



Prog name : **TIPINDULE NDI MTEDZA NDI SOYA**
Prog No. : **Phindu Mu Ulimi (Productive Agriculture) # 4**
Focus theme : **Enhancing small holder famers to benefit more after following modern farming techniques**
Day theme : **The need of healthy soil to livings and the consequences that might come if the soil is not cared for**
Producer : **Victor Asumani**
Presenter : **Victor Asumani**
Radio station : **Nkhotakota community Radio**

Raise Sig tune for about 14`` then fade under

Narrator: Sig tune: up - up and fade down under Narrator

Narrator: Hallo and welcome dear listeners wherever you are to today's program "**Phindu Mu Ulimi (Productive Farming)**" here on Nkhotakota Community Radio Station. The main focus for this program is to help small holder farmers to have bumper yields so that they can be food secured and economically assisted.

But today's program mainly focuses on the need of making the soil more healthy and later looking at the consequences that might come if the soils fertility is not conserved.

On Nkhotakota Community Radio, this program is part of an audio series related to the International Year of Soils and 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.

I am your usual presenter Victor Asumani stay tuned in and get important points so that we don't face any problem anymore.

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Narrator: Harvesting bumper yields depends on how best you care for the soil or land in which you grow your crops. For example the soil needs to be fed with good and nutritious food for it to produce good produce. But how can one make this soil healthier than before so that they produce double or more yields?

Mr Arthur Mazengera Chiyoyola is the Land Resource Conservation Officer for Nkhotakota Agricultural officer and he is here to explain more on how best one can make the soil in which he/she grows crops.

Insert: Discussion with the Land resource officer

Guest: My name is Arthur Mazengera Chiyoyola, Land Resource Officer for Nkhotakota District. What I want to discuss here is concerning the health of the soil. As you are aware, all living things be it man, livestock and crops depend on the soil for their one reproductivity and sustainability. Hence, all farmers in the district are being encouraged to practice good practices.

There are several interventions that are put in practice under the same. For example, for the soil to be sustainable in terms of production, it means we need to fertilise the soil.

This fertilisation of the soil can be in the form of composite manure or Kraa manure. If we take these two types of manure we make the fertility of the soil to be enhanced so that the farmers will in the return harvest bumper yields.

That is one way of feeding the soil and sustaining it. But there is also another area where we act to sustain the soil. By encouraging farmers once they open up their fields to practice good conservation agriculture practices like pegging and construction of marker ridges with subsequent ridge alignment, which will control the run off of water in their field. As such, it will run at allowed speed which cannot erode soil fertility.

For these years, we are advocating for conservation agriculture. This means that farmers are encouraged to put crop residues in the field soon after harvest so that it will assist to control the run off of the water. Therefore, the soil will not lose its fertility either by erosion and run off. Also the deposits which have been deposited in the soil will again improve soil fertility.

Promo

Guest: Also if farmers practice agro forestry, for example growing various tree species such as Grecedia. Serpium or Winter Thorn (Msangu) it means that once the biomass of these trees is incorporated in the soil, they enhance the fertility in soil. As a result, farmers will harvest more as they would have without these good agricultural interventions.

Promo

Host: But what are these living things that depends so much on the soils? Which ones are more healthy?

Guest: Living things that depend on soils are like ourselves as human beings. We depend much on soil. For example, if we plant our crops and harvest them, then we have food in our homes. Others are livestock... when the soil is healthy, then there is plenty of grass which in turn they eat and become healthy as well and produce well. There are also other living things in the soil that depends also (on the quality of the soils) on rich nutrients like worms which facilitates the composition of the soil.

Host: Are there any mechanisms which may lead to the infertility of the soils?

Guest? My dear brother as I have already said; one is poor agriculture practices. For example, if a farmer continuously grows crops on the same land without following crop rotation then you are destroying your land. So if you continuous grow crops over and over again then you will replenish all the nutrients from the soil that's one thing. Secondly, if you cultivate without putting proper conservation, either physical or biological conservation, it means soil will be rendered useless in the long run because water will be simply spreading all over the ground, carrying the fertile top soil into the rivers and into the oceans. Then what will remain with the farmers will just unfertile soil without any meaning to him as a farmer.

Host: So how can all these living things as you mentioned Man, livestock and crops be affected if the soil is not rich?

Guest: If the soil is not rich, the end results for livestock and for man it means they will have no home. Since you have no food then you will not produce because for you to produce it means you must have to eat something. So there will be no sustainability if there are living things that depend on the soil. Then there will be no sustainability instead it will go far away in search of food hence wasting more to buy food in case of a man. This is why you farmers and organisations and even government spending more money in order to restore the lost fertility of the soil.

Host: Some farmers sometimes use chemical fertiliser in order to restore the lost fertility, does that help in enriching the soil or does it have some effects in it?

Guest: Chemical fertiliser, yes, it helps to enrich the soil but not for a long term, on a short term only. This means that you rely only on fertiliser then you feed the crop that you have grown on that particular time. It's like an injection that heals the disease that you have at that particular time. But if you apply composite manure then it's like a vaccine which helps for a long term and for the disease which you were supposed to suffer in future.

Host: Any words to farmers in case you missed up something as words of encouragement like on how best they can make their land fertile so that more livestock can benefit in it?

Host: Simple and straight forward, farmers should always follow good farming practices like conservation agriculture, manure application, planting of fertiliser trees like Grecedia, Serpium, Jerejere and even they should be practicing rain water harvesting where we have droughts. Farmers will benefit harvest abundant yield and for a greater period.

Promo

Narrator: Thank you very much dear listeners wherever you are listening from. This also marks the end of our segment of healthy soil right here on Nkhotakota Community Radio Station.

In today's segment, we were looking at the need of Sustaining the soil with proper foods for the soil like applying manure and others. At the same time, we were also looking into the consequences that might come if this soil is not fully taken care of to living things like livestock, crops and even human beings. In the program today, we had Mr Arthur Mazengera Chiyoyola who is the District Land Resource and Conservation Officer at Nkhotakota Agricultural office.

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I have been your presenter and host Victor Asumani, thank you so much for listening. Be there again next week for yet another edition of Phindu Mu Ulimi.

Bye for now

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