



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

Maseru, 13 February 2012

PRESS RELEASE

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HIS EXCELLENCY MR. RALECHATE 'MOKOSE
INAUGURATES KEYHOLE GARDEN AT EU DELEGATION OFFICE**

- 17 FEBRUARY 2012 -

This Friday, 17 February, The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, His Excellency Mr. Ralechate 'MOKOSE will inaugurate a keyhole garden at the premises of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to the Kingdom of Lesotho (167 Constitution Road, Maseru West). The inauguration will start at 10:00 o'clock in the morning. The written, audio and visual press are invited to attend this event.

The European Union has supported and continues to support keyhole gardens and the cultivation of vegetables in Lesotho. Several projects are ongoing. This includes the "*Food Facility Support to Households affected by HIV and AIDS*", in the Berea and Leribe districts implemented by the Lesotho and German Red Cross. The "*Sustainable livelihoods through Integrated Agriculture, Working with Agriculture Resource Centres*" in Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek with Send a Cow Lesotho, is another example.

A keyhole garden is a small kitchen garden that recycles as it grows. The design - which looks like a keyhole from above - is built around a central 'basket' into which compostable waste is placed and water is poured. Keyhole gardens are especially useful in areas where good soil is scarce. Keyhole gardens have been very successful in improving nutrition and nutritional balance. As the 'Send a Cow' project demonstrates families with keyhole gardens grow enough for own consumption and can even obtain extra cash through the sale of occasional surpluses. Keyhole gardens are also a great way of introducing children to good practices such as composting and using 'grey water' - i.e. used water generated from domestic activities such as laundry, dishwashing, and bathing, which can be recycled on-site for uses such as landscape irrigation or key hole gardens.

The keyhole garden that will be inaugurated by Minister 'Mokose was built by the staff of the Delegation as part of a teambuilding exercise. It serves as a concrete illustration of the EU's contribution and commitment to Lesotho's food security.

"With this initiative, we want to demonstrate the EU and the Delegation's personal commitment to sustainable livelihood and food security in Lesotho", EU Ambassador Hans Duynhouwer said when announcing the inauguration.

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