



2012

'Bridging Knowledge Systems for Pro-Poor Management of Ecosystem Services' ('BKS') project

Chibobo Community Lab
for biological pesticides

By Emmanuel Mutumba

Introduction

The Green Living Movement (GLM) was founded in 2000. It is registered in Zambia as Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) under the Societies Act. Since its formation GLM has committed itself to promoting and supporting sustainable rural and peri-urban development through community empowerment and sound management and utilization of natural resources. The organisation aims at providing an alternative development approach to the conventional and ineffective top-down approaches and to contribute to eradication of all forms of poverty in Zambia and the world. It is GLM's belief that local people should attain the ability to define their own destiny and direct the forces of change.

GLM'S primary target groups are the marginalized communities, whose livelihoods depend largely on the natural environment. In Zambia, GLM is working with 21 communities spread across 4 districts, namely Serenje, Kapiri Mposhi, Luanshya and Mumbwa. GLM believes in a participatory and people centred development approach.

GLM creates partnerships with local communities and other development agents in the implementation of development interventions. It ensures capacity and the knowledge base are built among local communities to enable them become managers of their own change processes. GLM members and volunteers spend substantial amount of time living, learning, sharing and planning with local communities. This approach is well framed in the organizing belief that the people who an intervention is meant to benefit must be part of the entire cycle of a development undertaking from project identification to planning to implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

The GLM mission is *to empower communities with environmentally friendly interventions that sustain productivity and respond to the needs of society.*

Community Biological Pesticides Laboratory

The Laboratory is a brainchild of the farmers in Chibobo village who are participating in the Farmers' Diaries project. The Farmers' Diaries is a sub-project of the Bridging Knowledge Systems (BKS) main project being implemented by the partnership of Lancaster University (UK), the University of Zambia Directorate of Post-Graduate Studies and Research (UNZA-DPSR) and the Green Living Movement (GLM). The sub project is being implemented in two villages working with the GLM, namely Chibobo and Kundalumwanhsya villages in Serenje district. There are 30 farmers participating in the project, 15 in each village. The project essentially involves establishing farmers' perceptions on different agriculture systems and research, preparations and use of biological pesticides. The farmers also assess and document the effectiveness of different Biological pesticides on common on-field and in-storage pests. The Laboratory is managed by Mr. Allan Spider Mbulo (farmer) who has practised organic farming for over 10 years. The farmers' decided to establish a permanent centre (laboratory) where their research work, pesticides and documentation could be stored. The farmers' further plan to develop the Laboratory into a full fledged community research centre for a full fledged Biological pesticides research programme. The farmers also plan to link the centre to conventional research laboratories for testing the safety and authenticity of their pesticides.

About the Chibobo village

Chibobo village is the oldest of the communities working with GLM. GLM established working partnership with 4 farmer groups in Chibobo, in 2000. The village is located 32km to the west of Serenje district business centre. It is divided into 10 sub-villages called Sections. Each section is headed by a Chief's councillor called *Chilolo*. There are about 300 households in Chibobo translating into an estimate population of 2,500. The farmers groups are engaged in various development projects, mainly in sustainable agriculture, natural resources management and income generation. The farmers in Chibobo practice various agriculture systems, mainly agroforestry, conservation, organic and conventional.

The farmers face many challenges including marketing and access to markets, inappropriate farming equipment and on-field and in-storage crop pests. Pest control is a major challenge among the rural farmers. The conventional pesticides are too expensive for the farmers to afford and they do not add value to their land and the environment.



TOP: “Professor Spider” heads the community research team notorious stalk borer

BOTTOM: Part of the community Laboratory

Acknowledgements

We gladly acknowledge the ideas, energy and enthusiasm of the people of Chibobo, and especially of professor Spider.

The BKS project is funded by the ESPA programme

(NERC project reference NE/I003819/1)

More information on <http://www.bks.bham.ac.uk>