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For immediate release

Green Gold Social Wins Climate Innovation Award

Green Gold Social has won a top 3 position in the FAO Zambia and Bongohive Facility for Action for Climate Empowerment to Achieve Nationally Determined Contributions (FACE NDC) Challenge for their Forest Pack innovation, which helps farmers plant trees at scale affordably.

The 5-week innovation challenge attracted 150 applicants and 10 finalists, and saw startup founders in Zambia go through a design sprint to fine-tune their ideas in Agriculture, Renewable Energy, and Forestry before pitching to a panel of judges. The top 3 innovations won seed funding and business capacity development support.

Green Gold Social's 1kg Forest Pack solves the problem of commercial access to indigenous Zambian trees. It contains more than 2,500 indigenous tree seeds that can cover a hectare of land. By planting the seeds directly in the ground, the Forest Pack helps farmers eliminate the need for seedlings, which are expensive to buy and transport.

The Forest Pack is a powerful tool for climate action. It facilitates the growth of indigenous trees such as Mutondo (*Julbernardia paniculata*), a miombo species where a hectare can store up to 3.5 tonnes of carbon in the soil per year.

The Climate innovation is eradicating poverty through providing sustainable jobs that promote environmental protection. It has employed 20 villagers as seed collectors, some of whom were charcoal makers in Chongwe and other areas across Zambia.

The FACE NDC Challenge was supported by the German International Climate Initiative (IKI) and implemented by UNITAR, UNZA, CBU, and Bongohive to encourage practical, scalable solutions capable of driving climate awareness, green jobs, and community-level impact.

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Green Gold Social is a Zambian non-governmental organization reforesting indigenous Zambian trees and working alongside smallholder farmers to restore degraded landscapes and strengthen rural livelihoods through agroforestry and climate smart agriculture.

www.greengoldsocial.org | greengoldsocialofficial@gmail.com | +260965976490