



### Food Security Forum 6 November 2015

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Venue:** MIDI Offices

**Attendance:** As per attached register

**Apologies:** Don and Patsy Blacklaw

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

- Lots of community members from the Msunduzi Municipality. Department of Environmental Affairs and Rural Development were also present.

#### **2. Presentation by Eidin Griffin, Midlands Meander Education Project**

- Her presentation was based on seed harvesting and was very interactive.
- She taught the community members the importance of seed harvesting and sharing. Which seeds are best to keep and how to store them
- She also shared many seeds with the community.

#### **3. Presentation by Chris, Pietermaritzburg Child and Youth Care Centre**

- Presented on their 'Happy Earth Project' from its inception in 2012 to date. Three phase project and they are already in their third phase.
- Acknowledged MIDI for the initiation, support and investment in the project. PCH has now take over and doing amazing work. They supply the local market, a private hospital and most importantly their own kitchen. The children also actively participate and take back their training home and have also started their own gardens. The impacts are far reaching and MIDI has achieved the initial goal of the project – for children to go back and enforce change in their own homes and communities by the means of starting homestead gardens.

#### **4. Presentation MaNtombenhle, Mpopomeni Conservation Group**

- MIDI was thanked for helping secure a short time tenure for the land they are using.
- It was once an illegal dumpsite and now it has grown into a flourishing permaculture community garden. Communities around the garden have also started their own homestead gardens.
- The only problem they face is formal training and support from government. The municipality does not want to extend their lease agreement and the Department of Agriculture does not want to support. They drive passed and do not even pay attention.

#### **5. Donation from Sunshine Seedlings**

- On the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015, MIDI's food security team received a donation of 6000 seedlings (cabbage, spinach and green pepper) from Sunshine Seedlings. MIDI managed to distribute all the seedlings to over 12 deserving community organisations whom are part of the MIDI forums. Follow ups will take place.

**6. Youth and agriculture**

- Agri-groomers offered their assistance in terms of skills training to the community members. Young graduates are looking for opportunities to support, assist and learn from communities.

**7. General**

- Assist Thamboville community gardeners with an issues with Department of Agriculture – they were promised funding and it was televised but no funding has been received.
- Date of next meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016