

AWiA Annual Report 2023

AWIA- African Women in Agriculture
Re-imagining Agriculture for women
Creating a new narrative for female
agripreneurs



AWiA
African Women in Agriculture
• Grounded in success •

Agenda

01. Introduction
02. Results from last year
03. Team
04. What's next
05. Closing





Introduction

AWiA's beneficiary numbers and impact have continued to grow over the years! We are very proud of the progress our team has made in 2023. In this report we will review our wins and losses from last year and give you an overview of our vision for this year.

AWiA's agribusiness projects intend to secure the future of food security by fostering the establishment of backyard and community vegetable gardens for beneficiaries from Alexandra, Orange Farm, Jackson, Soweto, Cosmo City and Thembisa, thus building a network of new female community farmers and shortening food miles.

Our agriprenurship programs in 2023 were well attended, featured 182 female and 35 male beneficiaries, making the total for the year 217 beneficiaries. Our reach extended to areas like Alexandra, Cosmo City, Jackson and Thembisa for the first time.

We are so grateful to our funders and partners! Thank you!



The state of unemployment and urban food security challenges in South Africa have created the need for innovative solutions, such as collaborative community gardens. Nowhere is this being more clearly demonstrated than by Balwin, African Women in Agriculture (AWiA), Thembalami (BAT) Community Garden in Lombardy East.

The BAT project aims to secure the future of food by fostering the establishment of community and urban vertical vegetable gardens for beneficiaries from Alexandra. Thus, building a network of new female community farmers and shortening food miles.

YOUTH MONTH 2023
Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future

JOIN OUR Panel Discussion on Agriculture
Empowering South African youth for opportunities in agriculture

Welile Mbolekwa
CEO
Iso Manangement Consulting

Agnes Hove
Director:
African Women in Agriculture

Nkosana Mtambo
Agripreneur
Mtambo Boerdery

Nozipho Soka
Director:
Dee-Y Dairy and Rea Jala Veggies

16 June 2023 · 13:00

**Dr. Petrus Molemela Stadium
Mangaung, Bloemfontein**

#YOUTHDAY2023 #YOUTHMONTH2023
@GovernmentZA @PresidencyZA



AWiA in the Spotlight

AWiA was afforded a platform to speak on Agriculture at a number of events, including the National Youth Day Celebrations in Mangaung Stadium, Bloemfontein, attended by over 40 thousand young people and viewed on National TV.

The AWiA team were also interviewed on SABC 3, two episodes of the Food for Mzansi podcasts and a Women’s Day event.

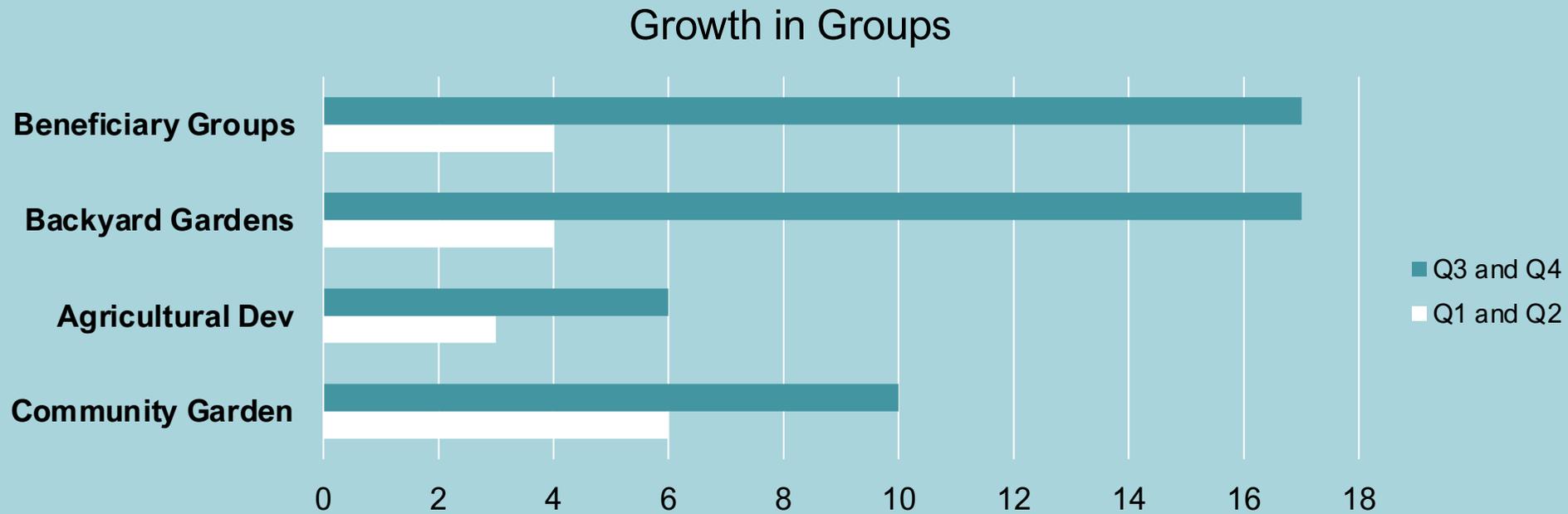
In total AWiA’s message on empowerment through agriculture was directly disseminated to over 1 000 people.

