

Extension and support services for utilisation of farmed and wild forest products: Experiences from Malawi



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Introduction

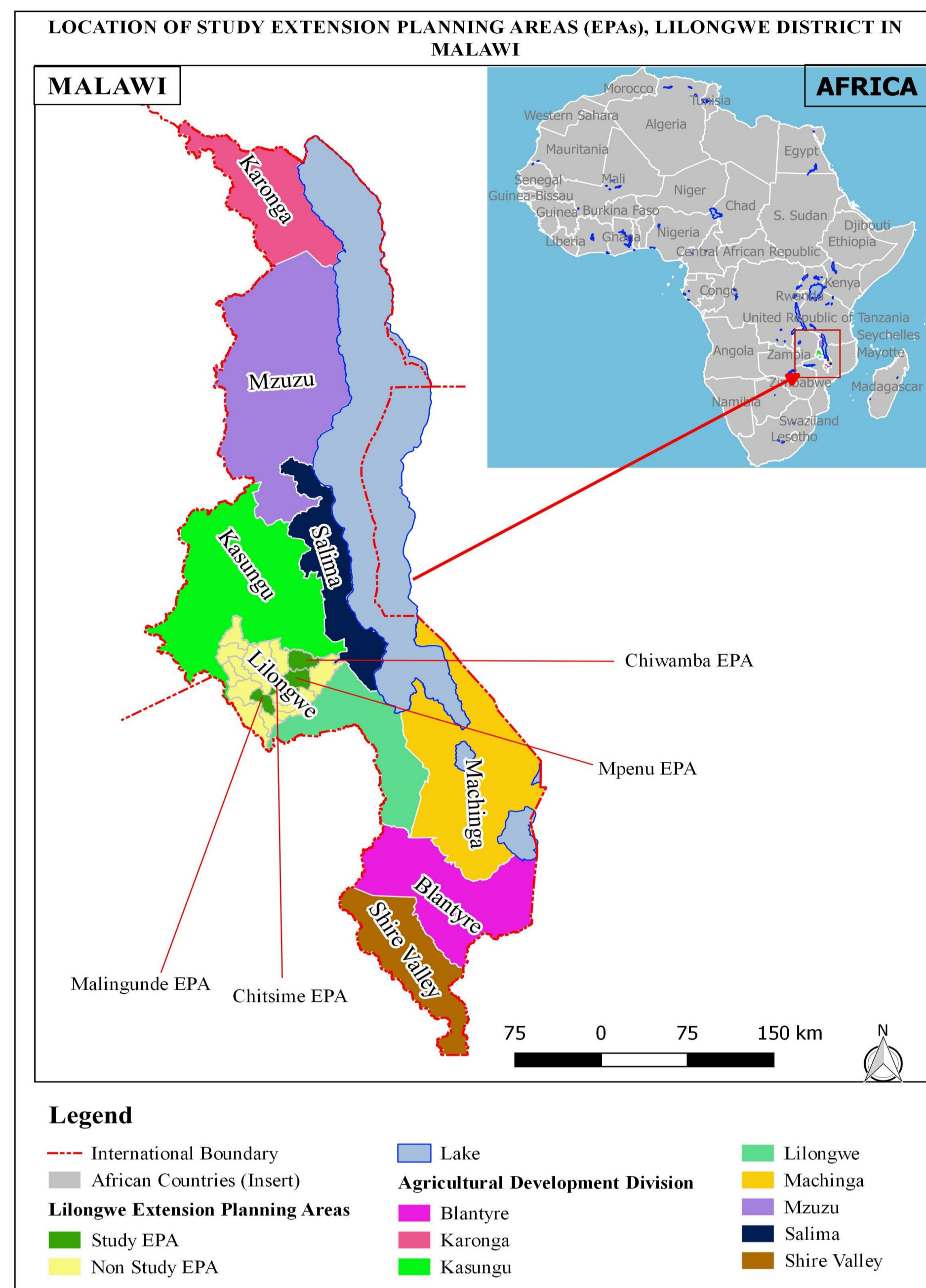
- ❖ Extension and support services may be used to promote farmed and wild products under agroecology.
- ❖ But currently, roles of extension in such promotion is not studied in depth.
- ❖ Trees grow well in Malawi, good for agro-forestry.

