

**SIMPSON FOUNDATION –
MALAWI**

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

1. BACKGROUND

Simpson Foundation is a locally registered non-governmental organization and compelled to bring transform and bring poor smallholder farmers together to fight poverty. We believe that People are the best change agents when empowered with relevant knowledge and placed at the center of their transformation. We endeavor to build adaptive capacity among the local farmers to be more resilient to sustain their livelihoods to achieve optimal outputs of their agricultural produce. We promote sustainable best practices in agriculture and nature, based on the scientifically evidence to achieve the maximum yield of the crop. It started its operations in November, 2012 but was only officially registered in September, 2013.

Simpson Foundation strongly believes that best practices amongst the smallholder farmers in Malawi, will ultimately help them to fully develop their human potentials, thus enabling them to demand their rights as well as work in harmony with others for their common good.

2. OBJECTIVES

Simpson Foundation was incorporated in Malawi based on the following objectives:

- 2.1 Demonstrate research and development of modern techniques of sustainable agriculture, with the application of all forms of the best practices in climate smart agriculture to increase social, economic and environment impacts.
- 2.2 Strengthening collaboration and strategic partnership with various institutions of research on the application of best practices to reserve negative climate change impacts.
- 2.3 Support sustainable agriculture and nature platforms that will empower smallholder farmers to be more resilient to attain food security and conservation of nature.

3. AREAS OF FOCUS

To achieve our strategic objectives, we are investing in the following strategic outcomes:

3.1 Sustainable agriculture.

Ensure sustainable food production systems and enhance scaling up of agricultural practices that increase productivity, to maintain ecosystems to strengthen adaptive capacity to climate change, extreme weather, drought, and flooding.

3.2 Health and Well-being.

Engage with local partners to deliver equitable and sustainable water, hygiene and sanitation services. Support, empower and enable communities to call for appropriate service and to influence their delivery. We will share these experiences to influence others who can replicate and multiply our efforts.

3.3 Equity and Justice

Empower more women and men to realize their right to secure and sustainable livelihoods (Economic justice), improve capacity to deliver better protection and assistance (Rights in crisis), and support women's leadership at all levels to achieve greater power in decision making and greater control over their lives.

3.4 Environment and Natural Resources Management.

Empower communities to undertake nature conservation actions as an enterprise to generate social, economic and environmental value to conserve, restore and protect natural resources and biodiversity. Communities, stakeholders and partners collaborate through Nature Co-operative to enhance resilience, and climate change adaptation.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS

In the course of our work, we have noted the following program successes:

4.1 Increased Crop Productivity

Increased adoption and practice of conservation agriculture among smallholder farmers has enhanced soil healthy, crop nutrition, through planting of a wider range of crop varieties in rotational sequences using quality seeds while enhancing pest management and water management.



Figure 1: Increased productivity of maize crop in faidebia abida agro-forestry

4.2 Use of labour saving technologies reduce labour burden among farmers

Minimal tillage, use of mulch as permanent vegetative soil cover, and crop residue management saves farm labour for land preparation and weeding. Conservation agriculture has demonstrated to reduce the burden of farm labour among smallholder farmers, thereby creating an opportunity for farmers to undertake other off farm activities to address their economic, social and environmental issues. More women reported to have enough time to draw water, prepare meals, provided adequate care for their children and care for the sick.

4.3 Enhanced crop resilient to dry spells.

Increased use of crop residues for mulching, minimal tillage and use of manure has increased the organic matter content in soils improving soil water holding capacity and moisture regime to support crop growth. Planting crops in holes harvest and store rain water, and mulching reduces moisture evaporation from the soil hence protecting the crop root system from direct sunlight stress during extreme dry spells.



Figure 2: Suppression of weeds to save labour through use crop residue mulching

4.4 Evidence Based Research

Evidence based programming is essential. It is believed that more than US\$500m is supposed to be invested in agriculture in the sub-Saharan Africa. However, the according to the World Food Programme lack of evidence based technologies are a major impediment to this move. Simpson Foundation believes that improving smallholder farm management is the core of most of these programmes. We are therefore geared to provide the necessary evidence to tap on this huge investment into climate smart agriculture.

In our evidence the Foundation identify Lead Farmer in different geographical location to demonstrate the evidence of conservation agriculture(CA) among fellow farmers. The rational was to compare the CA socio-economic impact against the conventional farming systems (Farmer Field School). The result showed a 20% increase in the yield in the first year and progressing as you add organic matter into the subsequent years.