GATHER TO GROW
CULTIVATING DREAMS:
CELEBRATING WOMEN
IN FARMING

Last year



Bi-annual Growth chart



Growth in training level and category

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Introductory Permaculture and on-site Farm Experience	10	120	61	26
Inclusion of personal development, financial management	10	20	61	26
Planning produce types, seasonality, basic bookkeeping, recording progress	10	20	61	10
Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	10	20	12	10

Only 41% of our beneficiaries got to the stage where they managed to consume and only 10% showed evidence of sales for the harvest of their backyard produce.



Beneficiary Quotes

'I was in college trying to get academic knowledge so I could get a job.... But I always knew that I loved agriculture.'

'My family had no money for me to finish college, so I started a backyard garden to feed my family.'

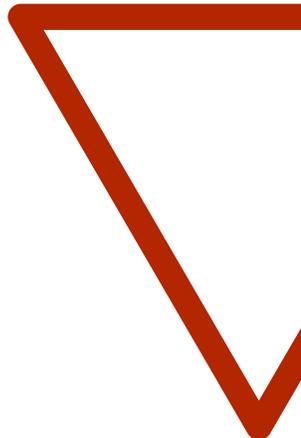
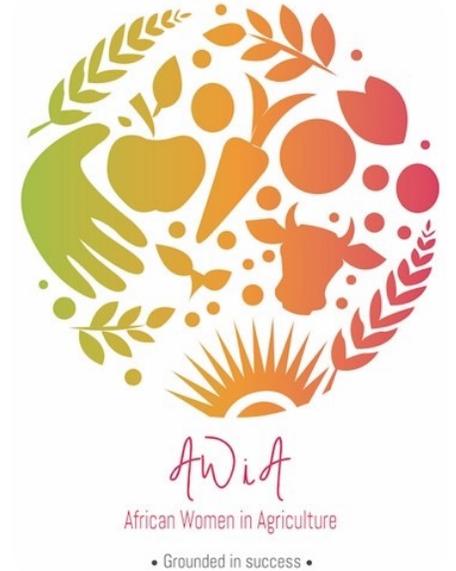
'AWiA's training has allowed me to learn more about agriculture and grow organic vegetables for my children and I.'

~Sibongile



Achievements 2023

- Our organisational efficiency increased- we reached more beneficiaries with a smaller funding pool.
- A total of 217 beneficiaries empowered in Alexander, Jackson, Soweto, Orange Farm, Ennerdale and Thembisa.
- Vegetable donations to ECD (Early childhood development) Centres
- Article on the project in Alex Times
- Interview with beneficiaries on Community garden project as a means to address unemployment and food security by Milken institute and George Washington University
- Strategic partnerships with Santam, Balwin Foundation, SOJO (South of Joburg Business and Tourism Organisation), Agri Gauteng, AGDA (Agricultural Development Corporation), TUT (Tshwane University of Technology), and more.



Year on Year Progress

- We received 80% of the previous year's funding,
- Beneficiary numbers on a smaller budget increased by 60%,
- AWiA's reach increased from 4 locations to 8 locations
- Vegetable donations to ECD (Early childhood development) Centres for the first time.
- We distributed 160% more AmaVeggie pyramids for higher impact.



Our team



Agnes

CEO



Veronica

COO



Sibongile

CIO



Nthabiseng

Project Officer



Tim

Agronomist

Our Academy of Learning

- Our Agripreneurship Empowerment model is:
 - Adapted to the location, community needs and weather patterns,
 - Experiential- on site at the farm,
 - Relevant,
 - Aligned to unique community needs,
 - Incorporates a customized approach- customized to language, regional context, educational context and age range,
 - Includes personal development,
 - Includes environmental awareness,
 - Incorporates holistic wellness (Diet, nutrition and food security).



Beneficiary Profile

Beneficiaries sourced from areas with high unemployment, poverty, high crime and poor living conditions

- Women (and men) aged 23 – 55, LSM 1- 4
- 80% Completed their high school education (Matric)
- 10% completed a Degree/ Diploma
- 80% contract workers, 20% serial entrepreneurs
- 60% have never had a job



