

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME

Annual Report for the period January to December 2008

A: Overall Purpose

Please take note of the following acronyms used in this report:

- *EO: Extension Officer*
- *CV: Community Volunteer*
- *G5: Group of 5*
- *CVC: Community Volunteer Coordinator*
- *CMC: Community Management Committee*
- *SAP: Sustainable Agriculture Programme*
- *FG: Farmer Group*
- *KF: Keen Farmer*
- *ILA: Integrated Livelihood Approach*
- *HBC: Home Base Care*
- *CTI: Circuit Teaching International*
- *COP: Causes of Poverty*

The overall purpose of this programme is to use sustainable agriculture as a means to enable disadvantaged small farmers to overcome poverty in a sustainable way, and for them to influence and assist others to do the same. This will involve:

- **Promoting** and **teaching** sustainable agricultural practices
- **Applying** specific development principles, and
- **Considering** the context, needs and problems facing small rural farmers which include past, present and future circumstances.

1. **Brief report on the overall purpose**

1.1 Promote and teach sustainable agriculture practices

During this reporting period 505 additional new potential farmers have been introduced to new agricultural skills i.e. vegetable production, fruit production, poultry, garden layout, soil fertility, plant protection, crop production, small animal production and food processing.

The 505 potential farmers are all members of the 101 groups of five formed during this reporting period. All 101 groups have sent their representatives to the Basic Life skills Course at the ACAT Centre.

At the end of Basic Life Skills Course at the Centre, participants are given study materials including those for the 3 members who did not attend the course at the ACAT Centre. The availability of reading material encourages the groups to learn and discuss issues together. In some cases the material is used at a family level.

As a follow-up after Basic Life Skills Course, the Extension Officer or CV in the area uses these books to help two participants teach other group members. 144 Home Food security workshops have been facilitated by the Extension Officers, and 220 additional Home food security workshops were facilitated by CVs. These Home food security workshops provide the participants with the key sustainable agriculture practices.

1.2 Applying specific development principles

i) Equipping the Groups

During the Basic Life Skills Course, farmers learn the basic principles of development i.e. healthy living, basic business practices, home food security, HIV and Aids awareness and Spiritual development, which include the causes of poverty.

During area workshops, at least 3 of the above topics are discussed. The purpose of the workshops is to link the information that group members get from the ACAT Centre with the environment that farmers live in. It is also to help the two who attended the course to share the information with the 3 members who could not attend the workshop at the ACAT Centre.

ii) Home visits

Home visits that group members do to each member's homestead help to address the issue of self-esteem, feeling inferior and being shy. Since there are only 5 members in a group, plus the EO and/or CV, the shy and hesitant people are encouraged to share their point of view. They are being recognised and their points are taken into consideration and they start feeling and realizing that they are worth something.

Group members especially CVs have over the years established courage to start discussions on issues that normally would not be discussed. Issues like HIV and Aids, sexuality, relationship between husband and wife, the role of a husband, etc are issues that they hardly talk about. Slowly the CVs have been able to help their communities talk about these issues.

iii) Savings

All groups that ACAT works with are encouraged to save and are saving at different levels. For some of these groups savings have provided small loans within groups. These small loans have assisted group members to invest in their business.

The other form of saving that is common amongst our target groups is stokvel where group members save money together either for 6 or 12 months and they buy the "long shelf" food items in bulk. This helps them to have a strong stand as they negotiate prices with retailers. The other benefit of food stokvel is that it helps participants to have extra cash for school fees. Some members view these stokvels as one of the ways, which brings the community together.

Amandlethu Group from Nhlazuka was awarded a certificate for the best kept books by SAVE ACT, an NGO that encourages the rural communities to save.

iv) Community Volunteer

After spending at least 6 years in one area, ACAT plans to move its active involvement to another area. As a preparation towards exiting, ACAT is actively identifying and equipping Community Volunteers, who after ACAT exits will continue servicing their community. In 3 areas, ACAT have seen CVs servicing their community with very limited ACAT involvement. In Nqutu, Nkandla and Nhlazuka areas SAP did not have staff members for part of the year. However the CVs in these areas committed themselves and made sure that they act as a link between their community and the outside world including ACAT. They network with the various government departments and NGOs (of which ACAT is one).

Evidence to date shows that if the right committed people are identified and equipped, they can develop their own communities with limited help especially at the beginning.

Community Volunteers main activities involves:

- Facilitating and maybe teaching in various community workshops.
- Forming and encouraging groups.
- Attending various community meetings.
- Assisting with establishment of HFS gardens.
- Networking with various organisations on behalf of their communities.
- Mobilizing care for the vulnerable families.
- Visiting the homes where there are sick people and
- Participating in development activities outside ACAT's programme.

