

Seeds and crop rotation! A sustainable reality for the Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project - Part 1

- By Obaka Torto



Seeds used to improve agroforestry (Photo: Manda Wilderness Community Trust)

Along the shores of Lake Niassa/Nyassa, Mozambique, the Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project (MWAP) is training community members from 15 villages in biodiversity-friendly agricultural and agroforestry methods, to increase the provision of habitat for endemic species that are crucial to the success and sustainability of ecological agriculture in the region. This is a small grant project supported by [CEPF](#) in the [Eastern Afromontane hotspot](#) through the [Regional Implementation Team \(RIT\)](#).

With these training workshops, local farmers are engaging in valuable training and biodiversity conservation that will become a reality, resulting in improved livelihoods and economic development in the Manda Wilderness region. The project implementers are very happy with the results so far achieved. Community members of 5 villages of the Manda region already received training and they were pleased to receive agroforestry seeds in addition to the knowledge which will allow them to improve their crops and soil fertility. Also, a manual handbook for conservation agriculture methods and practices is being distributed to all the participants. This manual was prepared by the MWAP team and includes the contents of the conservation agriculture/agroforestry programme. It is available in two languages, Portuguese and ChiNyanja, and its main purpose is to use it as a visual aid tool to assist illiterate people.

See what the participants said about the training:

“I am very grateful to receive this training and learn new farming methods. It is knowledge that will help me and my family. I’m thankful for the agroforestry seeds we received, those will help me to improve my soil fertility, fight pest and diseases, increase my yields and fight erosion. I especially like the Mthuthu (*Tephrosia vogelli*) because it is good for pest management, and the Msangu (*Faidherbia albida*) because it will help me to improve soil fertility in my field. Since we don’t have means to buy fertilizers, this can be the solution for us because it is more affordable and of course, no damage to the environment is done.” - *Rosália J. Tambuú, Farmer from Mandambuzi*



Mandambuzi – Seedeeds!

“With this training I learned the principles of conservation agriculture and the benefits that it can bring to me. In my field, I always plant maize, cassava and some beans as a monoculture and now I know why I have so many problems with my crops. I learnt that I should do crop rotation to prevent pests, keep my soil cover to keep the moisture and prevent the erosion, and to plant other crops simultaneously with my main crop which is maize.”
- *Francisco M. Dandolo, Farmer from Litanda*



Litanda – Crop rotation and no monoculture!

The MWAP project began in October 2013 and will end in September 2014. The training workshops are proving to make a big difference in the livelihoods of the local people. **Continue to follow this 3 part series to see what is happening on the ground!**

Stay informed about the Manda Wilderness Community Trust by visiting www.mandawilderness.org

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