Food security

Improving food security in Malawi
Dedza Food Security Improvement Project (DFSIP)

"During the fourth year of the project there has been an increased adoption of various project technologies (e.g. fish farming, manure making, winter cropping, improved cultural practices and nutrition technologies). Most project communities realised a bumper harvest in 2005/06 which contributes to improved household food security."

Annual Report on the 4th project year

Context

Malawi ranks among the poorest developing countries in the world. Here food insecurity is a consequence of ineffective macro-economic policy, which has failed to address the underlying problems. At the same time, limited diversification and competitiveness in the private sector are obstacles to economic development.

Objectives

- Improving food security and livelihoods of the rural poor in Dedza District, Malawi.
- Increasing agricultural productivity, income and nutrition of 8,000 poor rural households, and improving nutrition, education and care for vulnerable groups.

Impact

- A total of 215 farmers/fishermen (132 males & 83 females) were reached by the project.
- A total of 18 training sessions were conducted on fish farming including the following modules: pond construction, pond management & fertilisation, feeding, harvesting and fish processing.
- Malnutrition rates have decreased from 27% to 16% in the fourth year of the programme.
- The production of high value crops (e.g. soya and beans) has increased and has led to improved income levels and nutrition.
- Yields have increased due to good rainfall patterns, more seed variety, good crop management and increased use of manure.

For more information: http://www.concernuniversal.org/index.php?/where_we_work/malawi
The project at grassroots level

Mr. Thembakako Khoswe – Fish farmer from Khulingira Village, Kachere Village Development Committee, TA Kachere in Dedza District, Malawi, explains how the project helped him to increase his income.

"Fish farming is a one time investment because if you properly construct the pond, as I have done, you can be reaping the benefits for over five years without any major maintenance. This pond is a valuable asset to me and to my entire family. My wish is to have more of these standard ponds," he said.