

# Food-for-Peace Success Story

## Didela Nutrition Garden – An Oasis in Shaba Village



Didela Nutrition Garden showing maize and sugar bean crop

Didela Nutrition Garden was established in 2018 as part of a proposal from the community’s Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plan. The community consulted with local leadership in order to gain ownership of the land and started clearing the site using their resources. Ward 16 in Tsholotsho experiences low and poorly distributed rains and is prone to frequent droughts. The area is also characterized by high evaporation rates and highly erodible soils which generally have low fertility and water holding capacity. Poor soil structure and intense, short-duration rains are typical of the district and make it difficult for the communities to practice horticulture. This forces most families to buy vegetables from distant markets. Limited financial resources mean poor dietary diversity and ultimately poor health for all community members especially pregnant and lactating women and infants under two years.

On the 4th of March 2020, Didela Nutrition Garden in Ward 16, Tsholotsho District hosted a field day in partnership with Seed Co, the largest seed producer in Zimbabwe. Farmers from the 1-hectare garden were approached by a Seed Co agronomist at a district show where they exhibited produce from their garden and won. Seed Co initiated the partnership to showcase available seed varieties for different farmer categories. Seed Co hopes that the sterling example set by Didela Nutrition Garden members will encourage other groups in the area with similar initiatives to take advantage of the opportunity to learn how to maximize their yields using good quality inputs and applying the knowledge they have gained from being a part of Amalima. “Our intention in partnering with the garden is not just so the owners can eat the produce and make money for themselves, but it is mostly so that everyone learns how to grow produce using the right inputs and methods,” said Mr. Wallace Banda the Marketing Consultant for Seed Co Matabeleland.



Field day attendees as they went on a tour of the garden lead by members of Didela Nutrition Garden

According to Mr. Botha Ngwenya, the chairperson of Didela Nutrition Garden, “This is our second year of planting and we have already harvested maize, sugar beans, tomatoes and onions. We’ve added more to the garden including sweet watermelons, cucumbers, rape rampant and butternut. Our desire is for our children and grandchildren to eat good, nutritious food.”

Mrs. Juliana Moyo-Ndlovu, a founding member of the garden, shared that when they first joined Amalima most rural families had pinned their hopes for survival on the monthly food distributions but after joining other Amalima activities, they are no longer afraid of what the future holds. “We are sad that the Amalima project is coming to an end, but it’s mostly because we have made friends and not because we are afraid of going hungry as we were once before.”