



# MZUNI WEEKLY Bulletin

## ACENUB Hosts Field Day

By Cliff Kawanga



Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development Roza Fatch Mbilizi tours the ACENUB Smart Farm

Mzuzu University's (MZUNI) African Centre of Excellence in Neglected and Underutilised Biodiversity (ACENUB) hosted a field day on May 6, 2026 where various innovations were displayed.

Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development Roza Fatch Mbilizi said what was once viewed primarily as a centre for academic theory has become a powerhouse of practical production and innovation.

"What I have seen is amazing. I am well informed that a great deal of research and innovation has been taking place for several years. To witness this grand transformation here at the ACENUB Smart Farm is encouraging," she said.

MZUNI Vice-Chancellor Professor Wales Singini said that ACENUB Smart Farm will ensure financial sustainability and empower students.

"We are committed to diversifying our revenue sources and becoming financially sustainable, but at the same time we want our students to be more practical too," he said.

Inkosi yamaKhosi M'mbelwa V applauded the University for the initiative, as it will empower the communities in Mzimba.

"There is a lot the communities can learn from the Smart Farm. I have in mind the improvement of soil fertility using organic manure which is commendable," he said.

ACENUB, in partnership with the Centre for Agricultural Transformation (CAT), has established the Choma Smart Farm as a flagship initiative for advancing innovative, climate-smart agricultural technologies and practices in Malawi. The Smart Farm is envisioned as a dynamic platform where science, technology, and practical farming converge to address

the pressing challenges of low productivity, climate variability, and limited commercialisation within the agricultural sector.

The Choma Smart Farm Field Day, held under the theme 'Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems' showcased a wide range of cutting-edge agricultural innovations, research outputs, and best practices that have been developed and tested within this model environment. The innovations highlighted scalable solutions that farmers and agribusinesses can adopt to improve productivity, enhance resilience, and increase profitability across agricultural value chains.

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# ACENUB Choma Smart Farm Field Day Pictorial Focus



Highlights of the ACENUB Choma Smart Farm Field Day held on May 6, 2026 at Mzuzu University, graced by Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development Roza Fatch Mbilizi, Inkosi ya Makhosi M'mbelwa V, University leadership and other stakeholders. Held under the theme "Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems," the event showcased climate-smart agricultural innovations, research outputs and practical farming technologies aimed at improving productivity, strengthening resilience and promoting sustainable agricultural transformation in Malawi.



Members of the MZUNI Hope Initiative pose for a group photo

In a time when mental health challenges among university students are becoming more visible, a group of students at MZUNI has chosen to respond with compassion, action, and hope.

The students formed the MZUNI Hope Initiative, a cross-faculty, student-led organisation committed to supporting fellow students and surrounding communities through mental health advocacy, student welfare, and campus safety initiatives.

Founded on the belief that hope can transform lives, the initiative operates on four key pillars to improve student well-being and foster a supportive university environment.

One of its major areas of focus is mental health support. Members provide peer

support to students facing emotional and psychological challenges by listening without judgment and connecting them with professional assistance.

“We work hand in hand with the University Clinic and the counsellor. “Many students have regained their confidence and capability because someone took time to talk to them,” said Frank Adriano, Vice Chairperson of the MZUNI Hope Initiative.

Beyond emotional support, the initiative also addresses student welfare. Despite having no external funding, members contribute their own resources to assist financially struggling students.

The organisation has also taken an active role in promoting a cleaner and safer campus environment. Through awareness campaigns, members

encourage students to protect university property, maintain cleanliness, and support efforts to reduce insecurity on campus.

“We may not have the resources but our commitment to serve gives us a sense of purpose. We now agree that when students stand for each other, we all win and change lives,” he said.

The initiative hopes to train more peer supporters, establish a formal emergency support fund, and strengthen partnerships with organisations and the university community to expand its impact.

***“We may not have the resources but our commitment to serve gives us a sense of purpose.”***



Emmanuel Chaula

For Emmanuel Chaula, giving back to the community that shaped his future is more than an act of service — it is a commitment to empowering young people through education and technology.

After the Member of Parliament, Eng. Vitumbiko Mumba, a donor, donated 20 computers to Echilumbeni Community Day Secondary School, Chaula, an alumnus of

MZUNI and a former student of Echilumbeni, has offered free ICT lessons to the secondary students.

Chaula, who comes from Madede Village in Traditional Authority Chindi, Mzimba, attended both his primary and secondary education at Echilumbeni before enrolling for Information and Communication Technology studies at MZUNI where he graduated in 2020.

“I believe that the donation of computers to the school is a great opportunity to transform the lives of learners through digital education. Many students in CDSSs have limited access to practical computer knowledge despite the world becoming increasingly dependent on technology,” he said.

Chaula said he felt compelled to contribute his knowledge to help students acquire practical computer skills.

“My interest is not mainly financial, but to help students gain practical skills in

computer literacy, Microsoft Office applications, internet usage, and other digital competencies that can improve their academic performance and future career opportunities,” he explains.

He said that volunteerism among graduates and professionals can play a major role in bridging the technological gap between rural communities and urban centres.

“When graduates and professionals volunteer their skills to community projects, they help bridge the gap between rural communities and technological advancement. I hope to inspire learners, build their confidence in technology, and contribute positively to the development of the community and the nation as a whole,” he said.

As technology continues to shape the future of education and employment, Chaula’s volunteerism complements the efforts by community leaders, funders and other stakeholders to provide hope and open doors for learners in rural communities who would otherwise have limited exposure to digital skills.

## News updates

★ The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Wales Singini, has approved the nomination of members to serve on the Main Organising Committee and the various sub-committees responsible for organising the Third Annual Research Dissemination Conference. The conference is scheduled to take place from 23rd to 24th September 2026 at the ODe-L Resource Room. The chairpersons of the sub-committees are as follows: Professor Fanuel Kapute (Main Conference Organising Committee); Dr. Aubrey Chaputula (Editorial Sub-Committee); Dr. Saul Mwale (Protocol Sub-Committee); Dr. Maxon Chitawo (Fundraising Sub-Committee); Dr. Lydia Kishindo (Publicity Sub-Committee).

★ The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, at its extraordinary meeting held on May 6, 2026 appointed Dr. Eugenion Njoloma (Chairperson) and Dr. Mwayi Lusaka (Vice-Chairperson) to spearhead research, dissemination, symposiums, and mentorship.