Sitting through their meetings and listening to them sharing their reports is very encouraging. They are more and more becoming a valuable resource to their communities.

v) Business skills

As group members grow, there is clear evidence of the impact in the communities where we work. What is more encouraging is to see the efforts that the group members do to change their lives. Below is a list of businesses that they are involved with:

a) Agri-business

- Selling vegetables
- Piggery
- Growing and selling seedling
- Selling poultry
- Selling seeds
- Selling calabash for decoration
- Buying calves feeding them and selling them as cattle
- Growing of herbs for essential oils

b) Contractual work

- School feeding scheme contract
- Road maintenance contract
- School maintenance contract
- c) Other
 - Cooking and selling food at pension payout point
 - Making and selling grass mats
 - Making mats using old plastic bags (recycling)

1.3 Stories of hope

i) Amandlethu farmer group from Nhlazuka
Amandlethu continues to work in their individual home gardens and they continued helping each other. They are involved in a savings and lending scheme which helps them with small loans for their businesses. Jointly they have a piggery project which started with one pig. They have recently grown to 11. They have slaughtered 2 for sale.

ii) Mrs Agnes Dlamini from Mnambithi
Mrs Dlamini says the following:
"I have been working with ACAT since 1999. When ACAT came into the area, I was growing vegetables on a very small scale which was not sufficient even to feed my family. I had no skills in the work I was doing. ACAT provided me with some agricultural training skills. After receiving skills and capacity, I started being involved in a number of agricultural enterprises. The main enterprise being a piggery project which started with six piglets.

By the end of 2007, Mrs Dlamini had 30 pigs. By the end of 2008, she had 35 pigs (these 35 pigs are in addition to the 5 she has sold).

Having become involved in a gardening and piggery project, I have witnessed and enjoyed the following:

- Improved health within the family members as we eat fresh vegetables from the garden.
- Cash income from the sales of both vegetables and pigs.
- Managed to purchase some garden tools and barbed wire for fencing the fields.
- Managed to improve the piggery shed which first was constructed from scrap material and now is built with poles and planks and am slowly putting some concrete on the floor.
- Learn to plan our daily activities.
- Purchased TV and DVD for children through the income made from the garden and piggery project.

iii) Mrs Zanele Dube from Mnambithi
Zanele Dube started working with ACAT since 2001 as a Keen Farmer, and now is a member of a Cooperative. Elmon Ndlela (ACAT Extension Officer) recently visited Zanele to assess her progress and this is what she had to say:

Having been working with ACAT has opened my mind to always think ahead and find ways and means of how I can improve the quality of my life. Seeing the opportunity being offered by the government on cooperatives, I took the opportunity of joining the cooperative. Our cooperative is made up of 10 members. We specialise in supplying feeding schemes at schools. When we started we were responsible for supplying food in 16 different schools. To date we are supplying 23 schools. Being a member of the cooperative has resulted in the following benefits:

- Managed to support my husband financially. We were not married but now we are married.
- Managed to buy two cows.
- Managed to buy a new lounge suite.
- Managed to start a spaza shop.

Through all these Mrs Dube is supporting other small scale farmers by buying their produce. In addition to the above follow up on individual reports, below are a few farmer initiatives that have recently served as a real encouragement to ACAT:

- iv) Dorah Masondo from Buhle Bemvelo Group – Ntumeni
Before joining ACAT, Mrs Masondo did not have a vegetable garden and was living in an old house. After joining ACAT she started with a door side garden to feed her family. After a year the size of the garden had grown ten times more and had started selling the surplus on pension days. She had a dream of building a strong house and that made her to work very hard. To date she has managed to build a strong house and her garden continues to grow bigger. In addition to vegetable planting, she planted potatoes and calabash.
- v) Mzothini Buthelezi from Vukaphansi Group - Ntumeni
From his school days he had a dream of becoming a farmer. After completing his schooling he did not get a chance of being trained in farming, but continued working the soil without agricultural training. As a young farmer he was trying to earn a living from the soil. In the first year his potato crop was a total failure. After joining ACAT, he borrowed money to buy two pockets of potato seed. With the help of the Extension Officer (Mr Mdlovu) he harvested 60 bags of potatoes and has never looked back.
- vi) Zwelihle Msomi from Sibani Group - Mzinyathi
Zwelihle Msomi joined ACAT in 2007 and has now made 10 deep trenches and as a CV he is teaching others in the group. He has started selling different seedlings and some vegetables to the community. He also supplies the local crèche with fresh vegetables.
- vii) Some of the new group members run their businesses in addition to working and assisting their communities. I asked Jabulani Mahlobo (CV from Inkandla) how he is able to plan his time amongst the activities that he is involved with without comprising one for the other.
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He sets his alarm clock for 4:00 am. He gets up and takes about 10 minutes thanking God for a new day. He tidies up his room, has a bath and by 4:30 am he starts working in the garden until 8:30.

From the garden he goes to visit groups, or prepares for the meeting of either CMC, CV planning or he goes to work at the nursery. He thanks ACAT for giving him the planning skills. He is involved with 5 different activities, but with planning nothing suffers.

Sustainable Agriculture Programme
Report for the period January to December 2008
B: Objectives

1. Objectives: Long and Short term

To provide the active disadvantaged small farmers with the opportunities, passion and capacity to achieve the following, and influence, motivate and assist others to do the same:

- Be members of sustainable community structures.
- Achieve self reliance and sustain an ever-improving quality of life, including the reconstruction of families.
- Address the causes of poverty.
- Enjoy home food security and for some to make farming a career.
- Own a profitable agri-business that will serve as a role model.
- Be aware of, understand and actively address the HIV and Aids pandemic with a special focus on causes, symptoms, transmission, avoidance, stigma, alternate lifestyle, management of the virus and the provision of community based support and care.

2. Brief report on objectives

2.1 Be members of sustainable community structures

To date SAP is working with 237 (136 from 2007 and 101 from the current year) groups of five, of which 219 are represented in sustainable community structures as they are members of the CMC. The remaining 18 groups of five are active members of the Zone committee (which is one step before forming a CMC in the area).

