

Annex 5

2ND ANNUAL TECHNICAL OFSP MEETING ROOTING OUT HUNGER IN MALAWI PROJECT VICTORIA HOTEL, BLANTYRE 7- 8 OCTOBER, 2011

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KACHELE FARMERS CLUB

Kachele club is in the area of Traditional Authority Kalonga, about 10 to 12 km Central East of Salima District. It is located in the village headman Simaewa 2 with its altitude of 514 m above sea level. The Club was started in 2001 by Local Farmers, by the following reasons:

- The farmers had problems of reaching the places where they could easily get vegetables to feed their families since the market was very far.
- Since they are in a remote area where the source of money is limited, it was very difficult for people to sustain their lives. So, they decided to grow vegetables to feed their families and the excess of the vegetables could be sold in the market.

The club has 47 members from 4 villages, i.e. Simaewa 1, Simaewa 2, Kafota and Chenyama. The club has 10 men and 37 women.

Kachele club has 20 acres of fertile land. 15 acres of land is cultivated each year. The land is cultivated only during dry season where farmers use treadle pumps for irrigating the land. They are growing maize, tomatoes, cabbage, carrots just to mention a few of them. They have 10 wells to irrigate their crops. They also use the water for their home consumption.

PARTNERSHIP WITH CIP

The local farmers at Kachele club are very happy with the involvement of CIP to their club. CIP has introduced orange-fleshed sweetpotato farming. The sweetpotato crop was left behind for a long time in this area.

CIP has given us five bags of vine cuttings to start with. CIP has taught us how to make good nursery and recommended dimension for each bed, which is 1m by 20 m each. From these vine cuttings, we have managed to make 5 beds. Soon after planting the vines we mulched the area to protect the vines from the heat of the sun that we have in Salima. Few days after planting the vines, we had a problem with our treadle pump that we were using. We forced ourselves to ask CIP for a help if CIP could buy for us a treadle pump because we were stranded. Then, CIP bought for us two brand new treadle pumps that we are now using them for watering our crops. CIP has found that grasshoppers heavily attacked our cabbages, next to the newly growing sweetpotato in the nursery beds. Therefore, CIP bought pesticides and a sprayer for us. For a pesticide safety regulation, CIP taught us how to use them. They gave us a written protocol to be followed. We sprayed them and now we don't have any pests at our nursery.

OUR TARGET

From 5 nursery beds that we have, we are also told that we can continue making more beds from the existing beds. Currently, we are doing it. Our target is that by the end of December we will have enough vines for all the 47 members. Each member will be

able to have a garden of 0.5 acre. We are hoping to have the sweetpotato production, at least 7 to 8 ton of each member. From that, we will give enough food and money to the family. We are also hoping to sell some of planting materials to other farmers.

OUR FUTURE PLANS

By 2012 we are hoping to reach half of the communities with these sweetpotato vines so that our communities should be health because we have learned that the orange-fleshed sweetpotato has B-carotene (pro-vitamin A).

Since we are also working with primary schools, we are going to introduce this programme so that each school can have at least a small garden.

With the help from CIP we are also hoping to reach the whole Salima.