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ZIMBABWE

SNAPSHOT

Farmers Harvest High-Quality, Grade A Paprika

With access to seeds and other inputs, paprika farmers stand to benefit from Zimbabwe's growing export business.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

With assistance from USAID-STAMP, Garai Mapuranga is harvesting Grade A paprika for sale to export companies. With access to seed and technical training, Garai is able to drastically increase his income.

“I appreciated the inputs package from Hyveld...I hope we will purchase more inputs next season because I want to grow an even bigger area.”

Garai Mapuranga

Telling Our Story

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Zimbabwe's expanding paprika export industry represents a huge opportunity for smallholder farmers, but many of them cannot access the seeds or other inputs needed to take advantage of this growing industry.

With support from the United States Agency for International Development's Smallholder Technology and Access to Markets Program (USAID-STAMP), rural growers are receiving the support they need to harvest high-quality crops.

In 2011, smallholder farmer Garai Mapuranga registered as a grower with Hyveld, one of the country's largest paprika exporters.

Garai, along with 1,500 other registered growers in the Manicaland and Mashonaland East provinces, began receiving inputs on credit such as seed and fertilizer for 0.25-hectare plots.

In addition to the inputs, growers also received training and extension services from USAID-STAMP technicians. The agronomists taught the farmers how to prepare seed beds and apply fertilizer to ensure optimal yields.

Garai worked hard on his paprika crop and agreed to put up a small demonstration plot on his field to show other farmers in the area good agricultural practices such as mulching, tie ridging, and raised beds.

His paprika crop did so well that Garai's field was selected to host a field day on his plot, where program agronomists and government agricultural extension officers demonstrated best practices to a group of local farmers.

To date Garai has harvested and sold 500 kilograms of paprika – two thirds of which was grade A – despite the late season dry spell. He has paid off his loan and earned nearly four times his original investment.

He is using his extra money to buy food and household goods for his family, and hopes to increase his area and yield during the next crop cycle.

“I hope we will purchase more inputs next season because I want to grow an even bigger area,” he said.

USAID-STAMP will work with 4,500 beneficiaries in two provinces over an 18-month period.