



RADIO: NKHOTAKOTA COMMUNITY RADIO

PROGRAM : ZACHILENGEDWE TSOGOLO LANGA

THEME: THE USE OF MANURE AS ONE WAY OF CARING SOIL

DURATION: 00:10:25 SECS

Sigh tune fade under narrator voice

Narrator: As we continue discussing about the importance of caring for our soil, today we will hear about the use of manure as one way to bring fertility into unfertile soil. I am John Kisewe Mpakani and welcome to Zachilengedwe Tsogolo Langa here on Nkhotakota community radio station.

Insert Music

Narrator: Nkhotakota is one of the districts where many farmers are making and applying manure to their various crops like maize. So today, we are going to hear from farmers and experts about the importance of using manure. First, let's go to Mberwa area where I met a female farmer.

Insert music

Farmers: I am Tamandani Simba. We have met in my garden here in Mberwa, Nthiwi. I chose to apply manure because it is very important since it adds fertility to degraded soils and also, I don't experience serious weeds in the garden when we have applied manure.

Reporter : How do you differentiate manure and fertilizer?

Farmer : Manure is very important because they add fertile to the soil as I have already said. Also, manure is very cheap and locally available unlike fertilizer which needs money while manure is freely available.

Reporter : As an agribusiness farmer, why did you decided to take care of the soil?

Farmer : Me, as a farmer, I chose to look after the soil and apply manure because of poverty. And... we also find food, clothes, pay for school fees for my children and my house has iron sheet roof, all of this comes from agriculture. So I have many reasons to take a good care of soil by applying manure to add fertility and making it soft and wet since manure keep moisture.

Reporter : Malawi as a country, mostly depend on agriculture for finances... As farmers what role do we have on caring for soil and what will be our benefits?

Farmer : As Malawians, we will have more benefits if we cultivate and take a good care of our soil. Malawi as a country depends on farming in its finances. People are cultivating many crops for example, maize, rice, tobacco, all these from the soil. Now, I can say farming is business. Every Malawian is encouraged to have a garden and take good care of it, even the Malawian government is encouraging every farmer to be independent and take farming as business.

Reporter : People might think that only men have a role of caring the soil, as a female farmer, what can you advise your fellow farmers?

Farmer : Taking care of the soil is not men's role only. Female also have a role and are the ones who are supposed to take bigger role than men because we can use free time that we spend chatting with friends after house

chores, to apply manure in our gardens. We have different types of manure, we should lay down the maize stock soon after harvesting, and they decompose because of sunlight and add fertile to the soil.

If you have pigs, cattle goats you need to collect all the droppings and apply it to your garden. If you don't have livestock, you can ask from your friends and apply it in the garden. This is men's role only. We women should take a great role in making sure that our soil has fertility.

Insert Music done by female.

Narrator : She always takes a good care of soil because she is making agribusiness, so soil is the main capital for her business. Now let's go to Kasambandopa Radio Listening Club, where I met a young farmer who has been doing agribusiness for some years and now she is making and using compost manure.

INSERT FARMER

Farmer : My name is Zaina Makawa, here at Kasambandopa Radio Listening Club. I am using manure because I have seen the benefits of using manure. Manure adds fertility to soils and they keep moisture when we are receiving inadequate rains, and the soil become soft. When you apply manure in a garden for some years, the soil become softer and fertile.

Reporter : **How do you differentiate between manure and fertilizer in terms of its power?**

Farmer : Fertilizer mostly makes the crops grow faster and it hardens the soil while manure softens the soil particles. The place we have applied fertilizer only becomes harder than the place where we have applied manure only.

Reporter : **If a farmer has been cultivating in the same garden for some years and the soil has been degraded, manure has a role in that garden?**

Farmer : Yes, manure has a very good role, it may happen that the farmer has been using fertilizer and fertilizer is not doing well. But if you apply manure in that garden, I am telling you my fellow farmers, you will harvest more yield from the same garden.

Reporter : **Tell us exactly what made you to start using manure?**

Farmer : Manure is very simple and we don't use money, we simply use livestock droppings like pigs, cattle, goats and chickens. Malawi as a country, we depend on farming as a source of income. For example, if we grow, if we follow all the advices when growing tobacco and maize, we as Malawians, we always have money to buy all the basic needs. There is a need of caring the soil by covering it with grasses and maize stocks.

INSERT MUSIC DONE BY WOMEN

Narrator : Remember, you are listening to Nkhotakota Community Radio and we are on 101.9 megahertz fm. It may happen that you have a comment or a

question on what we are discussing in our program today, send SMS on 0995038111, 0995038111.

We have heard all what our fellow farmers are doing while caring soil. They are applying manure which they make from livestock droppings and grasses. They have explained the benefits that you get when you are applying manure and caring for the soil.

Now I am with a land resources agriculture expert from the agriculture office in Nkhotakota district.

INSERT EXPERT

Expert : My name is Author Mazengera Chiwaula, I am working as a land resource expert here in Nkhotakota. Manure is very important when we talk of caring for the soil. Firstly, when you are applying manure, you are feeding the soil with fertile, so you also harvest more yields because the soil becomes more fertile, that means if a farmer has applied more manure, he/she will also harvest more. The other important point is that when you apply manure in your garden and the rains comes, manure works as a sponge which holds water, so the crops will be able to use the water. This also prevents soil erosion.

If we compare manure to fertilizer; when we apply manure, we feed the whole area while when we apply fertilizer, we only feed the planting station and manure works longer than fertilizer. The use of manure can also reduce the amount of fertilizer we apply/ use in our garden unlike the soil which has no manure.

Reporter : **Which problems can we farmers face if we are not caring our soil?**

Expert : Hunger and poverty, that's the biggest problem we farmers would face if we are not caring our soil. Our soil is the best gift that God freely gave us Malawians, we need to look after it, for the next generation to use and benefit from the same soil. This is also the right time that we can plant vetiver grasses in our garden to keep water and prevent soil erosion.

Reporter : **Who is supposed to look after the soil in a family?**

Expert : This is the role for the whole family. A woman, a man all are have equal role in caring the soil. Because, I have said that this is a precious gift, a source of money that God gave us to use and keep it safe for this generation and the next generation. So, if we are not caring soil, then we are inviting hunger and poverty in our families. My name is Author Mazengera Chiwaula, I am working as a land resource expert here in Nkhotakota.

Narrator : That is all we had in today's programme of *Zachilengedwe Tsogolo Lathu*. This segment is part of an audio series related to the International Year of Soils. It has been produced with the support of the World Association of Community Broadcasters, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2015. If you have any question or comment you would like to ask or anything to add, send an SMS on 0995 038 111, I am John Kisewe Mpakani, Thank you.