Host: Welcome dear listener to the Soil is Life programme, produced and aired at Ushindi Fm 98.6, broadcasting from Mbeya, Tanzania. In our programme today, we look at the issue of soil erosion and we will talk to the Southern Highlands Zonal Coordinator of Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA). We will also hear a report from our correspondent Nelly Mwaipyana. This programme is supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC).

Host: Listener, before moving forward with this program, we would like to know, how do you understand about the issue of erosion?

Listener 1: Soil erosion is process where soil move from one place to another.

Listener 2: I don't know exactly what means, may be people who are building houses are causing erosion.

Listener 3: Soil erosion is act of soil move from one place to another may caused by water or wind.

Host: You can also write a short message to the phone number 0719 97 06 65 and tell us what do you understand about the issue of erosion?

Host: Listener, it is the time now to start our topic by listening to the report from our correspondent Nelly Mwaipyana.

Reporter: A large part of our country suffers from soil erosion caused by removal of vegetation and agricultural activities which not apply land conservation.

The erosion has resulted in many areas prone to the risk of loss of fertility and even production sites. This situation exists in all regions of Tanzania mainland although they differ from damage levels.
Regions leading to the problem of soil erosion are Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Singida, Manyara, Dodoma, Tanga, Mbeya, Morogoro, Mwanza, Iringa, Kagera, Tabora, Shinyanga, Kigoma, Mara, Pwani, Mtwara, Ruvuma and Rukwa. The situation can lead to the spread of desert, as depicted in the Mombo Tanga and Kilimanjaro plains region; particularly areas are Hedaru, Mwanga and Same. The massive soil erosion prevailing in Monduli districts in Arusha and Karatu districts and large parts of Dodoma region has already led to the loss of agricultural and grazing areas.

To preserve the soil, urgent measures should be taken. Methods of dealing with erosion include plowing cultivation ridges and terraces. Another technique is to plant trees or other plants to prevent water and wind speeds. Implementation of these techniques need to be given priority and should be implemented all over the country.

**Host:** It is the report from our reporter; now let's begin the conversation with our guest. Jamila Aman our correspondent is talking with our guest.

**Correspondent:** Our guest let you introduce to our listener.

**Guest:** My name is Exavery Kigosi, Southern Highlands Zonal Coordinator of Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA).

**Correspondent:** Now can you tell what soil erosion is?

**Guest:** Soil erosion is a wide concept but i can summarize that, erosion is an act of the upper part of the land on which the plant grew on its top is removed by using water, wind and agricultural activities.

**Correspondent:** Mr. Kigosi, please tell us, what are regions which are in highly danger to be affected by erosion?

**Guest:** Central zone regions are highly affected because large part of the land has no vegetation or trees planted on the ground to prevent soil erosion. Nomadic livestock is highly practiced in the area causing high level of erosions in such areas. Also regions of the southern highlands zone because a large part of the area is a mountainous area and the residents of these areas are highly dependent on agriculture. Therefore farming of the residents depends on hill areas and during heavy rainfall it becomes very easy to happen when it comes to erosion.

**Correspondent:** Can you tell us the main reason causing erosion?

**Guest:** The main reason is due to daily human activities are causing factors of soil erosion. These factors may include the non-conservation farming, shifting cultivation. Leaving place open cause erosion because water or wind can remove top part of the land because there is no protection of vegetations.
The second factor is cultivating on the hill slopes without terraces causes erosion because the soil can be removed easy by flowing water from the top of the hill.

The third factor is the nomad livestock causes erosion to occur because large number of animals moving together remove existing vegetation on the ground and make soil opens so the wind can cause erosion.

The fourth reason is the infrastructure construction activities that do not follow procedures. For instance the construction of roads especially alongside of the road, needs to build terraces to prevent erosion.

Host: Remember you are listening to Soil is life programme where today we raised the issue of erosion, and you can give your opinion about what you have heard in this programme by write a short message on the phone number 0719 97 06 65.

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Correspondent: Mr. Exavery can you please explain problems caused by soil erosion?

Guest: Erosion has an enormous effect on human life. The first effect is the contamination of water sources or rivers because of the mountainous part of soil fall from the mountain and dropping collected soils and dirty toward the valleys where there are water sources and cause pollution of water sources.

Second effect is damage of electrical energy sources. For example, we rely on electricity from electricity-producing dams, when the soil falls in dams causes a decrease in the depth of dams and failure to generate electricity in bulk.

The third effect is erosion causes food insecurity due to poor agricultural production. This is because erosion always causes loss of fertility of the soil. This is due to the removed soil. This kind of soil left cannot produce enough crops.

Correspondent: Finally, can you explain how to prevent erosion?

Guest: To preserve the soil, urgent measures should be taken.

Methods of dealing with erosion include plowing cultivation ridges and terraces especially on southern highlands regions. Another technique is to plant trees or other plants to prevent water and wind speeds. Implementation of these techniques need to be given priority and should be implemented all over the country.
Dear listener, I believe you have listened to our guest, and we were talking about the issue of erosion. One of the reasons that cause erosion is shifting cultivation, and nomadic livestock. If we avoid these by taking measures explained by our guest we can save our land from erosion. For today we have no extra, for comments and advice on this program write short messages on the following phone number 0719 97 06 65. My name is Niku Mwakyusa, thank you for listening and goodbye.

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