



**Prepared by
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REPORT ON THE FIRST PHASE OF WINTER CROPPING

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

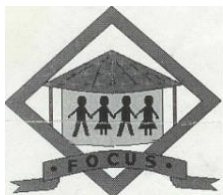
Malawi is prone to a variety of slow and sudden-onset disasters which include floods, drought, stormy rains, strong winds, hailstorms, landslides, earthquakes, pest infestations, diseases outbreaks, fire, and accidents, just to mention but a few. Climate variability and climate change impacts are now, more than ever, becoming evident. The frequency, magnitude and intensity of weather related disasters like floods and dry spells are increasing. The impact of disasters is can be huge. Disasters disrupt people's livelihoods, endanger human and food security, damage infrastructure and hinder economic growth and development, among others. On the micro level, disasters have resulted in a more fragile and less resilient family unit, while on the macro level; there is the cost of diverting development resources to respond to these emergencies. Statistics shows that from 1979 to 2008, natural disasters in Malawi affected nearly 21.7 million people and killed about 2,596 people (Sibale B. and Jere P. 2010). Further than that, in 2015/2016 season alone an estimated 1,101,364 people were affected, 230,000 displaced, 106 killed and 172 reported missing (World Bank 2015).

With the current problems Africa is facing, Malawi inclusive, there is need to have interventions and technologies which can mitigate and reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

Foundation for Community Support Services (FOCUS) and Hope Ministries International (HOMI) with funding from Overseas Economic Development Initiative (OEDI) are implementing a project called "Enhancing Rural Livelihoods and Resilience through Indigenous System-ERLR" Indigenous American agricultural System Pilot Project in the Districts of Chitipa, Karonga, Lilongwe, Blantyre and Dowa in Malawi for 2016 to 2017.

OEDI is not a charity but rather a toolbox which is committed to providing the tools necessary to alleviate abject poverty and improve lives through sustained community development via clean water, healthcare, education, and micro-financing. OEDI is committed itself to partner with FOCUS AND HOMI through identified communities for the development of programs that enhance the livelihoods of the people of Malawi.

The project is being implemented in two phases, winter season (June to December) and Rain fed season (November to June).



The following are projects objectives;

- To increase the resilience of production to severe weather events (droughts and floods), lack of inputs and pests and diseases.
- To increase the resilience of agriculture livelihoods.
- To contribute to the nutritional improvement of the diet.

The project has so far done the following in Malawi.

1) ORIENTATION OF STAFF AND AGRICULTURE OFFICERS BY MELVIN LANDERS

The project oriented the staff from FOCUS and HOMI in Karonga and Lilongwe respectively. Melvin Landers with assistance from Blessings Mlowoka facilitated the trainings. All these were done on Skype. This was a three day meeting in all the two organizations and all staff were accommodated to give ample time for the activities



Figure 1 some of the participant orientation trainings in Karonga
Figure 2 some of the participants during the Melvin orientation trainings in Lilongwe

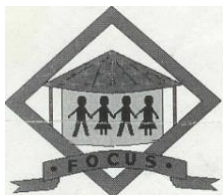
TRAINING OUTPUT

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	FOCUS-KARONGA	HOMI-LILONGWE
	6 staff	5 staff
	2 government agriculture officers	2 government agriculture Officers

The government extension workers were very grateful for the trainings and looking forward to expand to many areas and districts.

The following were presentations made during the two separate meetings with FOCUS and HOMI;

- ✓ Presentation on OEDI
- ✓ The situation of the farms
- ✓ Climate change adaptation in Malawi
- ✓ Soil microorganisms



- ✓ Redesigning the field
- ✓ Agro ecological production systems
- ✓ Visual Selection
- ✓ Planting Schematic and map

2) TRAINING OF LEAD FARMERS AND FARMERS ON THE TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICAL SESSIONS

The project through FOCUS and HOMI staff and also government agriculture officers trained **48 lead farmers and 32 farmers and community leaders** on the project for three days respectively. Practical sessions were also conducted. The government agriculture officers were the core facilitators in the trainings with project staff. Each site had the following participants;