Figure 3: Yield and post-harvest handling for markets

Research shows that smallholder farmers lose up to 35% of their yields due to pests both in the field and during storage. The picture (Figure 3) above shows the maize grain attacked by weaves at the storage place. Simpson Foundation discovered that once the bran is removed the grain can be stored for a longer time that expected. This mitigates the post-harvest loss. Therefore, farmers are encouraged to store their maize grain in PICS bags. This information if shared not only with donors, but also with other stakeholders for scaling up.

4.5 Markets

Strong links to markets for smallholder farmers are essential to increasing agricultural production, generating economic growth in rural areas and reducing hunger and poverty

Simpson Foundation is a registered member of Auction Holding Commodity Exchange market, to ensure that our smallholder farmers have guaranteed access of commodity markets in all seasons throughout the year. Through the Auction Holding Commodity Exchange market our smallholder

farmers can buy and sell and transact trade of commodities with an assurance on quality, delivery and payment.

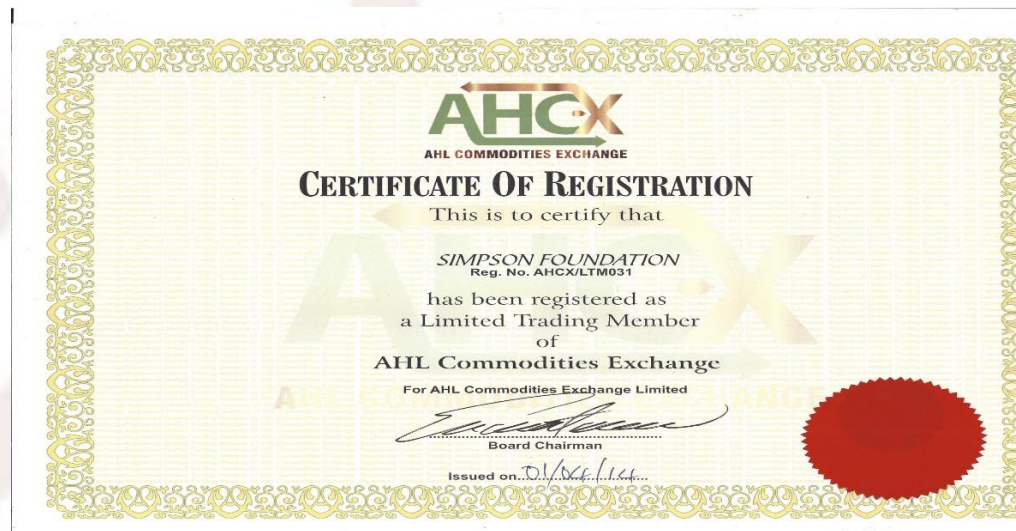


Figure 4: Certificate of Registration for Commodities Exchange



Figure 5: One of the Simpson Famers selling Tomatoes as a means of diversifying income

5. CHALLENGES

5.1 Resource constrains for replication and scaling up

The evidence of crop productivity and resilience of conservation farming system has generated a lot of interest among smallholder farmers and need for replicating and scaling up the best practices to mitigate impacts of climate. However, the program has minimal earmarked resources specifically for project targeted farmers, missing out an opportunity for replication and scaling up.

5.2 Competition of crop mulching materials with livestock fodder.

The increased use of crop residues and grass for field mulching has created a high demand and competition with livestock fodder, resulting in scarcity of crop residues for mulching. In addition to this, a lot of farmers have experience pressure from free range and roaming livestock encroaching in their fields to feed on the crop residues (maize Stover's) reserved for mulching soon after harvest.

5.3 Cost and scarcity CA farm inputs to stimulate adoption

Scarcity of appropriate tools and implements (i.e. mattocks) suitable for constructing planting basins affect land preparation workload efficiency among poor famers. Further to this high cost of inputs like seeds and herbicides restrict the adoption of CA among motivated farmers.

5.4 Gender in balance farm workloads.

The program observed that, the gender division of labor was mostly influenced by labour provided mostly by women, specifically in the mobilization of mulching, manure, weeding and harvesting. In this regard, women fail to fully utilize the labour saving benefits of CA within their household, to undertake other off farm activities to live a more productive life.

5.5 Illiteracy.

There is a high level of illiteracy in the areas of impact characterized by teenage pregnancies, early marriages and youth drop out. Illiteracy perpetuate is a strong culture of ridge farming system as it is difficult for illiterate farmers to quickly understand the key principals and benefits of CA.

