



“ This project seeks to roll out and validate an affordable and reliable service targeting economically challenged community building from a sub-economic scale to achieve scalability and sustainable revenue generation. ”



NTAKA HYPERLOCAL SOIL HEALTH ADVISORY SERVICES

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Ntaka project will provide affordable soils advisory services to economically and environmentally challenged small scale farmers in Zambia. Ntaka will develop hyperlocal low-cost precision spectroscopic methods to measure critical soil chemical, physical and biological properties. The project aims to improve access to soils advisory services through the establishment of a hyperlocal (mobile) soil spectroscopy laboratory to provide soils advisory services to over 10,500 farmers covering an area of 24,000 ha. This mobile laboratory facility will also involve a commercially incentivized network of micro-entrepreneurs providing marketing and service delivery support.

The purpose of this project is to customize, roll-out, validate and refine the technical and commercial soil advisory service offered. Ntaka will also provide independent soil advisory services focused on reducing inappropriate and excessive use of inorganic fertilisers in favour of low-cost sustainable alternatives. By so doing will reduce input costs, increase sustainable yields leading to improved revenue generation, food availability, and reductions in soil degradation, which is a principle cause of deforestation.

This project will seek to implement technical innovations and generate client feedback to ensure a price point and service specifications small farmers can afford and need, prior to a full roll-out of the service across Zambia and subsequently neighbouring countries. Importantly the project will link research institutions to private sector activities, initiating the creation of a soil spectroscopy and advisory services innovation network

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. The establishment of a hyperlocal mobile soil spectroscopy laboratory in Zambia.
2. Provide access to soils advisory services to over 10,500 farmers covering an area of 24,000 ha.
3. Provide employment and training opportunities for young technical staff and 20 micro-entrepreneurs
4. To contribute solutions to resolve issues of poor yields and farmer revenues and declining soil fertility through delivery of affordable, accessible and relevant and soils advisory service

PROJECT PARTNERS

- BetterWorld Energy Ltd (Zambia)
- Impact Agri Ltd (UK)
- Grassroots Trust (Zambia)
- MUSIKA (Zambia)
- Stellenbosch University (South Africa)



PROJECT COORDINATOR

BetterWorld Energy Ltd

IMPLEMENTING COUNTRIES

Zambia