



Name of program: Nkhani ya Nthaka (stories from the soil)

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Topic: Impact of permaculture on soil conservation

SIGTUNE 8 Seconds,

Presenter.

How are you dear listeners where ever you are, my name is Tony Gonani and I welcome you to this week's edition of **Nkhani ya Nthaka** (Stories from the soils) in our today's edition we are going to learn more on how we can take care of our soils through Ulimi wosaguga (Permaculture), and today's program will take us to Mangochi Orphans Education and training (MOET) an organization that promote permaculture.

Firstly, let me welcome the Director for MOET Mr.Pattason Majonanga and the agriculture advisor for Permaculture at Moet.

Insert Guests

My Name is Patterson Majonanga Director at Mangochi Orphans Education Training Moet.

My name is Victor Manyamba permaculture advisor here at Moet

Presenter, what should be done by people who want to start practicing permaculture?

Majonanga: *firstly, I would like to ask all farmers where ever they are that they should avoid burning their maize stalks and I encourage them to bury them instead in their soil for the production of manure.*

In addition to that, I also want to encourage them to consider the issues of contour ridges, in steep slope lands by using a tool called afram, and they must also make the good selection of seed that they want to plant in the garden of permaculture.

Manyamba.*In addition to what my friend has already said, we want to encourage farmers to avoid burning their maize stalks since they are manure that adds nutrients to the soil, and if they have live stalk they must too prepare manure to be applied in the field of permaculture and secondly farmers must also consider the integrations of different crops as others fix nitrogen's that help our crops to produce more yields and such crops also maintains moisture as they cover the soil surface and this helps our crops to survive even during the dry spell.*

Presenter; isn't permaculture system of agriculture contribute to soil degradation?

Manyamba: *permaculture has nothing to do with soil degradation instead, soils fertility is maintained, so what is important is to encourage farmers to start with at least 20% of their garden and they will be increasing after they will realize the advantages of permaculture,because even if you can visit the forest you will be surprised to learn that there are different trees that are growing together, so the integration of different crops helps a farmer to harvest something when one crop has failed due to hash weather disease and pests.*

Presenter: what are the advantages and disadvantages of Permaculture?

Majonanga;*There are no problems that are associated with permaculture,most of problems that are arising due to climate change are there just because of human activities, so pemaculture is here to take us back to our systems of old cultural agriculture whereby farmers were not using chemical fertilizers or different*

chemicals to protect crops from pests and disease but they were protected naturally by the integrations of different crops that were grown in the same garden by then ,so we encourage farmers to work hard in their gardens by gathering old grass, maize stalks and manure making's, my colleague has already explained, that when you observe intercropping you will find that the nutrients of our soils is maintained, because other crops are the fixers of nitrogen that are essential for other crops. So I would like to ask farmers to start practicing this system of agriculture by starting it at a small portion of land as we lent that things starts small and we should think ahead for our better future.

Presenter: Some other people say that this kind of farming is difficult what are you take?

Manyamba:*To say the truth,permacuture system of agriculture is simple, what is needed is petience,because this takes time for soil nutrients to be realized in our gardens, in permacuture we believe in having good soil, since good soil contributes to good harvest, good harvest contributes to healthier nation.*

So its chain, and we promote patience, as soil fertility doesn't come in a day unlike chemical fertilizer that we purchase in different shops, that fertilizer doesn't benefit anything to our soils, it only benefit the crop that has been applied to, so that why most people spend a lot of money in a year basis to buy fertilizer so we encourage people to make manure for their gardens for sustainable soil use.

Presenter: what is your message to those who wants to start practicing permaculture system of agriculture as a way of protecting their soil?

Majonanga: *I would like to ask all Malawians to start observing permacuture system of agriculture as this does not require a lot of money as compared to other systems of agriculture, I want also to encourage those who are willing to learn more on permacuture that they can come at our organization and we shall arrange free trainings for them on permacuture here in Mangochi District as we want our soils to be healthier to feed our booming nation.*