

IFA LETHU 06/12/2024 – 09/12/2024 – YOUR IMPRESSIONS

NAME: Lunga D

Please limit your report to this one page.

Give your general overall impression

I was generally very impressed by the whole weekend. I thought it drove home the urgency of environmental stewardship, the importance of soil covers, and climate change. The different aspects of the weekend had great impact on me; from the farm tour, the morning drives and walk, and the lessons.

Comment on the experiences/lectures that influenced you most and why they did

The Peter Ardington lecture at farm impacted me the most. I had never seen the developmental history from that perspective. It helped solidify my understanding of the extractive nature of human development and the roots of western influence brought to Africa and it impacted the environment. The lecture helped me understand the root causes of human destruction propelled by vain endeavours and that we need to start with personal motivation to change the trajectory of human civilisation.

What changes have occurred in your thoughts about your future choices and actions?

Fortunately, my history of environmental education and development studies helped me be more aware of most of the themes covered during the weekend. I do think that the weekend was well geared towards a very impactful awakening.

Are you considering any changes in your personal, home and school life? What are they?

I have already made changes to my career endeavours in line with making change to the environment and soil health. But the weekend helped me realise the importance of more personal day-to-day choices I need to make. The next change I would like to make is with housing choices going forward.

Do you think anything should be added to improve the Weenen experience for future participants?

I really liked the session run by Siphwe mainly because it was geared towards the teachers and what they can do with the learners. While I understand that the weekend experience was initially geared towards learners, I do see the need to tailor-make it for teachers. Perhaps the modifications would need to cover both personal motivation and how teachers can integrate the environmental aspects to the music and generally to their teaching subjects. I say this because while I think that personal motivation is important, training how to practice their personal motivation and teaching other deepens the learning.

Do you think anything should be removed to improve the experience?

I understand that camping can be about being thrifty, ragged and about embracing significant changes. This is especially so when talking about life choices and their impact on the environment. But I think that when dealing with teachers more choices can be made so that the weekend is more comfortable. I think their positivity towards about weekend has a lot of bearing about how/whether they pass on the lesson to the learners.