



Choko Tree Vision Statement

Choko tree farm will be not only a productive but beautiful urban space where people can come to learn about how to live a more sustainable life. The majority of the energy for cooking, lighting, heating and cooling will be captured, developed or generated on the property. The house will be improved with energy conserving design features. Likewise all rainwater falling on the property will be captured and stored, either in tanks and other containers or in the ground. Year round displays of flowers will not only add to the beauty of the property but also attract beneficial insects to help with pollination and protection of the growing plants.

Our vegetables will be produced organically all year round, sufficient to contribute to two meals a day for the two of us and some fruit will also be available all year round and we will preserve the excess. Sufficient herbs will be produced for our needs and to sell or give away to others as required. We will also provide all our own herb and vegetable seedlings, raised from our own seeds where practicable with an excess to sell. Where it is not practicable for us to grow enough of a specific vegetable we will source them from organic, local, small retailers or by swapping with friends and family. We will produce our own protein where possible from chickens, for eggs, quail for both eggs and meat and fish and other non-traditional protein sources shall be investigated. Some animal feed will be produced on the farm.

We will also take advantage of any available land away from the choko farm to grow crops such as grains which are too extensive to be grown on the farm proper.

Our usage of town water will be reduced to as low a consumption as possible. No greywater will leave the property. It shall be treated where required then re-used to irrigate food and other crops. Blackwater will be minimised by the use of a composting toilet and other techniques. When purchasing materials or things we cannot make or repair we shall do so using methods which produce the least possible waste. We shall use our tools and space to repair or make what we need wherever possible. Organic waste will be fed to animals, worms or composted. *We will work to minimise the waste we generate while outside choko tree farm.*

We will open for sustainable house day and permaculture day as well as maintaining a website about our activities. There will be a teaching space to allow us to run sustainability related workshops at the choko farm, to use what we are doing as examples. We shall develop a series of activities along with the workshops which will allow us to make living from the property in a sustainable way. Other ways to make a living sustainably will be explored including developing our own YouTube channel and writing and selling e-books. *Any paid work off site shall be in line with our ethics.*

We will not neglect the need to relax and areas of the farm will be developed where we can unwind and read a book or catch up with family and friends. The capacity for communal eating will also be supported in the amenity areas. *We shall set aside areas for play and family time.*