

Founded in 2009, Kusamala Institute of Agriculture & Ecology is a Malawian NGO that promotes agroecology systems such as permaculture design, to maximize land productivity, reduce the need for expensive inputs and increase agricultural yields and diversity. Kusamala works with smallholder farmers across the country providing expert knowledge and training on innovative solutions to improve food and diet diversity, soils, water management and livelihoods.

Our Vision

For all Malawian communities to have the ability and knowledge to creatively pursue their own path towards achieving food security and diversity, economic stability, and productive healthy environments.

Through Kusamala's demonstrations, projects, consultancies and trainings we work to ensure a sustainable future for all Malawians.

Our work focuses on four areas:

1) Engaging Communities

We work with 1,650 farmers across Malawi using participatory approaches to engage communities. From focus groups and demonstrations to participatory mapping and video, our approach respects, promotes, shares, and scales up local knowledge and innovation.

2) Collaborating Locally, Regionally and Globally

We recognize the strength of working together rather than in isolation. We funded and facilitated the formation of the Dowa Civil Society Organization Network, are the secretariat of the Permaculture Network of Malawi, and are a Hub of the Savory Network: a global network of entrepreneurial leaders committed to regenerating the world's grasslands through holistic management.

3) Advancing Research and Advocacy

We gather quantitative and qualitative data on agroecology and permaculture farming systems through baselines, evaluations, participatory mapping and video workshops to demonstrate the efficacy of our approach.

4) Leading by Example

We believe that teaching farmers how to work with nature, using inexpensive, locally available materials provides them with the necessary tools to grow abundant healthy food, improving food sovereignty and livelihoods. Our 20-hectare demonstration farm in rural Lilongwe, acts as a living classroom where we host trainings and sell organic trees, plants and seeds. While our expert consultants bring permaculture design implementation and training to diverse projects around the country.



Our Work

Kusamala operates with two funding sources: 1) funding for projects through grants, and 2) income from trainings and consultancies. As we work to be less reliant on grant funds that are tied to relatively short project life cycles, we are seeking funding partnerships to ensure that our important work with smallholder farmers in Malawi can continue.

Climate Smart Agriculture

Kusamala is leading a CSA for smallholder farmers project, working with 1,500 smallholder farmers in Dowa district. The project is using an innovative approach to engage farmers through participatory video and mapping, working to transform diets and protect the environment through permaculture and agroforestry.

Mangochi Food Forests and Agroforestry

Kusamala is working in Southern Malawi with 150 farmers to establish highly diverse and productive food forests and agroforestry systems in small kitchen gardens, food forests and staple fields. High concentrations of fruit trees and perennial shrubs help restore depleted soils and provide year round food sources.

Consultancies

Kusamala works in advisory and consultancy roles on a number of projects around Malawi. Our experts have designed and overseen the implementation of projects small and large: including kitchen gardens and a rain harvesting system at Bwaila Maternity Hospital in Lilongwe; staple fields, tree nurseries, and school gardens with Love Support Unite in Dowa district; large-scale farm development at the United Methodist Church property in Madisi and partnered with Malawi Mangoes on the pilot Garden to Mouth Initiative at their farm headquarters in Salima.

Trainings

Kusamala's demonstration farm has hosted dozens of educational courses and our instructors have trained hundreds of farmers and project staff on-site across the country. Trainings are customized for each client's needs and range from Permaculture Design Certificate courses to water management, participatory mapping, soil science education, tree propagation and more.

