

»» NEWSLETTER ««

JAN - JUNE 2023



Permaculture
Paradise Institute
PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR ALL

PERMACULTURE PARADISE INSTITUTE



STORIES AND UPDATES

THE PASSION FRUITS OASIS IN THE VILLAGES OF MADISI IN DOWA DISTRICT

Written by Biswick Luwayo
Jan 4, 2023



The passion fruits oasis in the villages of Madisi in DOWA District

It was an amazing journey of 15 months of passion fruits oasis in the villages of Madisi in DOWA District, this is where permaculture aided a variety of seedlings to its farmers as a starter post training of which a total of 600 Families in madisi have planted at least 2 to 4 vines each.

These are very simple vertical gardens which require less space. Passion fruits are drought resistant meaning they survive in dry season with no irrigation through to the next rainy season and the leaves make sedative tea and also can be cooked as a

vegetable.

With high malnutrition case in rural communities of Malawi we believe that the banana which are harvested behind shower rooms plus the passion fruits which are already producing fruits including vegetables and legumes grown within the food forests, farmers will be able to address this challenge with no fortified handouts from elsewhere as it has always been the case.

Join us as we envision 100,000 food forests by 2025 as a pilot our vision for Malawi is for every household to have a food forest.





Lately, permaculture has established its very first chinampa gardens, it is very dense and diverse.

This year has separated chemical farmers from biology farmers. Farmers who work with nature did not wait for inputs, they planted on time and have good diversity in their field and promise of food security and profit.

"I fear those who wait for farmer input support will struggle this year....Great example of mixed cropping" said Luwayo Biswick .

The best innovator of the year 2022

For the first time in history of Community Radio existence in Malawi, Mudziwathu Community Radio Station on Saturday

31st December, 2022 awarded best performer in education, Agriculture, Security, Sports and entertainment. The event was organized to motivate individuals who performed well as a token of appreciation and a reminder to them to continue serving the community diligently.

Joseph Njanje, Mudziwathu Station Manager said some officers in sectors of health, Agriculture and Security have done number of remarkable achievements, that is why the board and management of Mudziwathu came up with the initiative.

It has been a long journey but worth it, our vision for the rural world has been acknowledged as the best innovation to address hunger. Permaculture would like to thank Mudziwathu community radio and Mchinji as a district for acknowledging our efforts towards the development of the district and the Nation.



Compost toilets, the solution to Malawi's Cholera crisis

Written by Biswick Luwayo
Jan 8, 2023



As the Cholera outbreak continues to ravage the country of Malawi, many organizations including the government are trying tirelessly to averse from the further spread of the disease while treating the symptoms. Cholera is spread by contaminated food or water and can cause acute diarrhea. In the year 2021, Permaculture Paradise Institute in partnership with Opulence Malawi with support from the United Methodist Church of the resurrection initiated a food security project using permaculture as a design science to facilitate the implementation of ecologically sound, safe, and profitable environments for rural communities of Malawi. The project's main objective and commitment are to make Malawi a role model in embracing sustainable farming practices to improve livelihoods

and alleviate poverty while serving as the motivation to initiate participatory practices in promoting sustainable development initiatives among the resource-poor rural community members.

Composting toilets were introduced to help farmers address issues to do with sanitation, lack of enough fertilizer to grow enough food, and access to organic manure among other challenges. Compost toilets are an effective solution to the current escalating Cholera cases in the country. It has been proven that compost toilets can play a greater role in the fight against Cholera since they use no water, instead relying on the natural decomposition of organic matter to break down human waste.



Speaking in an interview, Director for Permaculture Paradise Institute Luwayo Bisiwick says in all areas they are implementing the project, cases of cholera are very low which is a clear indication of how effective compost toilets are in the fight against Cholera.

"This solution can help reduce the spread of cholera, at the same time providing a valuable resource for Malawian farmers," he said.

According to Bisiwick, currently, 100 compost toilets have been built in Madisi, Dowa District in 2022 alone, and expected to build 200 more this year.

