SACP NEWSLETTER
ZIMBABWE | AUGUST 2026

Contacts Email:sacpzimbabwe@gmail.com Website:www.sacpzim.co.zw Twitter:@sacp_zimbabwe Facebook: Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project - SACP

SACP Participates in IFAD Portfolio Evaluation as Zimbabwe Charts the Next Phase of Rural Transformation



Some of the delegates to the IFAD Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation

The Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project (SACP) joined Government, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and development partners at a dissemination workshop for the IFAD Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation (CSPE) held in May. The event represents an important milestone that will shape the future of IFAD's partnership with Zimbabwe.

Conducted by the IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation, the assessment reviewed IFAD-supported interventions implemented between 2016 and 2025 under a total investment of US$187.7 million. The evaluation covered three flagship projects, the Smallholder Irrigation Revitalisation Programme (SIRP), the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project (SACP) and the Horticulture Enterprise Enhancement Project (HEEP).

The evaluation assessed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the IFAD portfolio, while documenting lessons and recommendations to inform the design of the next IFAD Country Strategic Opportunities Programme for Zimbabwe.

Officially opening the dissemination workshop, the Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Dr. Anxious Masuka, said the evaluation provides an opportunity for Government and its partners to reflect on achievements, address emerging challenges and strengthen future investments in rural development.

CONTENTS

2 - SACP is a mechanism of rural transformation- CD Bwenje

3 - National Consultative Workshop Seeks to Strengthen Farmer Group Formalisation in Zimbabwe

4 - Mamina Bridge completion expected in August

6 - The Green Roads for Water Concept

7 - The power of the vision journey - GALS inspires success at Tariro Agriculture Producer Group

9 - SACP participates in International Women's Day Commemorations

10 - SACP embarks on construction of School and Youth Business Units.. beneficiaries speak on early outcomes

12 - Serious tomato production pays off for Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe farmers

17 - Goromonzi farmers eager to grow Nerica rice

19 - Nyamashuka Village Business Unit earns US$3034 since inception

21 - Learning, Teamwork and Smart Farming Drive Success at Mabhikwa Village Business Unit

22 - From demo plot host to Agribusiness Champion: Farmer increases production, amasses assets after SACP training

24 - From community animal health to commercial cattle fattening: Kasibo Livestock Group prepares for growth

25 - SACP hosts sugar bean field day in UMP

28 - Bundimba VBU eases water access issues for Binga community

29 - From “Just Growing” to “Growing to Sell”: Rusape VBU's journey to commercial production

"We are gathered to discuss the findings of this evaluation, to identify together the opportunities and challenges, and to highlight Government's strategic priorities for IFAD's next country programme. This is IFAD's constituency and the Zimbabwe Government's main focus for rural transformation," said Dr. Masuka.

He stressed that evaluation is a critical tool for learning and improving development outcomes.

"Evaluation is not merely an accountability exercise. It is a strategic learning instrument. It allows us to reflect honestly on what has worked well, what has not worked sufficiently, and what must be improved going forward. The findings and recommendations emerging from this evaluation should therefore guide the design of the next phase of cooperation between the Government of Zimbabwe and IFAD."

SACP is supporting 78 240 smallholder farmers to transition from subsistence farming to commercially oriented agriculture by rehabilitating irrigation schemes, strengthening farmer organizations, promoting climate-smart production practices, improving access to markets and finance, and fostering productive partnerships with the private sector.

The dissemination workshop provided an opportunity for Government, IFAD, implementing partners and other stakeholders to reflect on the portfolio's achievements and lessons, while identifying strategic priorities for the next phase of collaboration. The recommendations from the evaluation will contribute to strengthening future investments that improve rural livelihoods, enhance agricultural productivity and build resilient, inclusive and market-oriented food systems in Zimbabwe.

SACP is a mechanism of rural transformation- CD Bwenje



Mr Clemence Bwenje, Chief Director for Business Development, Markets and Trade in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development

The Chief Director responsible for Business Development, Markets and Trade in the, Mr Clemence Taderera Bwenje says the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project is a mechanism of transformation in the country, expected to contribute to the delivery of the Agriculture Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy (AFSRTS) and the National Development Strategy, which are key to achieving the country's blue print, Vision 2030.

Speaking at the project's bi-annual review in Kadoma, Mr Bwenje said, the project's beneficiaries had begun to see positive outcomes from the four years of project implementation. He noted that the Village Business Units, one of the projects key interventions, had become a unit of production which had also been transformed into profit making units.

He added that the results of the recently completed Mid-Term Review had showed an increase in incomes, crop production, adoption of improved practices as well as increased household dietary diversity.

Mr Bwenje emphasised the need to continue to ensure

that the project's interventions are impactful. He said, " Our ultimate measure of success is not how many farmers we train, but many we connect to viable markets, off-take arrangements and financial services"

Mr Bwenje paid tribute the project's co-financiers, which include the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) for their model, which enables implementation of project intervention through the Government. The Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Projects aims to improve nutrition and incomes among smallholder farmers. Among its deliverables are the establishment of 100 village business units, rehabilitation of 1780 hectares and the mobilisation and support to 800 Agriculture Groups, 200 Medium and Small Enterprises and 40 Value Chain Lead Enterprises

National Consultative Workshop Seeks to Strengthen Farmer Group Formalisation in Zimbabwe



Mrs Louisa Makumbe Acting Director for Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project (SACP), in partnership with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, recently co-hosted a national consultative workshop on farmer group formalisation, bringing together Government officials, development partners, farmer representatives and other key stakeholders to develop a framework that will strengthen and sustain farmer organisations across Zimbabwe.

The national workshop builds on a series of consultations held with smallholder farmers across Matabeleland North, Midlands, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central provinces. These provincial engagements provided farmers with an opportunity to share their experiences, challenges and expectations regarding the formalisation of farmer groups, ensuring that the national framework reflects the realities on the ground.

Officially opening the workshop, the Ministry's Director for Strategic Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mrs Louisa Makumbe, said the consultation comes at a critical time as Zimbabwe seeks to strengthen the organisation, voice and sustainability of smallholder farmers, who remain at the centre of the country's agricultural transformation agenda.

"This gathering comes at a critical time when we are working to strengthen the organisation, voice and sustainability of our farmers, particularly smallholder

farmers who remain central to our agricultural transformation agenda," she said.

Mrs Makumbe noted that organised farmer groups are essential for improving agricultural productivity and enhancing farmers' participation in competitive markets.

"Farmer groups play a vital role in improving production, enhancing market access, facilitating training, strengthening bargaining power and enabling participation in value chains. However, many of these groups operate informally, which limits their ability to enter contracts, access finance, qualify for support programmes and engage fully with markets and institutions. Formalisation therefore is not just an administrative exercise; it is a strategic step toward empowerment, accountability and long-term resilience."

She highlighted the numerous opportunities that formalised farmer organisations can unlock, including improved access to markets, financial services and development support. Formalised groups are better positioned to negotiate favourable market terms, open and manage bank accounts transparently, sign legally binding contracts, participate in structured value chains, access Government programmes and extension services, and build credibility with financial institutions, private sector companies and development partners.

Mrs Makumbe, however, stressed that the process of formalisation must remain accessible to all farmers.

"Formalisation must be affordable, simple and farmer-friendly. If registration processes are too costly, complex or centralised, they may exclude the very farmers we seek to support. Our policy recommendations must therefore balance regulation with inclusiveness."

The consultative workshop provides a platform for stakeholders to review existing legal and institutional frameworks, identify barriers to farmer group registration and develop practical recommendations that will support an inclusive, efficient and sustainable formalisation process.

