

## Fighting Climate Change with Manure

**Ottawa, Ontario November 12, 2009** – Gladson Makowa says that for those most affected by the effects of climate change, the battle against it can begin with the humblest of materials. This weekend, the broadcaster from the Story Workshop in Blantyre, Malawi is in Ottawa to receive an award for his work in demonstrating how effective use of manure and compost can boost soil fertility and moisture-holding properties to offset increasingly frequent dry spells in the African country.

Makowa is a partner with Farm Radio International, an Ottawa-based NGO which works with African broadcasters to deliver agricultural extension information to farmers by the cheap and effective medium of radio. He will receive the George Atkins Communications Award, named after Farm Radio's founder, a former farm broadcaster with CBC. The award recognizes rural radio broadcasters for their outstanding contribution to food security and poverty reduction in low-income countries.

Makowa's award-winning script, "Manure the magic worker" (available at [http://www.farmradio.org/english/radio-scripts/84-9script\\_en.asp](http://www.farmradio.org/english/radio-scripts/84-9script_en.asp)) features a dialogue between villagers in which they experiment with composted manure, demonstrating the benefits of a double application compared to a single one or of using chemical fertilizer only.

Makowa has been a contributor to Farm Radio International since 2004, and is currently a producer of a farmer-to-farmer weekly radio show for Story Workshop in Malawi. His script was one of the winners at the 2008 scriptwriting competition, "Farmers Strategies for Adapting to Climate Change".

The broadcaster says he hopes the recognition will help bring more attention to the farmers and people who listen to his broadcasts and enjoy the stories he has written.

"We need to have a purpose for living in our countries, says Makowa, striving that we should leave indelible good memories in the people we live with even after our death, having affected their status on earth from poor to riches and from hunger to satisfaction from ignorance to knowledge and understanding".

The award will be presented during World University Service of Canada's 63rd Annual General Assembly this Friday, November 13th at the Crown Plaza Hotel on 101 Lyon Street, Ottawa.

About Farm Radio International:

Founded in 1979, Farm Radio International is a Canadian charity with the mission of supporting broadcasters to strengthen small-scale farming and rural communities in Africa. Farm Radio International researches and produces radio scripts on rural development issues and distributes them to over 320 radio broadcasters who interpret and use the scripts to provide their listeners

with practical information about farming, land management, health and other issues. Farm Radio International also develops training opportunities; researches farm radio strategies and facilitates networking among and between broadcasters.

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