

Case study 1



Vegetables for home and abroad, Zimbabwe



Another happy customer

- ◆ Through a package of support, that includes improved pump technology, the Mvuramanzi Trust in Zimbabwe are helping rural families to produce irrigated vegetables for home consumption, and for sale both in Zimbabwe and in European markets. These water points are also often used for domestic purposes.
- ◆ Rope pumps are a low-cost technology for extraction of water from wells or open bodies of water such as rivers and dams. It is possible to make and assemble the rope pump at village level and involve users in the manufacture of the pump. This leads to better maintenance of the pump. Mvuramanzi Trust has to date assisted 50 families or groups. The rope pumps have been fitted on wells vertically or at an inclined position from rivers and dams. Water is pumped to a small water storage tank and then gardens are irrigated by hosepipe
- ◆ Wells fitted with rope pumps can be protected from surface contamination and in a number of cases, water is pumped into the tank and then gravity-fed to both gardens and the homestead for domestic use.
- ◆ Crops grown for export include sweetcorn, babycorn, butternut, fine beans, mange tout and hot chillies. Some of the farmers work with a private company Hortico, who have a special division for communal out-growers, and export vegetables to European markets.
- ◆ The Mvuramanzi Trust are now working with partners to provide a better package of assistance to families. This includes micro-financing to improve access to credit, drip irrigation systems to make the best use of water, and training in crop production and managing water supplies. The aim is to assist 3,500 families each year to install rope pumps and set up irrigation systems at their homes.



Using the rope pump

Sources of information and further details

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Providing youth employment

Small-scale horticultural production is now providing a livelihood for six previously underemployed youths all aged from 20-23 years old in Chikwaka Dzvetete area, Goromonzi. Individual problems brought the group together, especially the lack of education to secure a 'professional' job, and gardening has provided an opportunity to improve their lives.



Elijah could not continue his education because his parents did not have money to send him for college after the mine where they worked closed down. And without a professional qualification it was difficult to get a job. Curthbert faced similar circumstances as his parents had little money. Tendai's parents died when he was still at secondary school and he was unable to continue his education.

With three other underemployed friends, they founded the Riverside Youth Gardening Co-operative two years ago. First, they started farming close to the village garden, but then they moved to the riverbank due to lack of water. Here they had to fetch water in 20 litre cans and climb up the riverbank, a height of almost 20 metres, to irrigate the garden. This was laborious and time consuming. It restricted them to irrigating only 2 acres of land and their production levels were low.



Mvuramanzi Trust assisted the group to install a rope pump to help lift water to the garden. The group now plans to extend the area and have already been given an extra piece of land by the headman of the village. Mvuramanzi Trust have also advised the group on how to protect the area from soil erosion by moving further from the river, and planting vetiver grass along contour bunds.



The youth group enjoys a lucrative local market for leaf vegetables at local schools and in the surrounding villages. Mbare Musika in Harare is the more reliable market for crops such as tomatoes and onions. Tomatoes are the group's major crop. Normally they harvest 50 boxes a season which they have been selling at prices ranging from \$300-\$500 (roughly US\$ 1.00-1.50).

The group now plans to diversify crop production by introducing crops such as carrots, watermelons, green mealies, cucumbers and beans. Like some other smallholders, they also intend to try and break into lucrative export markets.