For SACP, farmer group formalisation is a critical step towards building strong, market-oriented farmer organisations capable of driving inclusive agricultural growth. Formalised groups are better equipped to attract investment, access finance, strengthen governance and forge lasting partnerships with buyers and other value chain actors, ultimately improving the livelihoods and resilience of Zimbabwe's smallholder farmers.

The recommendations emerging from the national consultation are expected to inform policy and guide the development of a farmer-friendly framework that supports the growth of vibrant, commercially viable farmer organisations capable of contributing to Zimbabwe's agricultural transformation and rural development.

Mamina Bridge completion expected in August

The Mamina Bridge, currently under construction by the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project is close to completion. Upon completion, the bridge is expected to link Mamina B Irrigation Scheme to the main road, enabling the 140 farmer to transport their produce to the markets.

Work on the brdge started in July 2025 but the Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA) which is carrying out the construction was forced to temporarily suspend works due to the rains which resulted in the flooding of the bridge.

One of the farmers, Mrs Sarah Munemo commented that, “The bridge started in July 2025 but RIDA was forced to stop work on the bridge as the river was flooded. We are seeing a lot of progress taking place. They collect stones

from the mountains in the area. The stones are very strong and for that reason, we expect that this will result in the construction of a strong bridge that will benefit generations to cross this river to go to schools, access services at the shopping centre. On our part as farmers, we expect this bridge to enable customers to come and buy produce from our irrigation scheme. Before this intervention, we knew that our children would spend up to three weeks at a time, missing school as they were unable to cross the flooded Ngezi River.

We were also unable to access the shopping centre to buy food or have our grain ground. Life has been difficult for us. With the coming in of SACP, we now have hope that all these challenges will become a thing of the past"

The construction of the bridge has also provided employment to the locals. Mrs Munemo said, "Different types of people are employed in this project. Both men, women and the youths are employed here. We have women also employed here. These stones that you see here are rolled down those mountains by some of the women employed here. As women we are grateful for this opportunity where women have been given an opportunity to do work that was previously being done by men only. Even the youth have not been left behind. They are also employed here."

Life before the bridge construction has seen the loss of life as villagers ad their children attempt to cross the flooded Ngezi River during the rainy season. Mrs Munemo said, "During this past rainy season, we had an unfortunate incident where one of our children, who was in the Early Childhood class was swept away by the river after attempting to cross the river from school. In 1997, I personally experienced the pain of having to walk more than 10 kilometres to the next bridge when I was in labour. I was afraid that I would lose the baby."

SACP has adopted the Green Roads for Water initiative in constricting both the bridge and the 1.5 km first mile feeder road which will link the irrigation scheme. An additional 6 km will be rehabilitated to the Mamina Business Centre where there is a market.



Above- Mrs Sarah Munemo at the Mamina Bridge Construction site

RIDA employees construct the Mamina Bridge in July 2026

The Green Roads for Water Concept

By Emmanuel Mawanza, Infrastructure Officer, Mashonaland West Province



When we started construction here at Mamina Bridge, the river was flooded. We started with construction at the end of the bridge on both sides of the bridge. The area near the entrance to the irrigation scheme will be the level of the bridge upon completion. Right now the contractor is doing what we call grouting. After grouting they will lay the slab for the bridge. The pipes on the bridge will be constructed at a higher level than usual.

This is because we have adopted the Green Roads for Water approach. This is a concept on which we were trained by MetaMeta and adopted by the Makueni County in Kenya. We had a team from Kenya that came to train us on the initiative. Upon completion, this bridge will be 1,5 metres high and we will have a small dam of the left. After storing a certain volume of water in the small dam, water will then flow under this bridge.

This small dam is expected to hold a significant amount of water for watering livestock as well as irrigation of small gardens and cultivation of orchards by the community nearby. The small dam will assist not only the homesteads near this bridge but also beneficiaries of the irrigation scheme and the community as they do not have any permanent water source where their livestock waters from.

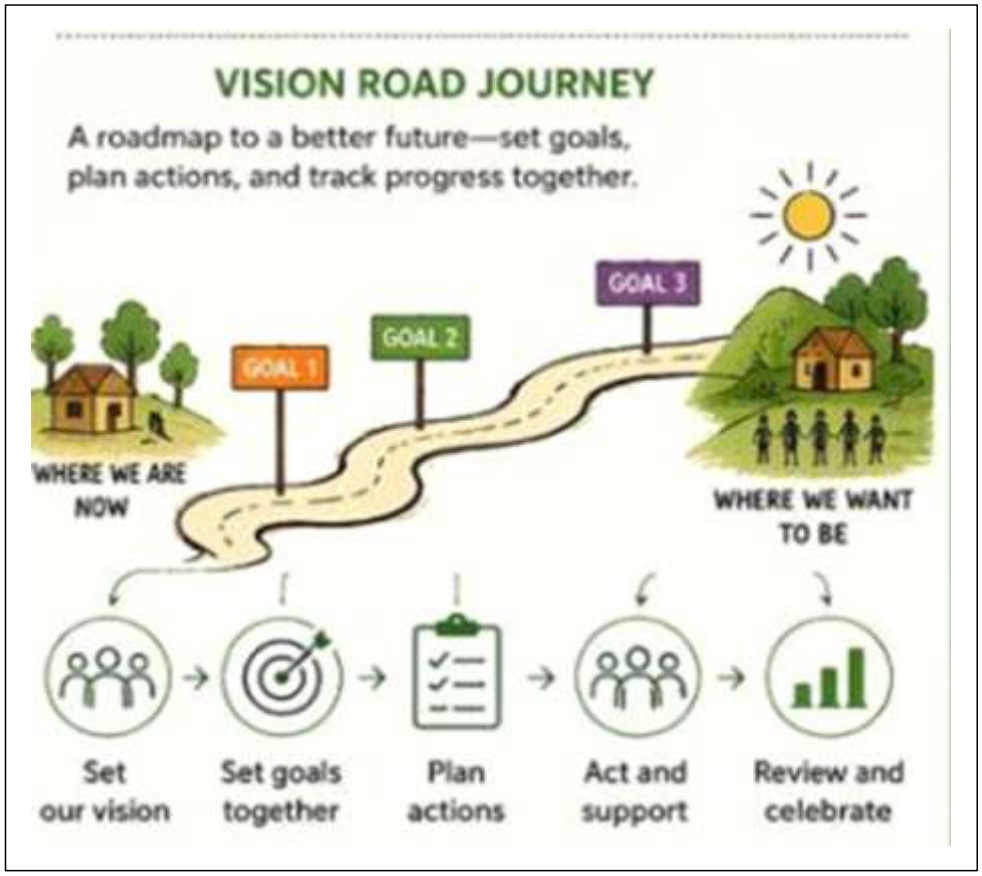
The Green Roads for Water does not end with the bridge only, but we are going to construct mitre drains to capture water that is flowing along the road. We will also plant plantation trees and orchards. This will be on the advice of the Department of Mechanisation in the Ministry of Agriculture which is also a partner in implementing this concept.



Cattle drink water from a small pool next to the bridge which will be converted into a small dam upon completion of the bridge

The power of the vision journey -GALS inspires success at Tariro Agriculture Producer Group

By Enestia Mudzingiri, Senior Social Inclusion Specialist and Chenjerai Shara DEO Murehwa



A visual representation of the Vision journey, one of the tools used in GALS

Background

Tariro Agriculture Producer Group started in 2021 as an Internal Savings And Lending group (ISAL), which later ventured into the poultry value chain. It is made up of 30 members who comprise 6 males, 24 females and 9 youths. The APG is located in Masaraure Village in Ward 15of Murewa District, Mashonaland East Province. The group currently uses a traditional hut as a fowl run which is exposing the chickens high mortality due to poor ventilation. The fowl run is also difficult to clean and disinfect as well as having limited temperature controls and spacing challenges.

