

STRIDES IN THE FARMSE PROJECT

The Poverty Reduction of Vulnerable Beneficiaries through Community Based Financial Organization and small scale Enterprise Development (PROVED) project, a component of the Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders and Enterprises (FARMSE) being implemented by DAPP Malawi in Nkhosakota and Nkhatabay districts has made strides in the implementation of the activities.

The project commenced implementation in October 2020 targeting to work with 1500 community based farmers organisations of members aged between 18 to 50 years. In the month of January, 150 Community agents working with project received pushbikes to ease their mobility while they carry out their activities. There are 89 community agents in Nkhosakota with 61 in Nkhatabay.



Aside from organizing the farmers in groups, the Village Savings and Loan groups have been receiving training in conservation agriculture methods and gardening to further contribute to their economic activities.

The Project Coordinator for Nkhosakota District Duncan Jamali said to ensure smooth running of the project activities, there have been monthly monitoring visits which are carried out together with the government officials from the districts.

“Each and every month project Coordinators and District Official conduct monitoring and supervision of the project activities as one way of securing the smooth running of the projects. We have been visiting the clubs from the month of February and we will be carrying out the same activity



through March,” he said.

With the project’s unique approach of increasing the access to sustainable, diversified financial services so far 55 Village Savings and Loan groups have been linked to a formal financial institution, the NBS Bank, as one way of boosting their business capital.

It is expected that the project will work with 1500 community based Farmers Organisations within its 36 months of implementation.

The beneficiaries are from Traditional Authorities Malengachanzi, Mwadzama, Mphonde and Mwansambo in Nkhosakota and Mkumbira, M’bwana, and Sub Traditional Authority Mndola, Chipimininga, Siyalimba, Boghoyo and Mkondowe in Nkhatabay district.



DAPP PARTNERS WITH VALE/ CEAR

DAPP Malawi has with support from VALE Logistics and the Central East African Railways commenced a capacity building project aimed at economically empowering people around the VALE railway in the four districts of Machinga, Balaka, Neno and Chikwawa.

The project has two approaches, capacity building for people with basic skills and social inclusion for vulnerable groups.

The first component will close the skills gaps among 500 people with basic vocational skills through a two to four month trainings so as to improve effectiveness in business and production of quality work.



With a focus on income diversification skills like cooking, tailoring, hairdressing, carpentry, construction/masonry, mechanics, entrepreneurship, trade and establishment and maintenance of ornamental nurseries.

Additionally, 1182 vulnerable members around the communities will be supported with economic activities under the social inclusion project that will strengthen the financial literacy with a focus on financial management, accountability and development of business plans.



This will be possible through creation and consolidation of Village Savings and Loan groups and build the target beneficiaries' capacity in entrepreneurship and business management.

The project is expected to run for two years with the capacity building component taking place within a year while the social inclusion activities will be carried out throughout the implementation period.

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