

Good Relationship between Villagers and PIU ~ A Story of Mpira



Villagers of Mpira and the COVAMS Management Team

✧ Their progress

~ Soil Conservation and Tree growing~

This is the first year for the COVAMS to conduct training in Mpira. The project provided the two themes of training; Soil conservation training by the Lead Farmer and Tree growing training by PIU. 49 farmers practiced soil conservation in their gardens after the training under the follow up by the Lead farmer. For tree growing, two nursery groups produced 7,905 seedlings. 161 seedlings had already been planted along the river where Village Headman provided as a communal land.



Women and Raised Seedlings

✧ Unexpected Invitation

On 7 December 2009, Mpira villagers invited the COVAMS management team to their village to show their progress of activities. On their arrival, women burst into cheers and started to dance. They sang out a song loudly with joy and welcomed us enthusiastically. The atmosphere was filled with excitement. They were so proud to show out their conserved gardens, two communal nurseries and the piece of land for afforestation along the river.



Conserved Garden by Lead Farmer



Swale

✧ Rapport Building

After the site visit, villagers prepared us soft drinks and buns. We knew that nursery group members proposed welcome program to the other villagers. Villagers put on their uniforms and contributed MK50 each to host us. They showed their gratitude to the COVAMS project as much as they could do.

At the first contact to Mpira by PIU, villagers doubted whether soil conservation was important for them or not. In addition, PIU didn't have any incentives for villagers such as capital, fertilizers and sitting allowance for training. However, they had gradually trusted PIU because of his sincere attitude and frequent visits for diffusion. Now, we could see the solid relationship among PIU, Lead Farmer and Village Headman. They helped each other to promote soil conservation and tree growing activities in the village. At last, we realized a real reason of this invitation. Villagers wanted to thank PIU for his devotion to help villagers.