Of the 8 x 30km radius, where SAP is actively involved, 7 x 30km radius areas have formed CMCs, six CMCs actively mobilizing their communities.

The formed CMC representatives have been capacitated through 2 x 1 week courses at the ACAT Centre. Here they were equipped with leadership skills i.e.

- Overview of ACAT which provides them with general information about the organisation.
 - Passion for God's perspective: to encourage them to put God first in all their activities.
 - Achieving sustainable development: helps them to understand the need to know causes of poverty, be skilled in addressing HIV and Aids, life skills and some principles to achieve sustainable development.
 - Godly leadership: to help them take godly decisions.
 - Strategic Planning: to be skilled in planning.
 - Godly Governance: which guides them towards governing the godly way.
 - Management Principles: which gives them basic management functions.
 - Fundraising and reporting: which helps them on how to handle funds and how to report on them.
 - Administration: which deals with skills required to administer the organisation.
 - Programme implementation: provides them with skills to implement their vision
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The practical follow-up in each of these subjects will happen through one day trainings in the areas, to help the CMCs with practical guidance on the implementation.

ACAT's vision is to equip CMCs so that they become its partners in development. In the future CMCs are therefore the critical part of ACAT's exit strategy.

2.2 Achieve self reliance and sustain an ever-improving quality of life including the reconstruction of families.

The skills that groups obtain through the Basic Life skills course are: Healthy Living, Basic Business practices, Home food security, HIV and Aids Awareness and Spiritual Development which includes causes of poverty.

Through continuous discussion with group members even at local level, they start acting and thinking differently. They are now for example able to sit and discuss their situations and try to find solutions as a group. Being a member of a group means that you have available to you people who are fully committed to your development and will encourage you continuously.

Through being involved with ACAT two families who have been living together without being married have seen the need to reconstruct their families and be married.

Home food security gardens that ACAT SAP promotes, encourage all group members to increase the standard of living for members. They now have fresh food available to them and their families through out the year, and some are already selling the surplus and using the cash for other needs.

2.3 Address the causes of poverty

Understanding what causes you to be poor is a critical step towards sustainable self development.

The strong hold in the causes of poverty is mostly in the culture, customs and traditional beliefs. Women (who are the majority in our situation) have very limited power to address these issues. However, the awareness that they have received through ACAT training and continuous discussion has helped them to address these issues which are in their power to control, starting with being active in their own development.

Addressing the issue of food within their families, is the foundation in addressing their poverty issues.

During this reporting period, 77 workshops were facilitated by SAP to discuss causes of poverty. 245 Target group members participated in these workshops.

2.4 Enjoy home food security and for some to make farming a career.

Group members who have been with the programme for a longer period have started enjoying the benefits in different ways.

- Amandlethu Group from Nhlazuka continue to work as a group and their piggery project is growing.
- Mrs Dlamini from Mnambithi is getting closer to a sustainable homestead as a family they get meat from the piggery and the chickens. From the garden she gets vegetables and other food needs like maize, sweet potatoes. Also from the garden she gets most of the fodder for the animals. From the animals she gets manure that helps to improve the soil fertility in her garden. She sells the surplus, pigs, chickens, manure and vegetables to make cash for other family needs. That situation of things feeding each other, is the sustainable homestead we would like to see.
- Mr Jabulani Mahlobo from Inkandla continues to grow from strength to strength. He is a CV and actively motivates other community members to start helping themselves. He is a chairperson of a cooperative focusing on growing seedlings (e.g. 12 000 cabbages last summer), and planting herbs through which they process oil. He is a member of the CMC. He has his own plot where he plants and sells vegetables which he sells to street hawkers in Inkandla.
- Mr Sipho Manyathi (chairman of the CMC in Nqutu) also plants sweet potatoes, various vegetables, he sells to shop owners and street hawkers in Nqutu.

2.5 Own profitable agri-business that will serve as a role model

Group members who are growing towards profitable agri-business are growing both in numbers and in strength.

- 24 (one recently passed away) Young Farmers in Nhlazuka area have worked together for 3 years. They have now reached a stage where they understand each other. They now know each other's personalities, strengths and practical interests. Having achieved these as ACAT, we feel it is time now to introduce them to the Department of Economic Empowerment, and maybe to organisations like Umsobomvu.

They are at the moment growing and selling vegetables locally, and they would like to start looking for bigger markets. They are also buying and selling 50 broilers every month. They would like to grow the number of chickens from one-day-old chicks themselves.

- Inkandla Agri-business, focuses on growing vegetable seedlings and herbs (they also sell herbs seedlings) i.e. rosemary and rosenenium. On their own initiative they have contacted Gigima, who is going to give them a grant to fence 10 hectares in order to plant more herbs. Uthungulu Region has given them a "pressing machine" to make oil from herbs and through the Department of Economic and Empowerment, they got a stand at the Pietermaritzburg Royal Show. This helped them to market themselves. They are at the moment negotiating export channels for their products.
- A number of farmers in different areas continue to plant and sell vegetables to their communities, shop owners and street vendors.

2.6 Be aware of, understand and actively address HIV and Aids issues

1005 Farmer group members have been involved in HIV and Aids discussions and were exposed to the truth and the facts about HIV and Aids through 96

workshops that SAP Extension Officers facilitated in the 8 x 30 km radius areas SAP works in.

