



ANNUAL REVIEW

2024



ABOUT THIS ANNUAL REVIEW

Welcome to the 2024 edition of the Food & Trees for Africa (hereafter referred to as FTA) Annual Review.

FTA's mission is to drive positive change in Africa's food systems, champion the preservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems, and lead by example as a premier development organisation dedicated to socio-ecological harmony and climate resilience.

Covering the period from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024, this review provides an overview of FTA's initiatives, operations, financials, and – most importantly – sustainable impact.

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QUICK STATISTICS - 2024



570 428

EST. BENEFICIARIES REACHED THROUGH FTA'S FOOD SECURITY AND GREENING INITIATIVES



53 HECTARES OF DEGRADED LAND RESTORED



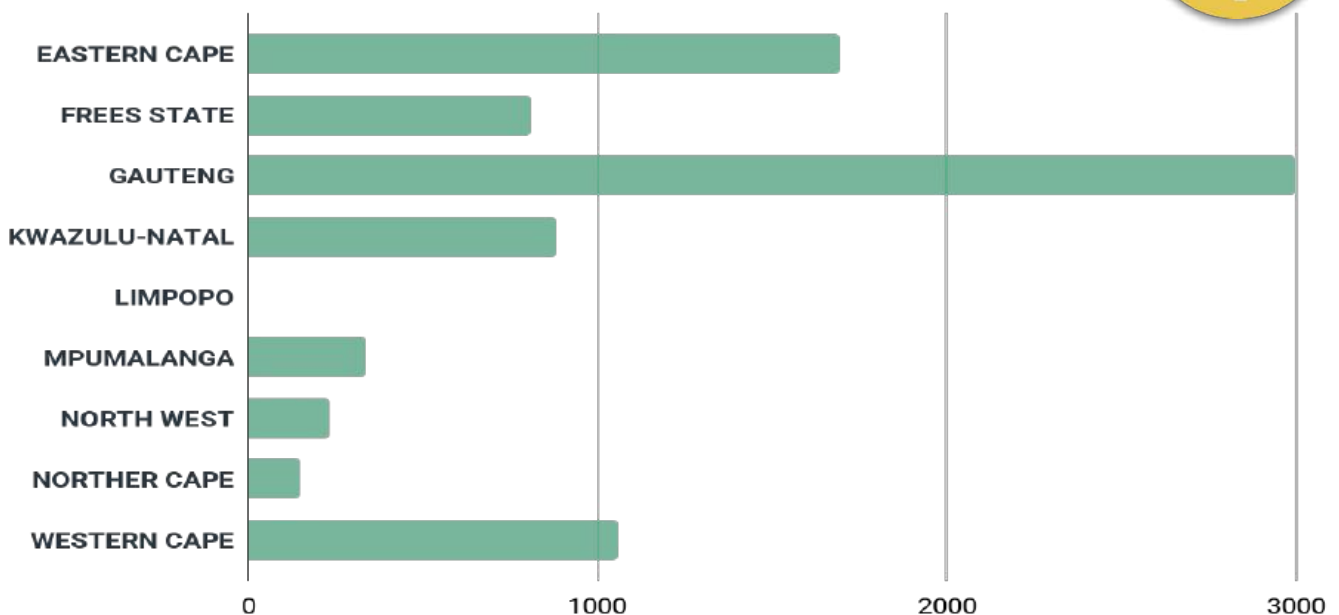
R11.5 MILLION IN PLANTING (e.g. SEEDLINGS) & OTHER RESOURCES



SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Fortress REI has been greening South African communities with FTA since 2019. The partnership has planted more than 19,500 trees over just five years.

TREES PLANTED PER PROVINCE (21,202 total)



QUICK STATISTICS - 2024



247

FOOD GARDENS



118 252 kg

PRODUCE RECORDED



R 839 100

INCOME RECORDED



410

HOME GARDENS



SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Since 2015, FTA and Shoprite Act for Change have collaborated to enhance food security and promote sustainable urban agriculture in five Southern African countries. The partnership has established food gardens across diverse communities, empowering individuals with the tools and knowledge to cultivate their own nutritious produce. This partnership focuses on community development, alleviating hunger. In 2023 - 2024, the partnership ran 129 food security projects, and exited 23 established market gardens which have become self-sustainable.

WATER SECURITY



14 boreholes



48 water tanks



51 irrigation systems

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

This has been another year of remarkable growth, innovation, and impact, underscoring FTA's unwavering commitment to food security, environmental restoration, and sustainable development.

Throughout the year, FTA has remained steadfast in its mission to create lasting change. In an era where climate resilience and socio-economic challenges demand urgent solutions, the organisation has continued to drive meaningful interventions across South Africa and beyond. According to the UN, global food insecurity remains a pressing issue, with nearly 30% of the world's population lacking consistent access to nutritious food. FTA's food gardens and agricultural training initiatives have directly tackled this challenge, equipping communities with the skills to cultivate sustainable food sources and reduce dependency on external food systems.

