WOMEN’S DIARIES
SNV Zimbabwe with financial support from UNWOMEN implemented a 10 month project in Murehwa District with the aim of establishing economically viable smaller holder enterprises. The Making Markets for Women (M4W) incorporated enterprise development into climate change resilience building by establishing an adequate knowledge base, mobilising capital and improving access to lucrative markets for small holder farmers.

This booklet is a sister publication to Stepping Up WEE published by SNV (2017) and it introduces the concept of using Women's Diaries—a concept adapted from CGAP's flagship ethnographic concept of Financial Diaries. It is a compilation of profiles and journal entries of the matching grant recipients of the M4W Project - 2 Entrepreneurs, 8 Groups and 3 Centres of Excellence; each entrepreneur / enterprise was tasked to tell their story, share their experiences and expressions during the implementation period. It chronicles the women’s journey interacting with SNV and highlights their level of understanding, skills development and ultimately receiving their equipment and how this is to change their lives.

Through their eyes, voices and writing their stories are told in the simplest form and are being shared to stimulate development practitioners who work with rural women to see things from the beneficiaries' perspective and demonstrate the potential in rural women.

**Structure of Diaries**

Each diary is segmented into 3 parts; The Profile; their experiences and the lessons learnt and their future desires Post M4W.

**Background on Matching Grants and centres of Excellence**

A Centre of Excellence is a shared facility that provides leadership, best practices, research and training for a focus area e.g. technology, business concept and broad area of study. For this project SNV identified 3 Centres of Excellence namely Kupakwashe Garden, Kupfuma Ishungu and Matututu Integrated and these Centres of Excellence focus on commercialising processing tomato and goat production in Murehwa District. The Centres aim to identify improved tomato seed, goat breeds and develop enhanced best practices that lead to increased efficiency in production of the commodities. The Centers also aim introducing low cost labor saving technology for the women farmers and also develop business strategies to improve profitability for the producers and processors.

The matching grants were targeting the women farmer groups and individual women entrepreneurs to improve production capacity, packaging/branding and product development; this was in a bid to stimulate and increase local demand for raw materials. The concept of matching grants for Enterprise Development was used to support on and off-farm women led enterprises. An Enterprise Development Selection Tool was developed and out of 35 producers from Murehwa District. The grantees were selected from 3 clusters Non Agricultural, Livestock and Horticulture/Irrigation and Technical Assistance was provided after due diligence was carried out to the 17 shortlisted groups and individuals.

The recipients received financial and technical support following a rigorous process of selection. They were required to submit enterprise development proposals, as part of the requirements of the Selection Criteria which was developed by the DIC and SNV. The Matching Grant recipients received a maximum of $2,000 in financial assistance.
“The women we see every day have ideas and power but they have to prove it and they have to work together.”- Male Champion Edwin Mujuru

“We developed our group’s constitution and outlined roles and responsibilities for group members from the Chairperson to the Committee Members.” – Kupakwashe

“We now have something to start with and we are hoping to assist other women in the community”. – Tabudirira

“2 members will write about our experiences as a group since interacting with SNV.” – SEW

“The training was on; Vision – each business should have a vision and we also learnt about the B’s in business which are – Beautiful, Brain, Bankable, Balance and Business.”- Tagarika Women’s Group

“I learnt that for a business to be successful, one has to be committed, dedicated, positive minded always and also to have paperwork on the business.”- Memory Dube

“We now have knowledge which can assist us when we do tomato production for our horticulture project.”- Kuwirirana Knitting Group

“We were happy to learn about cost saving measures for crop production using soda and dishwasher without harming the plant or farmer when filtering.”- Nyamukovera Project

“We had 2000 tomato plants which were good quality and they received all the required chemicals and fertilizers. Unfortunately the tomatoes were attacked by a pest called Tuta.” - Home Park Youth

“The coming of the engine reduces labour and saves time, we will be able enable to do other things in the garden eg bed making and pruning of plant leaves.” - Kupakwashe

“The signing process was very good and the team congratulated me for being successful and told me that I had qualified for the grant – I sweated and shivered with joy deep in my heart.” - Shingirayi Nyoni-

Chicken ‘n’ Egg

“We hope this will improve our livelihoods and take us to another level- change our lives as we will make and supply more from our honey, chicken and garden projects.”- MAPA

“We received a sign post written our name Matututu Integrated group from SNV and were are very thankful as now buyers will not get lost as they will follow the directions to our garden.” – Matututu Integrated
Kuwirirana Knitting Cooperative

Profile

Location _Ward 1 Nyamashato Primary School_  
Business _Knitting_  
Members _10 Females_

Group members are Georgina Guvamombe, Diana-Rose Muvangwe, Christine Rupando, Cheryl Mushangwe, Otilia Bopoto, Nyasha Sangombe, Annah Sachota, Polite Ruzvidzo and Silvia Ngadze.
**Group Information**

Kuwirirana Knitting was started in 1998 with members using knitting needles for knitting and they used to knit from under a tree. The group received assistance from a donor Ralph Pipit and his wife Roberta who were visiting Heather Chimhoga Orphan Care Centre (HCOCC). The couple assisted the group through sponsoring training for 2 members and 2 machines. The 2 Members then trained the rest of the group members. With time the group also received wool from HCOCC and knitted jerseys for the orphanage and Kuwiririna Knitting Cooperative continues to knit for Orphanage.

Proceeds from knitting have assisted with paying fees for their children however their savings were affected during the dollarization era and they requested for assistance Mr Pippti and he donated another knitting machine. To date the group has 4 machines, 2 working and 2 not working.

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**Our Experience and Lessons Learnt**

**Date: 31/03/2017**

**Activity: Workshop in Murehwa**

2 group members Rosemary Gwamombe and Diana Muvangwe attended a workshop in Murehwa which was facilitated by SNV. The members were trained on how to run Businesses and they were given forms to apply for grants which are supporting women. The rest of the group was taught how to knit hats and booties for newly born babies. Knitting has made us young members of the group appreciate woollen clothing as the items that were knitted were very nice and not old fashioned.

**Date: 04/04/2017**

**Activity: Internal Meeting**

We met as a group to receive feedback from the members who attended the workshop in Murehwa. They told us about how to operate a successful business and to be committed. We were informed that there are grants available for women's groups and this made us happy because if we are successful it means we can buy a knitting machine and parts for the other machine. To be eligible for the grant, a group has to be made up of at least 80% women and we realised that this grant is promoting women and advancing their rights. For our group to qualify we have to have a Business Plan and the business has to be profitable. We agreed to visit the Youth Officer the following day so we can get assistance to fill the form as we have to submit the form to SNV by the 21st of April 2017.

**Date: 06/06/2017**

**Activity: Business Plan**

SNV visited today to assist us with the Business Plan that we submitted. We were told that we had been shortlisted for grant even though there were a number of corrections we supposed to make and thought we would not make it. We were asked to get quotations for the things we wanted and that SNV will purchase the things from the suppliers and not to give us cash to buy the machines. We were advised to open a bank account for the group to secure our finances and to speak to the school head to market our jerseys and sell to the parents and suggest that the fees includes money for the jerseys.

**Date: 08/06/2017**

**Activity: Due Diligence**

Honour Mutambara assessed our group on behalf of SNV. The assessment was on our knitting business- what we have and if we have a bank account. Honour recommended that we should have minutes for every meeting that is held and also to mark the register.

**Date: 12/06/2017**

**Activity: Meeting with Roberta Pipit**

A donor from Heather Chimhoga Roberta Pipit visited us today. Her husband Ralph Pipit is the one who bought 3 machines for our group and assisted us in getting a room to do our business as when we first started as we used to use knitting needles under a tree. Only one machine is...
not working and it seemed as if Roberta was not happy and she asked us what we needed so all the machines can work. We also told her that we required Knitting Yarn but she said it was expensive and that she could not assist, however she was happy to see the new members who are young women and suggested that we could also recruit from the orphanage and she promised to buy the group material for uniforms for the group.

Date: 15/06/2017

Activity: Tomato Production Training
We attended a Tomato Production Training and learnt about disease and pest control in tomato production. We learnt about the different types of pests that can attack tomatoes. This training was very useful as we learnt about the seed beds and tomato varieties. We now have knowledge which can assist us when we do tomato production for our horticulture project.

Date: 06/07/2017

Activity: Contract/MOU Signing
We were told that we have been selected to receive a grant and the Chairlady and Treasurer signed the forms of agreement after the terms were read to us and we understood them with no objections. We were told that the equipment is property of SNV until it is officially handed over to us. We were saddened to hear that SNV did not receive any of our quotations and we were required to start the process all over again. We were asked to write down on pieces of paper what made us happy and what didn’t and SNV promised us that we would receive Diaries that we would use to write about our work.

Date: 11/07/2017

Activity: Dairies
Almost all members were present today except one member, we had to undo the backside of a jersey because the collar was not done properly. Some members were taught how to do a collar properly and SNV brought us diaries to write down our work related experiences as a group - the ups and downs of our business and we were encouraged to be hopeful as their parting words were “pray and it shall be well”.

Date: 17/07/2017

Activity: UZ visitors
2 female students from the University of Zimbabwe and the Ministry of Women Affairs visited us today, they asked each of us about our backgrounds and how we surviving and source of livelihoods and only 2 members were not interviewed because of time.

Date: 21/07/2017

Activity: Internal Meeting
A meeting was convened today and one member informed us that Tendai from SNV phoned and told her that she had not received the quotations for the machines. We decided that we would meet on Monday to discuss who would travel to Harare to get quotations. We also discussed other business ideas which included poultry production and we would sell the chickens to Heather Chimhoga Orphage and another idea was to make contributions of $3 each or a bucket of maize each.

Date: 24/07/2017

Activity: Knitting
Today we knitted a white jersey for an eight year old and as we were knitting the machine stopped working and we noticed it was one needle that had broken and that it needed replacement and after replacing the needle the machine worked well. We discovered that the person we had asked to send the quotation to SNV Ediate from Heather Chimhoga had not sent as they were ‘tired’ therefore we agreed to go Harare with the quotations.

Date: 27/07/2017

Activity: Diary Monitoring
Tendai, Sandra and Mr Mamwaunze visited us to check our diary entries and Sandra was happy to see the diaries were up to date and she also advised us to include the challenges we are facing and also to write down how many jerseys we are selling and the money we were making. It made us realise that there were a number of challenges we were facing. Tendai was given a quotation but she said it had missing items – carriage, springs and needles. We were told to submit
another quotation by the 31st of July and we tasked Georgina and Rosemary to look for the quotations.

**Date: 28/07/2017**

**Activity: Quotations**
Georgina and Rosemary travelled to Harare to look for quotations for the machine, carriages, needles and they managed to get 2 quotations. They made photocopies and called Tendai and gave her copies and they travelled back to Murehwa. For those who remained, we continued with our work and Polite made a door mat with different left over wool and it was very nice. We decided that will not throw away any leftover or burn them like we used to.

**Date: 31/07/2017**

**Activity: Internal Meeting**
Georgina and Rosemary gave us feedback on their journey to Harare and they gave an update on the quotations and that they met Tendai and gave her the quotations.

**Date: 23/08/2017**

**Activity: Knitting Machine Delivery**
SNV phoned and told us that they were delivering our machine today. We waited patiently and the machine came in the evening. We were so happy and we sang for the machine. When we received the machine we locked it up and never had time to look at it as it was dark and we wanted to go home. We gave our friends from SNV, peanut butter, ground nuts, sugar cane, sweet potatoes and bananas as it is a blessing to give with happiness.

**Date: 24/08/2017**

**Activity: Business Management Training**
Our leadership attended a training at Ingaui Primary School on how to run a business and financial management. SNV suggested to all groups to have books for recording the finances.

**Date: 25/08/2017**

**Activity: Returning the Machine**
We advised SNV that the machine that was delivered seemed old and rusty and that it had no needles and that it was not the one we had selected so SNV then took pictures of the machine as they could not take back because of the vehicle they had.

**Date: 29/08/2017**

**Activity: Returning the Machine**
Member from SNV came to pick up Otilia Bopoto to go with the machine to the service provider and return it. The rest of the group went back home as we did not have any wool to knit items.

**Date: 30/08/2017**

**Activity: Delivery of the correct machine**
Whilst we waited for the delivery of the correct machine, we knitted the back for the white jersey and we were so happy when the SNV team arrived and we inspected the machine and expressed that it was far much better than the first and it had needles.

**Date: 4/09/2017**

**Activity: Sign Posts Delivery**
SNV phoned us to advise us that they had produced sign posts for us and we were required to contribute river sand and stones. We also contributed mealie meal for traditional drink for the visitors and for the group members which we will have when were are erecting the sign posts. We also asked Mr Gomba who teaches people on how to use Passap Knitting machines to come and teach us on how to knit using the new machine.

**Future Desires /Outlook- Post M4W-**

We intend to open external Market in Murehwa and Harare, increase volumes of production from the current and except to employ 2 people. We hope to fight competition by reducing our prices and offering credit facilities to our customers.
Sewing Enables Women Cooperative

Profile

Location – Ward 1 – Nyamashato Primary School
Business – Sewing
Members – 22 Females

Chairperson – Florence Madamombe; Vice Chairperson – Erina Sikoti; Secretary – Bongani Simango;
Secretary – Kerina Mukumba; Treasurer – Iness Murungweni; Committee Members – Winnie Chimusaru, Maidei
Mapfuwa, Caroline Bejede, Tendai Zvirime, Mirai Tavengwa, Itai Madyorera, Catherine Gatsi, Elice Bopoto,
Constance Dengu, Memory Tambatiya, Respina Magoche, Itai Chinyani, Erita Chimhoya, Melody Mbundire,
Tambudzi Nyangumbe, Edina Chitate, Marcyline Dzopasi
**Group Information**

Group members started as evening school class in 1996 and started with knitting jerseys. In 1997, they started a poultry project for 3 years and in 1999 they sold all the chicken and bought 5 sewing machines. They started sewing on the 13th of April 1999 and the sewing is self-taught, only a few members received proper training. In 2002 the group bought an overlocking machine and in 2008 the group bought an industrial machine and in 2012, 4 more sewing machines were bought.

