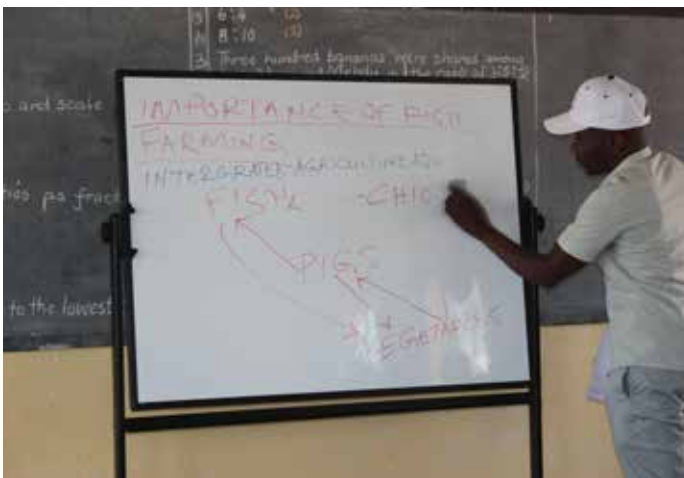


# NEWSLETTER

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST

OCTOBER 2022

## Training of additional beneficiaries on semi-intensive fish farming and exchange program for all 50 beneficiaries.



YDIT staff and stakeholder representatives from Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA), National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), Pisciculture Solutions, United Mutare Residents & Rate Payers Trust (UMRRT), and Pikicha Afri-

ca went to Arda Transau for the training of the remaining 25 beneficiaries in the second batch, and a refresher course for all 50 beneficiaries. All beneficiaries from the first batch and second batch were in attendance. The training involved imparting knowledge

to beneficiaries on how to start small fish farms and exchanging ideas between the first and second-batch beneficiaries. The training was held at Arda Transau Primary School. Mr. Nyamusenga representing Pisciculture Solutions trained beneficiaries on (i) the fish

farming project cycle and management, and (ii) the construction of a 10mX10mX1.5m fish farm that will carry 1500 tilapia fish. He emphasized major concepts of fish farming which included the type of fish (Nile Tilapia) to be farmed, fish life cycle, fish stocking, fish supplements, feeding timetables, fish feed advantages and disadvantages, pond management, fish diseases, and control. Beneficiaries meaningfully participated during the training, and they asked ques-

tions in areas they did not clearly grasp. During the course of the training, beneficiaries exchanged ideas and solutions to problems encountered by the first batch of beneficiaries. One of the major points stressed was that fish farming requires an unlimited water supply for it to be successful. Ponds were urged to have tight security, which includes predator nets and fencing, which is adding more droppers so that it does not allow animals to

enter the pond and eat fish or damage the dam liner. Mr. Mabambe went on to teach beneficiaries how to use the mobile app “Hove Dzedu.” Hove Dzedu is a mobile application tool that was designed by YDIT to act as a real-time technical assistance tool for beneficiaries. For beneficiaries who do not have compatible phones, they will be given printed copies of the mobile app, which will help them throughout the project.

## Fish pond construction demonstration

The demonstration of the construction was done at one of the beneficiary’s household, Gladys Nyanгани. All 50 beneficiaries attended so that they could learn and share experiences on how to construct a fish pond and dam liner installation. Since it was more of a refresher course from the first fish pond

construction of 10m x 10m x 1.5 m which was done for the first batch of beneficiaries, a dummy 2m x 2m x 1m was constructed, and all beneficiaries took part in constructing the pond. Mr. Nymusenga clearly demonstrated the whole construction process including dam liner installation. First batch beneficia-

ries shared problems they encountered when they constructed their own ponds and gave solutions to avoid damaging dam liners. One of the lessons learned from the first batch experience was that beneficiaries should ram pond walls to avoid dam liner perforations from small stones.



# Nursery Training and Tree distribution

One of the significant environmental challenges being faced in Arda Transau is deforestation. Most people in the area rely on firewood as their primary source of cooking because there is no electricity. Since the project is an economic resilience, and environmental conservation pro-

gram, Mr. Mpangwa, a nursery teacher trained beneficiaries on planting trees, budding, grafting and starting small-scale nurseries. The main purpose of budding is the production and cloning of the best varieties of plants, especially fruit-bearing trees. Grafting is

a union of two related plants, referred to as stock and scion. YDIT and its stakeholder provided 10 trees to each beneficiary which included 5 mango trees, 1 lemon tree, 2 Kenyan crotons, 1 peach tree, and 1 Jacaranda tree to promote household afforestation.



