

# Orientation Session Report: LAWWSA Bridging Course

This report summarizes the orientation session for the LAWWSA Bridging Course. The course aims to empower youth in agriculture, equipping them with sustainable farming practices to reduce poverty and unemployment. The project team undertook extensive outreach to raise awareness, employing a project lifecycle approach encompassing situational analysis, planning, implementation, management, monitoring, evaluation, and adjustments.



# Situational Analysis and Community Engagement

A thorough situational analysis was conducted, focusing on SWOT analyses, resources, infrastructure, and literacy levels. Key community members were identified, integrating their indigenous knowledge with modern technology for sustainable projects. A participatory approach was followed, combining theoretical and practical training to maximize impact. An effective communication strategy was also implemented.

## **SWOT Analysis**

Identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in targeted areas.

## **Community Leaders**

Integrated indigenous knowledge with modern technology.

## **Participatory Approach**

Combined theoretical and practical training for effective learning.



# Vegetable Production Training

Comprehensive training in vegetable production covered soil analyses, fertilizers, soil preparation, machinery, planting methods, and irrigation systems. Students learned about weed control, chemical management, harvesting, sorting, grading, packaging, and marketing strategies. This holistic approach ensured a thorough understanding of vegetable farming from start to finish.



## Soil Analyses

Understanding soil composition for optimal growth.



## Irrigation Systems

Efficient water management techniques.



## Packaging and Marketing

Strategies for successful market placement.



# Livestock and Veldt Management Training

Training in livestock production included breed characteristics, farm planning, infrastructure development, and SWOT analyses. Veldt and water management techniques were taught, along with plant and fodder management. Students gained experience in both intensive and extensive farming practices, preparing them for diverse livestock farming scenarios.

## **Breed Characteristics**

Understanding different livestock breeds and their traits.

## **Veldt Management**

Sustainable grazing practices for healthy land.

## **Farm Planning**

Strategic infrastructure and resource allocation.

# Grains, Rotational Crops, and Modern Technology

Students were introduced to various grain varieties, maize, Lucerne crops, and the importance of rotational systems. Training encompassed all aspects of these crops, alongside traditional and modern machinery. The digital era's tools and their application in agriculture were also taught, enhancing students' technological proficiency.



## Grain Varieties



## Rotational Systems



## Digital Tools



# Greenhouse Development and Research Practices

Farmers and students explored greenhouse, tunnel, hydroponics, and net farming systems. By comparing open-field gardens with greenhouse gardens, the concept was illustrated, emphasizing the importance of small-scale research before large-scale planting. This approach highlighted the value of data-driven decisions in agriculture.

1

**Open Field Garden**

2

**Greenhouse Garden**

3

**Small-Scale Research**



EST



2024

# Climate Change Education

The signs and reasons for climate change were explained, with emphasis on natural resources and their effects on humans, animals, and the economy. Different disaster types and their impacts were discussed, stressing the importance of relevant Acts, regulations, and policies. Students gained a comprehensive understanding of environmental stewardship.

1

**Signs of Change**

2

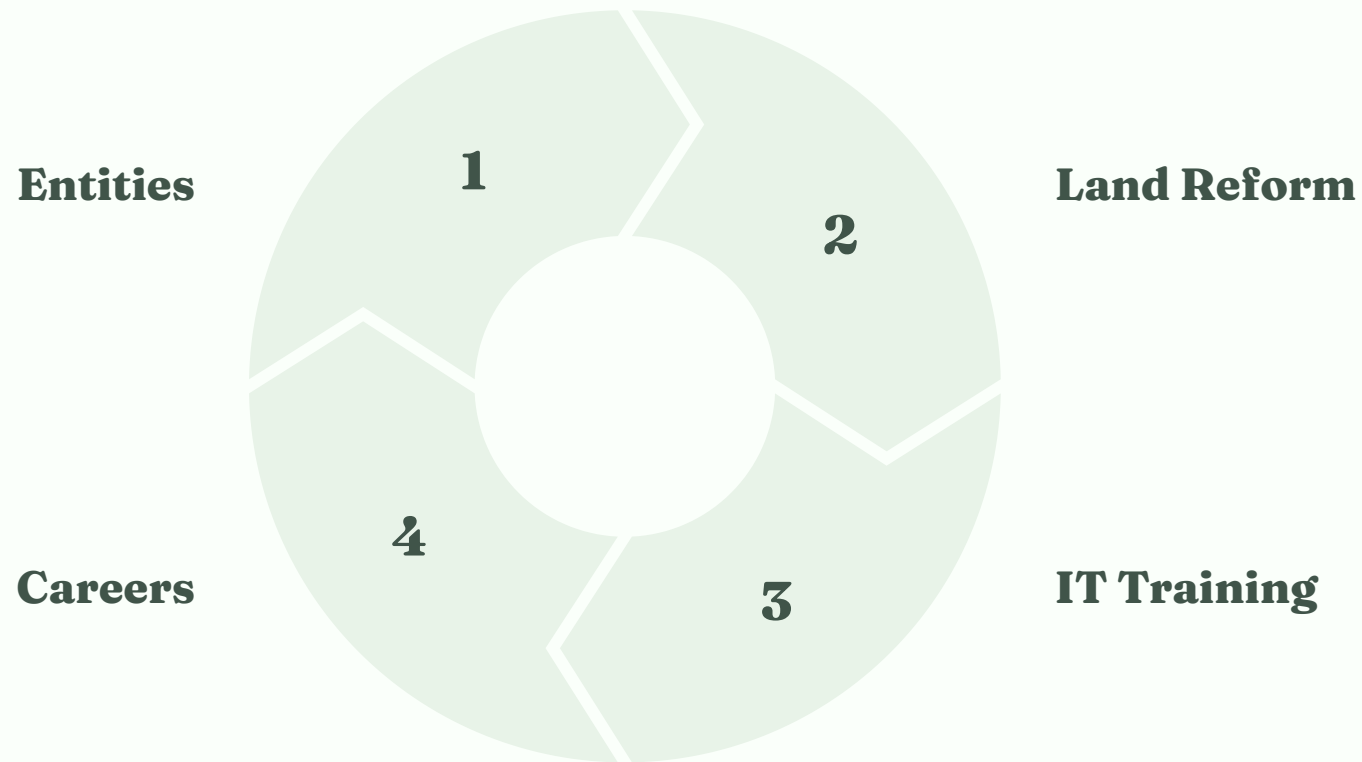
**Resource Effects**

3

**Disaster Types**

# Agricultural Entities and Career Opportunities

Students were introduced to different agricultural entities and their characteristics, along with various Land Reform programs. Basic IT and digital training were provided to enhance their employability. A presentation of diverse agricultural careers and relevant opportunities broadened their understanding of the sector's potential.







# Project Outcomes and Sustainable Empowerment

The project aimed to empower youth for sustainable farming with minimal mentoring. This contributes to reducing poverty, inequality, and unemployment, while improving livelihoods. The focus on practical skills and knowledge ensures graduates are well-prepared to succeed in the agricultural sector and drive positive change in their communities.



# Social Hackathon and Future Steps

The project's first phase culminated in a Social Hackathon, in collaboration with the EU-funded Seed4Africa project. This event served as a platform for innovation and collaboration, fostering new ideas and solutions for agricultural challenges. Future steps include continued support and mentorship for graduates, ensuring long-term success and sustainability in their agricultural endeavors.

**1 Hackathon**

**2 Collaboration**

**3 Future Support**

