



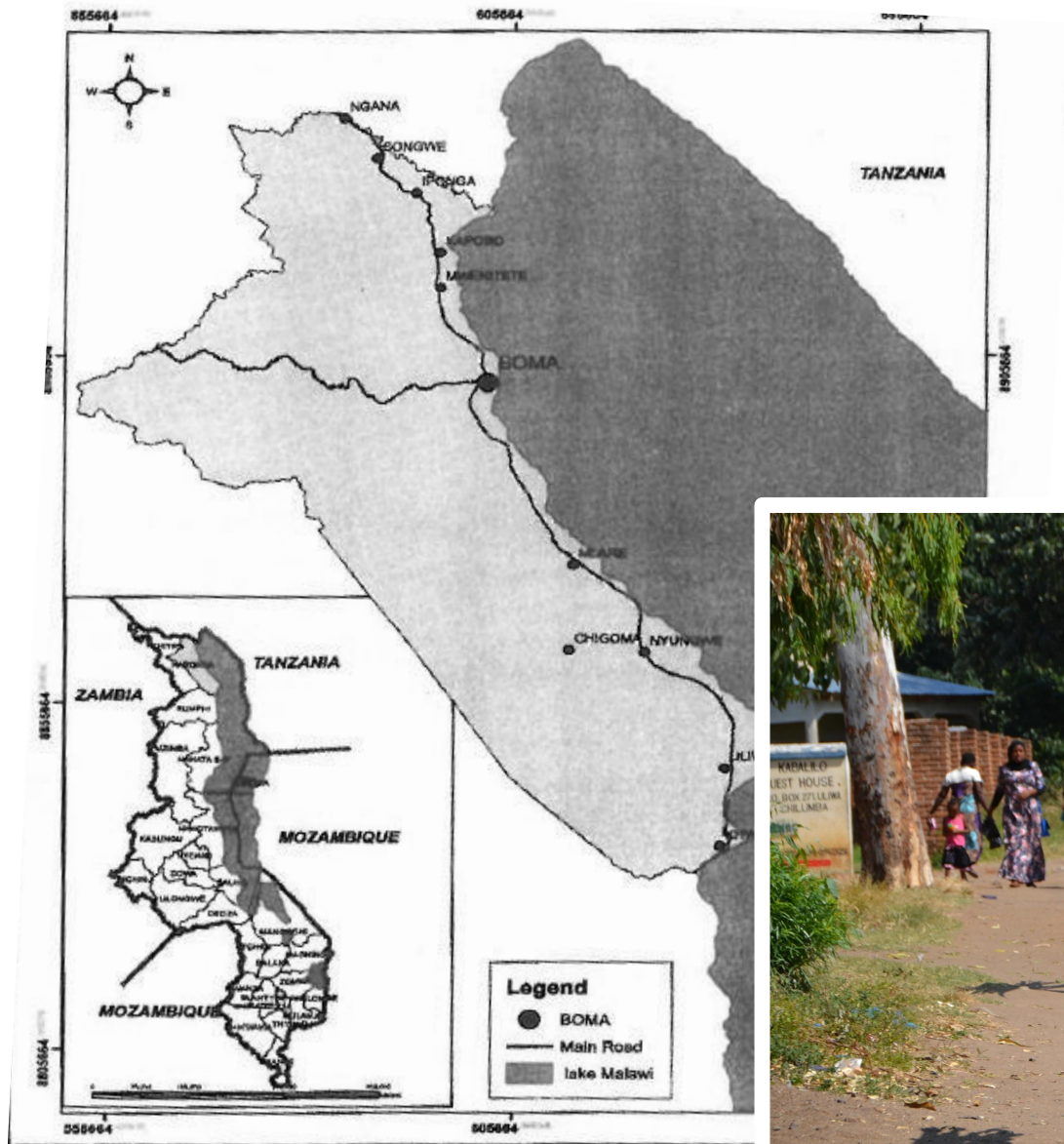
University of Dayton  
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# MALAWI RESEARCH PRACTICUM: PERMACULTURE

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Permaculture gardening and adaptation; the potential for and obstacles to behavior change in farming techniques to increase food security in rural Malawi

