

Close out report for
Momentum Metropolitan
Foundation Women in
Farming Programme
(Phase 2)



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Overview:

The International Agricultural Academy for Africa (i3A) executed a mentorship program in February 2023, supporting 10 entities under Phase 2 of the Women in Farming project. Each entity received R 92,000.00 (Ninety Two Thousand Rand) (VAT Included) and participated in a year-long mentorship program funded by the Momentum Metropolitan Foundation.

The mentorship program covered various aspects, such as benchmarking of the beneficiaries' businesses, crop production plans, supply of infrastructure and production inputs, measurement and compilation of production and socially beneficial outcomes, financial training, and ongoing monitoring.

Scope of the Project:

Phase 2 focused on agricultural extension and mentorship to enhance agricultural productivity, living standards, and rural welfare. Objectives included self-development of beneficiaries, managing social and economic changes, addressing project needs, and ensuring cost-effective, sustainable implementation. The project aimed to empower the project beneficiaries to become food security educators provide production inputs to the beneficiaries, and maintain accountability throughout the mentorship and the deliverance of an Impact Management Report.

Success Stories:

Success stories are reported per individual project, using the project's common name, or in the case of an individual, the individual's name:

- ✓ **A-MyI** successfully relocated, with Pamela Goldstone emerging as a leader. The cooperative diversified into marketing, demonstrating resilience and success.
- ✓ **Banele Mabaso** excelled in crop production, doubling her capacity with infrastructure improvements on the newly acquired site that was previously not used for crop production.
- ✓ **Igayeso** (Kholeka Ntombela) diversified into broiler production and herb cultivation, managing her personal further studies alongside her business.
- ✓ **Imisebe** transformed into Agri-entrepreneurs, excelling in crop production, Agri-services, and Agri-processing.
- ✓ **Khanyisile Zulu** adapted to broiler production, doubling capacity, and engaging in a research initiative.
- ✓ **Minenhle Mbuyazi** overcame the challenges of persistent flooding through run-off trenching and aims to become a food security presenter and trainer, showcasing continuous improvement.
- ✓ **Nondumiso Ngubane** expanded her crop production significantly, overcoming water scarcity challenges through water being pumped from a fountain and thus making it possible to cultivate more land that was previously not used for crop production.
- ✓ **Pinky Mahaye** showcased resilience, diversification, and strategic investments, addressing water shortage challenges through the construction of catchment dams and weirs.

- ✓ **Xola Sibisi** adapted to water access, accessibility and limited space challenges as elaborated later in her profiled report, integrating crop production with training and presentations for a holistic approach.
- ✓ **Z-Squared** faced challenges in nursery construction, intermittent water interruptions, regular and prolonged rainfall cycles and finding buyers for their seedlings at a viable price but remains optimistic about future success.

Challenges and Lessons Learned:

- The initial lack of briefing on the mentor's role led to misconceptions, trust deficits, and internal conflicts.
- Misalignment of information, land use discrepancies, and competition-oriented plans posed initial challenges.
- Participants faced weather impacts, exploitation by external entities, stipend-related issues, and external interference.

Recommendations:

- Implement a practical assessment to gauge participants' commitment to food production, collaboration skills, and land use permissions.
- Emphasize stipends as a supplementary motivator, provide clear explanations, and ensure strategic administration to avoid trust deficits.

In conclusion, the Women in Farming project showcased diverse successes and challenges, emphasizing the need for strategic mentorship and comprehensive support to ensure sustainable growth in agriculture.

The recommendations aim to enhance participant selection and stipend management for future project phases.

2. PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME	
Momentum Metropolitan Foundation Women in Farming Programme (Phase 2)	
PROJECT MANAGER	PROJECT SPONSOR
International Agricultural Academy for Africa (Pty) Ltd.	Momentum Metropolitan Foundation
REASON FOR PROJECT CLOSURE	
Phase 2 has been completed.	

3. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The International Agricultural Academy for Africa (i3A) was appointed as project implementation agent and mentor for a program in February 2023.

The main objective of the intervention was to assist the 10 entities that were elected from phase I of the Women in Farming project, to become self-sustainable and viable. The 10 entities were assisted with a cash contribution of R 92 000.00 (VAT Incl.) each by the Momentum Metropolitan Foundation, as well as a continuous mentorship programme throughout the implementation period of 1- year.

The mentorship programme started in February 2023 with the aim the following the following logical sequence and outcomes.

1. Benchmarking to measure the social, production and financial impact of the project according to a start-off benchmark. (3 – Visits)
2. Compile the IMCS Outcomes and Indicators for each project. (2-Visits)
3. Review joint consensus and implementation of recommendations. (1 – Visit)
4. Establishment of garden infrastructure and purchase and delivery of equipment and production inputs. (8 – Visits)
5. Financial training of beneficiaries (2 – Visits)
6. Monitoring and coaching as per individual project needs. (continuous objective)
7. Completion of project monthly progress reports.

Throughout the mentorship programme and where possible, the implementation and development progress were filmed and recorded through interviews that related to a video report on all 10 projects.

Due to the production season being late for the planting of summer crops, the decision was made to initially plant easy-to-manage cash crops (spinach and cabbage) in tunnels with the goal of generating a quick revenue stream that could be expanded over time.

Out of the 10 entities involved, 9 of them chose to participate in this initiative, whilst the remaining entities opted to establish a seedling nursery.

This information provides a snapshot of the completed mentorship program, emphasizing the strategic decision to start with cash crops in tunnels as a means of generating revenue.

This indicates that the program was flexible, allowing some entities to explore alternative approaches to revenue generation based on their specific needs or goals that unfolded during the process.

4. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The outcome of phase I of the Momentum Women in Farming Project was the allocation of funding to the 10 Winning projects and beneficiaries, to the value of R92 000 (R80 000 + VAT) each.

Phase 2 of the project focused on an agricultural extension programme to assist the individual beneficiaries in reaching the objectives and increased agricultural productivity, a raised standard of living for the project beneficiaries, and improved rural welfare through a professional agricultural extension programme based on the needs of the project member through working with the individual members, not for them.

A further important objective is also to ensure that the correct budget spending per project is achieved through the implementation of an Impact Management Control System (IMCS) according to the audit needs of Momentum as the funder.

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- The goals and outcomes of the production units will revolve around the self-development of the beneficiaries through building on the skills training provided during Phase I.
- Project beneficiaries will be enabled to manage changes in their social and economic arena.
- The extension service will address the project and beneficiary needs and priorities.
- The implementation approach must enhance cost-effectiveness, creativity and optimum budget spending towards production, sales, income, and the new season's expenses. (Ensure sustainability)
- To guide the project beneficiaries to become food security educators in their community and to participate in the development of similar food production projects as practical examples of success.
- To supply production inputs as per the detailed budget.
- To ensure flexibility and innovation in project implementation strategies.
- Ensure accountability to Momentum as the client through an Impact Management Report. (IMR)

6. PARTICIPANTS

A-Myl

Overview

A-Myl Cooperative: Restructuring and Relocation:

- A-Myl cooperative underwent a membership restructuring procedure and also relocated from Shallow Drift farm to Savannah Park in Marion Hill.
- The four members secured a site and successfully produced crops, venturing into the marketing sector by selling directly to the public and participating in farmers' market events.
- Despite the changes, A-Myl has demonstrated resilience and success in its agricultural endeavours.

