



**Title- ORGANIC MANURE, A SUSTAINABLE MEANS TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.**

**Introduction:**

The fertilizer subsidy programme administered across the country is aimed at improving crop production but very little is being done to sustainably improve the soil texture and soil fertility. This issue was identified when FACE was implementing livelihood activities in T/A Mbenje and T/T Mlolo during 2013 to 2014 growing session. Farmers of TA Mbenje and Mlolo in Nsanje district have expressed fear that their soils are getting worse when they are unable to apply fertilizer due to lack of the fertilizer subsidy package. This is detrimental to the sustainable livelihood systems of Malawi and it is high time government did something to ensure that our soils get nourishment from organic manure. This would include moderating how inorganic manure (fertilizers) is managed alongside organic manure.

It was also observed that local people trust the subsidy inputs more than the organic manure and when they fail to get the mercy of those in charge they always goof due to the fact that in this scenario they usually get low yields. If organic manure is taken as a secondary option, our strategic direction as a nation is fatal, and things will one day fall apart

**Policy Action Point**

Government should ensure that fertilizer use has got organic manure packages in form of messages to motivate farmers on organic manure use.

**The Process:**

Gathering data on the fertility deterioration for those farmers who only used fertilizer and when they have no chance of getting it through subsidy programme these farmers experienced a drop in production and negative impact like vicious cycle of poverty,

pushing them to depend heavily on the environment (charcoal firewood selling). Sustainable Agriculture production can easily help to reverse this scenario and our environment will be saved

- Meeting concerned farmers on the negative impact of soil infertility.
- .Panel discussions were conducted between October to December 2013 where issues of how the subsidy programme was being implemented, raising fear that organic manure was being neglected by farmers putting their whole trust in the fertilizer subsidy
- Focus group discussions were conducted with all Area Development Committees in order to come up with solutions to food insecurity in a situation where organic manure and water is found in abundance but not utilized
- .conduct community meetings with Community Preparedness Committees, Stake holder panel, Village Development Committees, and Area Development Committees to look for solutions to the current problem.
- . Steering committee is planning to present this issue to members of parliament of Nsanje North Ho Easter. Ncheka Chilenje and Nsanje Lalanje Ho. Sam Ganda

### **OBSERVED NEGATIVE IMPACT ON NON UTILIZATION OF ORGANIC MANURE**

- crop production gets lower than before
- soil fertility gets worse
- low economic base of the people
- As a result of this, there is pressure on environment

### **EXPECTED BENEFIT**

- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Increased soil texture and fertility
- Improved economic base
- Reduced pressure on environment
- Social stability

### **Area of implementation**

This project is being implemented in T/A Mbenje and Mlolo in Nsanje district

### **Key stakeholders**

Key stake holders are; Community members, community Preparedness Committees, Stakeholder panel members at GVH, T/A and District Assembly levels Ministry of Agriculture and food security, department of forestry. This issue shall be presented to Members of Parliament during their visits to Nsanje North and Lalanje constituencies in the month of September.

**Evidence:**



a.

Good crop stand after applying fertilizer from subsidy programme (Mr. Vuwovuwo from Kanyanyi Village)



Poor crop stand after failing to get a coupon for fertilizer subsidy programme (Mr. German from Village Headman Kanyanyi in T/A Mbenje)



FACE INITIATIVE; PROMOTION OF CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE



PART OF STAKEHOLDER PANEL DISCUSSION AT T/A MBENJE

### **WAY FORWARD**

Meeting stakeholders at district level

Meeting with MPs from Nsanje Lalanje Constituency and Nsanje North Constituency during month of September

The journey continues after meeting the MPs until this issue is addressed.