

**NCRST**  
NATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON RESEARCH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# **NATIONAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE FOR WOMEN (NICW) OVERVIEW**

## **At the Innovation Forum**

### **27 February 2020**

By

Ms L.H Immanuel



**NCRST**  
NATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON RESEARCH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# About Us

- State-Owned Enterprise established - Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act No.23 of 2004)

## NCRST MISSION

To establish and strengthen a national system that promotes, develops and informs Research, Science, Technology and Innovation through effective coordination to realize a knowledge based society.

## NCRST VISION

To be a coordinating agency that facilitates the development of Research, Science, Technology and Innovation towards social-economic advancement for Namibia by 2022.

- Activities guided by the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (NPRSTI)

# Innovation support programmes

- ❖ As part of this mandate, the NCRST has implemented several innovation support programmes, including the Innovation Fostering Platform, Technology Stations Programme :



## DEMOLA



**National Innovation  
Challenge for Women**

*"Catapulting women - nurturing our economy"*



# Background: NICW/FEMBIOBIZ

## Goal No. 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs

- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG-9 is on promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization through fostering innovation



## African aspirations as outlined in Agenda 2063

- The desire for shared prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, for a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons, where the full potential of women and youth, boys and girls are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and war. SDG-9 is on promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization through fostering innovation

Agenda 2063  
The Africa We Want

## Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

- Expressed its commitment to the empowerment of women and girls in its Protocol on gender and development
- SADC protocol on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) calls for the gender equity and equality in STI



## 5th National Development Plan (NDP-5) Namibia & MSME policy

- Ensure financial inclusion for women in MSME, especially in agribusiness, blue economy and extractive industries, and ensure that women, who form over 60% of the informal sector, are integrated into the formal economy and receive targeted interventions
- Namibia's gender policy specifically aims to ensure gender equality and empowerment of girls and women empowerment, and mobilise communities towards economic empowerment and skills development



WOMEN are DISADVANTAGED in all spheres of life (politics, economics and education)

**30%** of professionals in science and technology worldwide are women (2018)

**43%**  
women in parliament (2014)

2009/10 Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey

**22%**  
poverty in female-headed households

**38.3%**  
female unemployment rate (2016)

**41%**  
SME Ownership (2015)

# About NICW/FEMBIOBIZ

Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) agency and Southern African Network for Bioscience (SANBio) with support of the Finnish – Southern African Programme (BioFISA II Programme)

- ❖ Ran the programme for 3 years (2017-2019, FemBioBiz I, FemBioBiz II & NICW/FemBioBiz III)

NCRST initiated the NICW in 2019.

- ❖ For 2019 the NCRST partnered with GIZ and HIVOS to run the programme as **National Innovation Challenge For Women / FemBioBiz Season 3 Programme** with 47 participants from 8 regions (Otjozondjupa, Oshana, Khomas, Erongo, Ohangwena, Kavango east, Omaheke, Oshikoto)
- ❖ Increased the target groups of students or business in *Agri-food, Nutrition, Health, ICT/tech, Waste (upcycling), Cosmetics and Better agriculture* services.
- ❖ In 2020 NCRST wishes to partner with any sponsors to run **NICW/FemBioBiz IV**

# NICW/FEMBIOBIZ Objectives

The main objective of this innovation challenge is to build capacity of the Namibian women innovators and entrepreneurs and accelerate their innovations into businesses that can have immediate economic and social impact

- ❖ Support the business development of female entrepreneurs
- ❖ Create peer-to-peer network
- ❖ Create awareness for women on the potential careers in different sectors
- ❖ Bring ecosystem players together to support female entrepreneurs



# NICW/FEMBIOBIZ Implementation



## Phase 1:

- ❖ Training entails a 3-day Business Model Canvas, Pitch training and 1 day pitching.



## Phase 2:

- ❖ Two trainings divided into Bootcamp 1 and 2 trainings respectively;
  - ❖ Bootcamp 1 is a 3-day training focusing on business strategy, marketing and financial training as well as pitch preparation and exercises.
  - ❖ The Bootcamp 2 is a 2-day training focusing on areas such as intellectual property (IP), legal and human resources. A 1-day pitch competition will take place after Bootcamp 2 training to select the in-country (national) winners.



