

Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP-1): 'Transforming Smallholder Agriculture into Commercial in the Shire Valley'

The Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP) is a 14-year Government of Malawi Programme aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization for targeted households in the Shire Valley and to improve the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources. The objective of the first phase of the Programme (2018 to 2023) is to provide access to reliable irrigation and drainage services, secure land tenure for smallholder farmers and strengthen management of wetlands and protected areas in the Shire Valley. Construction of Phase 1 of the Shire Valley Irrigation Scheme commenced in April, 2020 with the construction of the Intake and the first six kilometers of the Main Canal. This will take 30 months to be completed. Procurement of a contractor to construct the remaining 46kms of Phase 1 Main Canal from 6kms up to Lengwe National Park is currently in progress. Overall, the Main Canal will run a total length of about 133 km from Kapichira Dam to Bangula. This pictorial brief therefore provides highlights of the activities undertaken by the SVTP since construction commenced in April, 2020 to present:

SVTP-1 Quick Facts

Project Life Cycle: 2018-2023
Type of Project: Irrigation
Lead Implementer: Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Contractor: Conduril Engenharia S.A

Total Irrigable Area

43,370 hectares

Phase 1 - 22,280 hectares
Phase 2 - 21,090 hectares

Smallholder farmers - 29,338 ha. (67.65%)
Other farmers - 14,032 ha. (32.35%)

Project Funders

World Bank US\$160 million
African Development Bank US\$50 Million
Global Environment Facility US\$ 5.5 million
Government of Malawi US\$7.2 million

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Row 1: (From left-right) - Excavation of the canal route at different stages

Row 2: (From left-right)-The Intake before construction, construction of the coffer dam (pics 2&3), final drained cofferdam

Row 3: (From left-right)-Construction of a bridge on the route (pic 1&2), drainage works (pics 3&4)

