



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Marketing Project (SAPEMP)





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ABOUT SAPEMP

The Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Marketing Project (SAPEMP) is a game-changer for Eswatini's agricultural sector, designed to uplift smallholder farmers by boosting productivity, expanding market access, and strengthening climate resilience. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the sustainable reduction of poverty in rural Eswatini

CONCEPTUALISED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ESWATINI AND IFAD

Conceptualised by the Government of Eswatini and IFAD, SAPEMP directly addresses critical challenges hindering agricultural growth.

These challenges include low yields due to outdated farming practices, overreliance on rainfed agriculture, climate change threats, environmental degradation, post-harvest losses, limited access to finance and markets, and a lack of farmer coordination and business acumen.



KEY OBJECTIVES

INCREASE SHFS' PRODUCTION

- Nutrition and incomes and build their resilience to climate change through 3 outcomes:
- Production and productivity of the target value chains increased, resilience and nutrition of smallholder farming households improved
- Incomes of rural smallholders from marketing of supported value chains improved
- Service delivery by stronger government and rural institutions improved.

ENHANCE CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

- Promote climate-smart agricultural practices to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events.
- Strengthen community-based resource management to improve productivity and food security.



STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Improve public service delivery and rural institutions to support agricultural growth.
- Develop and implement policies that enable smallholder farmers to participate in a competitive agricultural economy.
- Facilitate capacity-building programs for farmers, cooperatives, and value chain actors to enhance productivity and efficiency.

EMPOWER SMALLHOLDER FARMERS AND PROMOTE INCLUSIVITY

- Provide targeted support to vulnerable farming communities, particularly food-insecure households.
- Advance gender equality through initiatives like the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), empowering women in agriculture.
- Equip commercially oriented smallholders with business and financial skills to drive sustainable agricultural enterprises.

KEY OBJECTIVES

IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS AND VALUE CHAIN INTEGRATION

- Establish structured market linkages between smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.
- Enhance smallholder farmers' financial access and aggregation capacity to compete in local and international markets.
- Promote value addition and agribusiness development to increase rural incomes and economic sustainability.





PROJECT COMPONENTS

IMPROVING MARKET LINKAGES AND ACCESS TO FINANCE

Focuses on the access to domestic and international competitive markets for SHFs producing vegetables and legumes which is constrained by low aggregation capacity, weak links with the market off takers. This component will facilitate the creation of successful business linkages among the actors in the VCs. Identified AEs will be supported and linked to appropriate graduated production clusters, based on the specific market opportunity and geographic proximity, and to market offtakers

PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT OF THE TARGET VALUE CHAINS

Focuses on the sustainable production of vegetable crops and legumes which is constrained by climate change and extreme weather events (e.g., droughts, floods, heat waves, frost, hail), environment degradation, inefficient production systems that limit farmers to participate in competitive markets and limited access to technical support on production.

IMPROVED ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR PROMOTION OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF LOCAL PRODUCE

Supports the creation of an enabling environment for the achievement of the outcomes of the first two components. It aims to improve service delivery through strengthening public and rural institutions and supporting GoE for the operationalization of key enabling policies.

PROJECT TARGET GROUPS



DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- 17,000 smallholder farmers & households



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- 7,500 households



SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

- Micro and small entrepreneurs in need of technical and financial assistance to become sustainable commercial farmers,
- Rural HHs, who already meet their minimal needs, but who remain vulnerable to exogenous shocks which hinders their capacity to become commercially productive,
- Poor rural and peri urban SHFs, who are capable of engaging in commercially oriented activities and require additional support to release their economic potential,
- Rural dwellers, wishing to engage in wage or self-employment, associated to supported Value Chains (VCs)

1

IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS & HIGHER INCOMES

- Expands structured market linkages to local, regional, and international markets.
- Reduces post-harvest losses by improving storage, processing, and value addition.
- Enables farmers to secure better prices and consistent income through organized production clusters.

2

GENDER AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

- Equips women and youth with skills, resources, and financial support for agribusiness ventures.
- Increases women's participation in decision-making through the Gender Action Learning System (GALS).
- Attracts young entrepreneurs to agriculture by making farming more profitable and market-driven.

3

INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- Boosts smallholder farmer yields through climate-smart farming practices.
- Strengthens resilience against climate shocks such as droughts, floods, and extreme temperatures.
- Enhances food security by promoting the cultivation of nutritious, high-value crops.

4

STRENGTHENED RURAL LIVELIHOODS & ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Creates employment opportunities across agricultural value chains.
- Supports the development of agribusinesses, cooperatives, and farmer groups.
- Encourages financial inclusion by improving access to credit and investment opportunities.