The numbers speak for themselves. With thousands of trees planted, hectares of land restored, and hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries reached, FTA's footprint continues to expand. Deforestation remains a critical global issue, with South Africa losing an estimated 25% of its tree cover since 2001. The launch of Trees.Africa marked a significant milestone in FTA's reforestation efforts, providing a dedicated platform to drive the restoration of South Africa's critically endangered forest biomes. Simultaneously, the EduPlant Programme continued to equip schools with sustainable agriculture skills, ensuring a new generation understands the value of food sovereignty amid growing concerns of climate variability affecting crop yields.

In parallel, partnerships remain at the heart of FTA's success. Corporate sponsors, civil society allies, and local communities have been instrumental in ensuring the longevity and reach of initiatives. The unwavering commitment of sponsors, alongside the dedicated team, has allowed FTA to navigate the complexities of a changing landscape while remaining a beacon of resilience and sustainability.



MPHO MAHANYELE, CHAIRPERSON

A key focus has been strengthening operational and financial stability. The integration of the Data Department has enhanced impact tracking, while strategic organisational restructuring improved efficiencies. The ability to secure funding and align with global ESG priorities has positioned FTA as a trusted partner in the growing green economy. As global markets shift towards carbon sequestration and nature-based solutions, FTA is strategically placed to contribute to these transformative efforts through its tree-planting and reforestation initiatives.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary individuals who shape this organisation. To fellow board members, your strategic guidance continues to propel FTA forward. To donors and sponsors, your generosity fuels the change FTA seeks to create. And to the dedicated FTA team, your passion and commitment inspire hope for a more food-secure, biodiverse, and climate-resilient Africa.

Looking ahead, the challenges may be great, but so too are the opportunities. With collaboration, vision, and unwavering purpose, FTA will continue to lead the charge in transforming landscapes and lives.

With gratitude and optimism,

Mpho Mahanyele

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FTA remains a leading force for good in South Africa's NPO sector, committed to promoting food security, environmental restoration, skills development, education, and climate awareness. The organisation continues to evolve its programmes to meet the shifting socio-economic landscape and the needs of under resourced communities.

PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

This past year has reinforced the values of ingenuity, resilience, and dedication that define FTA. Despite external challenges, the organisation has made significant strides, maintaining its role at the forefront of environmental and social development. The 2023/2024 financial year saw strong performance, with FTA successfully navigating economic volatility and sustaining its impact.

Operational backlogs have eased, making way for new projects and an increased focus on maximising impact. While financial indicators such as revenue and surplus show positive trends, these must be understood within a broader three-year context that includes prior fluctuations. The organisation remains committed to long-term financial stability and impact-driven growth.

FTA's achievements would not be possible without the continued support of its stakeholders. Their contributions fuel the organisation's ability to drive meaningful change, and FTA looks forward to further progress in the years ahead.

STRENGTHENING OPERATIONS

A key milestone this year was the successful integration of FTA's Data Department. This initiative enhances impact monitoring and supports the organisation's commitment to technological innovation. By leveraging digitisation and tools such as the Footprint Platform, FTA is streamlining operations and improving data-driven decision-making.

Additionally, the restructuring of the Procurement and Supply Chain Department has significantly improved efficiency.



CHRIS WILD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This has strengthened financial and operational accountability while ensuring that essential resources reach beneficiaries more effectively. These strategic changes enable FTA to deliver greater value to both donors and communities, reinforcing its reputation as a leader in sustainable development.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

FTA is aligning its operations with the growing global emphasis on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) impact management. Businesses are increasingly integrating food security, water, energy, and environmental sustainability into their strategies, driven by net-zero commitments and responsible social investment. The organisation recognises major opportunities in the carbon sector and bio-intensive agriculture. In the short term, FTA aims to transform ESG momentum into actionable, high-impact projects. By fostering collaboration and leveraging its expertise, FTA will continue to develop innovative solutions that drive long-term environmental and social progress.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wild

TREES FOR AFRICA



Urban expansion in South Africa has significantly impacted forested areas, with urban land cover increasing by approximately 1.44% annually between 1990 and 2014. This growth often encroaches upon green corridors, leading to habitat fragmentation and biodiversity loss. Urban greening initiatives are essential to mitigate these effects, enhancing biodiversity, improving food security, and promoting community well-being by integrating trees into shared urban spaces. Such efforts support sustainable development and bolster resilience against climate change impacts.

For over three decades, FTA has been at the forefront of tree planting in Southern Africa, creating lasting impact in schools, homes, and communities. Rooted in the mission of environmental restoration and social development, the Trees Department contributes to urban greening, climate action, and food security. The continued need for these efforts remains as essential as ever, transforming landscapes, fostering biodiversity, and empowering communities through education and sustainable practices.

TREES FOR ALL

Trees for All (TFA) is an award-winning initiative that plants trees in shared spaces, transforming the environment and fostering a healthier, greener future. The programme not only sequesters carbon emissions but also educates communities on the many benefits of trees.

