



## Our farm in Malawi



Tiyesenawo ("Let us try") - in village Kumala with 31 members.



Titukule ("Let us develop") in village Mtozo with 38 members.

On a visit to the groups on the 31st March, the women expressed their appreciation for the support that they have received from SANOVO STAALKAT and they were confident that they will get the production and sales up running within short time.

Follow the story of the Malawi project at our websites:

[www.sanovoeng.com](http://www.sanovoeng.com)  
[www.staalkat.com](http://www.staalkat.com)

SANOVO STAALKAT has entered humanitarian cooperation with DanChurch Aid with the aim of setting up an egg laying farm in Malawi. The project was started in December 2007 where SANOVO STAALKAT decided to donate financial resources and knowhow over a 5 year long period.

The first and one of the most important challenges the project faced were to get the right local people engaged in the project. The locals had to meet certain criteria in the sense of social need but in order for the project to become sustainable on longer terms the people had to be able to dedicate themselves to the project for several years. Only by doing so the resources spent on education and training would pay off and make the project sustainable on a long term basis.

Under the guidance of DanChurchAid two groups of women were identified. But why women? Traditionally the women in Malawi are very attached to their home and family as their job is to raise the children and work in the fields. The two groups of totally 69 women have named themselves Tiyesenawo and Titukule which means "Let us try" and "Let us develop"

### STATUS OF THE PROJECT

The two groups are starting almost from scratch but have taken over some buildings which can be turned into chicken houses. The two groups have immediately started refurbishing the chicken houses outside with cement, installing window fences and painting the interior, and finally setting up drinkers, feeding trays as well as disinfections at the entrance. Parallel to this, the women have received training on how to grow their own chicken feed and breed the chicken.

18 weeks ready layers of the "Hi Line" race - 175 chickens for each group were purchased. In order to advance the egg production ready layers were bought instead of day old chicks. The layers have now started laying eggs, and are expected to produce for 54 weeks. Furthermore, the groups also purchased feeds and layer mash to feed the chicken. However, the cost of feed is considerable and in order for the project to survive the women must be able to grow and harvest their own crops of maize and soya beans. Therefore, a project running parallelly to egg laying farm is to grow the feed in the fields.

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In the coming months DanChurchAid will conduct courses for the women in mixing their own feeds, management, and production plans. The women will have to deposit money from sales of eggs in the bank for purchase of vitamin supplements, vaccines and for renewal of the stocks.

The major challenge is to cut production costs through mixing their own feed, and good maize and soya beans harvest is crucial for that. Secondly, the women need to maximise profits by selling eggs at the highest possible price. The layers need to be well fed and well managed in order to reach the highest production of one egg per day during the 54 weeks. Maize mash for chicken is always competing with human food and with the raising prices for feed this is going to be one of the challenges to face in the future.

### SALES

The women will sell the eggs locally at KWA 15 = EUR 0,068 per egg – unless they can organize themselves and sell at bigger markets in which case they may be able to sell at KWA 20 – 25 per egg – in other words close to EUR 0,13 per egg. DanChurchAid will assist the groups in looking for such opportunities. Compared to the EU and the USA the retail price for eggs in Malawi seem to be quite high, and this only support the arguments for setting up a sustainable egg business in Malawi.