





Training farmers for the local business

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TRUE EDUCATION

“True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers” -EG White

Quick Facts:



- ❖ Lesotho has a population of approximately 2,108,328. The population distribution of Lesotho is 25 percent urban and 75 percent rural. However, it is estimated that the annual increase in urban population is 3.5 percent
- ❖ Lesotho covers 30,355 km² (11,720 sq mi). It is the only independent state in the world that lies entirely above 1,000 metres (3,281 ft) in elevation. Its lowest point of 1,400 metres (4,593 ft) is thus the highest lowest point of any country in the world. Over 80 percent of the country lies above 1,800 metres (5,906 ft).
- ❖ About 12% of Lesotho is arable land, however, this land is vulnerable to soil erosion, and it is estimated that 40 million tons of soil are lost each year due to erosion.



Soil erosion is probably the most catastrophic environmental issue in Lesotho. Lesotho, being a country deeply entrenched in the effects of poverty with **subsistence farming being the primary source of livelihood for the majority of households, loss of soil has wide reaching implications.**

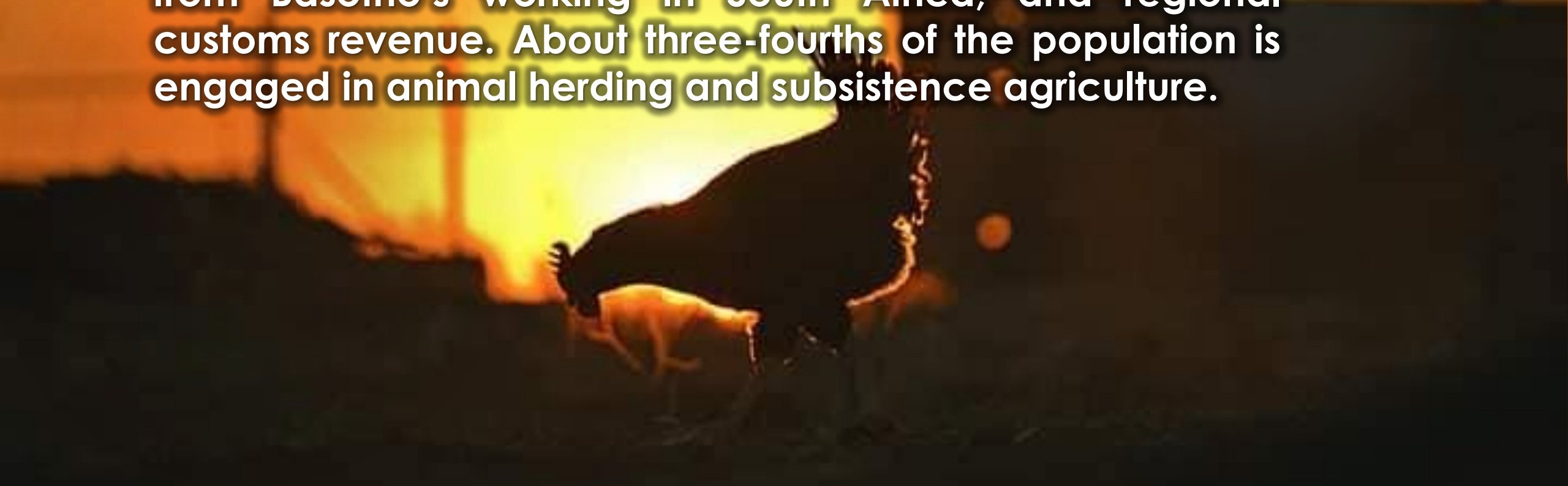




Land degradation as a result of soil erosion has been identified as one of the greatest environmental challenges facing Lesotho. The severe erosion of soil has left the landscape dissected with deep gullies and dongas, with the soil deposited as sediment in reservoirs and rivers, reducing aesthetic appearance of water bodies with high sediment loads. Soil erosion and hence degradation of the land is to a large extent a result of poor land management practices chief of which is mismanagement of rangelands due to overgrazing.



Lesotho's narrow economic base consists of textile manufacturing, agriculture, diamond mining, remittances from Basotho's working in South Africa, and regional customs revenue. About three-fourths of the population is engaged in animal herding and subsistence agriculture.



The right kind of training



“Don’t only practice your art, but force your way into its secrets, for it and knowledge can raise men to the divine.”

-Ludwig van Beethoven

Juncao Technology



This technology has been one of the most important and strategic industries for developing countries on food security, employment incensement, poverty alleviation and environment protection. It is aimed to play an increasingly more positive role in combating the major challenges people are facing today, such as food, resource, environment and energy.



JUNCAO is a Chinese term which literally means "mushroom" and "grass". JUNCAO technology has been used for the production of mushroom production, animal feed, and biomass fuel.

