,200 per hectare per year.

The project leader participated in the first phase of IWRM, particularly with regard to the process of establishing the Olifants-Doorn Catchment Management Agency (CMA) and the Project Cycle Management capacity building course.

The projects VR01 & VR21 were funded to expand their farming activities, apply water conservation on their farm, and to engage effectively with the LORWUA. The project was allocated a total of R151,598.84 in 2007, and spent R135,531.95. The project received a further allocation of R147 308 in 2008 and spent R56,941.72. Total expenditure by the group since 2007 was thus R192 473.67

Member Information for Vredendal Samewerk Boere (VSB) (VR21)



Number of project participants: 6 (3 female, 3 male)

For more information about this project contact: Jan Fortuin (073-672 3314) or Patrick Cloete (073 581 4629)

DORCAS Food Gardens – Vredendal



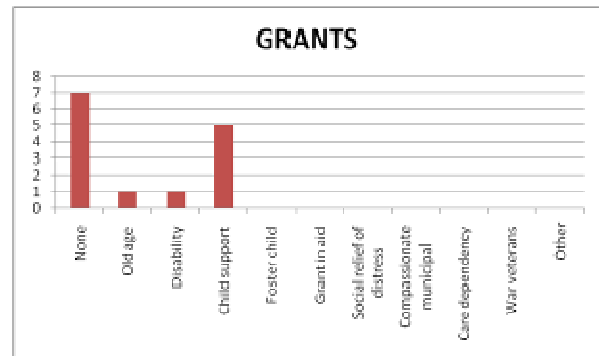
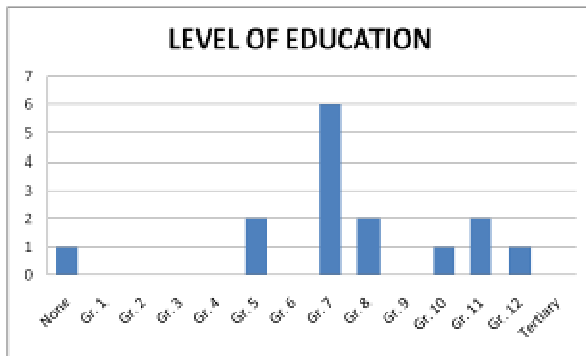
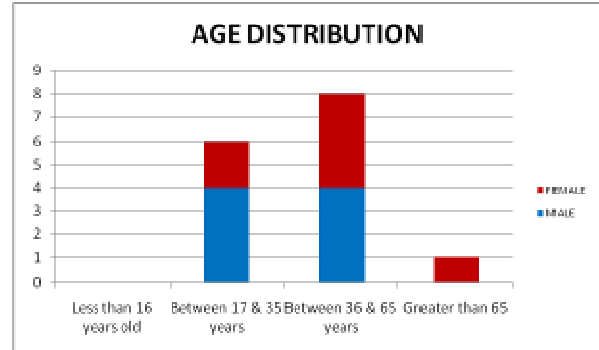
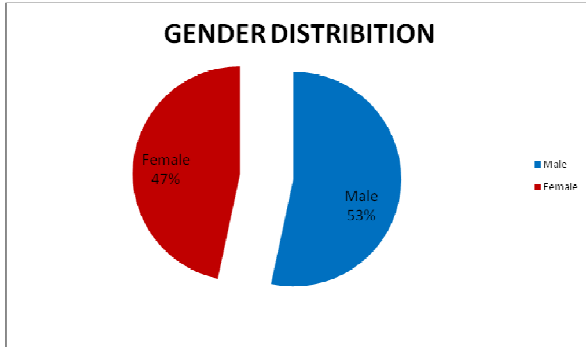
DORCAS provides food to sick and needy persons in Vredendal on a daily basis. The one hectare food garden provide most of the projects fresh vegetables and is watered from six 10 000 litre tanks filled by water pumped from the LORWUA canal and supplemented by rainwater collected from the building roofs.

The project leader participated in the first phase of IWRM and obtained seed funding to assist with the establishment of the first DORCAS food garden.

