

REPORT ON THE VISIT TO HUMISSION SITE-BENGA

Submitted to: Humission Management

Submitted by: Manvester Ackson Khoza

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Introduction

As agreed by Humission executive team that Manvester Ackson Khoza should visit the farm at Benga from 12-15 January 2022 and carry out some works, this exercise was done. Among the things that were expected to be done were; transporting 1500 tree seedlings [acacia and Mtangatanga [*Albiza Versicolor*], monitor the planting and other farm works. This report gives a brief synopsis of what specifically were done.

Successes

The visit to the farm was successful as outlined below;

- Over 1500 seedlings were transported to Humission farm and about 950 have been planted around and other strategic sites of the plot.
- We also managed to plant vetiver grass in designed contours to aid prevent erosion
- We also managed to plant *Mucuna bracteata* which is a leguminous plant that will help fertilize the soils. Though the vines were not enough but these will serve as nurseries in the interim. It should also be noted that mucuna is also a weed suppressor when spread across the land.
- We also planted some local vegetables such as; Kamuganje

[*Brassica oleracea*] species but this is a typical local vegetable dominantly grown in the northern Malawi among the Phoka people. We also planted some Okra [*Thelele lobala*] and Luni [*Cat whiskers*]

- We also managed to create contour ridges at 9m parallel across the slopes to prevent run off waters hence controlling the soil erosion.

Challenges

- There were few challenges as per plan, failure to have the supply of pigeon peas seeds and cassava cutting. However, the team have been oriented on how they can plant these crops once supplied.

Recommendations

- It is recommended that the remaining 550 trees be supplied to the communities where Humission is working. The farmers can come and collect using the local bicycles. About 10-15 farmers can benefit from these trees representing about 40 trees per person.
- It was observed that some beacons are being covered by soils brought by running waters, hence building raised beacon would be ideal so that the boundaries are clearly seen.

- The contours which have been marked need to be continued [*this was discussed with Oscar and the other members working on the farm*]
- There is need for periodic monitoring visits at the farm and provide the necessary advice.

Conclusion

Generally, it was a great experience working on the farm with enthusiastic team. I had a good hospitality from the Parish team.

PHOTO GALLERY





Happy team planting trees



Contour ridges planted with vetiver to prevent erosion



The team planting vetiver grass on the contour ridge