## Phase 3:

- ❖ The national winners will compete in the regional competition and other international competitions yet to be confirmed.

# NICW/FEMBIOBIZ Benefits

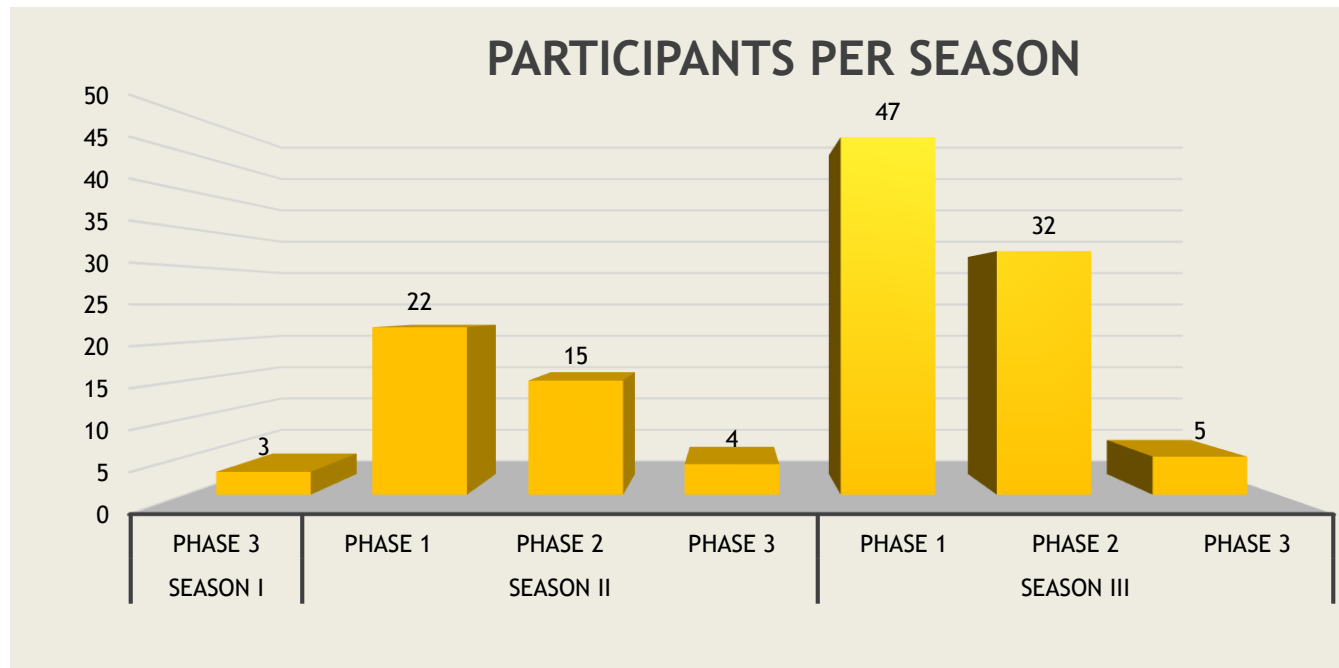
- ❖ To be exposed to different types of capacity building initiatives on how to manage their business and how to financially plan
- ❖ Gain skills in the elevator's pitch and the investor pitches.
- ❖ Better equipped to participate in other national, regional or international business innovation initiatives and competitions
- ❖ Challenge winners receive prizes in the form of vouchers dedicated for the specific immediate needs of their business.





# Benefits Cont.....

- ❖ Since its inception FemBioBiz I, II, III programme has in total benefited 72 participants in Phase 1
- ❖ Season III benefited 47 participants and the current Programme (Season IV) is targeted at 63 women participants for Phase 1, 48 participants for Phase 2 and 6 Participants for Phase 3.