**Our Experience and Lessons Learnt**

**Date: 12/02/2017**

**Activity: Meeting with SNV**

This was the first day we were introduced to SNV, we received a phone call from Councillor Katsera and we were asked to attend a meeting at Inyagui Primary School. Each group was asked to give a brief background on their area of focus and 4 members represented SEW.

**Date: 12/03/2017**

**Activity – Meeting with SNV and Steward Bank**

As a group we met with representatives from Steward Bank and SNV, we were encouraged and invited as women to open bank accounts. We were also encouraged to work as group and we were taught about markets and the advantages of selling as a group.

**Date: 30/03/2017**

**Activity: Sewing Uniforms**

Today we received a phone call from SNV inviting our leadership to a training which will be held in Murehwa.

**Date: 31/03/2017**

**Activity: Meeting with SNV in Murehwa**

After the prayer, 2 members from the group attended the meeting on behalf of the group, we were asked what why we were invited to Murehwa and we responded by saying to receive funding. SNV told us about the grants that they were going to give to some groups which will benefit 500 women. We were given forms to fill and we were asked to highlight what we had and what we needed.

**Date: 04/04/2017**

**Activity: Meeting with SNV and Steward Bank**

22 members from SEW attended a meeting which was organised by SNV and Steward Bank. The bank representative brought a swipe machine and showed us how to use it and told us that there is an agent near us at Madamombe Shopping Centre. We were all advised to open bank accounts.

**Date: 07/04/2017**

**Activity - SEW Meeting**

Our Chairlady Mrs Florence Madamombe chaired the meeting and the meeting focused on encouraging each other to work hard and to sew more clothing. Our secretary gave an update on how many products we had made and the outstanding work that needs to be done which were 10 garments. The finished products were put on display for selling.

**Date: 31/05/2017**

**Activity: Meeting with SNV**

14 members from SEW attended the meeting, SNV came to assess what we had including the machines and what we wanted from the grant.

**Date: 11/07/2017**

**Activity: Diaries**

We received 2 dairies and 2 pens. We were asked to select 2 members to write in the diaries on behalf of the group. The 2 members will write about our experiences as a group since interacting with SNV.
Date: 12/07/2017

Activity: Meeting with SNV
Today at 230 pm, SNV advised that we were going to receive the grant and that they will purchase the equipment according the quotations received. SNV will also check on regular basis the use of the equipment and any misuse of the equipment will result in termination of the contract. After the end of September the machines will be officially handed over to us.

Date: 14/07/2017

Activity: SEW Meeting
15 members attended the meeting which was chaired by the Chairperson Florence, we agreed to teach orphans from Heather Chimhoga how to sew particularly those who are at the UZ and on attachment and we also agreed to work as a group.

Date: 16/07/2017

Activity: Sewing Uniforms
We had an order of 22 garments and 15 church uniforms for Salvation Army and 11 different clothing garments. For all these orders we received material and after sewing we received our money which we put in our cash box.

Date: 19/07/2017

Activity: UZ visit
2 students from UZ visited us and they wanted to know about us, what we do and anything else we are doing for a living.

Date: 21/07/2017

Activity: SEW Meeting
We held a meeting today to check our sewing business for the month, we sewed 100 garments and we managed to sell 20 and we need to make a plan for the remaining 80 clothes.

Date: 24/07/2017

Activity: Dry Show
Other than Sewing we are also into horticulture (flowers, tomatoes, vegetables, onions and chibage) and on this day 9 members attended the Ward Dry Show and we won a 50kg bag of D Compound fertilizer for our produce.

Date: 27/07/2017

Activity: Meeting with SNV
Today the SNV Communications team visited us to check on the diaries and also to take pictures and we were on our base stations.

Date: 02/08/2017

Activity: SEW Meeting
The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairlady Erina Sikoti and the agenda was to get an update on our finances as we want to buy material. We bought material for girls and boys uniforms at Nyamashato Shops.

Date: 05/08/2017

Activity: Sewing Uniforms
11 members were present on this day and the aim was to sew 11 uniforms but only 7 were made and 4 are to be sewn the following day.

Date: 22/08/2017

Activity: Good News
Today we received a phone call from SNV that the following day we were going to receive our machines, we were so happy.

Date: 23/08/2017

Activity: Our Machines
On this day, no one went home, we waited patiently for our machines which SNV had bought for us. The machines were delivered in the evening just after 7pm, we were hungry and had spent the day sewing our garments. When they arrived we were so happy that we danced and sang. We asked for lights from the deputy head so SNV could take pictures of the process.

Date: 24/08/2017

Activity: Training from SNV
SNV facilitated a business training with Ministry of SMEs and our leadership attended the training. The focus of the training was on Record Keeping, Register, Cash Book and
Minutes Book. We were all told to have these books and to work as team in our respective groups. We had a good lunch which was prepared by SNV.

**Date: 30/08/2017**

**Activity: meeting with SNV**
SNV visited us to advise us that they were making sign posts for our groups and that we should request for permission from our local leadership and the school authorities for siting of the sign posts. SNV informed us that they would bring the sign posts the following week.

**Date: 04/09/2017**

**Activity: Phone call from SNV on Sign Posts**
SNV called today to tell us that tomorrow they were bringing our sign posts and that we should bring a wheel barrow of river sand and stones as they would provide cement. On this day we sold uniforms and made $40.

**Future Desires /Outlook- Post M4W-**
With the additional machines, we will be able to produce neat and perfected garments with embroidery and overlocking. We will produce more uniforms in bulk of various sizes and for different schools and not just Nyamashoto Primary School.
Memory Dube – MD Products & Fashions

Profile

Location – Ward 23 Macheke  
Project – Value addition

MD Products and Fashions was started in March 2014 with small grain production (zviyo, mealie meal).
MD Products & Fashions Information

MD Products and Fashions was started in March 2014 with small grain production (zviyo, mealie meal). The company is led by Entrepreneur Memory Dube and she applied for the matching grant for value addition drying vegetables and small grains eg upfu, maputi and porridge. She has created employment for 4 people in her company 2 females and 2 males. She received training from Kunzwana Women’s Association in drying to improve the quality standards of her products to enable her to compete on the market and she also received financial literacy training. Memory Dube has won community and provincial accolades at exhibitions and she required packaging material equipment as in the past she failed to meet demands and targets.

My Experience and Lessons Learnt

Date: 6/02/2017

Activity – Meeting with SNV & DIC Members
SNV came to Kunzwana led by Mr Sarupinda and Miss Tendai Chipere to tell us that SNV was going to work in the district assisting women and promoting their businesses and linking them to markets for their produce. We were given a brief background on the organisation and this included that it started in 1983 in Zimbabwe and that it works in Agriculture (Horticulture) and Energy (Biogas). We were told that on the project will work with representatives from government ministries; Mr Mamaunze from Agritex, Mr Shara from Irrigation, Mr Mutangadura from Ministry of SMEs, Mr Tigere from Livestock and the office of the DA.

Date: 28/02/2017

Activity – Poultry Project
SNV together with Mr Shamu and members of the DIC met us the members of Kunzwana to tell us about the chicken project and those who wanted to participate were asked to pay a commitment fee of $100 to METBANK and one would receive a loan of $615 and inputs: 10 bags of feed and 4 drinkers. The bank will pay after 6 months on a monthly basis at a rate of $115. I joined the project through a 14 member group called Amazing Women.

Date: 15/03/2017

Activity: Account Opening
Today Metbank, Shamu Hatcheries, DIC and SNV were here to tell us about the importance of having a relationship with a bank in empowering women and the need to work with the bank. We opened our bank accounts, some with the deposits they had and they were asked to pay the balance when the team comes to inspect the poultry runs. We were very happy as women as for others it was the first time to open a bank account.

Date: 20/03/2017

Activity: Visit to Business
SNV and DIC visited to see my business. I demonstrated to them how to process small grains and showed them the dresses and table cloths that I make and things that were on display. They also wanted to see my business records and to know the challenges that I am facing in business and my future business plans.

Date: 10/05/2017

Activity: Business Plan Form
I attended a Business Plan workshop held at Kunzwana and I was happy because my business was mentioned as one with potential and that SNV had grants for women who had solid business plans. I learnt that for a business to be successful, one has to be committed, dedicated, positive minded always and also to have paperwork on the business. Record keeping is also important as well as value addition as it brings in profits. I also learnt how to write a business plan and I was asked to look for quotations for items we would want for our businesses.

Date: 28/04/2017

Activity: Quality Management Course
I attended a 2 day workshop in Murehwa at Chibhanguza hotel on Quality Management. I learnt that in making products one has to make standard and quality products
that can be sold on the local market or be exported. The label for the products has to be eye-catching to the buyer and consistence in the product production all the time. I also learnt that a business should be registered, and as I business person I need to abide by the business laws for buying and selling and also that one has to make products that are on demand on the market therefore one has to research on the products.

“To maintain your standards always and giving the customer what he wants at any given time and also have the sanitary measure,”

Date: 19/05/2017

Activity: Sweet Potato Production
The training was held at Kunzwana Training Centre and we were taught about sweet potato varieties and diseases that might attack the sweet potatoes. We were advised on the best variety that is profitable and the timing for the crop, fertilizers and harvesting it for the market.

Date: 26/04/2017

Activity: Indigenous Chicken Production
Mr Shamu and SNV representatives came to Kunzwana to teach us about Poultry production. I learnt that chickens need to stay in a clean environment all the time and they require vaccination and aloe vera. The housing size will be determined by number of chickens with the following requirements 5 birds per square metre for free movement.

I learnt that chickens need a balanced diet, carbohydrates, protein, fats, vitamin, water and salt. Egg handling requires a lot of attention so they can hatch and this includes storage, transport, temperature and ventilation. We were advised that the chickens we were going to receive from project would lay eggs after 5 months and that Shamu Hatcheries would buy a crate for $9 from us. I hope this will go well.

Date: 12/07/2017

Activity: Signing Ceremony
I had a great time at Kunzwana today, all the groups that were going to receive grants were present and we signed MOUs with SNV. We were told that we would receive our equipment soon and advised to take great care of the equipment we were going to receive and the maintenance. I am going to receive a vegetable solar dryer, sealer and packaging material.

Date: 5/09/2017

Activity: Handover of Dyer
I received my vegetable dryer from SNV and a Sign Post with my Company Name. I was so happy and this means everything is now moving forward as I have equipment. SNV again advised me to look after the equipment well and they promised to teach us how to use the items.

Date: 5/09/2017

Activity: Business Training
I attended a business training which was facilitated by SNV and I learnt about having a Business Vision and this included planning, commitment, self-confidence and being a risk taker. It is important to have more information about business and how to make profits, knowing the markets and making products that are market driven.

Date: 06/09/2017

Activity: Business Management training
I learnt that financial planning, budgeting and forecasting are important and one has to know the important books which are in line with their business such as receipt book, invoice, order book and expenditure. We were taught about Direct and indirect cost and how to do an Income statement for business growth and it was emphasised that record keeping is a daily process.

Future Desires /Outlook- Post M4W-
I will continue to produce best quality products for those who love traditional meals and will also reduce prices during promotions once in a while. I will increase workers from 3 to 6 as I intend to do packaging, labelling and sealing. My team and I will require training in packaging, food handling and how to manage finances and machinery maintenance.
Tagarika Club

Profile

Location – Ward 24, Macheke  Business – horticulture  Number of Members – 10

The group was formed in 2008 and has 10 members and started with 3 members as an ISAL Group with an aim to eradicate poverty. Now the group has 8 women and 2 men. The group is known for working together as a team. The Group members are Fungai Jeche, Alice Mberi, Ennia Mandizvidza, Mercy Katuda, Francesca Mukange, Heather Karenda, Felix Chapepea, Pamela Linzi, Johannes Chapepa, Karen Katsande
Our Experience and Lessons Learnt

Date: 2 February 2017

Activity – Layers Project
SNV visited us together with Shamu Hatcheries and they introduced the chicken project (layers production). From the meeting we learnt the broiler chickens projects didn’t have much profits and that the layers were more profitable. We also learnt about the good health practices of taking care of chickens to avoid disease outbreaks and deaths.

Date: 15/03/2017

Activity – Layers Project Registration
SNV visited us today together with METBANK and the DIC from Murehwa for registration of the chicken projects. As part of the conditions, we paid deposits and opened bank accounts which have a funeral policy and 5 members from our group signed up for the project. We were educated on the importance of having our own bank accounts as women and we were all encouraged to open bank accounts.

Date: 26/04/2017

Activity: Training on Chicken Projects as a Business
We attended a training on Chicken Projects as a business which was facilitated by Mr Shamu from Shamu Hatcheries. We learnt about constructing a chicken run, how to prepare food for the chicken and making use of mbesa which we grow in our gardens. Chicken layer production is also a profitable business as eggs are sold at $9 and as a group we realised that this project can improve our livelihoods. Other visitors were DIC and SNV and the training was at Kunzwana Training Centre.

Date 30/04.2017

Activity – Sweet Potato Production
SNV together with DIC and a Research Team trained us on sweet potato production and how to market the produce, how to make a seedbed and spacing for sweet potatoes and how fertilizer is used. We also learnt that we need to buy our seeds from reputable places which are the research centres within our locality.