FTA's extensive beneficiary database ensures projects meet sustainability criteria, with beneficiaries assessed based on geographical and environmental needs. The growing recognition of environmental responsibility, particularly through environmental, social, governance (ESG), highlights the importance of these greening initiatives. In 2024, FTA hosted 99 volunteer days which resulted in 21,202 trees being planted across 462 beneficiaries nationwide, focusing on climate change awareness, food security, and sustainable development.

DID YOU KNOW?

ABSA Bank partnered with FTA to plant 900 trees across South Africa in 2023. Nine tree-planting events were held, with 12 beneficiaries receiving between 50 and 100 trees each. An additional 150 trees were distributed across three sites. This initiative not only enhances urban greening but also strengthens community engagement in climate action.



21, 202 trees planted



7, 766 tonnes CO₂ sequestered



99 volunteer days



80 tree planting sponsors



STORY HIGHLIGHT

TREES FOR T-SHAD

Adcock Ingram, in partnership with FTA and the Tembisa Self Help Association of the Disabled (T-SHAD), undertook a meaningful initiative to support the self-sustainability and empowerment of individuals with disabilities in Tembisa.

Founded in 1990 by Mr. Manas Buswane Malinga, a blind man, T-SHAD focuses on integrating people with disabilities into various sectors of society by providing socio-economic livelihood opportunities and promoting financial independence.

Through this collaboration, volunteers from Adcock Ingram, T-SHAD, and the local community planted trees and cultivated gardens on T-SHAD's 2.04-hectare property. This initiative aimed to strengthen the association's income-generating projects, including their food garden, which provides daily meals for 160 individuals. The donation of 362 trees supports environmental sustainability and offsets approximately 9.22 tonnes of CO₂e, further contributing to T-SHAD's goal of creating a self-sustaining resource base.

By joining forces, FTA, Adcock Ingram, and T-SHAD embodied the values of Ubuntu—strengthening community ties and fostering an inclusive future for individuals with disabilities. This collaboration helps T-SHAD continue its mission to promote social integration and create viable, sustainable livelihoods for its 189 members.

DID YOU KNOW?

Adcock Ingram has been contributing to environmental resilience and community stability with FTA since 2023. The partnership launched with "[Greening the Path](#)", during which 31 Eastern Cape communities planted more than 500 indigenous trees.

TREES FOR AFRICA



Informal settlements in South Africa often emerge in degraded areas lacking essential amenities, leading to environmental challenges such as loss of vegetative cover and pollution.

Creating green spaces through tree planting in these communities enhances biodiversity, improves air quality, and provides shade, contributing to residents' well-being. Establishing urban green corridors further **promotes ecological balance** and fosters sustainable development, aligning with efforts to create healthier, more resilient urban environments.

TREES FOR HOMES

The **Trees for Homes (TFH)** programme, launched in 2000, stands as South Africa's **most successful township greening initiative**. Initially designed to address the inequities of the country's past settlement policies, it has evolved into a benchmark for innovation in urban forestry. The programme provides low-income households with fruit and indigenous trees, enhancing property value, improving environmental quality, and fostering sustainable development.

A key component of the programme's design is the development of community foresters through targeted training. These environmental champions become critical agents of change, helping to create awareness and appreciation for green spaces.

The programme currently spearheads greenbelt initiatives in multiple informal settlements across South Africa's major city centres. The aim is to transform these areas into **vibrant urban food forests**, teeming with life and biodiversity, while simultaneously addressing the pressing need for sustainable urban development.

Training for Community Educators (CEs) remains a key part of the programme, ensuring high survival rates for trees and reinforcing the long-term success of each project. In the 2023/2024 financial year, new projects funded by Shoprite and Bridgestone were launched, while second evaluations for the Shoprite Mamelodi Trees for Homes project were completed. These ongoing efforts reflect FTA's dedication to greening urban landscapes and contributing to the transformation of South African townships.



745 households greened



96.6% tree survival rate



STORY HIGHLIGHT

BRIDGING THE GAP

Bridgestone South Africa demonstrated dedication to social development by donating 500 trees to homes in Wallmansthal, Pretoria.

This contribution is expected to offset approximately 184.5 tonnes of CO₂e annually, significantly enhancing local biodiversity and air quality.

Wallmansthal, established in 1869 by the Berlin Mission Society, has a rich history as a community-based initiative. The area was home to African converts from the Kekana-Ndebele and other pre-colonial northern Sotho polities. In 1936, the Berlin Mission sold a large section of the farm to African buyers, granting them full title deeds for their plots. However, the community faced challenges, including forced removals during the apartheid era, leading to the loss of their ancestral land. In 2007, the Wallmansthal community successfully reclaimed their land, marking a significant milestone in their history.

Bridgestone's partnership with FTA aligns with the company's global sustainability goals and demonstrates responsible corporate citizenship. This collaboration not only addresses environmental concerns but also empowers local communities by promoting environmental stewardship and providing resources for sustainable development.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bridgestone is committed to sinking carbon generated from its operations through large-scale urban greening. In addition Bridgestone ESG is addressing food security in communities by establishing food gardens and empowering communities through training. In 2024, 1000 trees were planted.