The impact of these workshops that ACAT facilitates every year is seen on the different activities that the group members are involved with. Below are some examples of these activities.

- In the Mnambithi, Ntumeni, Maphumulo and Nqutu areas, group members are networking with different organisations and are providing help to HIV and Aids affected children and families. The common activity that group members are involved with is making a home for orphans where they come and get at least one good meal (In some cases they get three meals). Group members donate vegetables so that these children will get healthy meals. Also in these homes, children are assisted with homework and are given basic life skills that they would normally get from their parents.
- Group members also visit schools to educate children about HIV and Aids and other sexual issues. Even children who still have parents benefit from these discussions because most families do not discuss sexual matters.
- Other group members chose selected days where they call all young people in their neighbourhood to teach them life skills. The main purpose of these workshops is to expose young people to the facts about HIV and Aids.

In all these activities they use the information and the training material that they get from ACAT.

- In addition to the above activities, 436 group members are caring for the sick in their own families, there are 498 child headed families that the group members keep an eye on and about 424 other families that are cared for by group members who are not part of the programme.
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Sustainable Agriculture Programme
Report for the period January to December 2008
C: Strategies

1. Strategy One: Identify the target area and the target group

SAP has not identified any new area during this reporting period. However 5 new zone areas were identified and they are:

- Vulindlela : Zayeka and Payipini
- Maphumulo: Mary Gray and Mabutho
- Thekwini: Amatata No.1 (Ward 3)

During this reporting period a total of 505 target group members have been identified and are being equipped in sustainable agriculture practices and other key developmental issues, in all 8 x 30 km radius area.

The table below shows the number of farmers impacted by SAP

Comment	2000-2006	2007	2008	Total
G5s	N/A	136	101	237
Farmers	3340	750	505	4595

2. Strategy two: To form and equip groups to mobilize the community against poverty

2.1 Form Groups

Since the year 2000 SAP has been working with farmers in whatever form the farmers prefer. Some have been working as individuals, and the majority in big groups of up to 32 members.

As from the beginning of 2007, SAP has adjusted its approach by forming groups consisting of 5 farmers per group. The number 5 is based on an international benchmark to avoid passengers but to provide active support for each other. These groups are given training on how to administer their own affairs, and as farmers will be equipped in all skills needed to address and overcome poverty, including life skills, sustainable agriculture practices and HIV and Aids related matters.

Up to this reporting period 237 farmer groups of 5 have been formed (136 carried forward from 2007 and 101 during this reporting period).

2.2 Equipping farmer groups

SAP had planned activities that are used to equip farmer groups.

i) Basic Life Skills Course

Each group sends 2 of its members to represent or learn on their behalf at the ACAT Centre. The EO transports the group members from their nearest bus stop to the ACAT Training Centre. During the Basic Life Skills Course, farmers learn basic principles of healthy living, basic business practices, home food security, HIV and Aids awareness, and spiritual development which includes the causes of poverty. At the end of the one week course each group is given 3 extra training material sets for the members who could not attend. In

each group there should be always two members who have been at the ACAT Centre. If someone leaves the group, the group must replace her with another member, who should be sent to ACAT to do the Basic Life Skills Course.

ii) Area workshops

The EO in the area plans and facilitates the area workshops. The purpose of these workshops – to link the information that farmers got from the ACAT Centre with their situation and environment and to help the two who attend the course to share the information with 3 members who did not attend. With the help of EO and/or CV, the group will take turns, helping each other start home food security garden plots in each of their homesteads. ACAT encourages the groups to work together. In this way they share skills, tools and inputs. It also helps reserved members to get used to interacting with others.

iii) Visits by the Extension Officer

The new groups are visited as often as 3 to 4 times a month. This is to make sure that everybody is given a chance to interact, to make sure that small businesses are being done and the records are in good order. As the group matures, the Extension Officer visits become less. There are situations also where the EO has to visit the group to deal with misunderstandings that had occurred.

iv) Visits by Community Volunteers

CVs are mostly staying within the community where the groups are. They visit groups more often and their activities involves:

- Establishing income generating projects
- Establishing home for security
- Stimulating economic activities
- Assisting the group members to establish profitable businesses
- Promoting and facilitating the establishment of viable agri-businesses
- Promoting agricultural cooperatives
- Inform and remind group members about important events like meetings, centre training, area training, etc
- Follow-up group members and hold them accountable to:
 - Establish a home food garden
 - Repayment of loans timeously
 - Commitment to their business and record keeping

v) Activities carried out

- 14 Centre training Basic Life Skills were facilitated at the ACAT Centre and 101 G5 sent their representatives.
 - The EOs did 908 group visits and 772 visits were done by CVs.
 - 123 Cross-visits (involving 582 farmers) which provide opportunities for farmers to learn from each other.
 - 520 new home food security gardens were facilitated.
 - 139707 vegetable seedlings were facilitated by ACAT SAP EOs.
 - 117 Specialisation meetings were conducted
 - 276 Agri-business workshop were facilitated (of these 113 were done by EOs, 163 were done by CVs and a total of 1780 group members attended.
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- 96 HIV and Aids awareness workshops were facilitated and 1005 G5 members attended
- 82 Causes of poverty awareness workshops were facilitated and 268 members attended.

