Africa for Christ Missions

"Transforming Lives, Changing Communities through Empowerment Initiatives"

1. MAIZE FARMING PROJECT

Project Title: Establishment of a Sustainable Maize Farming Project in Malawi

Project Owner: Africa for Christ Missions International

Project Location: Njakwa Village, along Kasiya Santhe Road. Malawi

Project Type: Crop Production – Maize Farming

Project Period: 2026/2027 Agricultural Season

Project Size: Farm Size, 6.9cres

Date: October 2026 – July 2027

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Project

Agriculture plays a significant role in the economic and social development of Malawi. It is the main source of livelihood for many households, particularly in rural areas, where the majority of the population depends on farming for food, income and employment.

Maize is the principal staple food crop in Malawi and is widely cultivated across the country. It is an important source of food and is commonly processed into flour for the preparation of nsima. Maize is also used in livestock feed production and other food-processing activities.

Despite its importance, maize production in Malawi faces several challenges, including climate change, unreliable rainfall, declining soil fertility, pests and diseases, limited access to improved agricultural inputs and inadequate post-harvest handling facilities.

The project will be implemented in Santhe District with the aim of increasing maize production, improving food security and promoting sustainable agricultural development.

1.2 Problem Statement

Food insecurity remains a major challenge in most communities in Malawi. Many households depend on rain-fed agriculture, which makes maize production vulnerable to droughts, prolonged dry spells and other climate-related challenges.

Low agricultural productivity is also associated with poor soil management, limited access to improved seed varieties, inadequate fertilizer application, pest infestation and poor post-harvest handling.

These challenges affect the quantity and quality of maize produced, thereby compromising household food security and agricultural development.

The proposed project intends to address these challenges by promoting sustainable farming practices.

1.3 Project Goal

The overall goal of the project is to increase maize production and contribute to improved food security, income generation and sustainable agricultural development in Malawi.

1.4 Project Objectives

1.4.1 General Objective

To establish and manage a sustainable maize farming project that improves agricultural productivity and food availability.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

- To cultivate maize on the identified agricultural land.
- To promote the use of improved and certified maize seed varieties.
- To adopt appropriate land preparation and planting techniques.
- To improve soil fertility through proper nutrient management.
- To promote effective weed, pest and disease management.
- To minimise post-harvest losses through improved storage practices.
- To increase the availability of maize for household consumption and commercial purposes.
- To create employment opportunities within the local community.
- To promote sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices.

1.5 Justification of the Project

Maize farming is an important agricultural activity in Malawi because maize is the country's main staple food crop.

The project is justified by the need to improve agricultural productivity, and strengthen household food security.

The project will also promote the adoption of improved farming practices, enhance agricultural knowledge and contribute to rural development.

CHAPTER TWO: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Location

The project will be implemented in Njakwa Village, Off Gala Trading Centre, along Kasiya Santhe Rd., Lilongwe West. Malawi.

The selected area is expected to provide suitable conditions for maize production based on soil characteristics, rainfall patterns and availability of agricultural land.

The project will be implemented in consultation with local chiefs and the community whose livelihoods is agricultural farming.

2.2 Project Size

The project will cover approximately 6.9 acre of agricultural land.

The land will be used for maize production during the 2026/2027 agricultural season.

2.3 Nature of the Project

The project will involve the production of maize using improved agricultural practices, beginning with land preparation and ending with harvesting, post-harvest handling and marketing.

2.4 Selection of Maize Varieties

The project will use certified maize varieties suitable for the local agro ecological conditions.

The selection will consider:

- Yield potential.
- Maturity period.
- Adaptability to local climatic conditions.
- Drought tolerance.

- Resistance or tolerance to common maize pests and diseases.
- Availability of certified seeds.

2.5 Target Beneficiaries

The project is expected to benefit:

- AFCM as the project owner.
- Local farm workers.
- Smallholder farming households.
- Local maize traders and processors.
- The surrounding community through improved food availability and employment opportunities.

CHAPTER THREE: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

3.1 Land Selection and Preparation

Suitable agricultural land has been identified before the commencement of farming activities.

