Sharing knowledge on the use and conservation of water for food production

Launch of On-Line, Free, Open Access Training of Trainers Course and #StudentChallenge:

Rainwater harvesting and conservation practices for small holder farmers and household food producers

Register by the 25 February 2020
Webinar series to start 1 March 2020

Visit www.amanziforfood.co.za for more information
Data free mobile site: http://amanziforfood.sbox.datafree.co/

INFORMATION ON THE ONLINE COURSE AND #STUDENTCHALLENGE

FREE Online Open Access Course:

The Amanzi [Water] for Food Social Learning Project Open Access Online Course (https://amanziforfood.co.za/courses/online-training-of-trainers-course/) has been designed for extension services, farmers, NGOs, community organisations, Agricultural Colleges, Universities and Training Institutes to integrate knowledge of rainwater harvesting and conservation practices into curricula, training programmes, extension services and learning networks. For farmers, the course can be used to support peer-to-peer learning and on-site practice development.

The course adopts a farmer-centred approach to sharing knowledge of rainwater harvesting and conservation practices. It puts small holder farmers and household food producers at the centre of education and learning. It adopts a co-learning approach to curriculum innovation, extension and learning innovations.

Agricultural Education and Training Institutions, extension services, lecturers, farmer support organisations, youth social movements, and student leaders are invited to a) complete the course either on their own with no formal assignments, OR 2) by **registering and completing the assignments** which will lead to a 12 credit Rhodes University Certificate in Environmental Learning if all assignments are completed successfully.

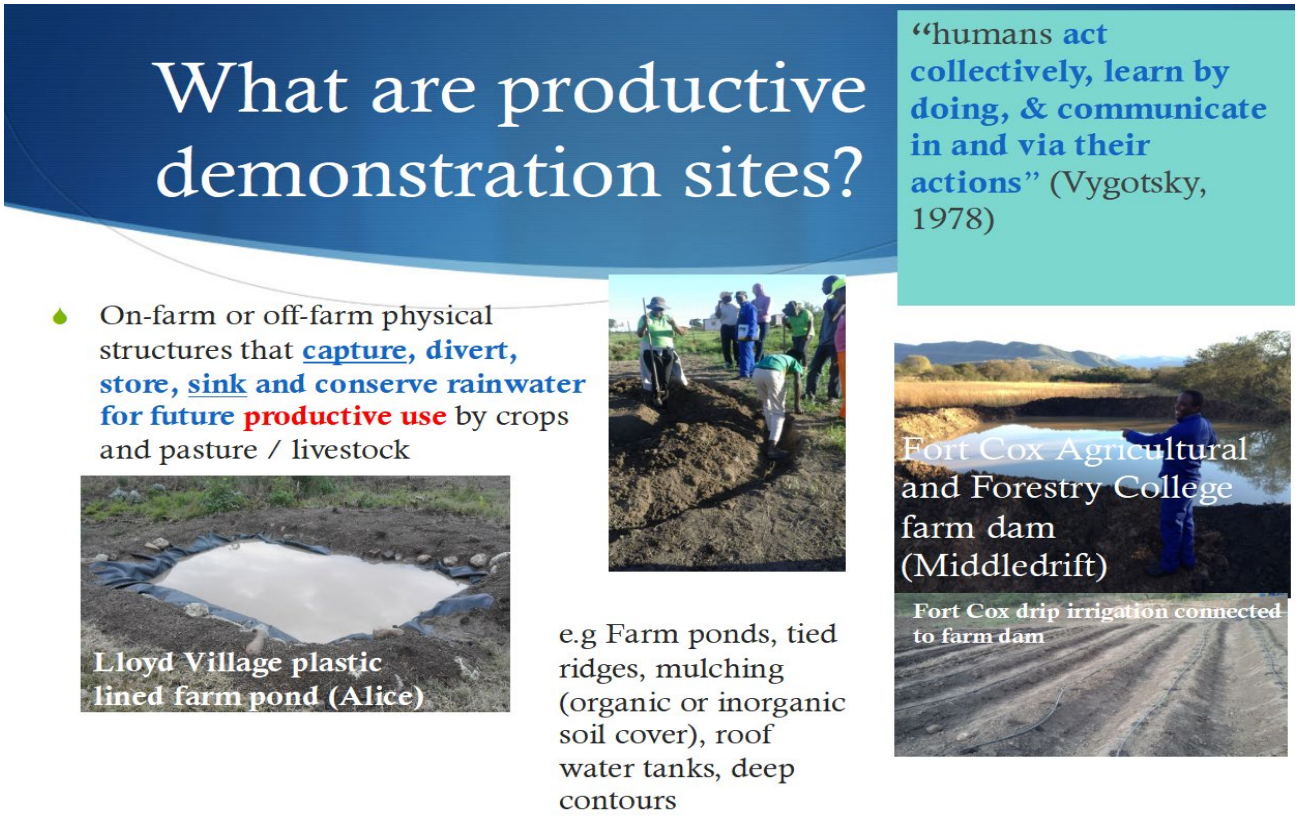
The course supports everyone to learn more about the many rainwater harvesting and conservation practices that can be developed by farmers, students and communities.