3. Strategy Three: Identify and capacitate Community Volunteers to assist in implementing the programme

Community Volunteers are people who give their time, skills labour and other ideas without cost to the community. They provide services to the community and enable ACAT to build capacity of the community. They are an extension of the organisation to the community to assist the Extension Officer in providing much needed services.

3.1 The role of Community Volunteer

The main role of the Community Volunteer is to be a link between the community and the outside world, and in ACAT to assist the Extension Officers with the smooth running of SAP.

SAP's expectations from the community volunteers are:

- i) To form 4 Farmer Groups in one year (one group per season).
- ii) To motivate the Target Group towards an improved quality of life through sustainable livelihoods.
- iii) To become a role model of sustainable agriculture.
- iv) To teach Farmer Groups (FGs) sustainable livelihoods by receiving them and at times visiting them.
- v) Encourage G5s to start agri-business.
- vi) To facilitate and attend groups meetings.
- vii) To attend ACAT centre workshops.

3.2 The criteria of a Community Volunteer

- i) Willingness and commitment to sustainable livelihoods
- ii) Dependence on the land for their livelihood.
- iii) Self motivated towards their own development.
- iv) Ability to use and record local information (indigenous knowledge).
- v) Committed to hard work.
- vi) Ability and willingness to influence other farmers.
- vii) Willingness to share information with other farmers.
- viii) Ability to motivate and assist others for their own development.
- ix) Be a role model for other farmers.
- x) Ability to demonstrate new techniques to other farmers.
- xi) Must be accepted by the people (neighbours).

3.3 Equipping the Community Volunteers

Community Volunteers receive detailed training in:

- Knowing what community is.
 - Basic HIV and Aids information, home care, methods and approaches, counselling and infection control.
 - How to implement development projects.
 - Training skills.
 - Knowing how to manage finance wisely.
 - Knowing how to run a business, including record keeping, marketing, drawing a business plan etc.
 - Teaching the Bible.
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Community Volunteers are equipped through a 5 week course which is spread over 2 years at the ACAT Centre. In addition to the ACAT Centre workshops, EOs have monthly CV planning meetings in all areas. This constantly reminds the CVs of their task and helps them to focus.

The examples discussed in points A and B of this report have been achieved through commitment of CVs and the input that ACAT has equipped them with.

4. Strategy Four: Promote and facilitate the establishment of Sustainable Community Structures

This is at the core of ACAT's exit strategy, the purpose of which is to empower participants to assume responsibility for their own development and that of other members of the community who have not had the privilege of being exposed to active development services.

This strategy actively starts with the formation of Farmer Groups in one zone (focus area) of an identified 30km radius area, and continues with ACAT's direct input over the period of 4 years. During this time, Community Volunteers are identified and equipped, Farmer Group members group themselves into representative zone committees who, in turn, are represented by an overarching community structure of the 30km radius area currently referred to as the Community Management Committee (CMC). These committees will be identified and developed as part of the ACAT long-term objective, namely years 4-6. The committee will be equipped to run the programme itself so that once ACAT exits the first focus area; the CMC will take over the programme responsibilities. However, the CMC is free to implement the programme in areas outside the focus area from which ACAT exits after 4 years.

Eventually, the ACAT staff member will hopefully be able to serve more areas as the day-to-day functions are taken over by the CMC, Zone Committees, Farmer Groups and the Community Volunteers. This means that those Farmer Groups that were started in years 2-4 (and therefore received less direct input from ACAT) will continue to receive input through these community structures.

This does not mean that ACAT's services will be completely withdrawn after years 4-6, but rather that ACAT services will be restricted to certain elements such as training at the main centre, occasional field workshops, and input into the community structures.

Since the programme reached the end of its first six-year cycle (exit period), another 2 years have been allocated for the community structures to be developed with the objective that any new zones have the community structures introduced earlier in the programme cycle.

In terms of CMCs, below are the examples of some activities ACAT has realised during 2008.

1. To date, in 7 of the 8 x 30 km radius areas, CMCs have been formed and are being equipped. The other area has established a zone committee, which is the stage before establishing a CMC.
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2. The formed CMC representatives have been capacitated through 2 x 1 week courses at the ACAT Centre. Here they were equipped with leadership skills i.e.
 - Overview of ACAT which provides them with general information about the organisation.
 - Passion for God's perspective: to encourage them to put God first in all their activities.
 - Achieving sustainable development: helps them to understand the need to know causes of poverty, be skilled in addressing HIV and Aids, life skills and some principles to achieve sustainable development.
 - Godly leadership: to help them take godly decisions.
 - Strategic Planning: to be skilled in planning.
 - Godly Governance: which guides them towards governing the godly way.
 - Management Principles: which gives them basic management functions.
 - Fundraising and reporting: which helps them on how to handle funds and how to report on them.
 - Administration: which deals with skills required to administer the organisation.
 - Programme implementation: provides them with skills to implement their vision.

 3. In Nqutu area the CMC members are leading by examples especially through their gardens and small businesses.

 4. We took donor representatives to the Mzumbe CMC. The visitors wanted to hear how ACAT works with the CMC. We were encouraged by how much the CMC understand ACAT. They listed issues like:
 - Being encouraged as ACAT visits them in their homes.
 - The help they get from each other as they work in groups.
 - The assistance they get from each other on home food security gardens.
 - As the CMC they have contacted other organisations like NDA and different government departments for further development issues.
 - Using their own resources, they have started the feeding scheme which provides meals for 30 people once a week.
 - As CMC members they started working with a school helping to develop a school garden. The school garden has now started to sell their produce to the local Spar shop. This shop has adopted the school and donate food parcels towards the feeding scheme.

