

**SCHOOL GARDENS PROJECT**

**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**



**1<sup>ST</sup> BI-ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT FOR 2024**

**MAY 31, 2024**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Following the School Gardens Grant approval and receipt of the first funding instalment in 2023, Bega Kwa Bega started on the set-up of the central demonstration farm as the major task for the first half of year one.

This report covers the narrative of the work done and a financial expense report to date.

**IMPLEMENTATION:****GOAL:**

- Set up the central demonstration farm, develop curricula and recruit staff

**PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

- Develop the architectural farm plans and get them approved by the council
- Construction of the Perimeter wall
- Construct a water channel to divert the village rainwater running through the farm
- Source for a construction company to construct the administration offices, training room, garage for the project cars, farm manager's house, farmers' residence, farm kitchen, animal shelters and toilets
- Plotting and planting different gardens based on the primary and secondary school science curriculum
- Develop the School Gardens Curriculum to be followed by all recruited schools
- Develop School farm visit guides for both primary and secondary levels
- Recruit project staff

**ACHIEVEMENTS:****The farm layout and architectural drawings:**

The farm layout was developed. Architectural drawings were developed and approved by the authorized council as per the master plan below:



# BEGA KWA BEGA

**Shoulder to Shoulder**

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Administration block



Farm manager's residence



Farm training room



Garage to accommodate three vehicles

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Kitchen



Gardener's house – upper farm



Gardeners' house – lower farm

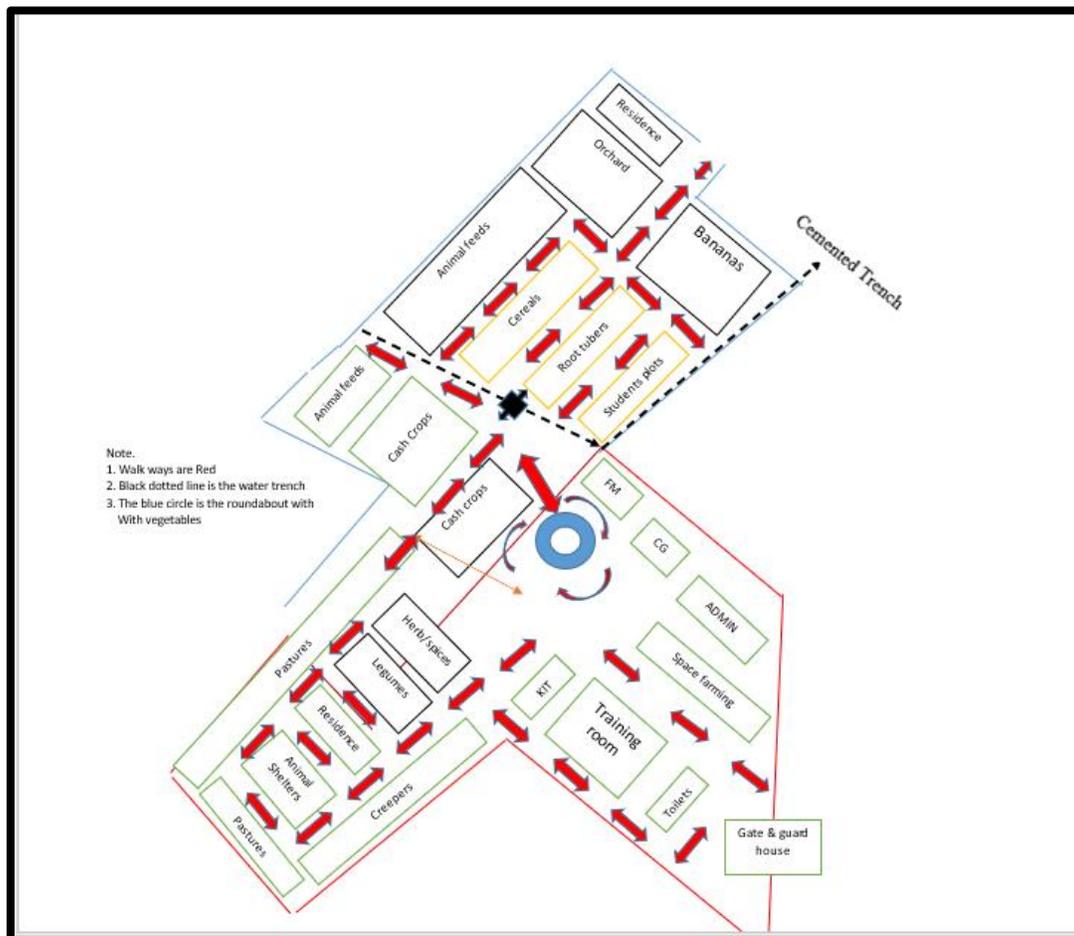


Bathrooms

## Garden plotting and planting:

Garden plotting and planting have been based on the primary and secondary school science and agriculture curriculums. Crops planted were selected using content from the Uganda subject curriculum books. The plotting was done considering accessibility and crop categories for easy study and reference during the tours.

The lower part of the farm garden has been plotted and planted. Garden plots include Banana plantations, animal feeds, cereals gardens, root crops, orchards and university student plots. Due to the construction, the upper garden will be set up in the second half of the year. So far, we have only planted the cash crops garden and some fodder gardens on the upper side.



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Lower garden with a variety of crops



Banana plot with 6 varieties



Pasture plot with ten varieties



Orchards with fourteen varieties

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Cereal plot with seven varieties



Cash crop plot with 11 varieties



Root tubers plot with four varieties



Land being prepared for vegetables, legumes and medicinal gardens

### **Development of the School Garden Curriculum and school farm visit guides:**

The development of the school garden curriculum is ongoing and is done in collaboration with the Gogolo Junior School teachers and the program manager for agriculture, a secondary school agriculture teacher.

Reference was made to the several School Gardens Curricula on the internet, the School Garden Curriculum by Kaci Rae Christopher, the Uganda primary and secondary school science and agriculture curricula and keeping in mind the local farming methods and crops.

### **Recruitment of Project Staff:**

As mentioned above, two gardeners have been recruited to prepare the land and plant crops in the lower garden. The existing 2 farm assistants, chef and janitor have also been transitioned to the new farm. One of the existing experienced agriculture and nutrition trainers has also been moved to the School Gardens project and will work with the recruited farm manager to train the new farm staff on the project expectations. A recruitment agency has been contacted and briefed to recruit the Farm Manager, Nutritionist, drivers, Field Farm Managers and administrator.

As per our discussion during the project on set, the second nutritionist, the field farm manager and driver will be recruited after confirmation of whether SFF will continue funding the existing Family Gardens field project.

### **Next steps:**

1. Complete the farm building and planting
2. Complete the School Gardens curriculum for the schools to follow
3. Engage the different stakeholders – Ministries, Local Government and district authorities and schools
4. Selection of participating schools and champion teachers
5. Feasibility study in the selected schools
6. Develop the final list of participating schools

**Conclusion:**

The school gardens project is progressing as per schedule. We believe the farm structures will be ready to be occupied by the end of July. The next reporting date is September 15, 2024, through an update call.