



**MENTEE**

**Lilian Mpama**

Founder of Lilies Innovations, Malawi

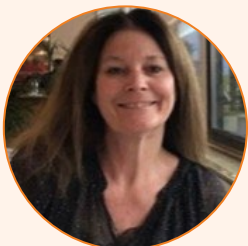
[Website](#)

Lilian Mpama was once a risk averse person who would not dare to make investments. She has been working in the development sector for more than ten years on various capacities including as a trainer, program evaluator, project manager and training material developer. She holds a master's degree in Development Studies. Her first realization of her interest in the entrepreneurship path started when she developed a desire to serve the community by providing a reliable market and creating employment. It is from this desire that she built her enterprise, Lilies Innovations, which focuses on farming and agriculture.

At Lilies Innovations, the company serves the community and beyond through aggregation, value addition and distribution of dry cereals and legumes. The company works with small holder farmers by providing much needed support in production. They do this by linking them to resources such as technical expertise in improved seeds, extension and other trainings. They also mentor the smallholder farmers in agribusiness and offer a ready market for their produce. In some cases, they offer inputs on loans to the farmers to ensure quality products.

*“The program has empowered me to look at my business potential differently. Targeting the base of the pyramid has been my goal but I didn’t know how to. Through the tools and wisdom availed through the program, I now realize that I don’t need a nutrition background to grow a business that is nutrition-focused.”*

*~ Lilian Mpama ~*



**MENTOR**

**Nathalie Lazzarato**

Operations, Cargill, South Africa