Date:5/05/2017

Activity - Inspection of Poultry Runs
An inspector from Shamu Hatcheries together with SNV visited our Chicken group to inspect the fowl run. They wanted to check if the group was ready for the chickens and they emphasised smartness for the chickens and pointed out that a dirty person should not join the project and the chickens would not be delivered to a dirty place. We were advised to also have a play centre for the chickens out of the structures.

Date: 12/05/2017

Activity – Monitoring of the Group’s garden
A team from SNV, DIC and Ward extension officers from Agritex paid us a visit to see what horticulture activity is taking place in our garden. We realized that the location of our garden is not suitable and compliant to EMA as it is near a dam and we were advised to move to a place that is at least 30m from the dam. The team also recommended that we plant bananas and sugar canes.
Date 10/06/2017

**Activity – Due Diligence**
Today a consultant came to see is together with SNV to check our records, to see what the group does and who we are and if we have the capacity to get a grant that we applied for.

Date: 7/07/2017

**Activity: Matching Grants results**
Today SNV came to see us and they introduced their communication team and we were told that our group was going to receive a grant for the garden project we are doing. We were told that the items were going to receive were not owned by us but for the project and were told to take good care of them.

Date:21/07/2017

**Activity – Dairy Inspection**
Sandra from SNV visited us to inspect our diaries and check the entries if they are in line with what we are supposed to do and also if we are entering the activities since we met SNV and if they are up to date.

Date: 08/08/2017

**Activity – Garden equipment**
Today, we were so excited because SNV and the Irrigation representative Mr Shara delivered our irrigation equipment. We were very happy and we sang and danced as a group to show how grateful we are for the equipment as we never expected that we would own such equipment.

Date: 09/09/2017

Today we received the remaining pipes from yesterday’s delivery and we were informed that Mr Shara would come and connect the pipes in the garden.

**Future Desires /Outlook- Post M4W-**
With the equipment we received, we will now be able to produce more and we would like to sell out produce at Mbare Musika and Marondera Market. We expect to yield more and to more and all 10 member will be employees of the garden project and we will employ 5 part time employees.
Tabudirira Women's Group

Profile

Location – Maryland, Machekene  Business – Horticulture  Number of Members 10  (9 females and 1 male)

The Group members are Chairperson – Tracey Tserayi; Secretary – Florence Machando; Treasurer – Judith Nyakadzungu; Committee Members – Doreen Tagarira, Jesca Maseka, Youth Members – Rhoda Chimombe, Roshinence Mateedza, Stancia Mateedza, Munashe Andiseni and Male Member – Felix Machando
Group Information

The group started in 2014 with 5 hardworking members were into horticulture as an ISALS group. The group members were looked down upon by the community as they were either single mothers, married women with disabilities, widows or terminally ill women. Each member was required to contribute $50 every month and this was a way to uplift each other in the community. In the first year, toilets were built for each member’s household. In 2015, the group embarked on buying and selling goods and also in baking cakes, bread, buns and this resulted in 2 members opening tuckshops, 1 member started a flea market and the other 2 members bought inputs for their gardens and dug dip wells. In 2016, subscriptions were raised to $100 as members were realising huge profits from their projects and they ventured into self-command which is similar to the government agriculture command programme and recruited more members who mainly young people and 1 male.

Tabudirira Women’s Group has faced a number of challenges which included; limited access to markets for their products; no electricity, water and toilet facilities at the workplace and their products require labels to meet market standards.

Our Experience and Lessons Learnt

Tagarika applied for a Grinding mill for value addition to make flour, mealie meal for porridge and stock feed. They have created employment for 2 people who are working at the grinding mill.

Date: 07/02/2017

Activity – Chicken Production Training
The group members attended a training on chicken production and we were encouraged to join the Layers Project as it is brings huge profits.

Date: 07/02/2017

Activity – Meeting SNV
Since meeting SNV, we have learnt the importance of keeping records for our produce right from the beginning, when we plant them and right to the end when we sell them. We have learnt about health issues and also unity as women and working together.

Date: 01/03/2017

Activity: Business Management Training
We were trained at Kunzwana by Mr Sarupinda from SNV and the training was on; Vision – each business should have a vision and we also learnt about the Bs in business which are – Beautiful, Brain, Bankable, Balance and Business. We also learnt about opening bank accounts with METBANK and Dr Shamu advised us on health standards and that we should have a clean toilet, clean and safe water, refuse pits and fences for livestock. At the end of the training we were asked to write proposals for grants from SNV.

Date: 15/03/2017

Activity: Bank Account Registration
METBANK encouraged as women to open bank accounts and advised us on why it is important to have a bank
account. As members of Tabudirira we opened bank accounts so we could participate in the chicken project.

**Date: 26/04/2017**

**Activity: Chicken Production**
Today we learnt about chickens that lay eggs and how they are taken care of, the fowl run and the requirements for feeding and taking care of the chickens. As women were advised to have small gardens with tomatoes, onions, chillies, vegetables and aloe vera as all these can cure chickens when they get sick.

**Date: 19/05/07**

**Activity: Sweet Potato Production**
We were trained at Kunzwana on sweet potato production, where to buy treated seeds. We were told that before planting the seeds we should have a market first. We would like to thank SNV for all this knowledge that we now have especially on sweet potatoes as we can make puddings, bread and potatoes crisps from sweet potatoes.

**Date: 06-07/05/2017**

**Activity: Inspection of Poultry Runs**
SNV and Shamu Hatcheries visited us to see our poultry runs. They told us that chicken rearing requires good health standards and smartness. We were also told that the chickens will die if the place is dirty and that if a group member is not smart and is unclean then they should not join the project. Together with Kunzwana, SNV also told us that we should complete our structures and finish paying off our deposits for the accounts.

**Date: 10/05/2017**

**Activity – Tabudirira Membership Visit**
Today SNV visited us to talk about the grant we applied for. Mr Sarupinda emphasised that records are important for business and therefore we should have records for our business.

**Date: 17/05/2017**

**Activity: Visit by SNV & Ministry of Lands**
We had a visitor who was sent by SNV and the Ministry of Lands, an extension worker from WaterLoo. The visitor wanted to know what we produce and what we have been producing over the past 3 years and we were also asked about our challenges. This visit opened our eyes to the work SNV is doing.

**Date: 24/05/2017**

**Activity: Land Assessment**
Mr Mugodhani a representative from the Ministry of Lands visited us to assess the piece of land which were going to use for the grinding mill for value addition business in Mary Land.

**Date: 03/06/2017**

**Activity: Final Assessment**
This was a tough day but we managed to answer most of the questions with confidence. However we want to thank SNV for the way they motivate women to get into business.

**Date: 12/07/2017**

**Activity: Congratulating the Successful Groups**
We were all happy! SNV, the extension officers, Mrs Sitiya from Kunzwana thank you so much. We also want to thank God who gave us courage in all the stages. We now have something to start with and we are hoping to assist other women in the community.

**Date: 28/07/2017**

**Activity: Assessment of Books**
SNV expressed that they were happy with organised women who are keeping records and this will assist in running of their businesses and identifying problems before it is too late. We also met the communications team from SNV who told us that they will be interviewing us for the documentary and also checked our dairy entries. We were told to include our successes and achievements as group in our diaries.
Date: 08/08/2017

Activity: Delivery of the Grinding Mill
This was the happiest day in our lives' moments as a group. We never thought such a day will come, we didn't believe it ourselves and we thought we were dreaming when we received a phone call that our grinding mill was being delivered today. We received our Grinding Mill which is a 20 HP Diesel Engine. This showed us that SNV keeps its promise. We were so happy with what they have done for us and also for the village. Our local leadership, the village head thanked SNV for their commitment and partnership and what they have done for our group and also Kunzwana.

Date: 10/08/2017

Activity: Demonstration to Dr Wade
We demonstrated how to use the grinding Mill to the Executive Director of Kunzwana. This was the first day to use the machine and we used sweet potato and made flour. DR Wade was very excited to see the women working on the machine and we produced 3kg of flour. Mrs Sitiya encouraged us to continue working hard and business minded. Dr Wade also thanked SNV for supporting the women in economic activities.

Date 05/09/2017

Activity: Business Management Training
Mr Sauripinda from SNV facilitated the training together with Mrs Mushamba and Mr Mutangdura for Ministry of SMEs. We learnt on how to make our businesses grow, how to develop a business plan, market, transport, finances, knowledge, quality of produce, inputs and location. We also learnt the importance of records and Mrs Mushamba stressed the importance of soil ph. for farming business. Mr Mutangadura taught about the attributes of an entrepreneur and how to make profit.

On this day we also received sign posts from SNV, Sandra and Tendai delivered them. The 2 sign posts have our name Tabudirira Women's Group and one will be put along the Murehwa road and the other near the grinding mill.

Future Desires /Outlook- Post M4W-
We expect to increase our yields as our income is directly proportional to our outcomes, we want to increase from one miller to 3 because of packaging. We have also started horticulture and will be selling to other communities. We hope that all members will be able to build their own houses with the income we will be receiving from our products.
Profile

Location: Macheke  
Business: Horticulture  
Number of Group Members: 10

The group was formed in June 2015 with 12 young people, 6 males and 6 females through an ILO project which gave them agricultural inputs which included a greenhouse, chemicals, petrol engine, pipes, 2,300 tomato plants and barbed wire.
**Group Information**

The group was formed in June 2015 with 12 young people, 6 males and 6 females through an ILO project which gave them agricultural inputs which included a green house, chemicals, petrol engine, pipes, 2,300 tomato plants and barbed wire.

$2,400 was realized from tomatoes which were harvested between September to November 2015 however the tomatoes were affected by a heatwave and sunlight as a result of the low roof of the greenhouse. The proceeds from the tomatoes harvested were used to purchase inputs and spraying combat for the group, 2 goats and 6 road runner chickens and also pots for the women.

Their challenges include:

- Substandard material was used for the greenhouse and this affected the produce
- Shortage of water pipes
- Weather conditions also affected the produce
- Lack of knowledge on use of green house and also about horticulture by group members
- Conflict with Youth Officers as the Youth Club was asked to give other people their engine

In 2016, the group sold their vegetables to FAVCO, Brand Fresh, TM and SPAR supermarkets in Harare for a four-month period. In June, the group suffered another major setback after planting their tomatoes, their pipes were stolen and this resulted in all plants drying and also the group splitting. The group resuscitated in December 2016 with 12 members, mostly women.

**Our Experience and Lessons Learnt**

**Date: 31/01/2017**

**Activity: Workshop at Murehwa facilitated by SNV & Women**

We learnt about the Joint Programme for Gender Equality from Lindiwe Ngwenya from UNWOMEN, the other presenters were from KUnzwana, SNV, Steward Bank, Agritex, Livestock. This was my first time to be in Murehwa at Chibanguza Hotel.

**Date: 01/02/2017**

**Activity: Workshop at Kunzwana**

This is the day we learnt about competing for the grants and other people were casual about it to win or to get the grant and others were not serious. However, we Thank God as we take it day by day and we want to work very hard and fill in the Business Form which will be due in April or May and we want to get the grant.

**Date: 15/03/2017**

**Activity: Meeting with SNV**

Through SNV we were taught about chicken production and that this is a profit making project with a ready market. A clean environment is important for rearing chickens including the person looking after the birds who has to be smart.

**Date: 19/05/2017**

**Activity: Sweet Potato Production**

We learnt about types of nurseries, creating a seed nursery, treatment and spacing, land preparation and convectional tillage eg ridges. The time for planting is December to Mid-January and we can get our seeds from HRC, UZ and TRB.

**Date: 28/05/2017**

**Activity: At our Site, the Green house**

We had 2000 tomato plants which were good quality as
they received all the required chemicals and fertilizers. Unfortunately our tomatoes were attached by a pest called Tuta. We bought a pest control but it was too late and this affected our projected profits and it was a loss we never recovered our costs.

**Date: 19/06/2017**

**Activity: Our Pledge as a Group**

As a group we have pledged to assist the less privileged, we have 3 members who didn't finish school, grade 7, form 1 and form 4 respectively and the grade 7 and form 1 decided to get married and we pledged to assist the one in Form 4 and now she is in Form 5 at Macheke High and the group is paying fees for her education. We are happy to assist her as now she can complete her education and we also pay for her transport costs. For 2018 we planning to support at least 3 more youths with school fees and we are hoping that our horticulture projects will be a success and we will realise huge profits. Currently we are supply green vegetables to Home Park Primary School every Monday to Friday and we receive half the payment which is $30 and the balance pays school feed for our children.

**Date: 21/07/2017**

**Activity: Market**

Our market is affected by the current cash shortages in the country and this is affecting our pricing for vegetables at Mbare Musika and also in Marondera. Today, we were 3 people who were selling the same produce and we had to sell below $1 for a bundle of vegetables, our produce was better than the other 2 and they were selling for $1 for 3 bundles and we sold for $0.80 per bundle. From this experience we learnt that we have to have quality produce so we can sell at a good or better price.

**Date: 25/07/2017**

**Activity: SNV**

ILO gave our group inputs and building material for the green house and SNV gave us knowledge. At first SNV assessed us before giving us equipment and this meant that they wanted to invest us and know us. We were keen to learn more and to do more for our group, we realised we needed more equipment for our horticulture project- a diesel engine, pipes, fencing material and a knapsack.

**Date: 08/08/2017**

**Activity: Delivery of Equipment**

We had just finished working in the garden when a child came running to us, to advise that there were 2 cars – SNV and a lorry that was carrying our equipment. We were happy to receive our equipment from SNV and they have uplifted us as young people and they believe in our group and we are now determined to work hard, we thank SNV.

**Date: 10/08/2017**

**Activity: Meeting**

We convened a meeting as a group to discuss about the equipment we received from SNV. We discussed the challenges we faced before receiving the water pump and the pipes as watering the garden was a problem. We dug lines for our pipes as we want to maintain our equipment well.

**Date: 14/08/2017**

**Activity: Meeting**

We held a meeting to discuss the next planting season and how we want to increase productivity this time around because of what we learnt and what we have. We decided we will do potatoes, butternuts, vegetables, king onions and carrots. We will start with green vegetables and potatoes and plant onions and carrots in November as they are not available during this period. We are hoping that by the end of this year there will be improvement of young women’s livelihoods in our community.

**Date: 21/08/2017**

**Activity – Meeting**

We discussed doing other projects other than horticulture and we agreed to try livestock and we are hoping by Mid-September 2017 we should have tangible results and we want to try selling honey as well. We want to also have a tuckshop and have a butchery so we can sell our meat from the livestock and cater for all who want to buy meat even from a $1.
Date: 22/08/2017

**Activity – Meeting**
We agreed to have internal lending and savings scheme to finance our businesses, and also for our good as we will also get pots and livestock.

Date: 22/08/2017

**Activity: Discussion**
We discussed the possibility of getting a loan to finance our business and now we are in the process of applying for it.

Date: 24/08/2017

**Activity- Tuckshop Update**
A tuckshop is on our list of things that we want to do and it does not require a lot of capital and labour so we have started the process of acquiring land and we are asking to be located near us and along the Mutare Highway.

Date: 29/08/2017

**Activity Meeting in Marondera –**
We learnt about Business Management on why costing is important, the steps in calculating costing and record keeping. This is a way of writing down all transaction involving money into and money of the business. Now we know about the transactions and the importance of records and how this can improve business.

**Future Desires /Outlook- Post M4W-**
We have created jobs for ourselves as young people and we want to be self-sustained and we will seek for more land so we increase our income. We hope to produce a variety of crops and to pursue our business ideas and make them a reality.
The group was started in 2008 with 3 women and 1 men and at that time they were into poultry (broilers), as they received the chickens as a donation from the then Member of Parliament Mr Makunde and this is where the name Kupakwashe is derived from.
Group Information

The group was started in 2008 with 3 women and 1 man and at that time they were into poultry (broilers), as they received the chickens as a donation from the then Member of Parliament Mr Makunde and this is where the name Kupakwashe is derived from. In 2009, the group expanded and started the Internal Lending and Savings Scheme (ISALS) as part of fundraising and they bought 300 indigenous chickens (road runners) and after 6 months, the birds were sold. In 2010, the group ventured into flowers and by then other members were recruited with 5 more women joining and 1 man also. The group also made dishwasher and toilet cleaner however the business was not viable as they did not have any markets for the products. The group then decided to grow sugar beans and tomatoes in 2013 however due to lack of knowledge and inexperience in the crop production, they did not produce quality produce as a number of plants were affected by diseases and pests.

In 2014 2 members attended a ZFU workshop, they received training in drying fruits and vegetables and received a solar dryer and this motivated the group as they started drying mangoes, bananas and vegetables and they sold the products to local markets. The group also ventured into groundnuts which they grew and harvested and made peanut butter and sold to SEWAZ.

Our Experience and Lessons Learnt

Date: 26/02/ 2017

Activity: SNV
SNV is an organisation from Netherlands and is promoting women’s groups with at least 80% women and 20% men doing business including farming such as tomato production or goat production. SNV is facilitating access to markets for women under their UNWOMEN Project. They are also working with Avanos who provided tomato seed variety and they assisted us in giving knowledge for better yields and we were provided with market prices for the tomatoes.

Date: 8/03/ 2017

Activity: Assessment
Kupakwashe members were encouraged to open bank accounts with Steward Bank and Mrs Dovi from the Ministry of Women Affairs said it is wise for each one of us to have an ISave Account as it will be easy to get loans from the banks. As a group, Kupakwashe agreed to venture into tomato production as Mrs Mushamba told us that there is a company – Schweppes which buys tomatoes at 15c per kg. Although she was afraid to mention the price we promptly agreed to sell our tomatoes to the company.

Date: 9/03/ 2017

Activity: Land Preparation
We worked very hard in the garden, we slashed the grass and ploughed and the job was bigger than we expected as we were thinking it would be a small portion of land. When SNV visited the site, they told us that the area had to be 2 hectares. They also asked if we were able to fence the garden and we agreed.

Date: 21/03/2017

Activity: Land Preparation
We contributed money for someone to cultivate or to till the land and each member contributed $10 and the total became $100. For tiling the person charged us $60 and the balance we reserved it for other projects. The person cultivated half a hectare and the group continued cutting down trees and pulling roots from the ground as every member was looking forward for the tomato seed to come early but it didn’t.

Date: 31/03/2017

Activity: Workshop at Murehwa Culture Centre (SNV)
Different women’s groups were invited to the workshop where we learnt about SNV and that it is not a donor but it
is an organisation which helps women who are already in business through markets or empowering them. Present at the meeting was Mr Tigere from Livestock, Mrs Dovi from Women Affairs, Mr Dambaza from the Ministry of Youth and Mrs Mushamba from SNV. They told us that they want to give grant to those who write their proposals well. As Kupakwashe we received a proposal sheet to answer and it was to be completed and be submitted together with the group's constitution, membership records and quotations. We received bus fares and we were very happy with programme of promoting rural women and being remembered. After the workshop Mrs Mushamba and Member came to see our garden.

**Date: 11/4/2017**

**Activity: Constitution**

We developed our group's constitution and outlined roles and responsibilities for group members from the Chairperson to the Committee Members and we were required to submit photocopies to the DA's Office, Women Affairs and Agritex. We were advised that we had made it as grantees.

**Date: 18/05/2017**

**Activity: Planting Tomato Seed**

We were given Rio Grande Seeds for our garden and our ward extension officer Kudzi was present.

**Date: 21/05/2017**

**Activity: Scouting**

After 5 days the seeds started emerging within and we removed the mulch and used cooper oxychloride to spray the plants for the first time. We also observed that we were over watering our seeds and dumping off was taking place. The Agritex officer advised us to reduce or minimize watering the seed beds.

**Date: 31/05/2015**

**Activity: Receiving Inputs**

We had visitors from Avonos Mr Manjolo and an Agronomist Mrs Chimuka and Agritex. We received Cooper oxychloride, 25 g of Tejas and 25g of Rio Grande and as a group we bought 50g of tomato seed. We were shown how to use the chemicals 60ml for 20l and you stir until it is mixed. Mr Manjolo advised us to cattle manure to boost our seeds.

**Date: 1/06/2017**

**Activity: Planting seeds and applying chemicals**

We planted the second batch of seeds, mulched and watered them. We applied the chemical and put 120ml per bed of cooper oxychloride. We realised it is good to work with SNV because it works with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Agritex, Ministry of Youth, Health organisations, the DA, department of Irrigation and other departments to help our group.

**Date: 9/06/2017**

**Activity: Land cultivation**

The Agritex officers came to measure the land and divided into 100m x 100m and we were overjoyed as this made us realize that nothing will come if you lazy, but if you work hard God will bless you. To us this is a blessed year so far and our gift from God is having a good friend SNV.

**Date: 12/06/2017**

**Activity: Disking**

SNV facilitated the disking of our garden and this was done by a disc harrow and Mr Mamhunze and Mr Jokwiro were present and were motivating us as we worked. We continued to clear the land, watered the seeds and applied cooper oxychloride.

**Date: 14/06/2017**

**Activity: Filtering tomatoes and receiving Fencing**

We filtered our second batch of tomatoes using cooper oxychloride after discovering that our tomatoes were being attacked by a worm called cutworm. We received 800m x 6 barbed wire and poles for fencing our garden and 2 steel welders came to fence our garden from Harare.

**Date: 15/07/2017**

**Activity: Fencing the Garden**

Fencing was done immediately as cattle were now beginning to stray into our garden. The welders measured the area first and pitched the poles. All members of the group participated in fencing the garden.
Date: 21/07/2017

Activity: Land Preparation
It was a joyous day as we were cutting down and pulling trees and not expecting visitors and were surprised to see the SNV Team and the DA _ Mr Tangirai. Mr Tangirai encouraged us to work very hard and that our livelihoods depend on our horticulture project - “money is from the garden”. He also said to us that 'money is fenced inside' the garden and that things are hard economically it is difficult to get money. He expressed joy in the work that we were doing.

Date: 22/06/2017

Activity: Tomato Production Training
We attended the Tomato Production Training and learnt that it is a plant which belongs to the family of potatoes and cabbage. We also learnt that it is not easy to grow tomatoes without adequate fertilizers and chemicals and that there are a lot of diseases and pests which attack tomatoes including Tuta Absoluta which is found in ripe tomatoes. One can go to the market with tomatoes full of tuta without realizing it and sell his or her tomatoes. Tuta attacks the tomato through the centre part and it is spread by butterflies.

Date: 23/06/2017

Activity: Discussing the previous day
We discussed the training and it seemed every member understood the tomato production training. Each member presented what she heard and this is a good start for our tomatoes as we are going to produce good quality.

Date: 29/06/2017

Activity: SNV and UNWOMEN Visit
We recognized that SNV works very well with other partners and they visited us with UNWOMEN, Rozaria Memorial Trust, DA, Agritex officers, Youth officers, Ministry of Women Affairs, members from Irrigation department, livestock productions and village heads. We were delighted because it taught us that we are supposed to work with others and that women have rights to land ownership.

Date: 30/06/2017

Activity: Group Meeting
We were moved by the events of the previous day and we arranged for exchange visit days with other groups in our wards. We sent 2 members to Hamamaoko group to copy and learn farming skills and this was a good day for us.

Date: 3/07/2017

Activity: Pulling tree roots out
We brewed a local traditional drink for 14 people who were coming to assist us in cutting down trees and pulling stumps out. The helpers were from different villages surrounding us and by the end of the day the work was done.

Date: 7/07/2017

Activity: Making beds and transplanting seeds
We made 10 beds and transplanted seeds today. We followed advice from the Agritex Officers who suggested that we plant one tomato plant per station each to be 30cm apart from the other. We transplanted 334 plant for each twin row of 50m so we planted 668 plants on this day.

Date: 8/07/2017

Activity: Receiving Inputs
We received 8 bags of fertilizer and 3 bags of gypsum from SNV and we also received diaries. We were filmed whilst we working the garden.

Date: 10/07/2017

Activity: Mixing Manure, fertilizer and gypsum
The field officers taught us how to mix gypsum, manure and fertilizer together with soil using measurements that we were given. We used hoes to mix the ingredients into the sole and afterwards we watered each hole with 2 litres of water.

Date: 12/07/2017

Activity: Transplanting
We planted three twin lines of 167 holes at an area of
40m. After planting seed we mixed gypsum and fertilizer to the soil in order to plant the other variety Rio Grande. This time it was very easy for us to do the work and we had Hamamoako Group assisting us.

**Activity: Workshop- ZFU ECO-COMBO**

2 members of the group attended a ZFU Eco-Combo workshop and they learnt that Ecosure combo is a funeral cover, the policy holder pays $1 and the spouse pays $0.50 every month. For group cover, Ecosure provides a cellular line and a code and premium is paid within 48hrs of death of a member.

**Date 14/07/ 2017**

**Activity: Receiving Inputs and drip parts**

We received 3 x 50kg bags of potassium; 3 x 25kg calcium nitrate, 4kgs Omni boost, 6 x 1,5 (9 000m) pipes, 1 x 100m pipe, disc filter, 100 drip connectors, ball valve 63ml, ball valve 63-2-2, 5 90 degrees elbows, 2 tank joints, 8 threat tabs, 4 pipe joiner and 10 drip joiners.

**Date: 16/07/2017**

**Activity: Discussions and contributions**

We met at 8am as a group, the secretary informed the group that Mr Jokwiro had phoned to advise us to buy fuel for the water pump. We were not prepared to start buying fuel on our own and now it was too late to argue so we agreed to make contributions of $2 per member and asked Mr Jokwiro to bring us fuel the next day.

**Date: 17/07/2017**

**Activity: Developing the Garden’s Constitution**

We noted that group members were not coming to work every day because there was a lot of work to do and this resulted in a lot of absenteeism. We sat down and put a law to bind us to come to work daily. We suggested that one failed to turn up without reasonable excuse the person would have to pay a $3 fine per day and we also agreed to have a log book. The Chairperson resigned because she is not feeling well, she has sugar diabetes and high blood pressure and we voted for another chairperson as the vice did not want to be the position.

**Date: 18/07/2017**

**Activity: Planting and Watering**

We were all in the garden early today and whilst waiting for our fuel, we mixed fertilizer and gypsum for the Rio Grande beds. At around 9am Mr Jokwiro arrived with 4 ½ litres of petrol which he bought for $6 and we paid him back via ecocash and thanked him. We started watering out planted seed using the pump.

**Date: 19/07/2017**

**Activity: Tank and Stand Delivery**

Mr Manjolo and Mr Shara brought the tank and its stand together with 1 bag of cement. We were happy, we sang and danced around the car. The stand was very heavy so the car was moved to the place the tank was going to be situated. This was hard work but we did it whole heartedly, there were four men and four women and we managed to mantle the stand and mount the tank on top of the stand.

**Date: 21/07/2017**

**Activity: Filtering and Watering the Garden**

Since the day we transplanted our seeds we have been watering them every day. Mr Manjolo and Mr Shara came to connect the drip pipes and Mrs Mushamba brought us Abamectin and 5 bottles of Thunder. We asked for assistance for the younger plants and we were advised to buy gypsum and fertilizer and we asked our treasurer how much we had in the organisation and she told us that we had $50.

**Date: 22/07/2017**

**Activity: Purchasing of Fertilizer**

We sent one member of the group Edwin Mujuru to buy one bag of gypsum and one bag of fertilizer and we gave him $52. The costs were as follows; fertilizer was $34, gypsum was $8, and transport was $8 and the total was $50 and he used the change $2 for lunch.
**Date: 24/07/2017**

**Activity: Progress on Plants**
We were all happy to see our plants doing very well and we thanked Elijah Kwaramba for taking care of our plants during the night and preventing them from get frost by burning firewood from 12 midnight to 4am and he has been doing this since 15 July 2017. We watered the plants and mixed gypsum to the soil.

**Date: 26/07/2017**

**Activity: Water Pump Problem**
This morning, we were shocked to discover that the pump was leaking and we did not know what to do. However we agreed to water our plants using the bucket method. Though this was tough we kept on watering because we did not want our plants to wilt and die. We thought of the water pump we were going to receive from SNV, Mr Mamahunze from Agritex and Mr Tigere from LPD and they advised us to apply AN fertilizer to the first plants and to start pruning them. The team was very impressed with the progress in the garden and agreed that the area was too large for using bucket system.

**Date: 27/07/2017**

**Activity: Watering & Checking of Diaries & District Visitors**
We came very early to water the garden with buckets. We were all happy singing, talking and laughing while we were carrying our buckets from the well and each one was talking about their rest and pain for yesterday’s experience. We received visitors from DIC and SNV and our dairies were checked and were asked about the group’s background and achievements. The Head of Agritex in Murehwa Mr Makuvire, Mr Mirayatu and field officers Ms Ngairo and Miss Charewamanbo also visited us today. Mr Makuvire advised us to work together and not to back bite each other and that our rewards are from the yields and the garden. He also encouraged us to interact well with the field officers.

**Date: 3/08/2017**

**Activity: Water and transplanting**
We planted 1 twin line of Tejas and watered the ones we planted the day before. We also made six twin lines of Rio Grande. Afterwards we mixed gypsum and fertilizer but our fertilizer was not enough it only covered 2 ½ twin lines and we discussed the issue and all of us were required to contribute money to buy another bag of fertilizer. We then agreed to plant without fertilizer and apply (doloppin) after a week.

**Date: 4/08/2017**

**Activity: Transplanting and watering**
We transplanted 6 twin lines of Rio Grande and used bucket system to water all the plants including the first batch and all Tejas plants. We were visited by SNV, Mr Mamahunze from Agritex and Mr Tigere from LPD and they advised us to apply AN fertilizer to the first plants and to start pruning them. The team was very impressed with the progress in the garden and agreed that the area was too large for using bucket system.

**Date: 5/08/2017**

**Activity: Selling tomato seedlings.**
Only 5 members of the group came to work and the other 5 were attending church as it was a Saturday. Whilst we were watering, we received visitors from Matututu Integrated Group. They came to buy 400 Rio Grande seedlings for $10.

**Date: 7/08/2017**

**Activity: Transplanting Seedlings**
We finished transplanting Rio Grande seedlings and we watered as usual. We also applied top dressing to the first batch of Rio Grande plants and we sprayed the Tejas plants.

**Date: 8/08/2017**

**Activity: Spraying and Filtering**
We filtered, sprayed and watered 2 Twin beds of plants and members of Matututu Integrated came back today to buy 400 more seedlings again. This time they bought 200 Tejas and 200 Rio Grande.

**Date: 9/08/2017**

**Activity: Spraying and Fertilizer Application**
We watered, sprayed and applied AN fertilizer to 13 twin rows of Rio Grande. We received help from our neighbouring group Hamamaoko. They sent five
members to help with the watering since we were using the bucket system. We were very happy with their assistance and we gave them 400 seedlings as their tomato plants were not doing well. We thanked them for their good hearts, love and we asked God to bless them. We managed to finish early in order for us to rest and come to work early tomorrow.

Date: 10/08/2017

Activity: Watering and Filtering
We continued with the watering the plants using the bucket method, our male counterparts were filtering the tomato plants and we managed to water the rest of the garden that was left from the previous day. We watered 228 twin lines including 15 lines of Rio Grande, in total we did 2250 plants.

Date: 14/08/ 2017

Activity: Watering
We put our tank near the well and members of Hamamaoko came to assist us with the watering of plants. We divided the area into 2 equal parts and our target was to water one part today and water the other part the next day. We received visitors from Boarnges Apostolic Church which is attended by some of the group members. Bishop E Zungu encouraged us to work hard and he was very pleased to see the work in the garden. He prayed for long life for all us and advised us not to hate each other.

Date: 16/08/2017

Activity: Watering and Pruning
We watered 13 twin rows of Tejas and pruned them. We discussed the way forward with the drip irrigation as some members were complaining of backache problems and headaches and we agreed to phone and send a message to Mrs Mushamba from SNV as we were all eager to have the drip irrigation functioning.

Date 17/08/2017

Activity: Group Dynamics Training
We were 3 groups Kupkwashe, Hamamaoko and Matututu Integrated and we learnt that groups have advantages and disadvantages and that everyone must be respectable, knowledgeable and that every member must participate in every meeting and work hard. We also learnt about Farming as a business and to be a productive farmer you have to have a budget and seek the market for the crops you want to grow and list down the inputs with the assistance of the Agritex Officers. We were all impressed with the training as it was emphasised that we should be business minded. The training was facilitated by SNV Mrs Mushamba, Mr Sarupinda, Mr Tigere – LPD supported by Mr Madyira from Women Affairs, Mr Kapoto and Ms Ngairo and Miss Charewamambo from Agritex.

Date: 24/08/ 2017

Activity: Receiving the Water Pump and Pipes
We were very happy to receive the water pump and its pipes. Mr Shara from Irrigation came to install the pipes with assistance from Mr Jokwiro, Mr Mamhunze, Mr Miriyatu and members from Kupakwashe and some of the men from Goto Village. Everyone was glad as it meant that no more bucket system and switching to the pump system and this would mean that work will be easy. The coming of the engine reduces labour and saves time, we will be able enable to do other things in the garden eg bed making and pruning of plant leaves.

Date: 25/08/2017

Activity: Basic Business Management Training
We learnt a lot about business management and that a business person must be committed, a problem solver, people skilled, have a vision, risk taker, thinker, a doer and one who can plan. We also learnt that in business we have keep records of all necessities of the group.

Date: 28/08/2017

Activity: Structure Siting
The health worker Mr Madakudya advised us where to put the structures for sanitation and he measured and recommended that we must build all structures on one side and to use the other piece of land for crop production.

Date: 30/08/2017

Activity: Visitors from Best Fruit
We received visitors from Best Fruit Processors; Mr Smart Zongololo and Ropa Gwanetsa who told us about
their company and about contract farming and that Best Fruit Processors buys tomatoes between 15c/kg and 18c/kg depending on the quality and that transport is provided to collect the tomatoes. The company also buys mangoes, guavas and also oranges. They also informed us that they can speak to Cairns Foods as the company buys butternuts, peas. They extended an invitation to us to visit their plant that processes tomatoes and to us this was an engagement, we were very happy with the visit.

**Date: 9/08/ 2017**

**Activity: Receiving Sign Boards and Cement**
We received 10 ½ bags of cement for SNV, 10 bags were for building the toilet and the ½ bag was for mounting the sign posts. We were happy to see our pictures on the sign posts planting tomatoes.

**Our Outlook Post M4W**
We want to engage more companies and pursue the Cairns foods engagement through Best Fruit Processors and in a few years’ time all members should have cars. We were producing 1 tonne but now we are expecting to produce 4-5 tonnes.
Profile

Name: Edwin Mujuru           Village: Goto, Murehwa

Edwin Mujuru is aged twenty-six (26) and lives in Goto Village in Murehwa. He joined Kupakwashe in 2009 and supports women by encouraging and sharing ideas with them as he believes in gender equality. His role as a man in the group, and in the community, is to help people to see women as human beings who can contribute immensely to the community.
Information

Edwin Mujuru is aged twenty-six (26) and lives in Goto Village in Murehwa. He joined Kupakwashe in 2009 and supports women by encouraging and sharing ideas with them as he believes in gender equality. His role as a man in the group, and in the community, is to help people to see women as human beings who can contribute immensely to the community.

He received training in gender transformation and he is a male champion because he understands that women are important in our lives and they can do what men can do. In championing gender equality he has faced challenges with other men in the community because other men do not understand what gender equality is about. However he has also encouraged other men to join and support women’s groups and businesses.

My Experience and lessons learnt

Date: 10 July 2017

Activity: In the Garden
Working as a group is good especially with women; you can learn as well as share. In a group you can be encouraged to do better. The women we see every day have ideas and power but they have to prove that they have to work together.

Date: 14 July 2017

Activity: Challenges
Sometimes working every day without earning can be boring. It takes a good heart to continue working. Carrying buckets full of water to water the plants on a large area is painful. We don't have fuel to use for the water pump.

Date: 16 July 2017

Activity: Preparation for Planting Tomatoes
I learnt about planting tomato seed plants, how to space them, how to mix soil with manure, fertilizer lime, how to use spraying chemicals and how to water them without disturbing the plant.

Date: 17 July 2017

Activity: Preparation for planting tomatoes
We learnt about digging holes for tomatoes and their size and how to water the plants. This was in preparation for our tomato production.

Date: 18 July 2017

Activity Planting Tomatoes
Today we planted tomatoes and everyone was enthusiastic. We first put gypsum number 8, fertilizer 8. SNV together with Mrs Dovi from Ministry of Women Affairs, a representative from Steward bank Precious Sibanda visited our group. They spoke to us about empowering women, Ecosure, Ecocash, Isave account which can be opened with $5.

Date: 19 July 2017

Activity: Tank and Stand Delivery
Mr Manjolo and Mr Shara delivered our stand and 5000l stand and we were very happy as it will make our work easier.

Date: 20 July 2017

Activity: Group Meeting
We had a group meeting to discuss how we would work together and collected firewood afterwards for the plants. We filtered the tomatoes with copper oxychloride and lambda.

Date: 24 July 2017

Activity: Fault with the Engine
We watered the tomatoes using buckets as the engine
developed a fault. Elijah Kwaramba, a group member woke up at 4am to light a fire for the plants and I assisted in fixing the engine as I suspected that water might have gotten inside.

**Date 26 July 2017**

**Activity: Fault with Engine**
We continued using buckets to water the garden as we discovered that fuel was leaking from the engine and we encouraged each other to continue toiling using the buckets.

**Date: 2 August 2017**

**Activity: Planting**
We planted and watered the tomato seeds and we dug holes at the end of the day. We did 6 twin rows of Tejas and we watered 13 twin row of Rio Grande.

**Date: 4 August 2017**

**Activity: Planting and watering**
We planted 6 twin rows of Rio Grande and we watered our plants using the bucket method. We had visitors from Agrites, LPD, and SNV. They were pleased with the progress in the garden and they told us that we should no longer use the bucket system as the garden is big and also now that we have our equipment.

**Date: 7 August 2017**

**Activity: Planting and watering**
We planted and watered the tomato plants which were 9 twin rows of Rio Grande and now our source of water is low and I hope that we will have borehole as this will make our lives easy and also will be of great value to our project.

**Date: 8 August 2017**

**Activity: Filtering**
We watered the tomatoes both the Rio Grande and the Tejas. We filtered 13 twin rows of Tejas and we put fertilizer in 7 twin rows of Tejas. Our extension officer Kudzai Sharewamamababo visited us and Matututu Integrated bought 400 plants.

**Date: 9 August 2017**

**Activity: Watering and Spraying**
We watered and we sprayed 13 twin rows of Tejas and 13 twin rows of Rio Grande and we put fertilizer with the assistance of the group Hamomaoko. For assisting us we gave them 400 plants as their tomatoes were not doing well.

**Date: 10 August 2017**

**Activity: Watering and Filtering**
We watered 15 twin rows and we used water from the tank which was drawn using pipes. The women took turns to put water in the tank and we are just praying for a water pump.

**Date: 13 August 2017**

**Activity: Watering**
We only watered 24 twin rows of our plants because we were using the bucket method and it took us the whole day. We had a meeting to discuss what to do because of the situation.

**Date: 14 August 2017**

**Activity: Watering**
We did a lot of watering with the assistance of Hamamaoko group and we gave them some seeds. Bournamegetsi Faith Apostolic Church Bishop visited us and encourages us to work harder and prayed for our project to progress and be productive.

**Date: 15 August 2017**

**Activity: Watering**
We continued with watering as this had become our daily bread and it was taking time such that we were neglecting other duties including digging more beds for the plants and cultivating the tomatoes. The members pruned the tomatoes in the afternoon as we discovered that some plants now had yellow leaves.
**Date: 16 August 2017**

**Activity: Watering & pruning**
We watered 13 twin row of Tejas and we pruned the plants. Today the women complained about our watering system - the bucket method as they now have backaches and headaches.

**Date: 17 August 2017**

**Activity: Leadership training**
Before the training started, we watered twin rows of Rio Grande and the facilitation team included SNV, Women Affairs and extension officers. The groups that were trained were Hamamaoko, Matututu Integrated and our group Kupakwashe. I learnt about leadership, what destroys a group and the advantages as well as the disadvantages of a group. After the training I was asked a few questions about me as a Male Champion and about gender and I had photos taken.

**Date: 18 August 2017**

**Activity: Farming Budget**
We learnt that budgeting assists us in saving money and also in being organised. As a farmer, one needs to know the market before anything, the prices of produce and plant accordingly.

**Date: 24 August 2017**

**Activity: Receiving Pump**
We received a pump and pipes and everyone was excited and the tank was connected and started working. We also received 10 litres of diesel for the pump and Mr Shara connected the pipes for us so that we don't face any challenges when watering.

**Date: 25 August 2017**

**Activity Watering- Drip Irrigation**
We started using drip irrigation and we realised it was so easy and we filled the tank and we watered row by row whilst making sure that the water is not too much.

**Date: 30 August 2017**

**Activity: Best Fruit Processors Visit.**
Today we had visitors from Best Fruit Processors, they were Mr Smart Zongololo and Ropa Gwanetsa, Mr Madimutsa from Women Affairs and the SNV Team. Best fruit Processors does contract farming and they buy tomatoes for 15 per kg and they buy citrus fruits and butternuts as well as peas. They told us that they use their transport and come to buy the tomatoes. We also received 5 bags of cement for the toilet.

**My Outlook**
I want to engage more men to be supportive of women's project and I will continue support the women in this group. I hope the community will see women as important as I do.
Profile

Business – Goat Rearing  Location – Ward 1, Jonga Village  Number of Members – 20

Determination and perseverance are key to success and this ties well with the Group name Kupfuma Ishungu. Kupfuma Ishungu means wealth comes with a price which is hard work.
Group Information

Determination and perseverance are key to success and this ties well with the Group name Kupfuma Ishungu. Kupfuma Ishungu means wealth comes with a price which is hard work. 13 women formed the group on the 2nd July 2016 with the goal of raising 1 goat each and a revolving fund. Now the group has 20 members (there is need to ask about the recruitment of the other 7 – why more members).

It was all smiles for 20 children on when schools opened in January 2017 as each member paid $10 for school fees and in addition to school shoes.

Our Experience and lessons learnt

Date:

Activity: SNV & Steward Bank Meeting
SNV together with Stewart Bank came on this day to see where we were keeping our chickens and goats and this inspired as a group as the visit gave us strength as women. We learnt a lot including information on opening an account as a group, ISave Account, Ecocash, EcoSure. This information was very useful as it changed our perceptions and will improve our enterprise.

Date: 21/5/ 2017

Activity: Exchange Visit
SNV did not abandon us, they supported us and facilitated an exchange visit for us in Ward 8. We received knowledge on Goat Production – how to build a paddock, chemicals and medicines for the goats and food production. We left Ward 8 with a wealth of knowledge for our business and set to increase the number of our goats; we learnt that if a goat is well looked after it can give birth twice in a year. The organisation is very good as it opened our eyes and made us realize that even single women can look after their families. SNV advised on us on how to progress as a group –Kupfuma Ishungu in just a short while.

Date: 05 /6/2017

Activity: Delivery of Fence
SNV has facilitated a fence for us and this is a great gesture - kubaya dede nemukanwa and advised us to build our paddock. This has not only motivated us but led the community to be determined and work hard and the husbands are now aware of the projects we do. Now that we have a fence it means the goats are in one place and we can now so other chores at home. Our hope is that we will work together with SNV as we grow our enterprise and other community members can appreciate what we are doing. Our prayer us SNV will continue to support us until we can stand on our own and we will be able to support our families and pay fees for our children till they finish.

Date: 14/07/2017

Activity: Corrections for Fencing
The installation of the fence was not done properly and SNV asked the people who erected it to redo the job particularly at the corners. As this meant free movement for the goats and the fixing of the fence was done over 2 days. The process was a lesson for us and we became the school children and SNV the teacher.

Date: 25/07/ 2017

Activity: Livestock Production Training
4 members of the group namely Claris Tondore, Monica Mandisona, Maybe Masvaisvai and Maria Chimusaru were invited to a training at Murehwa Training Centre which was coordinated by SNV. We were provided with a place to stay for the trainings and we were well fed. We learnt about Livestock production, making profits, health issues related to livestock, where to get stock feeds and this brought to our attention that SNV does not discriminate and helps farmers to build their empires. Now we see things differently will follow proper channels in livestock production. This training has been an eye opener and when we came back we injected our goats as we had gained knowledge on looking after livestock. We no longer have challenges with goats as we know that if a goat is not well, we know what to give it as well as the
dosage and we are hoping our project will do very well.

**Date: 4/08/2017**

**Activity: Visit by SNV**
SNV visited us to check on the progress of the project and they commended us for building a trough for the goats and they advised us to build a dipping bath for the goats as well as a footbath for disease prevention.

**Date: 24/08/2017**

**Activity: Workshop**
We had an opportunity to learn at about Recording keeping at Inyagui Primary School. We learnt about the different types of records and their importance. The training was facilitated by Mr Mutangadura and it focused on managing successful businesses. Mrs Mushamba added that a project without records will not flourish as it will not have a history and direction and lack of information is disastrous. Mr Sarupinda also spoke about unity and being coordinated are key to success and all this was very useful to our project.

**Date: 6/09/2017**

**Activity – Sign Post Delivery**
We received 2 sign posts from SNV, one big and the other a small one. The big one has a picture of one of the goats by the rack and the small sign post has the name of the group and it is a directional sign post. We were very happy because now visitors from afar will know about us and they will know about us and where we are through the directional sign post.

**Our Outlook Post M4W**
We want to increase the number of our goats and hopefully by end of next year will have 100 goats that is our minimum target. Our dream is that we will be the first female car owners in the village.
Shingairai Nyoni aged 26 from Chinake village which is in Ward 16 Murewa District is the owner and founder chief executive officer of Chicken n Egg Farm which she runs together with her husband.
**Group Information**
Shingairai Nyoni aged 26 from Chinake village which is in Ward 16 Murewa District is the owner and founder chief executive officer of Chicken n Egg farm which she runs together with her husband. The main activity at the Farm is production & value addition using the post-harvest food preservation and reserve as team produces chicken (broilers, roadrunners/free-range chickens), fruits and vegetables (bananas, guavas and mangoes). The Dried chickens are in three main forms namely: salted only, spiced only, salted and spiced.

The project was started in 2014 and notable sales have been realised although the farm is operating at a small scale production level. On a monthly basis 10kgs of vegetables are produced, 2 kgs of dried bananas and guavas and about 30 birds a months as this has affected supplies to the local market as the farm uses charcoal to dry chickens. However, Shingirai has been able to construct a slaughtering shed and a secure room to keep the dryers inside which can costs for up to USD $3,500.00.

**My Experience and Lessons Learnt**

**Date: 3/4/ 2017**

**Activity – SNV Site Visit**
At around 0930 hrs I received a team of SNV members. We were in the garden covered with mud busy doing our daily chores. Their visit was unplanned and we were shocked whilst on the other hand were very excited since I had been recognised by the organisation. We walked around the yard showcasing what we had – the fowl runs, chickens and we told them about our sales, records including employment.

**Date:**

**Activity: Due Diligence**
On this day, I was expecting everything and there was need for adequateness. I was a bit afraid and scared of the whole process since it required more seriousness and due care in answering. This was a moment for me to do what I can do best and to tell my story the best way I can. In a nutshell I was supposed to convince as well as to impress the interviewer. The interview opened my eyes and evoked my emotions and I liked that moment. It made me express myself in real life and I was able to give the full history of Chicken 'n' Egg Farm. I felt that inside my heart that I managed to impress as well as score a higher mark because of the confidence that I gathered that morning to represent Chicken 'n' Egg farm.

**Date: 6/06/2017**

**Activity: Signing of Memorandum of Understanding**
The news elevated me and at this moment I felt honoured. When I was told about the goods news I was at work and it was unbelievable and I waited to hear it from the horse's mouth. I went home and I waited patiently to receive my visitors even though they came very late. The signing process was very good and the team congratulated me for being successful and told me that I had qualified for the grant – I sweated and shivered with joy deep in my heart. I managed to gain more confidence and truly believe that I was going an extra mile with this so called Chicken 'n' Egg Farm!

**Date- 14/07/2017**

**Activity – Dairies**
This was my first time to meet Sandra from SNV and on this day she told me to recall and diarise every moment of my life since interacting with SNV. I was happy to have a woman to woman talk with her. I was not intimidated at all as compared to the day of due diligence. Sandra helped me to tell my story ad express my feelings vividly.

**Date: 23 August 2017**

**Activity – Receiving of the Solar Dryer**
It was on the 23rd of August and I was very busy under the shade slaughtering my broiler chickens when
the SNV team informed me that they were on their way to deliver the solar dryer. I jumped with joy not believing the news at the same time and just after 3 hrs they arrived and I was still in denial mood. I only forced myself to ululate when I saw a very big dryer being pitched in my yard. I started to sing my favorite gospel song and I danced with the help of my daughter and husband. There was a photoshoot of the delivery and I was just smiling.

When SNV left I was in seventh heaven and I could not even express the joy up till today.

**My Outlook Post M4W**

I want to take my business to higher levels; exporting regionally. I want to have a website pages and I also want to mentor other women in the community to start up their own businesses.
Profile

Location: Njedza Ward 3  Business: Bee Keeping  Number of members - 20
Our Experience and lessons learnt

Date: 27 – 28 /04/ 2017

Activity: Improving and maintaining market access through standards and conformity
As a group we learnt that the Standards of Association of Zimbabwe is there to ensure quality for products is maintained for the health of the people. We have to ensure that the environment is clean and that our products pass through SAZ for quality checks and for exporting our products we have to abide by the laws and make sure that the paperwork is in order and also registering with ZIMRA.

Date -24/06/2016

Activity – Technical Skills in conservation Farming
We attended a training on conservation farming and we learnt that farming with cattle in gardens in soils that are not dry is very easy particularly in wetlands. We have to plant early and you have to plan early. All plant production should be organised and as a farmer there is no time to rest, our gardens should be presentable and where we store our crops should be smart. We should know what we want to sell and make money.

Date: 9/07/2017

Activity: ZPFWT Membership
As a group we decided to join a Whatsapp Group for Poultry called ZPFWT administered Mrs Nhapi from Harare. This is a platform for sharing and exchanging information on poultry production particularly now with the Avian Flu. Each day, we receive information on what is happening within the market for poultry production, information from the Veterinary and livestock production. The platform has assisted in marketing our chicken and quail birds.

Date: 10/07/ 2017

Activity: Signing of Contract with SNV
We were very happy as a group as we were informed that we were a grantee for the SNV project. We hope this will improve our livelihoods and take us to another level-change our lives as we will make and supply more from our honey, chicken and garden projects.

Date: 12-13/07/2017

Activity – Farming as a Business training
Our group was part of the training and we learnt on what a business is. We used to think that those who owned tuckshops or shops were the only business people. As a group, there is need for transparency and how the finances are handled and contract farming. We realized that we have to understand our business, the vision and whether it is viable or not, we need to be organised in order to be successful and not to mix things and do everything. Now we know the market, the price for vegetables and chicken and we need to prepare for farming on time and now with technology we can plan accordingly.

Date: 14/07/ 2017

Activity – Visitors from UZ Medicine Department
Another group of students from UZ paid us a visit to see the quail birds, indigenous chickens, broilers and the goats as they wanted to assess the goat milk. They gave us healthy tips on goat milk and we explained to them about bee keeping, the bees and the clothing required, how we pack the honey and marketing the honey. We also showed them our garden which has peas and the benefits of vegetable. We later took them to our water source and the grinding mill.
Date: 30/7/2017

Activity: Visitors from UZ Medicine
12 students from UZ through Agritex who are studying Livestock production (bee keeping, goats, poultry) and Crop Production paid our group a visit. They advised us about diseases that are common in our work. For bee keeping they said bees could be attacked by diseases if the bee hives are not cleaned; they also told us the benefits of keeping bees and use of honey which is good for people’s health. We then took the visitors to our water source the river and also to the grinding mill.

Date: 2/08/2017

Activity – Marondera SMEs Exhibition
We exhibited our Products at the Marondera SMEs Exhibition which we attended at a provincial level to showcase our products. We visited other projects and we learnt from others on how to do better. We sold our other produce such as rabbits, quail birds and we found buyers for the honey, where trainings for bee keeping conducted and value addition. We learnt that packaging is important and it attracts the buyer and we also require business flyers and business cards to market our projects.

Date: 3/08/2017

Activity: Receiving Equipment and Sign Posts
We were very happy when we received protective clothing for bee keeping and this will protect us from being bitten from bees and we also received sign posts. This means that people now know about us. The sign post was well written and everyone who visits Njedza will know were MAPA which is into bee keeping is situated. We also received Bee tool, Brushes x2. 2 pairs of gloves, 2 Bee Suits and we rejoiced that our business is now at another level.

Date: 4/08/2017

Activity: Receiving of Manual Presser from SNV
We received the remaining equipment from SNV – 2 smokers, the manual presser with a tank and 2 knives. The smokers are to distract the bees and the bees will be drunk from the air from the smokers, the knives will cut the honey combs and the manual presser will be used for sieving the honey. With all this we are going to pack our honey and we will be ready for the market.

We are overjoyed with what SNV did for us and we are hoping to continue working with them as they are promoting our honey project which is taking us higher.

Date: 11/09/2017

Activity: Garden Field Day supported by Seedco and Prime Seed
We attended the Garden Field day in Kadenge village and the cabbage production was very good and the seed was from Prime Seed and Seed-Co. We gained knowledge on new varieties for good yields and also how to grow our plants without compromising on quality; we were taught how to use chemicals and not to just plant one variety but to do crop rotation. Lastly we learnt that we should market our produce when they are on the seedbed not when the plants are ripe.

