

Biodynamics activating in the Abalimi family of farmers

The farmers of the Abalimi Movement are very busy people. The fact that it was possible to gather together a group of farmers prepared to be part of an hour to stir is no small feat .

Mama Christina Kaba was there too . She asked all kinds of questions relating to how we can further embed this activity. We discussed an appropriate place to store the preps. How to be able to order them and in the future possibly even make some of them! She and I have an arrangement to make a trip out to BloublommetjiesKloof Farm at an appropriate time – in order for her to make personal acquaintance with the source of the Preps.

Liziwe, one of the Field team was also very enthused by the process.

The receptivity was almost overwhelming.

The group of farmers involved in the stir --- effortlessly engaged in the stirring process. In fact I have never been part of a stir quite like this one! The farmers seemed transported to a place within themselves that is full of reverence, joviality and deep conscious understanding. And they immediately accessed this state of being once the water began to be stirred.



During the stir , the conversations were flowing about a variety of Xhosa traditions to do with cows , the cows horns , various parts of the cows body , the power of a lactating cow and more . There was also conversation about various fermenting processes. This was all interspersed with them engaging me about the ways in which Biodynamics works. What was really remarkable was that , not once was there any scepticism, but rather a true open conversation of the various phenomena and practices. (Goethean conversation in action !)



***Transferring our precious substance into buckets for application onto the land**



***Striding out with great will forces and jubilation**

The process of applying the Horn Manure was equally taken with sheer conviviality and ceremony by the farmers.





We also inoculated beautifully made compost heaps.





***Stirring the valerian for the compost heaps**

We went on to 2 other gardens from there . The last garden was the SCAGA gardens systems . This is the site for the Apprenticeship programme to start .



*** Liziwe (Fieldworker) and I , feeling great after applying BD Horn Manure to the entire SCAGA system .**

Looking forward

Based on the wonderful receptivity of the first Horn Manure Stir and Spray - - it seems that Biodynamic practices can find a solid and comfortable home in the Abalimi family of farmers.

By the end of May another 3 garden systems will be involved in a stir and spray of Horn manure.

After this ---the same 6 systems will be involved in follow up observations before their next application – which will be in approximately September.

More compost heaps will be inoculated too .

Chris D'Auito a soil scientist currently working with Abalimi was also present at the stir . It is good to have his participation. There may be potential to study the effects of the preparations .

Dave Golding was also able to attend a part of the stir ----he commented afterwards to me that he sees now that one of the hidden values of the process, is that it allowed the farmers time together - - - which they would nt create normally due to their being so busy . Dave noted that he could see just how healthy it was for them to feel a sense of social celebration , relaxation , and doing something that is not of immediate urgency .