



PROJECT:

Food waste in **South Africa**: capacity building through research and trial of cellular application to reduce on-farm food waste and increase food distribution



Implementing entity:

Rhodes University - Environmental Learning & Research Centre Rhodes University (ELRC)



Project partners:

Pinpoint Sustainability; Creating Sustainable Value; Lead Associates; Sustainability Institute; Feedback, Carbon Calculated



Amount:

Budgeted: USD198,799
Spent: USD198,799



Duration:

23.05.2017 – 17.08.2018



Project objective:

This project aimed to reduce food loss and waste through the development and trial of a mobile phone application to connect fresh produce growers in South Africa with local buyers to divert surplus food that would otherwise be lost or wasted on-farm, and in the process, increase opportunities for transformative learning and researcher capacity. More specific objectives of the project were: to adapt and develop and pilot a mobile phone application to trade surplus produce; to conduct research to understand the scale of, and opportunities to reduce on-farm food loss and waste; to build food waste and transformative learning capacity of South African researchers; to develop educational opportunities, content and mechanisms to encourage social learning and improve food waste knowledge and action to reduce food waste; to increase market opportunities for farmers; to improve buyer access to local produce; to provide evidence-based findings to inform policy and improve South African food waste data.

Project status: Completed

01

A mobile app "Food for Us" was developed for iPhones and Androids. App trials were undertaken in the Raymond Mhlaba Municipality (Eastern Cape) (23 users) and Worcester (Western Cape) (17 users).

02

Communities of practice were developed around the use of the app and on-farm food waste. The specific focus was on creating a connection between buyers and sellers previously unknown to each other, and on raising their capacity in online literacy.

03

Awareness-raising and dissemination has been done through the creation of a project-specific [web-site](#) as well as

04

dissemination workshop. The latter welcomed 50 organizations representing various stakeholders. Interest has been generated from the Department of Trade and Industry to roll-out the app in South Africa.

05

CO2 emission was calculated in line with the GHG protocol by Carbon Calculated, a project partner. Total savings for produce transactions completed through the app by the end of the project is 15.48 kgCO₂eq. Potential savings that may result through the continuous use of the app are 154.8 kgCO₂eq for 100kg; 774 kgCO₂eq for 500kg; and 1548 kgCO₂eq for 1,000kg of produce.