



**NCRST**  
NATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON RESEARCH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# National Innovation Challenge for Women

"Catapulting women - nurturing our economy"



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# THE NATIONAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE FOR WOMEN - 2020

**T**HE National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) is a Public Enterprise, tasked to coordinate, develop and promote Research, Science, Technology and Innovation in Namibia.

As part of its mandate the NCRST runs several innovations supports programmes, one of which is the National Innovation Challenge for Women (NICW). The NICW programme is a business acceleration programme which serves as platform for shared research, development and innovation. This programme is purposely designed to be gender-responsive by supporting female innovators and entrepreneurs with promising innovations to accelerate them into fully-fledged businesses that can have immediate economic and social impact. Since its inception in 2017, the NICW programme has benefited more than 100 female innovators and entrepreneurs.

The NICW is bolstered by StartUp Namibia through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German government.

This is through its initiatives focussed at improving access to financial services for start-ups, such as provision of start-up capital and growth financing. Improved access to financial information and funding will enable medium to long-term financing of product and business development and strengthen the performance of start-ups. The 2020 season of the NICW programme aims to provide support to 40 female innovators by providing them with solid training in Business Ideation, Business Modelling, Business Strategy Development, Financial Management, and Intellectual Property Protection, amongst others.

Below are the business profiles of 18 finalists that were selected to progress to phase II of the NICW programme, through an online business pitching event. These ladies will be attending face-to-face business training sessions in October and November 2020, after which 4 national winners will be selected to receive prizes in the form of seed funding and incubation services to catapult their businesses to success.



**Albertina MP Itana**  
Northern Pathology Services

**N**orthern Pathology Services is a 100% Namibian owned medical laboratory that decentralised histology and cytology services to offer accurate and timely specialised diagnostic services that are currently offered only in Windhoek. We deal with surgical and autopsies histology, pap smears, on-site and mobile fine needle aspiration, facilitate closer clinicopathological correlation and academic presentations. Hence 60% of medical diagnoses depend on laboratory investigations, and Northern Pathology Services is aspiring to grow by incorporating clinical pathology compliments and become one of the leading private medical diagnostic laboratory services providers in Namibia and the neighbouring countries.



**Benitha Nakaambo**  
Nitha's Manufacturing

**N**itha's manufacturing CC is a Namibian company that specialises in sauces and packaged and processed food. The company's focus is on food preservation and food security in Namibia. Ours is to provide a high standard and quality Namibian sauces and perceivable processed food to the Namibian market, SADC, and AU member states. As of current, Nitha specialises in different types of sources, such as chilli sauces of various kinds, pasta sauce, tomato puree and sun-dried tomatoes. In the future, Nitha is working on packaging indigenous Namibian dried food.



**Hermine Bertolini**  
Ann Pads: Ann's Journey to Womanhood

**A**nn Pads is a production, distribution, and educator of washable sanitary pads. The educational presentations are addressing the importance of menstruation as the basis of the human species and normal human development as well as encouraging families to talk about this at home as discussing menstruation is still regarded as a taboo. Ann's Journey to Womanhood, an informative, educational book for all learners to equip them with the necessary knowledge to understand the importance of menstruation.



**Hilja Shatona**  
WEEE Recycle cc

**D**id you know? It is legal to dispose of Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) in landfills. However, e-waste contains substances such as lead, mercury, cadmium, bromine, chlorine, PVC, and CFCs, some of which are highly toxic and can poison the soil, underground water sources and the air, and deplete the ozone layer. WEEE Recycle cc, is an e-waste recycling company based in Walvis Bay. We aim to be the leading e-waste recycler in Namibia, providing a safe, clean, and sustainable alternative to e-waste disposal. Get rid of all the broken electrical and electronic equipment in your storeroom or garage that you know you're never going to fix.



**Kuku Angula**  
Stec Leathers

**A**re you tired of piling up shoes with substandard quality, worry no more? STEC Leathers is dominantly a shoe manufacturing company, and we are here to guarantee you quality with products made right in the Land of the Brave, by Namibians and from Namibia's finest high-quality leather, to the world. Did we mention that our shoe soles are made from second-hand conveyor belts from Namibia's mineral resources production mines? Not only will you be wearing high-quality, fashionable shoes, but you will be saving the earth for our future generation to live in safely. We are also geared to providing secured employment to vulnerable ex-convicts. We are passionate, we are capable, we are equipped, and we are ready to provide, serve, rehabilitate, and save mother earth.



