

LUWANJE IRRIGATION SCHEME CONSTRUCTION REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

Mulanje Mission Hospital has completed the newly constructed Tilimbike Irrigation scheme. It is located in Traditional Authority Chikumbu, GVH Mwamadi in Mulanje District, near the seasonal Thanguzi river. 7 hectares is now developed, benefiting 70 households' farmers from within Luwanje village and the surrounding villages. The total irrigable potential is 13.4 hectares. This construction was funded by Fane Valley from Northern Ireland.

2. CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

The construction of the scheme was awarded to AV Construction Company on 30th November, 2023 and completed in February, 2024 under MMH contract no. PRO-23-11.

The total price for the scheme was agreed at MK 114.109.537 and completed within budget. This equals approximately £ 51,700.00

The construction works were done with the community as the Project team engaged the community members at each and every step of the work. The handing-over ceremony of the scheme is expected to be done in June, 2024 when the irrigation season will be in progress, however, cultivation has started already.

The location site is at -15.987544, 35.420834. A sketch of the irrigated area is shown here.



3. CROPS GROWN

The major proposed crops to be grown are cereals i.e. maize and horticultural crops such as vegetables and chilies. The scheme is going to improve the livelihoods of people within and the surrounding villages.

MMH managed to procure fertilizer and seeds as a start pack. The procured inputs include 20 bags of NPK (Basal Dressing); 20 bags of Urea (Top Dressing); 100kgs of Maize seed and 150 packets of vegetable seeds and some pesticides.

According to the agreed planting schedules of the scheme; the First Phase (March-June), farmers will plant maize at 4 hectares which is almost 60% of the total scheme while cash crops and other crops will be planted to the rest. The reason is that most of the farmers wanted to plant maize as a food security crop and that outside the irrigation site, many people now have horticulture crops. This will affect the sales. While the Second Phase (July-October); more efforts will be put to cash crops with almost 70% and the remaining land will be put to cereals.

4. FARMER CAPACITY BUILDING

So far the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme has conducted the following capacity building sessions:

- Irrigation scheme management- Twenty members of the main committee were trained (13 Females and 7 Males)
- Entrepreneurship training. Twenty members were trained (10 male and 10 females)
- Village Savings Loan and Association- All the Seventy members were trained (25 males 45 females)

We are planning to train them in:

- Soil and Water resources management (Climate Smart Agriculture)
- Crop Management (Nutrition)
- Integrated Pest Management

5. IMPACTS OF THE SCHEME TO THE COMMUNITY

- The scheme is going to improve the livelihoods of people within and the surrounding villages. From the Gross Margin analysis done during the Entrepreneurship training, it shows that an estimated K30, 000,000.00 can be made each year. This means that the

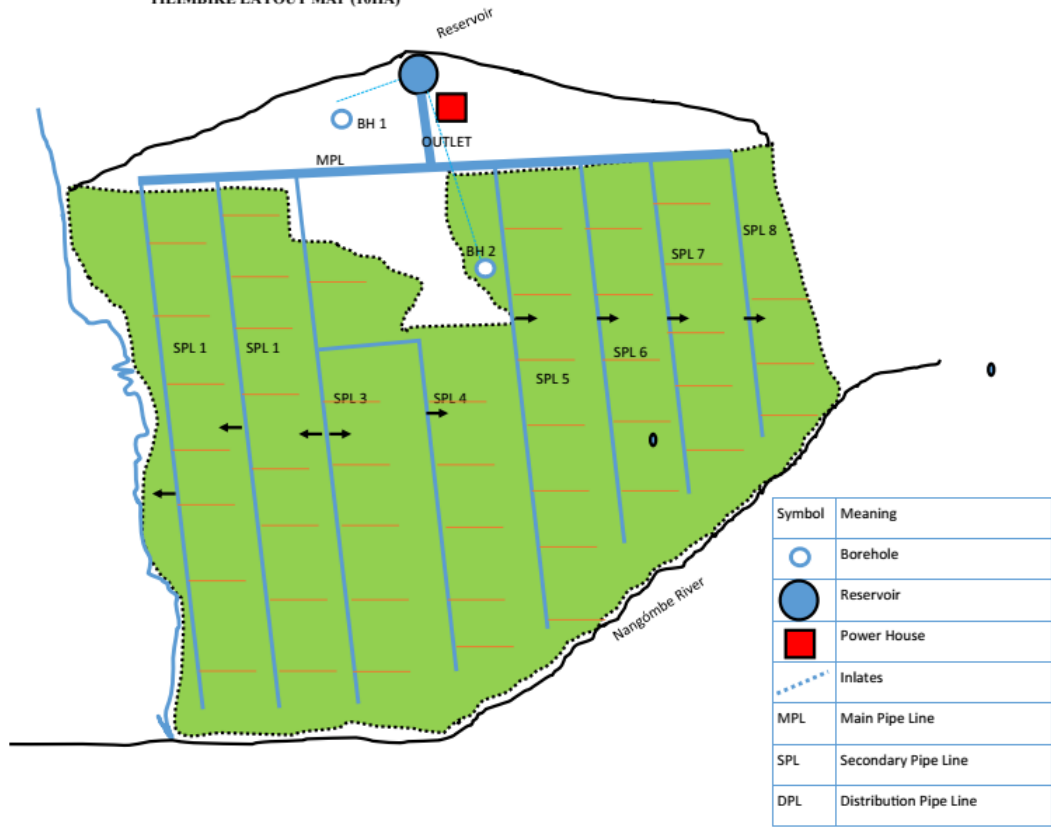
payback period for the scheme is estimated at 4 years. This estimate is based on an annual income per farmer of K450,000.00 which is realistic according to the programme officers.

- Creation of job opportunities as more people will be employed to work as laborers in the fields. The minimum daily wage in most farms in Mulanje is K1,500.00
- Promotion of local skills and knowledge as people will be trained in various skills. The skills include Value addition, marketing, crop management e.t.c.
- Improved food security because more farmers will be trained to make use of improved new technologies. The technologies include; Local fertilizer making and application, manure making and application, climate resilient technologies (Crop rotation/succession, mulching, minimum soil tillage).
- Increased household income through creation of business opportunities. Once they start producing the crops, farmers will have opportunities to join other cooperatives in the community hence interacting with different buyers eg. Nkando Horticultural Cooperative. There is also an opportunity at Thandizani Resource Centre- MMH where we have started making more products from horticulture crops such as Chilies, Tomato sauce & Garlic.
- Restoration of vegetative cover through planting more trees and vetiver grass and practicing of soil and water conservation activities.

6. CONCLUSION

The construction of Luwanje scheme will benefit a lot of people in the area by improving their livelihoods. For the scheme to benefit more farmers, there is a possibility to add a borehole and more pipes, to cover the full 13.4 hectares. The contractor executed his work well within the agreed time frame with quality work.

TILIMBIKE LAYOUT MAP (10HA)





30,000 liter concrete storage tank



One of the field outlets



Tank with solar panels above



A happy farmer

MMH, March 2024