

Annual Report 2021

“It is much better to go for a walk that happens to take half an hour than to go for an half hour walk”

Tristan Gooley – the author of THE NATURAL NAVIGATOR

After many years of conducting social impact projects *ad hoc* and on a thinner than shoe-string budget we were delighted when at the end of 2020 we were invited to join the GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME of the International Office of SU. This promised to secure the future of our social impact projects by generating sustainable income to run the gardening projects on campus and include many more participants. But it was not to be! Well, not in the way that we had planned, anyway.

We were given the option to run the programme as a volunteer-only initiative in the first semester of 2021 and although we did not receive any funding for it from the International Office, we received support from individuals in the Department and that proved to be sufficient to run a very productive programme with 15 volunteers from Germany and France. We managed to grow vegetables to support the Small Things Fund in their endeavour to provide students in need with resources and joined forces with similar programmes run by the Sustainability Institute, the Agronomy Department, Animal Sciences (Aquaculture), Citizen Science and the Eco Maties.

At the end of the semester the students were joined by family and friends and accompanied the *Ajubatus Foundation* on a safari trip to Kruger National Park. This proved to be a very fitting end to the first semester activities and without much hope of having any other prospects in the second semester we returned to Stellenbosch.

But word had gotten out and on our return we were informed that the new intake of students for the second semester were about to arrive. This time we were to present the course as a for credit offering and the demands were a lot higher.

We were extremely fortunate to have the continued support of staff members and students from the department who rallied around us and helped us to present a very interesting course to the 18 students who enrolled for it. In addition to the official students, we allowed students who were not able to register for the course due to timetable clashes or other restrictions to join as volunteers and ended up with an interesting mix of students from Germany, France, Russia, Brazil and the UK.

Please refer to the Framework below for the official schedule of the programme.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: COMMUNITY GARDENING FOR IMPROVED LIVING
(SA 2nd year level)**

LECTURE SCHEDULE	
Week 1	<p>INTRODUCTION TO THE SUSTAINABLE GARDENING COURSE:</p> <p>Logistics, Registration and Course Framework</p>
<p>Week 2</p> <p>Study Unit 1</p> <p>Prescribed Reading:</p> <p>Burke R. 2010: Fundamentals of Project Management. <i>Burke Publishing</i></p>	<p>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Orientation to Project Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions • Methodologies • Phases in the Project Management Process • Interdependence of time, cost and performance • Role-players in the project Environment
<p>Week 3</p> <p>Prescribed Reading:</p> <p>Burke R. 2010: Fundamentals of Project Management. <i>Burke Publishing</i></p>	<p>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Project Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of the Goal and Objectives of a project • Stakeholder Management • Component Analysis • Risk Management • Statement of Work • Work Breakdown Structure
Week 4	<p>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Assessment of Study Unit 1 (30% of your grade)</p>
<p>Week 5</p> <p>Study Unit 2</p>	<p>BIOLOGY OF SUSTAINABLE GARDENING</p> <p>Factors influencing Plant Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil composition and health • Water (irrigation), Light and Wind

Week 6	BIOLOGY OF SUSTAINABLE GARDENING Factors influencing Plant Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitors and Pests (including weed control)
Week 7	BIOLOGY OF SUSTAINABLE GARDENING Factors influencing Plant Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity
Week 8	BIOLOGY OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE Assessment of Study Unit 2 (30% of your grade)
Week 9 Study Unit 3	GARDENING FOR SUSTAINABILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal Impact Gardening • Composting • Crop Rotation and Seed Saving
Week 10	ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE Gardening in small spaces: gardening in pots, pallet gardens, troughs, straw bale gardening, wet walls
Week 11	FIELD TRIP
Week 12	Practical Assessment on the course incorporating all skills and knowledge acquired (40% of your grade)

Ratan Tata Quote: “If you want to walk fast, walk alone. But if you want to walk far, walk together.”

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All indications are that 2022 will be an even more productive year and that we will get the opportunity again to engage with new groups of international students. The dream remain that we will entice our own students to engage with us and join in the programmes, but it needs to be their own choice. Altruism can not be forced and the real benefit of reaching out to others can only be experienced from an open heart.



