🌱 HarvestGlow Organizational Profile

HarvestGlow: Empowering Farmers, Building Resilient Communities  
  
  
  
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# Executive Summary

HarvestGlow is a Malawian social enterprise revolutionizing smallholder agriculture by addressing the root causes of low productivity, financial exclusion, and limited value addition. Our integrated model empowers farmers—particularly women and youth—to access certified seeds, engage in village savings & loans (VSLs), and participate in value-added processing. By 2028, we aim to reach 10,000 farmers, achieve 50% certified seed adoption, and increase average household incomes by 40%, all while fostering equitable and sustainable rural economies.  
  
Investment in HarvestGlow delivers measurable social and economic returns. Every $1 invested is projected to generate $4 in community income, along with strengthened food security and climate resilience.

# Context and the Problem

Malawi’s smallholder farmers face chronic challenges. Over 70% recycle seeds annually, producing yields of only 1–2 tons/ha compared to 4–5 tons/ha with improved varieties. Government subsidies totaling over $100M per year often reinforce dependency rather than build local capacity. Women, who provide 70% of farm labor, own less than 15% of land, limiting their economic agency. Limited processing infrastructure further reduces market access, with value addition remaining below 10% in the agricultural sector. Climate shocks exacerbate vulnerabilities, reducing productivity and incomes.

# Vision and Mission

Vision: A Malawi where farmers, regardless of gender or age, thrive as seed multipliers, agri-entrepreneurs, and community leaders, creating food-secure, dignified, and self-sustaining rural economies.  
  
Mission: To empower smallholder farmers by improving access to certified seeds, strengthening financial inclusion, and promoting value addition, thereby creating resilient, equitable, and community-owned agricultural systems.

# Page 5 – Core Values and Theory of Change

HarvestGlow’s work is guided by equity, sustainability, innovation, resilience, and collaboration. We integrate community-owned seed systems, VSLs, and small-scale processing into a unified approach. Our theory of change demonstrates how investment in seed access, training, and processing leads to improved yields, higher incomes, greater gender equity, and long-term resilience.

# Integrated Model: Seed Access & Multiplication

HarvestGlow sources basic certified seed for farmer-led multiplication in Seed Villages, creating locally controlled supply chains. Farmers receive training on improved agronomic practices and post-harvest handling. The model increases productivity, reduces dependency on recycled seed, and positions communities as regional seed suppliers.  
  
Case Example: Farmer A in Kasungu increased maize yield from 1.5 to 4 tons/ha within one season using HarvestGlow-certified seed.

# Integrated Model: Village Savings & Loans (VSLs)

Farmers form groups of 15–25 members to save weekly, access loans, and co-invest in seeds, processing units, and other income-generating activities. VSLs build financial resilience, promote cooperative ownership, and facilitate collective market engagement. By 2028, we aim for 50% of VSL participants to be women, ensuring equity and empowerment.

# Integrated Model: Value-Added Processing

Shared solar-powered equipment enables farmers to process crops into high-value products such as cooking oil, peanut butter, soy milk, and animal feed. Processing increases household income by 30–50% and creates new employment opportunities. Our approach ensures products meet quality standards, connecting farmers to reliable regional markets.  
  
Case Example: A community peanut processing unit increased local income by $8,000 in the first year while reducing post-harvest losses by 25%.

Integrated Model: Climate-Smart Training & Digital Monitoring

Farmers receive hands-on training in conservation agriculture, irrigation management, climate adaptation, and post-harvest handling. Mobile applications track seed adoption, yields, savings, and enterprise performance. Digital dashboards provide real-time reporting for investors and stakeholders, enhancing transparency and informed decision-making.

# Impact Goals & Projections

By 2028, HarvestGlow targets reaching 100,000 farmers, raising average incomes by 40%, achieving 50% certified seed adoption, and ensuring 50% participation by women and youth. Projected return on investment is $4 in community income for every $1 invested. Market linkages and cooperative processing units will create sustainable income streams, reducing poverty and enhancing food security.

# Growth Plan & Investment Models

5-Year Roadmap:  
- Year 1: Pilot 500 farmers, 20 VSLs, 5 processing units.  
- Years 2–3: Scale to 5,000 farmers, establish regional seed cooperatives, achieve operational break-even.  
- Years 4–5: Expand to 10,000+ farmers, develop sustainable farmer-owned cooperatives.  
  
Investor Models:  
1. Seed Equity Model: Investors fund seed multiplication; profit share from seed sales.  
2. Impact Fund Model: Capital supports VSLs and processing; social returns plus revenue share.  
3. Blended Finance Model: Grants + low-interest loans + equity to ensure scalability.  
  
Financial sustainability is projected at 70% self-financed operations by Year 5.

# Leadership, Partnerships & Contact

Leadership Team:  
- Founder & Executive Director: Mphangera Kamanga, Agricultural Scientist & MEL Expert.  
- Director of Operations: Adon Phiri, Agronomy Specialist.

Partners: ICRISAT, Department of Agricultural Research, CARE, Self Help Africa, Mastercard Foundation, Anzisha Prize, African Leadership Academy.  
  
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