



# ORGANIC BABY FOOD

Cederberg Wupperthal

### Project objectives:

- Certify land for organic vegetable production.
- Purchase tractor and implements.
- Purchase and install the irrigation system.
- Prepare land for sowing, cultivate and harvest.

### Project Timeframe

12 months

### Long term goals:

- Develop a sustainable agriculture model based on organic crop production.
- Build capacity of members through training.
- Create permanent employment.

### Contact:

#### Wupperthal Organic Baby Food

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Wupperthal is named after the German river of Wupper, from where two Rhenish missionaries, Theobald von Wurmb and Johan Gottlieb Leipoldt (father of the writer C Louis Leipoldt) arrived in 1830. The missionaries bought 37 000 morgen of fertile

be difficult for it to fail!” says Dennis Bantom, chairman of the Wupperthal Organic Emerging Farmers. “We even have the youth interested, almost unheard of today, when our youth leave Wupperthal at the first chance they get.”



land near the Tra-Tra or “Bushy” River and established the first missionary farm amongst seven local Khoi families. Today the Khoi descendants still farm the fertile soils around Wupperthal.

Bantom settled in Wupperthal in 1989, after working on a project to bring electricity to the remote mountain villages. Bantom explains: “Wupperthal consists of about 450 families spread out between 13 satellite mission stations, referred to as “buiteposte” or outposts.

“Our project has gained so much momentum, that it will





## Water for Resource Limited Farmers and Reform



Employment is virtually unknown in the villages, with only a handful of jobs created by the local shoe or soap factory. Most people living here are subsistence farmers and can only survive if they make a plan.”

The Wupperthal Organic Emerging Farmers have already identified products and markets. “We are lucky in that we have been offered contracts by a large supermarket chain store and an organic baby food manufacturer to buy all the sweet potatoes, carrots and butternut we can produce. We are talking about 100 tons of sweet potatoes, 80 tons of carrots and 50 tons of butternuts!” says Bantom.

The group of 16 emerging farmers, half of whom are women, have access to 4 hectares of prime land. “We were recently visited by the Bio-dynamic Organic Certification Authority (BDOCA) who evaluated our land and methods,” says Bantom. The Department’s of Agriculture and Water Affairs and Forestry are assisting us in terms of financial support, equipment, materials, training and advice.

“One of the most important factors for our success thus far is the availability and abundance of clean water throughout the year,” says Bantom. “We need to protect and share this precious resource.”

