

February 2023 - Activities of the 'Nature Nurtures' Project in St. Johns Estate



This month was both eventful and fun-filled as we prepared for the arrival of the Royal Family. We had the honor of hosting them at our farm. Several persons visited the farm at various times this month to either volunteer as we prepared for the arrival of the Royal family or to purchase some of our vegetables. Some were contractor workers who worked tirelessly to finish up the staircase leading to the rock. Approximately, 150 people visited the farm at different times this month.



On the 7th of February, 30 students from the NKWOKF were at the farm to receive the royal family. There were lots of people at the farm on this day including His Royal Majesty the King, The Queen, The Princess, The Governor of St. Maarten, and the Secretary of State along with the press and other neighbors. It was a fun-filled event. The King was very impressed with our project. According to Ms. Shola, his last words to her were "keep up the good work". The King conversed with the students discussing the importance of food production in society. We will forever remember this visit.



During the rest of the month, the students from the No Kidding With Our Kids Foundation had many learnings and much fun. They learned about ways to identify and eradicate the powdery mildew (fungus) in an organic manner while others learned about setting up the aquaponic system. They drew their individual systems and helped in removing old plants to enable adequate crop rotation of the organic system. The students also received some free lettuce for their hard work and were happy.



This month we were also able to donate some fresh eggplants and fresh organic salads to schools such as St. Dominic Primary School, St. Dominic High School, 2 MAC schools, the No Kidding With Our Kidding's kitchen, some teachers, and a few elderly people. They were all happy with the donations.



Besides this project, The White and Yellow Cross garden is still being maintained and we have had several successful harvests. The Foundation is planning to expand the area in which we plant and the chef has supplied a list of preferred items that will be planted soon.



We received support from the community for the farm such as a parent donating a plant to the project and Mr. Gumbs donating 10 small plastic chairs to enable the students to sit when they work at the farm.

| Project Impact Table Feb 2023 | Visitors | Knowledge, inspiration, skills improvement, recreation, donation |
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| February 4 | Scouts group of St. Maarten | Cleaning up the farm. |
| February 6 | 10 students from the NKWOKF | Visit the farm to prepare for the arrival of the royal family. They were very happy to be part of the event. |
| February 7 | The Royal Family, the Governor of St. Maarten, the Secretary of State, the Press and delegates | Introduction Nature Nurtures Project and a tour through the farm and discussions with the students of No Kidding |
| February 10 | members from the Ministry of TEAT | Visit to discuss ways in which agriculture can be promoted by the Government. |
| February 13 | 13 students from the NKWOKF | Visited the farm and learned about ways to identify and eradicate the powdery mildew (fungus) in an organic manner. |
| February 18 | 2 families | Visited the farm to interview Ms. Shola concerning a project given to them at school on Soursop. They were very pleased and happy at how much information was shared. |
| February 21 | White and Yellow Cross Foundation | 3 clients from the home at the White and Yellow Cross Foundation visited along with two staff. It was fun having them by the farm. |
| February 24 | 10 students from the NKWOKF | Visited the farm to learn about setting up the aquaponic system. They drew their individual systems and help in removing old plants to enable adequate crop rotation of the organic system. |
| Donations February | St. Dominic Primary school | Received some eggplants and salad. They plan to visit the farm soon. |
| | St. Dominic High school | Received some eggplants and fresh organic salads from our garden as they are in talks to visit the farm. |
| | MAC school Reverend John A. Gumbs Campus | Received also received a bag of fresh salad |
| | MAC Browlia campus located in St. John's | Received a bag of fresh salad for their kitchen. They were happy with their salad. |
| | Students from the NKWOKF | Also received some lettuce for their hard work. They were very happy. |
| | NKWOKF kitchen | Received salads, eggplants, and other produce from the farm. Some teachers received free vegetables from the farm. |
| | A few elderly persons | Received some fresh salads |