The Project (DC11) total IWRM budget allocated was R261 442.64; Total claimed to date R238 957.72

For more information about this project contact: Lize Adonis 073 888 8399

Member Information for DORCAS Care Group Vredendal (DC11)



Number of active project participants: 15 (7 female, 8 male), excluding community beneficiaries

Klawer Food Gardens by People with Disabilities



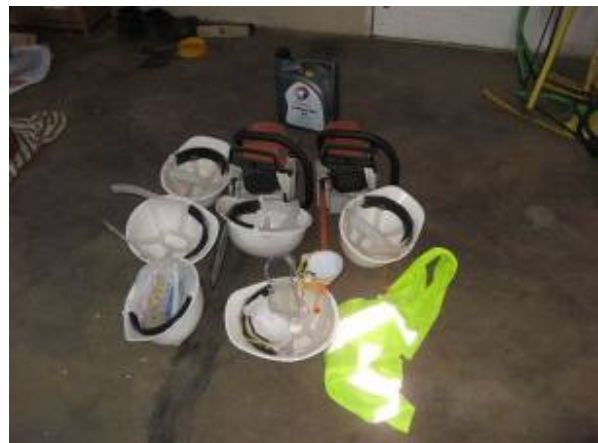
The Klawer Food Garden by People with Disabilities has cleared approximately 1 ha of land in preparation for planting of vegetables and the installation of a drip irrigation system. The first phase utilizes domestic potable water supplied by the Matzikama Municipality via a pre-paid water meter. In the second year the project intends replacing the water from LORWUA, while expanding the area under irrigation to 3 ha.

IWRM budget allocated to this project was R203 918.00; Total claimed to date R109 632.59. The project closed on the 30 June 2009 and the remainder budget is accessible via the IWRM Global LORWUA project (see below).

For more information about this project contact: Katrina Stuurman or Ruiter Juries 027 216 1756 / 073 499 7832

Project ID lists and socio-economic data incomplete.

Ebenhaeser Alien Invasive Plant Clearing



The Ebenhaeser Alien Invasive Plant Eradication project cleared a total of 4.7 km along the Ebenhaeser Irrigation Canal.

The project leader participated in the first phase of IWRM, obtaining training as a Water Forum Champion / Mentor and seed funding to kick-start project on water awareness in Ebenhaeser.

IWRM budget was allocated a budget of R102 112 and spent in this project R 89 572 with most of the budget used on labour and the purchase of equipment.

For more information about this project contact: Frederick Fortuin or William Fortuin (073 778 2469)

Ebenhaeser Water Awareness, Tap & Leak Repair



The Ebenhaeser Water Awareness Tap & Leak Repair project aimed to heighten the awareness

The project leader participated in the first phase of IWRM, obtaining training as a Water Forum Champion / Mentor and seed funding to kick-start project on water awareness in Ebenhaeser.

IWRM budget allocated was R174 336 and the budget spent in this project was R 48 552 with most of the budget used on labour , awareness materials and venues.

For more information about this project contact: Frederick Fortuin or William Fortuin (073 778 2469)

Matzikama Emerging Farmer Forum



IWRM is funding three Emerging Farmer Forums in the Olifants-Doorn. The project goals are to:

- a) Act as mouthpiece for their members and build capacity around water issues.
- b) Participate on all WUA meetings.
- c) Evaluate the WUA on different levels during the meeting.
- d) Compile reports with findings and recommendations with respect to WUAs and the interaction of HDI members.
- e) Develop a project proposal to facilitate 500 Rain Water Harvesting subsidies in the Matzikama area.

Project MT11 (Matzikama Emerging Farmers Forum) project was allocated a total of R86,591 in June 2008, and has a remainder available to November 2009 of R57,115.25

More information: Len Lategan 072 418 5996 or Jan Fortuin 073 672 3314

Adopt-a-River Projects



DWA IWRM & Adopt a River project goals:

Rivers identified for this intervention are Olifants River (Witzenberg, Citrusdal, Clanwilliam, Klaver, Vredendal, LORWUA, Lutzville and Ebenhaeser projects), Houdenbeks River (Koue Bokkeveld and Houdenbeks WUA), Verlorenvlei River (Kromantonies WUA and Vuku'zenzele Youth) and Tra-Tra (Wupperthal Water User Group).

- a) Identify critical rivers and IWRM projects and WUA's that could participate.
- b) Purchase water quality SAS Kits from Southern Water (Budget for equipment: R50,000).
- c) Meet with projects to assess field sites and train participants in the use of the SAS kits.
- d) Projects continue with assessments once every quarter.
- e) Feed information to WUA and DWA.
- f) Measure water quality.

DWA IWRM Food Gardens & Emerging Irrigation Farmer Projects abstracting water from LORWUA