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The Drop

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Collecting Data to Illuminate the Path of Discovery: Mr Petrus Tuhafeni Paulus who is pursuing his Ph.D. in Natural Resources Sciences focusing on Microbial quality and physico-chemical profiling of irrigation water used in Namibia, captured examining fresh produce from the small scaled farmers at Shadikongoro Green Scheme Irrigation situated east of Rundu, Namibia.

POSTCARD

A Hands-On Approach to Learning

Data collection serves as the backbone of research for Ph.D. students. It is the point at which theoretical concepts and hypotheses begin to take tangible form. Whether in the laboratory, the field, or through surveys and interviews, data collection is the initial step in the empirical journey.

In pursuit of his Ph.D., Mr Paulus embarked on a thrilling data collection adventure collecting water samples for microbial quality assessment at Okavango River, Shadikongo Green Scheme Irrigation, about 180 km east of Rundu in the Kavango region of Namibia. His study is designed to investigate the potential relationship between water pollution and crop contamination, determine sources of product microbial contamination and assess the impact on food safety and water-borne diseases. The physico-chemical and microbiological quality of the water will be characterised to determine the suitability of the water for irrigation.

The findings of his research will contribute to protecting the health of the consumers by enabling the development and execution of important strategies for safe food production, preventing outbreaks of diseases, and ensuring reliable food security in line with the Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 6, and the Harambee Prosperity Plan II of Namibia.

OKAVANGO RIVER, SHADIKONGORO

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