Some things are not easy to document, e.g. the growth in people's mindset change that has happened and the emotional growth that takes place as people continue working with ACAT.

 5. In most 30km radius areas CMCs have started to facilitate the loans for the new G5 members for their businesses. The Extension Officers appreciate very much the support that they get from the CMC, especially in motivating and encouraging new group members.
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6. In Okhahlamba area we were encouraged by the active presence of Mr Masondo (the chairperson of the CMC in the area) as we were interviewing potential beneficiaries for the fencing project. Mr Masondo is not one of the beneficiaries but was with us as we were interviewing the 6 applicants in the area. He had a strong input regarding all applicants. His words were “you will be receiving the fence on our behalf. We asked you almost like begging you to take good care of it. If you are not using it properly I will come with other community members and collect it and give it to another needy family”. Mr Masondo is in his 70s but is actively encouraging other group members.
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Sustainable Agriculture Programme
Report for the period January to December 2008
D: Summary of Activities carried on by SAP during this reporting period

- 505 new farmers have been identified and trained bringing the total of the farmers to 4595 since year 2000.
 - 220 Community Volunteers have been identified.
 - 101 Farmer Groups have been formed.
 - 505 Baseline Survey forms have been completed.
 - 156 vision layout plans have been done.
 - During this reporting period, SAP has been able to network with:
 - AFRA
 - Different churches
 - HIV and AIDS Agencies
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Department of Health
 - SAP is working with 436 farmers who are caring for the sick in their families.
 - In addition SAP is aware of 498 child-headed families that are cared for by the farmers.
 - Extension visits have been done by SAP and farmers have benefited from the following activities:
 - 843 Extension visits were conducted.
 - 123 Cross-visits which provide opportunities for farmers to learn from each other.
 - 520 New home food security gardens were facilitated bringing the total gardens to 4644 since the year 2000.
 - 139 707 Vegetable seedlings were facilitated by Extension Officers to the farmers.
 - 117 Specialization meetings were conducted.
 - 276 Agribusiness workshops were facilitated.
 - 96 HIV and AIDS workshops were facilitated, and 1005 G5 members were given awareness on HIV and AIDS issues.
 - 82 Causes of poverty workshops were facilitated.
 - Some of the additional activities that SAP Extension Officers have been involved in are:
 - Attending community meetings.
 - Transporting farmers to the ACAT Centre.
 - Condolence visits.
 - Staff training.
 - SAP planning meetings.
 - Field network meetings.
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Sustainable Agriculture Programme
Report for the period January to December 2008
E: Workplan Report

1. To identify the Area and the Target Group

Key Activities	Key Performance Indicators	For Reporting Purposes: Period: January to December 2008		
		Achieved Result	Reason for Deviation	Comments
<p>1. Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set dates for meeting with relevant stakeholders <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After meetings, assess and confirm the area of operation <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit 2 wards in Vulindlela Ntumeni districts. <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive information on poverty status and willingness of local leadership <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the concept, role and working procedures of farmer groups <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for 40% of the already identified group members to start specialisation. 	<p>Number and names of identified 30km radius areas</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Report from the meetings</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Identified wards</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Availability of information on poverty status</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Information shared</p> <p>.....</p> <p>160 Farmers specialising in agriculture</p>	<p>No new areas identified during this reporting period.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>These were received from staff</p> <p>.....</p> <p>4 new wards identified</p> <p>.....</p> <p>All identified wards are within the existing areas</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Done in the 4 new wards</p> <p>.....</p> <p>70 farmers specialising</p>	<p>Lack of funding needed for expansion</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Staff paid more attention to ILA and shortage of staff</p>	
<p>2. Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAP staff monthly reports <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reports <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits (may include attending meetings) 	<p>Staff reports</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Monthly returns</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Reports from site meetings</p>	<p>These have been received</p> <p>.....</p> <p>These have been received</p> <p>.....</p> <p>These have been received</p>		
<p>3. Evaluate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chosen area complies with definition <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enough land for SAP activities <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External evaluation: by donor as and when need arises 	<p>Confirm the poverty status of the area</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Availability of land</p> <p>.....</p> <p>External evaluation conducted</p>	<p>No new 30 km area has been identified.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>All G5 members have land available to them</p> <p>.....</p> <p>No external evaluation done</p>	<p>Not required</p>	
<p>4. Staff Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacitated to identify the area <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipped in big scale production <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipped in marketing <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipped in working with cooperative 	<p>Capacitated staff</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Equipped in big scale production</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Equipped in marketing</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Equipped in working with cooperative</p>	<p>No new area identified</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Staff continue to be equipped</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Same as above</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Same as above</p>		

