



AWiA

African Women in Agriculture

• Grounded in success •

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An introduction to AWiA

Background

Women farmers are faced with challenges in the agricultural market, they make up a significant portion of the agricultural labour force, constituting an average of 43 percent in developing countries; making up approximately 50 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, these farmers are often faced with challenges when trying to access the agricultural market.

Women have limited access to finance, agricultural inputs such as seeds, farming implements and transport. They are impacted by a lack of agricultural skills and infrastructure, and the majority of them are involved in small-scale farming due to limited resources.

They additionally have limited knowledge and use of farming technologies.

AWiA would like to close this gap in knowledge and resources by empowering women.

Our WHY

- Empower women
- Give women access
- Create change
- Impact hunger and poverty
- Give back to the community
- Make a difference
- Create a new model
- Drive aspiration
- Create an ecosystem



our vision

To capacitate women's access to the agri-ecosystem, driving socio economic impact through disruptive virtual and physical communities



Women armed with tenacity

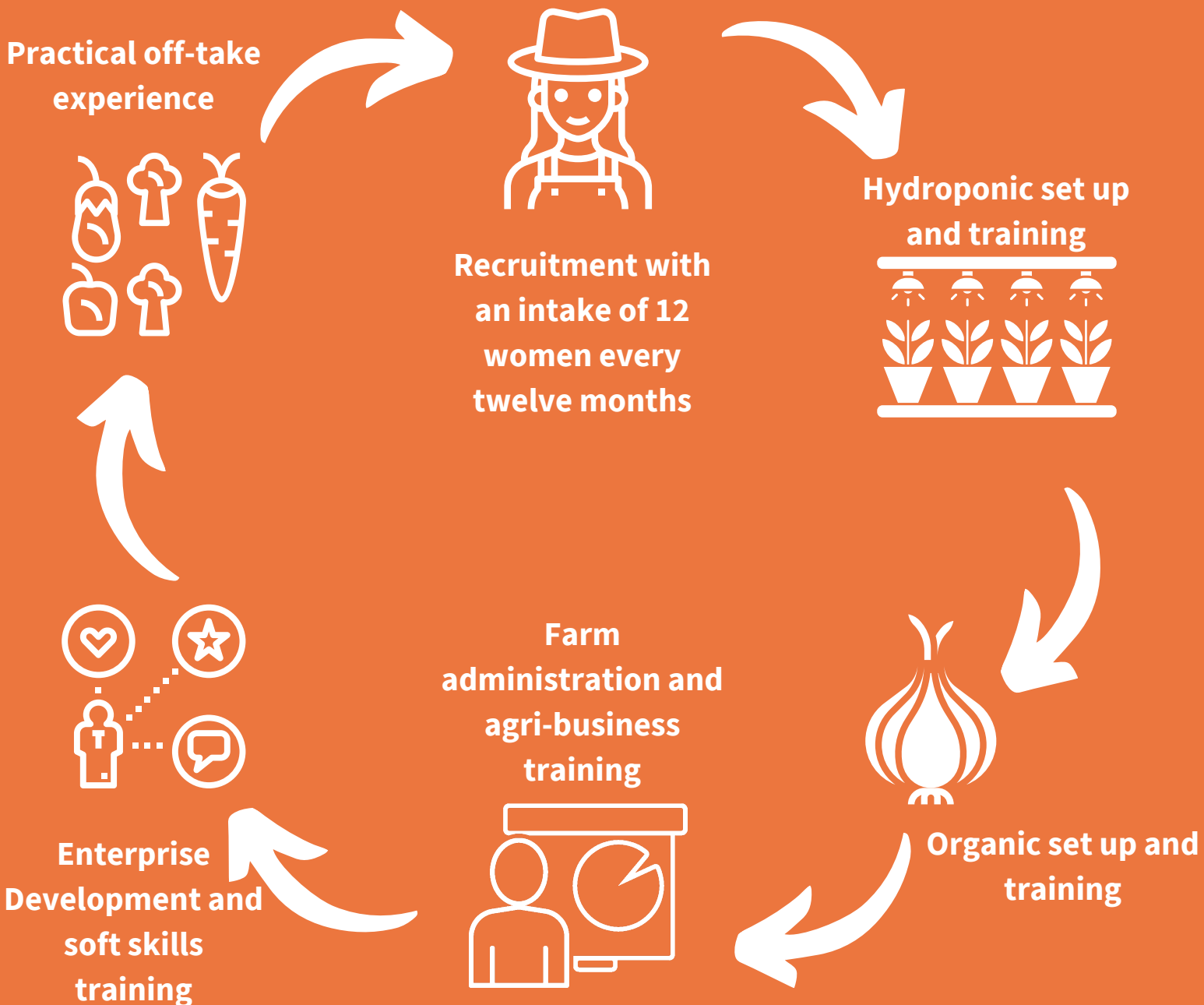
As a group of women seasoned in entrepreneurship, with a passion for agriculture, the founding cohort believed that we could make an impact in this space. The founders were determined that the focus be agri-business. Armed with tenacity and belief, AWiA was founded in 2018. In the two-plus years since our incorporation, we've discovered that the tenacity is an absolute requirement. We've also learned that gathering the right people around this organisation, is key.