Intervention and practices applied

After receiving training on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) and Group Dynamics in July 2025 as well as capacitation of their gender champion, they developed a Vision Journey for construction of a standardised fowl run. With support from poultry supplier, Irvines on broiler production, the group focused on constructing a 3.2m by 10m fowl run based on three milestones which they set as follows;

- First milestone (February to April) - mobilisation of bricks
- Second milestone (May to July)- mobilisation of other building material including 25000 bricks for 5 fowl runs, 10 1ron sheets , chicken meshwire, feeders and drinkers
- Third milestone (August 2026)-procurement of cement
- September 2026 -construction of the 5 fowl

runs with capacity of 1000 birds.

As of July 2026, bricks and chicken meshwire had been mobilised with construction of one fowl run now at beam level as shown the attached photographs.





Outcomes

Below are the photographs for the demonstration fowl run under construction 10 metres by 3.2 with carrying capacity of 320 birds as they intend to adapt from a hut to standardised housing.




Construction progress of the Tariro APG fowl run

Impact

The vision journey facilitated Tariro group to set a vision (construction of standardised fowl runs), set goal together, plan action points on how to meet the goals, acted and supported each other from brick moulding and mobilisation of building material and help them review their milestones together. Overall, this improves group harmony, shared workload and resilient communities.

Challenges

Limited group assets affected mobilisation of enough funds resulting in group also turning to brick moulding for sale to raise the required amount to procure other building materials such as cement and roofing sheets.

SACP participates in International Women's Day Commemorations

The Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project joined the nation in commemorating the International Women's Day in Bindura, Mashonaland Central Province. The event ran under the theme, “Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls”.



Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Hon Monica Mutsvangwa

In her keynote address at the event, the Guest of Honour, Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Hon Monica Mutsvangwa said Zimbabwe's development aspirations under Vision 2030 cannot be achieved without the full participation of women. “This year's commemoration challenges us to confront the structural inequalities in access to justice that persist in access to land, finance, technology, markets, and leadership. In response, Government continues to strengthen programmes that promote women's economic empowerment, climate resilience, and technological inclusion”, she said.

Minister Mutsvangwa further called for the inclusion of women in leadership positions across all sectors, where they are expected to shape ground breaking policies, drive innovation and lead organisational transformation. She also urged communities to amplify women's voices in decision making through ensuring their meaningful participation in governance and policy processes, ensuring that laws, programmes, and investments reflect their lived realities and priorities. The Minister also stressed the importance of securing women's fundamental economic power by ensuring their equitable access to capital, ownership and industry shaping influence.

Under the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project, women account for at least 50% of the 78 240 beneficiaries drawn from its interventions that include mobilisation and funding of Agriculture Producer Groups, Village Business Units as well as small and medium enterprises. One of the strategies for ensuring increased participation of women under SACP interventions has been the Gender Action Learning

System, a household methodology that fosters behavioural change, improving relations within the households as well as enhancing the ability to plan livelihoods in general – leading to positive results such as increased savings, smarter investment, better natural resources management and stronger capacity to cope with and mitigate the effects of Climate Change. By empowering individuals and communities, GALS supports sustainable and resilient livelihoods. GALS is not a stand-alone training – it is a delivery method that suits all types of technical interventions and socio-economic contexts. Therefore, GALS works as a development accelerator of different types of interventions and supporting the achievements of development leading to gender equality



Participants prepare their presentation at a Gender Action Learning System workshop in Shamva, Mashonaland Central

SACP embarks on construction of School and Youth Business Units.. beneficiaries speak on early outcomes

The Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project has started establishing School and Youth Business Units across the 5 provinces where it is operating. The 23 school business units and the 6 youth business units bring the total number of business units established by the project to 100.Districts that benefitted under Youth Business Units include Mhondoro Ngezi, Chirumhanzu, Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe and Mutoko. The 23 School Business Units are spread across 6 districts that include, Mhondoro Ngezi, Sanyati, Chirumhanzu, Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe, Hwange and Lupane.

Work to establish the school and youth business units began in April this year. Youth Business Units were established. The units are at various stages of completion with some still doing land preparation while others have started production.

Ms Melody Nzuma, the School Business Unit representative for Kundai School Business Unit in Mhondoro Ngezi said, “As a school, we have an enrolment of 332 pupils and 14 teachers. Our garden is 1, 5 hectares in size with 1 hectare set aside for commercial use while the remaining 0, 5 hectares being used as a nutrition corner. The commercial side is run by the Scholl Development Committee with support from the community. The nutrition corner is managed by community members, from the 10 villages, especially those whose children are pupils in this school. We previously had a small garden which was less than an acre. We were only able to cultivate 1 bed for each crop, and we concentrated on leafy green vegetables, tomatoes and onions. Staff members also used to same portion to grow their vegetables.

We are especially pleased with the nutrition corner because we are receiving grain from the government. The nutrition corner compliments government efforts as it will enable us to grow vegetables for relish for the pupils. This means our pupils will get a hot meal t school on a daily basis. The establishment of this School Business Unit has come at the right time as we were now losing pupils to newly established private schools in the area. Some of the pupils have been re-enrolled into the school from the private schools they were now attending.

The water troughs for livestock have also assisted the community as their cattle no longer go to disused mining pits to look for water. As a result the number of cattle falling into these pits has reduced as livestock can now be watered here.



Melody Nzuma, Kundai SBU representative

We have not started cultivation as we have just completed land preparation and we are purchasing inputs for this portion. We have plans to plant 30 000 onion plants, 16 000 cabbage plants. From the proceeds, we have agreed to establish a poultry and a goat project to improve the pupils' diet and earn an income for the school.

Our pupils are paying US$31 per pupil and we hope the income from the garden will enable the school to reduce school fees to between US$15 and US$20 per child as the school will now be sustained by the project.



SACP Climate Smart Agriculture specialist, Ottilia Mabvongwe discusses the progress in the Bumbe School Business Unit with the SBU Representative , Sandra Runganga and the local Agriculture Business Advisory Officer for the ward.

Serious tomato production pays off for Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe farmers

By Ottilia Twamba – CSA Specialist.

Crates of freshly harvested tomatoes leave Mutore Village every week, bound for Mbare Musika in Harare. For members of the Shingai Horticulture Agriculture Producer Group in Maramba 1 Ward 6 of Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe District, each delivery is evidence that smallholder farmers can successfully compete in commercial horticulture when they work together and have access to reliable markets. The group has received training on financial literacy, business development, group governance as well as market led horticulture production from the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project.

The 30-member group is making significant strides in commercial tomato production, supplying fresh produce to Mbare Musika, Zimbabwe's largest agricultural market in Harare. To date, the farmers have marketed approximately 14.8 tonnes of tomatoes, demonstrating the potential of organised smallholder production to meet urban market demand. What started as a small savings group has grown into a thriving horticulture enterprise that is transforming lives in Ward 6 of Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe District, Mashonaland East Province.

Shingai Agriculture Producer Group was established in 2020 by fifteen members initially engaged in part-time agricultural activities to supplement their income. With the money they raised from offering their labour to other community members and being paid for their efforts, the group began an Internal Savings and Lending scheme (ISAL). The group later diversified to broiler chicken rearing. Over time, their savings enabled them to expand into crop production, cultivating tomatoes, potatoes, beans, and cabbages on half a hectare at a time.