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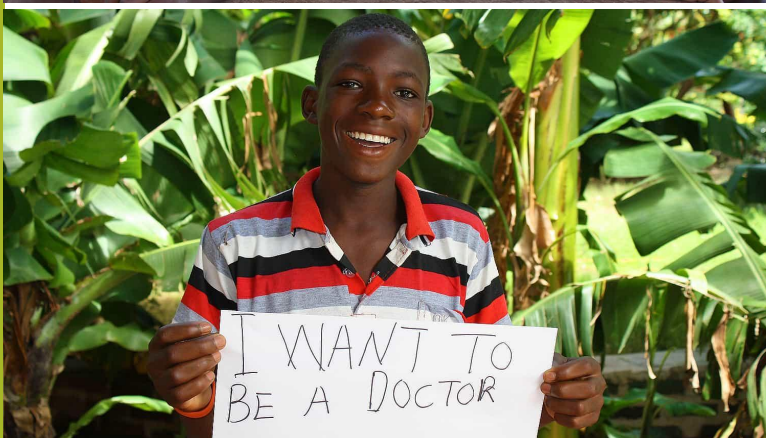


Source: Malawi Geo-Data (Land Survey Department), 2010

# Setting

Chilumba, Karonga,  
Malawi, Africa





### Mission:

To empower, through education, the people of Malawi to become agents of development for their families, communities, country, and world.

# RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

## Traditional Farmers

- Risk Mitigation Techniques
- Capacity/Efficacy to adopt new farming techniques

## Permaculture Farmers

- Permaculture Best Practices
- Permaculture Promotion Methods

## Authorities

- Knowledge and perspectives on Permaculture
- Success/Failure of past agriculture initiatives
- Vision for the future of agriculture in Malawi

