

## Teaching How to Fish: Shared Interest In Focus, Spring 2009



Elizabeth Abrams and Sylvia Dampies harvesting trout.

The Hands-On Fish Farming Cooperative, a Shared Interest beneficiary, is a highly innovative and productive project in the Western Cape of South Africa. Roughly an hour's drive from Cape Town, in some of South Africa's most fertile wine country that resembles California's Napa Valley, black farm workers are raising their own commercial trout in the irrigation reservoirs of the white-owned wine and fruit farms that employ them. In 2004, the project began technical training for participating coop members, which has been expanded to include HIV/AIDS prevention and adult basic education and training. The curriculum also includes financial management, and encourages members to set aside 10% of their profits to reinvest in their projects, and another 10% to donate to initiatives in their communities.

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