

Promoting economic growth

Mr Mubita manages the day-to-day running of Chanyanya Infrastructure Company's commercial farm in rural Zambia.

"Before the project, life was hard. We relied on rain-fed crops but there were floods and droughts and not enough food to harvest. We were very happy that investors wanted to support irrigation here in Chanyanya."

Keen to learn more about farming, Mr Mubita moved to the area after retiring from the Zambian National Defence Force. "I was happy to leave the urban area. There, you have to live by the money in your pocket. Here, we can plant maize and sell fruit on our own rather than buying all the time."

Mr Mubita manages the 148ha commercial farm created by pooling local smallholders' land as part of the Chanyanya Irrigation pilot: "At this time of year, we grow barley. Later we will plant soya ahead of the rainy season and maybe wheat. These crops are

easy to market, and we can gain a profit from them. We were asked to grow barley by a brewery, and we sell our crop to them. I am expecting to harvest 15-16,000 metric tonnes of barley this year."

The farm currently employs 16 workers, rising to 40-50 seasonally. Mr Mubita hopes that the project expansion will enable him to employ more workers. He is also keen to share his knowledge with the next generation, "My ambition is to bring up my children to also be employed in this project so that they can continue to uplift our area."

He concludes, "My job is very enjoyable. It is my pleasure to work for the Chanyanya Infrastructure Company, the company that has made us what we are today!"