REFORESTATION



DEFORESTATION IN SA

Since 2001 around 1.48 million hectares or 25% of **trees have been lost across South Africa**, releasing 517Mt of CO₂ emissions. Deforestation and land degradation accelerate climate change by reducing the **Earth's natural ability to absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂)**. Reforestation plays a crucial role in reversing this damage, restoring ecosystems, and mitigating climate change.

RESTORING WHAT WAS LOST

The **Stutterheim Reforestation Project** in the Kologha Forest, Eastern Cape, focuses on restoring Afromontane **forests** in the Amatole and coastal Transkei regions. These **forests** are ecologically significant, home to diverse flora and fauna, including critically endangered species. By reforesting this area, FTA is revitalising habitats essential for biodiversity and long-term ecosystem health.

REFORESTATION MILESTONES

Since its inception in 2019, the project has planted over 6000 trees, restoring 4 hectares of forest. These efforts have not only facilitated ecosystem regeneration but also contributed to the development of a natural wetland, further enhancing biodiversity.

FTA continues to engage local communities in maintaining and nurturing the trees, ensuring long-term sustainability.

A key milestone in the project this past year has been the early-phase trees growing towards each other, beginning to form a canopy. This development brings multiple ecological benefits:

- A maturing forest structure creates diverse habitats for wildlife, increasing biodiversity.
- Tree canopies reduce evaporation, regulating soil moisture and maintaining soil health.
- The canopy provides nesting and protection for birds, insects, and other species.
- A well-established forest is more resistant to the impacts of climate change and adverse weather events.
- As trees grow and interconnect, their ability to absorb CO₂ increases, strengthening climate change mitigation efforts.

DID YOU KNOW?

Forests serve as crucial regulators of surrounding ecosystems and microclimates, wielding a profound influence on environmental stability and biodiversity. Through interactions between vegetation, soil, and atmospheric processes, forests mitigate climate extremes, moderating temperature fluctuations and fostering moisture balance. Their expansive canopy acts as a natural filter, purifying air and water while providing habitat for countless species.

FOOD GARDENS



BUILDING RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

Food security is more than just having access to food—it means access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. FTA's Food Gardens Programme has been working towards this goal for over 33 years. By supporting **individuals** and **communities** in growing their own food, the programme empowers people to **take control of their food sovereignty**, build resilience, and create opportunities for income generation. In 2024, the programme has witnessed remarkable achievements, reflecting the dedication and perseverance of its beneficiaries.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Food security is increasingly under threat due to socio-economic limitations, climate change, and rising food prices. However, **food gardening provides a powerful solution** by fostering self-sufficiency, employment opportunities, and improved quality of life. **Working alongside sponsors and beneficiaries**, the Food Gardens Programme continues to demonstrate how sustainable agriculture can help communities overcome these challenges.

EXPANDING REACH AND KNOWLEDGE

The programme is active in all nine South African provinces and four Southern African countries. Training workshops, delivered in accessible languages and styles, ensure that beneficiaries gain practical skills in sustainable farming. Through continuous knowledge-sharing and expansion, the Food Gardens Programme remains committed to making food security a reality for countless communities.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

The programme focuses on biointensive agriculture, an approach that emphasises working with natural ecosystems to create sustainable and regenerative food gardens. These methods improve soil health, conserve water, and enhance plant resilience, ensuring long-term food security. As climate change threatens food production, the **need for sustainable farming practices** has never been more critical.

TAILORED INTERVENTIONS

The programme offers several intervention types, tailored to the needs and experience levels of beneficiaries. These projects operate in schools, orphanages, homes, community gardens, and nonprofit organisations. Support includes essential resources such as seeds, tools, infrastructure, and training to help food gardens thrive and expand their impact.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Successful food gardens thrive when members take ownership, demonstrating resilience and long-term commitment. This sense of responsibility fosters problem-solving and sustainability. Before starting a project, key factors are assessed, including water availability, security measures, soil health, community participation, project structure, and beneficiary reach. These elements determine a garden's potential for success, ensuring that it can **provide ongoing food security**. Strong community involvement and commitment remain essential to the long-term impact and sustainability of food gardens.



247 community/market gardens



410 linked homestead gardens



839,100.80kg fresh food



50,000+ food secure meals



STORY HIGHLIGHT

RESILIENCE IN THE NORTH

The Northern Cape and North West provinces face extreme temperatures and limited water access, **posing challenges for food gardening**. Despite these conditions, beneficiaries of the Food Gardens programme have demonstrated resilience and innovation, ensuring their projects not only survive but thrive.

To combat water scarcity, gardeners have implemented sustainable practices such as mulching, water storage, and repurposing 2L bottles for irrigation. These methods have yielded remarkable results. In 2024, food gardens in the Northern Cape produced 1,000 kg of fresh produce, generating R4,001.00 in income.

Similarly, North West projects harvested 2,135 kg of produce, earning R20,494.00. The Kopanelo Project in Mahikeng took a further step towards sustainability by investing in a borehole, securing a reliable water source for long-term success.

