

Interim Progress Report Hope Village, Windhoek, Namibia

10 Apr 2013



Inspecting the fruit trees, their leaves are improving but today there were a few little caterpillars and small (1 mm or less) clear silver eggs on the stem and leaves of the citrus trees. We are treating this immediately.

More spinach was cleared out today, harvested and then emptied to sterilize the soil. The roots of the spinach also look like there was some sort of problem, making them bumpy and odd looking. We think it may be nematodes, but we need more research in identifying the problem. We harvested about 160 leaves in Tunnels 3 and 4 (sold N\$ 10 worth of spinach and consumed the rest).

With the students, we went over planting calendars, discussing three main principles of crop rotation; following the planting seasons, how to prevent diseases, and utilizing different nutrients. They are putting up the training veggie tunnel again. Today Albie will visit to see their progress and discuss the implementation of drip irrigation.

Tunnel Number 3 Row B was closed after the final harvest of spinach. This tunnel was planted in February 2012 the 28th and was closed in April 2013 the 10th. The spinach lasted for 1 year and two months. From of the 191 planting bags came an amount of 6 060 spinach leaves weighing about 238.74 Kg. The harvests of spinach took place every week at least once and sometimes even twice, as the demand arose. There was a problem with fungus towards the beginning of this year which caused a decrease in the yield. We removed and sterilized the sand out for another crop as part of rotation.

I would say that this was a good year to date and the harvest met the demand of the Hope Village kitchen with vegetables left that we sold for an extra income.

Report on the Beets in Tunnel 1

Final Harvest of the Beets was of 56kg without the leaves on but with the leaves on we had a harvest of 90kgs. The beets lasted from December 2012 to March 2013. This was over a period of 4 months. The harvest went to the Hope Village houses for consumption. The harvest was not done all at once, but in 3 different sessions. First the biggest beets, then the large beets and the medium, harvested with the smaller ones. The number of beets that were in the garden were 1200 beets. The beets

looked healthy and were tasty according to the children and house mothers. The left-over leaves were used in Vermi-compost production. My recommendation to NHT is that we could try have a nutritionist to come over to teach the mothers how to cook the leaves of the beets, which will be good as opinion has it that the leaves are healthy to.

The targeted amount of beets was supposed to reach 2000 beets at least, but this was not achieved due to a lack of sufficient planning and assistance in planting. With the implementation of the new planting and crop rotation calendar we hope to achieve this in the near future.

The challenges that we saw as we analysed the growth of the beets weekly with Jacob, was that strange mushrooms were growing next to the beets. It could not be proven what exactly caused this, but we took pictures and showed it to Albert Fosso. He thought it might have been the cow manure that Emmanuel used in the planting and soil preparation.

In conclusion we decided not make use of the cow manure, but rather to use it in the vermi-compost production for the earthworms to decompose it and reduce all diseases and sickness. The left-over of the leaves were used for soil cover in the tunnel.

This tunnel is of a single bed, we decided to create more space in the tunnel by removing the system of planting bags and just create one single bed of about 80cm deep. The single bed tunnel is filled with building sand and has a pathway of interlocks of about 40cm which goes towards the end of the bed. The implementation of this project was done in October through November 2012 and the planting of the beetroots took place in December 2012.

There was a need for casual labor of which N\$ 400 was offered to 3 people who dug the single bed. This was followed by the renovation of the tunnel by putting up a new tunnel of 9m by 3.80m supported by new pipes of 32mm diameter. Then we filled the single bed with building sand and planted new seeds. It was during this time that two bags of Hydroponic fertilizer were donated to the project of Hope Village.

I was involved in the whole process of caring, watering and harvesting the beets. I therefore extend my full gratitude on behalf of Hope Village and personally for the investment of new net, sand, seeds and seedling mix to NHT. May God richly bless you!

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