



Thriving Against the Odds: Alisto Hanyana's Journey with Agroecology in Dry Land Farming, Chimanimani Low Veld, Chasesyama.

"I woke up to the scorching sun beating down on Chasesyama, Chimanimani, a region notorious for its dry spells and unpredictable rainfall. But amidst the dust and dry earth, my farm stood as a testament to the power of Agroecology."

Alisto Hanyana, and I've been practicing Agroecology for years, transforming what was once considered a barren landscape into a thriving oasis. As he tended to his sorghum, pearl millet, and watermelon crops, neighbors would often shake their heads, wondering how he managed to coax life from the parched earth. The answer lay in the principles of Agroecology, timely planting, crop diversification, and staggered planting dates. While others had planted their entire fields at once, he had spread his out over several weeks, ensuring that if one batch failed, others would still thrive.

The intra-season drought that had ravaged nearby communities had left many fields barren and dry. But not Alisto's. His crops stood tall, green, and resilient, a beacon of hope in a landscape of desolation. As word spread, fellow farmers began to take notice, curious about the secrets behind my success.

"Planting in different batches enabled the path to my success, those I planted on the first batch which was mid-November, were affected by the intraseasonal drought that hit our region 5, in Chimanimani low veld. I recommend my fellow farmers in low veld, to enhance their expertise in Agroecology by also planting on time and planting in different batches in order to curb the ongoing climate variability, shift of raining season and also intraseasonal drought." - Alisto adds

Alisto shared his experiences and how Agroecology practices allowed him to conserve water, build soil health, and promote biodiversity. His sorghum and pearl millet were maturing at different times, ensuring a steady harvest and income stream. The watermelons and cucumbers were using the shade of the taller crops to retain moisture and suppress weeds. He planted sorghum(macia) on a 2 acres plot and he is anticipating at least 2 tonnes harvest.

Alisto is grateful to the local NGOs i.e. PORET, TSURO, and ZIMSOFF, for giving local farmers and youths free trainings consistently and eagerly.