Beyond agriculture, these gardens are catalysts for economic empowerment and food security in underserved communities. High unemployment and poverty levels in these provinces make initiatives like these essential for self-sufficiency.

By fostering sustainable livelihoods, the programme exemplifies how climate adaptation and local innovation can drive meaningful change.

DID YOU KNOW?

During FTA's "I am a farmer" campaign, farmers reported that training on climate-smart agriculture—such as knowing which crops to plant in each season and understanding soil management—was instrumental in adapting to changing weather patterns.

FOOD GARDENS



MOST PRODUCTIVE FOOD GARDEN

Located in Windhoek, Namibia, Groot Aub Fresh Producers was founded by former agricultural teacher Julia and her husband to reduce dependence on imported produce and provide nutritious, locally grown food. Despite challenges, their dedication to food security remained unwavering.

In 2023, FTA began training workshops with the Groot Aub team, equipping them with sustainable agricultural skills, planting materials, and infrastructure support.

By 2024, Groot Aub had become the most productive food garden, harvesting an outstanding 37,249.25 kg of produce and generating R96,267.00 in income. Beyond financial success, the team also donates fresh vegetables to a local old age home and community centre, reinforcing their commitment to community development.

Groot Aub Fresh Producers exemplifies how resilience, training, and sustainable practices can transform a food garden into a thriving source of nourishment, income, and social impact.



MOST TRANSFORMED FOOD GARDEN

Often, the catalyst for change is one person's ability to recognise the potential for something greater. In the case of the Basheshebahleka Community Project, in Gauteng, it was a visionary leader who saw opportunity where others saw only a dumping site.

In 2019, she, alongside like-minded individuals, began clearing the land and preparing it for food production. By April 2024, a partnership with FTA further accelerated productivity, improving plant quality, income, and community engagement.

The garden now supplies fresh produce to a local Early Childhood Development Centre and families in need. It also offers community training workshops and sells affordable seedlings, encouraging others to start their own homestead gardens.

Recently, the project secured a supplier agreement with Nando's to provide chillies, enhancing its sustainability. Once an overlooked wasteland, Basheshebahleka is now a thriving food hub, proving that transformation is possible through vision, teamwork, and dedication.



BLOOMING BEYOND BORDERS

In 2022, the Food Gardens Programme, with the support of Shoprite and others, expanded beyond South Africa, launching three community gardens in Lesotho. Today, these gardens have flourished into eight thriving projects across four neighbouring countries—**Lesotho**, Namibia, Botswana, and Eswatini—marking a significant step toward a food-secure continent.

The initial gardens were established to provide food for project members and their communities. However, training workshops equipped participants with new skills, leading to greater ambitions and more profound outcomes. What started as a means of sustenance has evolved into a demonstration of how consistency and effort can transform lives.

The impact has been measurable. In 2023, the three Lesotho gardens produced a combined recorded harvest of 230 kg, generating R2,402.92 in income. By the end of 2024, after two phases of support, their harvests have grown to 3,289 kg, with an income of R19,522.85. Additionally, 25 community members received tools, seedlings, and materials to start homestead gardens. Within three months, they collectively harvested spinach, kale, and cabbage, consuming some, donating to those in need, and selling surplus produce.

A major milestone has been the transformation of one community garden, Action Lesotho, into a seedling supplier, showcasing the programme's focus on long-term sustainability and economic opportunity. These food gardens are not just producing crops—they are driving self-sufficiency, economic activity, and access to nutritious food.



SUB-SAHARAN SUBSISTENCE

Dirang Batswana, meaning “Do it, Batswana,” is a community-driven initiative in Koster that has transformed lives since its establishment in 2012. What began as a small food garden has grown into a training hub, empowering over 150 families to start their own gardens, significantly increasing food security.

On 25 March 2024 the project, supported by Shoprite’s Grow Your Own campaign, distributed 50 Garden-in-a-Bucket kits filled with seedlings, seeds, compost, and tools to local home-based food gardens. This initiative reinforced Dirang Batswana’s mission of equipping community members with the skills and resources to be self-sufficient.

Recognising high youth unemployment, the project has actively encouraged young people to volunteer, exposing them to agriculture’s potential beyond subsistence farming. By fostering skills in entrepreneurship and income generation, Dirang Batswana is shifting perceptions and creating opportunities for economic growth.

Beyond food security, the project uplifts its community through a soup kitchen, produce donations, and assistance for elderly residents. Dirang Batswana is a testament to the power of grassroots initiatives, demonstrating how small beginnings can drive long-term, transformative change.



EDUPLANT



The EduPlant programme, in partnership with Tiger Brands, is South Africa's premier school food gardening and greening initiative. For 33 years, it has evolved to meet the dynamic needs of education and societal development. The programme focuses on food security, a key strategy for sustainable social and economic growth in South Africa. EduPlant empowers schools to improve food access in their communities while teaching students valuable skills in food gardening using permaculture principles. These skills, when applied at home, contribute to improved nutrition and healthier lifestyles.

