

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms

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Tackling Poverty by Empowering the Poorest

The 2030 Agenda has placed the eradication of poverty and hunger at the top of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we seek to implement these goals, it is important that we underscore the fact that investment in agriculture and rural development is fundamental to achieving these Goals.

It is essential for us not to forget how important agriculture is. Quite simply, agriculture is the primary driver to abate hunger and reduce poverty. Throughout history, agricultural prosperity has led to successful economies. And food security has a direct impact on national and political security. Thus making it essential to tackle poverty by empowering the poorest.

Let me give just one example of dozens of programmes happening in order to help achieve the SDGs. This programme is helping to tackle poverty and encourage development in my own country. To address a severe shortage of agri-warehousing in Malawi, our smallholders association is tackling this with a trade hub, including an agro-processing complex that will link smallholders to markets and value chains.

This programme has concrete goals including reduce post-harvest losses from 20% to less than 1% through rapid evacuation of crops immediately after harvest to the rural warehouses, proper storage and hygienic handling in the warehousing, thus improving food safety and nutrition.

To achieve the ambitious SDGs we must encourage increased agricultural development for all, by ensuring we empower smallholder farmers, and by ensuring that economic development supports both local production and the purchase of imports. One of the things I love best is, as a farmer, I am helping farmers. It is a great model to deliver the SDGs. This is the future of food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture.