

Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark

The Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark recently spearheaded an Agri project that will include job creation, training in agriculture methods, management and more.

The planting of seasonable vegetables has commenced and the rain will assist in the success of the harvest. Some of the harvest will be made available to fruit and vegetable stores and restaurants to assist with funding the project.

The idea was sparked during 2020.



During an initiative last year, the Golden Vaal Chamber of Commerce, together with the assistance of Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark and many other organisations and individuals embarked on the packing and the distributing of food parcels for a few months. It soon became apparent that a sustainable food chain supply chain had to be sourced. The need out there increased daily with little hope that it would become better.

To keep the supply chain going, a garden had to be created and so the search for a suitable area began. The decision fell on the VESCO Thusong soup kitchen property situated in Vanderbijlpark. The infrastructure was in place but in need of a serious upgrade. The soup kitchen has been supplying soup for many years to those less fortunate, organisations, crèches, children's homes and many more. The Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark assisted with the distributions of soup to some of these areas and SASSA recipients on a regular basis.



After many brainstorming sessions, meetings and setting up of agreements, the plan came into action. The Golden Vaal chamber of commerce, Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark, VESCO Thusong project created a partnership together with the involvement of many sponsors to get the project off the ground.

The most suitable person selected to champion the project was Past President Rita Benecke, who is a member of both the Rotary Club and the chamber of commerce. The Rita Benecke Agri project was ready to go.