

# Progress Report – Llewelin Ltd

## Background

Llewelin Ltd acquired 150 acres (60ha) of land in Kilimanjaro region for the purposes of planting avocados for export.

## The Land Use

About 20ha of land is riverine riparian, steep slopes and forest land leaving 40ha of arable land. To date 18.5ha has been planted to avocado and 20ha is used for mulching crops, including Rhodes grass and sorghum.

## Avocado production

Three different varieties of avocado have been planted; Hass (4.5ha), Gem (8ha), Lamb Hass (6ha).

- Hass is the internationally recognized avocado variety sold world wide, and in the Kilimanjaro region harvests between June and August.
- Gem is a protected variety and is a larger fruit that is more drought tolerant.
- Lamb Hass is planted as it harvests later than Hass, so the season is September-October.

All the avocados are irrigated, using modern micro-sprinkler technology. One 50L/hr sprinkler is located on every tree. The picture below is of the Llewelin pump house.



The picture below is of the Gem avocado fields at Llewelin:



The mulching crops are grown to provide organic matter for the avocado fields as the soils at Llewelin historically have been over worked. Prior to Llewelin there was heavy use of the disc plough, poor agricultural practices, lack of rotation and soils are depleted of nutrients and structure. Increased organic matter will improve soils and soil life and ultimately avocado yields.

As well as inorganic fertilizer use, chicken manure is collected from neighbouring commercial chicken sheds, composted on site and applied to the fields to improve soils.

## **Environment**

Prior to Llewelin there was a poaching of trees and animals on the farm. Much of the riverine forest had been depleted and the invasive plant lantana had taken hold in the land. Llewelin is re-planting the riverine forest and removing the invasive lantana. The security teams have greatly reduced the poaching, removing snares etc. As such populations of sykes and colobus monkeys have increased as well as other antelope.

## **Finance**

The first crop of avocado is now in its' first harvest and in 2023 turnover was Tsh 97,614,123 from over 26 tons of export avocado. The loss for the year was Tsh 15,879,060 as the trees are still immature and the company continues to invest in the business.

Over the next 4 to 5 years the young trees will grow and volumes are expected to increase onice the trees reach maturity in 2029 to over 300 tons which will increase the turnover to TZS 850,000,000 providing a profit of TZS 200,000,000, depending on market price and export yield.

In the meantime, the shareholders continue to invest in the avocado orchards until they reach maturity.