Our Outlook Post M4W
We will produce more honey and process it to add value before selling it and we expect to generate 2300 kg of honey per year and get $12190 after selling at $5.30 per kg. We want to market our products at various platforms including promotional material such as posters, fliers, Whatsapp Messages and also target Honey Apiculture Association of Zimbabwe, and supermarkets in Murehwa and Harare.
Matututu Integrated

Profile

The group has 11 members – 7 females and 4 males

Chairperson – Ectavia Mungwa
Vice Chairperson – Stewart Chipere
Secretary – Evanice Chinyani
Treasurer – Media Chirova
Security – Gladmore Chipere
Committee Members – Editor Chipere
Committee Members – Cathrine Hangazha
Members – Charles Mahungire, Nhamo Chipere, Believe Phiri
My Experience and Lessons Learnt

Date: 31/05/2017

Activity: Seed bed final preparation & sowing tomato seeds
We are very proud to be the first chosen group on Ward 4. May the Lord bless SNV for helping women in rural areas. We received 25g Tejas and 25g Rio Grande seeds and learnt about the good types of seeds. We hope we are going to work to until the Dam is dry. We were very happy and on this day we saw that SNV was with us.

Date: 22/06/2017

Activity: Farmer Training on tomato production
We had a training at Matututu Primary School on tomato production. We learnt that soil must be tested first; the different types of tomato seeds and the different types of diseases and how to treat them. We had a very good time and now we know about tomatoes. We still need more trainings as the training was short and also some reading books and pamphlets to learn more about gardens. We also need to be trained on how to be able to buy fertilizers and seed by ourselves and not only to be given- budgets.

Date: 8/07/2017

Activity: Inputs Delivery
We received 8 bags of fertilizer, 3 bags of gypsum and alcohol lambda and we were very excited as we can't afford to buy inputs and we realized how expensive they are. We agreed as a group to work harder and not to disappoint SNV with all the money they spent on us which will help us to feed families.

Date: 11/07/ 2017

Activity: Making Tomato Planting Stations
We dug holes with a rope marked 40 x1.5cm, we dug 15 lines with 260 holes per line and we managed to carry 8 loads of manure from the kraal to the garden using water cans. Digging hole using weeding is very tough and we were not able to employ people to help us because we don't have money to pay them and we had to it ourselves.

Date: 12/07/2017

Activity: Digging holes and putting manure and fertiliser
Today all group members and 2 extension workers dug 23 lines and each line had 260 holes meaning we dug 5980 holes, we started at 8am until 11am. We put 300ml of manure in each hole using a cup from 12 noon until 2.30pm. From 3pm to 430pm we put fertilizer and gypsum. We are now getting used to working although it is painful and today we did better than yesterday. Working together is good as it removes stress and also we share ideas.

Date: 13/07/2017

Activity – Using Fertilizer and Lime
We used 4 bags of fertilizer and 1 ½ bags of lime for 7280 holes and this was hard work but we persevered
although today we were less in numbers as women. We were only 3 women and the men were 7, the women who were absent sent their sons as they were complaining of backaches following yesterday's work. We learnt that when forming a group there is need to ensure more young people are part of the group and the elders should be few as they are not as strong and will not do much work therefore their main role is to give advice from their experience.

We were happy with the progress we have made so far in the past 3 days as we worked so hard and we have decided to take a break and will resume work on Monday.

**Date: 14/07/2017**

**Activity: Received Inputs**
Today we received 4 x1kg shasha Omni boost for plant stress management; 3 x50kg Potassium Nitrate and 3 x 25kg Calcium Nitrate at 2:30pm.

**Date: 17/07/2017**

**Activity: Planting and watering**
We were 6 today, 3 women and 3 men and planted and watered 2650 plants. We started work at 830am and finished at 4pm. The work is now getting easier and as women we empowered about leadership and not to be led by men all the time. We are happy with what we are doing as we were all working hard.

**Date: 18/07/2017**

**Activity: Planting and Watering**
Today the whole group was present, we planted and watered 4160 holes, it was good to work together and we started at 8am until 430pm. We have on challenge of a pipe which is has too many joints and sometimes it slips at one of the joints.

**Date: 19/07/2017**

**Activity: Planting, Watering and Filtering**
We planted and watered 3120 plants which we also filtered with lambda and we managed to finish planting and we now have 10000 plants and we used 7 bags of fertilizer, 2 ½ gypsum and we were left with 1 bag fertilizer and ¾ bag gypsum.

**Date: 20/07/2017**

**Activity: Filtering and Watering**
We filtered the plants with lambda 5c chemical and watering was a bit difficult because our pipes are very short.

**Date: 21/07/2017**

**Activity: Receiving Inputs**
We received 1 x abamecting I.B EC and 5 x100ml Thunder in the afternoon around 1pm.

**Date: 24/07/2017**

We held our meeting at 10am and finished at 12pm, the meeting was attended by 6 women, 2 men and the Coordinator Kapoto. After our meeting we watered the plants and we noticed that our plants are being attacked and we agreed to filter the plants using the lambda mixing with Omni boost.

**Date: 25/07/2017**

**Activity: Filtering**
Today we were 3 women and 1 men and we started at 10am until 1230pm and we filtered the planting using 30 ml Abamecting and 40 litres of water. Our problem is that most of the filtering taps are no longer working. We also received 2 x 500ml chlorothalonil fungicide, 4 x 500g copper oxychloride fungicide and 2 x50kf Ammonium Nitrate.

**Date: 26/07/2017**

**Activity: Basin Preparation**
We started work at 9.30 until 2.30 pm and we worked well the only problem is that some members were not attending the sessions because it is a requirement to donate food and they done have food to contribute.

**Date: 02/08/2017**

**Activity: Weeding and clearing**
We started working at 8am until 1.30. Today we were not in agreement as a group because of absenteeism due to a funeral, some were saying the person should be marked absent. Also food contributions are causing conflict as members are no longer affording 50c per day and this might cause a rift and some might step down.
Date: 20/08 2017

Activity: Filtering, watering and putting AV
We have worked so hard for the past 2 weeks together with our coordinators and now the work is easier. There were some issues within the group over weeding and we learnt that in a group self-control is very important and gossiping has also stopped in the group. However our tomato plants were doing very well.

Date: 30/08/ 2017

Activity: Best Fruit Processors and SNV Visit
We were happy to have a buyer for our tomatoes and to have an opportunity to work with Best Fruit Processors in the future and also getting a loan facility for inputs. We learnt about the produce the company they want and their terms and conditions as a marker to us.

Date: 3/09/2017

Activity: Sign Post
We received a sign post written our name Matututu Integrated group from SNV and were very thankful as now buyers will not get lost as they will follow the directions to our garden.

Date: 15/09/2017

Activity: Fertilizing and Watering
We were very happy with our tomatoes as they are grown and we have seen that we did very well although we still have problems with the filtering taps and watering pipes. We are working together very well and the men are listening to the women and following their plans.

Date: 18/09/ 2017

Activity: Sad News
We have worked very well with SNV and we were very saddened to hear that the project is ending and we were thinking we will be together the whole year. The group members were requesting for final training to strengthen the group as some members act as if they were forces.

We don't have a gift for SNV but only to say thank very much for the all that you did. May God bless you and we will continue working together via telephone.

Our Post M4W Outlook
We hope to have more young people in the group and also to maintain our new market Best Fruit Processors and we will also sell our citrus and mangoes to them.
Kuwirirana Group

Profile

Location - Ward 3  
Business - Peanut Butter  
Number of Group Members - 8

Kuwirirana started in 2015 as an ISAL group and each member contributes subscriptions every month.
**Group Information**

Kuwirirana started in 2015 as an ISAL group and each member contributes subscriptions every month. The group supplies high quality peanut butter and sells at Mbare Musika, in the community and to surrounding schools.

The group was recently given space to operate from at Chingwaru Primary.

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**My Experience and Lessons Learnt**

**Date: 2/02/ 2017**

**Activity: Meeting SNV for the first time**

We first met SNV when we went for an exchange visit with MAPA. We were asked by SNV about our group- what we do, when we started and how many we are. We explained that we are Kuwirirana Group with 8 members and we started in 2015 as an ISAL group and we make contributions every month. We started peanut butter making from our peanuts and we sell at Mbare Musika, in the community and to schools.

**Date: 28/02/2017**

**Activity: Planning to buy ground nuts/ peanuts**

We had a meeting as a group and we agreed to contribute $5 each to buy peanuts and we raised $40. We bought 2 buckets of shelled ground nuts for $36, we are planning on increasing our peanut butter.

**Date: 1/03/ 2017**

**Activity: Grinding the Peanuts**

We roasted our peanuts and we took them to our nearest Business Centre –Dandara for grinding and the cost was $7 and we made 54 bottles.

**Date: 2/03/2017**

**Activity: Selling Our Peanut Butter**

One of our members Linda went to sell the peanut butter in Mbare and she will return at the end of the month.

**Date: 9/03/ 2017**

**Activity: SNV and Steward Bank Visit**

We learnt about the benefits of banking our money as a group and why we should bank our money. Steward Bank Representatives spoke about Isave, Ecosure and Ecocash and we were encouraged to register our group.

**Date: 30/03/2017**

**Activity: Funds from the Peanut Butter**

All our peanut butter was sold and it was $54, we decided again to contribute $5 each and now we have $94. We agreed to buy groundnuts and bought 4 buckets which were $18 each and the cost was $72.

**Date: 31/03/2017**

**Activity: Murehwa Workshop**

We were taught how to write a business proposal and we were informed about SNV and its background and that it is not a donor organisation and would facilitate markets for women and that they would assist women in groups, groups with women only or 80% women and 20%men. We also learnt how to do a business plan, how to run a business and apply for a grant and was very useful.

**Date: 6/04/2017**

**Activity: RBZ Deputy Governor- Dr Charity Dhliwayo’s visit**

The Deputy Governor visited our group to see women's projects in Murehwa and were very privileged to have
been visited by her. We learnt from MAPA that they have a number of projects they are doing which include poultry, bee keeping and gardening.

**Date:** 9/4/2017

**Activity: Roasting Peanuts**
We roasted all the 4 buckets of peanuts and we took them to the local business centre Dandara for grinding which cost us $18 and we made 108 bottles of peanut butter. This time Winnie is going to sell the peanut butter and we will see her at the end of the month.

**Date:** 10/4/2017

**Activity: Rewriting Our Business Plan**
SNV Team came with our business plan and told us to add information that was missing and correct the plan. The other thing was to add 2 contact details and 3 quotations of equipment that we would want to receive from the Grant. We checked that if all the details were correct and we had to rewrite the business plan.

**Date:** 18/05 2017

**Activity: Horticulture Research Marondera**
We had visitors from Horticulture Research in Marondera at Chingwaru Township, we learnt about sweet potato production and this was facilitated by SNV. We were taught about crop and rich yields and the diseases that infect sweet potatoes. We also learnt that we can export sweet potatoes and venture into value addition; the products are flour, mealie meal, starch for alcohol and ethanol.

**Date:** 19/05/2017

**Activity: Roasting Peanuts**
We roasted 4 buckets of peanuts and these were taken for grinding at Dandara. We paid $14 for 108 bottles and this time Gladys is going to sell the peanut butter and she shall return month end.

**Date:** 31/05/2017

**Activity: Peanut Butter Sales**
Those who went to sell peanut butter have returned and all the peanut butter was sold and the money is $108 and we agreed to contribute $5 per member. The total we have now is $191 ($40 + $108 and $43) that we had from other months. We agreed that each member will contribute 2 x 50kg of groundnuts so we stop buying from other farmers. We all contributed and now we have 16 x 50kg and we will shell groundnuts on the 3rd of June 2017.

**Date:** 1/06/2017

**Activity: Due Diligence**
Honor Mutambara and SNV representatives visited and vetted us according to the Business Plan that we submitted. We were told that 34 groups had applied for the grant and only 10 will receive the grant. They checked our record books for our finances, and we were asked a number of questions which we managed to answer. We then decided to look for a place from the primary school for our project as we were operating from our homes. The school also has electricity as we applied for equipment which require electricity. The school gave us the tuckshop although there is no power we will make a plan for connection.

**Date:** 3/06/2017

**Activity: Shelling Groundnuts**
All members were present and we shelled 2 x 50kg of groundnuts which produced 2 buckets and we will roast on the 5th of June 2017.

**Date:** 5/06/2017

**Activity: Roasting Groundnuts**
We were all present and we roasted our nuts and we took them to Murehwa Centre and they shall proceed to Harare to sell the peanut butter.

**Date:** 30/6/2017

**Activity: Money from Peanut Butter Sales**
This time around some of the peanut butter was taken on credit and the customers said they will send the money via Ecocash meaning we have $56 cash and the credit is $18 and we paid our monthly subscriptions of $5 each.
Date: 10/07/ 2017

Activity: Signing of Contracts with SNV
SNV brought the contract and Mr Mutangadura from Ministry of SMEs read and explained the contract to us as it was written in English so that we could understand it better. The local leadership of Ward 3 was present and this included Councillor Munukwi who supports us. The Chairperson and the treasurer signed the forms and we were informed that we made in the top 10 for the grants. We were delighted that were going to receive a grant worth $2000. We were told that the SNV programme would end on the 31st of September and that SNV will monitor the use of the equipment and if we misuse or abuse the equipment it would be taken back by SNV. We were also informed that SNV would take videos and pictures of our project for their documentary.

Date: 15/07/2017

Activity: Shelling Groundnuts & Growing our Business
We shelled 2x 50kgs of groundnuts which produced 2 buckets for grinding. During the shelling process we discussed that we buy AN fertilizer from our funds and the total funds required was $272 which included bus fare and transportation. We agreed to contribute 50kg of each of maize for resale and the proceeds will go towards the peanut butter project and purchasing of 4 wood spoons, 4 pots for our group.

