

Generating skilled employment

Cascious Hachunga operates the pumps and pivots on Chanyanya Infrastructure Company's commercial farm in rural Zambia.

Cascious grew up in Chanyanya. As part of the Chanyanya Smallholders Cooperative Society, his family pooled their land with that of their neighbours to create an area of land large enough to irrigate. Cascious now works as a Pump and Pivot Operator for Chanyanya Infrastructure Company (CIC), the 148ha commercial farm which forms part of the Chanyanya Irrigation pilot.

Standing in a field of healthy barley plants, Cascious is proud that his family's land now forms part of the commercial farm that employs him. **"I have worked here for eleven years, I came here straight from school as a General Worker. Since then, I have been promoted to Pump and Pivot Operator and I enjoy my job. Working here enables me to meet my family's expectations."**

Cascious has seen great changes in local living standards during his time with CIC and is excited about the planned expansion of the project which will see the commercial farm grow and employ more people, **"I will encourage my family members to achieve as I have done."**

When asked what the future may hold, he says: **"Building on the skills I am learning here on the commercial farm, I want to someday run my own business as a mechanic and welder. I am saving to go to school to do the necessary training."**