



Empowering Women Farmers in Galdogob: How the JRP Project Transformed Muhubo Gurxan Shaybe's Life

Executive Summary



Mhubo Gurxan Shaybe, a 65-year-old mother and leader of a Jannaalle 2 women's cooperative in Galdogob district, faced immense challenges in her farming activities. Struggling with limited agricultural knowledge, lack of resources, and the high cost of diesel for borehole irrigation, Mhubo and her cooperative were trapped in a cycle of poverty. The JRP (Joint Resilience Project) intervened with a comprehensive approach, providing training, seeds, farm tools, and a solar-powered irrigation system.

These interventions transformed their farming practices, leading to their first successful harvest. Today, the cooperative harvests over 30 sacks of onions (50kg each), selling them at \$35 per sack, along with daily yields of okra (10kg), hot peppers (20kg), and sweet peppers (10kg). The income generated has improved their livelihoods, allowing them to support their families and reinvest in their farm.

Mhubo's story is a testament to resilience and empowerment. In her own words: "Before the JRP project, life was very hard. I fractured my leg three times while working on the farm, and we could barely grow enough to feed our families. But now, with the training, tools, and solar system, we have hope. Our harvests are better, and we can provide for our families. This project has changed our lives."

Background

Mhubo Gurxan Shaybe is a dedicated leader of a Jannaalle 2 women's cooperative in Galdogob, a region where agriculture is a lifeline for many families. At 65 years old, Mhubo has spent decades working tirelessly to support her family and community through farming. However, despite her efforts, the cooperative faced significant barriers to success. Limited access to modern farming techniques, quality seeds, and reliable irrigation systems made it difficult to achieve sustainable yields.

The JRP project, aimed at enhancing food security and livelihoods in vulnerable communities, identified Muhubo's cooperative as a key beneficiary. Recognizing the potential of women-led initiatives to drive change, the project sought to address the systemic challenges faced by farmers in Galdogob. By providing targeted support, the JRP project aimed to empower Muhubo and her cooperative to break the cycle of poverty and achieve long-term food security.

The Challenges

Muhubo's journey was marked by hardship and resilience. As the leader of the cooperative, she bore the brunt of the challenges faced by her community. The lack of agricultural knowledge and resources meant that their farming practices were outdated and inefficient. Without access to quality seeds, tools, or technical support, their crops often failed, leaving them with little to sell or eat.

One of the most significant challenges was the reliance on diesel to power the borehole for irrigation. The high cost of diesel consumed a large portion of their income, making it difficult to sustain their farming activities. Muhubo herself faced personal struggles while working on the farm. She suffered three arm fractures due to the physically demanding labor, yet she continued to work tirelessly to support her family. These challenges highlighted the urgent need for intervention to improve their farming practices and reduce their dependency on costly and unsustainable resources.

The Intervention



The JRP project implemented a holistic approach to address the challenges faced by Muhubo and her cooperative. First, the project provided comprehensive training on modern farming techniques, crop management, and sustainable practices. This empowered the women with the knowledge and skills needed to improve their productivity. In addition, the cooperative received high-quality seeds, farm tools, and ongoing technical support to

ensure their success.

To tackle the issue of diesel dependency, the JRP project installed a solar-powered irrigation system. This innovative solution not only reduced operational costs but also ensured a reliable and sustainable water supply for their crops. The combination of training, resources, and renewable energy transformed the cooperative's farming practices, enabling them to achieve their first successful harvest and improve their livelihoods.

The Results

The interventions by the JRP project have yielded remarkable results for Muhubo and her cooperative. Their first harvest marked a turning point in their agricultural journey. They harvested over 30 sacks of onions (50kg each), which they sold at \$35 per sack, generating significant income for the first time. In addition to onions, the cooperative now harvests okra (10kg daily), hot peppers (20kg daily), and sweet peppers (10kg daily). These crops have not only improved their food security but also provided a steady source of income.

The solar-powered irrigation system has been a game-changer, eliminating the high costs and inefficiencies of diesel-powered irrigation. With reliable access to water, the cooperative can now cultivate their land year-round, ensuring consistent yields. The income generated from their harvests has been life-changing. Muhubo and her team allocate a portion of the earnings to support their families, covering essential needs such as food, education, and healthcare. The remaining funds are reinvested into the farm, purchasing additional seeds, tools, and other resources to sustain and expand their operations.

Muhubo's personal life has also improved significantly. The physical strain of farming has been reduced, and she no longer worries about the financial burden of diesel costs. The cooperative's success has inspired other women in the community to join their efforts, creating a ripple effect of empowerment and resilience.

Conclusion and Lessons Learned

Muhubo Gurxan Shaybe's story is a powerful example of how targeted interventions can transform lives and communities. The JRP project's holistic approach—combining training, resources, and sustainable technology—has not only improved food security but also empowered women to take charge of their livelihoods. Key lessons from this case study include:

1. **Empowerment Through Knowledge:** Providing farmers with training and technical support equips them with the skills needed to improve productivity and adapt to challenges.
2. **Sustainability is Key:** Investing in renewable energy solutions, such as solar-powered irrigation, reduces operational costs and ensures long-term sustainability.
3. **Women as Agents of Change:** Supporting women-led initiatives can have a profound impact on entire communities, as women often reinvest their earnings into their families and local economies.
4. **Resilience in the Face of Adversity:** Muhubo's determination, despite her physical injuries and financial struggles, highlights the importance of perseverance and community support in overcoming challenges.

The success of Muhubo and her cooperative demonstrates the transformative power of collaboration, innovation, and empowerment. By addressing systemic challenges and providing the right tools and resources, the JRP project has not only improved livelihoods but also laid the foundation for a more resilient and food-secure future in Galdogob.