After joining the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project as an Agriculture Producer Group (APG) membership grew to thirty members. The group comprises seven men, twenty-three women, nine youth (three men and six women) as well two women with disabilities. Leadership within the group is female-driven, with a woman serving as chairperson and a committee made up of five women and two men. Since 2021, the group has been producing horticulture crops including cabbages, tomatoes, and sugar beans on one hectare collectively, and they later secured two hectares of land from one of their beneficiaries to farm as a group. At this stage, their average income was around USD 7,000 per year.

Joining SACP in 2023 marked a turning point for Shingai AP. Through trainings in Gender Action Learning System (GALS), nutrition, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), Business Development Services (BDS), and financial literacy, the group transformed its approach to farming as a business. They shifted from subsistence practices to treating agriculture as a business. Previously reliant on retained seed for tomato production, they adopted hybrid seed varieties, which significantly improved both the yield and quality of their crops.

In 2026, Shingai APG planted 0.1 hectares of potatoes and 2 hectares of hybrid tomatoes, including varieties such as Star 9037, Star 9009, and Chibili. Their harvest was remarkable as they sold 8000 boxes of tomatoes, each weighing about 8 kilograms, generating USD 42,000 in gross income, alongside USD 1,800 from potatoes. With total production expenses of USD 9,847, the group realized a profit of USD 33,953. The quality of their tomatoes was exceptional, with the chairperson proudly remarking that “madomasi edu aizvitengesa ega kuMbare” (the quality of our tomatoes was so good that we did not struggle to sell them at Mbare Musika in Hararare).

Despite these successes, the group faces challenges with irrigation, relying on a seasonal river that dries up during the dry season, limiting year-round production. To address this, they plan to drill a borehole as part of their own contribution to the matching grant. Their business plan also outlines intentions to procure a two-wheeler tractor to ease tillage challenges, install solar-powered irrigation systems, purchase irrigation pipes, and erect fencing to protect their fields from animals.

The impact of the trainings has been profound as this has transformed the lives of the beneficiaries who are now able to send their children to school, build decent houses for their families, buy assets such as large stock and small stock. The trainings received have improved group cohesion and reduced domestic violence as couples now work harmoniously, together. Members have adopted use of certified seed and good agricultural practices, improved pest and disease management, and strengthened market linkages through research on market requirements. Today, Shingai APG stands as a model of transformation, demonstrating how collective action, savings, and targeted training can empower rural communities to achieve both economic and social progress.



Shingai APGs beneficiaries grading and packing tomatoes for the market

Dzosai Mbozva chairperson of the water management committee at Kundai SBU



Dzosai Mbozva the Chairperson for Water Management Committee at Kundai SBU

We are happy with this intervention. What made us happy was the engagement of locals to provide labour for the establishment of the SBU. This enabled them to earn an income. The establishment of the business unit enabled us to easily fill our dip tank with water. . Our cattle are no longer affected by tick borne diseases, this water point

The nutrition corner will greatly assist school pupils who used to bring relish from home. After the sadza was cooked, the children would realise that their relish would have gone bad from being kept in a lunch box for many hours before consumption. We hope to be able buy cooking oil and other forms of relish from the proceeds realised from this garden.

We are going to engage community members to come and work from the garden and be paid some money by the business unit. We also hope that this project will assist to alleviate drug abuse problem which is rampant in the community.

The dip tank which services 10 villages. The same water point also waters cattle from these villages. Two villages fetch potable water from this water point.

Judith Kanongovere community member at Madhodha SBU



Juliet Kanongovere, community member at Madhodha SBU

Things were difficult for us as we were drinking water from the dam. The water was very dirty as we were sharing it with cattle and donkeys. We are lucky not to have suffered from any diarrheal diseases. The dam is quite a distance and it was hard for us to go to the dam to collect water. The distance is about 1,5km to the dam. The ground was uneven and filled with stones which made it difficult to manoeuvre to the dam site. Some community members charge dUS$7 to collect 2 drum of water which was beyond our reach.

Sandra Runganga, Bumbe Primary School, Mhondoro Ngezi



Sandra Runganga, the SBU representative at Bumbe Primary School

As a school we have been facing a number of challenges, especially those related to water access. Community members and school children competed for water in the same water point, which often raised tensions. With the coming in of the SACP intervention, both the community and the school can now easily access water from the water point.

Although we had been promised seed packs, we did not want to delay and we convened a meeting with the School Development Committee and we managed to get assistance to purchase seed packs. We bought seedlings for 3000 cabbages which we have already planted on 1 block. We are looking forward to selling these cabbages at US$1 per head and to make an income of US$3000.

We were assisted by the community to do land preparation. When I look at this project, I think it will assist us as we have been having challenges buying school text books, sports uniforms for our pupils, as well as furniture. With the availability of modern technology, we wish to construct and equip a computer laboratory. We don't want our children to be left behind. We have some school blocks, whose roofs were blown away by the wind and we have been struggling to repair them. We have also been getting grain from the government, but we had challenges in providing relish for our pupils. We hope to provide a good diet for our children after this intervention. We are looking forward to be self-sustainable as a school.

Farai Nherudzo, Bumbe Youth Business Unit Chairperson

Before the introduction of this Youth Business Unit, the community had challenges of fellow youth members who spent their time drinking illicit brews and smoking dagga. Community members lost many chickens as these were being stolen by unemployed youth to fund their habits. Now, we have witnessed a reduction in theft. Youths spend a lot of time in this YBU working.

We hope to improve our lives through the income that we will make from this YBU. We had nothing to do and sources of income. From this garden we hope to pay school fees for our children, who were being sent away from school because we owed money to the school.

We are also grateful for the livestock trough as we were travelling about 10 km to Village 8 to water our cattle. On some days we would not water them due to fatigue of walking the 10km. Our cattle now look healthier than before and we hope to sell them at good prices.



Farai Nherudzo, Bumbe Youth Business Unit Chairperson.

Goromonzi farmers eager to grow Nerica rice

As part of its collaboration with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the project has hosted 2 rice demonstration plots in the year. The purpose of hosting the demo plots was to cultivate adoption of the Nerica variety, which is an upland variety that can thrive under irrigation. Farmers at Chinyika Irrigation Scheme, which hosted one of the rice demos expressed interest in cultivating the cereal on a larger scale.



Nerica rice crop in Goromonzi

Itai Gava, Chinyika Irrigation Scheme, Goromonzi

I hosted this rice demo which was supported by SACP. We were also given fertilisers, which included Compound C. We applied the rice in stages until it reached the stage where it is now.

The variety that we cultivated is Nerica 7.Most farmers are pleased to see this crop. Many farmers were initially surprised that rice could be grown here.

We also sprayed chemicals and ensured that it is adequately irrigated. We have realised that this is a good crop, which we are considering growing on a larger scale in the future. Many farmers are happy with the rice and have expressed interest in growing it in the future



Itai Gava hosted the Nerica 7 demo plot

Mark Nyilenda, Chinyika

Although I was not able to host a demo, I am pleased by what I have seen in this demonstration plot. I wish to participate in the cultivation of rice such that in the next season, I want to grow it next season. I would like to grow a bigger portion of this aromatic rice in the next season

Salangani Gatawa, Chinyika Irrigation Scheme, Goromonzi

Salangani Gatawa of Goromonzi is excited to have hosted a demonstration plot for upland rice, promoted by the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project and the Department of Research and Specialist Services.

"When officers from the Department of Research and Specialist Services first brought the rice seed, we didn't think much of it. After I saw the way the other Nerica 7 variety was performing, I asked for some seed. However, they no longer had the Nerica 7 and gave me this variety. This is Nerica 1, which I planted here. On planting, I used Compound D and it grew well. Before the rice booted, we applied top dressing. This rice programme is excellent. When other farmers pass through here they are amazed. At first, they thought it was wheat, but I explained that this is a new rice variety brought by the Department of Research. Many farmers who did not participate in the demo plots are eager to grow this rice.

