**Farmer to Farmer – Malawi**

**Soybean and Peanut Production –** **Mwati Farmers Cooperative Society Limited**

**F2F description**

The John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program is authorized by the U.S. Farm Bill and managed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). F2F works to generate rapid, sustained economic growth in the agricultural sector through short-term technical assistance provided by U.S. volunteers and supported by highly trained local staff. A secondary goal of F2F is to increase the American public’s understanding of international development issues and programs, and international understanding of the United States and U.S. development programs.

CNFA is implementing F2F in the Southern Africa region, working in Malawi, Mozambique, and Angola. We rely on the expertise of U.S. volunteers from diverse backgrounds to respond to the needs of hosts. These hosts can be farms, processors, cooperatives, farmer associations, or other agricultural enterprises; they vary in size and commodity focus. Each volunteer assignment has distinct objective that are determined by the needs of the host organization.

**Issue description**

Mwati Farmers Cooperative Society Limited was formed in 2011 with the aim of encouraging smallholder farmers in the area to adopt improved farming technologies and increased access to markets through collective marketing. The group become formerly registered as a cooperative in 2016 and has a total membership of 300 (50 males and 250 females).

Mwati Farmers’ Cooperative is mainly produces soybeans and peanuts, however they have been struggling with low yields and decreased produce from pests and diseases. The host has requested a Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer to train them in best soybean and peanut farming techniques. The training will involve the general management of soybean and peanuts crops starting from land preparation to harvesting.

**Desired Outcomes**

* Ability to grow soybean and pigeon peas in a commercially viable way.
* Increase in total commodity production.

**Desired Qualifications**

* + Experienced soybean and peanut farmer or experience with soybean & peanut production, preferably in tropical areas or in Sub-Saharan Africa.
  + Knowledge of innovative and easily transferrable soybean & peanut farming methods.
  + Previous experience working with rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa is preferred.
  + Must be citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.