



# NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER-2026

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In this edition, we would like to learn how **Nthali** through **The Soil Rangers Project** has unveiled in the marginalized communities of Salima, Malawi for the past 3 months. There are a number of activities that were carried out and are to be discussed as aligned below with forthcoming activities and call to action. These are household enrolment exercise, donations and grants, farmers club establishment, Financial Literacy, and training workshops.



Photo credit: Stacia

## Household Enrolment Exercise

We were privileged to work with the Village Development Committee which introduced us to the community. The Village Headman for Chimbalinga welcomed us for The Soil Rangers Project. We briefed the farmers on the project. Thereafter we had household interview to collect data on their farming practices and challenges. This happened at household level. It was screened and eligible ones were enrolled for the project.



## Donations and Grants

It was an honor to receive an in-kind donation of IT Gadgets from **Labdoo** and a Grant Award for 2025/2026 Forestry Land Restoration Program by African Union Development Agency (**AUDA-NEPAD**). The shipping of the IT Gadgets wouldn't have been made possible without the noble gesture of our traveler Stacia from Berlin, Germany to Malawi. These will help empower women and youth farmers with digital literacy skills to spur agricultural productivity and reduce the digital divide. After the handover we had a quick tour at the Never Ending Food (NEF) Permaculture farm site where handover occurred in Lilongwe, Malawi. The picture to the left shows a symbolic handover of the IT Gadgets to **Nthali**.



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## Group Dynamics Training

It was great for nthali to successfully establish structures for regenerative food systems that we are building for climate resilience. This is so because the women and youth farmers who were enrolled into the project were trained in group dynamics. We facilitated drafting by-laws governing Mthiliro Farmers Club, electing leadership and conflict management committee. Games were played to enhance the interaction among farmers. These strengthened cohesion among the farmers. The first farmers club registered 14 women and youth farmers.



### From Despair to Hope

*"My maize crop has dried up... I have no money to buy seeds for replanting."* These are the heartfelt words of Jafari Monjeza, a young farmer from Salima District, Malawi, who, like many others, has been hit hard by prolonged drought in January. After three weeks without rain, his crops withered, threatening his family's food security and income. What did Jafari say 2 months later when nthali stepped in to distribute fast-growing, drought-tolerant seeds?

*"I thought all was lost when my crops dried with droughts, but these cowpeas that were replanted have given my family and I hope where there was none as they are regreening the fields!"*-Jafari Monjeza

## Biopesticides Making Training

Mthiliro Farmers Club were introduced into regenerative agriculture. It was noticed that farmers could barely afford hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides due to rising costs. The crops were highly infested with fall armyworm in the fields. We had a walk in the village to source neem leaves, garlic, ginger, and chillies. It was learnt that the solution lies within their community.

This training bridged the gap by making biopesticides from neem leaves, garlic, ginger, and chillies. All these were prepared by the farmers themselves as it was experiential learning. Only one knew of the power of neem leaves but didn't know of biopesticide. They shared the biopesticide made. The training attracted two uninvited youths who stay one village apart. The smile engulfed their face as they rushed to pluck more neem leaves to make their own. Farmers have adopted the use of the biopesticide.





### Financial Literacy

How resilient to climate change can communities be if Village Savings and Loans are invested in regenerative agriculture?

We empowered 14 members Farmers Club with financial literacy training—unlocking new opportunities for youth and women farmers in Salima, Malawi. Under the Mthiliro Farmers Club, a bold innovation was born: a Village Savings and Loans (VSL) model designed not to share dividends for family use, but for investing in regenerative farming. We facilitated the constitution of the club and other documents that enabled them to open a bank account where funds are kept. To my surprise, it was only one young man who has ever had a bank account and could not maintain it. This ensures financial inclusion of the famers.

Farmers are now pooling savings as collateral for sustainable input loans—like drought tolerant seeds—from Nthali. Repayment is made in seed, not cash, ensuring funds remain intact and seed revolving for the next cohorts. Savings are safeguarded in trusted banks, protecting against theft and shocks.

This cycle strengthens regenerative agriculture, shields farmers from climate risks, and ensures resilience for generations.

### Forthcoming Activities

1. Steer farmers into irrigation farming as a recovery project due to the droughts encountered during the rainy season.
2. Launch fully The Soil Rangers Project with the 2025/2026 AUDA-NEPAD grant that will ensure build community managed indigenous seed bank and tree seedlings.
3. Empower women and youth farmers into digital literacy skills that will unlock agricultural productivity through the use of AI, digital marketing and weather forecasts.
4. We will continue to seek partnerships that will help carry out more activities

Would you like to support in building a **regenerative food system** that is rebuilding stronger communities that are resilient to climate shocks? Visit [www.nthali.org](http://www.nthali.org) now to learn more, donate seeds/tools, or volunteer with our Soil Rangers Project!



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