

Umgibe Farming Organics and Training Institute supports local farming co-operatives with access to technology, training and markets. The enterprise capacitates urban and small-scale farmers to graduate into commercial business units using Umgibe's cost-effective and sustainable growing system.



Umgibe Farming Organics and Training Institute, South Africa

🏆 SAG-SEED AWARD WINNER 2017 🏆

BUSINESS MODEL

Umgibe promotes the idea of a sustainable local food system through the cost-effective and environmentally friendly Umgibe growing system. More than 41 local farmer co-operatives have already received access to the system, and Umgibe offers a platform that enhances farmers' market access, boosting local income generation.

The enterprise delivers organic products to local communities at a reasonable price, while at the same time protecting the environment. Additionally, the provision of capacity building helps farmers to produce and sell more.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS:

Location	Durban, South Africa
Year founded	2015
Sector	Sustainable Agriculture
Product/Service	Umgibe Waterwise Growing System

Contribution to the SDGs:



Social impacts:

- Ensuring the provision of locally grown and healthy food to communities in eThekweni Municipality.
- Developing the community by training community members in organic farming, crop production and food processing.
- Minimizing the physical work related to farming, which benefits youth, elderly and women.

Environmental impacts:

- Protecting the environment through the Umgibe system by using little water, and no chemical fertilizers or pesticides.
- Diverting more than 10,000 plastic bags from landfills by utilising them as growing bags.
- Avoiding carbon emissions by reducing transport activities in local food provision.

Economic impacts:

- Providing a sustainable source of income for more than 290 families through Umgibe's 41 partner co-operatives.
- Creating a local market for organic products.
- Generating revenues and a stable market for Umgibe and the partner co-operatives through contracts with hospitals.

” Umgibe is the only method that does not require physical labour, so it can be done by anyone including old people, children, youth, as well as people with disabilities.

Scaling up activities:

- Reach 100 farming co-operatives by the end of 2017 to enhance the enterprise's profitability and increase its environmental and social impacts.
- Build a nursery to produce own seedlings and reduce cultivation costs.
- Establish a composting site to provide high-quality compost for vegetable production.
- Start a local community organic market, develop markets for processed products, such as jam, juice and porridge, that will add value and generate higher profits.



Partnership

🔴 **Umgibe Farming Organics and Training Institute** developed the patented growing system and supports co-operatives, such as with training and market access.

🔴 **Use-It**, an NGO, supports Umgibe by recovering plastic waste used for growing systems, applying composting solutions and providing training.

🔴 **HeePD** is an NGO partnering with Umgibe to train and employ disabled people in organic agriculture.

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About SEED

SEED is a global partnership for action on sustainable development and the green economy. Founded by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Union for Conservation of Nature at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, SEED supports innovative small scale and locally driven enterprises around the globe which integrate social and environmental benefits into their business model. The 2017 SAG-SEED Awards in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda are part of the multi-country project "Promoting Eco-Entrepreneurship in Africa" implemented by SEED under SWITCH-Africa Green (SAG). SAG is implemented by UNEP with the assistance of the European Union. Other project partners in SAG are UNDP and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). South African Awards are co-financed by the Government of Flanders.

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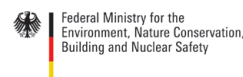
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