



Farming your way out of poverty

It is important to raise awareness concerning the plight of smallholder farmers concerning being food-secure and sustainable.

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Mr Moyo is a farmer in Shamva, a town in the province of Mashonaland Central, Zimbabwe. As with many other smallholder farmers, his greatest concern is that his family should eat at least three times a day.

Smallholder farmers are expected to be self-sustaining where food security is concerned. They are expected to produce the food that their household needs on their farm. However, no smallholder farmer can produce all the food they need for their family to survive.

These farmers are in a constant battle against food insecurity, poverty and the volatility of food prices. What they want - and need - is enough support from their government with regard to market linkages, subsidised inputs and extension services. This would enable them to produce enough food to make an income and supplement the food that they have on the farm.

“The discussion should never be about what crops to grow, but whatever a farmer is doing on the farm should always help him or her to earn a decent living and be food-secure at the end of the day,” says Dr Theresa Tendai Rubhara.



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