Leadership Dynamics:

- Pamela Goldstone emerges as a natural leader within A-Myl, displaying initiative and an ability to seize opportunities.
- Under Pamela's leadership, the group underwent reconstitution, and the other three members fully supported her.

Post-Relocation Successes:

- Despite the challenges of relocating, A-Myl has thrived with the support of the MMF project, both financially and through mentorship.
- Since July 2023, A-Myl has consistently produced high-quality crops, creating a revenue stream for the cooperative.
- Utilizing social media, they effectively market their successes and products to a wider audience.

Expansion Plans:

- A-Myl's next challenge is to expand production capacity, and they are actively exploring gaining access to adjacent land for cultivation.
- The cooperative is strategically planning to upscale its production capabilities.

Financial Utilization:

- Financial support from the MMF program was primarily directed towards capital expenses.
- A portion of the funds was allocated for sustainability efforts, marketing initiatives, and media promotions.

Acknowledgement of MMF Support:

- A-Myl attributes its achievements to the resources committed through the MMF WIF Project.
- The financial and mentorship support provided by MMF has been instrumental in A-Myl's success, enabling them to overcome challenges and achieve sustainable growth.

New markets and Sales:

- Selling of the land to the local community
- They are having market days selling their produce
- A-Myl was also using social media for marketing
- They buy produce from the Fresh Produce Market, repack it and then sell it to regular customers in the community

A-Myl

This success story of A-Myl showcases the positive impact of strategic support, both financially and through mentorship, in the agricultural sector. Pamela Goldstone's leadership and the cooperative's resilience highlight the potential for continued success and expansion in the future.

Members

1. Pamela Goldstone
2. Zamangwane Bhengu
3. Zinhle Mahlakoana
4. Ntombenhle Mkhize

Objectives

1. To re-establish A-Mile project on the newly secured site.
2. To prepare the land to produce cabbage and spinach.
3. To obtain 6 vegetable tunnels with production inputs.
4. To equip the land with micro-irrigation.
5. To register a Business Entity and do VAT registration.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

A Mile

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Seed - Spinach Seedlings 1000	5	R1 897,50	R1 897,50	R0,00
Seed - Cabbage Seedlings 1000	1	R592,25	R592,25	R0,00
4.3.4. (33) Wonder veggies 1kg	6	R393,30	R393,30	R0,00
LAN 28% - Wonder kelpt 500ml	6	R378,75	R378,75	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Eco Insect Control 50ml	3	R527,78	R527,78	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Efekto Clear up 1l	3	R877,85	R877,85	R0,00
Crop spaying program - Pesticide Efekto (cutworm bait) 500g	6	R273,65	R273,65	R0,00
Contractor's labour	1	R26 915,57	R26 915,57	R0,00
Wages	1	R4 000,00	R4 000,00	R0,00
Water	1	R1 500,00	R1 500,00	R0,00
Contingencies	1	R10 950,94	R10 950,94	R0,00
Seeds	1	R792,50	R792,50	R0,00
Eco-Insect control	1	R1 057,56	R1 057,56	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R50 157,65	R50 157,65	R0,00
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	1	R977,50	R977,50	R0,00
Shaded tunnels 3m x 12m - Hlalele Bros	6	R8 910,00	R8 910,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 064,00	R1 064,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R3 069,50	R3 069,50	R0,00
E Angle tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 529,10	R1 529,10	R0,00
Hardware	0	R1 999,50	R1 999,50	R0,00
Tunnels titanium - Plusnet	6	R4 346,17	R4 346,17	R0,00
Poles	1	R1 193,95	R1 193,95	R0,00
Wheelbarrow	1	R1 453,14	R1 453,14	R0,00
Garden rakes	1	R148,06	R148,06	R0,00
Hoe with handle	1	R236,30	R236,30	R0,00
Garden forks	1	R443,44	R443,44	R0,00
Garden spade	1	R260,82	R260,82	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 12l	1	R399,00	R399,00	R0,00

Backpack sprayer 16l	1	R378,99	R378,99	R0,00
Water tank TWK 5000lt	1	R5 560,08	R5 560,08	R0,00
Irrigation and Sprayers	1	R8 987,30	R8 987,30	R0,00
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R41 842,35	R41 842,35	R0,00
Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL		R92 000,00	R92 000,00	R0,00

Overview

Banele's Increased Production Capacity:

- Banele continues to excel in crop production, leveraging the project's support to boost her capacity.
- The implementation of infrastructure, such as a solar borehole and irrigation, has significantly contributed to her success.

Supportive Family Structure:

- Banele benefits from a strong support structure within her family, which has played a crucial role in her achievements.

Future Production Projection:

- With the current momentum and infrastructure in place, Banele is anticipated to double her production capacity within the next 12 months. The irrigation capacity is sufficient for Banele to extend her production capacity and there is sufficient space for her to do so. She will use the income generated from her current crop sales to finance the expansion.

Secure Production Site:

- Despite the site's distance from her residence (approximately 9km), Banele's well-fenced production site has not experienced theft or damages from foraging livestock.

Challenges Overcome:

- The initial land preparation posed challenges, requiring extensive efforts to remove shale and stones. However, Banele successfully turned this rubble into a resource by constructing an elevated platform for JoJo water tanks serving as reservoirs.

Efforts to Make Land Viable:

- Banele has invested considerable effort in making the land suitable for crop production, highlighting the dedication required for success in agriculture.
- The MMF support, both financially and in resources, has been instrumental in overcoming challenges and making the land viable.

Allocation of Budget:

- The budget allocation reveals a strategic focus on capital investments, including the solar borehole pump, reservoirs, irrigation, and materials.
- The remaining funds were utilized for essential aspects such as labour, chemicals, seeds, and transport.

Expected Harvest by 2024:

- Preliminary expectations suggest that Banele is poised to harvest over R60,000-00 worth of potatoes by the beginning of 2024.

New markets and Sales:

- She is using the Farmgate App to advertise her produce.
- The local community is buying from her.
- Caters and hawkers are becoming her regular customers.

Banele's success story exemplifies the transformative impact of well-directed financial and resource support. Her strategic utilization of funds and dedicated efforts in overcoming challenges showcase the potential for sustainable growth in agriculture.

