

From Livestock Numbers to a Life Plan: Geylody Karuru's Journey with GALS

📍 Chiriseri Village, Ward 33 — Dande Valley, Mount Darwin District



No smallholder should suffer the indignity of poverty

At 30, Geylody Karuru had livestock, energy and ambition, but not a clear direction for the future. Living with his parents in Chiriseri Village, he measured progress largely by the size of his herd: 23 goats, 17 chickens, 15 sheep and 29 turkeys. But he had not yet turned those assets into a plan for building an independent life with his wife and family.



That began to change in 2025, when Geylody took part in agroecology training, supported by the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methods, through APT, MWACSMED (Ministry of Women's Affairs, Community and SME Development) and Agritex. Through the process, he and his wife developed a five-year vision for their household: to leave his parents' home, build their own three-roomed house on allocated land, solarise it, buy a fridge, and start a goat-meat business serving the local community.

"We were hesitant to leave mum and dad's home," Geylody recalls, "but vision outperformed comfort." To begin turning that vision into reality, the family made a deliberate choice to sell down part of their small livestock. The proceeds helped them start building toward the life they had planned together. Today, they have already relocated and are living in their new three-roomed house, though it is not yet fully complete.



At the same time, Geylody is beginning to build a small enterprise of his own. By renting a fridge, he has started processing and selling goat meat to the community, generating income while moving step by step toward his goal of solarising the household and buying his own fridge. What matters most is not only the income itself, but the change in mindset behind it:

assets are no longer simply counted but actively used to achieve a shared household vision.

The training also changed Geylody's confidence and role in the community. He was later selected as an Agroecology and GALS champion, helping other farmers apply these ideas in practice. "APT's trainings were our wake-up call," he says. "At first I was hesitant to stand before other farmers, but now I do so with confidence, living the life I teach."

Geylody's story shows that change does not always begin with a large asset or grant. Sometimes it begins with a household vision, shared decision-making, and the confidence to turn existing resources into a pathway forward. In his case, GALS helped transform livestock from a symbol of status into a means of building a more independent and purposeful future.



Agroecological principles reflected in this story: 🤝 Participation — Learning through GALS and agroecology | ⚖️ Fairness — Joint household vision and decision-making | 💰 Economic Diversification — Goat meat sales as a new enterprise | 🗣️ Co-creation of Knowledge — Sharing learning with other farmers