Projects in progress

- LWAZI - An incubator for 48 young women over three years where organic growing, hydroponics and the business of farming will be learned.
- An organic vegetable garden on the land of a children's home where AWiA's first agripreneur was trained. Area - +/- 1ha.
- The inception of a virtual community of service providers for emerging farmers and emerging and aspirant farmers.
- A cotton incubator in Limpopo in the early stages of a business plan.



AWiA's Lwazi Incubator in Bronkhorstfontein





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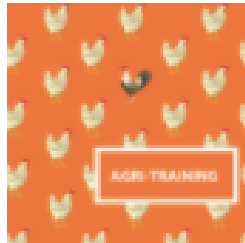
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AWiA's SDG focus.

No poverty. Zero hunger. Good health and wellbeing. Quality education. Gender equality. Clean water and sanitation, Decent work and economic growth. Sustainable partnerships and communities. Partnerships for goals.



THE AWiA COMMUNITY
AN ECOSYSTEM SUPPORTING EMERGING FARMERS



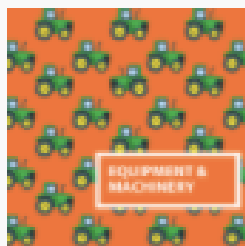
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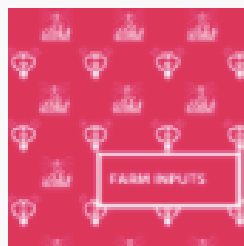
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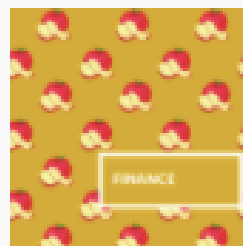
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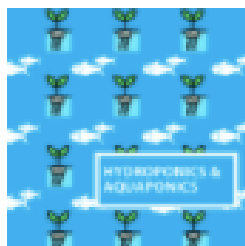
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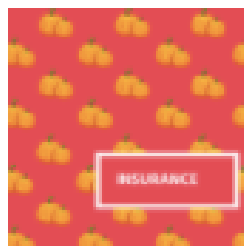
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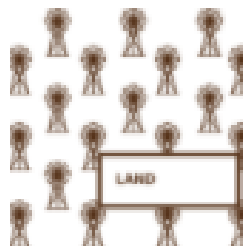
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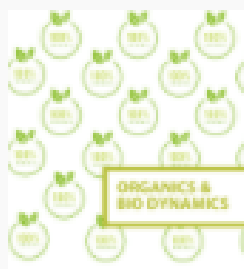
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AWiA's Virtual Community

**AWiA has initiated
a directory of
services for
emerging farmers
as a free service to
the community.**



Introducing A WiA's Advisory Board



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Jean Chawapiwa

Jean is the Country Director, WEConnect International in South Africa. She is also the Founder & Managing Director, Win Win Solutions 4 Africa Consultancy, and a member of the Advisory Council of Mining Dialogue 360. She was a Non-Executive Director and Ex-Chairperson JA Africa until June 2020. Jean also has a seat on the Junior Achievement World Wide Board. In 2019 she became a member of the team of Dazzle Angels, a female-focused Venture Capital Fund, that is led and funded by experienced business women.