Members

1. Banele Mabaso

Objectives

1. To plant seasonal cash crops and to support day-to-day expenses by selling cabbage that will be produced under a 700m² shaded tunnel.
2. To purchase a solar-powered borehole pump to extract water from the existing borehole.
3. To purchase a 5000-litre JoJo tank to supplement the water from the borehole.
4. To install a drip line for irrigation.
5. To install tunnels for spinach production in the next season.
6. To produce 400 m² potatoes.
7. To register business entity and VAT.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Banele Mabaso

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Seed - Spinach Seedlings 1000	0	R1 897,50	R1 897,50	R0,00
Seed - Cabbage Seedlings 1000	0	R509,45	R509,45	R0,00
4.3.4. (33) Wonder veggies 1kg	6	R393,30	R393,30	R0,00
LAN 28% - Wonder kelpt 500ml	6	R378,74	R378,74	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Eco Insect Control 50ml	3	R527,78	R527,78	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Efekto Clear up 1l	3	R877,86	R877,86	R0,00
Crop spaying program - Pesticide Efekto (cutworm bait) 500g	6	R273,65	R273,65	R0,00
Casual Labour planting	0	R1 000,00	R1 000,00	R0,00
Contractor's labour	0	R3 029,19	R8 000,00	-R4 970,81
Soil Analysis	1	R488,84	R488,84	R0,00
Contingencies	2	R1 691,90	R1 691,90	R0,00
Seeds	20	R6 400,00	R6 400,00	R0,00
Summer Crop Fert 1kg	7	R10 313,82	R10 313,82	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R27 782,03	R32 752,84	-R4 970,81
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	1	R977,50	R977,50	R0,00
Shaded tunnels 3m x 12m - Hlalele Bros	6	R8 910,00	R8 910,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 064,00	R1 064,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R3 069,50	R3 069,50	R0,00
E Angle tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 529,10	R1 529,10	R0,00
Solar Kit lars 400 watt - DIY Superstore	1	R5 895,00	R5 895,00	R0,00
Solar Panel 335 watt - Superstore	2	R6 339,80	R6 339,80	R0,00
Solar Pump Accessories	1	R6 881,78	R6 881,78	R0,00
Cement / Ready mix	0	R600,00	R600,00	R0,00
Hardware	0	R1 386,69	R1 386,69	R0,00
Tunnels titanium - Plusnet	6	R4 346,17	R4 346,17	R0,00

Wheelbarrow	1	R1 453,14	R1 453,14	R0,00
Garden rakes	1	R148,06	R148,06	R0,00
Hoe with handle	1	R236,30	R236,30	R0,00
Garden forks	1	R443,44	R443,44	R0,00
Garden spade	1	R260,82	R260,82	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 12l	1	R399,00	R399,00	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 16l	1	R378,99	R378,99	R0,00
Water tank KRM 5000lt	1	R5 560,08	R5 560,08	R0,00
Brush cutter	1	R3 500,60	R3 500,60	R0,00
Solar Borehole pump	1	R9 720,84	R9 720,84	R0,00
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R63 986,31	R63 986,31	R0,00
Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL				
		R91 768,34	R96 739,15	-R4 970,81

Igayeso (Kholeka Ntombela)

Overview

Relocation and Entrepreneurial Expansion:

- Kholeka, the sole remaining member of the Igayeso co-op, successfully relocated from Shallow Drift farm to her family-owned site.
- Notably producing cabbage and spinach, she has identified a lucrative market in herbs, which will be her primary focus in 2024.

Diversification Initiatives:

- Kholeka is venturing into broiler production, participating in a unique research initiative involving the use of fly maggots as a feed source for birds.
- The initiative aims to record cost and quality effectiveness, with Kholeka mobilizing her entire family to support these endeavours.

Support Structure and Educational Pursuits:

- While studying Agricultural Finance through a bursary in 2023, Kholeka's day-to-day business operations were managed by her support structure, notably her mother, Mama Rose.
- Regular water interruptions initially impacted production, but the installation of a JoJo water tank and an irrigation system resolved the issue, creating a water reserve for non-rainy periods.

Balancing Studies and Production Commitment:

- Despite continuing studies in 2024, Kholeka has strategically scheduled her attendance to allow for a more hands-on commitment to the production plan.
- The broiler project, especially, requires 2-day monitoring and weighing to assess the viability of using maggot feed as a cost-effective solution.

Future Goals and Grooming as a Trainer:

- Kholeka aims to become a "well-paid" trainer of sustainable and resilient food (and poultry) production in 2024.
- Recognized as an ideal candidate for grooming as a trainer and presenter, Kholeka's commitment to education and entrepreneurship aligns with her objectives for the upcoming year.

New markets and Sales:

- Selling her crop to people in the area
- People who would drive to her to buy her crops.
- Catering people who cater for funerals, weddings, etc., will buy directly from her.

Kholeka's entrepreneurial spirit, commitment to learning, and innovative agricultural practices position her as a key contributor to sustainable food production. Her diverse initiatives, research involvement, and educational pursuits underscore her potential as a future leader and trainer in the field.

Members

1. Kholeka Ntombela

Objectives

1. To prepare the land to produce cabbage and spinach, turnips.
2. To obtain 6 vegetable tunnels with production inputs.
3. To equip the land with intensive irrigation.
4. To register Business Entity and VAT.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Igayeso

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Seed - Spinach Seedlings 1000	5	R1 897,50	R1 897,50	R0,00
Seed - Cabbage Seedlings 1000	1	R509,45	R509,45	R0,00
4.3.4. (33) Wonder veggies 1kg	6	R393,30	R393,30	R0,00
LAN 28% - Wonder kelpt 500ml	6	R378,74	R378,74	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Eco Insect Control 50ml	3	R527,77	R527,77	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Efekto Clear up 1l	3	R877,86	R877,86	R0,00
Crop spaying program - Pesticide Efekto (cutworm bait) 500g	6	R273,65	R273,65	R0,00
Consumable items	1	R54 841,52	R54 841,52	R0,00
Clear up Herbicides 1l	15	R203,90	R203,90	R0,00
Eco-Insect control	20	R1 391,71	R1 391,71	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R61 295,40	R61 295,40	R0,00
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	1	R977,50	R977,50	R0,00
Shaded tunnels 3m x 12m - Hlalele Bros	6	R8 910,00	R8 910,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 064,00	R1 064,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R3 069,50	R3 069,50	R0,00
E Angle tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 529,10	R1 529,10	R0,00
House pipe - UCM Hardware	1	R350,00	R350,00	R0,00
Moosas - Hardware	1	R693,00	R693,00	R0,00
Tunnels titanium - Plusnet	6	R4 346,17	R4 346,17	R0,00
Wheelbarrow	1	R1 453,14	R1 453,14	R0,00
Garden rakes	1	R148,06	R148,06	R0,00
Hoe with handle	1	R236,30	R236,30	R0,00
Garden forks	1	R443,44	R443,44	R0,00
Garden spade	1	R260,82	R260,82	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 12l	1	R399,00	R399,00	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 16l	1	R378,99	R378,99	R0,00

Water tank TWK 5000lt	1	R5 560,08	R5 560,08	R0,00
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R30 704,60	R30 704,60	R0,00
Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL				
		R92 000,00	R92 000,00	R0,00

Overview

Successful Turnaround and Entrepreneurial Growth:

- Imisebe, a cooperative of 6 members, faced numerous challenges but has transformed into a successful team of Agri-entrepreneurs.
- Relocating from Shallow Drift to Monastery Farm allowed them to start afresh, producing and selling crops in a short span.

Diversification into Agri-Services and Agri-Processing:

- Imisebe has not only excelled in crop production but has also attended external workshops, venturing into Agri-services and Agri-processing.
- Two members are set to participate in the training and presenting initiative of Phase 3 to generate additional revenue through these opportunities.

