



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

**Name of Radio Station: Dzimwe Community Radio**

**Length of program: 09 min 42sec.**

**Topic: HOW FIELD TRIPS CAN HELP FARMERS TO ADOPT NEW TECHNIQUES ON THE SOIL MANAGEMENT**

**SIGTUNE 8 Seconds**

**Presenter.**

**Presenter:** When you here that song, you just know that it's time for *Nkhani ya Nthaka* (stories from the soil) program has come. This is a program that produced by the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) as the Food and Agriculture Organization commemorates the International Year of Soils in 2015.

Remember that, there are a lot of benefits from the conservation of soil, and among other things we can realize bumper yields from the soil. In today's edition of this program, we are going to have some of the farmers who had a visit to Mangochi orphan and Education Training MOET in Mangochi district where among other things they learned how to establish a permaculture garden as a way of conserving soil from depletion.

This is how we chatted with these farmers.

**Insert Flackson Mbewe:** *My name is Flackson Mbewe, this trip has really benefited my life since I have learned new techniques of improving soil fertility without applying commercial fertilizer through a farming system called permaculture. Since our soils have been depleted due to soil erosion that caused by*

wantonly cutting down of trees, and I have really impressed with this system and somehow I was wondering that such things are indeed done here in Malawi, but it was a nice trip.

**Presenter;** According to what you have learned through this trip, how important is permaculture system of agriculture to our soils?

**Flackson Mbewe:** *Permaculture systems of agriculture is more helpful as crops, animals and trees are integrated that helps to improve the fertility of our soil, there by soil structure is maintained.*

*We can grow different crops, in one garden, such crops like cassava, Tomatoes vegetables that can help a farmer to save money from buying other crops that he or she is not growing from other farmers.*

**Presenter:** How are going to apply what you have lent from this trip?

**Flackson Mbewe:** *we are going to hold a community forum where the subjects will be sensitized the need of conserving soil through the burying of the maize stalks, manure making and mulching, So am assuring all my fellow farmers to start practicing this system of agriculture.*

**Presenter:** May you please introduce yourself?

**Insert Judith Thomas:** *My name is Judith Thomas from Kankhande Chipphamba 2 Village, the trip was so encouraging, we have lent that we can make manure through the decomposition of old grasses that some time we take them as useless and end up burning them. We have lent the importance of soil cover to maintain moisture in the soil. We have eaten chinangwa (cassava) from permaculture garden and its sweetness is different from that of convention agriculture, we have also lent the important of moringa trees in the garden of permaculture.iam very thankful for this trip as we have lent how to protect our soil from depletion by planting different crops in the garden of permaculture.*

**Presenter:** how can you encourage your fellow farmers about this trip?

**Judith Thomas:** *we are going to encourage our fellow farmers that permaculture system of agriculture is very important that needs to be adopted, and we shall also encourage our farmers to avoid burning the maize stalks for the benefits of soil, so*

*we shall collaborate with chiefs to educate our fellow farmers what we have benefited from this trip so that soil fertility is maintained in our gardens.*

**Presenter:** Those are some of the famers from msumbi famers club who had a special trip to Mangochi orphan and education training, a trip that was organized by Dzimwe radio with an aim of promoting famers to adopt new agricultural techniques that are not harmful to our soil such as permaculture.

Later on I had time to talk to one of the famer who lent more about permaculture at Moet last year and she is now practicing what she lent. Through this interview we are going to learn from her on how important is permaculture system of agriculture. Firstly she will start by introducing herself.

**Insert Loveness Phonela.** *My name is Loveness Phonela from Msumbi Village in Monkey bay.*

**Presenter:** How did you start doing permaculture?

**Loveness Phonela.** *I started doing this after I learned from Moet, this system helps to maintain the fertility of our soil.*

**Presenter;** what is supposed to be done if one wants to start practicing this type of farming?

**Phonela:** Firstly we supposed to analyze our soils if it can need special attention, then we cut down grasses and cover our soil and then we plant trees and crops that fix nitrogen in the soil.

**Presenter:** what are the advantages of permaculture?

**Phonela:** *There are a lot of advantages that are attached to this system firstly our soil is protected from erosion, secondly we don't spend money to buy chemical fertilizer as nutrients are maintained in the soil through the spices that we have planted in that garden and amount of labor is totally reduced.*

**Presenter:** what is your last word to those who wants to start doing permaculture as they want to conserve their soils?

**Phonela:** *I would like to ask my fellow women farmers to adopt this kind of farming because our soil is 100 % protected from erosion and its structure is maintained and we don't need chemical fertilizers.*

**Presenter:** Thank you for your contribution.

**Phonela:** *Thanks.*

**Presenter:** with that remarks we have come to the end of ours today program of Nkhani ya Nthaka (Stories from the soil) here on Dzimwe Community Radio.

Congratulation to our famers, who contributed to our today's program.

**Remember that 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.“**

From me the producer and presenter of the program Tony Gonani says take initiative to sustain our soils. Good bye.