"The toilets are clean and since the project was extended to my family there has been a cut down on sickness prevalence in my family."
Yohane Banda
Beneficially, Chikwangula Village, TA Chankhaza, Dowa.

The lead farmer identified as Agnes Banda has proposed the extension of the project to all the districts across the country.

Banda is optimistic the project will save resources as issues tabled by poor hygiene will be muted resulting in the fast growth of the country's economy.

The project, which is being implemented in three districts of Mchinji, Zomba, and Dowa benefits over 3400 farmers.

Reaching Thursday, Malawi had recorded 19 141 cases of cholera, with 643 deaths, representing a case fatality rate of 3.36 percent.

The Cholera outbreak began in the southern Region with cases reported in Nsanje and Machinga districts. According to the WHO, the most affected age groups are between 21 and 30 years. The U.N. agency said then there were around 30 countries around the world that had reported outbreaks in 2022, about a third higher than in a typical year.

Reported by Smart Chalika



Before | Previous pit latrines



After | Currently eco-compost toilets



Before | Previous pit latrines



After | Currently eco-compost toilets



Highlights on Farmers training



Written by Biswick Luwayo
Jan 26, 2023

Permaculture conducted its very first training of the year, it was a free training offer to 40 new farmers of Mchinji in memory and celebration of Chilembwe day. It was decided that it would be best to not take leave but to have a working holiday for the sake of poor Malawians who are victims of the Chronic food insecurity in Malawi. Currently over 70% of the population of about 19.1 million people are living below the international poverty line of \$1.90/day which is driven

by abject poverty, recurrent shocks, poor policies and implementation as well as reliance on weak livelihood strategies. Assessments from previous farmers who are now practicing Permaculture and Agro-ecology are producing enough food and surplus. These farmers are going to formulate 40 new permaculture farmers to make 400 farmers. Grace Luwayo took the participants through practical designs for sustainable soil health and Management principles.

Training Highlights in pictures



Permaculture promotes tree planting in Malawi

Written by Biswick Luwayo
Jan 26, 2023

Permaculture donated 1000 tree seedlings as one way to promote tree planting in Malawi. Through ASCOD, YASD intends to plant more than 1000 trees by the end of the planting season. YASD is implementing ASCOD project with support from Permaculture Paradise Institute in Mchinji District.

As YASD joins his Excellency the state president Dr. Lazarus Chakwera in committing to the national tree planting exercise after a successful launch of the exercise on 23 December last year, YASD starts the work with Chiosya Extension Planning Area (EPA) in the area of Traditional Authority Simphasi in Mchinji District. In Simphasi, Msitu and Mtenthera farmers' clubs have already committed themselves to putting deforestation to a halt henceforth, YASD donated 100 tree seedlings to 31 member Msitu farmers' club and 90 others to 21-member Mtethera club as part of the organization's Afforestation for Sustainable Community Development (ASCOD) project. It is found that avocado peas, Pine, Guava, Mpsa and Chisekese are among the tree seedlings that have been planted.

Among others, ASCOD aims to address issues of climate change brought forth partly by deforestation and overdependence of natural forest for livelihoods in rural communities. Mchinji District Forestry office has commended the organization's efforts in taking care and replacing lost trees.

In a quest to provide a long-term solution to fighting deforestation in Malawi Africa caused by the destruction of indigenous forest, permaculture joins hands with Youth Alliance for Sustainable Development-YASD and Still I Rise in a tree planting exercise at Kholoni Community Day secondary school. Permaculture envisions that tree planting in schools is a great way to increase student interest in local environment and achieve academic goals. Tree planting provides teachers with the opportunity to inspire school administrators and students to affect positive change at their schools and, in turn, their communities. The trees planted will help provide a conducive learning environment to teachers and learners, protection against heavy winds, fruits, income, natural medicine, purified air, building supplies whist helping the school to adapt, resist and recover from effects of climate change.



Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Malawi with Permaculture



Written by Biswick Luwayo
Feb 20, 2023

Permaculture Institute Paradise (PPI) has embarked on a mission to fight hunger by training farmers in the use of organic, permaculture, and agroecological ways of farming. This is in response to the rising costs of farm inputs that are making it difficult for farmers to sustain their crops. By adopting permaculture techniques, farmers are able to grow a variety of crops on the same piece of land in rotation and guilds, thereby increasing their yields and improving food security.

In Madisi Dowa district, farmers are growing sugarcane, fruits, vegetables, and staples on the same piece of land, while in Mchinji, they are showing off their integrated homestead gardens after one year of adopting agro-ecology and permaculture. The success of these initiatives has attracted visitors from all over the globe, who are eager to learn from the farmers and share their experiences.



A farmer showing off an integrated homestead garden in Mchinji, Malawi.



A picture of a local farmer standing in his sugarcane field.

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Recently, on the morning of 7th February 2023, a team from Empower Malawi visited the Mchinji farm to learn about the possibilities of Malawi and the African continent. Later that afternoon, board members for Community Savings and Investment Promotion (COMSIP) from different regions of Malawi visited the farm to learn more about Permaculture design techniques for food and nutrition security, climate resilience, poverty reduction, and other related topics.



Board members from (COMSIP) visiting to learn Permaculture design Techniques for Food and Nutrition Security, Climate resilience, poverty reduction

The adoption of permaculture techniques is not only helping to fight hunger but also promoting sustainable agriculture and improving the livelihoods of farmers in Malawi. As more farmers embrace these methods, it is expected that they will not only be able to produce more food but also improve the quality of their yields, reduce the cost of inputs, and protect the environment.



Planting for the Future: Permaculture's Institute Paradise (PPI) Mission to Plant 100 Million Trees and Train 100,000 People by 2025

Written by Biswick Luwayo
Feb 21, 2023



Permaculture Paradise institute (PPI) encourages a sustainable farming method that emphasizes the interconnection of all living things, and is on a mission to combat climate change and food insecurity by planting 100,000,000 trees and training at least 100,000 people by the year 2025.

On February 8th, 2023, PPI donated tree seedlings to Mary's Meals Malawi, which were distributed to 11 schools in Mchinji under the school feed program. The planting of trees was launched at Kamwazonde Primary School. Mary's Meals has been serving schools in Malawi since 2002, but the school feeding programs face challenges in terms of access to firewood for meal preparation, putting pressure on the forests. PPI has stepped in to donate tree seedlings to help curb the impact.



Permaculture donating seedlings to Mary's Meal in Mchinji, Malawi

PPI's ambitious goal is to plant 100,000,000 trees and establish 100,000 food forests with a minimum of at least 1,000 trees per food forest, farmer, school, or organization.

As part of this mission, PPI has been conducting lead farmer training courses to train at least 100,000 farmers by 2025. This month's training is focused on

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planting trees, and the movement invites everyone to join them in reaching their goal.

In addition, PPI has also been working to provide technical support to farmers on the implementation of permaculture designs.

Twelve lead farmers from Madisi in Dowa were promoted and trained to become community facilitators. As the project expands with new farmers recruited, there is a need for extra extension agents to help provide technical support to the farmers on the implementation of permaculture designs.

To help the facilitators with their work, PPI has provided them with push bikes to ease mobility as they conduct their daily, weekly, and monthly supervision visits. Smartphones have also been provided to help the facilitators with communication and data collection.



Facilitators receiving bikes and smartphones from Permaculture for Food Security Project in Dowa, Madisi.

The food security project in Madisi is being implemented by Opulence Malawi and the Permaculture Paradise Institute (PPI), which are supporting 600 farmers with the goal of reaching 1,000 by June 2023.



PPI is not only helping farmers to grow more food and combat food insecurity, but it is also working towards reversing deforestation and mitigating the impacts of climate change. With its ambitious goals and hands-on approach, Permaculture Institute Paradise (PPI) is making a real impact in Malawi and beyond.

