

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



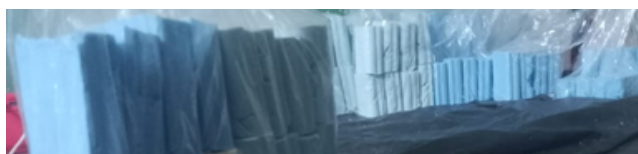
12 VILLAGES GRADUATE FROM TITUKULANE FCAP

The M'mbelwa District Council has commended the bottom-up approach adopted by the Smallholder Producers Development and Transporters Association (SPRODETA) in implementing the Green Facilitated Collective Action Process (FCAP) program.

Through the project funded by SPARK Microgrants, SPRODETA is working with 50 villages in areas of TA Jalavikuba, Mtwalo, and Mpherembe, and by using a bottom-up approach, is placing communities at the center of development by enabling them to

identify their own challenges and design solutions tailored to their needs.

Each village receives MK20.4 million and undertakes various initiatives, including environmental conservation projects, as part of a two-year FCAP cycle. After completing the cycle, they graduate by taking full ownership of the projects. To date, 12 villages have graduated.



A SEED OF OPPORTUNITY: ETHEL'S JOURNEY THROUGH LAND OWNERSHIP



In Ntchuka, Mphompha, many women continue to face barriers to land ownership due to customary practices that often limit their access to productive resources. For 39-year-old Ethel Msowoya, a single mother of four from Psela Village, this was a harsh reality. Following her divorce in 2021, Ethel returned to her mother's home with no access to land, capital, or agricultural inputs, making it difficult to rebuild her livelihood.

In 2023, SPRODETA, in partnership with WE EFFECT, launched a project in Mphompha aimed at strengthening livelihoods while promoting women's land rights. Through the project, Ethel joined the Luwozga Cooperative, where she received improved bean seed for production. At the same time, community sensitization on women's land rights helped change local perceptions. As a result, her family agreed to allocate her 3.5 acres of land to cultivate.

For Ethel, this was a turning point. With both secure access to land and quality bean seed, she was able to make full use of the opportunity. During her first production season, she harvested 260 kilograms of beans.

In the 2024–2025 farming season, Ethel sold 288 kilograms of beans for MWK 1,152,000. She invested the proceeds in moulding bricks for her future home and purchasing fertilizer to improve her farm productivity. Her success continued in the 2025–2026 season, when she harvested 660 kilograms of beans. Encouraged by the increased yield, Ethel plans to use the income to purchase iron sheets and cement to complete the construction of her house.

Although she is already cultivating her land, the process of obtaining a customary land certificate is still underway. Once issued, the certificate will further strengthen her land tenure security and provide long-term confidence to invest in her farm.

Titukulane for transformed livelihoods

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Meanwhile, SPRODETA Executive Director Allen Kumwenda said the approach, if adopted across the country, could help address many of the challenges communities face as demonstrated by its success in other countries.

"If you look at Rwanda and Uganda, they are using the same approach, and if, as a country we can emulate it, it can go a long way in empowering communities economically and contributing to the development of the country," Kumwenda said.



Director of Economic Planning and Development at M'belwa District Council Willard Chirwa,

FCAP GRADUATION PICTURES SUMMARY



PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS BOOSTS FARMERS PRODUCTIVITY IN KARONGA

The Private Partnership Model is one of the approaches that SPRODETA is implementing under the Build Project, funded by NCA/DCA in TA Kilupula, Kyungu, and Wasambo in Karonga district.

On 11th June 2026, SPRODETA, management of Kwanza Cocoa, and Government Officials gathered at Mwantende Village in Lower Songwe Section under TA Kilupula for an interface meeting with two groups of Cocoa



Farmers to discuss in detail as well as establish terms of contract with an aim to enter in buying agreement between Cocoa farmers as (Seller) and Kwanza Cocoa as a buyer (Offtaker). The core agenda of the meeting was to foster transparency and build trust between two parties as they enter into contractual agreements.

At the end of the meeting Cocoa farmers and Kwanza Cocoa mutually agreed to enter into buying agreement. This agreement intends to promote cooperation, quality production, market access and sustainable Cocoa farming rather than restrict trade.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS THRIVING BANANA ORCHARD

Located in Chamaji, Mzimba District, this banana orchard is managed by a dedicated group of 18 members.

The group has successfully established an orchard with 194 banana suckers, all of which will be cultivated using organic farming practices.

Once mature, the bananas will provide an important source of income through fruit sales. Beyond generating revenue, the orchard will also help expand banana production in the community.

As new suckers emerge, they will be shared among group members to plant in their own households, increasing both production and food security.



TRANSFORMING FUTURE THROUGH GOAT FARMING: A CASE OF LACKSON BOTHA

In the remote village of Kavundila, under Traditional Authority Chikulamayembe in Rumphidistrict, families struggle to find reliable sources of income. Most men have found themselves on the wrong side of the law for illegal poaching in Nyika National Park. "Without a reliable income, we are forced to do bad things.

Opportunities to earn a living and support their families are limited. Here in Kankhoka, we are very close to the national park. There was a time I was caught by rangers for being found in the park. Luckily, I was pardoned because I was not carrying any weapon at the time," narrated Botha.

But thanks to Small Producers Development and Transporters Association (SPRODETA)'s Empowering Vulnerable populations through Climate Smart and Agroecology project, men like Lackson Botha (68) are finding hope through sustainable livelihoods starting with goats.

