

MICHAEL JACKSON ORCHARD REPORT JULY 2020

The Michael Jackson Legacy Ngolowindo Orchard was established to help children at Glad Tidings Orphan Care Centre to supplement nutritional needs. The orchard was also established to help children at the neighbouring Ngolowindo Primary School as a platform to learn, experience how things grow and the nutritional values that the fruits provide. Starfish employ a gardener to care for the orchard and welcomes children and teaching staff.

This term has been a difficult one for schools in Malawi. Schools were suspended as a result of the COVID-19. Therefore orchard-related activities done by children at Ngolowindo School did not take place. Since the last report, children were expected to begin the process of replanting the areas that did not do well due to excess water that flooded part of the orchard, but this was not possible. However, there were some visits that took place in March by children at Ngolowindo as they came to help with clearing the orchard.

Guava Trees Section

One of the fruit trees that has done extremely well are the guavas. Guavas grow well across Malawian soils and has produced large quantities of the fruit. They are resistant to a number of conditions including the heat that is experienced in Malawi. In the next rainy



season or so, these will start flowering.

In the next year or so, the guavas will be producing fruits adding volume to the supply of the fruits the orchard produces.

Left: Guava trees

Mango trees section

Right: Mango Trees

Mangoes are next on the list of trees that do well here in Malawi and are very popular. Under normal circumstances, mangoes take about five to six years before they can bear fruit to be enjoyed. Mangoes are the most popular fruit trees in the communities



around Ngolowindo. In the months of October to December, these are sold in huge quantities along the roads and markets. They are a source of income to the people around Ngolowindo. They sell these fruits to people that come to visit Lake Malawi.

Bananas Section

Bananas trees numbers are increasing in the orchard. Bananas do well across Malawi.



However, not all households have them. In Malawi, bananas came to a point where they were scarce due to a disease that struck local bananas. Bananas remain a source of fruit in all seasons nationwide. Currently four banana trees are producing bananas. Bananas are also used in making local bread out of maize flour.

Left: Banana Trees

TYPE OF TREE	NUMBER
Mango	117
Granadilla	32
Orange	10
Banana	18
Guavas	136
Moringa	15
Lemon	13
Total	341

The table shows the current number of trees in the orchard.

Setbacks

One of the constant challenges of the orchard are the domestic animals like goats and chickens. Goats are particularly destructive in nature - they will find their way through the orchard via areas in the fencing that are weak, particularly on Sundays when the orchard is not attended to. Also they have damaged some of the vines. So to make sure that tender parts of the vines are protected, longer poles will be put in place to enable growth and the spreading out of the vines. Maintenance of the perimeter is underway where bamboo and ropes are being used to replace the old fencing.

If you would like to know more about the Michael Jackson Legacy Orchard, please contact

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