

# KASIKE COOPERATIVE

KASIKE is a farmer Cooperative that was recently formed in Nyimba District to specifically promote the production of Jatropha soap from Jatropha seed that is abundant in Nyimba District. The group has membership from three villages namely; Kamphata, Kesadi and Sikwenda. The formation of the Cooperative was an initiative by local Zambian farmers.

The main objective of KASIKE Cooperative is to produce a herbal soap with anti-bacterial properties from locally available materials. This will save farmers money (they no longer have to buy soap) and they can get additional income by selling it. Jatropha soap can assist in preventing diarrhoea and other related diseases that are transmitted as a result of poor hygiene. Research has shown that diarrhoea infections are one of the top three causes for infant mortality. Handwashing with soap could potentially reduce the risk of diarrhoea in the community by 47%. Hence, if KASIKE is able to make its own soap from locally available Jatropha plants, this will allow the group to bridge existing gaps in soap provision in the communities, and avoid the risk of exposure to infections (not just diarrhoea, but also skin infections).

Home-made Jatropha soap has anti-bacterial properties, it displaces the use of edible fats (and is thus good for food

security) and it contains glycerine, which is softer on the skin. Furthermore, if you use it as a laundry bar for washing instead of a detergent, you are actually displacing 3 times more Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions that you would have done if you had converted those jatropha seed into biodiesel.

The KASIKE Cooperative is keen to speak to different types of stakeholders to develop some joined-up ideas; for example home-made soap could be packaged with a message on health benefits of hand washing. We are looking for organisations who are interested in adopting local soap making into their other health (hygiene) and rural development activities. Home made soap is also a form of value addition to Jatropha seed in the absence of a reliable market thus improving the cashflow in the household once the surplus soap is sold off.

## How to contact KASIKE:

- 1. Mr. Palukani Mumba**  
Cell phone : 0979787005
- 2. Mr. Isiah Sakala**  
Cell phone: 0975113314

This brochure has been produced on behalf of KASIKE by the University of Zambia (UNZA), as part of the Bridging Knowledge Systems (BKS) project. BKS is a Zambia-UK research project which is seeking to create stronger links between farmer innovation and scientific research. For more information see [www.bks.bham.ac.uk](http://www.bks.bham.ac.uk)