

LESEDI SCHOOLS – AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Agriculture has always been the basis of every society throughout history because of how fundamental it is for our survival. Given the increasing focus on food production and sourcing, changing the academic structure to include agricultural education is important in Zimbabwe. Lesedi has realized this change in focus and wants to play its role in Agricultural Education and production. The school is situated in a sandy area but that is no justification for not embarking on Agricultural based projects.

Garden Project

Currently the school has embarked on intensive vegetable production. The vegetables are being grown under a 40% shade net.



LESEDI SCHOOLS – AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Department's aim is to be the source of much-needed vegetables to the two Lesedi schools, in order to provide the necessary nutrition to the learners. The vegetables of choice include kale, cabbages, tomatoes, peppers and lettuce. We have a small area that is currently under a shade net, and wish to have our garden completely covered so as to achieve our goal. Any surplus veggies will be sold to the local community at a relatively affordable price so as to improve the nutritional standards of the community. Victoria Falls is very hot, and the temperatures are not very ideal for vegetables hence the need for a shade net.

Water can also be a problem, especially during the dry months. The school already has some functional boreholes but there is need to store water in tanks known as "Jojo Tanks" these come in different sizes ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 litres. A 5,000 litre tank would be ideal for the school garden.

To minimize on water usage, the department has installed a Drip irrigation system on one section of the garden, although we would be grateful if the whole garden is placed under this water saving method of irrigation.

In the near future, the department wishes to expand the garden so as to be able to provide vegetables to support the ever-growing Lesedi population.

Soil conditioning is being done to our soils to make them ideal for crop production. Clay and organic matter are added to the soil to improve structure and fertility of the soil. Soil conditioning, the use of Drip irrigation, the shade net and proper crop spacing allows us to produce healthy vegetables without wasting water.

Funding requirements for the Garden Project

5 rolls Shade net	600usd
Drip kit	200usd
Poles	100usd
Jojo Tank	400usd
Total	1,300usd

LESEDI SCHOOLS – AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chicken Project

The department is also running a Broiler chicken Project. The current aim is to generate money for the department; however, the long-term aim is to provide the vital protein for the learners. We have a chicken run that has a capacity of 400 birds, although the other section requires renovations, and this will not be ideal if we are to meet our long-term goals. Expansion of the fowl run is the only way we can continuously provide the learners without having dry periods.



100 birds in a makeshift brooder

Our current fowl run requires some renovations in order to be ideal for learning and production. Renovations and expansion can be done using locally available builders.



Renovated section of the fowl run

LESEDI SCHOOLS – AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Funding requirements for the Chicken Project

Renovations and expansion	500usd
500 birds' production costs	1,800usd
Total	2,300usd

Piggery Project

The department would like to have a 10 sow Piggery unit on site. The piggery unit will aid in the learning process as piggery is part of the agriculture curriculum. The unit will also be an income generating unit.



Funding requirements for the Piggery Project

20 pen sty: 35m x 10m	6,000usd
Purchase/transport of 10 sows	3,500usd
Feed/production costs of pigs until first sale	9,000usd
Total	18,500usd

All capital injections will be considered as loans to be paid back to the charity, with all projects run as separate business units. Estimated return time for full capital repayment is 2-3 years. The returned capital can then be used for other projects of benefit to the school.

Thank you

Lesedi Agriculture Department