

WORLD FISH CENTER

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A fish farming success story for Nyangu Ningwa

Beneath the slopes of Zomba Mountain, lies a village by the name of Teuka with vast areas of wetlands locally known as dambos. These are areas where one can make a living out of irrigating crops and raising fish by opening up agriculture and aquaculture plots known as dimbas. However, doing this was once a mere dream for Village Headwoman Teuka, born Nyangu Ningwa. With the challenges of old age, sourcing of basic needs has been a challenge too. As she cannot manage to do the farming on her own to meet the daily food requirements, shortages of food and other domestic things have been weakening her body. Reliance on her subjects and other relatives on food had been common in some parts of the year. She needed an extra hand to boost her.

One morning a guest walked into her compound and asked her to be a beneficiary of a fish pond with assistance from the Global Giving Fund. With cheerfulness Chief Teuka accepted. But looking at her age, she feared the fish pond construction work. Thanks to the community that assisted her in the construction work. The old lady is now a beneficiary of a 200m² and a 100m² fish pond which she acquired in 2010 and 2011 respectively. The first pond was constructed with direct assistance from the Global Giving Fund. The 100m² was constructed with proceeds from her integrated aquaculture agriculture activities.

The old lady upon completion of the pond construction acquired basic training on fish feeding and pond management. Thereafter, fingerlings were stocked in her pond. To make sure that fish growth is not compromised, periodic coaching visits by extensionists was done. This was coupled with best practices of using the pond water for growing vegetables - an additional source of income and relish to her household.

A fish pond which has brought about integrated agriculture aquaculture to her farming system is a thing she is proud of. "Fish farming which has been introduced in my senior years has brought a sigh of relief to my life", explains the old lady, who only remembers that she was a girl of good age in 1949.



The pond has now become her source of income beside readily available nutritious fish for consumption. Chief Teuka over the past years has been struggling to buy farm inputs. However in the 2011/2012 agricultural growing season, the income from sales of fish and vegetables enabled her to buy seed and fertilizers.

“In the month of November 2011, I harvested some fish from my pond which I sold for Mk10 000.00 (\$60). I used this money to buy fertilizers and seed under the government farm input subsidy program” the old lady narrates. Under the targeted input subsidy program a 50kg bag of fertilizer was selling at about \$3 and 5kgs maize seed at about \$1.



“You can see how much I have harvested now, this all because of the fish pond that has opened up the gates to my food and income security”, explains Chief Teuka

The 2011/2012 growing season has been a success to her. She has managed to harvest 500kgs of rice, 1000kgs of maize, and 30kgs of beans. This is besides different vegetables and sugarcane from her dimba and other crops from her gardens.



The old lady believes that the fish pond is her bank where she draws money when needed. “Money realized from the fish pond is used in the gardens and by-products from the gardens are used as feed for my fish”, she explains

“In appreciation to what Global Giving Fund has done to me, I am teaching and encouraging my fellow senior people who have suitable land for pond construction to take up the initiative”