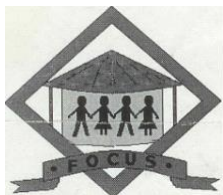
- 12 Lead farmers
- 1 Group Village Headman
- 1 Village Headman
- 1 ADC
- 1 VDC
- 1 ACPC
- 2 VCPC
- 1 Councillor

TRAINING BY FOCUS

FOCUS with officers from Chitipa and Karonga DADO organized a community mobilization meeting to identify Lead farmers; and conduct a three days training from 8th June to 10th June, 2016, with farmers from Lufita and Lupembe EPAs respectively. The training had a composition of farmers themselves and Group Village Headmen and selected Village Heads. Government agriculture Officers with support from FOCUS staff facilitated the trainings. The trainings were done in GVH Mwenibanda in Chitipa and GVH Mwakabanga in Karonga. FOCUS is also using the already existing staff to monitor the project activities, of which the project is ending in December, 2016. The organization



Figure 3 Lead farmers in Chitipa being trained in indigenous knowledge



will look at it and see how it can sustain that with the government officers but special consideration is needed to have at least one staff to be seconded.

TRAINING BY HOMI

Hope For All Ministries International (HOMI) has established the indigenous gardens in two districts of Lilongwe and Blantyre. The organization is also spreading its reach to Dowa district. The agriculture officers welcomed the development and were personally available from the orientation meetings with Melvin, Lead farmer training, procurement of the crops under 2 the demonstrations.

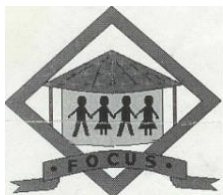


Figure 4 HOMI Executive Director, Jessica Kalanje and Malawi in Country Director, Blessings Mlowoka- both in Red Cups lading the team in Malingunde Extension Planning Area (EPA) in land preparation and Tilling.

In both sites the government extension officers proposed to use both raised and sunken beds so that the farmers should deduce for themselves on the importance of using the raised beds. It is also pleasing to note that the local leaders and authorities have received the project with much eager and are ready to work with the project team members.



Figure 2 HOMI member in pictorial focus with local leader with a blue and white cup and also 2 government officers to the right



CROPS UNDER FIRST PHASE OF THE PROJECT

NO	NAME
1	Okra
2	Cabbage
3	Peas
4	Tomato
5	Carrot
6	Onions
7	Mustard
8	Spinach
9	Rape
10	Watermelons
11	Maize
12	Collard
13	Beans
14	Green pepper
	INSECTCIDES
1	Cypermethelin
2	Supperclon
3	Demathoate

HOMI has also partnered with **Nazikoka Community Based Organization in Dowa** District where they are doing early childhood development, Home Based care, nursery school and orphan support activities. The community based organization has a total of 60 members (27 male and 33female). The organization has chosen to partner with them because want to promote nutrition status of the children in the Early grade learning and home based care where chronicle ill patients are taken care of.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAYFORWARD

- Blessings to produce monthly reports on the progress of the demonstration plots and involvement of the government staff and lead farmers.
- Melvin and Blessings to start developing the rain fed proposal and budget for the donors with an increase in number of lead farmers and community farmers
- There is need to recruit full time intern to be fully in the project. This could ease the implementation of the activities and also for sustainability.



- Donors of the organization objectives in their websites. This is one of the requirements by the government so that they should know where the resources are coming from.
- Blessings should also dedicate some time in coordination of all activities in Malawi.
- Blessings to have the second report on the germination percentage in the demo plots and deduce the involvement of the lead farmers and government staff
- FOCUS and HOMI to produce monthly reports on the progress of the demonstration plots to Blessings
- Blessings and Blessings to produce a template for the activity vs budget expenditure in the next proposal. This will enable the two organizations to be accountable for the funds they receive.
- Plan for expansion so that each household should have a forest garden at his home for economic and nutrition benefit
- Identify orphan centers and care groups where the technology will also be taught and practiced
- If resources could allow, there is need to expand on the activities such as nutrition of the under-five, Early child and girls education, water and sanitation and others.

(OEDI) to include the profiles