2. Form and equip Farmer Groups

		For Reporting Purposes: Period: January to December 2008		
Key Activities	Key Performance Indicators	Achieved Result	Reason for Deviation	Comments
1. Planning • Set dates for visits • Plan meeting venue • Prepare baseline surveys	Dates set for visits Venue planned Information on SAP prepared	These were done and reported monthly Same as above Same as above		
2. Monitoring • Monthly reports and travel returns • Signed attendance register • Form groups • Fill in baseline surveys	Reports and travel returns received Attendance register 80 groups formed 400 baseline surveys filled	These have been received every month These have been completed and submitted. 101 G5s have been formed 505 Baseline Survey forms submitted		
3. Evaluate • Identify the Target Group • Development of livelihoods	Identified TG Evaluate the level of specialization	505 TG members identified The analytical report gives some examples		
4. Staff Training • Orientation • Information and material • Own demonstration units	2 staff orientations conducted List of contacts and maps Existence of staff demonstration plots	No staff orientation needed Same as above Same as above		
5. Extension, Education and Training • Arrange area workshops on Home Food Security COP Business HIV and Aids - Establish Home Food Gardens - Visit farmer groups • Encourage farmers to be specialists	320 different workshops 80 for HFS 80 for COP 80 for business 80 for HIV and Aids 400 HFS gardens established 1200 farmer groups visits 160 farmers working towards specialization	598 workshops facilitated 144 for HFS 82 for COP 276 for business 96 for HIV and AIDS 520 new gardens 843 FG visits 70 Specializing in agriculture Inaccurate reports by the EOs	

3. Identify and capacitate Community Volunteers to assist in implementing the programme

Key Activities	Key Performance Indicators	For Reporting Purposes: Period: January to December 2008		
		Achieved Result	Reason for Deviation	Comments
<p>1. Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify 3 CVs per year in each 30km radius area • 5 weeks training at ACAT Centre to capacitate CVs • Quarterly cross-visits to encourage • Quarterly area workshops for follow-up and reinforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Community Volunteers identified 5 CV trainings at ACAT Centre 80 cross-visits facilitated 80 area workshops conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 220 CVs identified 5 trainings have been facilitated 57 cross-visits 119 area workshops conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing to ILA meant restarting, to cope with the work on the ground, SAP had to identify more CVs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the training that CVs receive is more hands on as they practically do the work.
<p>2. Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly reports, meetings, on-site visits • Identification of Community Volunteers • Training of Community Volunteers • Facilitation of cross-visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports and meeting's attendance register Existence of CV Number of CVs trained Number of cross visits facilitated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were done and reported monthly 134 CVs are working with SAP 134 CVs have been identified 29 Cross visits facilitated 		
<p>3. Evaluate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV's relationship with farmer groups • Impact of training provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth of G5 and work without EO CV's ability to implement the programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported on section A of this report CVs are able to implement the programme 		
<p>4. Staff Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to identify CVs • How to train CVs on formation of groups • Completion of baseline surveys, pass skill on to CVs • Communication skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous discussions with staff Staff able to train CVs Baseline surveys completed by CVs Staff's ability to communicate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership maintains close contact with field staff. Staff receive continuous training CVs have started completing Baseline Surveys Continuous staff training 		

<p><u>5. Extension, Education and Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange workshops for CVs <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct follow-up visits to each CV <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange cross-visit for CVs 	<p>80 workshops to be arranged</p> <p>.....</p> <p>80 meetings and the value of discussions facilitated</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Number of cross-visit arranged</p>	<p>113 area workshops facilitated</p> <p>.....</p> <p>119 planning meetings facilitated</p> <p>.....</p> <p>57 cross- visit facilitated</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>Shortage of staff EOs' concentration on understanding ILA.</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p><u>6. Networking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Community Volunteers without ACAT's involvement 	<p>Evidence of networking and referral</p>	<p>CVs continues to network with relevant organisations.</p>		

4. Promote and facilitate the establishment of Sustainable Community Structures

Key Activities	Key Performance Indicators	For Reporting Purposes: Period: January to December 2008		
		Achieved Result	Reason for Deviation	Comments
<p>1. Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to consolidate the Focus Area Committees <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to establish CMCs <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to include the savings and credit model into the functions of CMC 	<p>40 farmer groups saving regularly</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Functioning CMCs</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Starting a Savings and Credit Model</p>	<p>28 G5 are saving regularly</p> <p>.....</p> <p>7 CMCs have been formed</p> <p>.....</p> <p>28 G5s are saving regularly</p>	<p>The 8th area has already formed the zone committee which is the preparation of forming a CMC.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>2. Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor establishment of CMCs through reports from EOs <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor sustainability of CMC 	<p>40 CMC meetings attended by ACAT staff members</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Implementation of development without ACAT</p>	<p>31 CMC meetings attended by ACAT staff.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>G5s being formed and equipped by CMCs</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>3. Evaluate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate growth of CMCs through discussions with them <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate impact of CMCs, using the KPIs 	<p>Evidence of CMC activities without ACAT's initiative</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Development practices</p>	<p>Various CMCs have started feeding schemes without ACAT's initiative</p> <p>.....</p> <p>No evaluation needed this year</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>4. Staff Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation of CMC i.e. roles and duties of CMC, listening, observation and communication skills 	<p>Continuous discussions conducted to equip staff with skills necessary to equip CMCs</p>	<p>3 staff workshops have been facilitated to equip them with necessary skills.</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>5. Extension, Education and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate establishment of CMCs <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train CMC members through 4 x 1-week training courses at the ACAT Centre <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate cross-visits amongst CMCs 	<p>8 CMCs established</p> <p>.....</p> <p>56 CMC members attended training</p> <p>.....</p> <p>8 cross-visits facilitated</p>	<p>7 CMCs established</p> <p>.....</p> <p>49 CMC members are being trained locally</p> <p>.....</p> <p>6 cross visits were facilitated</p>	<p>One area is still in the process of forming the CMC.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide CMCs with list of relevant stakeholders for networking 	<p>List of relevant stakeholders provided to CMCs</p>	<p>As the need arises, CMCs are provided with contact lists for stakeholders.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage CMCs to address their development issues 	<p>Number of development issues addressed without ACAT involvement</p>	<p>A number of CMCs have started feeding schemes for the orphans, they are in School Governing body etc</p>		
<p>6. <u>Networking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMCs network with local structures as well as any relevant stakeholders 	<p>Evidence of networking and referral</p>	<p>CMCs are now entry point for development in their areas.</p>		

