

Intensive Kaizen Coaching Doubles Labour Productivity at South African Auto-Parts Suppliers

City Innovation Library · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 62/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

JICA and South Africa's AIDC gave eight auto-parts suppliers years of on-site Kaizen coaching. By 2018, labour productivity had more than doubled, lead times fell to 38% of 2015 levels, and rejection rates fell from 3.3% to 2.2%.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	1/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-12

[Automotive Industry Development Centre \(AIDC\) & JICA](#) — accessed 2026-08-12

[SAJEMS — The impact of Kaizen: Assessing the intensive Kaizen training of auto-parts suppliers in South Africa](#) — accessed 2026-08-12

[Brookings — The Japanese philosophy of kaizen offers opportunity for industrial development in Africa](#) — accessed 2026-08-12

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