HOW DOES A FARM FAMILY IN MALAWI PRODUCE MORE FROM THEIR FARM?

Sustainable Intensification

- **Crop Distribution on Land:**
  - 1/3 of the land is used for pigeon pea and groundnut.
  - 2/3 of the land is used for maize and beans.

- **Growth Phases from Month to Month:**
  - October to December: Planting
  - January: Growing
  - February: Harvesting

- **Post-planting Activities:**
  - Fertilizing
  - Weeding

- **Post-harvest Activities:**
  - Harvesting
  - Storing harvest in 'PICS' bags
  - Selling farm products
  - Feeding livestock and composting residues

- **Typical Farmer Practice:**
  - Only limited fertilizer is required due to the organic nutrient resources locally generated and recycled on farms.
  - The farmer uses integrated pest management (IPM) to control weeds, insects, and diseases.
  - Every year, the farmer practices the sustainable intensification methods described above.

- **Crop Distribution on Land:**
  - Whole of the land is used for maize and beans.

- **Growth Phases from Month to Month:**
  - October to December: Planting
  - January: Growing
  - February: Harvesting

- **Post-planting Activities:**
  - Fertilizing
  - Weeding twice

- **Post-harvest Activities:**
  - Harvesting
  - Storing harvest in granary
  - Selling farm products
  - Weeds infesting the farm

**Typical smallholder farmer practice is characterized by:**
- Sole maize and beans intercropping
- Low plant population due to soils with low organic matter
- The farmers seldom apply any fertilizer
- High weeds pressure because the farmer only weeds once
- Low crop yields
- Storage techniques that are vulnerable to pest attacks
- Fallow land during the off season thereby culminating in another unproductive year for the farmer.