

Alice in Dairy Land!



Alice Mtaira a dairy farmer and Secretary for Mpemba Bulking Group speaking at the 2017 FICA Fair in Lilongwe, Malawi about her experience of watching farmer to farmer videos

Alice Mtaira is a dairy farmer and Secretary for Mpemba Bulking Group in Blantyre, Malawi. She has made a great contribution in lifting the profile of this group. The group which sells milk, has 240 farmer members, most of whom are women. Before 2017, the group was operating at a loss as the milk they produced was always being rejected at milk collection centres due to the presence of contamination.

However in 2017, Mpemba Bulking Group got an opportunity to attend a dairy farming video show and watch an Access Agriculture farmer to farmer video DVD on dairy farming through Monica Kasochera, a government Veterinary extension officer. Monica got the DVD from Farm Radio International, an NGO which is a partner of Access Agriculture in Malawi. Since the video was in English, Monica acted as a translator. She translated the videos into Chichewa and made it possible for Alice and her fellow farmers to change their perceptions of dairy farming.

After learning and becoming acquainted with the techniques, the farmers are now able to keep their milk clean and safe. Their milk is no longer being rejected at milk collection centres.

Alice along with her fellow farmers are confident to carry forward their business and are now happily able to take the financial responsibility of their families.