## **Growing Food**



## Creativity and persistence are key to crop production

Many participants in World Renew's programs dream of being able to grow enough food to feed their families and maybe sell a little extra as well to help cover expenses. Poor soil quality, inefficient farming practices, pests, and unpredictable weather all make it difficult to see a way forward. But there are so many ways that you can help farmers dream big when it comes to their crops.

Variety seed packet: Variety is the key word here! Planting just one crop is a common practice, but when farmers can grow a variety of vegetables, then their income has some insurance against bad weather, pests, or oversaturated markets.

Plant a tree: Trees bear fruit, but not just the literal kind. A healthy tree provides shade, sustenance, and soil regeneration too. Planting trees is more helpful than ever as forests get depleted for firewood in countries around the world.

Agriculture training: Tried and tested techniques meet innovative initiatives! When agricultural experts or farmers who've already experimented with new methods can share what they learn, everyone wins.

Farmer Field School: When you visit a farmer field school, you feel like you're seeing the world as it should be. A community comes together and uses a bit of land to test alternatives to pesticides, test out unfamiliar crops, model irrigation techniques, and more.

**Tools for farming:** A few tools can enable individuals to choose meaningful, productive work that feeds a household and sometimes even a village.

Direct seeder: Tilling the soil sounds like important work, but we've learned that most farms actually do best with minimal tillage. A direct seeder helps seeds get planted deep in the earth with little disruption to the soil.

Greenhouse or shade net: Trees are disappearing, and even when new ones are planted, they take time to grow. A shade net can provide a terrific alternative for keeping gardens from drying up. They help keep pests away, too.



Shade net/greenhouse: Gardens need cover from the sun, especially during the dry season. This shade net in Malawi is one way to provide that.

Thank You!