Through the project's Pass-on initiative, Botha received 4 goats (3 does and 1 bulk) in 2024. The goats reproduced and he managed to give 4 goats to another rightsholder from their group as per the requirement of the initiative. He now has 6 goats in his kraal which is a key source for animal manure at his households.

For decades, Botha has struggled to provide for his family due to high cost of agriculture inputs such as fertilizer and seeds. Each year, the weight of food insecurity stress was overwhelming.

"With limited income earning opportunities, I could not afford to buy fertilizers.



Each year, I would cultivate over 2 acres of maize only to harvest less than 10 bags of Maize. This wasn't enough for me to feed my family of 7 for the whole year," Botha Shared.

His story saw a turnaround with the coming of the goats and the training that he received for Mbeya fertilizer making. Through the project, Botha received 1 bag of NPK fertilizer which he produced 5 (50kg) bags of Mbeya fertilizer. He then exchanged 2 bags with Urea Mbeya fertilizer and applied in his 1-acre maize field where he harvested 48 tins of maize.

During the lean season of 2025, Lackson sold 1 goat at MK180, 000 which helped his family to have food at the critical time, but also support his Form 3 son at Mwazisi Community Day Secondary school Tuition fees, and other learning materials.

"I am thankful to SPRODETA and NCA/DCA for the interventions being implemented here; the gap is wide for those of us benefiting and those not benefiting, and it is our plea that the project should reach others so that we can transform together." Said Botha.





McDonald Manda, a beneficiary of the Empowering Vulnerable Populations Project in Unyolo, Mzimba District, is steadily transforming his livelihood through the support provided by SPRODETA under the ongoing project.

In April 2023, McDonald received 18 kilograms of Irish potato seed from SPRODETA. With determination and commitment, he cultivated the seed on a quarter-acre piece of land. By July 2023, he had successfully harvested and sold part of his produce, earning MWK 50,000. The income provided much-needed financial support for his household and demonstrated the potential of improved agricultural practices in enhancing rural livelihoods.

In addition to participating in agricultural activities, McDonald actively engaged in Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) activities. Through his involvement, he accumulated and accessed MWK 100,000, which he invested in purchasing a pig in December 2023. This marked an important step in diversifying his sources of income and building household assets.

Building on these gains, McDonald benefited from the Goat Pass-On intervention in 2024, through which he received five goats. Through proper care and management, his goat herd has since grown to eight goats, reflecting the positive impact of the livestock component of the project. Today, McDonald is strengthening his resilience through a combination of crop production, savings and loans participation, and livestock rearing. The assets he has acquired are helping improve his household's economic stability while creating opportunities for future growth.

As the project continues to be implemented, McDonald's progress demonstrates how integrated livelihood interventions can empower rural households to build sustainable sources of income, enhance food security and strengthen their capacity to withstand economic challenges.



FROM SAVINGS TO STRONGER FUTURES: VSLA MEMBERS INVEST IN THEIR FAMILIES

Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups in Kalaza and Kaligong'o continue to play a vital role in improving household incomes and financial resilience among community members. Through regular savings contributions and access to small loans, members are increasingly able to invest in income-generating activities and meet their basic needs.

One inspiring example is Maria Ng'ona from Ngoka Zgambo village, who successfully earned MKW 250,000 at the end of the 2025 savings cycle through her village bank participation. She invested part of her earnings in two pigs purchased for MKW 60,000 and also bought maize seeds to expand her farming activities. Maria shared that this income has enabled her to support her family's needs and invest in their future. Her experience demonstrates how VSLA membership is empowering community members to make sound financial decisions and improve their livelihoods.

Sydney Nyangulu, a father of 4 from Humbi village, also reported of his village bank earnings. He received 66000MWK at the end of the cycle and prioritized his daughter's education, paying her school fees at Kamwe community day secondary school. Sydney's wife and children are grateful for his responsible decision "Securing my daughter's education is my top priority," he says. His village bank membership has helped him support his family's needs.



FROM CATTLE DUNG TO CLEAN ENERGY: ONE FARMER'S JOURNEY TO A GREENER FUTURE

Meet Evans Yakuwawa Msiska, a 70-year-old farmer, a member of Juni Cooperative from Nyungwe EPA who has been raising beef cattle for many years. Like many livestock farmers, Yakuwawa used to dispose of cattle dung by simply piling or dumping it around his homestead. As the manure accumulated, it often became difficult to manage and created environmental and sanitation challenges.

Through the Trade Programme implemented by SPRODETA, Mr. Msiska learned that poorly managed cattle dung releases methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. He also discovered that, when properly managed, cattle dung is not only an organic fertilizer but can also be converted into clean energy for household cooking through biogas technology. The idea of producing clean cooking energy from cattle dung immediately captured his interest. Eager to learn more, Mr. Msiska sought additional information and was subsequently linked to Ecogen, a company that supplies biogas digesters. With support from the Trade Programme, he purchased a biogas digester at a subsidized cost of 540,000.00 instead of 1,600,000.00. He is also expecting to get liquid fertilizer as a byproduct from the biogas digester.

Today, Mr. Msiska uses cattle dung to produce biogas, which provides sufficient energy for cooking at his home. As a result, he has significantly reduced his household monthly expenditure on electricity and charcoal, while also adopting a cleaner and more environmentally friendly source of energy (used to spend MWK20,000 on electricity and MWK15,000 on charcoal).

Beyond the biogas system, Mr. Msiska has also benefited from fruit tree seedlings provided through the programme. He is optimistic that, as the trees mature and begin producing fruit, they will improve his family's nutrition.



Support our work today



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