

FOOD BASKET PROGRAMME

An ambitious, women-led solution addressing Africa's food security challenges



A model for developing women-owned seed companies and small-holder farmers

The African Women in Agribusiness Network (AWAB) aims to propel women's agricultural activities beyond subsistence farming and into viable businesses that participate equitably in the agricultural value chain.

The Food Basket Programme offers an innovative, sustainable and home-grown solution to resolve a number of agribusiness challenges, particularly, one of Africa's most pressing; quality seed production.

The agricultural initiative uses an inclusive business model that is able to benefit different kinds of women with diverse backgrounds. It is to be rolled out in three phases; the **pre-production phase** to provide inputs and produce the development of sustainable seed; the **production phase** which focuses on mechanisation as well as the post-production phase, that addresses marketing and access to markets.

The Graça Machel Trust Food Basket Programme, is a model for developing women-owned seed companies and small-holder farmers. A core focus of the project is to address the increasing need for seed within the SADC region. It has been specifically designed for women farmers to help grow women's agricultural activities from smallholder to thriving agribusiness enterprises and to address food security in Africa. It is currently being rolled out in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

KEY PROGRESS AREAS IN 2017

VUNA PARTNERSHIP: Gender Transformative Regional Seed Systems Project

With funding support from Vuna, a subsidiary of AdamSmith International which is funded by Department for International Development (DfID), the Trust is currently undertaking pilots in Malawi and Zambia and will be expanded in Tanzania, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Vuna's aim is to pilot projects which assist farmers in East and Southern Africa to battle the impacts of climate change and to transform the agriculture sector to empower small-holder farmers to improve current and future livelihoods. Operating under the project name, 'Gender Transformative Regional Seed Systems', the two-year project will work with 22 women-owned seed companies and is expected to reach 2,200 small-holder farmers in Malawi and Zambia.

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD CAPACITY

The VUNA Project aims to position women farmers in legume and seed production. Legumes are said to be a 'women's crop' and this project seeks to create more economic value for women using climate smart and resilient legumes that are also nutritious to address nutrition and food security needs in the region. Working through two lead seed companies in Malawi and Zambia, the participating small-holder companies will in turn work with four other up-coming seed companies (called 1st tier) and six seed producers as out growers (2nd tier) in the first year in order to groom and grow them into fully fledged seed companies in the second year.

KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Development of breeder and basic seeds production system for 11 seed companies and 1 000 producers per country
- Production of breeder and basic seeds in selected geographical areas of Malawi and Zambia
- Select, train farmers on climate smart practices
- Identify, develop, and market agricultural hub sites and set-up innovative agro-dealer shops
- Identify funding sources and guarantees for 'buy back' guarantees for 'buy back'



THE AFRICAN FOOD BASKET PROJECT WILL

PRODUCE

10,000

METRIC TONNES OF LEGUME SEED
FOR FARMERS HAVE EASY ACCESS
TO QUALITY SEED

IDENTIFY

250,000

GRAIN PRODUCERS IDENTIFIED
50,000 PER COUNTRY

ENSURE THAT

5050

WOMEN-SMALL HOLDER
FARMERS ARE MECHANISED
1010 PER COUNTRY

DEVELOP

50

WOMEN OWNED AND
SUSTAINABLE SEED COMPANIES
10 PER COUNTRY

TRAIN AND MENTOR

5050

WOMEN IN AGRIBUSINESS
VENTURES - 1010 PER COUNTRY

OWNERSHIP OF

150

HECTARES OF LAND BY EACH OF
THE 5 AWAB COUNTRY CHAPTERS
WITH FULLY DEVELOPED
RESOURCE CENTRES

THE GRAÇA MACHEL TRUST'S ROLE

The GMT provides overall oversight of the project and will:

- Ensure the lead seed companies support up-and-coming seed producers to increase their yield
- Assess and build the capacity of the seed companies as entrepreneurs and as collective under AWAB
- Register AWAB members with national seed associations to assure their seed quality and form part the decision making bodies in the seed business
- Register and formalise out growers to increase the number of women owned seed companies
- Ensure technical and quality compliance all seed companies
- Monitor and evaluate the programme success
- Develop and support AWAB networks in advocacy to present a united voice in seed development platform in Africa
- Share the stories of women involved in climate smart and gender-sensitive seed production across the region.





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