Site Challenges and Advantages:

- Operating on a 3000m² site at Monastery Farm, Imisebe faces challenges supporting 6 members, but they have maximized its potential.
- The cooperative has both advantages, such as quick production turnaround, and drawbacks due to limited space.

Digital Presence and Revenue Generation:

- Imisebe has procured a laptop and plans to increase revenue by offering training and presentations for remuneration.
- Leveraging social media, they have created a sizable digital presence, significantly boosting sales.

Strategic Relationships and In-Sourcing:

- Imisebe has capitalized on relationships with market agents at the Durban Fresh Produce Market for in-sourcing additional crops, processing/packaging, and reselling to clients.

Expansion Plans and Advisor Recommendations:

- Advised by Thabo Olivier, Imisebe is exploring options to increase their site, either negotiating for additional land from the current landlord or seeking an alternative site of at least 10,000m² for future expansion.

Impressive Sales Figures:

- Since their relocation in July 2023 (5 months), Imisebe has generated more than R50,000-00 in sales of their crops, highlighting their successful turnaround and entrepreneurial growth.

New markets and Sales:

- Selling of the land to the local community
- They buy produce from the Fresh Produce Market which they do not produce, repack, and sell it.
- They have regular catering customers for which they deliver.

Imisebe' s story showcases resilience, adaptability, and strategic thinking. Their proactive approach to diversification, digital marketing, and strategic relationships positions them for continued success and future expansion.

Imisebe

Members

1. Nokukhanya Eunibrah Cele
2. Nqobile Cele
3. Prudence Pinky Mbhele
4. Hlengiwe Caroline Jama
5. Buhlebethu Faith Jama
6. Nosisa Cele

Objectives

1. To re-establish the Imisebe project on the newly secured site.
2. To prepare the land to produce cabbage and spinach.
3. To obtain 12 vegetable tunnels with production inputs.
4. To equip the land with sprayer irrigation.
5. To register Business Entity and VAT.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Imisebe

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Seed - Spinach Seedlings 1000	15	R5 692,60	R5 692,60	R0,00
Seed - Cabbage Seedlings 1000	3	R1 528,35	R1 528,35	R0,00
4.3.4. (33) Wonder veggies 1kg	6	R393,30	R393,30	R0,00
LAN 28% - Wonder kelpt 500ml	6	R378,74	R378,74	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Eco Insect Control 50ml	3	R527,78	R527,78	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Efekto Clear up 1l	3	R877,85	R877,85	R0,00
Crop spaying program - Pesticide Efekto (cutworm bait) 500g	6	R273,65	R273,65	R0,00
Contractor's labour	0	R4 000,00	R4 000,00	R0,00
Wages	1	R3 000,00	R3 000,00	R0,00
Accommodation	1	R2 500,00	R2 500,00	R0,00
Relocation	1	R8 300,00	R8 300,00	R0,00
Consumable items	1	R1 700,50	R1 700,50	R0,00
Seeds	1	R321,24	R321,24	R0,00
Seedlings	0	R5 904,75	R5 904,75	R0,00
Summer Crop Fert 1kg	1	R1 759,70	R1 759,70	R0,00
Clear up Herbicides 1l	1	R168,94	R168,94	R0,00
Eco-Insect Control Chemicals	1	R2 966,78	R2 966,78	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R40 294,18	R40 294,18	R0,00
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	2	R1 955,00	R1 955,00	R0,00
Shaded tunnels 3m x 12m - Hlalele Bros	12	R17 820,00	R17 820,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	12	R2 128,00	R2 128,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	12	R6 139,00	R6 139,00	R0,00
E Angle tunnels - DIY Superstore	12	R3 058,20	R3 058,20	R0,00
Cement / Ready mix - Desia's Hardware	1	R512,00	R512,00	R0,00
Tunnels titanium - Plusnet	12	R8 692,34	R8 692,34	R0,00
Poles	2	R493,60	R493,60	R0,00
Wheelbarrow	2	R2 906,28	R2 906,28	R0,00

Garden rakes	2	R296,14	R296,14	R0,00
Hoe with handle	2	R472,60	R472,60	R0,00
Garden forks	2	R886,80	R886,80	R0,00
Garden spade	2	R521,64	R521,64	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 12l	1	R399,00	R399,00	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 16l	1	R378,99	R378,99	R0,00
Water tank TWK 2500lt	1	R2 870,40	R2 870,40	R0,00
Irrigation and Sprayers	1	R1 290,33	R1 290,33	R0,00
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R51 705,82	R51 705,82	R0,00

Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00

TOTAL		R92 000,00	R92 000,00	R0,00
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Khanyisile Zulu

Overview

Shift to Broiler Production and Capacity Doubling:

- Khanyisile Zulu initially attempted vegetable production but faced challenges in finding water through borehole drilling.
- She has refocused on broiler production and plans to double her capacity from 300 birds to 600 birds within the first 6 months of 2024.

Participation in Magmeal Research Initiative:

- Khanyisile will actively participate in the Magmeal (fly maggots) research initiative, serving as a control site for the research conducted at Kholeka's site.

Infrastructure Investment for Expansion:

- Khanyisile has proactively procured materials to build an additional chicken house and a JoJo tank, facilitating the expansion of her enterprise by over 100%.

MMF Program's Role in Expansion:

- The entire expansion is attributed to the support provided by the MMF program, highlighting its crucial role in Khanyisile's growth in the broiler industry.

Opportunity for Community Training:

- Khanyisile has been approached by the Nqutu Agriculture extension officer in KZN to offer training in crop and poultry production to local and adjacent communities.
- She has committed to providing this training on a remuneration basis, beginning in mid-2024.

New markets and Sales:

- She is selling her chickens to the local community of Nqutu
- She has regular people of the community placing monthly orders

Khanyisile Zulu's story illustrates the adaptability and resilience of agricultural entrepreneurs. The strategic shift to broiler production, capacity doubling, and active participation in research initiatives showcase her commitment to growth. Additionally, her willingness to share knowledge and offer training to the local community further contributes to sustainable agricultural development in the region.

