

DEVELOPMENT AID FROM PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

YOUNG FARMERS TO BENEFIT WITH VALUE ADDITION

In the month of April the Skills and Resilience Project (SRP) in Chiradzulu district has made strides in working with the youthful farmers in which they trained farmers in post-harvest management of Soya crops, establishment of vegetable gardens and bee keeping.

According to the Farming Instructor Mr Happy Nkhoma, the post-harvest management trainings included handling of the legume seeds and value addition.



“We have trained the farmers in taking care of the legumes from harvesting to drying and storage, in addition we also trained them in value addition through production of soya milk in order to increase the market value of their produce and the farmers are able to produce milk. In addition, we are now training them in Bee Keeping but the beehives have not yet been set. We expect that by the end of this project the farmers will be able to improve their household incomes from the sale of their crops, value addition and through honey production,” he explained.

The three year project, running from 2018 is currently working with 302 farmers of which 235 are female while 67 are male.

Currently the project is working with young farmers from Zekeya and Mpulula villages in Traditional Authority Likoswe in Chiradzulu district.

MUSHROOM PROJECT SET TO START GROWING

Identification and registration of youth to be trained in mushroom production and construction of mushroom production units has taken place in Mchinji district where DAPP with funding from GIZ is implementing a Mushroom project.



This is a pilot project that targets to train 80 farmers in the production of mushroom in order to economically empower the youth.

To identify the youth to work with, the project worked with local leaders to call for interested youth aged between 18 to 35 years to attend interviews from which 80 people were identified to benefit from the trainings.

The Project Leader Mr Kondwani Maunde said the project held meetings with Village Development Committees that



facilitated the community awareness on the coming of the project in the area.

Following the interviews, 80 young farmers were identified from four villages of Mselera, Msilidza, Mlonyeni and Menyani within Traditional Authority Mlonyeni.

In training of the trainers, lessons focused on how to make mushroom spawn (Seed), using localized methods in making of mushroom substrate, environmental factors that affect mushroom production, and harvesting, processing, storage and marketing of mushrooms.

Theory and practical lessons were delivered and the trainers were able to start mushrooms production by the end of their trainings.

The 80 youth were further organised into groups of 10 members from which they will work together at a production unit.

LIBRARIES RECEIVE BOOKS - TEACHER LIBRARIANS BEING TRAINED

DAPP part of implementing the African Library project which has been handing over books received in their recent shipment to various primary and secondary schools in eight districts of Neno, Lilongwe, Zomba, Blantyre, Mzimba, Chitipa, Thyolo and Mulanje districts.

The project is working to promote the reading culture in schools and communities across Malawi with support from well-wishers who donate books via the African Library project which has its head office in the USA.

DAPP Malawi is also working with The Wungwero Book Foundation, the Malawi Institution of Education and the Chancellor College of the University of Malawi as the lead partner in securing that schools and community libraries benefit from the project.

The project handed over the most recent batch of books received to Mvera – Malawi Defense Force (MDF) – primary school.

According to the DAPP Project Coordinator Patrick Jafali, he said the books were received as part of the 12 containers which have been distributed to more than 60 libraries across the countries.

An agreement has been made with the African Library

project and the District Education Management to include the training of the teachers who will work in the libraries in the schools that are benefitting from the project. According to the Coordinator of the project, 40 teachers will be trained to work in the libraries according to their Memorandum of Understanding.



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