

Biodynamic Agricultural
Association of
Southern Africa



OFFICIAL
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BIO DYNAMIGHT
SOUTH AFRICA

INTRODUCING GREENSOUTH

**Growing resilient and Environmentally friendly Education and Networking
in Biodynamic Farming and Horticulture in Southern Africa**

BDAASA is proud to announce our involvement with GreenSouth - a collaboration among five organisations, designed to make sustainable agriculture training accessible and impactful across Southern Africa!

GreenSouth is on a mission to boost skills and training in biodynamic and organic farming across South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique! By bringing together five dedicated partners – vocational training providers, business experts, and agricultural specialists—this exciting project creates new opportunities for Southern African farmers and trainers to learn and grow.





HERE'S WHAT WE'RE AIMING TO ACHIEVE:

Align training programs with real market needs, ensuring trainees gain skills that truly make a difference.

Develop tailored teaching materials focused on empowering trainers.

Launch innovative courses in biodynamic and organic farming, building a network of skilled trainers ready to lead in sustainable agriculture.

Share our insights and experiences widely, benefiting communities far and wide.

Delegates from the five member organisations involved in the GreenSouth project gathered in Noordhoek for the kick-off meeting.

GreenSouth is all about collaboration - combining EU expertise with local Southern African knowledge to tackle big challenges in agriculture. By focusing on sustainable practices like water management, soil health, and climate resilience, GreenSouth supports the goals of the European Green Deal while addressing local priorities.

We're committed to leaving a lasting impact, strengthening training programs and empowering communities to thrive. Plus, we're working to make agriculture more inclusive by encouraging more female trainers to step into leadership roles, building diversity and equity in agricultural education.



MEET OUR PARTNERS:

The five partner organisations are:

BDAASA: Biodynamic Agricultural Association of **Southern Africa**

EcoFarm: Eco Farm Mozambique Limitada - Chemba. **Mocambique**

Kufunda: Kufunda Village Trust - Ruwa - **Zimbabwe**

AdVOiew: Albert de Vries Onderzoek in eigen werk - **Arnhem, Netherlands**

mds: merckens development support gmbh - **Ulm, Germany**

ROSEWAY WALDORF EXPOSING LEARNERS TO THE LAWS OF NATURE

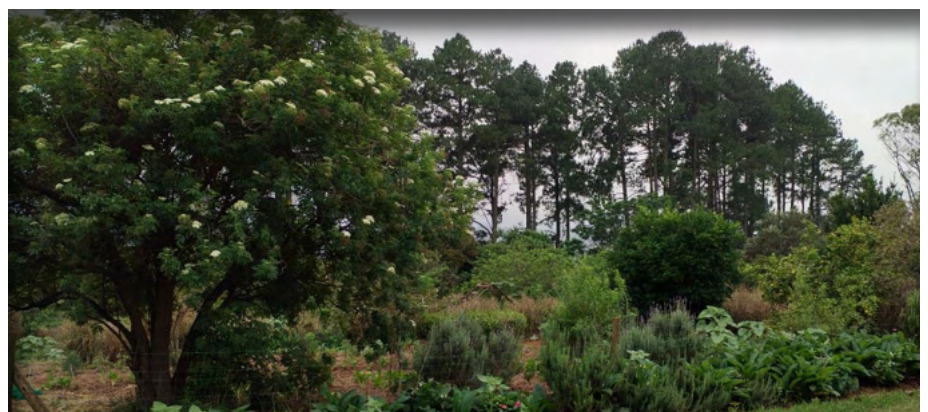
Roseway Waldorf in Alverstone, KZN, is converting its farm garden to biodynamic under the Demeter PGS umbrella. Farm gardener, Paula Osborn, is hard at work rehabilitating the garden, reviving the soil, preparing beds and growing crops for organic seed for future crops as the farm garden transitions into a sustainable biodynamic organism.



As an educational resource the farm garden grows a surprising variety of flowers, herbs and vegetables. It is also home to chickens and ducks.

Paula has divided the garden into various sections, for example the Air garden is used mainly for summer crops and colourful flowers. The Earth garden, which is the hottest, sunniest section, is ideal for root crops, such as carrots and potatoes.

The Leaf garden is where you will find the perennials. It includes a wide variety of leafy vegetables and herbs as well as black berries, strawberries, tomatoes, brinjals, peppers and squash. There is also a Sensory garden where children can experience the different smells, textures and colours of the various plants.



Learning through Experience

Working with the class teachers, Paula facilitates projects for the different grades that are age appropriate and tie in with the school curriculum.

The little ones, who will be moving from kindergarten to primary school, will over many weeks get involved in every step of the gardening process from preparing a bed, loading and spreading compost, carting and spreading mulch, planting, weeding, watering and ultimately harvesting what they planted. Parents will be invited to attend on harvest day, when each child will also take home a bunch of flowers.

In 2024 Class 1 learners grew Zebra beans – sprouting them – seeing them germinate and then planting them. Now they are starting to produce pods of beans. They have also planted sunflowers which produce impressive results relatively quickly.

Monkeys are a menace at Roseway Waldorf so the Grade 9's special project last year was to construct a permanent tent with netting to preserve the mealies and other vegetable beds.

Currently Grade 8s are mapping out the gardens which will help with planning and recording activities and monitoring progress.

Every year Grade 3s and Grade 9s farm for a period of three weeks, giving them the full farm gardening experience. In 2023 Grade 3s helped create the Sensory garden, while the class of 2024 helped build the duck pond.

The Grade 9 programme includes practical and theoretical elements. In 2023 the class helped rehabilitate fruit trees in the orchard. They learnt how to make two tree pastes – one to protect cuts and stop rot and the other, to feed the trees with nutrients. They also learned how to prune using the 3-fold principle. The class of 2024 learnt about soil science and experimented with soil chromatography.



▲ Young children experiencing the rewards on Harvest Day.



Towards Sustainability

Produce is currently sold to the school community, or for use in vegetable boxes that Paula delivers to customers and occasionally is traded at market days.

While the farm garden is an educational resource designed to spark curiosity and passion for nature and science, the aim is to achieve Demeter PGS certification and to multiply the volume of produce for sale so that it can be self-sustaining.

