



NTCHISI FARMERS THRIVE THROUGH CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Smallholder farmers in Ntchisi are witnessing transformative change through climate-smart agriculture, thanks to a three-year initiative by DAPP Malawi under the Transforming Agriculture Through Diversification and Entrepreneurship (TRADE) Program. Targeting 7,000 farmers across Kalira, Malomo, Chikwatula, and Chulu EPAs, the project empowers communities to commercialize soybean, groundnut, and sunflower farming while adopting resilient practices.

A Field Day at Kalira EPA showcased the project's impact under the theme "Enterprise Diversification: Key to Mitigating Climate Change." Farmers explored innovative techniques like certified inoculated seeds, double-row planting, and agroforestry to boost soil fertility. A model village demonstrated integrated solutions; backyard gardens, energy-saving stoves, and drip irrigation, proving how sustainable practices can thrive even in water-scarce conditions.



Farmers like Alice Banda shared their optimism: "Soybeans and groundnuts yield well without costly fertilizers. I'm confident in these methods."

Traditional Authority Chikho urged broader adoption, noting how diversification reduces reliance on maize amid climate shocks.



DAPP Malawi's Chimwemwe Mponya highlighted the dual benefit, "Legume-based systems improve both food security and incomes." TRADE Specialist Charles Chagalala praised the initiative's success, urging farmers to fully embrace the techniques.

Supported by IFAD and OPEC, the TRADE Program spans 11 districts, equipping farmers to adapt and prosper. With DAPP Malawi's hands-on training, from Village Savings and Loans to organic manure, the farmers are paving the way for a resilient future.

DAPP EMPOWERS KAUNJIKA VENDORS WITH BUSINESS SKILLS



DAPP Wholesale recently held Open Day events in Mangochi, Liwonde, Zomba, Limbe, Blantyre, Mzuzu, and Rumphi, equipping second-hand clothing (kaunjika) vendors with crucial business and financial management skills. Partnering with Old Mutual Malawi and the Malawi Union for Informal Sector, the initiative taught traders financial planning, savings, and business sustainability while promoting clean trading spaces and sector collaboration.

Each location focused on unique themes: Rumphi explored marketing and social media, Liwonde tackled financial tracking, and Zomba discussed financial literacy and climate-smart farming. Limbe emphasized business management, while Mangochi highlighted hygiene, with DAPP donating waste bins to improve market cleanliness. Mzuzu encouraged teamwork and environmental conservation, inviting vendors to Earth Day celebrations on April 12.

DAPP regional managers Malumbo Ziba and Bonwell Wyson commended traders for sustaining the vital kaunjika sector, which supports countless livelihoods. The initiative aims to boost economic growth, sustainability, and environmental responsibility among Malawi's informal traders, ensuring long-term sector resilience.



IVY'S TRANSFORMATION: FROM A DREAM TO REALITY



Ivy Salif, a 23-year-old from Mtonda village, Chiradzulu, overcame poverty and stagnation to become a symbol of resilience through her involvement in a Adolescent Girls and Young Women's Club under the Loto Langa program. Before joining the program, Ivy's life lacked purpose; she struggled with self-doubt and financial barriers, unable to launch a business despite her aspirations.

Her enrollment in Loto Langa, supported by PEPFAR, marked a transformative turning point. The club equipped her with vital skills in financial literacy, animal husbandry, and baking, while the Village Savings and Loans (VSL) group taught her disciplined saving. Leveraging these tools, Ivy saved funds to start a baking business, which now sustains her daily needs and supports her family. Additionally, she was selected for the *Economic Strengthening* initiative, receiving piglets to launch livestock farming.

Today, Ivy balances entrepreneurship and pig rearing, using bakery profits to maintain her livestock, ensuring long-term income. Her socio-economic independence has empowered her to avoid early marriage and take charge of her future. Grateful for the program's impact, Ivy urges other girls to join the AGYW Clubs, emphasizing their role in fostering financial literacy, community cohesion, and self-reliance. Her journey from uncertainty to becoming a confident businesswoman and farmer highlights the program's success in bridging opportunity gaps for rural girls. Ivy's story is a testament to the transformative power of skill-building and collective empowerment in breaking cycles of poverty.

