

To Chipunga Development Committee
Bernhard Schwarz
Mr. Msefula
From Willi Ehret
Subject Income Generating Activities for women groups
Date 13th December 2007

Dear All,

In the past weeks I have been in contact with the groundnut research offices in Chitedze Research Station here in Lilongwe, the international one (ICRISAT) as well as the national.

Here a summary of my inquiries:

1. The new and oil rich varieties for groundnuts are CG7 and ICGV-SM 90704 (also called Nsingiro).
2. Seed required for 1 ha is 80 kg
3. Expected average yield per hectare is 2,500 kg (which has to be verified, since research stations yields are often higher than field results of farmers)
4. From the national groundnut programme I could get
 - ?? 270 kg of CG 7
 - ?? 40 kg of Nsingiro

Both seeds are basic seeds which means, the yield of this seed can be sold next year as certified seed – if the certification can be organised through the research station outside of Mzuzu. I have been informed that certified seed sell at MK 150 per kg.

Proposal:

1. Chipunga Farms makes land available on field number 6 for individuals or groups to grow groundnuts.
2. Depending on interest, each individual could get up to 20 kg of basic seed to grow the groundnuts (all by themselves). If more people are interested we should reduce the amount to the individuals so that more people can participate in the project.
3. If grown in field no 6, the yield will be an organic production since it is grown within the farm and thus, the farm could buy the groundnuts from the individuals or groups.
4. Apart from the seed and labour, no further inputs for fertiliser or pesticides are needed.
5. Some of the seed the persons will keep for next year's production or even sell some of the yield to others for them also to start to grow groundnuts.
6. The price for certified seed is MK 150.00 per kg
7. The basic seed as received from Chitedze costs MK 250.00 per kg

8. Calculations:

- ?? With 20 kg seed, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a hectare can be cultivated
- ?? Expected yield can be up to 600 kg for this plot of $\frac{1}{4}$ hectare
- ?? Income can be up to MK 90,000 from this plot
- ?? Net profit can be: MK 90,000 minus money for seed MK 5,000 and the cost for labour for sowing, weeding and harvesting; net profit can be up MK 70,000 for $\frac{1}{4}$ hectare if everything done properly

9. Sowing time: 15th to 30th of January

10. Requirements

- ?? Get the women informed about the possibility to grow groundnuts on the farm, $\frac{1}{4}$ hectare each
- ?? Each individual person needs to do the field preparation by themselves
- ?? The women groups have to request from GRACE a loan for the seed, 20 kg at MK 250 is MK 5,000 – which has to be paid back after the groundnuts have been sold!
- ?? Only those who have finalised the field preparation (verified by CDC and farm representatives) will get the seed
- ?? Planting and weeding will be done by the individuals or the groups which will be closely supervised by the farm manager
- ?? For harvesting of the groundnuts, instructions will be given by the farm manager which have to be followed strictly so that the Aflatoxin content in groundnuts will be minimised.
- ?? Lime will have to be applied in the plots where the women grow the groundnuts. The application of lime will be under the supervision of the farm manager and the lime will be provided by the farm.

11. Before end of December, a list of interested persons and groups must be submitted to the CDC and forwarded to the farm management and Willi Ehret.

12. Before 15th January the preparation of plots must be finalised, inspected by the CDC and farm manager and approved for proper preparation.

My personal view on this project:

This project provides a great opportunity for generation of income and thus can help the women and other individuals to improve their livelihood further.

It is my hope that the project will take off and will be a success.

Kind regards

Willi Ehret