

Mashandilo is a co-operative of smallholder farmers committed to improving its members' market integration by promoting resource-efficient innovation in agriculture production and providing a wide range of member services.



Mashandilo Co-operative, Namibia

BUSINESS MODEL

The Mashandilo farming co-operative distributes vegetable products to the local population, building a strong sales network and brand. The member-led enterprise provides training for smallholder farmers, develops distribution channels and supports the adaptation towards sustainable agriculture innovation.

Membership fees and shared revenues allow the co-operative to pool resources for storing, marketing of goods and reducing costs for inputs and equipment. Mashandilo constantly increases the productivity of its members by promoting resource-efficient technology.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS:

Location	Zambezi Region, Namibia
Year founded	2014
Sector	Sustainable Agriculture
Product/Service	Vegetable products

CONTACT

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Social impacts:

- Increasing local food security by providing fresh vegetable products for more than 7,000 residents of the Zambezi Region.
- Improving the social participation of women smallholder farmers by providing an occupational perspective, targeting a member share of 60 % women.
- Increasing public awareness of the benefits of sustainable agriculture techniques.

Environmental impacts:

- Reducing the amount of water for horticulture production by piloting micro-drip irrigation.
- Slowing soil degradation and desertification caused by traditional agriculture methods.
- Enhancing smallholder resilience to droughts.
- Reducing the use of chemical inputs such as pesticides and fertiliser.

Economic impacts:

- Generating additional income for 75 smallholder farmers within the next five years.
- Reducing costs for agriculture input supplies and equipment.
- Facilitating microloans for members to invest in micro-drip irrigation equipment.
- Reduce dependency of local consumers on agriculture imports.

” The Mashandilo co-operative not only increases smallholders’ economic productivity, but also creates a strong and self-reliant community.

Scaling up activities:

- Integrate 15 new women smallholders into the co-operative to double membership, and train them on fundamental agriculture techniques and business skills.
- Set up five additional pilot micro-drip irrigation systems to promote sustainable agriculture techniques. As part of this, seek partnerships with financial institutions to develop a micro-loan scheme for members to invest in improved irrigation equipment.
- Improve sales network in cooperation with local food retailers and develop the co-operative’s brand.
- Train 15 members on advanced horticulture methods, such as sustainable pest and disease management.



Partnership

- The **Mashandilo Co-operative** provides a wide range of support services to its members including training as well as marketing and distribution of horticultural produce.
- **Agri Connexions Africa** supports Mashandilo in its business development through training and the provision of technical and financial support.
- **Namibian Development Trust** supports the organisational development of the co-operative through facilitation of training workshops focusing on women entrepreneurship.
- **The Namibian Organic Association** provides support with regards to sustainable resource management and organic agriculture technology.



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SEED is a global partnership for action on sustainable development that was founded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. It is based on the understanding that the promotion of social and environmental enterprises is pivotal to a world of flourishing communities where entrepreneurship drives sustainable development. SEED identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental enterprises around the globe, enterprises who while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion. For more information please write to info@seed.uno or visit:

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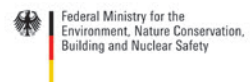
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