



Abalimi was established in 1982/83 as a voluntary association aimed at the alleviation of poverty through micro-organic vegetable gardening on the Cape Flats.

With a focus on women, its target groups range between the disadvantaged, poor and the unemployed.

Two non-profit nurseries in Khayelitsha and Nyanga supply advice, training and low-cost supplies, plus an administrative office

Registered as a non-profit organisation, Abalimi's policy is to avoid government funding for its core costs, (as these funds are utilised for other special projects in Cape Town). They have a complement of 10 full-time staff and 13 casual staff employed at any given time, with most recruited directly from their target groups. Abalimi currently supports about 3000 home gardeners and 200 other projects.

## ABALIMI BEZEKHAYA

### *PLANTERS OF THE HOME*

Abalimi is also in the process of developing a **nutrition course** and working towards national qualification framework accreditation for all their training.

Organisational building support was added to ensure that staff and target groups were able to review, learn and replan for best results. A number of external research projects were conducted by outside parties, providing objective insights and information. With monitoring and education, they are able to record progress and learn from previous successes and failures.

With agencies joining forces to improve delivery and sustainability; networks and partnerships actively liaise with other relevant parties such as local government depts, NGO's, etc.

*Up to 1000 people per year are trained on 3 day organic vegetable gardening courses*

#### training courses

Integrated land-use design workshops

school's environment education and development

teacher training

school caretaker's course

home gardeners horticultural courses



Since 2000, Abalimi's growth has been dramatic, with new applications from community initiatives increasing by over 1000% in 2002/2003.

Although fortunate to have a loyal range of fund and donor partners (covering up to 50% of running costs), Abalimi must constantly build on prospective new donors and funding partners.

As the cost of start-up projects is high, ongoing research is necessary to minimise these costs.



### COMMUNITY GARDENS

*in servitude* (eg under power lines) and *on school grounds*:

**Abalimi** offers support, installation, training, stock and follow-up over an initial 3 year period. The **Abalimi**-supported urban organisation community gardens have proven that permanent livelihoods can be created on micro-projects, while still conserving and promoting indigenous flora.

### HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL GROUPS:

The number of 'temporary' vegetable gardeners is constantly increasing due to unemployment. **Abalimi** supports these survivalists, with the emerging organic gardening culture fast becoming a permanent aspect of the urban environment.

Training, advice and subsidised start-up is provided.

**Abalimi** offers full subsidies to indigent persons, with a token payment taken for training, when possible.



Abalimi's projects and staff have been awarded 13 national and international awards since 1991

## Community Greening Projects

*These include green streets, community parks and schools.*

Learners growing up in a barren environment will rarely have interest in the conservation of natural resources. Learners need to be educated, with schools being the grounding for a future culture of sustainability.

So the "green school" is established as a vital educational medium.

There are about 18 "green schools", with plans for a further 20.

Green streets and community parks are also becoming increasingly significant, with an average cost of R25 000 per project.

The cost of establishing one "green school" includes planning workshops, training and follow-up



### Ongoing Initiatives

#### MARKET GARDEN DEVELOPMENT:

In July 2002, the services of a market garden developer was contracted, who assists fieldworkers and older community garden groups in forming micro-organic market gardening and job creation.

#### FLORA RESEARCH:

This is an ongoing project, enabling the regeneration and use of Cape Flats indigenous flora in all projects. The aim is to establish a network of micro-conservancies, environmental education teaching aids, medicinal applications for Aids sufferers, pest control and soil fertility applications.

### Sub-projects

The PEACE-LILY PROJECT is a job creation and conservation project using a single-season crop.

#### THE SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (SEED):

Working with teachers at foundation phase to bring environmental education into all teaching practises.

It uses the outdoor classroom as its' main teaching resource.

#### THE JUNGLE JIVE PROJECT:

A street-theatre group which focuses on the tree as a symbol of life and empowerment

This group performs in conjunction with Abilimi projects through traditional story-telling, teaching the value of the environment and conservation.