Jean is one of the few women who have reached the top in the South African mining industry. After serving at the most senior levels in the external affairs, government relations, communication portfolios of Rio Tinto, Barrick Gold & Placer Dome, Jean set up her own consultancy practice, Win Win Solutions 4 Africa utilising her extensive knowledge gained from 10 years in the Africa mining sector. In August 2015, Win Win was awarded the contract to run WEConnect International in South Africa as part of a global network that connects women-owned businesses to qualified buyers around the world.



Dr Dana Gampel

Dana has specialised in developing strategic responses and positions to socio-economic and political challenges for over 25 years. Dana initially began her career at Wits University. She was then employed by Eskom, where she still works as the Corporate Specialist in Strategy, and also runs her own consulting business - Atum Strategy Consulting. Dana's contributions span the value-chain of strategic interventions: from establishing the rules of engagement (through developing policies, some of which are now legislated) to business models and strategic responses to the business environment.

Dana has been internationally peer-reviewed on her innovative methodologies and is recognised locally and internationally for her work on decision making and analytical techniques. She presents at various speaking events and participates in several think-tanks on political, economic and social issues. She has mentored over 30 young professionals to date.





Carolien Samson

Carolien started her career in policy-making roles in the South African government. A stint working on land reform redistribution policy resulted in a long-term move to focus on agricultural finance both in development finance and commercial banking environments.

Carolien is a banking generalist with experience in product development, management reporting, risk management and business strategy. Her current focus is on the development and implementation of social and environmental policies and practices within financial institutions. She has degrees in Economics (1995) and Law (2019) as well as Town and Regional Planning (Masters 1999) and formed part of the inaugural cohort of students who completed the Masters in Development Practice offered by the University of Pretoria (2020).



Sizwe Kuzwayo


Sizwe has over 15 years' experience in the renewable energy, climate change and sustainability space, over 10 years of which have been spent in management and leadership roles. During this time he has worked in project-driven environments which afforded him the opportunity to lead diverse project teams in constantly changing business environments. He started his career in the banking and insurance industries before venturing into sustainability and development. His expertise includes conceptualisation, problem-solving, people management, project leadership, strategic decision-making, day to day and stakeholder management. Sizwe holds a Master's Degree in Management and Development, a Post Graduate Diploma in Management as well as various certificates.





Patricia Mweene Lumba

Patricia Mweene Lumba is a Zambian who has over 20 years' professional experience in the international development sector as a Knowledge Management, Information and Communication specialist. She is currently working as Senior Knowledge Management Officer for the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), a technical directorate under the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union. Her role is to provide strategic direction and implementation of Knowledge Management processes in support of animal resources development, including rural development and agriculture among African Union Member State countries. Her previous position was with the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa where she managed Knowledge Management, Partnership and Communications at a regional level.

Patricia is currently pursuing a PhD in Knowledge Management with the University of Pretoria (on the topic: A framework to foster Open Knowledge Transfer and Reuse in Stakeholder Engagement Processes. She holds a Masters of Philosophy in Information and Knowledge Management, and a first degree in Information Science. Patricia is involved in the promotion of children and adult literacy activities and serves on the board of Read Beyond Zambia. 



Dr. Naudé Malan

Naudé is Senior Lecturer in Development Studies at the University of Johannesburg and serves as Member of Council on the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa. He was a visiting research fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge and the Centre of African Studies. He convenes iZindaba Zokudla (Conversations about Food), a multi-stakeholder engagement project that aims to create opportunities for urban agriculture in a sustainable food system in Soweto.

Naudé embarked his academic career at the University of Venda in the Department of Public and Development Administration before joining the Rand Afrikaans University which became the University of Johannesburg. He completed his Master's degree in Development Studies with a study of the Tshikonelo Agricultural project in the Vhembe district. His Doctorate dealt with the right to have access to social security in South Africa. Naudé has published on agricultural development, participatory change, human rights, entrepreneurship, design and social innovation. He regularly writes for the popular press and also hosts a website izindabazokudla.com. 



Introducing A WiA's Management Team



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Sibongile Cele – Stakeholder Relations

Sibongile holds a qualification as a Commercial and Financial Accountant (CFA.SA). Sibongile Cele's experience in the corporate world started at the Deloitte & Touche in 1992 where she trained as an accountant and an auditor. This is where Sibongile developed her interpersonal skills with clients and the acquired business management skills she later moved to Kwenta Media as the financial manager for the Mamas & Papas magazine

In 2013 she ventured into her own group of companies with diverse business activities in agribusiness, mining, petroleum, banking and insurance brokerage, construction and building supply, brick manufacturing called the Mcebo Group of which she is the founder and chairperson of the group. The group's activities include a heritage seed bank. 



