

Storms destroy Phidibi Organic Cooperative in Vhembe: By Busi Shibambo

Phidibi Organic Farmer's cooperative is one of the projects that have been hit by the heavy rain storms in the past few weeks. This project is found at Thulamlela Municipality at Lambani village. It is situated at the river bank of Phidibi River (known as Levubu). About two hectares of maize and a hectare of okra and cabbages were affected.

Due to storms, farmers have lost their drips and organic kraal manure they had stored. The eight farmers that are members of the cooperative did not lose hope and believe rain is a blessing despite the loss. These farmers formed this project as an organic farmer's cooperative because they couldn't afford to buy the fertilizers.

One of the members, Mr Tshipethathanga Colbert took Temo News to the river that washed away the drips. The river was full to capacity and there was nothing we could do except to watch it flowing.

Temo News interviewed the farmer regarding a way forward after the disaster and the expected help from government. "We are a group of eight who are not working other than here in our farm. So we look at this project as a business and business people know that there are risks involved in any business.

"We are now preparing the other side of the land to start with new crops. Government is willing to assist. However, we don't want to fold our hands and wait for the hand-out from government. We understand government has many projects and people to assist due to floods disaster," indicates Tshipethathanga.



One of the portions of Phidibi Organic Cooperative which suffered floods damage at Lambani Village.