

Preventing food waste and boosting productivity

Adefi Mtambo is a livestock and vegetable farmer in rural Zimbabwe. She drives a **Mobility for Africa** electric tricycle.

“Life before was challenging. I had to carry everything to market (12km away) by head.” Adefi says, “I could only carry one bucket of tomatoes which would lose its freshness on the hot journey. Now I can grow an acre of tomatoes because there is no threat that they will go bad, and I can carry ten buckets to market which has obviously increased my income.”

At 53, Adefi initially found driving daunting but says, “Mobility for Africa’s training and the idea of ‘putting women in the driver’s seat,’ has really empowered me as a woman! Now, I get respect that I never thought I would get.”

As part of the ‘Pepukai’ group (meaning ‘Wake-Up’ in Shona), Adefi shares the use and rental cost of the Hamba with two other female farmers. She laughs, “Of course my husband wants one for himself, but it’s our shared thing and we decide how it is used.” Adefi says, “It is very efficient. Fuel is more expensive than these batteries which are charged by the sun.”

Describing a typical day she says, “I use the Hamba for everything! I take the Hamba to get manure for the garden, then to collect firewood for cooking and enough water for my household needs for a whole day. Right now, I am going to Wedza market and when I come back, I will help my children with their homework and cook for them. Time is saved!” She notes that reliable transport is also vital in emergencies, “If our neighbours encounter problems like a snake bite, even at midnight, we can and will assist to take them to hospital.”

Adefi concludes, “I have a lot of aspirations. I plan to grow more vegetables and I have already seeded onions, potatoes and tomatoes. I am sending a child to college with the money I have obtained through the Hamba.”