# SEASON II highlights



## Renthia Kaimbi AquaGreens

*"From waste to taste"*

**N\$ 80 000.00**

- Aquaponics Design Course
- Aquaponics system installations
- Variables & Stock
- Packaging materials
- Consultation + Setup fees



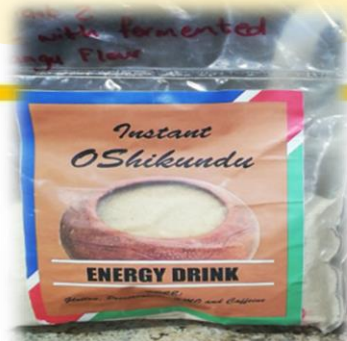
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## Mary Shikukutu N T Okawa trading

*"Oshikundu Energy drink"*

**N\$ 60 000.00**

- Conduct research on freeze drying Oshikundu
- Package flour



## Mpingana Dax Kuti oil investment

*"Empowering rural women"*

**N\$ 40 000.00**

- Purchase Hydraulic oil press machine
- Attend training on using Hydraulic oil press machine



## Ndahekelekwa paulus Fluffy mallows

*"clouds of happiness"*

**N\$ 20 000.00**

- Upgrade kitchen(Bokomosa Incubation center) to meet international food safety standards for export



# SEASON III highlights



**1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Iriya Jona**  
**Nam-Oceanic Kelp**  
**Production Enterprise**  
**CC**

**N\$ 80 000.00**



**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Dr Leya Elago**  
**Genetix Metazoa TM**

**N\$ 60 000.00**



**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Paulina Alfeus**  
**Power Six Investment**  
**CC**

**N\$ 40 000.00**



**4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Loide Amadhila**  
**Chrisla Essentials**  
**Export readiness**



**5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Aletha Afrikaner**  
**EarthChild**  
**Creations CC**  
**N\$ 20 000**

# Participates feedback on programme

“The workshop was educative informative and well organized”

“Create awareness on NCRST programme to areas outside Windhoek”

“Training days short”

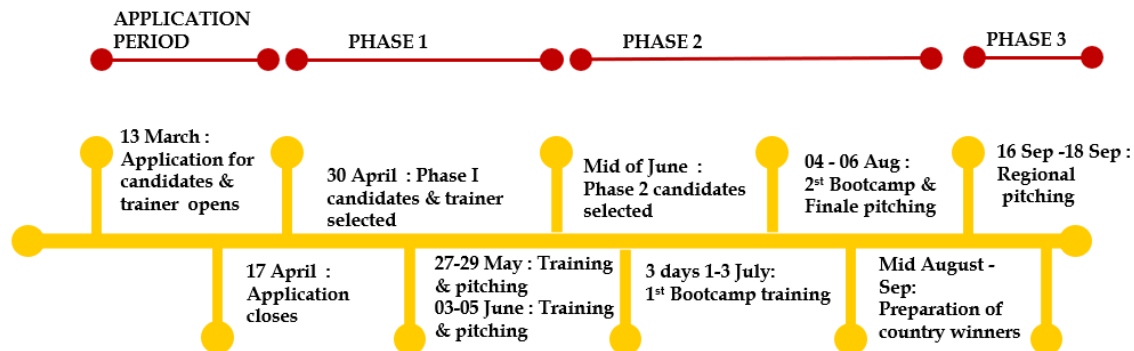
“Being able to have time and literally being encouraged to think deeply and widely about my business ad organisation”

“Require more training on product testing”

“Best part: is engaging with other upcoming entrepreneurs”



# NICW IV 2020 implementation



National Innovation  
Challenge for Women  
*"Celebrating women - nurturing our economy"*



**FemBioBiz**

## Phase I



- 60 innovators trained in 3 days on BMC & 1 day pitching
- 40 moved on to phase II

## Phase II



- 40 innovators trained on Business registration & strategy, marketing, branding, Finance, IP, standards, productivity pitching & HR in 4 days
- 1 day pitching and 5 national winners selected

