

Imparting farming knowledge

Rural farmer Malekano participates in a livelihood restoration programme delivered by the **Salima Solar** project in Malawi.

“Before, I used little or no fertiliser, I used seed from the previous harvest, and I planted three or four seeds on each plot. I didn’t know about crop rotation and my harvests were poor – just fifty bags.” Malekano participates in the Ulimi Ndo Moyo (Agriculture is Life) programme, which has been designed to restore and enhance the livelihoods of 210 people affected by the Salima Solar project.

JCM’s training made Malekano aware of more effective farming methods, “I received training on ploughing using tractors and JCM supported me with funds for land clearing. I also received hybrid maize and soya seed and everything that I needed to spray my crops for pests.” Malekano particularly appreciated the extension support from JCM’s Field Officers.

“Ulimi Ndi Moyo has changed my life and the life of my family! Despite the impact of this year’s heavy rains, I harvested 151 bags of good quality maize. We have enough food to eat and surplus to sell. We are eating more than three times a day!”

He continued, “With income from this year’s maize surplus, I will be pay for my six children to attend a private school. I will also buy fertiliser and other inputs for my land.” He continued, “I want my household to be food secure...I am planning to plant rice in one of my dambo (riverside) fields and next year I want to use that land to grow sugarcane.

The training helped me so much. I am feeling good because I can see that if I continue using the knowledge gained it will be beneficial to me. I will never plant four maize plants on one spot again in my life!”