Members

1. Khanyisile Zulu

Objectives

1. To produce 600 chickens within the next 4 months.
2. Diversify with Spinach production was not successful because of the water problem.
3. To erect 6 vegetable tunnels.
4. To correct the water problem with the assistance of the local municipality.
5. To obtain an irrigation system.
6. Business Entity and VAT – registration.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Khanyisile Zulu

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Seed - Spinach Seedlings 1000	5	R1 897,50	R1 897,50	R0,00
Seed - Cabbage Seedlings 1000	1	R509,45	R509,45	R0,00
4.3.4. (33) Wonder veggies 1kg	6	R393,30	R393,30	R0,00
LAN 28% - Wonder kelpt 500ml	6	R378,74	R378,74	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Eco Insect Control 50ml	3	R527,78	R527,78	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Efekto Clear up 1l	3	R877,85	R877,85	R0,00
Crop spaying program - Pesticide Efekto (cutworm bait) 500g	6	R273,65	R273,65	R0,00
Soil analysis	1	R488,84	R488,84	R0,00
Consumable items	1	R49 252,90	R49 252,90	R0,00
Summer Crop Fert 1kg	30	R9 194,57	R9 194,57	R0,00
Clear up Herbicides 1l	10	R203,90	R203,90	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R63 998,48	R63 998,48	R0,00
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	1	R977,50	R977,50	R0,00
Shaded tunnels 3m x 12m - Hlalele Bros	6	R8 910,00	R8 910,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	1	R1 064,00	R1 064,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	1	R3 040,00	R3 040,00	R0,00
E Angle tunnels - DIY Superstore	1	R1 558,60	R1 558,60	R0,00
Tunnels titanium - Plusnet	1	R4 346,17	R4 346,17	R0,00
Wheelbarrow	1	R1 453,14	R1 453,14	R0,00
Garden rakes	1	R148,06	R148,06	R0,00
Hoe with handle	1	R236,30	R236,30	R0,00
Garden forks	1	R443,44	R443,44	R0,00
Garden spade	1	R260,82	R260,82	R0,00

Backpack sprayer 12l	1	R399,00	R399,00	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 16l	1	R378,99	R378,99	R0,00
Irrigation and Sprayers	1	R3 900,00	R3 900,00	R0,00
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R28 001,52	R28 001,52	R0,00
Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL		R92 000,00	R92 000,00	R0,00

Overview

Minenhle's Success and Aspirations:

- Minenhle, also known as "Spinach," acknowledges that her success is attributed to the support of the MMF/Agri-Enterprises project.
- Despite potential success independently, she has actively utilized the project's support to enhance her achievements.

Future Goal as Food Security Presenter and Trainer:

- In 2024, Minenhle aims to become a successful food security presenter and trainer with the support of the MMF/Agri-Enterprises Phase 3.
- Thabo Olivier expresses confidence in her ability to achieve this goal, highlighting her determination and potential.

Adaptation to Challenges:

- Facing flooding issues causing two successive crop failures in 2023, Minenhle implemented a trenching system to divert excess water, effectively remedying the situation.

Participation in ARC Trials:

- Minenhle actively took part in Agriculture Research Centre (ARC) trials on maize production, showcasing her commitment to staying informed and involved in agricultural research.
- Thabo Olivier advises her to consider participating in future trials on a remuneration basis, recognizing the value of her contributions.

Infrastructure Improvement and Expansion:

- A sizable portion of Minenhle's budget was allocated to improving existing infrastructure, including the construction of an 800m² shaded garden.
- She intends to secure water access through a water pump installation, showcasing her strategic investments for sustainable future growth.

New markets and Sales:

- She is on the database of Food Lovers Market.
- She is also on the Government database and is providing produce for the schools' feeding schemes.
- She is only providing these to customers and is arranging her own off-take agreements.

Minenhle's story highlights not only her current success but also her determination to continuously improve and contribute to the agricultural community. Her participation in research, infrastructure enhancements, and plans for future growth demonstrate a proactive approach to sustainable agriculture.

Members

1. Minenhle Mbuyazi

Objectives

1. To produce cash crops for the local market and vendors.
2. Crops include Spinach, Cabbage, Green Peppers, Onions, Sweet Potatoes and Amadumbe.
3. To erect a vegetable tunnel under shade netting of 780 m².
4. To sink a borehole and equip it with a pump and irrigation system.
5. To register for VAT.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Minenhle

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
4.3.4. (33) Wonder veggies 1kg	12	R786,60	R786,60	R0,00
LAN 28% - Wonder kelpt 500ml	12	R757,48	R757,48	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Eco Insect	6	R1 055,56	R1 055,56	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Efekto Clear	6	R1 755,70	R1 755,70	R0,00
Crop spaying program - Pesticide Efekto (cutworm bait) 500g	12	R547,30	R547,30	R0,00
Contractor's labour	1	R12 600,00	R12 600,00	R0,00
Soil Analysis	1	R488,84	R488,84	R0,00
Summer Crop Fert 1kg	30	R1 391,71	R1 391,71	R0,00
Clear up Herbicides 1l	7	R9 130,53	R9 130,53	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R28 513,72	R28 513,72	R0,00
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	1	R977,50	R977,50	R0,00
Hardware	1	R5 269,00	R5 269,00	R0,00
Tunnels Shade - Plusnet	1	R16 215,00	R16 215,00	R0,00
Material for shade garden - Build-it	1	R23 611,45	R23 611,45	R0,00
Wheelbarrow	1	R1 150,00	R1 150,00	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 16l	1	R499,90	R499,90	R0,00
Irrigation and Sprayers	1	R14 877,93	R14 877,93	R0,00
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R63 486,28	R63 486,28	R0,00
Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL				
		R92 000,00	R92 000,00	R0,00

Nondumiso Ngubane

Overview

Nondumiso's Crop Production Growth:

- Nondumiso has experienced significant growth as a crop producer, expanding from a small veg producer to quadrupling her active site and venturing into potato cultivation.
- The implementation of borehole irrigation infrastructure has played a pivotal role in this expansion, providing the foundation for further growth.

Initial Challenges:

- Initially limited to a small patch of vegetables (600m²) with no access to irrigation, Nondumiso relied solely on rainwater for her production.
- The communal tap served as the only water source for household needs, creating limitations for agricultural activities.

MMF Program Support:

- With support from the MMF Program, Nondumiso installed a water pump at a fountain, enabling her to pump water to a JoJo Tank reservoir.
- This infrastructure improvement allowed her to expand her crop production from 600m² to over 1600m², now with the added benefit of irrigation.

Diversification into Potato Cultivation:

- Nondumiso diversified her crops by planting potatoes, with the expectation of a successful harvest for sale in January 2024.

Broiler Chicken Production Success:

- Nondumiso ventured into broiler chicken production, overcoming an initial setback due to a snap-chill incident.
- She has improved her production plan, successfully raising over 100 chickens, which are set to be sold by the end of December 2023, aligning with the festive season.

New markets and Sales:

- Advertising on Facebook
- Local community of Intimizeni village
- Selling of the land to the locals

Nondumiso's journey showcases the transformative impact of infrastructure support, enabling her to overcome water scarcity challenges and significantly expand her agricultural activities. The successful integration of broiler chicken production further adds to her diversified and resilient farming enterprise.