5

ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT & POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- Strengthens government institutions and public service delivery in agriculture.
- Aligns agricultural policies with climate adaptation and sustainable development goals.

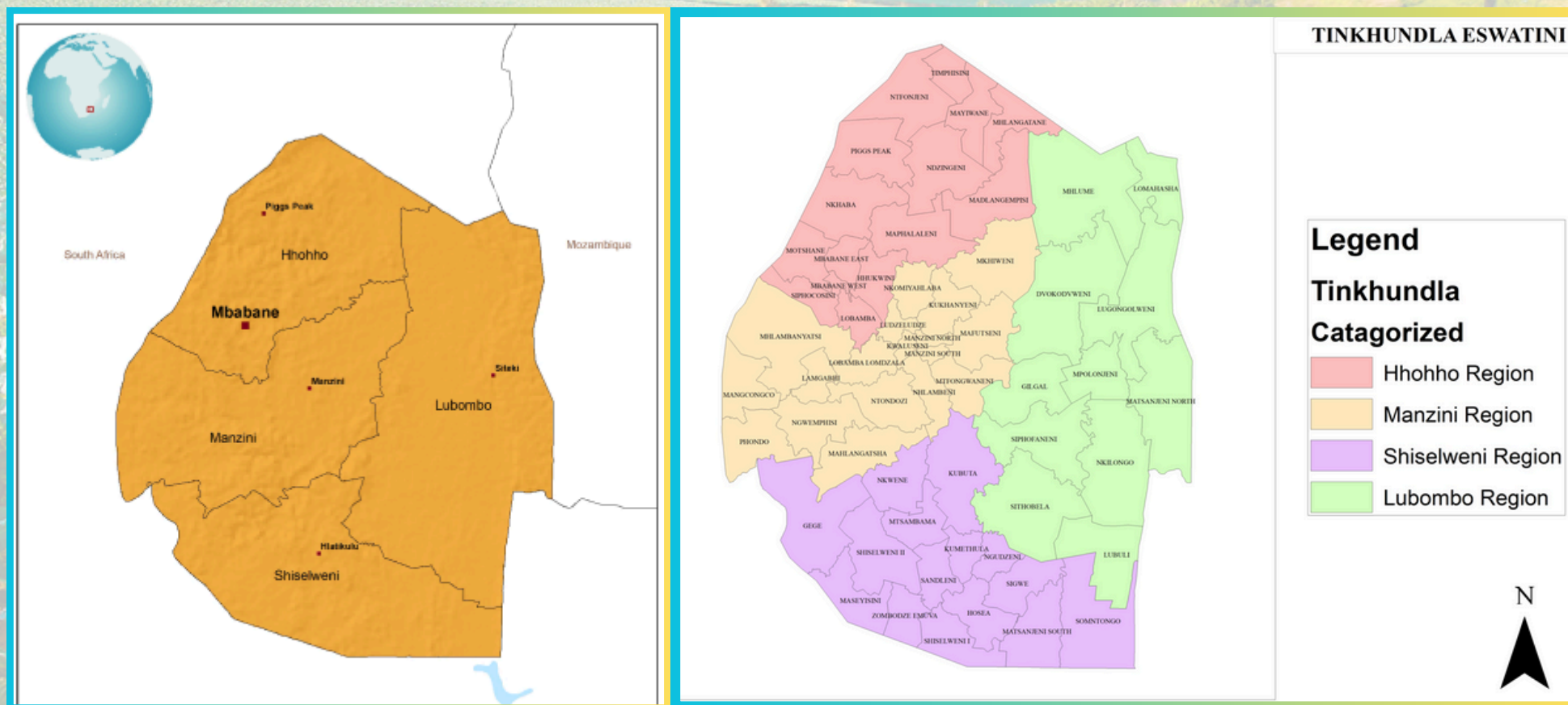
SAPEMP IMPACT

6

NATIONWIDE REACH & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

- Impacts all four regions of Eswatini, with a special focus on climate-vulnerable areas.
- Utilizes existing irrigation schemes to promote year-round farming and reduce reliance on rainfed agriculture.
- Supports Eswatini's ambition to achieve food sovereignty by reducing dependence on food imports.

SAPEMP will be implemented in key agricultural zones across Eswatini, including Hhohho, Piggs Peak, Mbabane, Lubombo, Siteki, Manzini, Shiselweni, & Hlathikulu, where smallholder farming is most prevalent.





Contact Us

Join SAPEMP in transforming smallholder farming and building a more sustainable agricultural future. We invite stakeholders, investors, and the public to collaborate in this game-changing initiative.



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