



KAITE : Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's bridge to the world: Production and certification of organic essential oils, herbs & spices

Project description

Since 2007, KAITE has been training small-scale farmers to produce, process, and certify organic essential oils, herbs and spices. The 30 employees at KAITE then connect the 500 cooperating partner farmers to international fair trade markets.



Business model

KAITE is the first local enterprise producing organic essential oils, herbs and spices for export with small-scale women farmers in Zimbabwe.

KAITE offers socially responsible and organically produced herbs, spices and essential oils for the local and international markets.

KAITE targets key markets in Europe and the US in the flavouring, fragrance, cosmetics, and pharmaceutical industries.

Scaling up activities

- Expand the cooperation to new parts of Zimbabwe.
- By the end of 2010, increase the number of partner farmers from 500 to 2,500.
- Purchase additional high quality mobile distillation equipment to enable an increase in the number of rural communities working in organic production in social and environmental programmes.

Immediate needs

- Advice in business planning and marketing.
- Partners to access Carbon Market funds from voluntary mechanisms.
- Financial contributions to assist with the up-scaling of the operations in Zimbabwe.
- Investors/shareholders from private or institutional backgrounds.





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Partnership

- **PhytoTrade Africa** advises on standards and regulations and product development.
- **TrustOrganicSmallFarmers** strengthens international marketing linkages.
- **ZOPPA** manages the national and international networking.



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: Trainings organised by KAITE not only involve sharing of knowledge about production and processing skills but also about nutrition, schooling and HIV/AIDS prevention. The initiative thus contributes to better health and education levels of participant communities, particularly households headed by women. This results in direct community involvement and empowerment.

Environmental impact: Organic farming promotes sustainable, ecological and holistic approaches

to land use. This leads to a marked improvement in soil fertility of partner farmers' plots; elimination of harmful agrochemicals and persistent organic pollutants; and reversal of land degradation in the wards practising conservation agriculture.

Economic impact: Each KAITE partner farmer increases its family's income by 150% while fulfilling international customers' demands for organic products and derivatives. This provides a sustainable income base for farmer families, in addition to a marked improvement in food security.

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SEED Partners

SEED is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Other current partners are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature); and the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: www.seedinit.org

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