

Improving income and nutrition by strengthening diversified, climate-smart agriculture in women-led cooperatives in Limpopo, South Africa

Even three decades after the end of apartheid, the vision of better living conditions has only been realized for a minority of South Africans. Especially in rural areas, poverty, unemployment and social inequalities threaten peace. The high unemployment rate in South Africa is currently described as a national crisis. The systemic disadvantage of women is reflected, among other things, in the disproportionate unemployment rate of 30.5 % compared to 26.8 % for men (World Bank 2020).

Many people in the rural communities of Limpopo secure their survival through (subsistence) agriculture. However, the region's most dominant sector, has been increasingly hit by climate shocks, pest infestation and job losses in recent years - with devastating consequences for economic stability and food security in the region. The predominantly smallholder agriculture in the project region is largely based on subsistence farming, with limited market integration and very few farmers able to make a living from their agricultural income. Investment in their

farms and private sector support (e.g. mechanization, irrigation, improved inputs and credit) are very limited. Poor access to savings and credit, as well as a lack of skills in business management and marketing, contribute to women-headed households and farms in particular missing out on opportunities for income generation and having limited access to highly productive seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides that would enable productive and diversified agriculture.

Project Name	Improving income and nutrition by strengthening diversified, climate-smart agriculture in women-led cooperatives in Limpopo, South Africa
Project Duration	01 March 2022 - 30 April 2023
Budget	176.000 €
Current Funding Gap	5.000 €
Project Region	Maruleng & Mulima Municipalities, Limpopo
Main Beneficiaries	90 Women Smallholder Farmer 315 Household Beneficiaries
Funded by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
German Partner	Gesundes Afrika, Gesellschaft für Medizin und Forschung in Afrika e.V.
Implementing Partner	World Vision South Africa

At the same time, improper and ineffective production methods and poor crop residue management have contributed to soil degradation and water storage capacity. Knowledge and resources for ecologically sustainable agricultural practices - adapted to the already changed climatic conditions - have been scarce.

Our approach

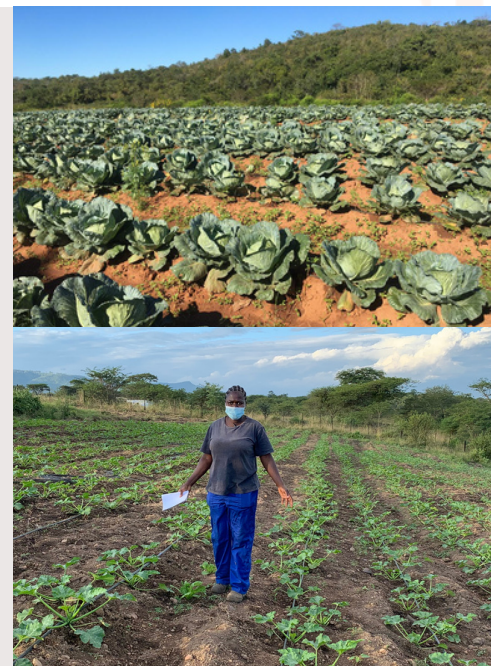
The project aims to support women-led agricultural cooperatives in Maruleng and Mulima municipalities of Limpopo with regard to increased productivity, diversity and climate friendliness of their farms. Through several training modules, members of a total of six cooperatives will be capacitated with agricultural, managerial and entrepreneurial capacities to transition from subsistence to sustainable production.

Output 1: The agricultural, managerial and entrepreneurial capacities of six women-led cooperatives are strengthened.

Output 2: The access to a more secure and balanced diet is improved through go backyard gardens.

The project is focused on three fields of action:

- Training women-led agricultural cooperatives in conservation agriculture, water protection, climate adaption and natural resource management as well as basic business knowledge, financial management and savings.
- Supporting cooperatives with business registration, equipments and market linkages
- Establishment of backyard gardens in the community for a more secured and diversified nutrition



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Gesellschaft für Medizin und Forschung in Afrika e. V.

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