

Ngonyeka Farming Miracle



Ngonyeka, Farming, a game changer. Kandaya

In the heart of Kumkwawa village, under the watchful authority of Phalula in Balaka District, Patrick Kandaya's life has become a testament to the transformative power of sustainable farming practices.

His success story is not just one of increased harvests but a holistic journey of resilience and prosperity, all made possible by the Eagles Relief Nutrition Project, generously funded by the Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders, and Enterprises Program (FARMSE).

Embracing the concept of Ngonyeka (box ridges) and zero tillage farming—Patrick Kandaya turned his sandy and water-deprived land into a source of abundance. He reflects, "Last year, I managed to harvest 30 bags of maize, and I'm confident this year will be even better. Before, I struggled to get 10 bags due to the soil conditions. Ngonyeka farming has been a game-changer for me."

Eliya Maganga, a dedicated volunteer working closely with Patrick, attests to the impact of the project, "Witnessing Patrick's journey has been incredible. His dedication to implementing the Ngonyeka farming techniques has not only increased his harvests but also inspired the entire community to adopt sustainable farming practices."

The success doesn't stop at the fields; it transcends into Patrick's entrepreneurial endeavors. Thanks to the support from the project, he received K119,000, which became the seed capital for his goat-selling business. Profits soared, and he invested wisely, purchasing a plot that marked the beginning of a new chapter.

Joseph Maulana, FARMSE Nutrition and Social Inclusion Specialist, highlights the broader impact of the project, "Patrick's story is a shining example of how holistic approaches to rural development can create lasting change. It's not just about farming; it's about empowering individuals to build sustainable livelihoods and thriving communities."

In the second phase, Patrick received K125,000, which, combined with his business profits, fueled the construction of a decent house on his newly acquired plot—a testament to his determination and the project's transformative reach.

Patrick himself acknowledges the profound change in his life, "I never thought I'd see such progress after years of setbacks. The project not only gave me knowledge about farming but also provided the resources to diversify my income and improve my family's well-being."

Beyond the maize fields and goat pens, the project gifted Patrick vegetable seeds that have sprouted into a thriving household garden.

"Now, I sell vegetables and supply to the local market. My family's eating habits have transformed, and their health has improved significantly," Patrick proudly testifies.

Patrick Kandaya's journey is more than a success story; it's a celebration of resilience, community empowerment, and sustainable development. His newfound prosperity is a living testament to the positive impact of initiatives like the Eagles Relief nutrition project, paving the way for a brighter future in Kumkwawa village.