



MEDIA RELEASE

Zambezi Green Commercial Farm revives old farming practices and ancestral knowledge

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Delving deep into Namibian traditions and traditional farming, Zambezi Green Commercial Farm, one of the Agribank clients, is reviving centuries' old farming practices and ancestral knowledge to reclaim an agricultural productivity on sustainable level with lasting benefits to human health. In the document seen by AB Bulletin recently, the farm was established by Rector Muchimamui Mutelo as a pilot gardening project on a quarter of a hectare land in 2017. According to the document, Mutelo wanted to restore local knowledge in farming to improve food security, nutrition, crops and soils in Namibia, using organic fertilizers and compost made from organic material waste mixed with livestock waste to fertilize the land.



Rector Mutelo and Agribank Zambezi Regional Branch Manager Benick Kamwi

Regan Mwazi, the Executive of Marketing and Customer Strategy along with the Regional Branch Manager visited the farm on the 15th August 2019 and were quite stunned and impressed at scale of operation. It's a magnificent operation that if adopted by farmers in the region could make the region as a much talked about slogan of being a breadbasket of Namibia a reality in a short-period of time, said Mwazi.

With financing from Agribank in 2018, the farm has expanded to 7 hectares and supplies the local wholesalers such as Pick n Pay and Spar with fresh horticultural products throughout the year. The farm now supplies 700 kg of tomatoes every week to each local wholesalers with a trading agreement with the



Some of the produce of Zambezi greens

farm not to mention other crops such as watermelon, green maize, okra, cabbage and butternuts. According to Mwazi, the farm has created 5 permanent and 15 temporary employment and has the potential to create more with the envisaged expansion. The farm has become a role model in the Zambezi region and has been visited by many high profile people, including the SA High Commissioner to Namibia who called on the Government to provide access road to the farm for easy marketing of produce. Mutelo was quite surprised and happy to receive the Agribank delegation and took them around the farm to show them the potential that exists and the huge demand for the produce- that most of the produce are bought out while still under plantation and/or germination.

He urged Agribank to always pay a visit to provide advice and know the need of the farm for a tailor made financing solution.

Mutelo narrated his immediate need to Mwazi as that of drilling a second borehole to minimize the risk of total failure should the current operating borehole fail. The second need is to obtain further funding for production inputs and drip irrigation infrastructure for expansion of the farm from the current 7 hectares to 30 hectares. He has already

debushed the area and is currently cleaning it up. He was advised to initiate a loan application with the Regional Branch in Zambezi immediately in stages to avoid over-indulgency that may lead to indebtedness. Agribank provide financing for the



whole value chain in [Zambezi greens produce](#) agriculture at affordable

interest rates and Zambezi Green Farm will receive attention and enjoy those benefits.

In addition Mutelo explained that his farming practice do not merely reduce environmental impact by producing fewer greenhouse emissions and championing the revival of traditional farming practices, but his personal connection to the land and its sustainable farming methods produced some of the finest crops ever harvested. “The farm’s high-quality harvests included watermelons that weighed 18kg in average that were snapped up by Namibia’s largest grocery retailer, Spar with equally abundant maize and green pepper yields the latter of which were picked up by Pick n Pay,” Mutelo stated. He turned the pilot project and formalized it as Zambezi Green Commercial Farm in 2018 and currently he takes on the challenge of developing the

Farm and growing the company into a centre of excellence, both in organic farming as well as in agricultural research.

“What’s old is new again. Our ecologically-sound agricultural practices stem from traditional knowledge that is holistic in nature,” noted Mutelo. For the long-term benefit of the society and the planet, Zambezi Green aims to be a research farm that strives to advocate for this more resilient agricultural system as well as partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture, research institutions, universities, colleges and educational institutions.

In addition, working directly with local farmers in Namibia, Zambezi Green is committed to improve their economic state by validating and scaling their organic farming techniques. According to Mutelo this will empower them to be focused on sustainability rather than just survival. “Our initiatives include training local farmers on decomposition techniques and scaling their existing sustainable farming methods”, he enthused. We advocate the use of heritage agricultural know-how for the sustainable food production, he concluded.

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