GROWING SITE No. 1

TRIALLING MULTIPLE KIT SIZES TO DETERMINE
AN OPTIMUM FAMILY SIZE DRIP KIT

Grow More Food is supported by its Trustees and by Liquid Lever Irrigation Ltd

Liquid Lever Irrigation Ltd, here in the UK, sells small scale drip irrigation kits to its retail customers in the UK. Following a recommendation by Luci we had a number of meetings with the trustees of the Swanland Trust and determined that we could trial our drip kits in Kenya with the help of Chryspin, Richard and Rob Swain. At the time Richard and Rob were planning a visit to Swanland School, Nairobi. During their visit 4th to 11th July 2014 they also helped to prepare a half acre growing plot.

Richard and Rob’s primary work during their visit centred around supporting the children receiving their education at the Swanland Education Africa Trust, Nairobi.

Richard and son Rob can be seen in the photo on the right delivering packages to some of the one hundred and fifty ladies that Esther supports through her EDCSWP group.

Our first experimental growing plot in Nairobi, Kenya

Richard and Rob Swain – an afternoon with some of Esther’s EDCSWP ladies group
Growing aspirations

On 12th October 2014 Chryspin took this photograph. It had taken a great deal of physical work to clear the site of small trees and shrubs all seeded on the wind and well rooted into the ground. The drip kits specified and supplied by Liquid Lever Irrigation Ltd ranged from 10 plant to 60 shrub in size and were laid out and connected to water tanks - then seedlings were planted.

Remarkably Chryspin, as the photo shows, took a chance and joined many of the kits together to make a 1,200 plant drip irrigation layout as well.

Empowering people

Given the remarkable climate and soil in Kenya it soon became clear that if plants could be watered successfully every day either by rainfall or by drip irrigation hoses then bumper crops would follow and indeed they did – photo 2nd Dec 2014.

Paul is seen here (right) tending to rows of tomatoes. He managed to grow four varieties of vegetable crop. All of which we thought would be within the capability of Esther’s Ladies Group and other similar groups.

Yes, this is Chryspin (left) 2nd Dec 2014 talking to the plants and they were all doing very well at the time and are now harvested.

Our conclusion from the ambitious growing trials that Chryspin undertook was that the Liquid Lever drip irrigation technology not only worked at a family size scale of enterprise, but it was able to operate consistently with dirty (muddied) water.

This is exactly the type of irrigation equipment that is needed throughout Africa by people living on or below the poverty line in remote rural areas.

Getting the technology right means less need for improvisation and more chance of success.