



YOUTH BRIDGE TRUST PROFILE

Our mission is to equip youth in Africa to fulfil their full potential in the future of work, shifting Africa to a prosperous future.

This we will achieve by becoming the premier partner of choice for funders and implementing agencies delivering youth development programmes in Africa.



Youth in the
Green Economy



AFRICA'S CHAMPION FOR YOUTH EXCELLENCE AND THE GREEN ECONOMY

There is a great need for youth in South Africa and on the African continent to be exposed to sustainable development knowledge that would enable them to safeguard public health, protect natural resources, support energy conservation efforts, and engage in the movement towards a more just and sustainable future.

The Youth Bridge Trust (YBT) is responding to this need with its Green Careers Development Programme, aimed at building a skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of a low-carbon economy in South Africa and beyond.

The programme goals include:

- Promoting sustainability literacy, academic literacy, and a passion for learning among out-of-school youth looking for opportunities for education, employment or to become entrepreneurs.
- Helping youth from underserved communities understand and think critically about environmental problems and solutions.
- Empowering people disproportionately impacted by environmental and public health problems and injustices with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to address climate change and build sustainable communities.
- Creating a knowledgeable workforce that can grasp and make sense of deep concepts related to the connection between human activity and the environment.
- Inspiring lifelong learning about the scientific process and the ways humans interact with the environment.
- Developing leadership, especially new grassroots leadership, and inspire youth to understand that they can take action to achieve climate change solutions.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Sustainable development is defined by the United Nations as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

At the heart of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which call all member countries to build an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet. Aligning with these are the African Union's Agenda 2063 strategic goals for the continent.

AND THE GREEN ECONOMY?

South Africa views the green economy as a sustainable development path based on addressing the interdependence between economic growth, social protection and natural ecosystem.

WHY DEVELOP GREEN ECONOMY SKILLS IN YOUTH?

Sustainable-literate people have sufficient knowledge, skills, and understanding of the green economy and concerns to be able to analyse and make informed decisions about environmental and social issues. Increasing sustainable literacy is essential to ensuring that everyone, at every education and income level and in all sectors, is able to participate in developing a cleaner, more prosperous green economy and sustainable future. It is vital to enabling marginalised people and communities to participate in, and benefit from, the transition to a more resilient, healthy and just society, build sustainable communities, and respond to the climate crisis.



UN SDGs
we support include
1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17

OUR CURRENT PROGRAMMES

The YBT Green Careers Development Programmes offer youth access to participate in green economy opportunities by ensuring a just transition and building pathways to introduce a wide range of sustainability careers. They currently comprise the Youth Enterprise Development Programme and Future Farming for Youth.

01 YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

This programme consists of the following components:

1. Six-week Green Economy Academy online skills programme incorporating six modules:
 - Fundamentals of Sustainable Development
 - Waste: Sustainable Waste Management Practices
 - Agriculture: Climate Smart Agriculture, Food Production & Forestry
 - Energy: Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency
 - Water: Responsible Water Management
 - Construction: Green Buildings & the Built Environment
2. Eight-week business accelerator that guides participants through a vision and ideation process before pitching their business concepts/models to customers and funders and launching their new business ideas.
3. A “Donor’s Den” styled business pitch and business plan competition culminating in a live event, with incentives for the best business ideas.

02 FUTURE FARMING FOR YOUTH

This programme is targeted at youth in Africa to seize opportunities in farming, agribusiness, agro-processing and sustainable agriculture, thus contributing to improved food security, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

We offer programmes that are responsive to need and the recent COVID-19 environment, with an emphasis on 4IR skills and agriculture skills development.

The Future Farming for Youth consists of a National Certificate in General Agriculture, NQF 4 – SAQA ID: 20290. YBT has been accredited by the AgriSETA to offer the qualification which is a year in duration.

This full-time qualification provides learners with a broad understanding of all types of agriculture. Learners who successfully complete it are better prepared for entry-level positions in agriculture or for further study in an agriculture related field.

This qualification is ideal for school leavers wishing to pursue further studies in agriculture, farm operators, farm supervisors, junior managers and emerging farmers who have practical experience on farms, but who do not hold a formal qualification in agriculture. It is facilitated online, and sessions for practical application are done in person.





MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Testimonials from YBT's Green Economy Programme

"I learned to pitch my ideas in a fluent and confident manner."

- Macevele

"I learned that going green can actually help my company to grow."

- Mamotumi

"Exposure to different sectors that exist with the green industry."

- Ntsako

"Knowing how I should take care of my business and its day to day running."

- Metsa

"Starting a recycling business because I learned glass is the least recycled."

- Makhosonke

"You need to start small while dreaming big"

- Karabo

SOWING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS: CINDY'S STORY

Cindy Ndlovu, 31, from Meadowlands, Soweto, was one of the winners of the YBT Youth Ignite! Programme, funded by the US Embassy and aimed at boosting job creation and sectoral exposure to the green economy.

Cindy's business, Roots & Crops, is a youth-owned agri-social enterprise founded in 2022 in the heart of Soweto. It supplies the local community with affordably priced fresh produce while also offering garden maintenance services.

It was after joining the Meadowlands farmers group that Cindy saw a post about the Youth Bridge Trust and the Youth Ignite! programme. "I took an interest and applied, as I wanted more knowledge and understanding on the green economy, especially in the agriculture industry," she comments. "In the programme I learned valuable new principles and useful knowledge relating to life and entrepreneurship, like making connections with others to add another beam of support to what you're building."

Cindy embarked on the Youth Ignite! programme with the intention of becoming a small-scale farmer but, thanks to the mentorship she received, she identified another gap in the market, for alternative health products. "That's how our rosemary artisanal bread was brought to life," she explains, referring to Roots & Crops' baked goods that incorporate herbs from the farm. "A key takeaway from YBT was to never stop creating, and always to believe in your own strengths and capabilities, regardless of external expectations that may exist."

Cindy's longer-term plans for Roots & Crops include securing land for commercial farming, launching a wholesale business with proudly South African products and starting to export into Africa and abroad. "We would also like to see agri-entrepreneurship programmes in our local school community," she adds. "Our vision is to have a positive impact by guiding and supporting the young generation while trying to find solutions to local problems."

PARTNER WITH US TO BUILD AFRICA'S FUTURE!

The YBT programmes provide benefits to supporting partners and funders in South Africa as they offer organisations an opportunity to gain points as part of the amended broad-based black economic empowerment (B-BBEE) scorecard. This is possible not only through the support of the socio-economic development component, but also under the skills development component.

Depending on the sector codes applicable it is possible to obtain additional bonus points in their socioeconomic development component, as we provide a structured programme with defined objectives and outcomes. The beneficiaries are mostly from communities with limited services which provide organisations with an additional B-BBEE scorecard point. Should an organisation provide our learners with a structured 12-month registered learnership and later absorb the required minimum learners, a further B-BBEE level and tax incentives will be applicable.

YBT is registered as a Public Benefit Organisation and has been approved to issue Section 18A certificates in terms of Section 18A of the South African Income Tax Act (Act 58 of 1962). Donations in cash or in kind (material assets) will qualify as a tax-deductible expense.

As governance and transparency form part of the YBT ethos, we are committed to ensuring the programmes are always managed with highest integrity.

CONTACT YOUTH BRIDGE TRUST

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