



Agricultural Programs

Bringing Modernization to Agriculture

Farming for Tomorrow

In developed nations, few people remember when the main farm implement was a horse. Even fewer remember when it was a simple hand-held hoe.

In the impoverished, fourth world nation of Malawi, the past is still the present. The hand hoe used today looks similar to the 2,000-year-old iron hoe used by the Romans.

Because of the lack of modern technology there is little reserve in the food chain. At times of famine, there is no option but ship food assistance to the country. But when the famine subsides, to continue food assistance increases the possibility of forming dependency on aid, and a lack of focus on self-reliance. In an attempt to avoid this, the Malawi Project focuses on programs to assist farmers to increase their harvest, and develop the capability to expand their markets through mechanization, training in new technologies, and local co-operative programs.

Madalitso Food Plant

In 2004 the Malawi Project encouraged funding organizations to build a food processing plant to produce 100,000 meals a day. Constructed started in 2004 and was completed by the end of the year. It employs the people who work at the plant, but also offers a market to hundreds of farmers who raise the maize and soybeans processed at the plant. At the end of 2012 the plant was producing food for 60,000 people a day.



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The Malawi Project



Drip Irrigation

During the 2001-2002 famine the Malawi Project delivered 16,000 drip irrigation systems into all three regions of the country. Drip irrigation gave farmers the ability to irrigate farm fields using far less water than by conventional means, while at the same time increasing crop harvest. Drip lines insured water was not wasted, and at the same time offering greater nourishment to the growing seeds.

Vegetable Gardens

At the end of the famine period the Project sent a 40-foot trailer of vegetable seeds to encourage an increase in vegetable production.



Garden Hoes

The Malawi Project, through supporting agencies, sent a 40-foot trailer of

garden hoes to help small plot farmers. This shipment was distributed over a wide area, and valued at \$163,938.25.

Kubota Tractors

In an effort to increase crop production in larger farm areas, a U.S. distributor donated two Kubota tractors. These units proved highly valuable in the development of the man-made dam and lake at the Mtalamanja Agriculture Village training site.

Mtalamanja Agriculture Village

In 2005 a man-made dam and lake formed the centerpiece for this modern training center. They serve as a major source of water for irrigation, as well as the future development of fish farming. The training center has 50 buildings; including classrooms, storage areas, and housing for families who come for two years for agricultural training.



Basic Utility Vehicles

The Malawi Project has shipped three Basic Utility Vehicles (BUV's) to central Malawi, recognizing transportation must be available if crop harvest is going to reach distant markets. One of the units was designed to transport people, another for commodities, and a third as an ambulance, capable of going into remote mountainous areas.

V-Tractors

In 2005 a U.S. manufacturer, Tom Rich, formed Agricultural Aid International, a not-for-profit firm focusing on the development of mechanized equipment to increase farm efficiency in third world countries. The first unit, called a V-Tractor (V for Village) was shipped to Malawi in 2006. Since then an additional six units have been sent to the country.



Walk Behind Tractors, the V-T2

In 2012 Agricultural Aid developed the first walk behind tractor, a smaller and less expensive unit, designed in the image of a large garden tiller in the U.S. or Canada. This unit was also designed with the unique conditions of third and fourth world nations in mind. Units have been shipped to Malawi, South Sudan, Costa Rico, and Haiti.

Maize Mill

In 2012 contributors made available funding for a new maize mill near Lintipi. It is near the site where a health center is planned through joint participation of Malawi and American groups.



How You Can Help

Funds are needed to produce more walk-behind units giving Malawi farmers the ability to feed themselves, and not wait for someone to send them food.

You can help by contributing online at www.malawiproject.org or by check.

The Malawi Project

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