



# Shire Valley Transformation Programme-1 (SVTP-1)

## ●●● promoting commercial agriculture in the Shire Valley



The Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the Shire Valley Transformation Programme with the aim of increasing agricultural productivity and commercialization for targeted households in Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts 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. Approximately 43,370 hectares is expected to be irrigated through gravity-fed canals which will benefit 223,000 smallholder farmers.

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. The first phase of the project will cover 52kms from the Intake at Kapichira Dam to Lengwe National Park. Overall, the Main Canal will run a total length of about 133 km from Kapichira Dam to Bangula.

In order to secure land for smallholder farmers, the SVTP is in the process of adjudicating and demarcating parcels of land in readiness for development of farm blocks. Farmers will consolidate land into farms of at least 500 hectares each. Over 23,000 land parcels have so far been adjudicated and demarcated in Chikwawa. This is equivalent to approximately 13,000 hectares.

The Programme has been conducting community meetings with prospective farmers in the Phase 1 area. These meetings are aimed at providing information to the farmers on four options for organizing their farming businesses. This is being done in order for the farmers to make an informed decision in their business.

Farmers can opt to hire an agribusiness manager (can be a company or an individual) or enter into a joint venture with a company where farmers contribute land as capital and the company financial resources, or where farmers manage the farms on their own. Farmers can also choose a mix of approaches where one part of the farm is leased to an investor and the rest is managed by the farmers themselves.

**For more details visit:**

[www.svtp.gov.mw](http://www.svtp.gov.mw)



Pictures 1-6 provide some pictorial highlights on some major works taking place at the SVTP construction site in Chikwawa currently. **Pictures 1-2:** Some of the paved concrete sections of the canal, **Picture 3:** The flume within the Majete Wildlife Reserve, **Picture 4:** Construction of cut-off walls at the intake, **Picture 5:** One of the box culverts under construction as part of drainage works, **Picture 6:** Construction of Siphon 1 on the canal spanning 740 metres



**Picture 7:** A community member verifying the map and information on her adjudicated and demarcated parcel of land with support from a member of the Customary Land Committee at Mbendelana in T/A Kasisi, **Pictures 8&9:** Community information sessions with prospective farmers in Chikwawa

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