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Silahlekelwe Mbofana

Founder, Tarima Vegetables & Zihlahla Trees,
Zimbabwe

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Silahlekelwe (Sila) Mbofana is a chartered accountant who ventured into the Agri-Business Sector in 2008. She recently completed Zimtrade's – Next She Exporter Program, and is an African women Entrepreneurship Cooperative (AWEC) alumnae. Sila is the founder of Tarima Vegetables, an enterprise that specializes in oyster mushroom, various beans, finger millet and sweet potato production (amongst other horticultural produce). In 2021, she established Zihlahla Trees, a social enterprise aimed at combating climate change and deforestation. Zihlahla produces tree seedlings using Tarima Vegetables' mushroom waste as planting media. Its primary focus is on producing indigenous and fruit trees. Zihlahla accepts recyclable waste in exchange for tree seedlings. Its current goal is to plant One Million trees in Zimbabwe. Sila's enterprises are based in both rural and urban areas, namely Harare, Goromonzi, Domboshava and Murehwa. She employs young women, men and youth from less privileged backgrounds. This provides much needed employment for these vulnerable members of society. The enterprise fosters independence and financial stability for its employees and their families. Despite the setbacks that came with the COVID-19 disruption to her agricultural operations, Sila has taken on new challenges and realised the great potential that Tarima Vegetables and Zihlahla Trees have in becoming leaders in their niche market. Given her strong bias towards conserving or restoring the environment that she operates in, she strives to use products that leave a green footprint wherever her enterprises are based.

"The Leadership and Human Resource Workshop gave me new skill sets which have been instrumental in transforming my leadership style. I have learnt to improve team productivity using small high impact teams and blended working. Managing people has become an exciting challenge through implementing e-learning portal lessons!"

~ Judith Marera ~



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Langelihle Simela

Agribusiness Development Manager, Absa, South Africa