Members

1. Nondumiso Ngubane

Objectives

1. To produce spinach, beans, cabbage, potatoes, maize, and chickens.
2. To install 6 vegetable tunnels.
3. To install a gravity feed water line from a natural fountain with a hose pipe, and hand sprayer to water crops.
4. To register business entity and VAT.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Nondumiso Ngubane

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Seed - Spinach Seedlings 1000	5	R1 897,50	R1 897,50	R0,00
Seed - Cabbage Seedlings 1000	1	R509,45	R509,45	R0,00
4.3.4. (33) Wonder veggies 1kg	6	R393,30	R393,30	R0,00
LAN 28% - Wonder kelpt 500ml	6	R378,74	R378,74	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Eco Insect Control 50ml	3	R527,78	R527,78	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Efekto Clear up 1l	3	R877,85	R877,85	R0,00
Crop spaying program - Pesticide Efekto (cutworm bait) 500g	6	R273,66	R273,66	R0,00
Contractor's labour	1	R2 000,00	R2 000,00	R0,00
Soil analysis	1	R488,84	R488,84	R0,00
Wages	1	R5 000,00	R5 000,00	R0,00
Consumable items	1	R17 072,06	R18 878,67	-R1 806,61
Seeds	1	R3 200,00	R3 200,00	R0,00
Summer Crop Fert 1kg	1	R830,00	R830,00	R0,00
Eco-Insect control	1	1595,61	1595,61	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R35 044,79	R36 851,40	-R1 806,61
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	1	R977,50	R977,50	R0,00
Shaded tunnels 3m x 12m - Hlalele Bros	6	R8 910,00	R8 910,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 064,00	R1 064,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R3 040,00	R3 040,00	R0,00
E Angle tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 558,60	R1 558,60	R0,00
Solar Pump Accessories	1	R10 806,30	R10 806,30	R0,00
Moosas - Hardware	1	R612,00	R612,00	R0,00
Tunnels titanium - Plusnet	6	R4 346,17	R4 346,17	R0,00
Material for shade garden - Build-it	0	R15 956,20	R15 956,20	R0,00

Wheelbarrow	1	R1 453,14	R1 453,14	R0,00
Garden rakes	1	R148,06	R148,06	R0,00
Hoe with handle	1	R236,30	R236,30	R0,00
Garden forks	1	R443,44	R443,44	R0,00
Garden spade	1	R260,82	R260,82	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 12l	1	R399,00	R399,00	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 16l	1	R378,99	R378,99	R0,00
Water tank TWK 5000lt	1	R5 479,19	R5 479,19	R0,00
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R56 955,21	R56 955,21	R0,00
Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL		R92 000,00	R93 806,61	-R1 806,61

Pinky Mahaye

Overview

Pinky's Diversified Agricultural Business:

- Pinky has established a well-entrenched agricultural business, producing vegetables and broiler chickens.
- Notably, she has expanded her capacity to include Agi-irrigation services, acting as an irrigation installation contractor, generating substantial revenue from all three facets of her business.

Business Expansion and Revenue Generation:

- Pinky's broiler chicken sales have been particularly lucrative, allowing her to purchase a 2015 Tata Xenon 1-ton single cab vehicle in August for R35,000.
- The acquisition of the vehicle has significantly influenced her business operations, especially in the irrigation supply and installation segment.

Water Supply Challenges and Reservoir Construction:

- Despite her successes, water supply remains Pinky's biggest challenge.
- Pinky has taken proactive measures by constructing reservoir catchment dams with plastic lining to secure additional water reserves.

Ownership and Investment in Current Site:

- Pinky is heavily invested in her current site, which she owns and where she has built her house and chicken houses.
- Relocation to a more water-secure location is not feasible due to her substantial investment in the current site.

Municipal Water Infrastructure Challenges:

- Unfortunately, the municipality has no immediate or medium-term plans to deliver water infrastructure to Pinky's area.
- As a result, Pinky continues to create water reserves to overcome the challenges of water scarcity.

Water-Intensive Crop Production:

- The crop production facet of Pinky's business, focusing on spinach and cabbage, is the largest consumer of her water reserves.
- The need for water reserves becomes crucial for sustaining and expanding this aspect of her agricultural enterprise.

New markets and Sales:

- She is selling her produce to the local community
- The local spaza shops are also her customers

Pinky's story underscores the multifaceted challenges and successes in agriculture. Her resilience, diversification, and strategic investments, especially in addressing water challenges, exemplify the resourcefulness required for sustained success in agribusiness.

Members

1. Pinky Mahaye

Objectives

1. To produce cabbage, spinach, rape, and chickens for the local market
2. To install 6 tunnels for vegetable production.
3. To install a gravity feed Irrigation system.
4. To register for VAT.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Pinky Mahaye

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Seed - Spinach Seedlings 1000	10	R1 897,50	R1 897,50	R0,00
Seed - Cabbage Seedlings 1000	2	R509,45	R509,45	R0,00
4.3.4. (33) Wonder veggies 1kg	6	R393,30	R393,30	R0,00
LAN 28% - Wonder kelp 500ml	6	R378,74	R378,74	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Eco Insect Control 50ml	3	R527,77	R527,77	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Efekto Clear up 1l	3	R877,85	R877,85	R0,00
Crop spaying program - Pesticide Efekto (cutworm bait) 500g	6	R273,66	R273,66	R0,00
Soil analysis	1	R488,84	R488,84	R0,00
Wages	1	R4 000,00	R4 000,00	R0,00
Water	1	R2 000,00	R2 000,00	R0,00
Contingencies (chicks and chicken feed)	2	R56 551,37	R56 551,37	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R67 898,48	R67 898,48	R0,00
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	1	R977,50	R977,50	R0,00
Shaded tunnels 3m x 12m - Hlalele Bros	6	R8 910,00	R8 910,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 064,00	R1 064,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R3 040,00	R3 040,00	R0,00
E Angle tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 558,60	R1 558,60	R0,00
Tunnels titanium - Plusnet	6	R4 346,17	R4 346,17	R0,00
Wheelbarrow	1	R1 453,14	R1 453,14	R0,00
Garden rakes	1	R148,06	R148,06	R0,00
Hoe with handle	1	R236,30	R236,30	R0,00
Garden forks	1	R443,44	R443,44	R0,00
Garden spade	1	R260,82	R260,82	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 12l	1	R399,00	R399,00	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 16l	1	R378,99	R378,99	R0,00

TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R24 101,52	R24 101,52	R0,00
Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL		R92 000,00	R92 000,00	R0,00

Overview

Focus on Presenting and Training for Additional Revenue:

- Xola Sibisi, like Minenhle, plans to concentrate on presenting and training as an additional revenue stream.
- The primary crop production site will also serve as a practical training site, with Xola, Minenhle, and Imisebe expected to actively engage in training and presenting by the end of the 6-month initial Phase 3 term of the project.

Initial Challenges at Sweetwater Site:

- Initially, Xola intended to use the Sweetwater site as her primary production site, where shaded tunnels were erected, and seedlings were planted.
- However, the lack of a secure and regular water supply posed challenges, making successful crop production difficult.

MMF Budget Support for Water Infrastructure:

- Through the MMF budget, Xola procured a JoJo tank and an irrigation system.
- This investment significantly improved the water supply, enhancing the conditions for successful crop production.

Strategic Decision on Limited Space:

- Recognizing the limitations of her site (only 1000m²) and the challenges in creating substantial revenue from it, Xola opted to combine crop production with revenue-generating training and presentations.

Investments for Training and Presentations:

- In preparation for the training and presentations venture, Xola procured resources such as a big-screen monitor, laptop, and additional equipment.
- Capacitation in the skills of presenting and training positions Xola to be a benchmark in creating expanded food security through this unique opportunity.

