

Over 60 community food gardens sell fresh produce at Shoprite and Checkers' Market Day

Shoprite and Checkers supermarkets across South Africa hosted over 60 community food gardens for Market Day, giving them the opportunity to sell their fresh produce directly to the public on Thursday 17 October 2024.

The supermarkets' initiative gives community food gardeners access to its large customer base, where they can boost their income while gaining valuable retail experience on the day.

"We sold spinach, cabbage, thyme, and beetroot, and our first batch of produce sold out in an hour! The demand was so high that we had to bring more produce to keep up. Our garden will continue participating in future Market Days, as it gives us the chance to reach more customers and generate more income, helping us grow sustainably," said Sindiswa Maguma from Intambanana Farming and Multipurpose Coop in Mdantsane, Eastern Cape.

Market Day also provides community farmers with the opportunity to connect with each other and engage with customers.

"It's been an incredible experience to be part of Market Day again. The enthusiasm of the community was clear – some customers were so eager that they began purchasing even before we finished setting up! Seeing such a positive response reaffirms the impact our garden has had over the past two years. Every year, Market Day continues to be a highlight for us, not only because it showcases the fruits of our hard work, but also because it strengthens our connection with the local community, bringing us all together in support of sustainable homegrown produce," added Pastor Gabriel Kjungu from Jesus in Action's Our Garden, from Brackenfell, Western Cape.

Participants form part of over 248 community food gardens supported by Shoprite and Checkers throughout Southern Africa.

Since 2015 these community food gardens have impacted the lives of over 80 000 people. The Shoprite and Checkers supported gardens provide access to nutritious fresh produce, and gardeners also receive training and support to sustain their efforts. This initiative cultivates much more than just access to fresh produce, it helps build stronger and more resilient communities. Over the past financial year, these gardens yielded more than 88 000 kg of produce.

This Market Day, gardeners from South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia embodied the retailers' commitment to provide access to affordable and nutritious food through this initiative. According to the newly published [South African Food Security Index 2024](#), food security is at its lowest levels in a decade, with one in ten households experiencing child hunger.

ENDS

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Note to editor

The gardens who participated in Market Day include:

Botswana:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharodan Farms – Checkers Airport Junction Centre, Gaborone
Eastern Cape:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intambanana Farming and Multipurpose Coop – Shoprite Mdantsane City• Silverdale Womens Development NPC – Shoprite Gillwell Mall• Star Upliftment Food Garden – Shoprite Kingwilliamstown• Wathint’ Abafazi – Shoprite Ziyabuya• Yizanazo Co-operative – Checkers Vincent
Free State:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Working Programme – Usave Koffiefontein• Dikonyana Community Based Care Center – Shoprite Heidedal• Free State Rural Women Assembly Agroecological Hub – Shoprite Botshabelo Mall• Hola Le Rona Integrated Educare Centre – Shoprite Harrismith• Ntoanatsatsi Community Garden – Shoprite Setsing• O Re Thusitse Ho Fihla Mona Co-operative – Shoprite Setsing• Qholaqhwe Garden Project – Shoprite Mandela Park• Realeboga Bakubung Training & Development Agency – Shoprite Thaba Nchu
Gauteng:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Al Taawun Fi Al Community Garden – Checkers Mall Of The South• Carroll Shaw Memorial Center – Checkers Tambotie Mall Randfontein• LeanoAgri Food Garden – Checkers Greenstone• Mahata Mmoho Agricultural Cooperative – Checkers Hyper Vanderbijlpark• Mmakgomo Agricultural Cooperative – Checkers Pretoria North• NOSA Early Learning Orphans and Vulnerable Children’s Centre – Checkers Wonderpark• Reach Out Community Project – Checkers Riverwalk• Supa-Dimama Senior Citizens Centre – Checkers Grey Owl Midstream• Tholakele Centre of Hope – Checkers Selcourt Towers• Winnie Mabaso Foundation – Checkers The Glen
KwaZulu-Natal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eyesihlahla Farms 94 – Shoprite Eshowe• God's Acres – Shoprite Raisethorpe• Iqabungelihle Community Garden – Checkers Virginia Circle• Khula Nathi – Shoprite Mount Edgecombe• Kuhle okwemvelo garden project – Checkers Amanzimtoti• Siyaphambili Womens Hub – Checkers Hyper Galleria• Siyakhula Community Project – Shoprite Gingindlovu• Siyazondla kwaPhindangene – Shoprite Ulundi• Velemseni Farming Group – Shoprite Estcourt• Yenzanathi Community Upliftment Project – Checkers Watercrest
Lesotho:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action Lesotho – Shoprite Leribe• St Cecilia Orphanage Home – Shoprite Sefika

Limpopo:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marubini Multi-Purpose Women's Primary Cooperative – Checkers Makhado Crossing • Ndlovu Care Group – Shoprite Dennilton • Ratanang Agricultural Cooperative Limited – Shoprite Mankweng • Tladi & Hlabirwa Primary Co-operative – Shoprite Lebowakgomo • We Can Women's Development Co-op – Shoprite Paledi
Mpumalanga:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ekuqaleni Genesis Farm – Checkers Hyper Klipfontein • Khuthala Eco-Tourism – Checkers Ermelo • Ploughs and Feathers Co-operative Ltd – Checkers New Hazyview Junction • Phumelelani Savings Scheme – Checkers Hyper Secunda Mall • Sibonile Agricultural Co-operative – Shoprite Acornhoek Mall • Timbavati Garden – Shoprite Acornhoek Plaza
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groot Aub Fresh Producers – Shoprite Lafrenz
Northern Cape:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsogang Garden Project – Shoprite Kuruman
North West:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badiri Manufacturing and Supply Cooperative – Usave Nokaneng • Bakgatla ba Mosetlha – Shoprite Temba • Dirang Batswana Greenery Project – Shoprite Rustenburg Mall • Kopanelo Projects – Shoprite Mahikeng Mall • Nthabiseng Skills' Training Centre For The Disabled – Checkers Hyper Rustenburg • Mama Ruby Primary Co-operative Limited – Shoprite Lethlabile • Mokaila Community Project – Checkers Mahikeng Mall • PatCathy & Projects Co-Operative – Shoprite Potchefstroom
Western Cape:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus in Action's Our Garden – Checkers Protea Heights • Lentegeur Food Garden – Home Office • Mthimkhulu Community Development Programme – Shoprite Kleinmond • Rondevlei Learning Centre – Checkers Hyper Eden Meander • Vulamasango – Checkers Weltevreden