

MY FIRST FACILITATION EXPERIENCE- BY CECILIA NDUNGE (CLARE-NAMIBIA)

After “hectic” preparations for the training, the day finally came for us to travel to Okahao. I, all excited and nervous (since it was my first time going to do such training). I packed my bags and was ready to leave Windhoek. We (Panduleni Nghipandulwa from NID and I) arrived at the Eros Airport and we started conversating as we waited to check-in. Little did we know we were waiting for a little shock: excess fees for the extra kilograms because of the books for participants. All got sorted in a few minutes and we were ready to board.



But first...a quick selfie 😊.

The first thing that greeted us at the airport in Ondangwa was the hot air in the north. Panduleni said: I believe the sun is closer in the northern areas compared to Windhoek 😂 😂.

Ondangwa car hire (Ruben) was kind enough to pick us up from the Andimba Toivo ya Toivo airport. Fast fast, we got our car, and off we hit the road to Okahao (picking Alfeus along the way). Ever wondered when was the first time you did something for the first time? For us going to Okahao was the first time, one can imagine the curiosity we had about the place. A few hours later we arrived in Okahao at Onesto guesthouse and settled in. After 30 mins or so we went to the venue to do the setup and just run over a few things before the big day.

The training aimed to educate CDC members about Namibia’s governance process and structures as well as training on how to adapt and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.

Came Monday the 8th of March 2021, we were all excited to see what Panduleni had in store for us. The CDC members started coming one by one and by 9h00 most of the members had arrived including the Otamanzi CDC members and the respective councillors of Okahao Hon Shikulo (who did the official opening) and Hon Iyambo from Otamanzi constituency. We had a total of 38 participants on the first day.

Ever had training and you felt tired and wanted to sleep? and on top of that, the air conditioners are not working which makes it hard to concentrate. That did not happen to us. Panduleni was so fuelled

up and all one wanted to do was to listen and not miss out on the interesting topics on governance and democracy. Not talking about the interesting activities that were done to allow the members to understand better the respective topics. My highlight was the “What’s in the box” game. Let me not bore you with all the details while you can read for yourself what this is all about.

(https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rXFhCzbiyMa8QmiS_X3bL18u1jjceE4W?usp=sharing)



You would not want to miss his sessions.

Despite some hick-ups here and there with the catering company, their meals were quite delicious on both days of our training. At lunch and tea breaks, short videos on climate change and its effects from [ASSAR](#) were played. Some participants were happy to see some of their community members featured in those videos.

Day two came and everyone was still excited for the training since it was about climate change adaptations and mitigations. Alfeus started by presenting the localised implications of the 1.5 degrees for Namibia. He used some information from the [graphic harvest](#).

Case studies from other countries were presented. Additionally, the facilitator explained to members how to mobilise resources as CDCs.

Then my big moment came! I gave a presentation on planning for a harsher future. It was really interesting to see the members engaging and relating to the case studies of cattle and future farming.

I challenged each member to start a small backyard garden and also plant at least one tree in all those four constituencies (Okahao, Otamanzi, Onesi, and Ongwediva).

My highlight of the day was the gender walk... want to know about this game. Click [here](#) for all the information.



Cecilia explaining the gender walk at the Ongwediva Constituency office.

Just about an hour or two before closing guess what happened? Yes, go ahead and guess.... It started raining cats and dogs 😂😂. Hon Shikulo said jokingly: you guys brought rain to Okahao as it had not rained for more than a month! Cecil responded laughingly saying: we definitely are the rainmakers. And you cannot believe all the days we did training and community engagements it rained either after or during the night. So next time you need rain please do not hesitate to contact the CLARE team rainmakers 😂😂😂😂.

Then off we hit the road to Ongwediva for our next training sessions in Onamutayi, Ongwediva Constituency. But before that, on Wednesday we visited a community project called Tileinge Marula project run by a dedicated lady. She produces Marula oil from Marula kernels. We visited so we can see the progress and know some of the challenges and how we can help. In case you would like to donate some funds or buy cold-pressed marula oil please do not hesitate to contact me.

The 11th and 12th March were quite sunny days, but we got to do the things which were supposed to be done, train the CDC members! Despite the low turnout of members that did not demoralise us from doing the training sessions.

Participants were happy and said some of the following:

- This was a great training, the very first of its kind in Ongwediva CDC. Please keep up the good work.”
- “I now better understand how to deal with climate change, which is a problem affecting farmers in the northern regions.”
- “As CDC members we need more of these interventions. I now have a better understanding of my role.”



CDC members of Onamutayi and Okahao/Otamanzi and Onesi constituencies

As we drove towards the famous Adolf Kapana junction after the training, then boom it started raining. Told you we are rainmakers wherever we go 😄😄😄😄

But before we left ... there is always a time for a selfie...and it does not hurt to be goofy after a long day of training.



Despite this being my first training and facilitating sessions, it went well, and I learned a lot from the participants and am looking forward to the next training sessions.



Arial view of some of the standing water by the rainmakers 😄😄😄😄

Until next time from me and the CLARE TEAM ciao.....but wait.... Stay safe, start a backyard garden, and plant a tree.