



# Invest in Lesotho's **Organic Vegetables**

## **LESOTHO**

Afavourable climate, low labour costs and access to major global markets give Lesotho a comparative advantage for cultivating and processing organic vegetables for export.



Invest in Lesotho



# Organic Vegetables



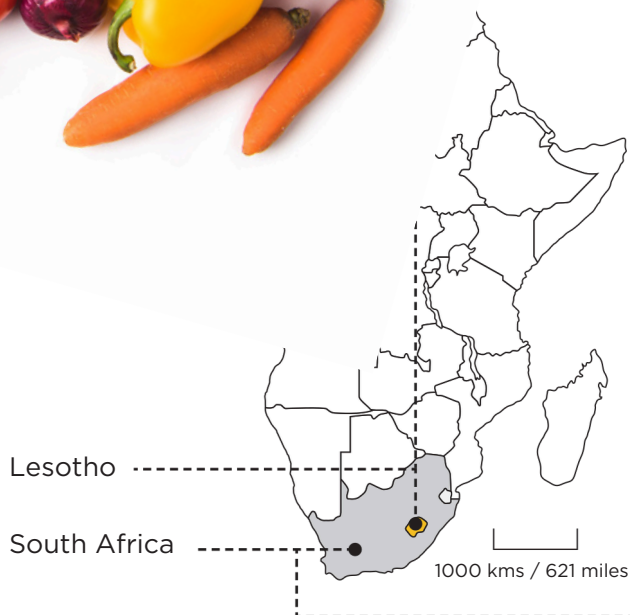
## Introduction

**Responding to rising demand for organic vegetables, this project involves farming organic vegetables and processing them into canned or frozen food, paste, purée, or soup for export.**

farming. Investments in new production and storage facilities form part of the project.

Processing would take place in Maseru, Leribe, Quthing and Mochales Hoek.

Vegetables could be sourced from small scale producers throughout Lesotho. In addition, there is an opportunity to invest in commercial



- COMMERCIAL FARMING
- MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN
- PROCESSING PLANTS
- USE LOCAL FARMERS

## Strengths & Opportunities

Lesotho has mountainous terrain with a climate exceptionally well-suited to growing high-quality crops for export. Rainfall is adequate to sustain healthy agricultural activity.

The impact of climate change on Lesotho has been less severe than other countries in the region.

Lesotho is a predominantly agrarian country.

OF THE POPULATION

# 70%

Unskilled labour is available, social costs are low and labour relations are relatively harmonious.

The vegetable sector is characterised by subsistence farming by households with a focus on food security, while the surplus is sold in the informal market. There is an opportunity to make more efficient use of local produce by providing production facilities in Lesotho. Foreign companies are permitted to own land in Lesotho (provided that a 20% stake remains in local ownership), which allows them to invest in commercial farming.

- cabbages
- tomatoes
- spinach
- carrots
- butternuts
- beetroot
- pumpkins
- potatoes
- green peas
- onions
- cucumbers
- lettuces
- green onions
- green beans
- radishes
- soybeans
- mushrooms
- watermelons

### Potential products for exports are:

canned or frozen food, paste, purée or soup.

### Related investment opportunities include:

food processing equipment, cold storage, packaging and logistic facilities; and irrigation equipment or other farm machinery.

On the job training and mentoring will be needed to equip the workforce for processing and food handling. There is a role for a partnership between investors and local agricultural extension services in supporting new technologies, including better seeds and cultivation techniques. The government has put regulations in place that support the cultivation, processing and export of vegetables.

### Tax Incentives:

The Lesotho government levies a corporate income tax of just 10% on farms and agro-processing firms. It also subsidises agricultural inputs.

This project would align with SDGs 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 and 15.





# Organic Vegetables



## Strengths & Opportunities

**As global demand for healthy food increases, there are opportunities to invest in Lesotho's organic vegetables sector and focus it on exports.**