## Mapping of wetlands by The Environmental Management Agency (EMA.)



Arda Transau is a non-arable land with a lot of environmental problems that include soil erosion, gullies, and unprotected wetlands. YDIT and EMA visited Arda Tran-

sau to assess, and map wetlands that are to be rehabilitated under the project. Mr. Ernest Marange representing EMA played a signif-

icant role in identifying wetlands and also giving suitable solutions for ensuring the protection of the environment.

## Stakeholder M&E visit

YDIT and its stakeholders went for another monitoring visit to check on the progress being done in Arda Transau. 18 beneficiaries were visited at their pond sites. During the visit, sampling was done to check

fish size at month 8. Beneficiaries interacted with the stakeholders and aired out their views on how the project is unfolding so far. One of the beneficiaries, Judith Sithole, and her husband, stressed that the

project is very interesting as it keeps them preoccupied during the day unlike before the project had arrived. Beneficiaries were in a jovial mood to meet with the stakeholders.



## Training of trainers (TOT) for committee members

YDIT organized and trained committee members on monitoring, evaluating, and reporting so that they know how to monitor and assist beneficiaries throughout the project. 6 committee members

were in attendance for the training. During the training, committee members were taught how to fill out the household visit report and the incident report, which they will be using during their visits to each

household. A household visit report is an assessment tool that frequently checks water levels, dam linear status, watercolor, security measures, pond leakages, and recommendations. These reports will



be submitted on a monthly basis to YDIT staff. The incident report will be used in any case of a challenge or incident that occurs during the project like fish deaths, fish theft, or dam linear leakages which lead

to pond failure. The incident report mainly consists of beneficiary information, type of accident, and narration of events. For sustainability purposes, the committee members accepted and embraced

the point of continuous monitoring of the fish farms even after the project is completed, which will ensure that fish farming will keep on going in Arda Transau.

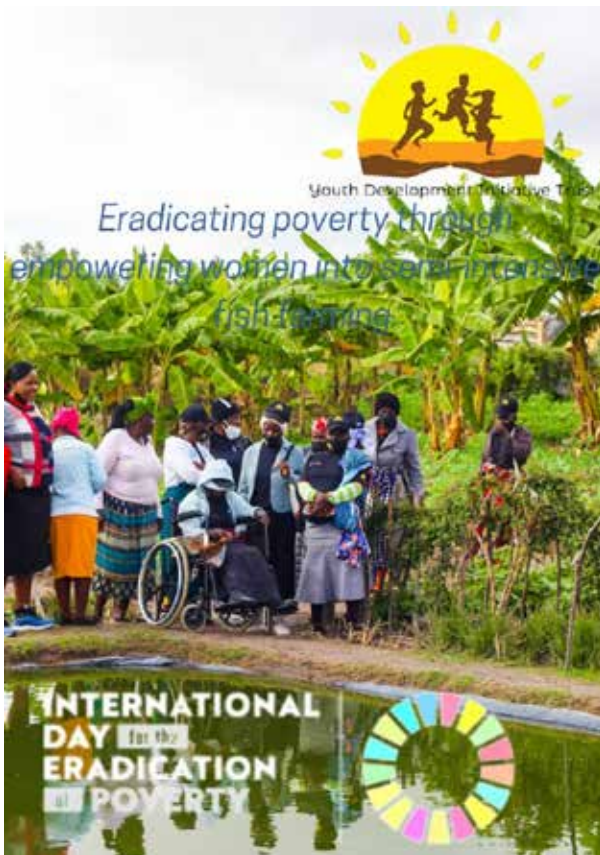
## *Creating Positive Change In Youth, Families and Communities, Empowering The Vulnerable and Marginalized in all Facets Of Their Lives*

### Harvest

8 of the 25 first batch beneficiaries have harvested, and it has been phenomenal. During harvest, YDIT staff recorded figures pertaining to the number of fish harvested, kgs harvested, fish mortality, weight, and the amount received. The heaviest fish weighed 425g and the least was 105g. One of the beneficiaries received an amount of \$376USD, selling

her fish at \$2.80USD per kg at wholesale price. After receiving the money we asked what was her way forward, and she said; “The first thing I will do is to construct another pond then buy a new dam liner and 1500 fingerlings for the new pond, and lastly buy another 1500 fingerlings to put in the old pond.” “Chandinoda kutanga kui-

ta kuchera rimwe pond ndotenga damliner nedzimwe fish 1500 dzekuisa mupond ritsva, ndotenga futi dzimwe 1500 dzekuisa mupond yekudhara”. Having such a vision was applaudable as it will also promote sustainability even after project completion and the Arda Transau area will be known for fish farming in the next coming years.

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