

COVAMS NOW !

23 September, 2008

No.4

~ The Project for Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire ~

Soil Conservation Trainings have been conducted in all 7 villages !

Now, it's the season of ridge making for next maize cultivation in the villages in the project area. To prevent soil erosion and keep soil moisture, ridge making along the contour line is very important. Soil conservation trainings have been conducted in all the 7 villages since last month. In the training, participants enjoyed learning how to make a contour marker ridge using a Line Level and an A-flame.



Practice how to use an A-flame (Chiwalo)



Practice how to use a Line Level (Chiwalo)

☆ Villages of the project area : Chiwalo, Kamwendo, Mtema, Zwanya, Chitawira, Chuma and Tambala



Comparison of current ridges and an Ideal line for contour marker ridge (Zwanya)

The arc line on the left picture shows an ideal line for the contour marker ridge which participants set during the training. As the picture shows, current ridges are completely against the contour line.



Contour marker ridge making (Zwanya)



Ridge making following a contour marker ridge (Chiwalo)

Right after the training, participants start ridge making according to what they have learnt in the training. With this commitment of participants to the soil conservation practice, PIU members have also made impressive response. PIU members are now devoting themselves to give advice and practical training on contour ridge making, visiting the participants' fields as early as 6:00 a.m. every morning. "Trust" from the participants to the PIU has been developing.