**La-Toya Shivute**  
Ecoentric Seafood

**A**n online marketplace for seafood. Are you a liker of all things seafood, like us at Ecoentric seafood, are fishermen, industry player, wholesaler, retailer but still wondering where and when you can purchase your next batch of fresh and wholesome seafood? Ecoentric seafood aspired to develop a digital online marketplace, dedicated to the seafood industry at the convenience of all stakeholders. We will promote your products, imagine if the Namibian seafood industry and we can save you time, money, and effort as we make invoicing and payments easier for you. We offer a platform to meet customers and suppliers online. Get connected to Ecoentric Seafood.



**Leena Naftal**  
LN Recycle Studio

**L**N Recycle Studio recycles newspapers into attractive products such as bowls, carry square baskets, piggy banks and earrings. The products are water-resistant, strong, unique, and environmental smart. They serve the purpose of decorating and organising the household and office spaces. This prevents much waste from getting into our environment as well as filling the dumpsites.



**Leena Sindano**  
Chizango trading

**L**eena Sindano from Chizango trading, I want to improve the health of the people using plant-based products by adding value to the moringa plant leaves and seeds to produce various superfood (Moringa Capsules, powder, tea's & oil) and natural cosmetics (lip balm, massage oil & hair wax).



**Loide Shipingana**  
MegaTrio Investment CC

**W**e have a protein problem and need to revolutionise the way we feed our animals to improve resources for food and agriculture for the rapidly increasing population under stressed climate conditions. Don't be buggy, Insects are a sustainable alternative to traditional sources of protein such as Maize and Mahangu. We at MegaTrio Investment CC would like to establish the technologies to optimise the production of the "black soldier fly" to produce highly nutritious, sustainable, and affordable animal feed. The self-harvesting soldier flies can be grown in a small area and managed effectively with a good feed conversion ratio. They sound amazing, right? Let us fuel the most sustainable food chain: MegaTrio Investment CC, your ultimate service point for the next "bug" thing.



**Magrecia Hausiku**  
Themban Farm CC

**T**hemban farms is a proudly Namibian start-up coming with a focus and interest in hydroponics and aquaponics industry for food and agriculture for the rapidly increasing population under stressed climate conditions. Through adopting this relatively new practice in Namibia, our mission is to grow a sustainable agribusiness, centred on quality and serving the communities in which we operate. One of our unique features is to establish a value chain of a local indigenous crop that will supplement the growing media required in both hydroponics and aquaponics. This will nationalise our production chain to an ALL Namibian produce for the Namibians. Another added futuristic feature is to venture into product development of these crops that will saturate the Namibian retail market. We do not only aim to be the preferred market choice for healthy wholesome vegetables but to become a national leader in nourishing our people.



**Magreth Tsuses**  
Eden Manufacturers CC

**E**den Manufacturers CC is established to formulate the world best possible skincare products suitable for feminine beauty with a wide range of product for face, body, bath, hair using traditional harvested ingredients. We also Package Nutritional Snacks from Ximena seed kernel, marula nuts! Nara melon, Kalahari melon seed Dades, and many more indigenous products of Namibia. Boosting your immune system in today's health crisis is very important for us. The organic ingredients provided by mother nature is the healthiest way to go with Eden Manufacturers' healthy snacks. The Ximena leaf tea and the leaf capsules, as well as Ximena root bark capsules, are our pharmaceutical immune boosters whilst the Ximena extract act as a wound and scar healing and pain relief spray at the same time.



**Meke Namindo**  
Mekenificent

**B**usy? Tired? Overwhelmed? Often our health is first to go! Whether you want to gain weight, lose weight, or maintain your lifestyle status, MEKENIFICENT is your go-to for your physical & mental well-being. Your wellness starts with you deciding to use our products and services. Proudly Namibian, MEKENIFICENT is not just a place where you go exercise and indulge into healthier, tasty meals, it is your space of refuge. Our secret haven. Your space for restoration, refresh, and revitalisation through our professional spa. We encourage you to enjoy the ambience and natural scents of our leisure section for business brainstorming sessions or family connections. Do not forget to grab a local goodie from our craft shop. We love local.