New markets and Sales:

- She was going to market days and farmers' days, but it was not cost-effective.
- She is advertising on social media doing training and presenting and is expanding on that revenue income.

Xola's approach exemplifies adaptability and strategic thinking in overcoming challenges. These challenges ranged from difficulty in reaching the site regularly, to intermittent flooding and two hail-storms. Realising that the site could not produce sufficient revenue as a pure production site, Xola decided to re-position it as a learning site where students could do practical training on crop production. The integration of crop production with training and presentations showcases a holistic approach to sustainable agricultural practices and community engagement. With the enhanced water infrastructure and investments in presentation skills, Xola is well-positioned for success in both crop production and the training/presentation venture.

Members

1. Xola Sibisi

Objectives

1. To produce spinach and cabbage to supply the lucrative local hawker market.
2. To install 6 vegetable tunnels.
3. To install a gravity-fed irrigation system.
4. To register business entity and VAT.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Xola Sibisi

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Seed - Spinach Seedlings 1000	5	R1 897,50	R1 897,50	R0,00
Seed - Cabbage Seedlings 1000	1	R509,45	R509,45	R0,00
4.3.4. (33) Wonder veggies 1kg	6	R393,30	R393,30	R0,00
LAN 28% - Wonder kelpt 500ml	6	R378,74	R378,74	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Eco Insect Control 50ml	3	R527,79	R527,79	R0,00
Crop spraying programme - Efekto Clear up 1l	3	R877,85	R877,85	R0,00
Crop spaying program - Pesticide Efekto (cutworm bait) 500g	6	R273,66	R273,66	R0,00
Contractor's labour	1	R6 226,88	R6 226,88	R0,00
Soil analysis	1	R488,84	R488,84	R0,00
Wages	1	R4 000,00	R4 000,00	R0,00
Water	1	R1 000,00	R1 000,00	R0,00
Consumable items	1	R27 753,07	R27 753,07	R0,00
Seeds	1	R353,63	R353,63	R0,00
Summer Crop Fert 1kg	62	R350,00	R350,00	R0,00
Clear up Herbicides 1l	15	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Eco-Insect control	22	R1 595,61	R1 595,61	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R46 626,32	R46 626,32	R0,00
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	1	R977,50	R977,50	R0,00
Shaded tunnels 3m x 12m - Hlalele Bros	6	R8 910,00	R8 910,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 064,00	R1 064,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R3 040,00	R3 040,00	R0,00
E Angle tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 558,60	R1 558,60	R0,00
Tunnels titanium - Plusnet	6	R4 346,17	R4 346,17	R0,00
Wheelbarrow	1	R1 453,14	R1 453,14	R0,00
Garden rakes	1	R148,06	R148,06	R0,00
Hoe with handle	1	R236,30	R236,30	R0,00
Garden forks	1	R443,44	R443,44	R0,00

Garden spade	1	R260,82	R260,82	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 12l	1	R399,00	R399,00	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 16l	1	R378,99	R378,99	R0,00
Water tank TWK 5000lt	1	R5 560,08	R5 560,08	R0,00
Irrigation and Sprayers	1	R15 712,08	R15 712,08	R0,00
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R45 373,68	R45 373,68	R0,00
Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL				
		R92 000,00	R92 000,00	R0,00

Z-Squared

Overview

Z-Squared's Relocation and Nursery Operation:

- Z-Squared, comprising 2 members, relocated from Shallow Drift farm in Pietermaritzburg to Monastery Farm in Marion Hill.
- They have established an elaborate nursery structure, focusing on producing seedlings for the local market.

Challenges and Confidence in Phase 3:

- While facing unique challenges, Thabo Olivier expresses confidence that these challenges can be addressed in Phase 3 of the project, aligning with the goals set by Z-Squared.

Budget Overrun and Seedling Germination Plan:

- Due to cost overruns in nursery construction, Z-Squared faced challenges in acquiring all necessary materials.
- A plan was devised to germinate 1000 Giant Tomato seedlings, intending to generate income to offset the budget overspending. Unfortunately, all seedlings perished from excessive heat.

Management of Cost Overrun through Outsourcing:

- To manage the cost overrun, Z-Squared outsourced the propagation of another consignment of seedlings to an external grower.

Climate Challenges and Growing Conditions:

- Current climate conditions in the Pinetown/Marionhill area present difficulties in growing seedlings.
- Continuous 3–5-day rain spells and the absence of direct sunlight contribute to mildew and bacteria proliferation, posing challenges in maintaining healthy seedlings during the rainy season.

Optimal Seedling Growing Period:

- Recognizing the current challenges, Thabo Olivier suggests that the period from March to September will be the most conducive for producing quality seedlings due to more favourable climate conditions.

New markets and Sales:

- They lost several seedlings during November and December because of the floods and the heat waves in between.
- They are currently only growing seedlings on order and have an order for 4000 seedlings (lettuce, kale, cabbage and spinach).

Z-Squared's journey reflects the resilience required in agriculture, where adaptability to climate conditions and strategic planning are crucial. Addressing challenges and optimizing the seedling growing period will contribute to the success of their nursery operation. The experiences and lessons learned in Phase 3 will likely enhance their ability to overcome future obstacles in the ever-changing agricultural landscape.

Members

1. Zinhle Hlongwa
2. Zamakhanya Makhanya

Objectives

1. To relocate and establish the Z2 project on the newly secured site.
2. To erect a shaded structure for seedling production.
3. To obtain Nursery Seed trays for seedling production.
4. To install a micro sprayer irrigation system in the nursery.
5. To register Z2 as a business entity and register for VAT.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Z2 Nursery

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Contractor's labour	1	R11 700,00	R11 700,00	R0,00
Consumable items	3	R4 819,99	R4 819,99	R0,00
Seeds	1	R13 739,37	R17 447,18	-R3 707,81
Eco-insect control / Multifeed	1	R1 830,71	R1 830,71	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R32 090,00	R35 797,88	-R3 707,81
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Cement / Ready mix / Stone	2	R6 705,50	R6 705,50	R0,00
Material for a shade garden	1	R21 212,95	R21 212,95	R0,00
Poles	252	R26 431,40	R26 431,40	R0,00
Water tank TWK 5000lt	1	R5 560,08	R5 560,08	R0,00
Irrigation and Sprayers	1	R0,00	R2 716,60	-R2 716,60
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R59 910,00	R62 626,53	-R2 716,60
Overhead Costs				
Salaries permanent staff	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Marketing cost	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL		R92 000,00	R98 424,41	-R6 424,41

Tomato Competition:

The Tomato Competition is a creative and engaging approach to promoting crop growing while injecting an element of fun into the initiative. The primary objective of using the funds to offset overruns in beneficiaries' budgets and clearing excess stock on the mentor's budget reflects a thoughtful strategy to address financial and operational challenges.

The setback caused by the loss of 1200 seedlings due to floods in November is unfortunate, but the decision to re-grow the seedlings with another grower demonstrates resilience and adaptability. The successful implementation of the project, despite the delay, is a testament to the dedication of those involved.