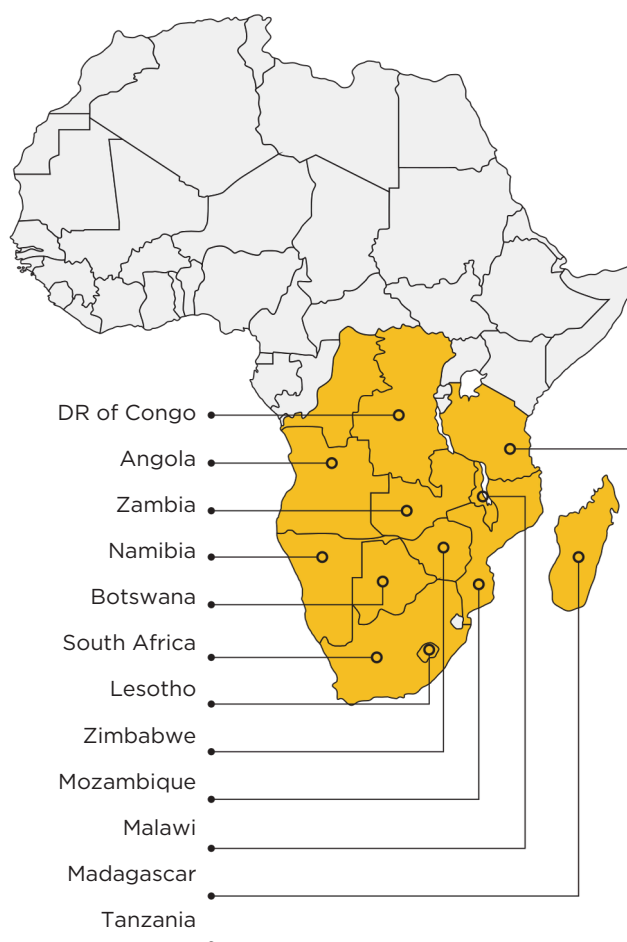
Given Lesotho's geographical position, good external road links and tariff-free access to the market, Lesotho can begin by feeding into the South African value chain, taking advantage of rules permitting Lesotho producers to contribute to South African exports under the EU-SADC EPA rules of origin.

The EU-SADC economic partnership agreement (EPA) offers Lesotho preferential tariffs for food exports to the EU. These preferences become more advantageous the more processed a product is, but they depend on Lesotho adhering to EU food standards. Lesotho could also export to the USA under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), subject to compliance with US food standards.



Lesotho offers a network of roads for easy access to farming sites.

## SADC COUNTRIES



- COMMERCIAL FARMING
- MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN
- PROCESSING PLANTS
- USE LOCAL FARMERS



Lesotho has abundant fertile land, in mountainous surroundings, perfect for organic vegetable farming.



# Organic Vegetables



## Financial Analysis

### TOTAL INVESTMENT

**LSL 13.4m**

comprising fixed assets of LSL 12.1 and initial working capital of LSL 1.2m will be required for the establishment of the Organic Vegetable enterprise. The graphs below illustrate a financially viable operation with the opportunity expected to generate a profit throughout its operational life.



Potato processing plant.

In addition to the positive NPV and IRR, the initial investment cost of the project is expected to be fully recovered in year 6. The investment opportunity also responds favourably to the country's developmental objectives through its positive socio-economic impact in terms of employment creation, economic agglomeration and potential forex earning opportunities.

### NET PROFIT

The enterprise's annual net profit after tax increases from

**LSL 2.5m**

in year 1 to approximately:

**LSL 12.2m**

in year 10. Similarly, the projected cash flows of the envisaged project indicate that it will generate positive net cash flows throughout the 10-year operational period.

NET PROFIT



YEAR 1

NET PROFIT



YEAR 10

**LSL 2.5m**

**LSL 12.2m**

\* 1 LSL = 1 ZAR

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## Financial Analysis

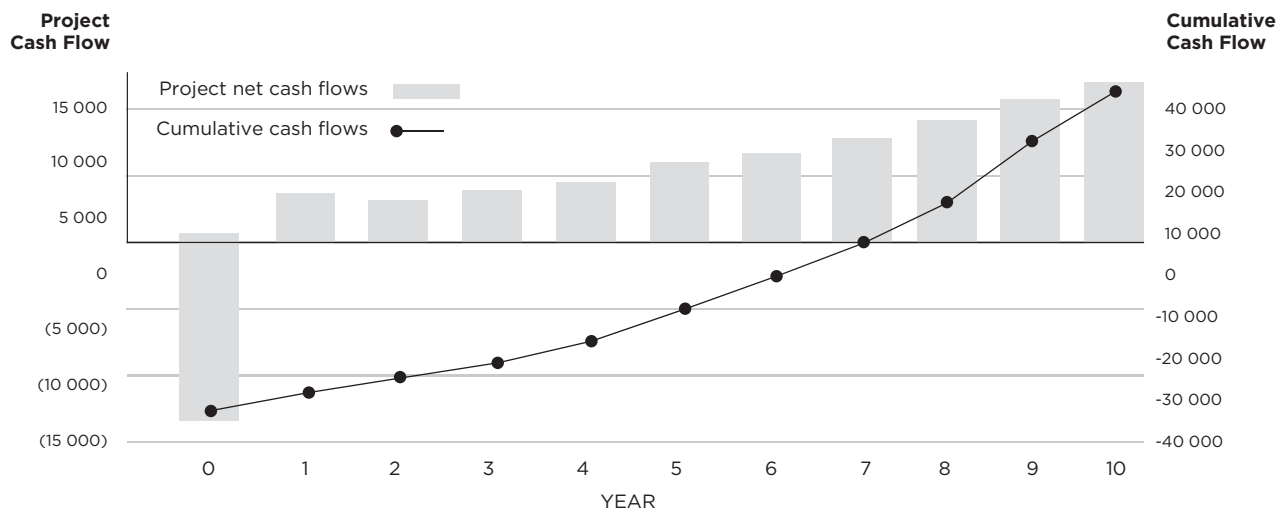
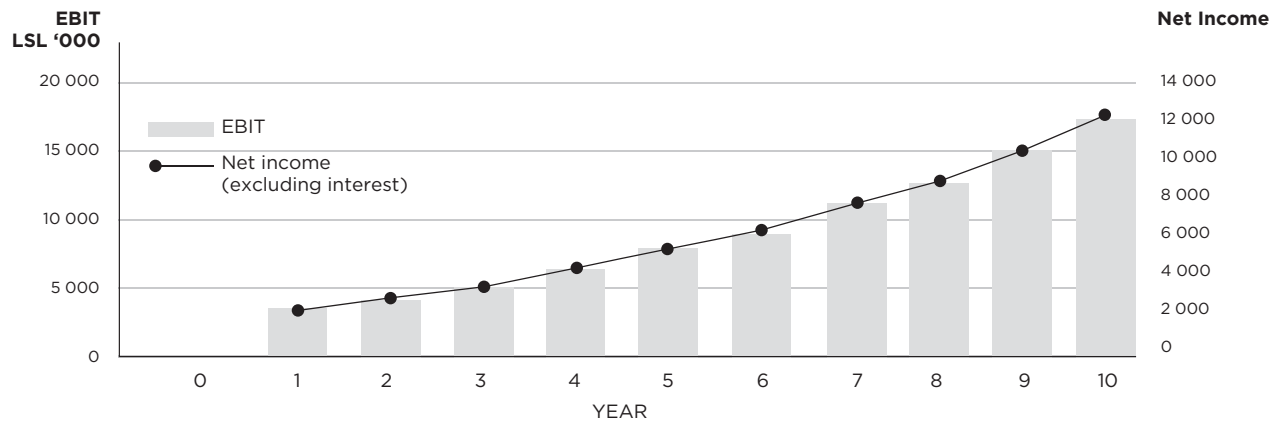


