



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

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Programme: 920

Length: 2'58"

FARMERS USE FOOT-POWERED IRRIGATION PUMPS TO COMBAT DROUGHT IN MALAWI

VIDEO

FARMER WALKS THROUGH
FIELD (12")

RONALD JAREKE IN HIS
LUSH MAIZE FIELD (13")

WATER NEARBY (9")

WATER PUMP (28")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Drought in parts of southern Africa have reduced harvests and raised the spectre of a renewed food crisis. Many maize fields in Malawi have withered away.

Where water is available in this east African country, bumper crops are still possible. Even though it hasn't rained in a while, gardens here are lush. A second harvest is expected this year.

It all depends on getting the water to the plants. Traditionally, farmers here have used buckets – an arduous way of irrigating their fields.

Farmers don't owe their new success to magic, but to a cheap, small tread pump. Using this simple, but revolutionary method has cut the

NARRATION

work dramatically. No electricity is needed – Only the farmer's foot power. All family members can operate the pumps, including young children. This innovation has helped farmer, Ronald Jareke to keep his two acres of land productive.

JAREKE:

RONALD JAREKE, FARMER
ON-CAMERA (6")

"There is a big improvement, now we have more money in the household, and we have more food."

NARRATION

HACKING IN THE FIELD (18")

It's not only maize that is benefiting. Ronald is diversifying his crops – an important factor in maize-dependent Malawi. Tomatoes and mustard greens add vitamins to the diet and sell well at the market. Even the potato leaves end up in the cooking pot.

CHICKEN AND GOATS IN
THE VILLAGE (10")

Some of the extra income has been invested in chicken and goats. It adds more meat to the family's diet. Life is improving in the village.

CHILDREN WORKING THE
PUMP (20")

The family income has grown from three dollars to 15 dollars a month. Ronald will soon have paid back the loan for the \$84 pump, which was imported from India. Often neighbours and farming collectives share the pumps. A cheaper locally produced pump will be on the market soon.

NARRATION

BUILDING LITTLE DAMS AND

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization,

CANALS IN THE GARDEN
(12")

FAO, is a major initiator of the pump project and wants to extend it, says FAO representative in Malawi, Louise Setshwaelo.

SETSHWAELO ON-CAMERA
(18")

SETSHWAELO:

"These programmes are making a difference. For instance, when you look at the fact that most families would just grow one crop during the rainy season between September and March, they now have an opportunity to have a second or third crop."

ROASTING CORN (13")

NARRATION

The farmers head home. Now there is even enough maize in the village to brew a cauldron of maize beer: a bubbling porridge – and a welcome treat after a hard day's work in the fields.

UN LOGO (12")

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha and Ingrid Kasper for the United Nations.