When it started booting, it would produce an aroma like its being cooked. Next season I want to cultivate a bigger portion for rice, maybe one hectare. Were informed that the rice takes 120 days to mature."



Salangani Gatawa hosted a Nerica 1 demo plot at Chinyika Irrigation Scheme, Goromonzi

Nyamashuka Village Business Unit earns US$3034 since inception

In 2025, members of Nyamashuka Village came together with a shared vision of improving household incomes and food security. The site allocated for the business unit was a thick bush covered with large trees. Armed only with hand tools, the members worked tirelessly to clear the land, transforming an unproductive area into a productive farming enterprise.

With support from the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project (SACP), the group established a Village Business Unit that has since become a source of income, nutrition, and community support.
The project provided the business unit with a 1-hectare starter pack of peas during its first production season in 2025. Although the crop performed poorly due to unfavourable weather conditions. Learning from the experience, the group diversified into maize production and strengthened its marketing skills through the Farmer Market School approach.

Improved Agricultural Production

During the second season in 2025, the business unit cultivated 0.4 hectares of maize, producing approximately 500 dozen green maize cobs and earning net profit of US$2,034. Makaha in Mutoko became their principal market.
In 2026, the group continued expanding production by planting:

- 0.2 hectares of SC727 maize, generating US$313 in net profit.
- 0.2 hectares of Rio Grande tomatoes, which have so far generated US$673 in net sales, with harvesting and marketing still continuing.
- 0.2 of sugar beans generated a net profit of $ US 80.

Improved Household Nutrition

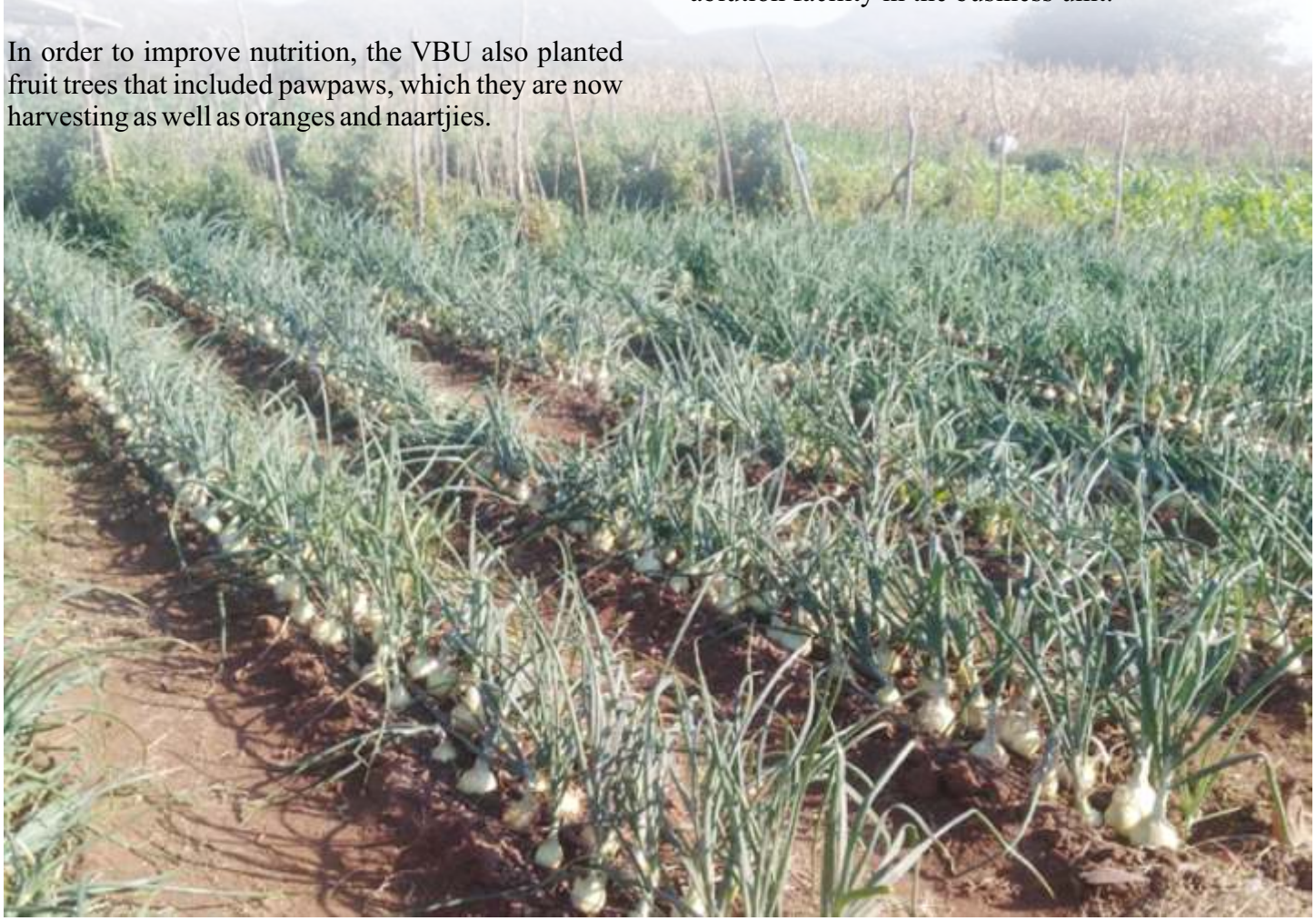
The business unit established a nutrition corner that significantly improved dietary diversity among members. The group successfully produced leafy green vegetables which they harvested continuously for up to eight months. They also cultivated tomatoes, onions and carrots. To reduce post-harvest losses and ensure year-round availability of nutritious foods, members dried surplus vegetables for future household consumption.

The group also generated income through sales from surplus nutrition corner crops which are included covo and rape vegetables and earned US$175. They also earned US$134 from tomato sales.

In order to improve nutrition, the VBU also planted fruit trees that included pawpaws, which they are now harvesting as well as oranges and naartjies.



The farmers at the VBU have managed to purchase inputs and two knapsack sprayers. They have also started contributing towards the construction of an ablution facility in the business unit.



Learning, Teamwork and Smart Farming Drive Success at Mabhikwa Village Business Unit



Mabhikwa VBU Chairperson, Nomathemba Khumalo in the garden

What began as a community initiative to improve household food security has grown into a thriving business enterprise for members of Mabhikwa Village Business Unit (VBU). Through teamwork, improved farming practices and continuous learning, the group is steadily increasing production, generating income and strengthening household nutrition.

Located on a 1.25-hectare garden, the Mabhikwa VBU consists 30 members, including women, men and youth, who work together to produce both commercial and nutritious food crops. One hectare of the garden is dedicated to commercial production, while a quarter of a hectare serves as a nutrition garden that supplies members with a variety of healthy vegetables for household consumption.

Despite a first crop that performed below expectations, the VBU treasurer Nomathemba Khumalo said the group's second production cycle yielded encouraging results.

"We planted 2,500 cabbage seedlings in June 2025 and earned US$384 from cabbage sales. Our sugar bean crop performed well, producing 400 kilograms, which we sold at US$32 per bucket, generating US$265. Every member received US$20 from the proceeds, while part of the income was retained to purchase inputs for the next production cycle," she said.

Chairperson Sithembiso Mahlangu said the VBU has consistently improved its performance over successive production cycles.