Date: 17/07/2017

Activity: Shelling and Grinding Peanuts
We roasted our peanuts and the nuts were taken for grinding and tomorrow a member will take the peanut butter to Harare. One member had gone to buy the fertilizer and everyone brought their maize. We run out firewood for roasting and bought firewood worth $8 a truckload which will be delivered on Friday.

Date: 10 August 2017

Activity: Winnowing and Roasting Peanuts
All members were present and we divided ourselves into groups, 3 members to do winnowing, 2 members to sort the peanuts and 3 members to roast the peanuts and we worked as a team and everything went well. We will meet tomorrow to grind out nuts.

Date: 11 August 2017

Activity: Grinding of Peanuts
We managed to make 3 buckets of peanut butter and this will be sold in Harare during the month end.

Date: 17 August 2017

Activity: SNV's Visit
SNV visited us to check on the diary entries although not all members were not present as some had gone home. Our diaries were not complete and we were encouraged to continue writing.

Date: 31 August 2017

Activity: Peanut Butter Sales
Sales this month were better and the $34 credit was paid and we happy as our fund is increasing. We agreed to buy Compound D for each member on Monday and the delivery will be door to door and was given to another sell who will advise when the peanut butter was sold.
Date: 03/09/ 2017

Activity: Electrification of the Tuckshop
An electrician came to connect the electricity and we paid for the service and we will pay the balance when we start using the electric machine.

Date: 6/09/2017

Activity: Sign Post Delivery
Our sign post was delivered written Kuwirirana Women's Group and were very happy as this showed us that we have a strong relationship with SNV and pictures were taken with us standing by the pictures “tapindawo maMamonya ipapo”. The sign post means that we are now on higher levels and it has increased our visibility and our business will grow and increase. Whenever a person sees a sign post they will want to know more about us and we put this sign post at Chingwaru Business Centre because it will attract a lot of people and this where will be operating from once we have electricity. Tomorrow will receive our Peanut butter machine and the Shelling machine will be delivered soon.

Date: 7 September 2017

Activity: Peanut Butter Machine Delivery
DIC members Mr Tigere and Mr Mamhunze delivered the peanut Butter machine and we were happy to receive it and our Extension Officer was present. We tested out the machine, when we switched it on for the first time we ran away because of the noise as we were not used to the sound. The machine worked well and produced good quality peanut butter. We were overjoyed by our machine, which is big and this has never happened before in our Ward and the community was also happy. We are grateful to SNV for facilitating this, may God bless them.

Date: 9/09/ 2017

Activity: Official Use of the Peanut Butter Machine
We started using our machine today and we produced 2 buckets and the community supported us by grinding their groundnuts at our tuckshop.

Date: 11/09/2017

Activity: Selling our Peanut Butter & Electricity Challenge
The Chairperson went to sell our peanut butter and she shall return at the end of the month, we will shell nuts on the 13th of September 2017. We were happy with our peanut butter project and the money we were making from grinding nuts for the community however today we faced a challenge which pained us. ZESA personnel came to the school to switch off our electricity supply because the electricity for the school is under domestic and not commercial for our machine which they said is for light industry. Because of this, we are now a step behind as we cannot afford to connect to commercial and the school also has no money so we decided to write a letter to our MP requesting for assistance.

Date: 12/09/ 2017

Activity: Delivery of Shelling Machine and Photo Shoot.
We were glad to receive our shelling machine for our groundnuts even though we were still sad about the electricity challenge. SNV delivered our sheller and took pictures and videos of the process. We thank our Headmistress who stood by us and supported us on the issue of electricity and we managed to demonstrate the peanut butter making process for the video shoot with the assistance of the head and a staff member who ran around to ensure we had electricity supply from one of the teacher’s houses.

Date: 13/09/2017

Activity: Shelling Groundnuts
We shelled 2 x 50kgs of groundnuts and we winnowed the nuts and we agreed to meet on the 18th of September to roast the groundnuts.

Date: 18/09/2017

Activity: Roasting Groundnuts
We managed to roast 2 buckets of groundnuts and tomorrow they will go for grinding and off for selling and the person will return at the end of the month.

Our Outlook Post M4W
We this equipment we expect the project to expand from 400 bottles to 2000 bottles and we will also assist the local community with shelling and charging a small fee. We expect to employ to male workers on full time since the equipment requires to be operated on a daily basis. Our starting point now is to ensure we have electricity restored.
Nyamukovera project has a membership of 28 women, Gatsi Village in Ward 1 in Murehwa District. Their enterprise is largely horticultural production and they are struggling with water use efficiency, which is affecting productivity.
My Experience and Lessons Learnt

Date: 11/05/2017

Activity: Meeting with SNV & Steward Bank
We were told we could receive assistance from SNV eg material and equipment for our garden. We also met representatives from Steward Bank, who spoke about the services the bank provides which include Ecocash and we were advised on the requirement one needs to open an account.

Date: 15/06/2017

Activity: Workshop- Avanos and SNV Training
We attended a workshop and learnt about crop varieties such as tomatoes, watermelon, cucumber, cabbage and carrots. We were happy to learn about cost saving measures for crop production using soda and dishwasher without harming the plant or farmer when filtering. We were advised to be smart when working with our tomato seeds. During the training we received our solar dryer and we were very happy because this cemented our lessons on value addition.

Date: 6 July 2017

Activity: Signing Agreement with SNV
Today we signed an agreement with SNV and we were told that we will be working together until 30 September 2017. We were happy with this agreement as it is a covenant between us and SNV and it meant that we will be monitored during the period we will be working together. We were officially told that our business proposal for $2000 was successful. We were so excited because this meant that we now had a booster for our production and the equipment that we wanted we were now going to receive it.

Date: 12/07/2017

Activity: Handover of Food Processing Equipment from ILO
In addition to the support from ILO for our group under the JPGE of a solar dryer, we received 2 weighing scales (one which weighs up to 30 kg and the other up to 100kg); heat sealer, cling wrapping machine, vacuum sealer and the table inputs, engine, solar pump, tank, fence and dryer.

Group Information

Nyamukovera project has a membership of 28 women, Gatsi Village in Ward 1 in Murehwa District. Their enterprise is largely horticultural production and they are struggling with water use efficiency, which is affecting productivity. The group has been in business for 18 months and their major products are tomatoes, butternuts, peas, green maize, onions and fine beans. The group sells the produce to community members, Shamva market and Mbare Msika. Prior to interaction with SNV, Nyamukovera Project received support from ILO under the JPGE in the form a solar dryer, 2 weighing scales (one which weighs up to 30 kg and the other up to 100kg); heat sealer, cling wrapping machine, vacuum sealer and the table inputs, engine, solar pump, tank, fence and dryer.

The major challenges the group is facing are markets and prices for their produce- at times they have to lower their prices because of 'middlemen' who rip them off. Transport is also a challenge they have to fork out a lot of money to get their produce to the market places and sometimes the transport is not readily available and they like to sell their produce when they are fresh. Inputs and water issues have also affected their horticulture production.
This equipment works with a generator and we were all taught how to use the equipment. We were overjoyed with the equipment as this meant that we were moving forward in the programme. Congratulations Nyamukovera.

**Date: 13/07/2017**

**Activity: Subdividing the garden into equal parts**
The SNV Team came with Mr Jokwiro the Supervisor for extension workers to subdivide our garden. This was being done so we could do crop rotation and so that our garden is uniform and it would assist in controlling pests and diseases. We glad for the subdivision as it will now be easy to do crop rotation.

**Date: 17/07/ 2017**

**Activity: Discussions with UZ Staff**
We had a great today as we had discussions with visitors from the University of Zimbabwe. The visitors asked about the background of the Project, when we started; the current status and our future. The discussion was good and open and we answered the questions well. They showed interest in us and expressed how articulate we were in answering the questions. We were honoured for being remembered by visitors from UZ who admired our project and this meant that name Nyamukovera Project is going places. They brought us drinks and biscuits for the meeting.

**Date: 17/07/ 2017**

**Activity: Meeting with Patricia Mabviko and Farai**
Today was an unforgettable day as we had pictures taken by Farai and Patricia. Everyone was taken a picture whilst working in the garden and smiles were written all over our faces. We were told the pictures would go abroad. Afterwards there were different interviews, demonstrations of the diesel engine, solar dryer and how to dry and pack. Patricia and her team were amazed by the positive change in our group since we started, this made us happy because everyone who is visiting us and expressing how organised our group is and how well we are working and the progress in the garden.

**Date: 24/07/ 2017**

**Activity: Meeting with WIC Team**
The Ward Implementing Committee visited us to check on progress regarding preparations for the Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development's visit- Honourable Nyasha Chikwinya. They inspected the garden and progress on speeches. We did rehearsals for them and showed them how ready we are.

**Date: 26/07/2017**

**Activity: Meeting with ILO Director and SIDA**
This was a big day as we met with the ILO Director Miss Opolang Pororo and the Head of SIDA. The objective of their visit was to bid us farewell as the agreement of working together was coming to an end. They handed over all the equipment they donated to us and they were happy with how we were using the equipment since knowing them 3 years ago and the unity in the group. It is now our turn to look after the equipment well and to work hard.

We agreed as a group to work very hard and to maintain our garden on our own as we have just be weaned. Forward ever, backward never!

**Date: 27/07/2017**

**Activity: Receiving Fertilizer from SNV**
SNV and our ward extension officer, Mr Makuvire, Mr Miriyatu, Mrs Ngairo and the DIC represented by Mr Mamhunze visited us today. The objective of the visit was to check on progress on the tomato production. Our tomatoes are better after being affected by the cold weather. We showed the visitors the equipment we received which included the solar dryer for our value addition project. We received 100kg of AN Fertilizer for the tomatoes from SNV. Mr Sarupinda inspected this diary and I saw him smiling meaning he was happy to with that he was reading. He suggested we insert a way forward for each activity that we record in the diary.

**Date: 1/08/2017**

**Activity: Minister of Women Affairs’ Visit**
We had a great time because we were visited by the
Permanent Secretary of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development who was representing Minister Nyasha Chikwinya. There was a discussion on how the project started, where we are now and the future plans. The Permanent Secretary was satisfied with progress regarding the project and encouraged us to continue working hard. We did demonstrations using the value addition machines which we were given by ILO.

Way forward: We submitted our request for a generator as our machines use a generator.

**Date: 14/08/2017**

**Activity: General Meeting**

It has been a while since we met as a group to discuss our project and today we got the opportunity. The reasons for not meeting were the busy schedules and preparing for the different visitors. We discussed our crop productions which are doing well and the ones not doing well- the tomatoes are not doing well because of lack of water. The pipes are now long overdue as we signed the Grant agreement a while back.

Way forward: We discussed and agreed that we will work on what we have in the garden and not to continue planting. Group members will assist each other in using buckets to water the plants and to mulch all plants. Works days have increased as it is now hot.

**Date: 21/08/2017**

**Activity: Receiving Water Melon Seeds**

Our friends whom we are working with on this agreement SNV, brought us 50g of Watermelon seeds. We had previously received 25g tejas and 25g rio grande (tomatoes) and they are now at the hardening stage and need to be transplanted. The Watermelon is Crimson Sweet and we were very grateful for the seeds as this is new to us and we will be learning and experimenting from the crop production.

Way forward: We realized that receiving the inputs means we will be working on a big area and more yields.

**Date: 24/08/2017**

**Activity: Workshop- Business Financial Planning**

We learnt that everything to do with business has to have records. We also learnt about the importance of record keeping. The workshop was facilitated by SNV, Mr Mutangadura from Ministry of SMEs. There were 4 groups that received the training namely Nyamukovera, Mutowa Gardens, SEW and Kupfuma Ishungu. We learnt about financial planning and book keeping, all this opened our minds and this was very good.

Way forward: We are going to sit down as a group and start financial planning and sales planning before the planting season.

**Date: 25/08/2017**

**Activity: Receiving out pipes**

We were all excited today at Nyamukovera Project as SNV gave us the pipes we applied for under the Matching Grant facility. This happened at the time when we were transplanting the tomatoes and the women were happy. We were hoping to use the pipes immediately but there was one pipe which was not the correct size as we requested in our proposal and we were also advised that we were not getting assistance for the shade.

**Date: 05 /09/ 2017**

**Activity: Visitors from ILO**

We were honoured to receive visitors from ILO again, Mr Marimo and Ms Grace Okonji from Kenya who had been sent by our dear friend ILO to see our garden and assess our project and the progress. The focus of the questions was on the assistance we received during the programme, the challenges and the future of our project. They showed contentment in our project, our determination since we started and where we are now.

Way forward: Mr Marimo promised to share our challenges with ILO.

**Our Outlook Post M4W**

Since our garden is 2,6 hectares and we were only using 50% of it we will increase to 100% and we look forward to employing seasonal workers. We intend to export our products to regional markets as we now have adequate equipment.
Recommendations and Conclusion

"The pen is mightier than sword".... Edward Bulwer-Lytton 1839.

The diary entries shared in this publication are meant to stir the mind-set of the practitioner when it comes to documentation. A number of times documentation is from the practitioner's perspective and the story is not told from the beneficiaries' standpoint. This standpoint is often shadowed in the documentaries or stories of change that are produced however as the tide is shifting towards Stepping Women's Economic Empowerment as recommended by SNV Zimbabwe, this is set to change. Documentation should heavily be leaned towards the voices of the beneficiaries, it is through them that we see the impact, the achievements, and the challenges and also we learn from them and plan better as we get to understand them.

When these women were tasked to write their experiences, it brought out a whole new spectrum of empowering women. They wrote in their words with no influence in the form of training on the part of SNV as this was part of empowering the women by giving them the space and the time to express themselves. We cannot speak of empowerment when we haven't given them women the power to express themselves! May more stories be told and shared as we work together towards Stepping Up Women's Economic Empowerment.