

Namibia Horticulture Trust – Policies

Namibia Horticulture Trust – Project Sustainability

It is a policy of the Namibia Horticulture Trust (NHT) that the long term sustainability of each project be assured as far as possible. This to NHT is the single most important goal for the NHT before they commence with any project. The method of ensuring sustainability is as follows:

1) Analyse the Challenges towards sustainability for each project before the business plan for that project is submitted.

Challenges that the NHT has experienced in the past are:

- Improving skills levels related to the project.*
- Improving literacy levels.*
- Showing the communities how to take the ownership of their project.*
- Teaching communities planting programs to produce throughout the year.*
- To establish a horticulture culture.*
- To establish entrepreneurship skills to ensure self-sustainability.*
- To circumvent cultural issues influencing community upliftment projects.*

2) Analyse the Weak Links towards sustainability for each project before the business plan for that project is submitted.

Weak Links that the NHT has experienced in the past are:

- * The amount of cash involved in a project like this, for poor communities. How to control cash in an honest way.*
- * Literacy levels when it comes to entrepreneurship. The skills to read write and do mathematics.*
- * The dynamics of and the skills required for VegiTunnel gardening may be too complicated in some cases. VegiTunnel gardening requires certain activities which cannot be neglected: i) Schedules for planting cycles ii) Mixing the fertilizer (Hygroponics) to be added to the substrates iii) Scheduled watering times that have to be adhered to, strictly and iv) Replanting and refilling cycles.*
- * Champions (super gardeners) need assistant gardeners to assist them in planting, replanting, watering and attending the gardening project. One person alone will not cope.*

** The discipline associated with VegiTunnel gardening may be too much in the beginning. Communities' members seem to move and travel a lot as part of a social system. When champions and or gardeners leave the gardening projects unattended, problems arise. It is vital for the community to realise that this is a project that needs more than just the champions input to succeed.*

3) Provide for items 1) and 2) in the business plan budget and justify in as much detail as possible.

4) Monitor progress of the critical items in the project that will ensure sustainability. Implement adjustment and deviate from the original business plan if necessary to ensure sustainability. See the policy on Project Management regarding possible deviations from the original business plan.

5) In the case where the critical elements to ensure sustainability were underestimated provision must be made at the earliest opportunity to compensate for this flaw. See the policy on Project Management regarding possible deviations from the original business plan.

6) The donor must be updated in every aspect regarding the possible threat to sustainability of the project and to possible deviations to provide for such threats.

7) NHT will do everything possible to ensure sustainability as it is in the interest of NHT that projects are successful and that projects are self-sustainable.

Signed this __ day of _____ 20__ at _____ in Namibia:

AS Oelofse - Trustee

A Fosso - Trustee