



Name of Program: Chuma Chiri Nthaka

Program # 4

Producer/Presenter: Pauline Mbukwa

DOB: 1 May 2015

Time 16:50pm

### **Sigtune**

It is time for harvest, those who grew crops should now be happy some are shelling groundnuts others maize and some are enjoying their pumpkins. While we are busy harvesting, it is also important to talk about soil health. I welcome you dear listeners to *Chuma Chiri m'Nthaka* the program that aims to promote soil fertility management practices among small scale farmers.

Today we will chat with a lead farmer who is making compost manure from Nkhotakota, Mrs Esnarth Buliyani and the District Land Resource Officer, Mr Harrington Nyirenda.

### **Insert Jingle on Soil Fertility : plays and fades**

**Song:** *Who are we? We are farmers from the village, we want manure messages to be spread.*

**Esnat Buliyani:** My name is Esnath Buliyani from Liwewe village am 65 years old, I work up early every morning and do the household chores before going to the garden and after that I prepare food for my family, then I have time to rest. I am married and have children, my husband does not work as he is sick and this made me to play the role of a man and a wife in the family as I am the one who perform all the duties on my own but with God's help and the support from our extension worker, there is no one else who has been taking care of him except me. I have one acre of land. Some of the challenges we are facing are shortage in rainfall and loss of soil fertility due to climate change, this is what has purported me to be making enough manure.

The crops I grow included maize, cassava and potato. I started using manure after our extension worker trained us on how to make manure and after applying the manure, I started having good harvest in my maize field.

Nowadays, as we are using manure and less fertilizer, we are having bumper yields as compared to the past when I relied on using fertilizer only.

I use Pit manure and *Chimato* manure. When we have applied these manure in our maize garden it really give us enough harvest.

It's hard for me to find someone who can demand labour charge for doing it since I do not have money; I thought it was good for me to work hard on my own to have profits under the technical support from our extension worker.

We are really benefiting with what our extension worker is doing who is imparting us with new knowledge. Plus, the radio programme is providing a platform to discuss and learn from others. To my fellow women, I am just encouraging you that you should not depend on your husband only but instead you should work hard to overcome your financial problems through farming and also when you make manure, the soil improves and you harvest enough to be food secure.

**Host:** Mrs Esnarth Buliyani lead farmer from Nkhotakota, just imagine a 65 year old woman digging a pit and make manure, so when are you making manure?

Remember you are listening to Maziko Radio Station the voice of the people. As I had promised earlier on that, I will talk to Mr. Harrington Nyirenda who is Conservation Agriculture specialist in Nkhotakota district and he is going to shed more light on many issues especially problems that the district faces due to climate change.

**Mr Harrington Nyirenda:** Currently we can say the district has been affected by climate change in a number of ways. First, we can talk of shortage of rainfall which has caused low yields among farmers, hence we expect them to experience food shortage which also contribute to malnutrition especially among children. Another area is heavy rains which destroy crops and cause flooding, the examples that we can give is Lake Chikukutu which in the past was a reliable fishing place and is now in a dilapidated state due to heavy rain. Also the water levels and flow of Bua river has been affected by the heavy rains. Two days ago we visited the river together with farmers to map the way forward since climate change has also affected the hot weather which is higher and longer than before in lake shore areas.

**Harrington Nyirenda :**As of now we can say that mostly it is the daily activities that people do to earn a living as they are searching for food, establishing company, businesses and clearing land for cultivation. In short, we can say that cutting down several trees at the same area leaves the air with high concentration of carbon dioxide that causes global warming and also for those who have livestock, they are grazing their livestock on the same piece of land for a long period of time. All those things have contributed to several changes, which in turn, are affecting farming and human life. Land is supposed to be well managed and conserved if we are talking of productive farming.

**Host: Yes indeed, as to sum up what Mr Nyirenda said** we should take care of the resources we have especially soil because if take care of soil, it brings us a bumper yield.

This is all I had for you in today's program. I hope this year we will choose to make manure and use manure.

*Chuma Chri Nthaka* program comes to you with financial support from Soil Health Consortium in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, World Association of Community Broadcasters (AMARC) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in commemoration of the International Year of Soils.

You can also participate in the program by sending us question or comment to 0993 449 228

Remember the program comes to you every Friday at 16:50pm and every Sunday 3:30pm from me Pauline Kalumikiza Mbukwa Anambewe, please join me again in the next program.