

Diversifying family incomes

Miriam Mutende works land irrigated by the **CHANYANYA IRRIGATION PROJECT**, earning income to feed and educate her children.

As part of the Chanyanya Smallholders Cooperative Society, Miriam works a market garden plot in Chanyanya: "I grow tomatoes, rape (a local vegetable), egg plants and hot chili peppers. My favourite is rape vegetable. I work here with my husband. From the time we started gardening, it has helped us in that we are able to earn income that we use to buy food and to send our children to school.

Before the project came, we lived right here where I am sitting now. We moved to enable this land to be irrigated along with that of our neighbours. I did not really mind moving and I am very happy at this moment because the market gardens have brought us many benefits. We have seven children, the youngest is in Grade Nine; gardening is helping me to raise my children well."

The Chanyanya project has provided electricity to Chanyanya's primary school, electricity enables the school to attract and retain college-educated teachers and gives its 300 students the opportunity to study in the evenings. It is also a focal point for community gatherings.

Miriam concludes: "My appeal is that such good projects should continue. We work in the gardens because we want our children to be educated, once they are educated, they will support and take care of us in our old age."