DCLG

The Devon Centocow Link Garden Project is supported by Oakhampton Quaker meeting.

This remote rural area of KwaZulu-Natal is an area of extreme poverty due to the lack of employment opportunities. A sharp rise in the cost of food has exacerbated food poverty causing stunting and malnutrition in 25% of children in the area. There are reports that families are struggling and children are not being sent to school as there is no food available for them.

The project aims to deliver expertise, tools and support for pre-school teachers to create vegetable gardens using permaculture principles in order to feed the children in their care, and the children's small communities. Devon Centocow Link is partnering with Food and Trees for Africa which has been promoting the development of permaculture gardens throughout South Africa since 1995, combining trees for shade and water retention with soil enrichment techniques.

The project provides a permaculture starter pack that teachers can use independently once trained. By establishing these gardens within pre-school settings, the project addresses nutritional deficits and also builds local capacity for sustainable food production. The intention is that these gardens will also encourage the surrounding communities to grow their own food, ensuring access to fresh produce and vital nutrients.