Permaculture in Malawi: Empowering Farmers with Sustainable Farming Practices and Multiple Harvests



Written by Biswick Luwayo
Mar 12, 2023

Permaculture is proving to be a successful approach to farming in Malawi, with farmers using permaculture designs and principles able to adapt and grow food at multiple times with multiple harvests in one season throughout the year. This is particularly important given that February is typically considered the hungriest month in Malawi, as most farmers go to bed on an empty stomach. Rising costs of farm inputs and delayed subsidy programs have also added to the challenges facing farmers.

Despite these difficulties, the Permaculture Paradise Institute is attracting visitors from various districts in Malawi who are keen to learn about permaculture and its benefits. Families, individuals, schools, churches, and other groups are welcome to book in for a lifetime experience at the paradise, where they can witness the success of permaculture first-hand.



A permaculture-trained farmer standing in her maize and Soya beans field



Families visiting Permaculture for a lifetime experience

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Day two of permaculture Training Course in Mchinji

In addition to welcoming visitors, the Institute is also offering practical permaculture training courses. The first course in Mchinji district saw 40 lead farmers undergo intensive hands-on training to become trainers themselves, with the aim of training a total of 800 farmers in the first two months of 2023. The long-term goal is to train at least 10,000 farmers and establish 10,000 food forests, with the ultimate aim of planting 100,000 food forests by 2025.

The training course covers a range of topics, from sustainable soil management to ecological principles for water management and propagation. Farmers who have completed the course are already seeing promising results, with organic methods of farming and the incorporation of crop residues and compost into the soil proving successful. Booking is still open for the permaculture training course, and anyone interested in learning about permaculture and sustainable farming practices is encouraged to get in touch with the Permaculture Paradise Institute. By working together and embracing permaculture principles, farmers in Malawi can adapt and thrive, even in the face of challenges like rising costs and delayed subsidies.



Joint Party for Opulence Malawi and Permaculture: Working Together to End Hunger



Written by Biswick Luwayo
Mar 20, 2023

On March 10th, 2023, we had a joint party with Opulence Malawi, one of our partners in Permaculture. The event was a huge success as we had fun and shared ideas on how to end hunger in Malawi. The party was just the beginning of a series of activities aimed at achieving sustainable farming practices and multiple harvests in the region.

The Permaculture Paradise Institute organized a practical training course for all, with a focus on farmers. The training course, which ran for four days, was held in Mchinji and brought together a diverse group of participants from different organizations, including Baylor College of Medicine, Opulence Malawi, Youth Alliance for Sustainable Development (YASD), and Children of the Nations.



On day one, participants were introduced to the training course and had the opportunity to network with each other. Day two focused on the practical aspects of permaculture, including soil management and crop rotation. Day three was dedicated to efficient energy zone planning, while day four focused on sustainable designs for soil and water management.

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The training course was aimed at equipping farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement sustainable farming practices and multiple harvests. By bringing together different organizations, we can work together to end hunger in Malawi. The joint party was just the beginning of a long-term partnership between Opulence Malawi and Permaculture Paradise Institute to achieve this goal.



Training participant explaining some material during the training

On the final day of the Permaculture Training Course in Mchinji, 21 permaculture practitioners were born. These individuals are now equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to implement regenerative, productive, and resilient systems in their farming practices. The birth of these practitioners marks a significant milestone in the fight against



hunger in Malawi. With the knowledge gained from this training course, they can now work towards achieving sustainable farming practices and multiple harvests in their communities.

This training course was not just about acquiring knowledge but also about building a movement. A movement of individuals who are passionate about ending hunger in Malawi and who are willing to work together to achieve this goal.

The legacy of this training course will be remembered for years to come. The birth of these 21 permaculture practitioners is a testament to the impact that can be made when we work together towards a common goal. We are excited to see the positive changes that will be brought about by these practitioners in their communities.

