



Inside the Issue

- Mrs. Mweene Domesticates Bokashi Making Knowledge Acquired from Training
- Youth Involvement Key to Development of the Agricultural Sector- Katongo Bwalya
- Chirundu Small-Scale Farmers Elated with the PPB-FFS Approach- Shelly Ngandu



Agroforestry Important for Addressing Climate Change and Malnutrition- Bavies Mushimbwa

117 farmers from Shibuyunji, Chikankata, Chirundu and Rufunsa districts were trained in agroforestry. The training covered introduction to agroforestry, soil fertility management, soil mixing and soil preparation for nursery establishment, extraction of seeds, planting of avocados, lemons and paw-paw trees.

The agroforestry training was designed to be rolled out in phases to ensure that participants have a hands-on experience on agroforestry from seed extraction to nursery establishment until transplanting to the main field.



Jackson Mutempa participating in the preparation of the soil for nursery establishment in Chikankata during the agroforestry training

Jackson Mutempa a grade 9 pupil at Mabwetuba primary school in Chikankata district who took part in the training appreciated the training and was eager to teach others on what he had learnt.

“With what we have learnt here, if things are to be taken seriously, this might be a very lucrative venture

through which we could be earning incomes especially the youths,” He said.

Mr. Bavies Mushimbwa from Shibuyunji district also participated in the trainings. For Mr. Mushimbwa, the training on agroforestry meant bringing back life to the soils which have been impacted by climate change.

“Soil is a living thing and so we need to put back life into the soil through improved fallows by planting trees such as Pigeon Peas and Tephrosia vogelli to rejuvenate our soils.

The benefit I have seen in agroforestry is that it not only helps us in combating the effects of climate change but these trees are also able to provide us with fruits which are good for our nutrition,” He said.



One of the newly established agroforestry nurseries in Rufunsa district

Mrs. Mweene Domesticates Bokashi Making Knowledge Acquired from Training

Sixty-seven farmers in Chikankata district were trained in Bokashi making, Rosena Mweene is a female farmer who participated in the training. Ms. Rosina says she was eager to put into practice what she had learnt.

“I wanted to find my own experience at home, after I learnt about bokashi making and its benefits, I just didn't stop at learning, I was eager to try and make my own bokashi at home.

I have made my own bokashi which I want to apply in field when the rains come. What I want is to see how beneficial it is compared to the synthetic fertilizers that we usually apply on our crops,” she said.

“If the bokashi will work better than the synthetic fertilizer, I will stop using the synthetic fertilizers and concentrate on the bokashi and even encourage fellow farmers in my community to do the same,” Mrs. Mweene added.

Mrs. Mweene further added that the other thing she appreciated about bokashi making was the fact that it's a fertilizer which does not require them to use sophisticated materials but rather use their own locally sourced own farm materials like cow dung or chicken manure which they mix with other materials which are also locally sourced without spending much.



Above; Rosena Mweene Checking on her bokashi at her home. Below; Rosena in floral blouse participating during the training for bokashi making



Youth Involvement Key to Development of the Agricultural Sector- Katongo Bwalya

Youth participation in agricultural activities has recently gained momentum, many studies carried out have shown that youth involvement in agriculture is characterized with constraints that include lack of access to capital and technical assistance.

Youth involvement in agriculture serves as a source of income generation and provides the much-needed labour force in critical farming activities among others.

Mr. Katongo Bwalya a farmer in Shibuyunji district said that in order to increase youth participation in agriculture, there

is need to address the challenges youths face while promoting interventions that reinforce the benefits the youths derive from participating in agriculture.

Mr. Katongo said that youths are usually motivated by ventures that are profitable hence agriculture needs to be taken as a business and not just an activity for retired old people.

“The youth are the ones who are energetic to venture into agriculture such that they can turn it into business to provide the much-needed incomes for their families. Some of us are aging and are not as productive as the youths, remember that the older people are now getting fewer and fewer and the biggest population is comprised of the youth, make sure you tap into the knowledge being shared by the elderly, especially the traditional knowledge which is being promoted by Civil Society Organisations(CSOs) like CTDT.” He said.

Mr. Katongo implored the youth to regroup and mobilise themselves to access various funding for venturing in agriculture.



Chirundu Small-Scale Farmers Elated with the PPB-FFS Approach- Shelly Ngandu

Through the Sowing Diversity= Harvesting Security (SD=HS) project, CTD T is working to foster collaborations between the breeders and small-holder farmers in the development of new crop varieties through Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) using the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach.

The sorghum breeder from the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) has been actively working with farmers in Chirundu to develop a new sorghum variety with certain preferred traits having been selected by the farmers themselves.

Due to some unforeseen circumstance the irrigation system at the research station got destroyed leading to the loss of material that was being worked on.



Sorghum breeder from ZARI, Dr. Mbulwe sharing his experiences working with farmers during the tour of the sorghum nursery .

Fortunately, an FFS in Chirundu established a winter nursery which enabled the continuation of the work on the sorghum that got destroyed at the research station. If not for the breeder working hand in hand with the farmers through PPB the work on the sorghum population that has been on-going for the last three years would have stalled.

Shelly Ngandu is a farmer from Kayuni village in Chirundu district who is participating in the FFS developing the new sorghum variety. "Being a small-holder woman farmer, am happy to be part of the process of developing this new sorghum variety with the help of the breeder from ZARI. We are happy because we are almost achieving the breeding objectives we had set with the help of the breeder.

"When starting, we used Kuyuma and Sima varieties because they are adapted to our climatic conditions being in the valley area. At this point with what we have learnt, we are confident that in the future we would be able to produce seed by ourselves," Shelly says.

Shelly called for more collaborations for the PPB work to be upscaled so that many other communities can also benefit.

During the workshop on PPB using FFS approach workshop, the breeders agreed to work with small-scale farmers while developing new crop varieties because the farmers are always the ultimate end users of whatever variety is being developed.

Follow Us On:



<https://web.facebook.com/CTDTSEEDS>



https://www.instagram.com/ctdt_zambia1