

# CASE STUDY:

## The Mulberry Project



Social and Economic  
Inclusion through  
Fair Food  
Abundance  
Generosity  
Cooperation

### AT A GLANCE



#### Target Participants

disadvantaged communities, particularly CALD migrants from agricultural backgrounds



**Aim** to address unemployment in disadvantaged communities through agriculture



#### Organisations Involved

The Mulberry Project, MDA Ltd TRAMS and the Condamine Alliance



#### Location

Toowoomba Region, SW Queensland



#### Funding

Currently submitting a tender for a Skilling Queenslanders for Work contract in association with MDA Ltd

#### The Mulberry Project is a pilot social enterprise

operating as a volunteer-run community group with 35 volunteers (66% women) from countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Rwanda, Syria and Australia. We are in the process of establishing our business structure in association with partners.

#### The Mulberry Project:

**Creates partnerships** to take advantage of underutilised farmland in proximity to urban centres to grow market garden crops for emerging niche markets supplying produce to diverse communities, restaurants and catering businesses, particularly those with a focus on employment of migrant women such as local social enterprises.

**Grows produce** using sustainable and chemical-free farming principles and trials hardy crops with low irrigation needs suitable for a changing climate.

**Values the unique skill set** of migrants coming from a subsistence farming background and focusses on community empowerment and capacity building.

**Facilitates opportunities for experiential and vocational training** in the use of farm and logistics machinery, horticulture, agronomy and food retail services to enable employment for participants in the wider farming and food sectors.

**Recognises that transport** to and from peri-urban workplaces is a **barrier to employment** for many disadvantaged communities and facilitates communal transport to overcome this.

**Childcare** and its cooperative delivery is another structural issue that we aim to address.

*“This project will bring us out of poverty, we will work using our hands, and we will get something from it,” says Miriam. “It will give us hope and let us help others to eat.”*

#### Miriam Mangaza

former refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo

#### For More Information Visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/themulberryproject.qld/>  
<http://www.sbs.com.au/food/article/2017/03/01/mulberry-project-empowers-african-migrants-feeds-community>

