

CTI RESPONDS TO NEED FOR MORE EFFICIENT FARMING TOOLS IN MALAWI & TANZANIA

Malnutrition is a serious and widespread problem among children in Malawi and Tanzania – but it doesn't have to be. Peanuts are an excellent source of protein and they thrive in Southeast Africa—where they're known as “groundnuts”.

In 2009, **Compatible Technology International (CTI)** and its partners were awarded a grant from the McKnight Foundation to **help farming villages in Malawi and Tanzania improve groundnut production and child nutrition.**

After interviewing 640 families in Malawi and Tanzania about the challenges they face growing groundnuts, the team discovered that across all communities, **farmers are frustrated with the processes of harvesting, stripping, and shelling groundnuts**—operations which women usually perform tediously by hand.

CTI has begun by investigating existing technology designs for stripping groundnuts. Traditionally, groundnut farmers—who are primarily women—strip the groundnut pods from the plant by hand,

After identifying three potential design-concepts, CTI brought prototypes to Malawi in 2011 to field-test with farmers. The farmers were delighted that CTI had lived up to its promise to include them in identifying the solution.

"The farmers were thrilled. We had been promising for the past year as we collected information from them that we were coming back with equipment and we did. We kept our promise. The credibility of CTI and the McKnight Foundation jumped immeasurably because of our actions." - Bert Rivers, CTI VP of Operations

Prototype equipment for all operations will continue to be evaluated by farmers in Malawi and Tanzania until devices are designed that not only function well, but more importantly, are developed through true partnerships with African communities.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Address nutritional needs of post-weaning children
- Identify the equipment needs of peanut farmers to improve their economic returns
- Transfer the technology developed to equipment fabricators in Malawi and Tanzania

For 30 years, the nonprofit **Compatible Technology International (CTI)** has been creating practical food and water tools for the developing world. By helping communities produce food more efficiently and effectively, CTI offers the world's poorest populations sustainable pathways to economic freedom.



Traditional groundnut farming in rural Africa



Groundnuts are harvested by hand or, for the lucky few, with oxen.



Each nut pod is hand-picked from the harvested groundnut plant.



Each nut is shelled by hand.