The collaboration with businesses like RTS in Greytown, Chatsworth Garden Centre in Chatsworth, and KZN Nursery Supplies in Pinetown is crucial for the project's success. Their support as points of sale for seedlings and weighing stations for tomatoes on electronic scales strengthens community partnerships and provides logistical support.

The use of social media, particularly TikTok, for marketing is a savvy move. The post's ability to garner over 10,000 views within the first 6 hours indicates a strong online presence and potential for reaching a broader audience. Leveraging social media platforms is an effective way to amplify the impact of such initiatives.

Marketing Budget:

The allocation of the marketing budget to provide Gazebos, tables, chairs, and branding for A-Myle, Imisebe, Minenhle, and Xola is a strategic move. It recognizes the need for these entrepreneurs to present their products professionally and effectively, especially when participating in Farmers Market Days and Crop Production exhibitions.

The provision of Gazebos creates a dedicated and visually appealing space for entrepreneurs to showcase their produce. It not only protects their products from the elements but also establishes a recognizable presence at events. This can significantly enhance their visibility and attract potential customers.

Tables and chairs contribute to creating a comfortable and organized setup, facilitating smoother interactions with customers. It allows for a more engaging and customer-friendly experience, which can positively impact sales and the overall perception of the businesses.

Branding plays a crucial role in establishing a distinct identity for each business. The inclusion of branding materials ensures that A-Myle, Imisebe, Minenhle, and Xola can convey a consistent and professional image. This helps build brand recognition and fosters trust among customers.

Budget Monitoring Report and Production Plan

15 December 2023

Enterprise:

Marketing Budget

Activity	Unit	Total Budget	Total Expense	Variance
Direct Allocated Variable Cost Budget				
Seedlings for Giant Tomato Competition	0	R16 988,14	R16 988,14	R0,00
Contractor's labour	0	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Packing material	0	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Soil Analysis	0	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Contingencies	1	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Summer Crop Fert 1kg	0	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Clear up Herbicides 1l	0	R275,00	R275,00	R0,00
Eco-Insect control	0	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL INPUT COST		R17 263,14	R17 263,14	R0,00
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE				
Seedling planter	1	R885,50	R885,50	R0,00
Single shot dispenser	1	R977,50	R977,50	R0,00
Shaded tunnels 3m x 12m - Hlalele Bros	6	R8 910,00	R8 910,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 064,00	R1 064,00	R0,00
Plastic pipe tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R3 040,00	R3 040,00	R0,00
E Angle tunnels - DIY Superstore	6	R1 558,60	R1 558,60	R0,00
Tunnels titanium - Plusnet	6	R4 346,17	R4 346,17	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 12l	5	R1 995,00	R1 995,00	R0,00
Backpack sprayer 16l	2	R758,26	R758,26	R0,00
Marketing Materials	0	R54 000,00	R54 046,95	-R46,95
Water tank TWK 5000lt	0	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Water tank KRM 5000lt	0	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Irrigation and Sprayers	0	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Nondumiso Ngubane Shortfall	0	R1 806,61	R1 806,61	R0,00

Banele Mabaso Shortfall	0	R4 970,81	R4 970,81	R0,00
Z Squared Shortfall	0	R6 424,41	R6 424,41	R0,00
TOTAL CAPITAL COST		R90 736,86	R90 783,81	-R46,95

Overhead Costs				
Cell phone	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
Bank charges	Unit	R0,00	R0,00	R0,00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS		R0,00	R0,00	R0,00

TOTAL		R108 000,00	R108 046,95	-R46,95
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7. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Initial Comprehensive Description of the Mentorship Role:

- Lack of Briefing: Participants were not adequately briefed on Thabo Olivier's role, leading to misconceptions. Some perceived him as an instructor, while others thought of him as an employee.
- Trust Deficit: External gossip created a trust deficit, noticeable between weeks 12-14, affecting the mentorship dynamic.
- Internal Strife: Internal conflicts nearly caused the collapse of three co-operatives, posing a threat to the project's success.
- External Intervention: Thabo Olivier sought assistance from Banelise Mhlangu to address the trust deficit. External meddling and suspicion hampered the effectiveness of advice and proposals.
- Overcoming Challenges: Despite initial difficulties, perseverance helped overcome issues, and a trusting relationship gradually developed throughout Phase 2.

Initial Challenges at the Start of Phase 2:

- Misalignment of Information: Information provided at the start did not align with the on-ground reality at project sites.
- Land Use Discrepancies: Land use agreements did not match the baseline information, creating challenges for the participants.
- Competition-oriented Plans: Plans for the competition phase were geared towards winning, not necessarily executing a practical crop production plan.
- High Travel Costs: Excessive travel and accommodation costs arose as entities were not growing near their residences.

Corrective Measures Taken:

- Co-operative Reconstitution: Three out of four co-operatives were re-constituted, with Igayeso becoming a single-person entity under Kholeka Ntombela.
- Relocation: Z-squared, A-Mile, and Imisebe relocated to Pinetown from Pietermaritzburg, closer to their primary residences.
- Full Production by November: Despite challenges, all 10 entities achieved full production and generated income by November.

Challenges Faced by Participants:

- Weather Impact: Participants faced significant losses due to rain, hail, and drought throughout Phase 2, requiring some to start from scratch.
- Exploitation by External Entities: External entities exploited participants, fostering distrust, incompetence, and despair among them.
- Stipend Issues: Stipends played a pivotal role in the project, with irregular payments causing disruption. Some participants heavily relied on stipends, leading to threats of suicide due to non-payment or delays.
- Role of Stipends: Thabo Olivier suggests a clear definition of stipends' role within the project.
- External Interference: External entities utilized stipend issues to destabilize the project's progress.
- Extreme Consequences: The delayed payment of stipends reached a critical point where a participant threatened suicide, highlighting the severity of the issue.

8.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Confirmation of Land Use Permissions: Prioritize participants who have the necessary contractual use or permission to work the designated land. Ensure that legal agreements are in place to avoid future conflicts and challenges related to land use.
- **Stipends:**
- Stipends as Motivation: Emphasize that stipends should not be the primary reason for participating in the project; rather, they should complement the participants' commitment to food production.
- Clear Explanation of Stipend Payments: Provide a comprehensive explanation of stipend payments to participants, including the intervals, duration, and conditions of payment. Ensure participants understand that stipends are a support mechanism rather than the core incentive for project involvement.
- Strategic Administration of Stipend Payments: Highlight the strategic importance of efficiently administering stipend payments. Stress the negative impact of missed payments on beneficiaries, as it can create a trust deficit between participants and project management. Implement a robust system to ensure timely and consistent stipend payments, reinforcing trust and commitment among participants.

Phase 3:

- Criteria of the project: Make the ladies aware of what the criteria of the project would be and make sure that they understand the criteria.
- Additional Funding: To get additional funding to assist the ladies with input costs and get the fields back to full production again.
- Training and Opportunities: The mentor to train the ladies to give presentations and training at their local communities like schools, clinics, and government departments and create opportunities for growth in the community.

By incorporating these considerations, the project can enhance the selection process for committed and capable participants, establish clear guidelines for land use permissions, and ensure that stipends are understood as supplementary support rather than the main motivation for participation.

End