Table 1: Investment Indicators

The projected future cash flows generated by the enterprise are discounted at a rate of 10%. The outcome of the discounted cash flow analysis is summarized in Table 1.

Net present value (NPV)	<b>LSL 21.9m</b>
Discounted payback period	<b>5.57 years</b>
Internal rate of return (IRR)	<b>36.50%</b>
Profitability index (PI)	<b>3</b>



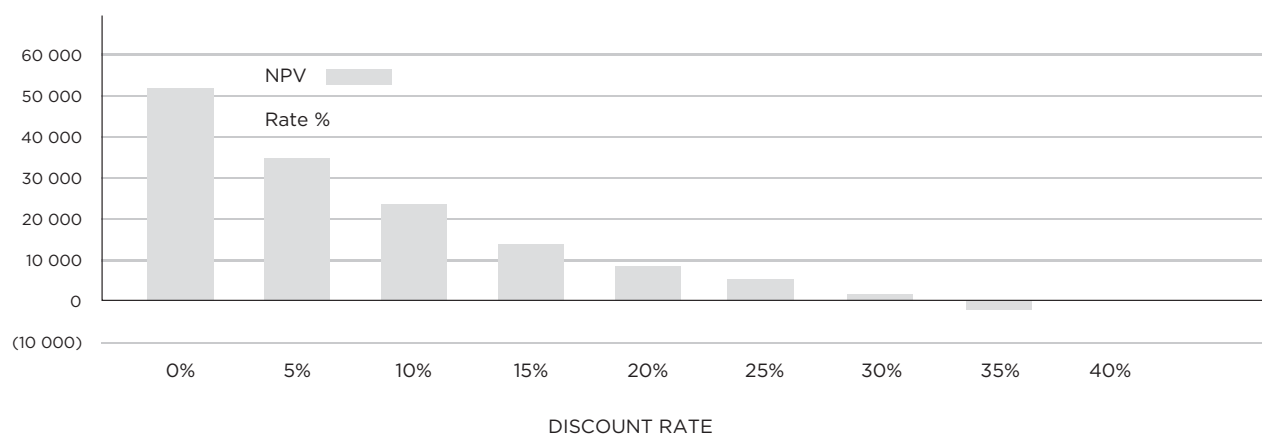


# Organic Vegetables



## Financial Analysis

The positive NPV at a discount rate of 10% corresponds to an IRR of 32.5% highlighting the financial viability of the Organic Vegetable investment opportunity.



Possible site for organic vegetables.



Butternut crop.

### NOTE

The financial analysis of the Organic Vegetable investment opportunity is computed over a ten-year period. Revenue and expenditure projections are in line with industry growth prospects and market potential and have been informed by and benchmarked against industry standards and norms. In addition, assumptions relating to inflation; depreciation and salvage value; and company tax, have been worked out based on the existing laws and directives of the country. The figures above represent high level estimates

as of January 2021 and are not derived from a full feasibility study. Investors are advised to conduct their own due diligence.

### For more information please contact:

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