"In our third cycle, we grew green mealies and tomatoes. We earned US$609 from green mealies and US$575 from tomatoes. We shared the proceeds among members while reserving some funds to purchase inputs for the next crop. Those savings enabled us to plant the sugar bean crop that you see today. We also produced maize on 0.75 hectares, earning US$80 from fresh sales before sharing the remaining dried maize among members," she explained.

The VBU has embraced a business-oriented approach by reinvesting part of its profits into future production, reducing dependency on external support while ensuring continuity of operations.

The VBU has been actively exploring cost cutting measures and the Secretary Jabulani Luphahla said the VBU has also reduced production costs by producing its own seedlings.

"We now propagate our own seedlings, including the Tengeru tomato variety, which is ready for our next planting. Producing our own seedlings has improved germination rates and reduced production costs. We are optimistic that the upcoming tomato crop will

generate even better returns while also improving household nutrition," he said.

The group's success has been strengthened through regular engagement with agricultural extension officers and farmer-to-farmer learning exchanges.

A recent exchange visit to Jabatshaba Village Business Unit proved particularly transformative, exposing members to practical innovations that have improved productivity and resource management.

"We learnt the importance of proper water management," explained Khumalo. "We now understand exactly how much water each irrigation block requires. Each block uses about 5,000 litres over 20 minutes before we move to the next. This allows us to irrigate all three production blocks efficiently while reserving another 5,000 litres for household use and watering livestock. Previously, we struggled to irrigate all the blocks in a single day."

The exchange visit also reinforced the value of teamwork and effective leadership.

"We learnt the importance of working together as one unit and respecting one another, including the committee, regardless of age," she added.

For Chairperson Mahlangu, one of the biggest lessons was improving seedling establishment.

"At Jabatshaba we learnt the correct procedures for preparing seedbeds. When we returned, we applied those methods to our cabbage and tomato nurseries, and our seeds achieved excellent germination," he said.

Beyond generating income, the nutrition garden provides members with a steady supply of vegetables including cabbage, tomatoes, lettuce and leafy vegetables, contributing to improved household dietary diversity.

From demo plot host to Agribusiness Champion: Farmer increases production, amasses assets after SACP training

By Killian Manhanhanha – District Extension Officer, Mutoko

Dudzai Mudiwakure is a communal farmer from Ward 09 in Mutoko District, Mashonaland East Province, and a member of the Kurimakufamba Agriculture Producer Group under the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project. Like many smallholder farmers in the area, Dudzai faced challenges in generating adequate income from farming due to limited access to improved seed varieties, irrigation equipment and production technologies.

In 2025, through the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project, Dudzai received Candella tomato seed and climate smart technical support on tomato production for a demonstration plot. He established his first crop of 1,000 Candella tomato plants using the recommended climate smart agronomic practices promoted by the project. Following the success of the first crop, Dudzai reinvested part of his earnings (US$543) into a second production cycle, increasing his production to 2,000 tomato plants.

The intervention resulted in significant improvements in productivity and household income.

From his first crop, of 1000 plants, Mudiwakure harvested 12,5 tonnes of tomatoes, which he sold and earned a gross income of US$3 658.00. His net income was US$2 123.00. Using the proceeds, the farmer was able to purchase seed for future production, pay school fees for his children and buy additional food items for his family. Mudiwakure also managed to purchase Improve household food security a solar-powered knapsack sprayer and reinvest US$543 into the next production cycle.

For his second crop, Mudiwakure expanded production to 2,000 Candella tomato plant, which gave him a yield of 22.4 tonnes of tomatoes. From the sale of his second crop, Mudiwakure generated US$5,214 in sales and earned a net profit of US$2,976.The increased income enabled the farmer



The walking tractor bought by Mudiwakure



Mudiwakure sprays his tomato crop



Mudiwakure's tomatoes packed and ready for the market

to invest in productive farming assets, including a 1 HP solar water pump, a walking tractor, a 1-hectare drip irrigation kit and 3 solar panels. Mudiwakure reinvested $789 into the third Candella crop of 2000 plants.

These investments have strengthened the sustainability of his farming enterprise by improving irrigation efficiency, reducing labour requirements, and increasing production capacity.

From community animal health to commercial cattle fattening: Kasibo Livestock Group prepares for growth

The story of Kasibo Livestock Group reflects how organised farmers can turn a shared challenge into a thriving business opportunity. With support from the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project (SACP), the group is building a commercial cattle fattening enterprise founded on strong governance, sound financial management and collective investment. The group was established in 2017 through an animal vaccination and livestock health programme implemented by another development partner, Amalima Loko. Initially comprising 61 farmers, the group focused on improving cattle health, accessing veterinary drugs at discounted prices, and collectively marketing livestock.



Mr Herbert Makwala, chairperson of Kasibo Livestock Group

The introduction of the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project (SACP) marked a turning point. After carefully reviewing the livestock group's eligibility requirements and grant conditions, 32 members registered under the Agricultural Producer Group (APG) model and embarked on a journey towards establishing a formal, commercially driven cattle fattening enterprise. To strengthen governance and prepare for business operations, the group developed a constitution and opened a corporate bank account with the Agriculture Finance Corporation (AFC), ensuring transparent financial management and accountability.

With the support of traditional leadership, the group secured three hectares of land in Jejeti Village in Hwange, after obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent from the Village Head. Land development is already underway, with the first hectare fully cleared and work progressing on the second hectare.

Demonstrating their commitment to the enterprise, members mobilised the mandatory 20 percent contribution required under the SACP matching grant arrangement, raising a total of US$1,000. This enabled them to successfully access a loan worth US$5760 through AFC, providing the capital needed to establish the cattle fattening enterprise.

Each member has also a steer, enabling the group to mobilise 20 steers, which are now ready to be transferred from individual homesteads into the communal feedlot for the first fattening cycle.

The group has already leveraged the project to attract additional investment. Through engagement with government programmes, members successfully lobbied for the drilling of a 100-metre borehole under the Government Drought Mitigation Programme. The borehole will provide a reliable water source for the feedlot and pasture production, while the SACP matching grant will be used to equip it with a submersible pump, water storage tanks, a drip

irrigation system, security lighting, a storeroom and ablution facilities.

To further strengthen the enterprise, Kasibo Livestock Group has submitted a proposal requesting an additional grant to complete critical infrastructure, including perimeter fencing for the remaining hectare and equipment for the newly drilled borehole.

The group is also investing in environmental sustainability. Members will contribute labour towards clearing the remaining land, establish pasture on two hectares to support cattle fattening, and plant trees around the project site to improve the local environment.

Capacity building has been central to the group's transformation. Through training provided by SACP, members have strengthened their knowledge in climate-smart agriculture, nutrition, financial literacy, Gender Action Learning System (GALS), para-veterinary services and enterprise management. The group maintains comprehensive records, including attendance registers, meeting minutes, training records and a livestock vaccination calendar, demonstrating its commitment to good governance and accountability.

Recognising that market access is critical to long-term success, the group appointed two committee members to lead market research. They have already identified three potential off-takers, who are abattoirs in Lupane and Bulawayo. Members also participated in a learning visit to Jotsholo Abattoir, where they gained practical insights into the cattle fattening value chain and market requirements.

With its grant proposal now approved and procurement processes underway, Kasibo Livestock Group is well positioned to transition from a community livestock association into a sustainable commercial cattle enterprise. By combining strong governance, strategic partnerships, climate-resilient infrastructure and market-driven production, the group is creating new opportunities for improved incomes and resilient livelihoods for farming households in Jejeti Village.

SACP hosts sugar bean field day in UMP

The Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project held a field day at the Masekesa Homestead in Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe.

