



Supporting ecological land use
management in Swaziland



Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of PELUM,

The past quarter has been a very exciting time at PELUM Swaziland. We assisted our members at COSPE in their seed fair and successful discussion on seed systems. Construction is almost complete on the office and storage unit at our Agroecology and Training Demonstration Centre in the heart of Mbabane. We are working to create a beautiful urban garden and training centre for our members to utilize and residents of Mbabane to enjoy.

We are very proud of our member Guba for bringing home the Lush Spring Prize for their work in permaculture and supporting the regeneration movement. Gabriella from the Sahee Foundation visited Eswatini stopping at several organisations during her visit. We can expect many good things to come throughout the kingdom as a result of her recent visit. PELUM attended the Seed Savers Exchange meeting in Ngwavuma, KZN, South Africa and picked up lots of information on preserving traditional seeds.

Good things are happening in Eswatini and will keep you updated on all our activities and those of our members.

Kind
Regards,

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SEED FAIR & DISCUSSION

On June 11th -12th COSPE in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Swaziland Rural Women Assembly, Chakaza Mfati, PELUM Swaziland and Swaziland National Agricultural Union held a Seed Fair and a Seed Discussion.

COSPE and partners are currently running a demonstration plot where seed varieties are produced by farmers in their agro zones. Farmers are demonstrating the use of more resilient production practices using local adaptable varieties in order to improve their livelihoods and respond to climate change.

On the 11th there was a seed fair where farmers involved in the demonstration plots showcased local adaptable seed varieties in Tikhuba, Lubombo. The seed discussion was well attended took place on the 12th. It drew on the experiences from the partners and stakeholders to present workable solutions, improve on tried and tested technologies while opening room for new interventions.

GUBA WINS LUSH PRIZE

People all over the world are developing ways to live in harmony with nature and each other. They are generating renewable resources, restoring ecosystems, nurturing solidarity and building health, wholeness and resilience.



GUBA, Eswatini

Influence Projects Award

Lush Cosmetics created the Lush Spring Prize to support the regeneration movement. This year's Lush Spring Prize was awarded to 11 organisations from around the world including Eswatini's Guba. The prize includes a £200,000 prize fund, events that brought people together to share experience and their skills, and publicity to raise awareness of regeneration and its potential to heal damaged systems. Congratulations to Guba on their exceptional work

that led them to bring home this prize. For more information on Lush cosmetics and The Lush Spring Prize please visit www.springprize.org.



PROTECT YOUR GARDEN

Herbal Spray for General Pests and Fungal Problems

- 1 onion
- 5 chilli
- 1 garlic bulb

Steep overnight in five litres of water. Dilute one part of the solution to Five parts of water. Spray three times a week for a heavy infestation.

Oil Spray Insecticide

- 1 cup of vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon of soap

Mix oil and soap. Cover and shake thoroughly. Apply directly surfaces of the plants which are being affected by the little pests. The oil coats the bodies of the insects, effectively suffocating them, as it blocks the pores through which they breathe. This mixture can have a devastating effect on certain troublesome insects, such as aphids, mites, thrips, etc.

SAHEE VISITS ESWATINI

Gabriella from the Sahee Foundation paid a visit to Eswatini this past month stopping and meeting with many organisations while she was here. PELUM Eswatini proudly hosted Gabriella and spoke with her about our mission, current projects and future plans. We are certain to see many good things happen throughout the country because of her recent visit.

sahee
foundation
switzerland



SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE

PELUM Swaziland and member organisation ACAT Lllima Swaziland attended the two-day Seed Saver Exchange meeting organised by Biowatch in South Africa. The two-day event began with a knowledge sharing and exchange session and concluded with a seed blessing ritual

to celebrate farmer-managed seed systems and traditional seed varieties in Ingwavuma, KZN. The learning and exchange visit was attended by the ACAT Project Coordinator, ACAT farmers, community facilitators, the PELUM Country Coordinator, Biowatch staff as well as farmers from the Ngwavuma and Mtubatuba communities. The purpose of this visit was to enable the farmers to share experiences relating to traditional seed preservation and to witness the cultural significance of traditional seed systems in local communities.

Moving Forward

PELUM will encourage our farmers to grow a third plot/field which will be used strictly for seed production. PELUM will also encourage the use of planting holes because this will increase water retention and fertility.

Lastly, we noted that encouraging lead farmers is very important to keep them engaged and motivated to share skills and information with their peers. PELUM will continue to promote and raise awareness on the importance of increasing the amount of our local indigenous seed as well as why it's important to practice natural methods of pest management especially in storing seed.

An idea worth exploring for farmers who are interested in increasing their farmland is for them to ask their neighbours to borrow or lend them fields or land that is currently not being used. This can ensure that food and seed production is increased in communities.



PELUM IN THE NEWS

PELUM Swaziland was in the news again. An article in the Times of Swaziland on August 14 in the farming section on page 25 featured our first harvest at the Agricultural Training and Demonstration Centre.

Captured Moments



Construction is nearing completion on the container and storage unit at the Agroecology Training and Demonstration Centre.



Tsakasile Dlamini at the Seed Savers Exchange Meeting in South Africa.



The COSPE Seed Discussion.