2023 Women's Day Celebration

Every year the women members of Mbabala, Chikanta and Pemba get together to celebrate Women's Day on the 8th of March as an opportunity to celebrate and make a statement that women are part of the development process.

This year over 200 women marched to the Mbabala project site to show not only their unity, but their strength and passion for development.

The women were unified and full of energy as they marched to the Mbabala project site singing the Natural Agriculture Anthem that they have sung for the last 18 years - “KUMBELE KUMBELE, MUNSI MUNSI PEPE!” An anthem that simply highlights their resolve and future-plan to never look back, and which simply translates “LETS KEEP MOVING FORWARD AND NEVER GO BACK!”

18 years later and this group of women still want to show the community and anyone listening that they still believe in Natural Agriculture and that women are the key to changing lives in communities like theirs.

NADPZ aims to achieve SDG 5 which focuses on achieving gender equality by ending all forms of discrimination, violence and any harmful practices against women and girls in the public and private spheres. It also calls for the full participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of political and economic decision-making.
Eight years ago in August 2015, Sensei Alan Imai and the Shumei Youth that visited Zambia to celebrate the project's 15th anniversary, officially opened the first two Mawofa Community School classrooms at the Pemba project site. This project was aimed at educating the next generation of future farmers with the focus not only being on basic subject development, but also having extracurricular activities like Natural Agriculture, as part of the curriculum.

Last year in our newsletter you saw the Parent Teacher Association along with the Pemba Women's Cooperative making bricks for the new classroom and today with the help of our Shumei friends internationally the new classrooms are a reality and have now been roofed and the finishing touches are being put in and will be ready to officially be opened in August of this year.

The 2019 - 2021 Covid pandemic wreaked havoc on the world’s education system, with several students staying at home due to school closures as a way of protecting the public from the spread of the Corona virus. Even with all this hardship, we are happy to say that the school continues to grow and today the school has 120 students. The first students in 2015 are now moving to Grade 5 and 6 classrooms, which are the new classrooms that are currently being constructed. The school also has 4 teachers and with the help of the government will soon have a Head teacher who will manage and run the school and its faculty.

Now that there are more teachers as well as part time community teachers the plans are to increase the Natural Agriculture Garden which will be grown and managed by the students and teachers. The plans also include adding more art classes as well a sports program which will include athletics, football, and netball, which we believe will give the children a well-rounded curriculum.

With the increased classrooms the school can now also have the opportunity to enrol other students in the community, which will allow the school to continue to grow and to one day see it become a primary and secondary school combined which will see the graduates attend university in a variety of fields that will allow them to contribute to the development of their community.

We look forward to the growth of the Mawofa Community School and for it to be the vehicle that shapes young hearts and minds for a better future!
SCALING UP NATURAL AGRICULTURE -
BIG WELCOME BY NEW NA MUMBWA MEMBERS

Every year NADPZ continues to receive requests from communities in other parts of Zambia that want to learn about the Natural Agriculture programs that have been established in the Mbabala, Pemba and Chikanta communities. The Natural Agriculture message has been spread through word of mouth and through our annual events like our Natural Agriculture show. The support and recommendations made by our local community leaders, such as the Headmen, Chiefs, local Agricultural Camp Officers, District Commissioners, and local MPs has peaked community interests and provided an opportunity to scale up the project.

In July our Project Manager and Natural Agriculture training team visited the Mumbwa District Women Association in the Central Province of Zambia and trained 109 new Demo farmers from 9 different clubs. This year in April the women invited us to the central province to meet the women's groups as well as their supporting partners.

We were given a very warm and enthusiastic welcome and the District Commissioner Mrs Hayumbu and Mrs Rudo Chingobe the WE Effect programme Coordinator were present to also greet us.

The small agriculture show was created in honour of Sensei Alan Imai. The women create agricultural displays of all their produce, which included sun dried seasonal vegetables and a variety of their maize seeds and other produce.

We look forward to starting our work with the Mumbwa District Women Association and we look forward to expanding our Natural Agriculture knowledge and experiences.

The Groups are excited and ready to begin, and we look forward to our future projects.
OUR PROJECT SITE IS READY TO WELCOME YOU!

This year we begin preparations for the Project's 20th anniversary which will be held in August 2025. We are looking forward to seeing another group of Shumei youth who will take part in the 20th Anniversary show and who will be ready to take part in our show's great culture exchange.

During this event you will have the opportunity to stay at our beautiful project site and you will be taken care of by the women members and the project site staff who make this place feel like home with their great food and hospitality.

You will have the opportunity to eat the local cuisine and take part in all our cultural and sports activities. Most of all we look forward to experiencing your culture. We look forward to hearing the sensational Taiko drums. We look forward to eating the wonderful Japanese curry that you have prepared before. We look forward to the exciting sports competition as well as the tag of war.

Most of all we look forward to receiving Jyorei and for you to share your positive energy and experience with us.

The NADPZ, Mbabala, Pemba, Chikanta and now Mumbwa Natural Agriculture farmers and MAWOFA Community School children and teachers look forward to welcoming you to Zambia!

"We look forward to 2025!"