SCALING IMPACT THROUGH CLUSTER LEARNING

In 2024, the rollout of the new two-year cycle aimed to increase the programme's multiplier potential by selecting 30 schools with established food gardens to become Centres of Excellence (COEs). These schools mentor an additional 120 schools in their districts, further spreading the knowledge of food security. Learners from these schools not only set up gardens at home but also share their new skills with their families. The programme exposes students to careers in agriculture, fostering a generation of future changemakers.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM

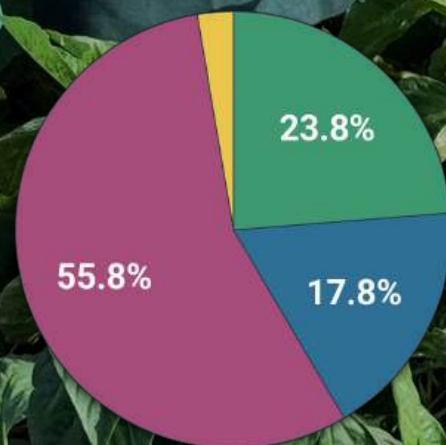
EduPlant's curriculum aligns with the CAPS and DCAPS standards, ensuring practical and theoretical knowledge. The programme's content includes water management, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable livelihoods—critical components in addressing South Africa's water scarcity and climate challenges.

Learners are taught to manage water efficiently, using techniques like greywater recycling, rainwater harvesting, and improving irrigation systems. Through storytelling and simple videos, the programme makes the complex issues of climate change and mitigation relatable, encouraging students to take personal actions toward environmental sustainability.

ADAPTING TO UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER PATTERNS

Many schools faced unprecedented weather challenges, including snow, frost, and drought, which affected gardens at the start of spring. In response, the programme introduced strategies such as intensive mulching, intercropping, crop rotation, and improved water management. Learners repurposed materials to protect their gardens, ensuring continued growth despite adverse weather conditions.

WORKSHOP ATTENDEES BY SECTOR





HIGHLIGHTS

PERMACULTURE WITH PURPOSE

Sifundzekhaya Primary School in Mpumalanga emerged as a champion in the 2023 EduPlant cycle, later becoming one of the winning schools. Under the care of educators and learners, the garden flourishes with a variety of crops, including vegetables commonly grown in the community. The school's commitment to permaculture principles has transformed the garden into a vibrant learning environment.

“Involving the community had a huge impact. Parents joined the programme and are applying permaculture methods at home. Their children also came to help and they now see that this approach can put food on the table. This strengthened relations between the school and the community,” says **Thabo Lusibi, school educator**.

The school's success underscores the transformative power of education and community involvement in addressing food security challenges. Sifundzekhaya is now a mentee school in the 2024-2025 EduPlant cycle.

Lusibi says being an Eduplant finalist made him want to achieve even more. “Programmes like this give people like me purpose! We have learnt a lot and the way we view food gardening has changed. It used to be money-consuming. Now it saves us money because we can depend on EduPlant training and the crops we grow.”



84,000 seedlings



3150 kg seeds



2211 workshop attendees



115,169 learners impacted



The African Climate Reality Project (ACRP), hosted by FTA, empowers over 2,000 Climate Reality Leaders (CRLs) across Africa. It drives climate advocacy, fosters collaboration, and advances African-led climate justice initiatives for a fair transition to a low-carbon future.

CLIMATE REALITY TRAINING

In November 2023, the Climate Reality Project hosted its 54th Climate Leadership Training in Accra, Ghana, training nearly 600 participants from over 20 West African nations. The event featured former US Vice President Al Gore, expert panels, and award-winning advocates, equipping CRLs with critical knowledge and tools.

COP 28 UAE

Ahead of COP28, ACRP and the Fair Finance Coalition of Southern Africa released videos on the socio-economic and health impacts of the Medupi Coal Power Station. ACRP's Aurélie Kalenga Njimngou highlighted the power of storytelling in climate action, reinforcing the organisation's role in global climate advocacy.

HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL

In March 2024, ACRP led climate action activities at the Human Rights Festival in Johannesburg, including a Climate 101 workshop, mural painting, and a photo exhibition. The organisation also participated in the People's March, reinforcing its commitment to climate justice.

AFRICA DAY PETITION AND CAMPAIGN

In May 2024, ACRP launched a petition urging the African Development Bank (AfDB) to exclude fossil fuel investments and prioritise fair financing for renewables. During AfDB's annual meeting, ACRP amplified these demands through the "Finance Our Future" campaign.

FAIR FINANCE SCHOOL GHANA

In July 2024, ACRP's West Africa Hub hosted a Fair Finance School in Accra, training CRLs and civil society groups on engaging Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) for sustainable climate solutions.

LOCAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH

In August 2024, ACRP co-hosted South Africa's Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) alongside the South African Climate Action Network (SACAN), focusing on youth engagement in climate policy and finance. The event culminated in a "Youth Position on the Just Transition" statement submitted to the UNFCCC for COP29.

AMPLIFYHER WEBINAR AND GRANT

ACRP's AmplifyHer webinar series, launched in August 2024, spotlighted women in climate leadership and provided grant application training. Adaptation Grants were awarded to three women CRLs to implement community-based climate solutions.