The Training of Trainers online open access course is **free to everyone** who wishes to either explore the materials or those who wish to register and be certified. In efforts to make this course accessible, we have made sure that there are no costs involved. We have developed a data-free version of the online course for people accessing the course from their mobile phones on South African mobile networks. By accessing the Amanzi for Food website through the link http://amanziforfood.sbox.datafree.co/ the mobile user is able to view materials, content, images and even embedded videos with no data charges.

#Student Challenge

All South African Agricultural Students in Agricultural High Schools, Agricultural Colleges, Agricultural Training Institutes and or Universities, or youth that are learning farming practice with support from NGOs or other support organisations – aged **15 – 30** are invited to participate in the Amanzi for Food **#Student Challenge.** This can be done as a formal group class activity, or an after-hours student leadership or student engagement activity, or as a youth peer-to-peer learning activity.

The student challenge is for any students or youth groups who would like to develop a rainwater harvesting and conservation practice of their choice (selected from the 26 rainwater harvesting and conservation practices on the www.amanziforfood.co.za website) and who want to make a short 5 minute video (cell phone video) of **a productive demonstration site** that they have developed with others focusing on a rainwater harvesting and conservation practice.



A **productive demonstration site** is a practical demonstration of rainwater harvesting and conservation practices in a real-life farming setting in a rural or urban area.
A **productive rainwater harvesting and conservation practice demonstration site should demonstration one or more of the following rainwater harvesting and conservation practices.**
A productive demonstration site is also **a learning site**, where others can learn how to develop and use the rainwater harvesting and conservation practice.
Productive demonstration sites are developed in community settings, and should **be developed with local resources** that the students or youth groups working with local farmers and other partners can identify in their local context.

WHAT RAINWATER HARVESTING AND CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATION SITES CAN BE DEVELOPED?

The productive demonstration sites should focus on one or more of the rainwater harvesting and conservation practices that are included in the Amanzi for Food **'**Navigation Tool' (link below), and must use information provided by the Water Research Commission materials that are available on the Amanzi for Food website: www.amanziforfood.co.za

VIDEO OF THE PRODUCTIVE DEMONSTRATION SITE:

To enter the #StudentChallenge, students must make and submit a 5 minute video of their work. **The video must show:**

1) The planning of the productive demonstration site,
2) Who the student group worked with,
3) How the productive demonstration site was developed,
4) The final shape of the productive demonstration site, and
5) Who learned what from the development of the site

The #StudentChallenge will start on 1 March 2021 and end on 31st May 2021. This allows for 3 months in which the productive demonstration sites can be developed. All entries for the #StudentChallenge should be uploaded to the AmanziforFood Facebook Page with a caption that includes #StudentChallenge and tag @amanziforfood. The videos that have been uploaded onto the Facebook page and have an accompanying #StudentChallenge application will be considered for the Laptop prizes in June 2021.

Those wishing to join the #StudentChallenge can apply here (https://amanziforfood.co.za/studentchallenge/). A #StudentChallenge WhatsApp group will be the main means of communication. #StudentChallenge entrants will be asked to share the work that they are doing to develop the rainwater harvesting and conservation practice productive demonstration site on a regular basis, and support will be provided via the WhatApp group.

Only those who regularly post the progress being made on their productive demonstration sites over the three month period will be considered for the award.

A prize of three laptops for students or youth groups from South Africa participating in this programme will be on offer for the #Student Challenge. An online Mobile Journalism training session will be available for students wishing to participate in the #Student Challenge to make videos of the productive demonstration sites they will work on with communities and farmers as outcome of the open access, online course.

Access the Amanzi for Food 'Navigation Tool' (https://amanziforfood.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/New_Navigation-Tool_1.pdf) and the materials (https://amanziforfood.co.za/catch-store-and-use-water/) on this site to find out more about the 26 different types of rainwater harvesting and conservation practices that can be developed into productive demonstration sites.

All youth registering for the #StudentChallenge, may also complete the Open Access online course (https://amanziforfood.co.za/courses/online-training-of-trainers-course/).

Visit the http://www.amanziforfood.co.za website for more information.

The Amanzi for Food Project is a Water Research Commission (WRC) partnership programme with: Rhodes University Environmental Learning Research Centre (SARChI Chair in Global Change and Social Learning Systems), Fort Cox Agriculture and Forestry Training Institute, the University of Mpumalanga, Taung Agricultural College, the Imvothu Bubomi Learning Network, the Sinakekela Sibusiso Semanti Learning Network, and the #PulaWise Learning Network.