

A VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS (VSL) GROUP PROMOTES SAVING CULTURE AMONG FARMERS IN NTCHEU DISTRICT IN MALAWI

NACRO Malawi is currently implementing an Agriculture project called Kanthunkhama Smallholder Irrigation Scheme Project, funded by NAK-karitativ. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to increased food security and rural incomes through development of surface water irrigation system and enhancement of best agricultural practices at Kanthunkhama Irrigation Scheme in Traditional Authority Mpando in the district. One of the result areas of the project is to ensure that at least three community savings, loans and investment groups targeting the communities in and around the scheme are formed and operational as one way of improving household income among the farmers and the rest of the community members in the area.



The Kanthunkhama VSL Group in Ntcheu district, Malawi

Farmers at Kanthunkhama started a savings group in October last year. The group comprises 27 members, of which 8 are males and 19 females. To date, the group has managed to accumulate Mwk470,000 (about 450 Euros) through shares. The farmers are happy, as they now have access to small loans from the group and are able to buy farm inputs like fertilizer and seeds to boost productivity in their farms. Some have managed to start small businesses through the loans they got from the savings group. In addition to this, they are also able to buy food and provide for their families. Lives of farmers at Kanthunkhama is slowly getting better. While some farmers envision to build proper houses after the savings, others would like to start livestock production to improve their household income and nutrition.



The farmers during a sharing session