SASSCAL GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAMME
INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

# The Drop

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**Each interview and survey is a piece of the puzzle:** Ms Faith Kudzai Chihumbiri is a Ph.D. candidate passionately delving into the field of Natural Resources Sciences focusing on determining the factors of improving resilience in access to and management of water, energy and food in the Namibian smallholder farming communities with contrasting socio-economic and environmental profiles. In the photograph above, she is captured interviewing Mr Fabian Boys an Agriculture Technician at the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) , Hardap Region, Namibia.

# POSTCARD

## Diving deep into the realm of data collection

In Namibia, 70% of the population relies on agriculture and 48% of rural households depend on smallholder farming. Most residents in the smallholder farming communities are poor, experience Water-Energy-Food (WEF) resource insecurity, and often live in precarious conditions.

Through her research, Faith seeks to determine the factors that could assist these communities enhance their access to and management of water, energy and food resources while building resilience to climate change. She selected communities from Hardap and Oshikoto, two regions in Namibia with different socio-economic and environmental profiles as study areas. Currently she is using household surveys and key informant interviews for data collection. In the latter, she interviews stakeholders from the public and private sector to determine their roles in supporting smallholder farming communities cope with and adapt to extreme weather patterns.

With invaluable support and guidance from her supervisors, Dr Thinah Moyo from the Namibia University of Science and Technology, Dr Tina Beuchelt from the University of Bonn, Germany and Prof Dominic Mazvimavi from the University of the Western Cape, it is anticipated that her research would culminate in development of a WEF nexus model that considers the local context. Results of the comparison between the two regions could contribute towards evidence-based decision-making so that climate change response plans are tailored to different socio-economic and environmental contexts.

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