

**MENTEE****Rispah Kariuki**

Founder and Former CEO
Rihemu Organic Inputs Ltd



Kenya

Rispah's professional journey is grounded in an MBA in Global Business & Sustainability, which provides the strategic framework for her work. She transitioned from a decade of high-level financial coordination at Barclays Bank of Kenya, where she excelled in vendor relationship management, contract negotiation, and financial service coordination, to becoming a pioneering entrepreneur. She is the Founder and former CEO of Rihemu Organic Inputs Ltd, where her four years of leadership were critical in the commercialization and scaling of Rotuba Bio-Fertilizer. This experience directly aligns with the mission of the Paradvantage Enterprise Development Agency, where she now serves as the Director. Her role at Paradvantage is to strategically link regenerative farming practices with coordinated market and financial access for smallholder farmers. Her work also involves leveraging her earlier experience at ACIDI/VOCA in using participatory approaches for private agricultural extension, which is crucial for scaling new models effectively.

Rihemu Organic Inputs Limited

Is working to make organic farming a productive and sustainable choice in Kenya. Its flagship product, Rotuba Bio-Fertilizer, is a patented bio-dynamic input designed to restore acidic, exhausted soils affected by conventional fertilizers. The company's impact is seen in three areas: environmental, socioeconomic, and women's empowerment. Environmentally, Rotuba improves soil structure, boosts water retention, and supports resilience to droughts and floods while reducing chemical runoff. Socioeconomically, product trials have shown yield increases of up to 200% on degraded soils, helping improve farmer incomes and food security. Rihemu also uses decentralized container kiosks to improve affordability, access to quality inputs, and localized extension support.

Led by Rispah, a recognized feminist changemaker, the company also creates opportunities for women. Its work directly benefits more than 2,000 women farmers through its products and local employment.

**MENTOR****Natalie DiNicola**

CEO
Lilac Agriculture