

our farm in malawi

WHAT IS PROJECT MALAWI?

In cooperation with DanChurchAid the SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP has decided to support the setting up of a egg laying farm in Malawi. The main product of the farm will be to produce and sell eggs to local institutions or on the local market.

The project includes a proper supply of feed, education of the local staff and vaccines for the chickens. Everything will be handled by a group of preselected local women who in the process will receive training.

So far the SANOVO TECHNOLOGY GROUP and DanChurchAid have committed five years to the chicken project starting December 2007. The project will be followed closely with exchange of information and know-how, and we invite everybody to follow the story of the Malawi project at our website: www.sanovogroup.com





GOAL & OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To improve the livelihood security of resource women through provision of small livestock credits.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- ▶ *Women credit opportunities for livelihood security increased.*
- ▶ *Crop and livestock diversification increased.*
- ▶ *Women empowerment and self reliance increased.*

The Project is implemented in: Kumala, Ishmail, Mtoso, Kudoko

PROJECT PROGRESS

A total of 2000 chickens were distributed to four groups in the area. Activities that were carried out in this half on this project are vaccination of chicks and feed formulation. Initially the 2000 chicken were meant for two clubs (Kumala and Mtoso clubs). But because of groups capacity in terms of housing and feeding of chicken, some chicken were distributed to Ishmail and Kudoko clubs to ease the demand for housing and feed.

Two hundred and sixty three chickens from Kumala and Ishmail were transferred to Kasungu due to high feed demand which could not be met by the two clubs for maximum profits of the project.

Poor leadership which affected chicken management resulted into redesigning of the project from group approach to individual approach where chickens at Kumala were given to individual members to maximize management. Chickens

at Kumala were distributed to individuals for proper management and ownership. The proceeds from sale of eggs and live chickens were used at household level. A total of MK278,600.00 was realized after selling chickens.

Mtoso women group members shared MK90,000.00 to 36 members translating into MK2,500.00 each member. Members used the money for households needs such as fertilizer, food and others. Kudoko women group members shared MK15,000.00. Members used the money for households needs such as fertilizer, food and others.

Grain Store Construction
One grain store was constructed at Mtoso. The

facility has a capacity to keep 50kg bags shelled maize or soya beans. This will help women groups to keep grain food substances and seed.

Village Savings and Loans Associations

The concept was introduced to three groups. Out of the three only one was trained in three modules of the concept. The total right holders involved in VSLA are 88. Saving is expected to start soon.



LESSONS LEANT

- ▶ Women, if properly trained and empowered, they perform actively. With informal trainings conducted for the areas on feed formation women are able to make feed on their own.
- ▶ Women are saving money through making feed at their club level rather than buying commercially.
- ▶ Group approach is more applicable in chicken project because it provides an opportunity for learning and security for the project assets and benefits. For example, income from sales cannot easily be sent in a group unlike on individual basis where one man decision is final.
- ▶ Egg production can not only be done in towns as they previously thought but also in the rural setup as they are currently managing.
- ▶ Women can also economically contribute to the households needs and should not only beg from husbands.

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

Participating women and the community at large have benefited in the following areas:

- ▶ A change from passive participation of women to active participation of the women participating in the clubs.
- ▶ Economic empowerment which have seen participants able to buy household assets (such as kitchen utensils, clothings), paying of school fees, buying food items after selling soya.
- ▶ Availability of manure for crop production.
- ▶ Increased respect from spouses in households resulting into reduced cases of gender based violence inform of women battering since when men do not have money, women are able to contribute towards the daily running of the households economically and some women have even bought clothes fro their husbands from the project proceeds.
- ▶ Improved nutrition in the households due to economic support from both spouses and availability of a variety of food items i.e. vegetables, eggs and Soya porridge.
- ▶ Contributions of the women participating in the clubs since they are now participating actively in other community groupings with lessons from the clubs than before the project.
- ▶ Funds from the clubs are also borrowed by some village members when there is an emergency or great need.



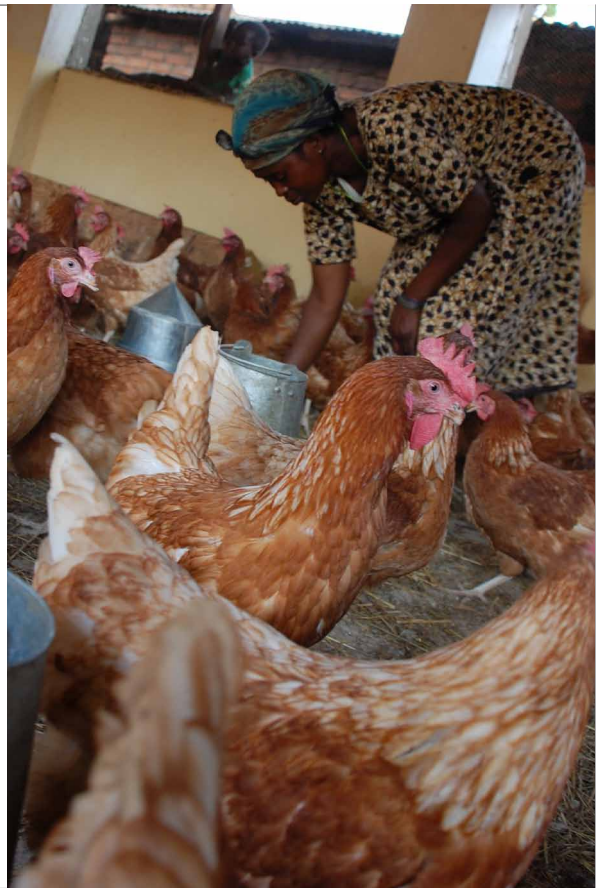
Other members in the village have also benefited from the projects through:

- ▶ Pass-on of seed to other members who do not belong to the two clubs but are deserving vulnerable members.

- ▶ Availability of eggs and other food items within reach of the community members.

PROJECT SUCCESSES

- ▶ Members sell live chickens and use the proceeds to buy households needs such as school uniforms, food, clothes etc.
- ▶ Members use manure for crop production which has changed the quantity of yields per household.
- ▶ Members learn to save money and use in time of need.
- ▶ Members have also learnt business skills in improving household standards through village savings and loans component.
- ▶ Living standards of the communities have generally improved due to increased food availability and generally cases of malnutrition are reduced



CHALLENGES IN THE FUTURE

- ▶ Dry spells affects crops production.
- ▶ Pests and diseases such as Aphids affect crop production.
- ▶ Egg production decreases due to bad weather during the cold and rainy season.
- ▶ High prices of feed ingredients affects quality feed production which affected productivity of chicken and finally project profitability.
- ▶ Outbreak of diseases such as coccidiosis and Newcastle affects the project due to deaths of chickens.