MACRO STRATEGY: Understanding poverty, spiritual development, HIV & AIDS and capacity building

Key Activities	Key Performance Indicators	For Reporting Purposes: Period: January to December 2008	
		Achieved Result	Reason for Deviation / Comment
<p>1. <u>Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty – Gather information on the root causes of poverty; keep a record of the wrong practices and solutions • Spiritual Development – Plan for CTI material included in the Basic Life skills manual to be studied; • Identify rural churches to include them in discipleship and for a spiritual home for the TARGET GROUP • HIV & AIDS – Plan and organise the extension of the facilitation of the home based care aspect • Continually strengthening the mainstreaming process 	<p>Planned to keep a record of root causes of poverty</p> <p>Planned for the continued use of the CTI material included in the Basic Life skills manual to be studied</p> <p>Planned for the rural churches to be included in discipleship of the Target Group</p> <p>Planned for the HBC organisations to assist the communities we serve</p> <p>Planned for continued capacity to Target Group and Community Volunteers</p>	<p>29 COP workshops facilitated where causes were recorded</p> <p>The CTI material is used</p> <p>Working with churches still being assessed</p> <p>ACAT staff are continuously work with HBC in their respective areas</p> <p>CVs and TGs are capacitated both at the ACAT centre and through area workshops</p>	
<p>2. <u>Monitoring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor through reports from staff, viz. Daily Activity sheets, Monthly Monitor, Quarterly Progress Charts and Monthly Travel Returns 	<p>Monitored through the planned instruments</p>	<p>Monthly reports, progress charts and leader's visits are the instruments used to monitor activities.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Evaluate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation to assess the activities of the macro strategy after three years where impact can be evaluated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluated the impact and benefit of the activities in the relevant time frame 	<p>Talking with beneficiaries, in both formal and non formal evaluation</p>	
<p>4. <u>Staff Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding poverty – equip staff to facilitate the process of discovery by the Target Group of the causes of poverty • Spiritual Development – teach staff at staff meetings, the Word-based Godly values required of them; capacitate staff on spiritual matters through 'Hearing and Obeying' times at the staff meetings; organise one relevant course for staff training 	<p>Staff trained in process of discovery by Target Group of the Causes of Poverty</p> <p>Staff trained at staff meetings on Godly values</p> <p>The 'Hearing and Obeying' exercise and capacity</p>	<p>Staff continue to receive training on the implementation of strategies</p> <p>3 staff trainings have been facilitated</p> <p>Hearing and Obeying is part of all staff meeting.</p>	

..... • HIV & AIDS – Train staff with one training week on HIV & AIDS Staff attended one course involving the spiritual and HIV & AIDS No specific HIV and AIDS workshop was facilitated during this reporting period.	
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Key Activities	Key Performance Indicators	For Reporting Purposes: Period: January to December 2008	
		Achieved Result	Reason for Deviation / Comment
<p>5. <u>Extension, Education & Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Poverty – Facilitate the process of identifying, understanding and COP • Get them to commit themselves to addressing at least one issue per year; discuss the causes of poverty in the field • Present the Good News to the Target Group whenever relevant and opportunity arises • Organise study circles to study CTI material; share the Word briefly at group meetings; • Facilitate the purchase of Bibles for those who require them; develop a study guide to assist in the study of the Bible • HIV & AIDS – Assist the Target Group towards appropriate nutritional food production by establishing food gardens; • Expose community members to information and awareness on HIV & AIDS. • Train CVs; Assist families to help the affected by caring for them. 	<p>Address the issue of the Causes of Poverty at group meetings</p> <p>Encourage group members to address at least one issue</p> <p>Good news presented</p> <p>Group members formed into study/Bible circles</p> <p>Sale of Bibles</p> <p>New nutritional food gardens</p> <p>Farmers attending HIV & AIDS awareness workshops.</p> <p>Encourage families to care for the sick</p>	<p>40 area workshops have been facilitated</p> <p>In all workshops G5s are encouraged</p> <p>This is done through all workshops</p> <p>No formal circles yet G5s continue to study the material available to them</p> <p>77 Bibles have been sold to G5 members</p> <p>173 new HFS gardens established</p> <p>40 workshops facilitated and 405 G5 members attended</p> <p>204 G5 members are caring for the sick</p>	
<p>6. <u>Networking and Referral</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network with local churches to address the causes of poverty • Network with other NGOs 	<p>Number of churches networking with ACAT</p> <p>Number of NGOs networking with ACAT</p>	<p>ACAT has started to network with rural churches (non formal)</p> <p>ACAT continues to network with other NGOs and government departments</p>	