



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



Investing in rural people



Resilient
FOOD SYSTEMS

ESWATINI: Climate Smart Agriculture for Resilient Livelihoods

Lynn Kota: National Project Director



CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

THE WORLD BANK
IBRD - IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

UN
environment

UNIDO

UN
DPI

World
Agroforestry

COVID-19 status and implications for projects efforts

Like in many countries worldwide, the COVID 19 pandemic has had many adverse effects on the livelihoods of rural communities. Vaccination efforts are currently at 31% of the population. The following are some the effects of the pandemic in Eswatini:

- The sudden changes in the output markets, as a result of movement restrictions, have disrupted the cash flow of some smallholder producers, leaving them unable to afford inputs, like seeds and fertilizers to continue production into the next season.
- It has been quite difficult for the project to provide the much - needed coaching and mentoring of farmers to realise increased yields.
- Support in the form of inputs will provide a much-needed stimulus to continue production and recover from the initial impact of COVID-19.
- Considering the seasonality of food availability, it is important for farmers to be supported with measures to protect their harvest to ensure food availability beyond the post-harvest season.
- This is particularly important for increasing household access to nutritious foods for boosting immunity and increasing the body's defences against viruses such as COVID-19.
- Lack of such support will result in a domino effect rendering rural communities more susceptible to such viruses, and defeating the whole effort of improving livelihoods.



Impact of COVID-19 on the Resilient Food Systems Programme



Highlights from June 2020 – August 2021

Using Solar powered irrigation infrastructure to irrigate previously degraded land

Zoning rehabilitated lands for different land uses according to suitability

Capacitation of user groups for sustainability of rehabilitation initiatives

Acquisition of political will from both Traditional Authorities and Government to support rehabilitation effort

*Using Nature-based solutions
to achieve an integrated approach
for the implementation of the
3 Rio conventions and SLM*

Wetland Restoration for Increased Water Availability for Livelihood Enhancement and Biodiversity Conservation



Increased Pollinators for Increased Agricultural Productivity for Livelihood Enhancement and Avoided Deforestation

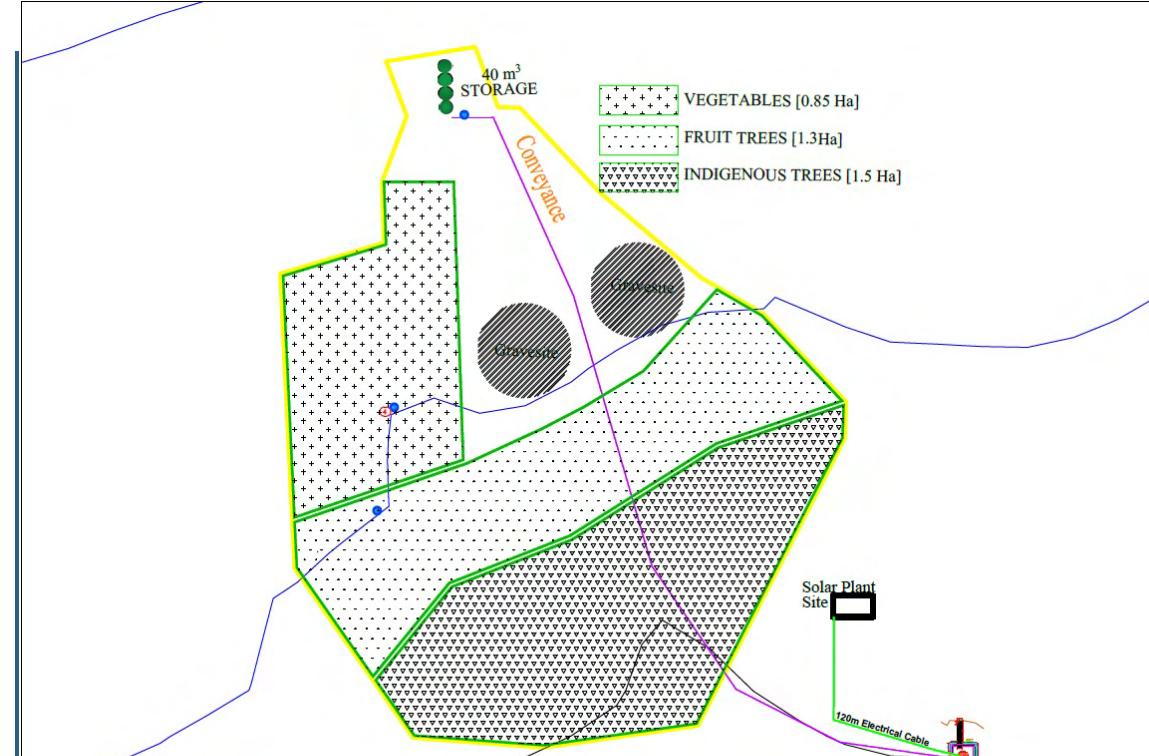




Innovative approaches for irrigation using solar powered energy



Engaging and Zoning



Project approach and accomplishments related to gender/youth transformation and mainstreaming

Gender disaggregation is observed, and women's land and to women's empowerment security are enhanced through the Chief's Letter of Consent.

More women accessed rainwater harvesting (338%) and women's participation in the CDP process increased by 131%.

Women are well represented in NRMCs (48%), RMCs (40%), CDCs (58%), Inner Councils (32%), and erosion control groups (61%).

While recognising good implementation progress of the Women in Agriculture Index (WEAI) outcomes, the project aims to hold a pro-WEAI virtual workshop to enhance better analysis of project's contribution and transformation.

The inclusion of the youth in project is still a challenge because of lack of access to land and their volatility.

The honey value chain is specifically being developed for the youth in terms of production and processing.

An MoU with the UNDP has been signed to that effect.



Challenges faced and how they were addressed

- The impact of COVID 19 has contributed to the delays in project implementation.
- The use of an Agricultural Information Management System has been heightened through providing internet connectivity to Rural Development Areas in the Project Area, for both extension officers and farmers to have access to the web-based system.
- An SMS platform was also created to disseminate information to all farmers as required.
- Civil unrest in the country also resulted in delays in project implementation. Project logos were removed from project cars to enable some degree of project implementation continuity, particularly during planting and harvesting times.
- Inadequacy of suitable and qualified business development service providers in Eswatini has adversely reduced the speed towards access to finance for market ready farmers.

Most important lessons learned from the project

- In order to achieve sustained project initiatives, it is imperative to transfer skills and knowledge to communities through the engagement of community- based facilitators during the life of the project.
- It is imperative that projects receive strong political will from both Traditional Authorities and Governments from the design stage and throughout implementation, and their roles and responsibility clearly defined.
- Beneficiary contribution strengthens community ownership of projects and thus their sustainability.

What part of your project would you want to feature as a case study for RFS to inspire others?

Using solar powered irrigation infrastructure for previously degraded lands, and re-introduction of ‘the forgotten foods’

Re- shaping of gullies in severely degraded lands and zoning for different uses

Restoration of Wetlands for Biodiversity Conservation and for Economic Use value.

Establishment and Training of Community- based Natural Resource Management Committees for sustainability of interventions, skills and knowledge transfer.



Planned activities 2022

The Main focus to be on market linkages and access to finance as key drivers of change



Lynn Kota
National Project Director

ESWADE – Smallholder Market-Led Project/Climate-Smart Agriculture for Resilient Livelihoods (SMLP/CSARL)

Lynnk@eswade.co.sz

lynnkota@gmail.com

+268 76063609

www.eswade.co.sz



**Resilient
FOOD SYSTEMS**

resilientfoodafrica.org



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