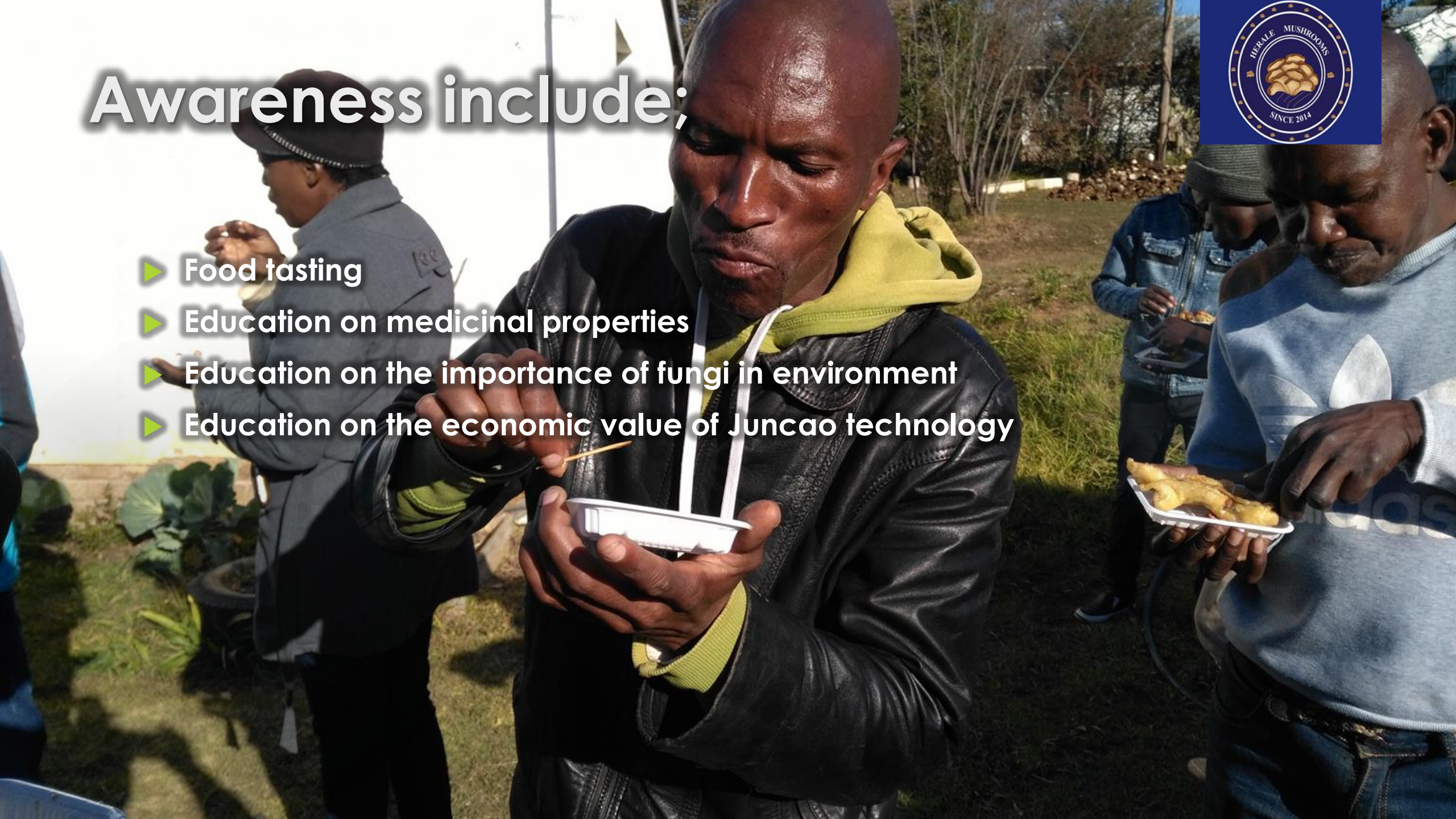
Creating Awareness



Lesotho is rich in ecosystem. Its altitude makes it to be more unique since most of flora and fauna found in here are different and indigenous, however the minority are still keen about mushrooms thus the need for education and awareness.

Awareness include;

- ▶ Food tasting
- ▶ Education on medicinal properties
- ▶ Education on the importance of fungi in environment
- ▶ Education on the economic value of Juncao technology





Awareness is the greatest alchemy there is. Just go on becoming more and more aware, and you will find your life changing for the better in every possible dimension. It will bring great fulfillment.

Osho

JUNCAO Project starting in September 2007



By 2009

- ▶ JUNCAO base at Masianokeng established
- ▶ 3 JUNCAO mushroom production cooperatives formed
- ▶ Extend to 4 districts, 18 villages
- ▶ 140 households participating
- ▶ 63 mushroom shed built
- ▶ 763 technician/farmers trained
- ▶ 14 officials trained in FAFU, china

Mushroom Production as business for local people:

-Small investment for farmers simple shed and tools;



Easy management:

- ▶ An average of 1 hour a day managing 10 m² mushroom trench,
- ▶ Even children and disabled people can manage.



Year-round business:



- ❖ 4 seasons a year, non-stop without being affected by weather.



Efficient land utilization:



10 m² mushroom trench

- ▶ = 300kg fresh mushroom for 1 season
- ▶ = 1200kg fresh mushroom in 1 year



Quick return:

- ▶ Farmers selling at 50 Maloti/kg fresh mushroom,
- ▶ 10 m² trench gives 60 000Maloti a year;
- ▶ Investment back within 7-10 days after planting;
- ▶ “cash crop”



Green technology:



- ▶ Using straw, and grass as raw materials, for sustainable development; Mushroom residues are good fertilizer for other crops, vegetables and flowers, even good feed.
- ▶ Cyclic production system gives the optimal productivity of local natural resources.

Conclusion



“This has been made a test case, all who would prosper in the future must put a shoulder on the wheel.”

-Robert Louis Stevenson