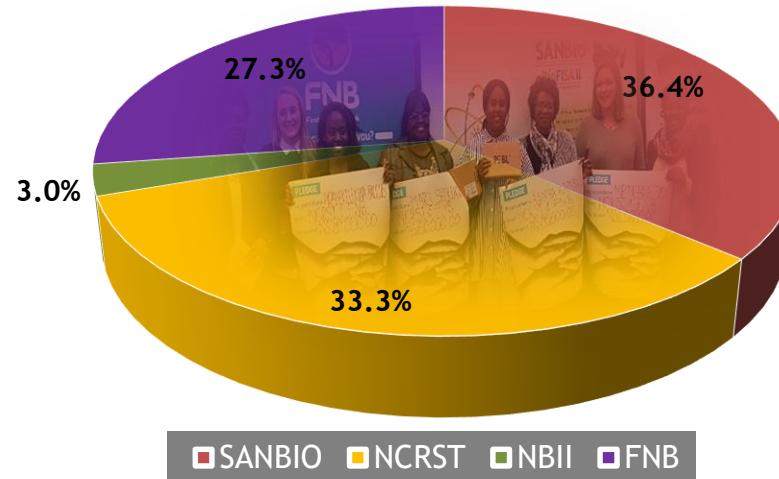
## Phase III



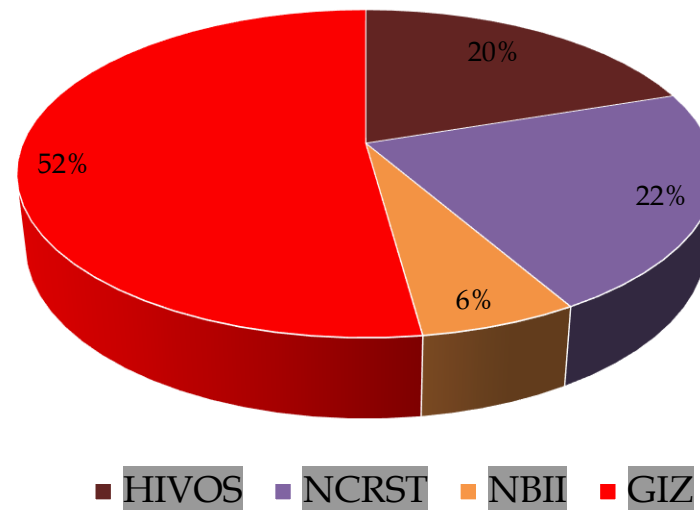
- 5 innovators to receive 1 day pitching
- Attended & pitch at the regional event

# NICW Budget

**FEMBIOBIZ II 2018/19 EXPENDITURE: N\$ 692,380.96**



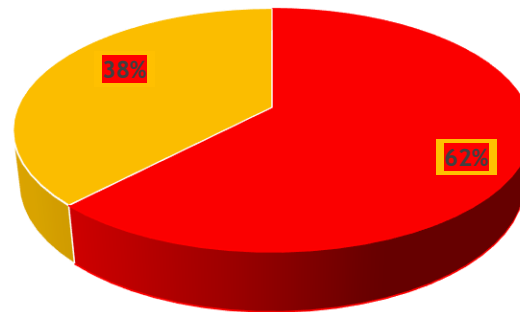
**NICW FEMBIOBIZ III 2019/20 EXPENDITURE: N\$ 1,018,605.70**





# NICW IV 2020 Budget

NICW/FEMBIOBIZ IV PLANNED BUDGET  
2020/21: N\$ 1,426,167.92



■ GIZ ■ NCRST

# Stakeholder support

## Stakeholder support:

- ❖ Mentorship
- ❖ Incubation
- ❖ Marketing of the programme
- ❖ Prizes





# Success stories

Events attendant in 2019 after FemBioBiz II, Leena Sindano for Chizango:

- ❖ Europe, Middle East, Africa trade fair in Berlin
- ❖ Agri4youth conference in Windhoek
- ❖ African woman innovation and entrepreneurship forum (AWEIF) conference in Cape Town
- ❖ Moringa International Symposium in Pretoria



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found in  
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**Ilotu Cosmetics products, now available in Swakopmund at the Natural Namibia Shop  
33, Sam Nujoma Ave, Swakopmund | Mon-Friday 09:00-12:00, 14:00-18:00 | Sat 09:00-14:00**





***December 2018 Inaugural  
Intra-African Trade Fair  
Cairo, Egypt***

**16** Namibian Cosmetic Companies, female owned, had the opportunity to Exhibit; Thanks to GIZ & NANCi

***February 2020 Vivanness Expo -  
Nuremberg Germany:***

Along with 10 other Namibian Delegates, Ilotu was fortunate to attend the worlds leading Organic & Natural Expo on Study Tour to find new ways of improving the companies foundation and upscaling to be able to supply the EU market; Thanks to GIZ & NANCi.



*Thank you for your attention!*

## Get in touch with us

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