

Southern Alliance For Indigenous Resources

SAFIRE

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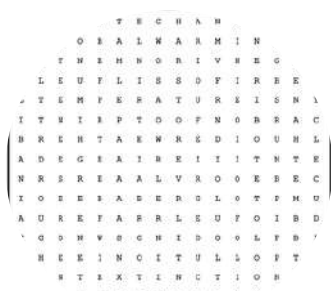
Welcome back to SAFIRE's newsletter! After a brief hiatus, we're thrilled to be back in touch with exciting news and updates. Since March, we've made significant progress in our conservation and resilience-building efforts. We're grateful for your continued support and interest in our work. Thank you for being part of our SAFIRE family. As we move forward, consider making a donation to support our critical initiatives.



WHAT TO EXPECT



SEED & FOOD
FAIR



WORD SEARCH



EMPOWERED
FARMERS, BRIGHTER
FUTURE



WOMEN EMPOWERED, COMMUNITIES UPLIFTED: GALS MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN BUHERA

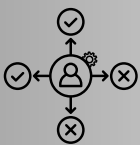
SAFIRE's Climate Adaptation for Rural Livelihoods (CARL) project is making a significant impact on women's empowerment and gender equality in Buhera. A recent Gender Action Learning System (GALS) monitoring visit revealed impressive results:



Income surge: The percentage of women with their own income has skyrocketed from 25% to a remarkable 60% since GALS training began.



Asset ownership: Ownership of productive assets by women has seen a dramatic shift, jumping from a situation where men held everything to a new reality where 80% of women now own their own resources.



Empowered decision-making: Women are no longer on the sidelines. A significant 60% of women are now actively contributing to household decision-making.

This progress is a direct result of the CARL project, supported by the Swedish International Development Agency and Oxfam in Zimbabwe & Southern Africa. The project focuses on empowering women and youth, ensuring equitable access to resources, and fostering a more inclusive community environment.

The GALS program is proving to be a powerful catalyst for change. By equipping women with knowledge and resources, the project is creating a ripple effect of positive transformation, not just for individual households, but for entire communities in Buhera.

IRRIGATING HOPE: THE STORY OF SHASHE IRRIGATION SCHEME



Top
Sithabile Mbedzi
Bottom
Kindness Dube

Written By : Godman Moyo

The Shashe Irrigation Scheme, a cooperative of 186 members in Maramani Ward 8, has transformed the lives of its farmers through the profitable production and marketing of citrus, sugar beans, maize, wheat, watermelons, butternuts, and vegetables.

With support from Liechtenstein Development Services, the scheme's water availability improved significantly, with one existing borehole equipped and an additional borehole drilled, both powered by solar systems. This enhancement enabled farmers to increase their irrigable land under crop production from 30ha to 40ha through contract farming, focusing on nutritional crops like wheat, sugar beans, and watermelons in Block B.

The Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement in and around Manjinji and Shashe Irrigation Schemes (RESLEMS) project's interventions have also strengthened the institutional capacity of the Shashe Irrigation Management Committee, Shashe Trust, and farmers to manage the irrigation scheme infrastructure, ensuring sustainability beyond project funding.



Farmers like Sithabile Mbedzi and Kindness Dube have seen significant improvements in their livelihoods. Sithabile, a plot holder and employee of the scheme for over 10 years, has been able to raise her children and build a home, while Kindness has sent her children to high school and purchased small livestock and built her own homestead. The average farmer's earnings, including crops for family consumption, exceed \$1000 per year.

The scheme's partnership with SAFIRE has been instrumental in achieving these outcomes, with farmers benefiting from improved irrigation infrastructure, market access, and enhanced farming knowledge. As Kindness Dube noted, "We lacked knowledge in farming, but through assistance from development partners like SAFIRE, we are now better farmers."

The RESLEMS project's focus on sustainable livelihoods has not only improved water availability but also empowered farmers like Kindness and Sithabile to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

EMPOWERED FARMERS, A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Mr. and Mrs. Dube, plot holders at Manjinji Irrigation Scheme since 1983, have witnessed a significant transformation in their livelihoods thanks to the RESLEMS project. Last year, they produced an impressive eight buckets of sugar beans, a testament to the project's impact. Recently, they exchanged four buckets for two goats, a wise investment in their future. By breeding their goats, they'll expand their herd, ensuring a reliable source of nutritious milk and meat.

The Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement in and around Manjinji and Shashe Irrigation Schemes (RESLEMS project, funded by LED Liechtenstein Development Service, aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe.



Mr and Mrs Dube

The Dubes' story shows the project's success, demonstrating how sustainable irrigation can improve the lives of smallholder farmers.

The RESLEMS project continues to make a positive impact on the lives of farmers like the Dubes, promoting food security, sustainability, and economic growth. As we move forward, we remain committed to supporting smallholder farmers in their journey towards a more resilient and prosperous future.



A key aspect of the project is the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes, enabling farmers to increase crop production and enhance their food security.

Mrs. Dube (75) expressed her appreciation, "We're grateful to the RESLEMS project for encouraging us to invest in biological assets, which has helped us strengthen our food security and livelihoods."



MANJINJI IRRIGATION SCHEME ABUZZ WITH SEED, FOOD, AND LIVESTOCK FAIR

The Manjinji Irrigation Scheme in Chiredzi South ward 15 was a hive of activity this month, playing host to a vibrant Seed, Food, and Livestock Fair. This exciting event brought together farmers, researchers, and government stakeholders, fostering a dynamic environment of collaboration and knowledge exchange



The Fair wasn't just about sharing expertise. It empowered local farmers to take center stage, showcasing, exchanging, and selling their carefully selected seeds and livestock. This empowerment created a marketplace for local produce, promoted entrepreneurship, and strengthened the agricultural community within the Manjinji Irrigation Scheme.

Adding a competitive edge, those with outstanding exhibitions and produces were awarded prizes. This recognition program not only celebrated exceptional farmers but also inspired others to continuously improve the quality of their products and presentations..



Building a Climate-Resilient Future in Bikita



We're excited to share a milestone in our Community-Based Adaptation: Scaling up Community Action for Livelihoods and Ecosystems in Southern Africa and Beyond (CBA-SCALE Southern Africa+) project, funded by BMUV-IKI.

The team trained local leaders in Bikita on conducting climate vulnerability assessments, empowering them to identify unique challenges and develop tailored solutions.

This training is part of our broader effort to develop inclusive, gender-responsive climate plans across Zimbabwe.

From Capacity-Building to Community Engagement

We have now launched the Participatory Climate Vulnerability Analysis (PCVA) in Bikita, marking a new chapter in our project. We're working closely with community members to understand their daily lives, challenges, and experiences. This people-centered approach ensures that our adaptation plans reflect the unique needs of each community, making a real difference in the lives of those on the frontlines of climate change.



Empowering Communities, Building Resilience

Through this project, we aim to empower community members to take ownership of their climate resilience journey. By equipping them with the tools and knowledge to assess their vulnerabilities and develop solutions, we're building a more climate-resilient future for everyone in Southern Africa. Stay tuned for more updates from the field!

Word Search!

C	L	I	M	A	T	E	C	H	A	N	G	E	N	S	C
Y	G	L	O	B	A	L	W	A	R	M	I	N	G	Y	R
T	E	T	N	E	M	N	O	R	I	V	N	E	G	S	E
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I	T	N	I	R	P	T	O	O	F	N	O	B	R	A	C
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A	U	R	E	F	A	R	R	L	E	U	F	O	I	B	D
T	G	O	N	W	S	G	N	I	D	O	O	L	F	B	I
S	H	E	E	I	N	O	I	T	U	L	L	O	P	T	P
U	T	N	T	E	X	T	I	N	C	T	I	O	N	L	M
S	E	Y	C	A	R	B	O	N	D	I	O	X	I	D	E
R	S	A	G	E	S	U	O	H	N	E	E	R	G	L	B

You can go up, down, forward, backward or diagonally in this wordsearch



»»» **OUR PARTNERS** «««



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**LED LIECHTENSTEIN
DEVELOPMENT
SERVICE**



**Sweden
Sverige**



**Bundesministerium für
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te und Entwicklung**



Irish Aid

*An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs*

IKI
INTERNATIONAL
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**terre des
hommes**

Help for Children in Need

care