



Name of Program: Mlera Dziko (Let's conserve the earth)

Radio station: Maziko Radio, Malawi

Topic: The impact of climate change on nutrition

Producer: Pauline Mbukwa

Presenter: Sophie Gama

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How is climate change impacting nutrition and how have people been affected in the household?

Vox Pop woman: With climate change, food is scarce and maize price is even higher. At first, we used to buy maize at a low price because food was available.

Presenter: Today in *Mlera Dziko*, we will hear more on how climate change has negatively impacted nutrition and you will hear from different people and experts on nutrition. Some of you are already asking, really is there a link between food and climate change? Here are people's thoughts that I chatted with in Lilongwe.

Guest 1: The way I think climate change is really affecting food supply system because now there is hunger, the food is not lasting through the year.

Guest 2 Woman: I think we are having problems. The rain is unpredictable. When people plant, the rain comes for a short time and the crops sometimes gets scorched due to dry spells, so as a result we have hunger.

Guest 3: The challenge is that most Malawians are still using traditional ways of farming. Most people are cutting trees which help trap CO₂. The trees help conserve water as well. People should plant trees which add nutrients to the soil like glicidia, ...

Guest 4: People were used to early planting. Because there is now late of rains, there will be low production so we are faced with hunger.

Presenter: Those were thoughts comments of people on climate change and its impact on nutrition.

Mr Numeri Geresomo is a senior lecturer in nutrition at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). He speaks on how climate change has affected nutrition.

Numeri Geresomo: It is very true that climate change has had devastating effects in the livelihoods of people and development of the country; especially food and good nutrition. As you know our country is an agro based country and in order to produce food, we depend on agriculture. Of course, there are some people who just buy the food.

First, due to climate change, the weather and rainfall patterns have become so unpredictable. In the past, we used to be so sure when the

rain will come. But, nowadays, it is difficult to know which month it will fall. Sometimes it starts in October, sometimes in December. This prolongs the agricultural season, and so the food which was stored for the season does not last longer. So, it also takes longer for the farmer to harvest the crops in the field. Sometimes due to some climate related risks such as floods and dry spells, it reduces food production.

And, on the other hand, the nature is also affected because there will be reduced water levels, and the wild animals suffer and people will have nowhere to pluck the wild fruits.

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Presenter: So what should Malawians do to prevent hunger?

Numeri Geresomo: Malawians need to follow the advice that is provided through extension and advisory services from government and NGOs. For example, government through the Department of Agriculture Extension services is encouraging Climate Smart Agriculture such as Conservation Agriculture, planting using early maturing and drought resistant varieties. It helps. For example, there are some bean varieties that mature within 60 days. There are also some crops such as millet, sorghum, cassava which are drought resistant. Another thing that people need to learn is intercropping where by you grow maize, groundnuts so that you save time and also helps in adding nutrients to the soil.

I would also like to encourage people to eat a diversified diet. Food is not maize only. You can have food such as potatoes, pumpkin, with meat and legumes and vegetable that can help people improve their nutrition status, so that people do not largely depend on maize.

I know that it is out of ignorance that people do not do this, but I know government and other NGOs are working hard to encourage people to reduce the effects of climate change.

Another thing I have observed is deforestation caused by wanton cutting of trees by people, unprotected river banks, building houses close to the river so these human activities also worsen the climate change effects.

Presenter: Mr Numeri Geresomo, senior Lecturer of Nutrition at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). He has explained that farmers need to use Climate Smart Agriculture practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry and intercropping. This is the end of our program.

This segment is part of an audio series produced with support from the Global Fund for community radio of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, and Bread for the World."

Please be there again Tuesday same time 9:30, when we will be discussing deforestation.

Our question for this week: Do you think climate change is the cause of hunger? What can we do to reduce hunger please call or send an SMS to 0993 449 228 0993 449 228

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