In conclusion, the Permaculture Training Course in Mchinji was a huge success. The birth of 21 permaculture practitioners marks a significant milestone in the fight against hunger in Malawi. It is our hope that this training course will inspire more individuals to join the movement towards achieving sustainable farming practices and multiple harvests in the region.

Together, we can make a difference.

Empowering Farmers in Malawi with Sustainable and Holistic Farming Practices: The Success of the Food Forest Project



Written by Biswick Luwayo
Apr 22, 2023

Empowering farmers with sustainable and holistic farming practices is crucial in achieving food security and promoting economic growth in developing countries. In Malawi, the Food Forest Project has been making a significant impact in providing farmers with the necessary tools and resources to improve their livelihoods. The project focuses on permaculture principles and offers training to farmers, along with the distribution of rabbits, to promote sustainable agriculture.

The project has been implemented in several villages in Mchinji and Dowa districts, with the distribution of rabbits being a key strategy to provide a source of income for farmers. This not only supports their livelihoods but also helps in manure production for compost making and meat provision. The rabbits also serve as an effective way to manage weeds in fields, allowing farmers to save time and resources on labor-intensive weeding practices.

Training is also a crucial component of the Food Forest Project. The project offers a comprehensive training program that covers soil science and management, sustainable water management, and propagation techniques. The training program is designed to equip farmers with practical skills that are relevant to their local environment, enabling them to implement sustainable and holistic farming practices.



The first day of training saw over 300 lead farmers in Mchinji and Dowa districts receive training, with an emphasis on the principles of permaculture.

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Day Two of the Permaculture Training

The second day was dedicated to practical training on soil science and management, with farmers being introduced to simple techniques for restoring the natural order of the soil. This enables farmers to promote soil life and its processes, making the soil more resilient to human impacts.



Day Three of the Permaculture Training

On the third day of training, farmers were introduced to sustainable designs for water management. This is crucial in areas where water scarcity is a major challenge, and farmers were taken through practical techniques for managing water in small and large scale systems. The final day of training focused on propagation techniques, with farmers being equipped with skills on how to propagate crops through grafting, budding, and seed saving. This enables farmers to produce high-quality seeds that are adapted to their local environment, thereby improving crop yields.



Day Four of the Permaculture Training

The Food Forest Project has also been implementing a solar water project in Mchinji district in partnership with Sopowerful and Agroforestry Regeneration Communities. The project aims to facilitate the establishment of food forests to help address issues such as hunger, malnutrition, climate change, and water-related challenges. The progress of the project has been encouraging, and it is expected to continue to have a positive impact on the community.



In conclusion, the Food Forest Project is providing farmers in Malawi with the necessary resources and training to improve their farming practices. By embracing sustainable and holistic farming methods, farmers are not only able to improve their livelihoods but also contribute to food security in the country. The project is a shining example of how implementing sustainable agriculture practices can lead to positive outcomes for both farmers and the environment.

Mchinji's Million Village Gets Clean Water From Permaculture Paradise Institute



Written by Bridget Mwanoka
Apr 30, 2023

Permaculture Paradise Institute partners with Sopowerful Foundation to provide clean water to Million Village in Mchinji District, Malawi, writes Bridget Mwanoka.

Mchinji, Malawi-Permaculture Paradise Institute, a social enterprise, demonstration, and training centre that promotes permaculture systems in Malawi, has partnered with Sopowerful Foundation to provide clean water to Million Village in Mchinji District.

The institute handed over a solar water project to Traditional Authority Kawere, benefiting 165 families and approximately 800 individuals.

According to the institute's Founding Director, Luwayo Biswick, the project aims to uplift the welfare of vulnerable Malawians and alleviate poverty.

"The solar pump will help farmers establish 165 food forests or gardens to address

hunger issues in Million Village and surrounding areas," Biswick explained.

Biswick also acknowledged the initial challenge of accessing clean water, with only 6 taps and 1 borehole serving five villages.

"We thought of changing the hand pump and putting in a submissive pump that is solar-powered to ease the work that farmers and people from these villages were struggling with," he said.

