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For immediate Release

Green Gold Social plants 1000 trees in Chongwe

Green Gold Social, in a bid to fight climate change and help farmers get better maize yields through agroforestry, has planted 1000 trees in Chongwe's Chisengu village.

The nature conservation social enterprise initially held climate awareness meetings in Chisengu to help farmers tackle drought.

Speaking during the planting exercise, Green Gold Social founder and CEO Hope Mkunte said *Luecaena* has shown to improve yields when planted alongside maize because it is a nitrogen fixing tree.

"*Luecaena* is a drought resistant tree that is great for reforestation because when mature, it can also be cut down for firewood and charcoal, making people rely less on native trees which take too long to regenerate on their own."

Of the 50 farmers who came to the tree planting exercise, more than 30 were female, showing that women, who normally are marginalised in the fight against climate change, are taking charge.

Agnita Chisengu, one of the women who planted more than 150 trees says women want to be counted in the fight against climate change.

"When there was a drought last year, our crops died and our boreholes dried up so when we heard about this program of planting trees we didn't want to be left behind because it's mostly men who do these things. This is why we came today as women to learn how these trees can help us in times of drought." She said.

Headman Chisengu says he is happy his subjects are learning about the importance of planting trees because most of them cut down trees for charcoal.

"I am glad that my people have learned about agroforestry and today have planted these trees to see how they will help us get better yields. From now on, everyone who cuts a tree will have to plant another in its place."

Chisengu is one of the villages in Chongwe where green Gold Social is planting trees. The other two are Chikwela and Kapuka.

Ends

Green Gold Social is a community-driven reforestation initiative dedicated to planting native trees and helping farmers become climate resilient through agroforestry.

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