

# The Market Garden - Growing sustainable businesses with women farmers in Zambia.

## Project information sheet

### The project

The majority of Zambian farms are small holdings where women tend to do most of the farming work. The women, who are overwhelmed with a massive workload within the household and on the farm, have very little autonomy over their own lives due to a lack of economic power, limited business skills, few financial resources and limited access to markets. Women, whose small earnings are often the only source of income for their families, find it particularly difficult to sell their produce because they are less trusted within their communities and at the markets. As a result of this combination of factors, the majority of rural small holdings are informal, homebased and owner-operated without a secure income and with limited potential for growth.

Christian Aid and its partners have launched a project called Making Agriculture a Business, which aims to transform small-scale farmers into champions of economic development.

Your financial support will reinforce that project by providing focused, sustainable support for the women and disabled farmers who find it most difficult to get their produce to market.

### The Market Garden Project

Alongside the main area of work, which is Making Agriculture a Business, Christian Aid Scotland supporters can invest in a complementary project called The Market Garden. The Market Garden will be a community inspired initiative which supports women and disabled farmers to ensure that their produce makes a profit. This might mean implementing improvements such as:

- Solar-charged or drip irrigation to improve crop growth.
- Developing local co-operatives.
- Trialling new crops or diversifying income through poultry rearing.

### Economic opportunities

Small-scale farmers will be provided with appropriate support, skill development and financial capabilities to enable them to grow their own agriculture businesses. This will include:

- Improving business skills, management and financial literacy.
- Ensuring equal access to markets for women and people with disabilities.
- Increasing production capacity and establishing good routes to market.
- Improving communication between farmers, commodity traders, middlemen and bulk buyers.
- Empowering small farmers to earn a good livelihood within the context of Zambia's intensive farming industry.



Women continue to play a critical role in sustaining the productive sectors such as agriculture, commerce and trade but have unequal access to and control of resources such as land and finances.

## Growth for all

Zambia's economic growth in the past few years has not translated into improvement in people's lives overall. Due to the absence of medium-sized agro-businesses, there is a huge gap in terms of productivity between large agro-businesses and the small scale subsistence farming upon which most people in Zambia depend. Making Agriculture a Business and The Market Garden will help unlock the potential for small farms to thrive through better linkages, value chains and negotiation skills for the small scale farmers and entrepreneurs.

## Our Aims

- To create an environment for greater economic opportunities for small scale farmers, particularly women and those with disabilities.
- To improve access to markets through better trading channels and effective co-operatives.
- To focus on specific needs with small groups and individuals in order to improve the profitability of their harvest.

## Partnerships

The Market Garden and the Making Agriculture a Business (MAB) projects will be co-ordinated by a Joint Country Programme made up of Christian Aid, Norwegian Church Aid and Dan Church Aid. It is being rolled out in partnership with Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ).

CHAZ is a faith-based association which was formed in 1970 to improve access to health and to foster economic development through savings and loans groups. Christian Aid has been working with CHAZ since 2011.

The project will also benefit from partnership working with Zambia Chamber of Small and Medium Business Associations (ZCSMBA); Co-operative College, Scotland; and Strathclyde University SE4D.

## Project locations within Zambia

Christian Aid and its partners are working in the four districts of Chisamba, Kapiri Mposhi, Kabwe and Mumbwa in Central Province, Zambia.



'Learning how to market and store our produce properly will help us a lot because at times we harvest a lot of crop but make a lot of losses due to damages.' Yolanta Mainza, a mother of 6 children from Mumbwa District is a subsistence farmer. She grows various crops including maize, cotton, soya beans and groundnuts.

## Your impact

Your support for The Market Garden project will help more women and vulnerable people to improve their farming practices. By complementing the outputs of Making Agriculture a Business, it is hoped that:

- 4000 farmers will benefit directly from training and improved market opportunities.
- An entrepreneurial environment and business enabling culture will be created which encourages sustainable livelihoods for small-scale farmers.

## Contact

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JOINT COUNTRY PROGRAMME ZAMBIA

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