Addressing farmers at the event, SACP National Project Coordinator, Alex Nyakatsapa said, "Agricultural field days are instrumental events that serve as catalysts for promoting innovation, sharing knowledge, adopting technology and enhancing sustainability in the agriculture sector.

These gatherings offer a forum for stakeholders to convene, exchange insights, and collaborate to strengthen resilience. The key goals of hosting agricultural field days include advocating for sustainable climate-smart agriculture practices, knowledge sharing and fostering partnerships among diverse stakeholders to drive collective progress. This is a platform to ask questions, share your own stories, and learn from each other



The host farmers show off their NUA 45 sugar bean plot



Host farmers, Mr and Mrs Masekesa (in navy blue and green t shirt) receive their prize from the SACP National Project Coordinator, Mr Alex Nyakatsapa (extreme left), while District Extension Officer for Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe, Kumbirak Kugomo (extreme right) looks on

MIS Training Strengthens Data Management Capacity

By Prosper Muvhuringi

The Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project (SACP) successfully conducted a comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) training, equipping 79 SACP and LEAD staff (27 females and 52 males) with essential skills to enhance data-driven decision-making.

The training covered key modules including:

- Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation Concepts
- Creation of User Accounts and Access ContrBasics of the SACP MIS
- Uploading Activity Registers into the MIS
- Data Quality Dimensions
- Data Security

Participants gained practical experience in maintaining data integrity through audit trails, ensuring accountability and transparency in all system activities. The training sessions emphasized access control protocols to safeguard sensitive project information and

prevent unauthorized data manipulation. The MIS ensured that the project team generate reports which are disaggregated by gender, age and PWD ensuring inclusivity and accountability to vulnerable groups. SACP MIS compares achievements vs. targets across all activities, allowing project managers to identify areas of success and gaps needing intervention. The MIS training marks a significant milestone toward strengthening the project's monitoring and evaluation framework, ensuring that data collected from field activities is accurate, secure, and reflective of the diverse communities served.



SACP District Extension Officer for UMP, Morerundume Mukungurutse (right) received assistance from SACP M and E Specilaist, Prosper Muvhuringi (left)

Bundimba VBU eases water access issues for Binga community

The establishment of the Bundima Village Business Unit in Sinakoma ward of Binga has helped ease water challenges for both the community and livestock. Peter Mudimba, a member of the Village Business Unit said, “After SACP drilled a borehole for us, it is now easy for us to access tapped water. This has made a number of tasks such fetching water and doing laundry easy to carry out.”

The intervention has also made life easier for farmers in the drought stricken region where they rely heavily on livestock production. Mudimba added, “SACP also constructed an animal trough for our cattle. As I speak, it is now easy to look after our cattle as community members no longer struggle to search for their livestock in the forest. The cattle now return on their own to drink water at the VBU, which makes life easier for the farmers.”

The establishment of the Village Business Unit has also enabled the farmers to cultivate a variety of crops all year round. 500 metres away from the water point is a garden where the project installed water tanks. He added, “The project also connected water to this garden from the borehole which about 500 metres away. They installed tanks and a drip irrigation system in this garden. All the people who benefitted from this intervention are especially pleased with the production that is taking place in Bundimba VBU Chief.”

The production in the garden has enabled the farmers to get an income. The farmers have made US$691. Muzuba Mugande, the Chairperson of the Village Business Unit said, “Our first crop was maize and after sales, we made US$334, we also grew butternut which we sold and made an income of US$$150.00. We also grew other crops such as tomatoes, onions, spinach and carrots. The total income for the VBU was US$691.00. We currently have sugar beans, butternuts in the garden, which we hope to harvest in May. “

Bundimba Village Business Unit was established October 2025. And has thirty beneficiaries who include 22 women and eight men. Among the beneficiaries are four female youth and 2 male youths.



From “Just Growing” to “Growing to Sell”: Rusape VBU's journey to commercial production

by Albert Ncube SACP DEO Hwange District

Located in Mphakathi Village in Lupote, Hwange District, Rusape Village Business Unit (VBU) has 30 members that comprise 11 males and 19 females. Among this membership are 14 youths and 3 Persons with Disability. The VBU is chaired by one of the youths in the VBU, Maureen Ncube. Before working with Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project (SACP), the Rusape farmers mainly produced leaf vegetables and tomatoes which were for household consumption, with limited quantities for sale. According to the chairperson, Maureen Ncube, life was difficult because income was inconsistent and unreliable and the farmers struggled to earn a living from their farming

The turning point for the group came in 2025, when SACP intervened through establishment of a 1.25-hectare garden, divided into 1.0 hectare for commercial production while the remaining 0.25 ha was set aside for household food consumption. This model helped the farmers shift from “just growing” to planning for both food security and an income from the market.

Soon after establishment, the VBU established its production cycle. Their first crop was maize, which marked the beginning of their journey toward disciplined agribusiness. The group cultivated 0.47 hectares, harvested 7 500 cobs which were sold at US$1 for 5 cobs, earning the VBU an income of US$1 500. According to Ncube, this first successful cycle-built confidence, strengthened group coordination, and proved that market-oriented production was possible.

Before embarking on their second crop cycle, the farmers received training in the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP), a market-oriented agricultural framework adopted from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, (JICA) which transforms farmers' mindsets from "grow and sell" to "grow to sell.After this training, the farmers began to produce for structured market supply.

In their second crop cycle, the farmers cultivated the Chibili variety of tomatoes on 0.34 ha. They harvested 547 buckets which is approximately 7658kg which they sold to markets in Hwange town, Cross Dete and Kamativi Mine. The farmers earned an income of USD 4,430. This cycle demonstrated that Rusape VBU had moved into real horticulture commercialization, producing consistently for identified off-takers and market



Some of the tomatoes produced at Rusape VBU, sorted and ready for the market

After receiving income from improved crop sales, the group opened a bank account with the Agriculture and Finance Corporation (AFC), to protect their earnings and reduce the risk of losing capital. Part of their savings have been used to construct a toilet while some of the money was shared among members who used it to pay school fees for children. The group has retained some of their earnings in a bank account as it plans ahead for other crop cycles.

This cycle demonstrated that Rusape VBU had moved into real horticulture commercialization, producing consistently for identified off-takers and markets. In their third crop cycle, Rusape VBU has planted the Fabiola variety of cabbage on 0.29 hectares. The garden has sold 289 heads of cabbage and they have earned an income of US$230 with sales still ongoing.

To secure long-term resilience and diversify future income streams, Rusape VBU has also established an orchard with 8 fruit trees: a promising step toward sustainable growth and a brighter future beyond vegetable cycles.The VBU recently hosted farmers from 5 Village Business Units from the neighbouring Binga district for an exchange visit.