Bianca Clarke – Secretariat

Bianca is an Expert in Personal, Team and Leadership Development. She believes that self-discovery leads to self-growth and ultimately self-leadership. Self-led leadership evolves into effectively leading others, which is "Influence, Innovation and Increased Capabilities".

Bianca is a former Regional People and Organisational Development Specialist for Rio Tinto, Global Mining House, within the southern Africa Region. Bianca has over 16 years Human Resources experience within large corporations, local and global and has travelled across Africa, Australia and the Middle East. Her work experience spans across multiple industries (mining, fishing, insurance as well as the private sector and NGOs UNWFP, UNFPA).

Bianca founded her own business Africa B-Inspired in 2013, providing transformational services for frontline leaders, teams and individuals. Bianca is a founding member of the world-renowned leadership Author, John C Maxwell Team of Coaches, Speakers and Trainers. Her studies in Human Resources, Business and Executive Coaching and People Development, enables her to approach adult learners with strong interpersonal sensitivity and authenticity.





Agnes Hove – Finance

Agnes is a seasoned strategist who is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Adge Africa, a Pan-African SME Development, Consulting and Advisory organization. She is also the Treasurer at African Women in Agriculture (AWiA) a women’s empowerment organization. She possesses a Master of Science (MSc) Degree in Strategic Management, a Business Management (BBA) Degree and a Diploma in Nursing. She has Management Consulting experience specializing in Strategic Planning, Business / Leadership/ Finance Coaching, Organizational Development, Strategic and Organisational Planning, Business Process Improvement, Employee Wellness and the management of Human Capital.

Agnes started off her career in the mining industry with Anglo American and has experience working in Harmony Gold, Pamodzi Gold and a few other smaller mining companies. Agnes has held significant leadership positions as the Chief Executive of Careways (Pty) Ltd, a Health and Wellness company, and the Executive Director for a South African non-profit organisation. Agnes sits on the board of Youth for Christ (YFC) SA, AWiA, Adge Africa, Sequor Consulting, and is the current Vice Chairperson of the Ibbamo Foundation. She was a board member for the SOS Children’s Villages, Capernaum Trust and a number of other non-profit organisations.



Janice Scheckter – Chairperson

Janice’s education has included B Journalism (Rhodes), an International Advertising Diploma (AAA School of Advertising), a Public Relations Diploma (Damelin), a Wine Diploma (Cape Wine Academy) and Advance Wine Appreciation and Judging (Stellenbosch) and Master Facilitation Diploma and Design Thinking (GIBS).

While her career saw her start out as a journalist, Janice has been an entrepreneur for close on 30 years and been involved in some landmark projects such as the ANC Manifesto Launch in April 1994, and the launch of Levi Strauss in South Africa among others. Janice has founded several companies and currently heads of Indigo Africa (Pty) Ltd and A Better Africa Holdings (Pty) Ltd, both focused on the online community and ecosystem space, the latter, a social enterprise operating in the education sector. Over her entrepreneurial career, she has interned and mentored over 35 African youth. 



Veronica Shangali-Aswani

Veronica has a B.Sc. business administration (cum laude) and is currently completing an MBA. She is the vice president for the African Association of Vertical Farming (AAVF) and CEO and co-founder of Wavunow.

Veronica has over 13 years' experience in marketing, management and operations in multinationals, in the automotive, commodities and property industries across southern and east Africa. Veronica co-founded Wavunow in 2013 as a social enterprise to sustainably fight poverty by connecting disadvantaged and underprivileged businesses to global markets, business skills training and potential funding opportunities. With a passion for addressing societal imbalances Veronica also serves on various committees around land reform and urban farming. Veronica is actively involved in seeking African urban farming solutions that will suit smallholder farmers.



Strategic partners





With thanks

The AWiA team

janice@awia.africa

agnes@awia.africa

bianca@awia.africa

sibongile@awia.africa

veronica@awia.africa

www.awia.africa



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