



## **MAZIKO RADIO STATION**

**PROGRAMME** : Chuma Chiri M'nthaka // Wealth is in the soil  
**Number** : CM 01  
**DOB** : 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015  
**TOB** : 18:30 Hrs  
**Source** : Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
**Issue** : Importance of Soil Health: Introduction  
**Duration** : 10 minutes

---

**Sig** : **Up and Fade under.....**

**Presenter Intro:** Good afternoon and welcome to the first edition of *Chuma Chiri Mu nthaka* (wealth is in the soil). In the coming series we will be sharing knowledge and experience on soil health. The aim of the program is to promote integrated soil fertility management practices among smallholder farmers in Malawi, the goal is to increase agricultural productivity.

You are with me Pauline Kalumikiza Mbukwa.

In today's program, we will talk with an expert on soil health from Soil Health Consortium from the Lilongwe University of Agriculture, here is the excerpt.

**Guest:** I am an expert in Soil Health and Crop Sciences, we know it is International Year of Soil and this is an opportunity to raise awareness on soil management.

**Presenter:** Someone can ask why are we talking about soil health instead of crops?

**Guest:** Thanks, that is a good question, we know that in farming, we want a good crop, but we plant the crop on the soil, so if we plant the good crop on soil which has degraded, or its fertility has declined, it will result in low production. People are just planting crops without caring for their soil. In Malawi that is a big problem. We have the potential of producing over 10,000 metric tons (200 bags but farmers are just producing 50 bags far from this target.

**Presenter:** How big is the problem?

**Guest:** It is a big problem, in upland, this is worse as the soil gets washed away. But also in flat land, farmers are not using crop rotation, farmers are just cutting trees without replacing, farmers are burning maize stalks, people need to use leguminous crops like peas, beans, planting trees

**Jingle:** *Lets use improved farming methods, let's use new technologies, to adapt to climate change, let's take care of our soil, so that we can increase our production, because wealth is in the soil, wealth is in the soil.*

**Presenter:** What are the consequences of poor management of soil?

**Guest:** If a farmer continues to do the traditional way and continues to do poor agricultural practices like mono

cropping, making ridges on the slopes, then that will contribute to declining soil fertility, even in Lilongwe city which has a flat land the farmers need to take care of their soil, it seems a small, issue now but in 5 or 10 years to come, the soil fertility will decline.

**Jingle:** *Lets use improved farming methods, let's use new technologies, to adapt to climate change, let's take care of our soil, so that we can increase our production, because wealth is in the soil, wealth is in the soil.*

**Presenter:** What activities have you planned to do in celebration of International Year of Soils?

**Guest** We are taking part in this International Year of Soils, we are increasing the awareness of soil health through mass media like radio and we will also use television, we also plan to hold farmer field demonstration shows.

**Jingle** *Lets use improved farming methods, let's use new technologies, to adapt to climate change, let's take care of our soil, so that we can increase our production, because wealth is in the soil, wealth is in the soil.*

**Presenter:** Remember you are listening to *Chuma Chiri Nthaka* on Maziko radio station *the people's voice*. In today's program, we are talking with an expert on soil health on how important it is for farmers to take care of soil, the aim is that we improve in our production and have food throughout the year, so our chat continues.

**Guest** So, we want the farmers to follow good agricultural practices feed the soil with the required nutrients.

**Presenter:** Dr Vernon Kabambe, knowledge expert on soil health and crop sciences from Soil Health Consortium, from Lilongwe

University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, farmers let's take care of our soil, we want farmers to have a bumper yield.

Presenter Closing: And we have come to the end of the program, today, the program is produced with financial support from Soil Health Consortium and is part of an audio series related to the International Year of Soils. It has been produced with the support of the World Association of Community Broadcasters, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2015."

Am Pauline Kalumikiza Mbukwa, please join me again next week Friday same time.

Sigtune plays and fades completely.