



NAMIKANGO
MISSION

NOV-DEC
2021

Teaching Conservation Agriculture

**Empowering African communities
through Christ-centered transformation**



Conservation Agriculture

by Justine Hayes

Like many neighboring countries, maize is the center of the Malawian diet. A meal isn't complete without a heaping mountain of nsima (ground maize meal)!

Understanding food and where it comes from is crucial to understanding the Malawian culture and worldview. Since the majority of Malawi survives on subsistence farming, agricultural training is consistently requested from many people on the ground. As people grow to understand their value and identity in Christ, they also grow to understand what a healthier relationship with the land can look like. God has provided the possibility for an abundance of food and many naturally occurring resources, which, when used in a sustainable way, can be a solution to hunger and the imbalance in the availability of nutritious food necessary for people to thrive.

Currently, our agriculture efforts focus on teaching conservation agriculture and permaculture techniques with the students in the Discipleship Training Institute as well as with coffee farmers that we have connected with through the coffee farm and roastery. The DTI students will in turn share with their home church and villages, multiplying our efforts.



October and November are the planting months though they vary a little based on when the first rains come each year. Please pray with us as people prepare their fields for this year's crop!

Conservation Agriculture

For the last few years, we focused on teaching conservation agriculture with a group of "Lead Farmers" who you may have read about in previous newsletters.

Conservation agriculture includes farming techniques such as proper composting and crop rotation, how to prepare the land with ground cover instead of burning, etc. The farmers who were trained in this have since been released to continue with the things that they have learned and teach others.

With the beginning of the discipleship training institute, we have completed the round of training with the Lead Farmers and shifted emphasis onto empowering the students as part of our discipleship efforts.





Permaculture

Though maize is the center of every meal, over 250 diverse and nutrient rich indigenous plants grow in Malawi. Earlier this year, Namikango hosted a permaculture workshop led by Biswick Luwayo. The simple idea behind permaculture is the growth of agricultural ecosystems in a self-sufficient design where each plant harmonizes with those around it in a reciprocally beneficial way. Part of this is done by plant guilds, which is the harmonizing of trees, vines, cover crops, insects, and any other microsystem that is mutually beneficial.

With property as expansive as Namikango, the opportunities are enormous. There is already an abundance of naturally growing plants tucked away in the remainder of the indigenous forest that was intentionally protected as the old blue gums (not native to the area) were harvested. Walking through the Forest, Luwayo was able to name many of the plants that would otherwise look like weeds and tell us of their nutritious benefits. During Luwayo's visit, various fruit trees and other edible plants were planted around the mission, including banana and avocado trees, annatto, cassava, strawberry, sweet potatoes, lemongrass, and local fruits such as custard apple and Mexican apple. No new areas needed to be carved out for these, as they were incorporated into the existing design of the mission property. For example, passion fruit vines now cover the Namikango road-side fence!

We have already seen many of the plants begin to fruit and provide food for the mission. There is much to the science and study of permaculture that we hope to continue to grow in, learn, and continue to teach others.



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MULTIPLY THE IMPACT

D I S C I P L E - M A K I N G

We are in awe of God and the unprecedented multiplication in the ministry that He has provided. With growth in ministry, additional resources are needed! As we work towards the vision of transforming African communities by training people and reaching the lost, you can be a big part of the growth!

The total need for all of this multiplication to happen is \$211,000:

- \$76,000 for training, operations, and Discipleship Training Institute
- \$35,000 for vehicles to help transport more mission supplies
- \$100,00 for Ntonda Primary School to continue to guide children towards Jesus.

Ntonda has undergone several devastating storms in the last four years, and we need a new school building and three homes for staff members.

Could you give \$50, \$100, \$500, or \$1,000?

Give online at www.namikango.org or mail your gift to the address above!

