



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Boise Corn Meal Producer to Supply African Corn Varieties to Local Community using a Zero Interest Loan from the Impact Idaho Fund**

- Koborewa Corn Meal, founded by Emmanuel Nkurunziza, is a production and milling operation, growing African corn varieties that are processed and packaged for sale to local ethnic communities in Boise, Idaho.
- Hand-scale production involves traditional farming technique and cottage-style milling operation ensures that workers earn safe, and fair wages.
- Production and distribution fills a gap in the Boise market for members of the African Diaspora and LatinX communities seeking traditional corn meal.
- Impact Idaho Fund zero interest loan will facilitate the purchase of milling and packaging equipment during the initial startup phase.
- Koborewa is partnering with Global Gardens, a Boise-based refugee farm organization, that helped secure land access and is offering space for the milling operation at their Food Hub Facility.

Hailey, ID – The Impact Idaho Fund has provided a zero interest loan to Boise-based, Koborewa Corn Meal. Koborewa Corn Meal was founded by Emmanuel Nkurunziza to fill a demand for high quality corn meal in the Boise market. By filling the gap, he is providing members of the African Diaspora and LatinX communities with a superior product that replicates the flavor of their traditional cuisines.

The zero interest loan from the Impact Idaho Fund will be used by Koborewa Corn Meal to purchase a small scale Meadows Mill stone burr mill and packaging equipment to prepare the corn meal for direct to consumer sale via farmers markets and other channels.



“The loan from Impact Idaho Fund is a good foundation for Koborewa Corn Meal,” says owner, Emmanuel Nkurunziza. “I will be able to start off with the equipment necessary to create a high quality product and meet the demand of our community.”

“Demand for the flavors for home is high since the COVID pandemic,” Emmanuel continues. “The commercially available corn meal options are a poor substitute. I have farmed my whole life and have a passion for business development. I am excited to bring my passions together to produce this culturally celebrated food for the Boise community.”

Koborewa Corn Meal uses sustainable, organic practices to grow their corn on land that Global Gardens, a Boise-based refugee farm organization, helped secure. The new mill operation will be located at the organization’s Food Hub Facility. The cottage-style milling operation ensures that workers are honored as the center of the operation, by offering safe and fair wages and a meaningful connection to the customers and community.

“Koborewa is an ideal portfolio company for the Impact Idaho Fund,” says Chief Investment Officer, Catherine Rotchford. “Their growing practices respect and restore the soil, their business model puts the rights and wellbeing of workers first, and their production fills a gap for a culturally important food. We are confident that this zero interest loan to Koborewa will lead to the successful launch and expansion of Emmanuel’s business.”

Koborewa Corn Meal planted their first crop in May and plans to harvest corn in the end of September. After a 2-month drying period, they expect to start milling the corn meal in November. Sales will be available through regional farmers markets, CSAs, and an online store.

Koborewa Corn Meal is the sixth regional food business to receive a low or zero interest loan from the Impact Idaho Fund. To date, \$417,000 has been allocated to community businesses to build regional resilience. Sun Valley Institute for Resilience is currently seeking donors to continue expanding the reach and impact of this funding tool.

### **About the Impact Idaho Fund**

The Impact Idaho Fund (IIF) attracts and mobilizes mission-driven capital for innovative projects advancing community resilience in central and southern Idaho. Recipients of the zero interest and low interest loans are companies building regenerative, renewable and sustainable practices related to food and farm, land, water and energy use. To date, portfolio companies have brought more nutrient-dense, locally-grown food to market and helped farmers conserve



water in a year of exceptional drought. For more information, please visit [sunvalleyinstitute.org/impactidahofund](http://sunvalleyinstitute.org/impactidahofund)

### **About Sun Valley Institute for Resilience**

The Impact Idaho Fund is a program of the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience (SVIR). SVIR advances community resilience in Idaho's Wood River Valley region by educating, investing and collaborating to ensure that the economy, environment and people thrive. SVIR is dedicated to supporting our whole community and we are working to develop programs that meet everyone's needs. For more information, please visit: [www.sunvalleyinstitute.org](http://www.sunvalleyinstitute.org)