WINDHOEK

TURNING AN URBAN FARM INTO A PATHWAY TO LIVELIHOODS

Farm Okukuna was established to address urban food insecurity among vulnerable groups, but beneficiaries had been farming individually without metered water, shared demonstration resources or formal market linkages. These structural limitations constrained productivity and income stability. The pilot therefore sought to strengthen the farm as a platform through which 13 smallholder families could become market-ready agricultural entrepreneurs.

The intervention began with a needs assessment, followed by infrastructure improvements and a model-plot and mentorship programme. Five new shade-net structures in addition to the seven existing shade-nets. Drip irrigation with individual water meters were installed across ten active plots. Two demonstration plots compared production approaches, while beneficiaries received training and market-linkage research was undertaken across the farm and four open markets.

The infrastructure was handed over to the City of Windhoek, with day-to-day maintenance assigned to the City and existing annual funding available for urban agriculture. The City has confirmed plans to replicate the model at a second site in Dordabis. The pilot's blueprint (needs assessment, governance formalisation, and a permanent farm manager) are identified as essential for replication, while also proposing formal market agreements, nursery infrastructure, and a Farm Okukuna producer identity.

Contact
James Kalundu:
James.Kalundu@windhoekcc.org.na
Sara Nakalila: sara.nakalila@iclei.org





