

## Tawanda Runganga

*“Young people must ensure the food security of our continent – and our world.”*

Tawanda Runganga is an Agropreneur, living and working in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Tawanda has dedicated his life to teaching women and young people from local communities how to get into farming, believing that agriculture is the route out of a life of crime and destitution. His story began in Harare, where he was brought up by his grandmother, his mother having had to leave Zimbabwe to seek work abroad. Each summer, Tawanda and his brother would spend time in rural Seke, where their grandmother would teach them important farming skills – tilling the land, planting and harvesting. Tawanda was inspired by his grandmother’s farming experience, but his journey took a turn when, upon her death, he found himself alone, with no support system. This marked a turning point in his life, as he realised that drawing on his grandmother’s entrepreneurial spirit and agricultural experience was his way to make something out of his life.

Tawanda attended Midlands State University to study Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, and, inspired by his studies and a training course on cultivating mushrooms, committed himself to a future in agriculture. Tawanda is now a full-time Agropreneur, running his own business, **‘Run In’**, growing and selling oyster mushrooms, and training aspiring mushroom growers across Zimbabwe.

Tawanda believes that agriculture can empower young people to provide for themselves and their communities – and help alleviate poverty, ensuring Africa is food secure in line with SDG 2. He is passionate about agricultural development, food security and the role of agriculture in alleviating poverty across Africa. Tawanda is currently working on a new project, focused on Black Soldier Flies and the impact they could have on food systems.