One of the beneficiaries, Genaroza Maliko from Mlungucha village, expressed gratitude for the project.

"I want to thank Permaculture Paradise Institute for bringing water to our disposal and easing energy. Moving forward, farmers and people from five villages will



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have access to clean water for domestic use and irrigation," she said.

Traditional Authority Kawere also praised the initiative, citing the significant challenge

of accessing clean water for rural communities in Malawi.

The solar water pump project cost approximately \$300,000 USD



Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Malawi: Permaculture Paradise Institute's Food Forest Project



Written by Biswick Luwayo
May 5, 2023

As a team from the Permaculture Paradise Institute, we are committed to promoting sustainable agriculture and addressing food security challenges in Malawi. Our food forest project, implemented in collaboration with Agroforestry Regeneration Communities and Imagine Africa, is creating hope for Malawi's farmers and communities.

Through the permaculture approach, we are creating forest gardens that mimic the structure and function of natural ecosystems. Our gardens integrate various plants, including fruit trees, vegetables, herbs, and medicinal plants, and use natural techniques to enhance soil fertility and reduce water consumption. This approach promotes sustainable agriculture and creates long-term solutions to hunger and malnutrition in Malawi.



Handing over of Solar powered tap water project to Million Village Mchinji with support from SOPOWERFUL| Speaking to media during the event

Our food forest project provides clean water for domestic use and irrigation to farmers in five villages in Mchinji district. This enables them to grow a diverse range of food with minimal energy required for irrigation. A total of 165 food forests/gardens will benefit from this project, creating opportunities for local economic development through the establishment of the Farmers Supermarket and CAFÉ. This outlet market provides a platform for farmers to sell their produce at fair prices and for consumers to access fresh, healthy, and locally grown food.

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Handing over supplies to the Cyclone Freedy victims who are under Permaculture Food Forest Project at Chisi Island

Recently, we provided 5000 kilograms of maize flour to 100 farmers on Chisi Island, ensuring three months' worth of sustenance until short-term crops mature. The farmers also received blankets to aid them in their transition back to their previous settlements, as well as seeds, seedlings, rabbits, and buckets for domestic water use. This is one of the ways we are helping farmers in Malawi to achieve food security and reduce malnutrition.



Handing over supplies to the Cyclone Freedy victims who are under Permaculture Food Forest Project at Chisi Island

During one of our visits, in partnership with Imagin Afrika, we visited farmers in Jali Traditional Authority Mwambo Zomba district. The home gardens have flourished with various fruits, and the seasonal farmlands feature a variety of crops, including vegetables, pigeon peas, lablab, mucuna beans, sorghum, cassava, gliricidia, and fish bean. Our food forest project is bringing sustainable agriculture and creating long-term solutions to food security and malnutrition in Malawi.



Farm visitation to some farmers in Jali Village, Zomba

At Permaculture Paradise Institute, we believe that with more support and investment in sustainable agriculture, Malawi can achieve food security and improve the well-being of its people. We are committed to promoting sustainable agriculture and creating a better future for Malawi's farmers and communities.

Empowering Farmers in Malawi: A Sustainable Approach to Addressing Hunger and Poverty | May 2023 Update



Written by Biswick Luwayo
May 21, 2023

On May 5th, 2023, Permaculture Paradise Institute embarked on a transformative journey to visit farmers in the Chikapa, Mdoka, Malajira, Matewere 1 & 2 Traditional Authority Chikowi areas of Zomba, southern Malawi. The objective was to witness firsthand how these farmers were utilizing their fields and homesteads to grow a diverse range of food crops, addressing critical challenges such as hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and climate change. Following comprehensive training, the farmers were equipped with tools and resources as a starter pack, while emphasizing short-term crops to ensure their initial success.

Additionally, Permaculture Paradise Institute announced the opening of camping facilities, lodging, organic food for residents and exquisite photoshoot place

for newly weds providing a resting place for travelers passing through Zambia.



