

Leaving a development legacy

Peter Mainza farms in Demu South, southern Zambia. The **CHIANSI IRRIGATION PROJECT** will enable land in his community to be irrigated.

As a long-time member of the Demu Irrigation Cooperative Society, Peter says, “the biggest challenge we face here in southern Zambia is our dependence on rain-fed agriculture. Climate change makes us vulnerable to drought.” Of his community, he says, “we are willing to work and our aim is to help the nation, but we can’t farm well without water...lack of water draws us back.”

Now under construction, the Chiansi Irrigation project will deliver bulk water infrastructure linking Demu South and neighbouring communities with water from the Kafue River. Peter says, “when the water comes, there will be development like we have never seen before! We will plant maize, groundnuts and vegetables and will grow many other crops. With irrigation, hunger and such problems will be no more.”

Pulling his hat down against the buffeting wind, he continues, “I have school-going grandchildren and with this irrigation project, I will support them and contribute to my family’s financial stability.” Irrigation will reduce dependence on unreliable rains, enabling members to produce food for their own consumption as well as to sell to earn year-round income.

Peter concludes by saying, “It’s unfortunate that the irrigation project is coming when I have grown old. If I could turn back time, I would go back to my youthful days so that I could work with my youthful vigour! I am supporting this project so that even when I die, all generations that will come after me may find development.”

