Maximising crop yields

Watson Joseph is a farmer in rural Malawi. He participates in a livelihood restoration programme delivered by the Golomoti Solar project.

"Before, I farmed eight acres of land to support my seven children. I grew maize, cotton, cow peas and groundnuts and I kept cows, goats, and chickens. Farming was hard, we did not have reliable markets and the cost of farm inputs was very high." Asked how many bags of maize he produced per year, Watson says, **"I produced forty bags of maize each year for all of my work."**

Watson sold some of his land to the Golomoti Solar project which now supplies Malawi's national grid with 20MWac of clean energy. Co-developers JCM Power and PIDG company InfraCo Africa are committed to restoring and enhancing the livelihoods of people affected by their projects and the Ulimi Ndi Moyo programme was developed to support Watson and his neighbours in the Golomoti area – 159 people in total.

Watson enthuses, **"Ulimi Ndi Moyo has involved me learning about land preparation, planting, marketing, crop management and many other things!"** JCM Power also provided farmers with fertiliser, food, seeds, and knapsack crop sprayers as well as storage bags and warehousing facilities designed to cut post-harvest losses due to damp and insect infestations.

Delivered through Livelihood Restoration Programme Committees, all decisions are taken by project-affected farmers alongside the JCM Power team, district officials, agricultural experts, and local non-governmental organisations.

"I apply the skills I have learned to my daily farming activities, and it makes me feel good!" Watson continues, **"This year I harvested sixty bags of maize, an increase of twenty bags on my previous average! The wider community is also benefiting as they can copy the new farming practices that I am doing on my farm."**

Watson says, **"I feel very independent now! Next season, I plan to hire tractors to prepare my fields and to buy farm inputs."**

InfraCo Africa co-developed **Golomoti Solar**
Watson Joseph participates in the livelihood restoration project run by **Golomoti Solar**