Among the exciting developments reported by Imagin Afrika were the efforts of the newly trained farmers in establishing food forests. These farmers are part of the larger Food Forest Project, which aims to empower 10,000 farmers. Their diligent work includes making compost and erecting fences to support the establishment of food forests, which not only maximize land use but also contribute to environmental sustainability.

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Expanding the Initiative: In Mchinji district, the Mmenthera Farmers Club has embraced the training and actively engaged in composting to enhance soil health. This club, together with other trained farmers, is set to celebrate the establishment of food forests by 11,500 individuals in the near future. The growth and progress of the food forest project will be shared with the public, underscoring the transformative impact of sustainable farming practices in Malawi.



Diversifying Staples: One significant achievement resulting from the training is the cultivation of organic rice by farmers in Mchinji. This diversification of staple crops is a crucial step toward ensuring food security and reducing reliance on maize, which has traditionally been the primary food source. By venturing into rice cultivation, the farmers not only enhance their own nutrition but also generate income through the sale of this valuable crop. What began with 20 kilograms of rice seeds provided to 20 lead farmers has now expanded to over 4,000 farmers benefiting from this initiative.



Alimi 750 Ayamba Kale Kupindula ndi Bungwe la PPI komanso YASD



Written by Bridgette Mwanoka
May 22, 2023

Mchinji District, Malawi - Around 750 new farmers in Traditional Authority Simphasi, Mchinji District, are set to benefit from the food forest project being implemented by the Permaculture Paradise Institute (PPI) and the Youth Alliance for Sustainable Development (YASD), writes Bridget Mwanoka.

On Sunday, May 21, 2023, PPI and YASD distributed essential tools and resources to support the farmers in their agricultural endeavours.

As part of the initiative, the partners handed out 100 wheelbarrows, 200 rabbits, 20,000 polythene tubes, tree seedlings, and 69 water canes to the 750 new farmers.

These resources will assist the farmers in working collectively in groups within the area.

Luwayo Biswick, the Founding Director of PPI, expressed his optimism about the project, stating, "These are new farmers who got trained in making home gardens and manure last month under the same project, and the startup tools will help them

as they start implementing what they learned."

One of the beneficiaries, Tawina Wilson from Group Village Head Chikoloka, shared his gratitude, saying, "It was difficult for us to move manure from point A to point B, so this will surely ease the burden, and for those who didn't have money to buy seedlings, they can also breathe easy."

Raymond Nkhonya, the Director of Administration representing Mchinji District Commissioner, commended the initiative, highlighting its impact on food security and economic well-being.

Nkhonya said, "You can see that PPI and YASD have been offering onsite technical support for the implementation of permaculture and agroecology. This will not only make communities have food, but it will improve their families too, because, at the end of the day, they will have money after selling their yields."

The Food Forest Project, which aims to empower farmers with sustainable agricultural practises, has utilised approximately K15 million from the initial budget of 20 million kwacha to train farmers in Mchinji, Dowa, and Zomba districts.

The project seeks to promote food self-sufficiency and improve livelihoods in the region.

Malawians have Been Urged to Seriously Adopt Permaculture



Written by Wilson Henry-Mchinji
May 23, 2023

Malawians have been urged to seriously adopt permaculture and agroecology to promote food production and address climate change and soil degradation concerns.

Professor Daimon Kambewa, a lecturer at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said there is need to create resilient and diverse food systems using permaculture to help rural Malawians overcome hunger and poverty.

He made the remarks in Mchinji today at

the start of the three day conference involving stakeholders from across the country and has been organised by the Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD).

Executive Director for Permaculture Paradise Institute in Mchinji, Lusayo Biswick, said there is need to develop a deliberate policy to encourage people adopt permaculture and agroecology for the betterment of future generations.



Organization Name: Permaculture Paradise Institute.

Country: Malawi.

Compiled by: Neytech Solutions

Period covered by the News letter

From 1st January To 31st May, 2023

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