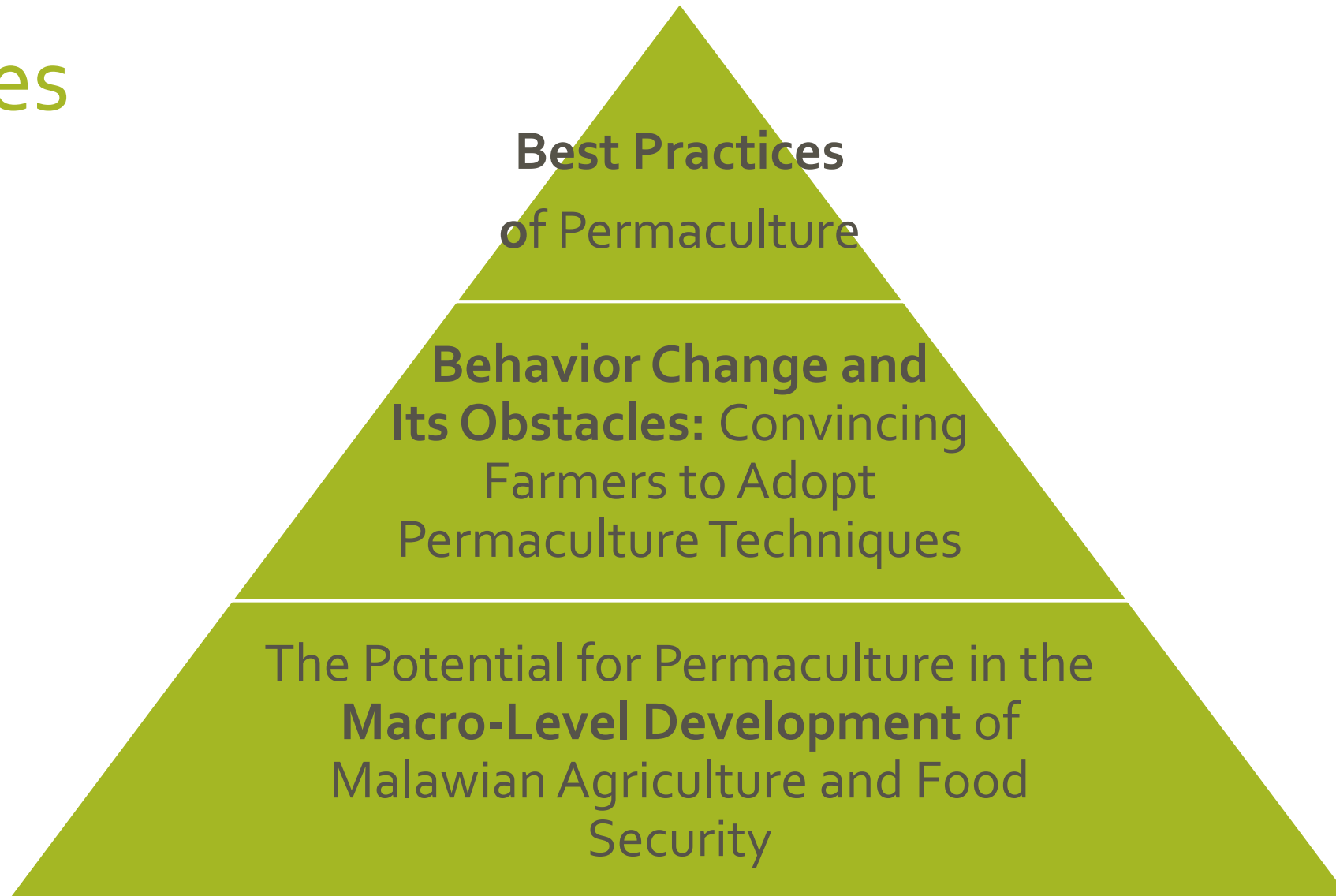
## Behavior Changers

- Past experiences with behavior change initiatives in Malawi
- Obstacles faced (both physical and cultural)
- Their solutions

## All

- Permaculture promotion techniques
- Potential for permaculture to increase food production;
- and its limitations/obstacles

# Scopes



# Best Practices of Permaculture





# Permaculture

## Definition

**Permanent agriculture** = "way of sustaining yourself and people around you involving an ideology of exchange of goods but more importantly knowledge, which comes together with education. It is only secondarily a business."

## Main Principles

- Water management
- Soil management
- Waste management
- Intentional crop selection and placement



# Behavior Change and its Obstacles

Convincing Farmers to Adopt  
Permaculture Techniques

# Promoting Permaculture

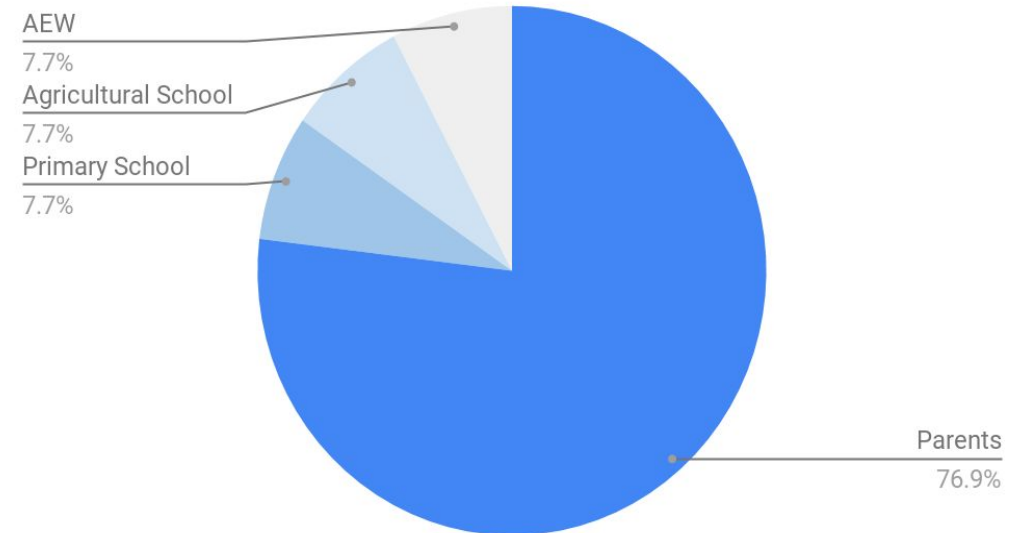
- **Best Teaching Method: Demonstration**
  - Demonstration gardens
  - Teaching in person
  - Leading and living by example

*"Whatever is good and working,  
farmers will adopt."*

# Economic and Cultural Obstacles to Adoption

Economic	Cultural
<b>Poverty</b>	<b>a) Lack of Education</b> <b>b) Labor Required</b> <b>c) Jealousy</b>

Traditional Farmers Sources of Farming Education



# Potential of Permaculture As a Solution to Food Insecurity

- To improve production of subsistence farmers



# Permaculture as a Tool for Macro-Development?

- The Role of the Government
- The Need for Education
- Potential for Commercialization



# The Need for Education

Traditional farmers' lack of education and permaculture's need to be taught in order to be understood