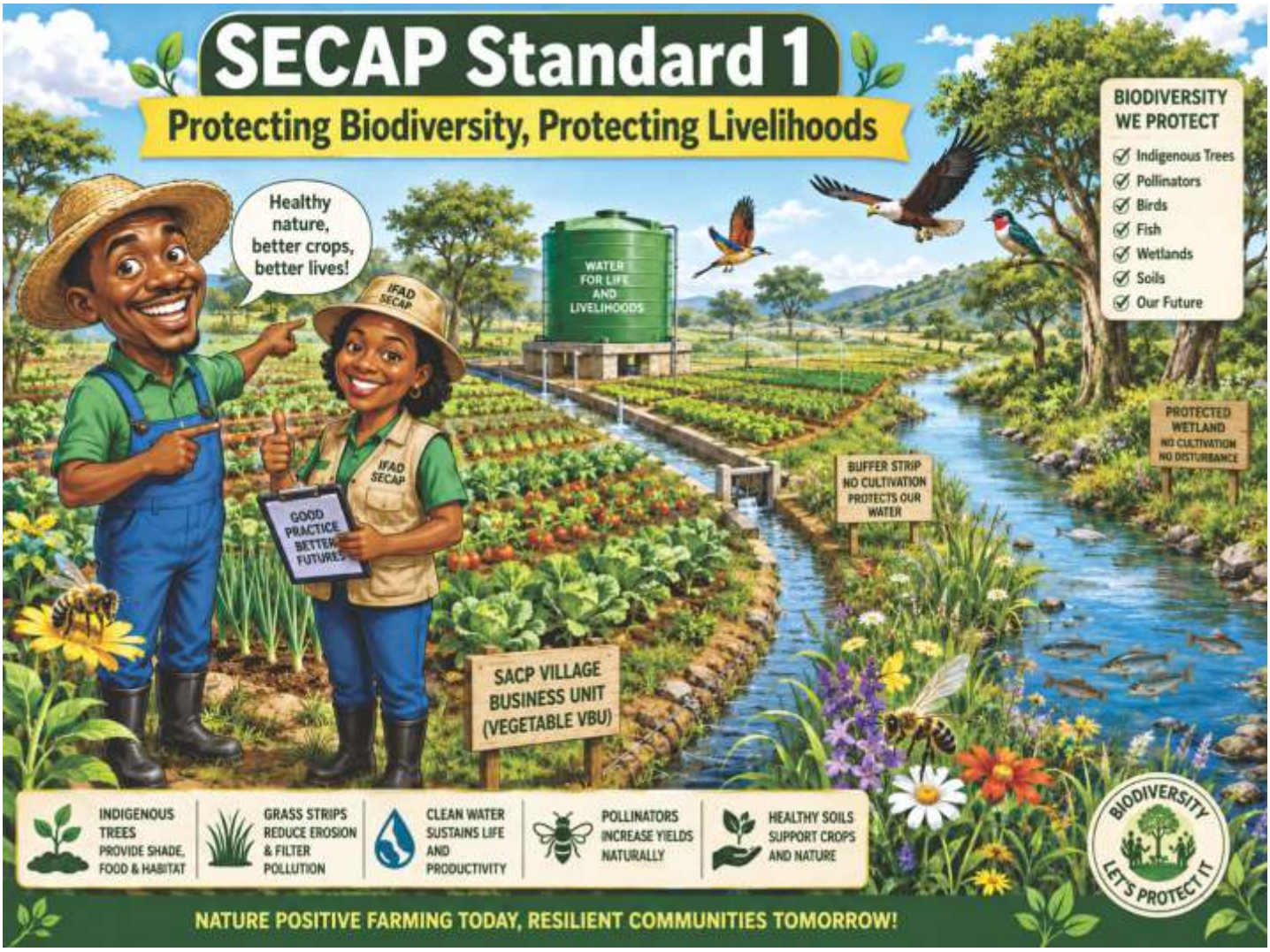
Scenes from the VBU exchange visit hosted by Rusape VBU for VBU farmers from Binga district

Protecting Nature, Protecting Livelihoods: Understanding IFAD SECAP Standard 1

By Raymond Makhanda

The Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures, commonly known as SECAP, are IFAD's framework for identifying and managing environmental, social and climate risks in the projects it supports. SECAP helps ensure that development improves people's livelihoods without creating avoidable harm to communities, workers, natural resources or the environment.

SECAP is built around nine standards: **Biodiversity Conservation; Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; Cultural Heritage; Indigenous**



Protect nature. Protect production. Protect the investment.

Peoples; Labour and Working Conditions; Community Health and Safety; Physical and Economic Resettlement; Financial Intermediaries and Direct Investments; and Climate Change.

For farmers, extension officers and SACP staff, these standards are not simply project rules. They are practical safeguards intended to protect people, productive assets and the natural resources on which agriculture depends.

Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation

Standard 1 focuses on protecting biodiversity. Biodiversity simply means the variety of life around us: trees, grasses, crops, insects, birds, fish, soil organisms and the natural habitats that support them. In agriculture, biodiversity is not separate from production. It helps maintain fertile soils, supports pollination, controls some crop pests naturally, protects water sources and strengthens the ability of farming systems to cope with droughts, floods and other climate stresses.

For SACP irrigation schemes and Village Business Units, this is particularly important. A productive field does not exist in isolation. It depends on the surrounding catchment, water source, soils, vegetation and natural drainage systems.

When vegetation is unnecessarily cleared, cultivation extends into wetlands or riverbanks, natural waterways are blocked, or erosion is allowed to carry soil into dams and streams, the effect can eventually return to the farmer through declining soil fertility, reduced water quality, siltation, damaged infrastructure and lower production.

The same applies when useful trees and grasses are removed around irrigation areas or when invasive

plants are allowed to spread. What may appear to be a small environmental issue today can become a production problem tomorrow.

What does Standard 1 mean in practice?

The first principle is simple: **avoid environmental damage where possible before trying to repair it later.** This is the basis of the SECAP mitigation hierarchy: avoid impacts first, minimise those that cannot be avoided, restore affected areas where necessary, and only consider compensation as a last option.

For a VBU or irrigation scheme, this may mean avoiding cultivation in wetlands and natural waterways, protecting riverbanks, maintaining useful vegetation, controlling erosion, preventing unnecessary tree cutting and ensuring that expansion of production does not destroy important habitats.

Farmers can also support biodiversity through good agricultural practices such as crop rotation, agroforestry, protection of useful indigenous vegetation and responsible management of land and water. These practices can improve productivity while protecting the ecological systems that sustain agriculture.

The message is clear

Protecting biodiversity does not mean stopping farming. It means farming in a way that protects the natural systems that make farming possible.

Every farmer, irrigation committee, extension officer and SACP staff member has a role. Before clearing, expanding, draining or developing an area, we should ask: **What natural resource is here, what function does it provide, and can we achieve our production objective without damaging it?**

When we protect soils, water, vegetation and biodiversity, we are also protecting the irrigation scheme, the VBU, the farmer's livelihood and the long-term value of the SACP investment.



Around the SACP Provinces in Pictures



As part of efforts to promote uptake of nutrient dense foods, SACP hosted several nutrition demonstration plots. hese two women from Masekesa in Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe admire their bean crop, grown on a demonstration plot with support from the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project.



Farmers at Rising Star Agriculture Producer Group, Mutoko supported by SACP are producing mange tout and sugar snap for export



Farmers at Ndimakule VBU in Hwange harvest cabbages for sale to an offtaker



SACP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development held district and provincial level consultations with smallholder farmers as the Ministry embarked on the development of a Gender and Wellness Strategy



SACP hosted an IFAD mission in May to its sites as the co-financier assessed progress on the project



Farmers at Mamina Irrigation Scheme participate in a project meeting from across the Ngezi River due to lack of safe crossing infrastructure—highlighting the critical need for the ongoing bridge construction to enable access, inclusion, and market connectivity.



Employees of the Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA) work on the rehabilitation of the first mile feeder road linking Nhakayedu Irrigation Scheme to the Harare-Bulawayo highway.



Mushando APG from Rushinga District hosted a sorghum field day recently. Sorghum has proved to be a lucrative crop for smallholder farmers in the area, owing to its climate resilience during droughts and has become a perfect drought mitigatory measure in the drought prone district. Sorghum is one of the value chains promoted by the Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project which seeks to build climate resilience and increase incomes among smallholder farmers



Farmers at Vusani Agriculture Producer Group and SACP officers monitor a demonstration plot for fodder. Kwekwe District has farmers that are participating in the dairy value chain under SACP.



SACP participated at the country's premier exhibition, the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair held in April in Bulawayo