



# Stimulating economic creativity

**Hakim Simchimba is a mill owner. He has embraced REDAVIA's clean, reliable solar power to fuel his business ambitions**

In Isenzanya, the local farmers bring their maize to Hakim's mill to be processed into flour. Before REDAVIA established its solar mini-grid in the village, Hakim relied upon diesel to fuel his milling machines: "Diesel prices fluctuate, and diesel engines break down easily, it can take two days to repair; imagine not working for two days! It inconveniences everyone."

Switching to electric milling has improved the quality of the flour Hakim produces: "If you look at the flour right now, the previous flour can't have been of high quality – it had a diesel smell because of the exhaust fumes."

It is not just Hakim who is impressed by the reliability and green credentials of REDAVIA's solar system, his employees and customers also prefer it because, "the diesel system affects and pollutes the air, while this system is safe health-wise. When I consider the environment and hygiene for customers, I can see the difference."

As a farmer, Hakim has plans to increase production, growing maize in tonnes to mill and sell across the country. He has already converted his second mill, in neighbouring Shitunguru, to electricity and intends to convert his sunflower oil production business.

"There are so many ways that we can utilise this electricity...there are many things that can be turned into businesses. For example, in these parts we grow coffee; we could bring in machines to grind the coffee right here to be packaged and sold. There are chicken hatching machines and incubators, there are also mango trees, we could open a juice processing industry and sell to other towns..."

What is needed with this solar power is creativity!"