

FOOD SECURITY EXPO

Date: 5th May 2016, Thursday **Time:** 9am-3pm **Venue:** Edendale Lay Centre

The door of the expo opened earlier than expected as member of the community gathered outside waiting to enter. The Expo was a huge success with the aim of community engagement, resource and knowledge sharing been met. The hall was abuzz with 10 exhibitors and over 90 members of the community, NGO's, students and business;

- Sunshine Seedlings – showcasing how to grow your own seedlings and also sold seedlings to the community for 7c each. Their stand was well received and community wanted to know the possibilities of accessing their services locally. Additionally Sunshine Seedlings wanted to collaborate with MIDI in identifying key schools in the communities to establish/ assist in feeding schemes.



FOOD SECURITY EXPO

- KZN Department of Agriculture – provided community with a bit more understanding of the services they offer and the areas they are currently working in. Community was taught about the processes of identifying community projects and how to access these resources and information.
- Tunnel Quip – set up one of their smallest tunnels with a jojo tank to demonstrate the importance of water harvesting. All their information was uniquely set up inside the tunnel thus gaining much attention from members of the community and NGOs. Tunnel Quip does a lot of community work and has a new irrigation system in place that can help many permaculture gardens especially during times of drought.



- KZN Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs and Tourism (Cascades) – their focus on the day was to teach communities on the importance of seed harvesting and sharing. Members of the community were given seedlings to start their own gardens and also taught how to save some of the seeds for sustainability.

FOOD SECURITY EXPO

- HS Ebrahim School – This is school for children with special needs and is a long standing partner of MIDI's through various projects. HS Ebrahim has benefited from the knowledge sharing processes and has started their own permaculture garden which feeds into the schools daily feed programme. Two teachers along with 9 of their senior children impressed members of the community with their skills in arts and crafts, recycling, reusing and gardening.



FOOD SECURITY EXPO

- Mamas Recycling Group (Esigodini) – community ladies showed other members of the community how to use old plastic bread packets, broken/ old bowls to make hats and other jewellery items. The ladies earn a living from making use of old items. They also have a garden that supports their won household. This group has joined MIDI’s Food Security Programme since June 2015 and have learnt a lot. The members of the community related to the ladies.



FOOD SECURITY EXPO

- Pietermaritzburg Child and Youth Care Centre (PCH) – PCH was MIDI’s flagship permaculture garden project. PCH has successfully taken over the project and continue to support MIDI in its community initiatives. PCH now manages to supply daily to its own kitchen with fresh produce as well as a local market and private hospital. They are a clear example of a working permaculture garden that has the ability to generate income. PCH also sold its fresh produce to communities. In a veggie pack you would get a lettuce and bunch of spinach for only R6. Members of the community enjoyed this experience and the fresh look of the stand.



FOOD SECURITY EXPO

- Rebel Seeds – Rebel Seeds is a wonderful organisation who has also continued to support MIDI through its community engagements initiatives. Rebel Seeds teaches community about seed harvesting and sharing. There was a lot of demonstrations on how to harvest your own seeds. Members of the community learnt a lot and gathered to hear what Rebel Seeds have to offer.



FOOD SECURITY EXPO

- University of South Africa (UNISA) – a group of interns represented the food security programme on offer at UNISA. They have their own garden at UNISA and brought physical demonstrations showcasing the good and bad elements for soil. They also taught communities how to make organic repellents to use in the garden to get rid of harmful pests.



- Msunduzi Innovation and Development Institute (MIDI) – MIDI's stand displayed all aspects of permaculture from seed harvesting, recycling, reusing to water harvesting and mulching. Community gathered and learnt about the different aspects of permaculture especially about mulching. Community do not understand the importance of permaculture but having seeing the physical demonstrations were happy to go home and implement.

FOOD SECURITY EXPO



FOOD SECURITY EXPO

Leopold Chikwadze, MIDI's permaculture expert physically demonstrated how to plant potatoes in a bucket. Mulching and the importance of saving seed and water was also presented to the community. They loved the demonstration and asked a lot of questions. Some members of the community also came back with old buckets and asked Leopold to assist them in starting their planting.