CLIMATE LITERACY AND POLICY RESOURCES

In August 2024, ACRP hosted a Climate Literacy Workshop in Ghana, featuring policy experts and launching a new NDC Framework and Tracker. These tools empower CRLs and the public to monitor and report climate commitments ahead of the UNFCCC's February 2025 deadline. An explainer video introducing the tools received over 2,000 views, reflecting strong engagement in climate policy.



STORY HIGHLIGHT

COLLABORATIVE CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS WORKSHOPS

The partnership between the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (GDARDE) and FTA saw the facilitation of **30 one-day workshops to enhance climate literacy in Gauteng schools**. This initiative empowered both learners and educators with the knowledge and tools to address climate change, promoting awareness and action within schools and surrounding communities.

Workshops provided essential teaching resources, including those from ACRP's "**Not on Our Soil**" docuseries and the EduPlant Programme, boosting educators' confidence in integrating climate change concepts into their curriculum. Interactive sessions, including discussions, presentations, and teach-back exercises, enabled students to engage deeply with sustainability, food security, and climate resilience. By examining climate issues from multiple perspectives, the programme fostered a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to climate action.

A key focus was linking climate change to livelihoods and poverty reduction, using innovative communication tools to make complex issues relatable. Schools benefited not only from the training but also from trees and planting materials that enriched learning environments. The programme culminated in a speech and poetry competition, where learners demonstrated remarkable understanding and creativity in articulating the urgency of the climate crisis.

DATA & FOOTPRINT



ROLE OF THE DATA DEPARTMENT

The Data Department plays a pivotal role in FTA, ensuring beneficiary data is accurate, objectively assessed, and strategically aligned with funders. By safeguarding information and supporting all organisational units, the department enhances data integrity, reporting, and proposal development.

MILESTONES IN INNOVATION

This year, the department achieved two major milestones:

- **Beneficiary and Application Dashboard Relaunch:** This advanced platform centralises beneficiary data with an objective scoring system. The updated system is now more intuitive, helping staff efficiently match beneficiaries with relevant opportunities.
- **Deployment of the Offline App:** This tool enables field workers to assess beneficiaries nationwide, regardless of network quality, ensuring seamless operations even in remote areas.

COLLABORATION AND IMPACT

Collaboration is at the core of the Data Department's work. By partnering with all departments, it verifies information, streamlines reporting, and enhances data-driven project planning. This year, thousands of reports were processed, ensuring accurate and timely organisational statistics, driving efficiency and informed decision-making.

LOOKING AHEAD

FTA remains committed to innovation and data-driven impact. With nearly 5000 applications awaiting support and thousands of reports processed annually, the organisation continues to expand its reach. By fostering efficient, reliable data solutions, FTA empowers teams and enhances beneficiary support, ensuring lasting and meaningful change.

VISIT [FOOTPRINT.ORG.ZA](https://www.footprint.org.za)

COMMUNICATIONS



GROWING THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

In the 2023-2024 financial year, FTA refined its communications strategy, strengthening its focus on three core pillars: values, expertise, and reputation. These pillars serve as the foundation for the organisation's communication approach, guiding all initiatives aimed at promoting its vision and mission. By highlighting the importance of socio-ecological harmony, environmental restoration, and climate resilience, FTA strives to inspire sustainable change and showcase its leadership in driving positive transformation across Africa's food systems.

EXPANDING DEPARTMENT CAPACITY

To enhance the effectiveness and reach of FTA's communications, the department welcomed a Communications Coordinator in July 2024. This addition bolstered the team's capacity, enabling a more efficient execution of communication activities across multiple departments. The Communications Coordinator's expertise in content creation, copywriting, and administrative support has been pivotal in ensuring that FTA's messages are consistently aligned with its mission. The expanded team has played a critical role in driving awareness, promoting sustainable behavior change, and encouraging investment in social development and environmental restoration.

KEY CAMPAIGNS

Leveraging the increased capacity, the Communications Department successfully launched two impactful campaigns between August and October 2024. The first focused on reforestation efforts and the restoration of critical forest ecosystems, with the launch of the Trees.Africa microsite. FTA spotlighted two key forest biomes currently under restoration.

The second campaign, "I am a Farmer", began filming for a series aimed to shift perceptions about farming by showing that agriculture is for everyone—regardless of land size, background or location. Through powerful storytelling, the series will highlight the critical role that small-scale and subsistence farmers play in creating food security, economic sustainability, and environmental resilience.

DONOR RECOGNITION

Amidst these large-scale initiatives, FTA remained committed to acknowledging its loyal donors. Through various channels, including social media, blogs, press releases, and interviews, the organisation ensured that its donors received significant recognition for their support. These efforts contributed to substantial print, online, and broadcast coverage valued at R3.6 million.

OPERATIONS



GROWTH AND INNOVATION

The 2023/2024 Financial Year was one of expansion and resilience for FTA. With new projects taking root and a growing footprint, the organisation strengthened its impact across South Africa and beyond. Adaptability and commitment remained key in overcoming challenges and seizing opportunities to drive lasting change.

ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY

To foster a focused work environment, FTA introduced No-Meet Thursdays, allowing staff uninterrupted time for critical tasks. This initiative improved efficiency, enabling teams to meet deadlines, monitor projects, and achieve key deliverables without distractions.

INVESTING IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

FTA reinforced its commitment to staff growth through targeted coaching for coordinators and managers. Leadership and analytical skills training empowered employees to navigate their roles effectively.

Internal mobility further highlighted FTA's dedication to developing talent from within, ensuring a strong and capable team.

STRENGTHENING TEAM DYNAMICS

To enhance collaboration, FTA hosted an Insights workshop, helping employees understand different communication styles. Team-building activities, including an Acrobranch adventure and shared lunch, as well as a virtual painting session provided valuable opportunities to reconnect and strengthen relationships after remote work periods.

FUTURE VISION

In conjunction with the team building, Chris Wild presented FTA's five-year strategy. This transparent and collaborative session allowed staff to engage, align their contributions with the organisation's mission, and gain a clear vision of FTA's future. With a strong foundation in place, FTA continues to evolve, driving meaningful impact and fostering a culture of excellence and innovation.

FINANCIALS



REVENUE GROWTH

FTA reported a significant 24% increase in revenue, marking the highest nominal revenue in 34 years. Key factors driving this growth include strong team coordination, conclusion of long-term obligations, the growing trend of trees as a solution for carbon mitigation, and FTA's reputation for delivering impactful, on-the-ground results.

BOTTOM LINE

The total surplus for the year was R1,068,681, reflecting a 63.2% decrease compared to 2023. This reduction is primarily attributed to

strategic investments in innovation, capacity building, and human capital—critical steps toward strengthening service delivery. Despite an operational loss, FTA's finance team secured investment income, which prevented an overall bottom-line loss for the year.

CASH FLOW

Cash at year-end increased by 22.7%, driven by a substantial donor contract related to food security received in the final months of the financial year. This positive cash flow provides the necessary foundation for continued growth and impact in the years ahead.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
Assets		
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2,543,076	2,679,213
Investment in subsidiary	1	1
	<u>2,543,077</u>	<u>2,679,214</u>
Current Assets		
Inventories	659,255	627,536
Trade and other receivables	5,751,218	2,689,074
Cash and cash equivalents	31,693,691	25,834,912
	<u>38,104,164</u>	<u>29,151,522</u>
Total Assets	<u>40,647,241</u>	<u>31,830,736</u>
Equity and Liabilities		
Equity		
Pre-incorporation surplus	26,629	26,629
Accumulated surplus	8,336,966	7,268,285
	<u>8,363,595</u>	<u>7,294,914</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	5,716,970	4,288,495
Income received in advance	20,247,327	20,247,327
	<u>32,283,646</u>	<u>24,535,822</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>32,283,646</u>	<u>24,535,822</u>
Total Equity and Liabilities	<u>40,647,241</u>	<u>31,830,736</u>

FINANCIALS



STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
Revenue	37,234,923	30,081,792
Other income	421,065	386,196
Operating expenses	<u>(38,908,508)</u>	<u>(29,206,652)</u>
Operating surplus (deficit)	(1,252,520)	1,261,336
Investment revenue	<u>2,321,201</u>	<u>1,639,360</u>
Surplus (deficit) for the year	1,068,681	2,900,696
Other comprehensive income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year	<u>1,068,681</u>	<u>2,900,696</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash generated from (used in) operations	3,649,317	3,202,810
Interest revenue	<u>2,321,201</u>	<u>1,639,360</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>5,970,518</u>	<u>4,842,170</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(111,739)	(388,195)
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant & equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>43,233</u>
Net cash from investing activities	<u>(111,739)</u>	<u>(344,962)</u>
Total cash movement for the year	5,858,779	4,497,208
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>25,834,912</u>	<u>21,337,704</u>
Total cash at end of the year	<u>31,693,691</u>	<u>25,834,912</u>

GET INVOLVED

THE STORIES WE START NEVER END

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Ensure that your company's spend-for-impact is maximised through FTA's CSI and ESG programmes.

You can **contribute sustainably** to the future of our country, while maintaining your B-BBEE scorecard and obtaining a Section 18A certificate, making your donation a tax-deductible expense.

GIVE A MONTHLY

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Set up a monthly recurring donation, either toward core mission support, or one of our programmes. **Our secure donation portal** enables you to quickly and easily customise your donation.

CORPORATE TEAM-BUILDING

Contact us to **facilitate your next team-building event** or volunteer day. Your company can plant trees and food gardens around South Africa.

GIFT A TREE

Donate a tree(s) as a gift to celebrate a special occasion, or in remembrance of a loved one. FTFA will plant your tree at one of our partner organisations, where it will be well loved and cared for.

MYSCHOOL CARDS

Sign up for a MySchool Card and add us as a beneficiary. If you already have a MySchool Card, you can still add FTFA as a beneficiary - MySchool allows up to two beneficiaries per card holder.

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