Objective:

- ❖ To investigate the role of extension and support services to farmers to increase tree production in farming fields and to sustainably utilise farmed and wild forest products

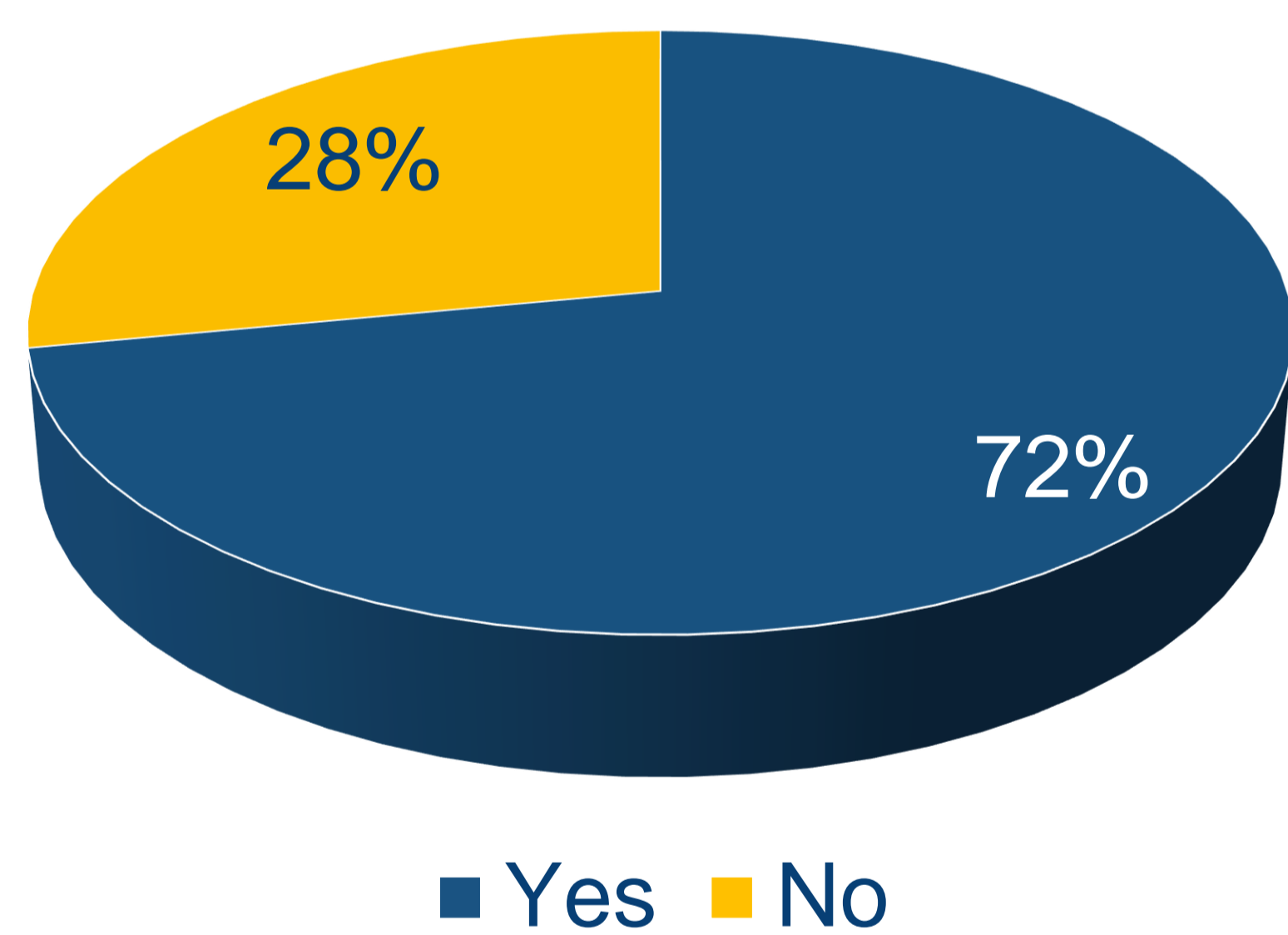
Conclusion

- ❖ The study proved that tree and wild forest based agroecological farming can feed communities.
- ❖ Increasing extension access and support service provision can broaden the farmer access to farmed and wild forest products for food and potentially for sale of surpluses.



