

Frank Kapopo's Story

An example of small scale investment: **The Tuchatane Club and Naluyanda Project, Zambia** funded by Harvest Help: www.harvesthelp.org

"My name is Frank Kapopo. I am 35 years old and married with five children. I live in Kapopo Village, in Zambia.

Before the project started, life was very difficult because we did not have enough ways of earning money to be able to work the farm properly. There was not enough food for the family and sometimes we only had one meal a day.



Maize growing

We were only able to grow one type of crop, maize, on the same piece of land every year. This is called 'mono-cropping'. This is not good for the soil because growing the same crop year after year on the same piece of land causes the soil to lose all its nutrients and goodness. Then the crop does not grow well. If there was a drought and no rain fell, it was terrible because the crop failed to grow at all. The only way we could earn any money was through cutting down trees and making charcoal from them to sell.

Then in 2002, I joined the Tuchatane Club, which is one of 166 Clubs set up through the Naluyanda Project. This has changed the way we live and I now believe my family can not only survive, but make plans for the future.

Through the Club I have learnt how to farm in a different way. Now I practise

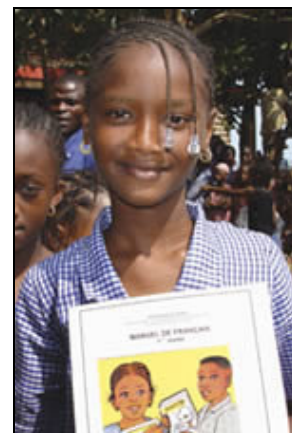
crop rotation, which means I grow a variety of crops including maize, soya beans, and groundnuts. Every year we move the crops around and plant them in a different field. This means the soil does not get exhausted and there are fewer pests so the crops grow better. I have also learnt that the crop will be improved if I fertilise the soil with compost and liquid manure.

This way of farming has helped me to understand about 'sustainable agriculture'. I also have a garden which I look after carefully to use for my own family but also to sell vegetables at the local market.

I have also started to farm chickens. I started with 50 chickens but now have 300! To help me with this I have had some business training from the Club and made a business plan.

All our lives have improved. I can re-invest the money I earn in farming and use it to pay for my children to go to school. We can buy clothes and we regularly eat two meals a day now. I am also a member of the local savings and credit group (or village bank). I have managed to pay back all the money I have borrowed from this because of the earnings I have made through new ways of farming.

I feel it is very important to pass on these new skills to other people in my own village and other areas. I have had many visitors to my fields, asking if they too can join the club. I have now done some training which means I can train other farmers in the methods of sustainable agriculture. I also teach about agro-forestry and tree planting and, most recently, I have taken a course to improve my skills in running a business. This will mean I can make even more progress for myself and my family".



Small scale investment can help children go to school

Web links for further information:

BBC Country Profiles: Zambia

A brief history and key statistics: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1069294.stm

BBC News World Edition

Top news stories from across Africa <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm>

All Africa

A site offering news from over one hundred newspapers and news agencies across Africa.

Zambia pages:

<http://allafrica.com/zambia/>

One World Africa

The African arm of the One World independent media network; a network of people and groups working for human rights and sustainable development.

<http://africa.oneworld.net/article/frontpage/151/509>

Zambia guide: <http://africa.oneworld.net/article/archive/4504/>

UNDP Human Development Reports

Human development indicators, searchable by country or indicators. <http://hdr.undp.org/statistics/data/>