Land preparation will involve clearing unwanted vegetation, removing obstacles and preparing the soil through appropriate tillage methods.

Soil conservation practices will be encouraged to maintain soil structure and minimise erosion.

3.2 Seed Selection and Planting

Certified maize seeds will be sourced from recognised agricultural input suppliers.

Planting will be conducted at the onset of effective rainfall.

Appropriate planting spacing, depth and seed rates will be observed to ensure proper crop establishment.

3.3 Fertilizer Application

Fertilizer will be applied according to soil fertility requirements and the nutrient needs of the selected maize variety.

Both basal and top-dressing fertilizers may be used where appropriate.

The project will also promote the use of organic manure and other soil fertility improvement practices.

3.4 Weed Management

Weed control will be conducted throughout the crop growth period to minimise competition for nutrients, water and sunlight.

Manual, chemical weed-control methods will be used depending on the prevailing conditions.

3.5 Pest and Disease Management

Regular field inspections will be conducted to identify pest infestations and disease outbreaks.

Integrated pest management practices will be adopted to minimise crop damage and promote responsible use of agricultural chemicals.

3.6 Water and Moisture Management

The project will promote appropriate soil moisture conservation practices to minimise the effects of dry spells.

These will include proper drainage and suitable planting techniques.

Project will depend mainly on rain as the source of irrigation.

3.7 Crop Maintenance

The maize field will be monitored regularly to assess crop growth and development.

Activities will include monitoring plant establishment, fertilizer requirements, weed infestation, pest attacks and disease occurrence.

3.8 Harvesting

Maize will be harvested when it reaches physiological maturity and is sufficiently dry for harvesting.

Harvesting will be properly organised to minimise grain damage and losses.

3.9 Post-Harvest Handling

After harvesting, maize will be properly dried, shelled, cleaned and stored.

Appropriate storage facilities will be used to protect the grain against moisture, insects, and rodents and mould contamination.

3.10 Marketing and Utilisation

The harvested maize will be used for household consumption and commercial purposes.

Surplus maize will be sold to local traders, wholesalers, retailers, grain processors and other potential buyers.

The project will seek to establish reliable marketing channels to ensure proper utilisation of the harvested produce.

CHAPTER FOUR: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The project will be implemented in accordance with Malawi's agricultural calendar.

Activity	Implementation Period
Identification of farmland	October 2026
Land preparation	October–November 2026
Acquisition of seeds and inputs	October–November 2026
Planting	November–December 2026
Fertilizer application	December 2026–January 2027
First weeding	December 2026–January 2027
Second weeding	January–February 2027
Pest and disease management	Throughout crop growth
Crop monitoring	Throughout crop growth
Harvesting	April–June 2027
Drying and shelling	May–July 2027
Storage and marketing	May–September 2027

The schedule will be adjusted according to rainfall onset and local agro ecological conditions.

CHAPTER FIVE: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

5.1 Project Management

The project will be managed by the AFCM project Director, who will be responsible for coordinating all farming activities.

The project Director will ensure that agricultural operations are conducted according to the implementation schedule and recommended farming practices.

5.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Project Manager

- Coordinate all project activities.
- Supervise farm workers.
- Monitor crop production.
- Ensure proper utilisation of agricultural inputs.
- Prepare project progress reports.

Farm Workers

- Participate in land preparation.
- Assist with planting and fertilizer application.
- Conduct weeding and crop maintenance.
- Participate in harvesting and post-harvest activities.

CHAPTER SIX: PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1 Monitoring

The project will be monitored throughout the implementation period to ensure that all planned activities are carried out effectively.

Regular field inspections will be conducted to assess crop establishment, growth, pest and disease occurrence, and general farm performance.

6.2 Evaluation

An evaluation will be conducted at the end of the agricultural season to assess the achievement of the project objectives.

The evaluation will consider agricultural productivity, quality of harvested maize, food availability, post-harvest management and overall project performance.