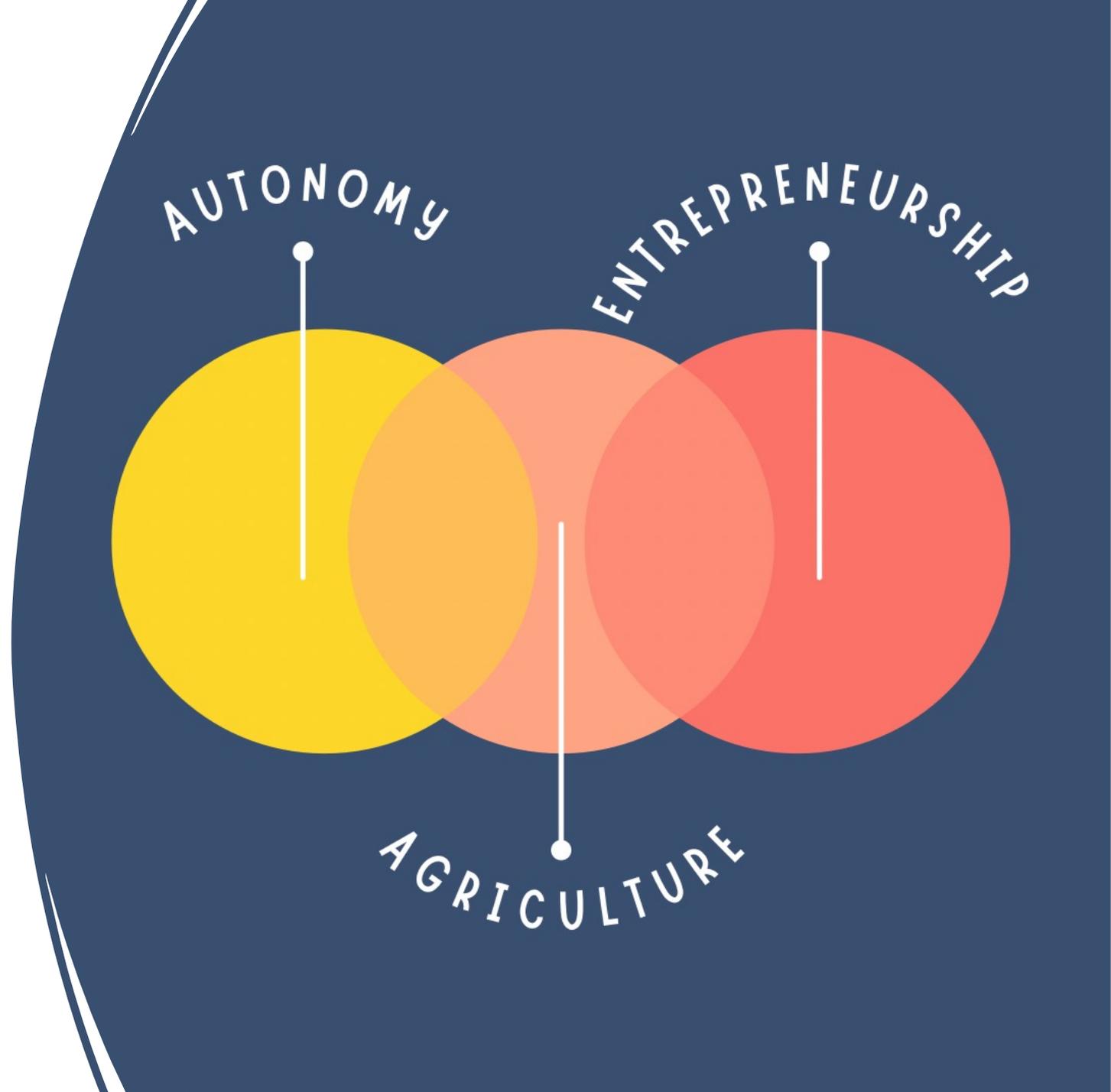
AWiA Agricultural Resilience Framework

We develop an area specific framework to ensure program functionality.

We utilise applied system dynamics delivering:

- Food security
- Sustainability
- Nutrition
- Physical and mental health

Leading to measurable socio-economic empowerment



Impact

- Improved food security through 140 AmaVeggie Pyramids distributed as part of the IsiVuno Program.
- Enhanced sustainability practices through supply of over 1 000 seeds and seedlings to beneficiaries to start their backyard gardens
- Communities empowered through 5 active Online Agriculture Support Community Ecosystems built.
- Enhanced environmental conservation and water management through permaculture and organic farming practices.
- Improved livelihoods through families growing vegetables in backyard gardens



Goals for 2024

Empowerment priorities

- Increase Women's Empowerment
- Maintain growth in beneficiary numbers
- Climate resilience- Training and resources to help farmers adapt to and mitigate climate change
- Grow partnerships with like minded organisations to increase beneficiary market access
- Diversify funding model

Beneficiary Development opportunities

- Increase visibility to enhance community awareness of agribusiness opportunities through engagement in a variety of activities.
- Expansion to other provinces.
- Explore value addition opportunities
- Intensify depth of agripreneurship development with partner organisations.



Summary

Our impact is growing

Agri-business knowledge and reach is growing steadily in communities

We're delivering for our donors

Last year we touched 217 beneficiaries and their families on behalf of our donors.

We're developing our model

Our commitment to continuous improvement is paying off

Our beneficiary numbers keep growing

Our AWiA Network keeps growing

We're leaders

We are taking our place as leaders in the agribusiness development industry

Accreditation

We are now able to offer Agri SETA accredited programs if required.



Thank you

A Massive Thank You

To all our generous donors, partners, friends and community for your commitment and support in 2023, we know this year will be even better than the last.

We look forward to working together as we change the community,

One person at a time!

Agnes

agnes@awia.africa

