

# Success Stories



AT MAGISTRATES COURT IN MUREHWA- FADZAI RUZIVE (WLSA LAWYER)  
WITH LOVENESS CHIMBWANDA HER CLIENT HAPPY TO GO HOME

## *My Land, My Right*

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My name is Loveness Chimbwanda, a widow aged 72 years. When I got married my late husband and I earned a living by selling vegetable proceeds from our garden. My late husband had received the land from his father in the late 1960s. Following his death, I continued to taking care of the family through farming activities from the garden. A couple of years later, my brother in law Noah Maguraunda claimed ownership of the land, stating it was clan land and therefore he was the rightful owner of the garden. It was then that he started disrupting all farming activities and denying me access to the garden.

I was invited to a meeting where WLSA discussed women's lands rights, this is where I learnt of my rights since the land belonged to my husband. WLSA's lawyers advised me to approach the Chief's court concerning the matter. The case was heard under Chief Nyajina's community court and the judgement was ruled in my favour, declaring I should not be removed from my garden. My brother in law respected the ruling for a short while but reverted to his old ways and started harassing me and prohibited access to the land.

I later visited the WLSA help desk at Murehwa Magistrate court for legal assistance. This is where the matter was filed at the Magistrates Court to put an end to the abuse. My brother in law and I, both appeared at the court where the Magistrate endorsed the judgement from the Chief. The courts additionally reiterated that I was the rightful owner of the garden.

I would like to thank WLSA for their timely response and support that has enabled me to continue with my farming enterprise without and disruptions.

# *WLSA MEMBERS MARKET LED PRODUCTION FOR SEASON 2020/21*

I am Perpetua Zvirongwe, a member of Tsitsi study circle group residing in Makoni, Sherenje ward. I have been farming grain and legumes such as beans for many years. Over the last few years, our harvest has significantly reduced because of lack of rains. Last farming season was characterised by sporadic rains and the season was short. Furthermore, the season also affected by Cyclone IDAI that left most of our field washed away by the storms. I was one of the study circle members that attended a WLSA training on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Growing drought tolerant crops to earn income was an aspect that were trained on.

I am happy to be part of a group of farmers selected to grow cowpeas and sorghum in partnership with Agriseeds, an arrangement made possible by WLSA. Our trainer from WLSA advised that over 400 households will benefit from this partnership. A total of 400 kg of cowpea seed and 350kg sorghum was planted in 3 districts (Murewa, Mutoko, Makoni) as seed and it is projected that farmers will sell the produce to Agriseeds at the market price. Farmers will have the opportunity to earn 20% more from the sale. Each Member has received at least 1 kg of the seed and the group members are growing the crop in their field whilst assisting each other with information learnt using the study material on small grains production. Each grower will receive support from Agritex and Agriseeds. As for me, I am receiving support from my Agritex extension officer and my study circle group. Tsitsi Members are meeting four times a month when we are producing cowpea in our fields.

Study circle groups who received the seed are anticipating to earn income from this initiative and the future relationship with the private sector is anticipated to grow and cater for the farmer's markets needs as there is an opportunity for the groups to continue being seed growers for Agriseeds



*Study Circle Members in Makoni, Ward 7 Cross check the Seed received during the distribution*