6. LESSONS LEARNT

Over the years the program has learned the following (i) Production (ii) Livelihoods and (iii) Institutional lessons

Agronomy lessons

- ✓ CA systems satisfy food security and nutrition requirements of producers and consumers in Malawi.
- ✓ CA systems are financially viable and can dynamically respond to economic growth.
- ✓ CA systems are resilient to natural disasters.
- ✓ CA systems improve soil fertility, reduce environmental degradation, and conserve biodiversity.

Livelihoods lessons

- ✓ Households and communities are able to meet their basic needs while sustaining natural resources with CA.
- ✓ The social, economic and environmental value of communities and households increase with CA.
- ✓ CA enhance communities and households to have sustainable and equitable access to natural resources
- ✓ CA enhance resilience on local economies and livelihoods to support human adaptation.

Institutional lessons

- ✓ CA will flourish with an integrated and multi sectoral approach to influence policy and laws to safe guard and scale up sustainable CA benefits.
- ✓ Farmers, producers and communities need to be linked to markets to create an incentive for CA.
- ✓ The Enhance CA Public Private Partnership to enhance CA financing.

7. HOW WE WORK

Simpson Foundation works with communities, partners and key stake holders to deliver programs that are:

- ✓ **Appropriate** - People living in poverty and exposed to climate change risks require reliable and affordable best practice climate smart technologies which meet their needs. We work with local and global initiatives to learn appropriate best practices solutions.
- ✓ **Integrated** - Ensuring food security, through increased productivity and income, adapting to climate are essential for people's health, livelihoods and opportunities. We work with communities, partners local, and government structure to combine our effort to stimulate behavior change.
- ✓ **Sustainable** - We strive for sustainability in all areas of our work, from community engagement to own the projects, to technical and managerial capabilities to sustain long lasting solutions.
- ✓ **Informed** - We endeavor to ensure everything we promote is supported by strong evidence and our practical experience.

8. WAY FORWARD

From the lessons learnt Simpson Foundation has decided to align the program strategic priorities to contribute towards both national and global sustainable development agenda. We believe that, our strategic focus should endeavor to empower and support a person holistically to effectively address social, economic and environmental issues. In order for our programmes to achieve long-lasting impact, we commit our effort to contribute toward the following sustainable development goals:

8.1 Sustainable Agriculture:

We will work with communities, partners and key stakeholders to contribute towards

- ✓ SDG2: Achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- ✓ SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

8.2 Health and Well-being of rural communities:

We will work with communities, partners and key stakeholders to contribute towards

- ✓ SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
- ✓ SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

8.3 Equity and justice:

We will work with communities, partners and key stakeholders to contribute towards

- ✓ SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- ✓ SDG10: Reduce inequality within and among communities.
- ✓ SDG16: Ensure access to justice for all

8.4 Environment and Natural resource management

We will work with communities, partners and key stakeholders to contribute towards

- ✓ SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- ✓ SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable reliable sustainable and modern energy for all
- ✓ SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use nature resources for sustainable development.
- ✓ SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use and management of forest to reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

8.5 Climate smart agriculture

- ✓ SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth for productive employment and decent work
- ✓ SDG 11: Make human settlements, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

9. PROFILE OF THE KEY STAFF

Simpson Foundation believes that to make a long-lasting impact it must have both the Board and Management that is not only experienced but dedicated as well. Also, we believe in the best work ethics, that will see a lean office staff, so that more resources are channeled towards the beneficiaries. With this in mind the following is the brief profile of key staff:

9.1 **Francis Kondwani Ngopola –Executive Director.** He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Malawi majoring in Rural Development and also a Master of Science in Leadership and Change Management. He has over 25 years' experience in rural development, project monitoring and evaluation.

9.2 **Joseph Chipimpha Mughogho – Programs Manager.** He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Open Commonwealth University- UK) and a Master of Science in Managing Rural and Community Development. He has done several courses in Sustainable Development including Integrating SDGs in National Policy as offered by United Nations. He has over 20 years' experience in both private and non-government organization.

9.3 **Aubrey Mbewe** – Holds Diploma in Accounting and has 20 years' experience in Financial Management, Planning and Monitoring. He is key to resource mobilisation strategies of the organisation



THE TRUSTEES INCORPORATION RULES

(CAP. 5:03)

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that **THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF THE SIMPSON FOUNDATION**

is this day incorporated under the Trustees Incorporation Act and that the device affixed hereto on the common seal is approved.

GIVEN under my hand at: **LILONGWE**

This 09th day of September.....two thousand and Thirteen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Kasambara".

R KASAMBARA, SC
Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

R.G. 20754/1M/5.2005Z