



## Seeds of Hope is Growing From the Ground Up

This summer has been a season of great growth for Seeds of Hope and we are so excited to share some of our developments. Over the past months we have been expanding the work that we are doing with agriculture. It is our heart to have a holistic community development strategy and agriculture is an essential piece.



**We are proud to introduce SOHIPO Village: an onsite demonstration garden.**

The garden highlights various stages of the farming process, including composting, raising seedlings, watering alternatives, vermiculture (worms) and teaching how to use natural alternatives to pesticides. Having this demonstration garden allows Seeds of Hope to start teaching agriculture skills at the Makoli office. Having a space to train farmers and individuals allows SHIP to address issues of food scarcity and substandard farming techniques.

**It is referred to as a FAITH Garden: Food Always In The Home.** The demonstration garden is not only established, it is thriving. Guests visiting our Seeds of Hope office have been awed by the garden and our staff's dedication. Many guests pull out note pads as they follow along, and some of the visiting teachers are even writing down word for word what is written on the displays.





Beyond the FAITH Garden, the office at Makoli has acquired permission from the railway to build a fence and use the large expanse of land behind the property to farm. This has opened a huge door for the development of agriculture programs. Six hectares of land have already been fenced off and cleared. Our agriculture team of staff and volunteers is hard at work tilling the soil and adding drip irrigation systems. This land is a huge opportunity to expand the trainings that we offer on site.



The first informal composting trainings have already taken place and that is just the beginning. Fourteen tons of chicken manure was delivered recently for further trainings. Vegetables from the farms are already being sold in Ndola to friends and a few local restaurants. Long term the farms aim to be self-sustaining projects through sales.

**In the developing world food security is a major issue; 925 million people do not have enough food to eat, according to the World Food Program.** In Zambia the staple food is



Nshima, which is made from maize and lacks adequate nutrition. The benefits of adequate food supply and good nutrition extend far beyond the health of an individual; they impact the health of the entire community. By teaching improved farming methods, how to farm throughout the year and how to get better nutrition, these agriculture projects aim to create a sustainable way to help local communities improve their health while reducing the cost of food. These projects are just the beginning.

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