



South-South Series: Empowering and Growing Women-led Business

Session 10: Food security in the
face of climate disasters: women
entrepreneurs leading solutions

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Women-Led Businesses for Resilient Food Systems

Livelihoods, regenerative agriculture and climate resilience:
lessons from NEWA Farms Limited

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Climate hits women first

Women are among those most affected by climate-related food insecurity.

Yet they are also essential actors in farming, processing, trade and household nutrition across the Global South.

Five barriers limit women's ability to respond:

- 1** Access to land
- 2** Access to finance
- 3** Access to technology
- 4** Access to markets
- 5** Seat at decision-making tables

How women-led businesses make a difference



Strengthen food systems

- Produce, process and trade local food and agri-products
- Add value close to the farm
- Bring more women into markets



Support livelihoods

- Steady income from more than one product
- Training and tools that build skills
- Income that stays in homes and communities



Build climate resilience

- Diverse income, so one bad season hurts less
- Farming that works with nature
- Local knowledge and strong women's networks

Food systems, livelihoods and climate resilience are one agenda, not three

Bees link crops, trees and income

Regenerative agriculture

restores soil, water and biodiversity while raising farm incomes.

Pollinators are part of how it works.

Crops

Pollination supports better yields on nearby farms

Trees

Agroforestry and flowering trees feed bees and cover the land

Healthy land

Diverse planting and fewer chemicals protect bees and soil

Added value

Honey, beeswax and propolis earn more from the same land

Case study: how NEWA Farms began

2014

Studied business while working as a cashier at a bee farm

2015

Formed women's groups and registered them as community groups

2018

Groups combined into one community based organisation

2023

Registered as a business with first NEWA Honey prototype

2024

Incorporated NEWA Farms Limited

Started by training teenage mothers. Today: 8,025 women beekeepers profiled

Case study: the NEWA model



Shared value: farmers produce; NEWA trains, equips, processes and finds the market

Practical approaches from NEWA's work

1

Start with those who need it most

Teenage mothers were NEWA's first trainees

2

Organise in groups

Women's groups share training, tools and markets

3

Share value with farmers

MoUs: NEWA supplies kit, farmers supply land and time

4

Keep production local

Farmers produce; NEWA focuses on value addition

5

Diversify products

Honey, beeswax, propolis and cosmetics spread risk

6

Partner to scale

Finance, equipment and research with companies and universities

Approaches any women-led agribusiness can adapt to its own value chain

What this has delivered

8,025

women beekeepers profiled in
our network

14+

years of hands-on beekeeping
experience

4

product lines: honey, beeswax,
propolis, cosmetics

How this builds resilience

Diverse income from several
products, not one crop

Pollination supports better yields
on nearby farms

Small land footprint, so women
can start with limited land

The way forward: what it takes to scale

1

Scale

Affordable processing equipment for women-led enterprises

At NEWA: an electric honey processor

2

Partner

Finance, research and technical partners

At NEWA: companies and universities on beneficial insects

3

Reach

Access to regional and international markets

At NEWA: retail shelves for women-led products

Women-led. Farmer-powered. Climate-resilient.

Thank you



Thank you

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