6.3 Monitoring Indicators

The following indicators will be used:

- Total hectares of land cultivated.
- Quantity of certified maize seed planted.
- Successful crop establishment.
- Timeliness of planting and fertilizer application.
- Effectiveness of weed and pest management.
- Quantity of maize harvested.
- Quality of harvested maize.
- Reduction in post-harvest losses.

- Quantity of maize retained for household consumption.
- Quantity of maize sold or distributed.

CHAPTER SEVEN: POTENTIAL RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

7.1 Climate Change and Unreliable Rainfall

Unpredictable rainfall, droughts and dry spells may negatively affect maize production.

Mitigation: Use suitable drought-tolerant varieties, timely planting and soil moisture conservation practices.

7.2 Pest and Disease Attacks

Pests and diseases may reduce crop productivity.

Mitigation: Conduct regular field inspections and adopt integrated pest management practices.

7.3 Declining Soil Fertility

Continuous maize cultivation may contribute to soil nutrient depletion.

Mitigation: Promote crop rotation, organic manure application, soil testing and appropriate fertilizer use.

7.4 Post-Harvest Losses

Poor storage and handling may lead to grain deterioration.

Mitigation: Promote proper drying, cleaning and safe storage practices.

7.5 Market Challenges

Changes in market conditions may affect the sale of surplus maize.

Mitigation: Identify potential buyers and establish reliable marketing channels.

CHAPTER EIGHT: EXPECTED PROJECT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

8.1 Expected Outputs

The project is expected to achieve the following:

1. Successful establishment of a maize farm.
2. Cultivation of the proposed agricultural land.
3. Adoption of improved maize production practices.
4. Proper management of weeds, pests and diseases.
5. Successful harvesting of maize.
6. Improved post-harvest handling and storage.

8.2 Expected Outcomes

The project is expected to contribute to:

- Increased maize production.
- Improved household food security.
- Increased availability of maize in local communities.
- Improved farming knowledge and skills.
- Reduced post-harvest losses.
- Creation of employment opportunities.
- Improved agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.

CHAPTER NINE: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The project will promote environmentally sustainable farming practices to protect natural resources and maintain long-term soil productivity.

The following practices will be encouraged:

- Crop rotation.
- Soil conservation.
- Proper fertilizer application.
- Organic manure utilisation.
- Responsible pesticide handling.
- Proper disposal of agricultural chemical containers.
- Conservation of soil moisture.
- Sustainable management of crop residues.

The project will also encourage the participation of women and young people in agricultural activities.

CHAPTER TEN: PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability of the project will be promoted through the continuous adoption of improved agricultural practices and proper farm management.

The project will encourage crop rotation, soil fertility improvement, use of suitable seed varieties and effective post-harvest management.

Collaboration with farmer organisations, agricultural input suppliers and potential maize buyers will also be encouraged.

Experience gained during the implementation of the project will be used to improve future farming seasons and strengthen the long-term sustainability of maize production.

CHAPTER ELEVEN: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Conclusion

Maize production is an important agricultural activity in Malawi because maize is the country's main staple food crop and contributes significantly to household food security and rural livelihoods.

However, maize production continues to face challenges such as unreliable rainfall, declining soil fertility, pest and disease attacks, and inadequate post-harvest management.

The proposed maize farming project aims to address these challenges through the adoption of improved maize varieties, appropriate land preparation, proper fertilizer application, effective crop protection and improved post-harvest handling practices.

The successful implementation of the project is expected to increase maize production, improve food availability, create employment opportunities and contribute to sustainable agricultural development in rural areas of Malawi.

The project therefore represents an important initiative towards strengthening agricultural productivity and improving the livelihoods of farming households.

11.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations are proposed:

1. Farmers will use certified maize varieties suitable for their agro ecological zones.
2. Sustainable soil fertility management practices will be adopted.
3. Planting will be conducted at the onset of effective rains.
4. Regular monitoring of pests and diseases will be encouraged.
5. Improved harvesting, drying and storage practices will be promoted.
6. AFCM will establish reliable maize marketing channels.
7. Sustainable agricultural practices will be adopted to protect the environment.