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Women and Youth in Agriculture Cooperative (WAYCO) Case Study



BEYOND **10** yrs
OF UNLOCKING
POTENTIAL



Women and Youth in Agriculture Cooperative (WAYCO)

National Development Agency funded project

Compiled by

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BACKGROUND

WAYCO was started as a close corporation in 2006 and later registered as a cooperative in 2009. The cooperative is managed by seven founding members that started this project as a back yard garden that later evolved into a larger scale farming cooperative. The cooperative is operating on a 9, 7 hectares of arable land. The cooperative is based in Matsulu in Mobombela local municipality. WAYCO is 100% black owned and 80% of the members are youth and women entrepreneurs with knowledge in farming business.



PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The cooperative uses underground irrigation system for watering their crops, and the irrigation system is getting water from the nearby river. The cooperative grows seven types of vegetables in their 9, 7 hectares farm which are: cabbage, spinach, carrots, sweet potatoes, Okra and tomatoes. The cooperative does all the work in the farm; ploughs, sows, grows and harvest when the crops are ready.



PARTNERSHIPS

The cooperative has established partnerships with:

- SPAR Nelspruit– to supply spinach and tomatoes
- The cooperative also supply vegetables to the local communities on a weekly basis.

FINANCIAL AND NON FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- The National Development Agency approved a total grant amount of R659 600 towards the cooperative.
- Department of Agriculture also provided the herbs shrubs to the cooperative.
- MASDT, who is training service providers in agriculture sector in Mpumalanga, is also mentoring the cooperative on technical aspects of crop farming.

CONCLUSION

The cooperative is doing well with regards to the production of spinach and tomatoes that was observed during the site visit. However with regards to the production of tomatoes, it was observed that the tomatoes are harvested after they are over-ripe and most of them were rotten and had to be thrown away.



Tomatoes that are rotten

RECOMMENDATIONS

The cooperative has the potential to expand their produce; however more technical training is needed to assist them, more especially on care management of tomatoes. The cooperative throws away rotten tomatoes in a hole; they should also be trained on composting their rotten vegetables as fertilizers rather than throwing them away.