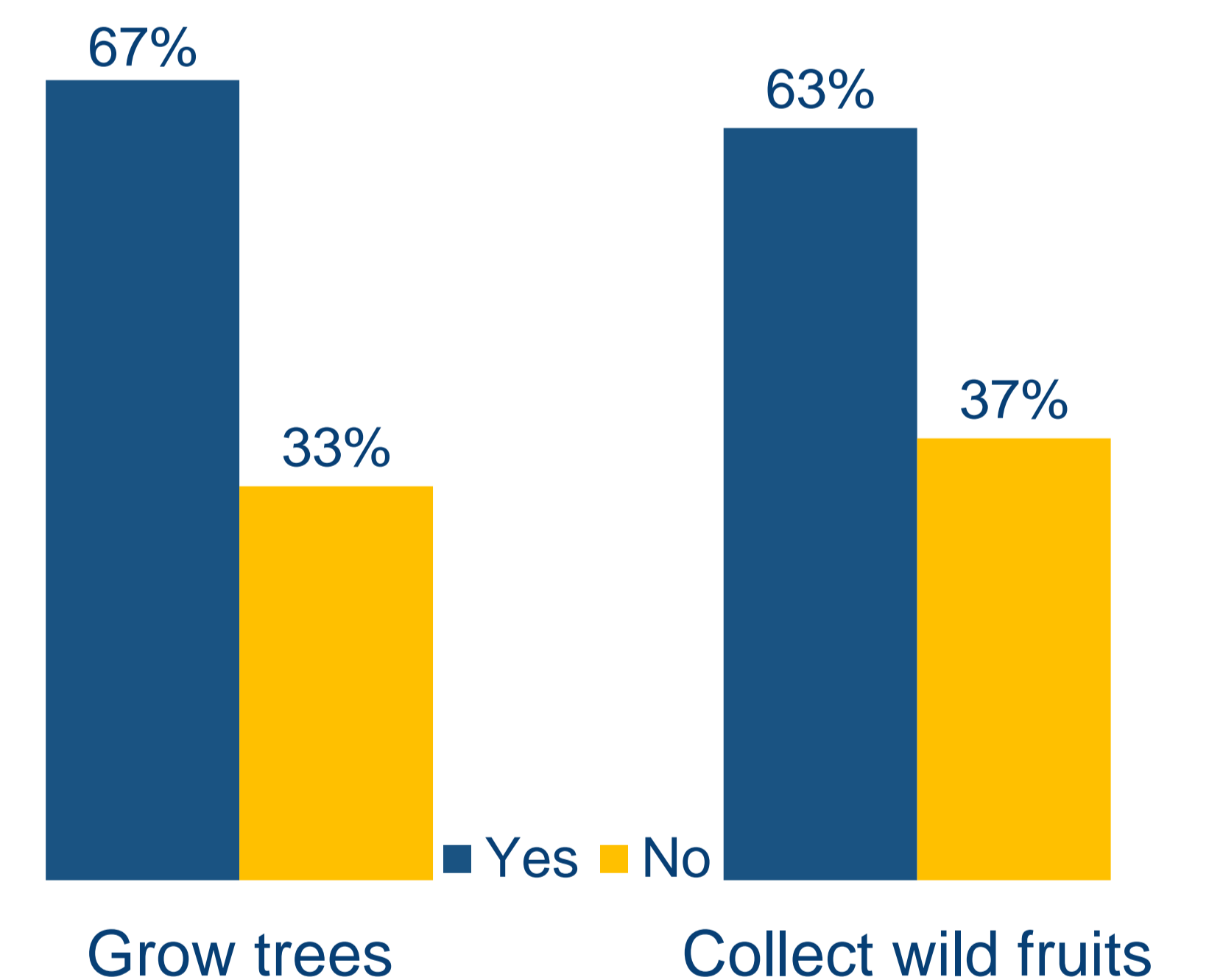
Results and Discussion

Access Extension



Reasons for eating wild fruits were:

- ❖ “food diversification”,
- ❖ “fruits were locally found, no purchase”,
- ❖ “preference”,
- ❖ “supplement food in lean season”



- ❖ 80 % of farmers sourced seedlings through own collection,
- ❖ 33 % regenerated trees,
- ❖ 3% bought, 1% from stakeholder provision.
- ❖ **Extension access increased tree growing**

- ❖ Wild vegetables collected and consumed: okra (64 %), mushrooms (24 %), and leafy vegetables (6 %)
- ❖ **Proximity to forest reserves influenced wild fruit and vegetable collection**

Methodology

- ❖ Cross-sectional study targeting 373 smallholder households in 2017
- ❖ Multistage sampling used to select the farmers from four ecological zones/Extension Planning Areas (EPAs) in Lilongwe district, Malawi
- ❖ Lilongwe has wide range of potentials for tree and non-timber-forest-products, such as rainfall above 1,000 mm per annum, proximity to forest reserves