**Ndeshipewa Hamatui - Valombola**  
NSVP Scientific CC

**I**magine Namibia solving economic challenges while increasing the level of scientific research. A Namibia that increases local production, instead of relying on imports, this is our dream. NSVP Scientific cc is a start-up company, manufacturing and supplying scientific reagents and consumables. We are a team of five scientists, who partnered up to establish a business that focuses on manufacturing tailor made scientific reagents and consumables for service laboratories, scientific institutions, and manufacturing companies. We are helping our esteemed customers reduce cost by buying customised products based on their needs. Our products range includes microbiological culture media, chemical solutions, biological stains, chemical solvents, and chemicals salts.



**Raxia Mwapopile Shalulange**  
Lupafu Pure and Natural Products

**A**re you battling acne, sunburns, dry skin, skin irritations, dark spots, dry and itchy scalp, slow hair growth, brittle hair, dandruff, thinning hair, and broken edges? With our 100% organic products extracted from our local Aloe Vera, Marula and Chebe plants. Our highly anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant, Vitamin A and C enriched Aloe Vera products are formulated to restore and prevent your skin from acne, sunburns, black spots, moisturises skin and scalp and protect against UV rays. Lupafu offers free delivery in town (Windhoek), Courier Nationwide and gives instructions and advice about skin and hair care at no cost. Lupafu is here to serve you divine skin and beautiful hair at affordable prices.



**Samantha Matjila**  
Didintle Beauty Products

**D**idintle Beauty Products, "Didintle" ka Setswana means "they are beautiful." African naturals are looking for hair products that are relatively inexpensive to maintain a healthy hair routine, giving added moisture and hold, are chemical-free and rich in natural oils, fruits, and botanical extracts. Didintle is looking into developing a hair gel that will be the first on the Namibian market using fewer ingredients and with no smell. It will be non-flaky, inexpensive, and rich in Vitamin E and Omega 3 oils. One of our core values is to not discriminate against other hair types or categorise them based on the colour of the user's skin. Even though Didintle is targeted at African naturals, the product caters for all naturally fed kinks, coils, and curls.



**Selvia C. Gowases**  
Cherrol's Clean Energy Solutions

**I**f you want to contribute towards an "earth-friendly" environment, clean energy solutions are the way to go. Cherrol's Clean Energy Solutions provide a greener and cheaper way of cooking by using a fabulous, safe to use indoors stove, which works with biomass pellets made from waste materials. With its components of cooking and baking, there is no limit to your cooking. The biomass pellets replace the firewood, gas, and paraffin, which has caused many house fires in the low-income communities. Cooking with firewood is a no go because it also releases various airborne toxins which can lead to poor respiratory health. Consider your health; consider Cherrol's Clean Energy Solutions, the green solution to your rising energy problems.



**Toolia Kamanya,**  
T'Brownies

**I**want you to imagine a world without chocolate. A world without mouth-watering desserts. That melt in your mouth, doesn't sound so good, does it? T's Brownies is a Chocolate Brownie Namibian owned Brand that bakes and packages brownies in aesthetically pleasing boxes complimented with a bow and a quote to get you by the day. The assorted brownies, our customer favourite being the Caramel and mint flavour, can be gifted for any occasions, can be part of the dessert table at an event or if you are having a bad day and you need some sugar. We deliver to people's doorsteps, six days a week and ordering is designed is made easy.



**Tufileghenda Henghono**  
GoodMorning Trading cc

**G**oodMorning Trading cc has decided to hold hands with our government in achieving vision 2030, Harambee prosperity plan and NDP5 goals in alleviating poverty. We are a whole training company training the mobile nation on Horticulture, Apiculture, poultry farming livestock, Mushroom growing, drying of fruits and vegetables, and making hydroponics fodder feed and many more. Our vision is to be the leading sustainable agriculture private college in Namibia and beyond. Everybody needs a farmer three times a day in their lives. We help people realise that they are what they eat. So, let's all eat healthy organic food. Let's live sustainable lives; let's grow our own food.



**Ministry of Industrialisation & Trade**