*"Today you educate. Tomorrow they realize."*

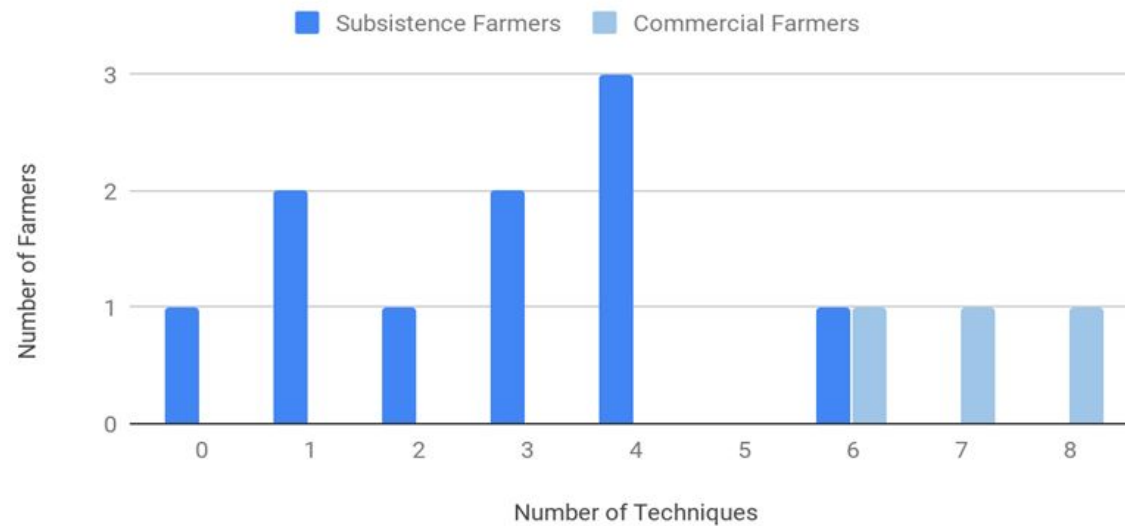
# Potential Commercialization?

## Permaculture and entrepreneurship?

- PC is Small-scale with delayed benefits
- PC is economic
- Observation of successful commercial farmers

# Unnamed Permaculture

Number of Farming Techniques Reported by Traditional Farmers that Fall Under "Permaculture"



Farmers practicing Permaculture techniques without calling them Permaculture

# Presence and Necessity of Reciprocity

## Permaculture as an ideology of reciprocity

Feeding the earth as much as it feeds you.

*"[Permaculture is a] way of sustaining yourself and people around you involving an ideology of exchange of goods but more importantly knowledge..." - PC farmer*

## Learning and teaching in a circle of reciprocity

Sharing information with neighbors

*"People cannot learn alone. You need guilds or communities. You should teach groups, not house by house." Why? Groups offer problems and solutions from everyone while interactions between only a teacher and a student are much more one-directional and don't include as much reciprocity. " - PC farmer*

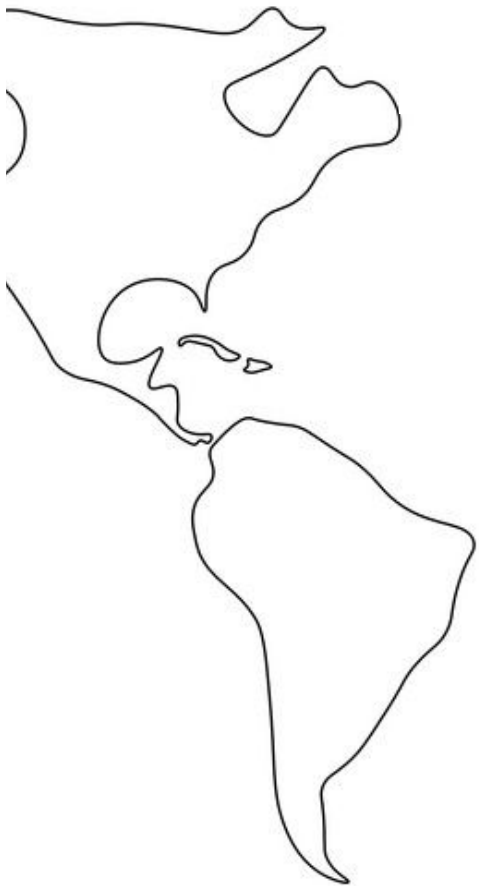
# Indigenous vs. Western Ideas of Farming

**“Traditional farming”**

= common to Malawi now,  
originated from the West

**Permaculture**

= a return to indigenous farming,  
coming from the West



A black and white goat is grazing on green plants in a field. In the background, there is a pond with some driftwood and a small structure. The text "TAWONGA CHOMENE" is overlaid in large white letters.

# TAWONGA CHOMENE

Thank you very much!