

## Beating Climate Change with Contour Farming



**After hearing Abood FM's radio programme *Nyakati Zinabadilika* (The Times Are Changing), Mansoud discovered he could successfully cultivate pineapples on his hill-slope farm using contour farming.**

49-year-old Mansoud Omari was born in Milawilila village in Morogoro Region, Tanzania. Until recently, he used to make a living by carrying food to the local market to sell. He was unable to send his two children to school, and even struggled to pay for small hospital bills - if his children fell ill he had to borrow money. Often his family could only afford to have one decent meal a day supplemented by fruit for the other two meals.

Mansoud first started listening to Abood FM's *Nyakati Zinabadilika* (The

Times Are Changing) programme in 2013 after joining Tuiame a listening group and attend a training given by BBC Media Action. *Nyakati Zinabadilika* explores different ways in which people can overcome the impact of climate change in the region. In the training Mansoud recalls that they learnt how to use a wind-up radio/recorder to listen to pre-recorded radio programmes produced by Abood FM and how to discuss the programmes as a group.

The Radio for Resilience Project harnesses the power of the media to build the resilience of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change in Tanzania.

“After hearing the programme I went to the local Agriculture Extension Officer to find out more’



Mansoud remembers lots of the programmes he heard, including programmes about livestock keeping and farming best practices, but the programme that interested him the most was one about a farmer that was growing pineapples using contouring techniques. Contouring help to prevent soil erosion and retain soil moisture on steep slopes. Mansoud himself had a 2-acre plot of land that he had unsuccessfully tried to grow rice and cassava on because his farm was on a mountain slope and he thought maybe trying to grow pineapples using the techniques he heard on the programme could work.

“I am grateful for the knowledge and the skills *Nyakati Zinabadilika* has given me”.

Mansoud went to his local agricultural extension officer to find out more and proceeded to grow 3,000 pineapples. Mansoud claims that this difference this has made to his life is huge – he can now pay for hospital bills without any help and he has even started to send his two children to school. He is grateful for the knowledge and skills *Nyakati Zinabadilika* has given him.

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