

‘Enhancing Climate Adapted Agricultural Productivity through Improved Water Management’ - Project Intro.

In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Freddy’s devastation in 2023, Phalombe and Thyolo districts in Malawi faced the urgent task of restoring agricultural productivity and ecosystems. The Dwale, Austen, and Mwaiwathu Irrigation Schemes, once spanning 151 hectares and serving 606 farming households, now operate on only 45 hectares due to the severe damage.

To address these challenges, the Government of Malawi, with support from the African Development Bank under the Climate Action Window is appraising the feasibility of implementing a project called, **‘Enhancing Climate Adapted Agricultural Productivity through Improved Water Management’**, led by FAO in partnership with IFAD, UNOPS, and the Department of Irrigation in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The project seeks to build climate resilience and improve the livelihoods of affected communities through the rehabilitation and enhancement of irrigation infrastructure at the Dwale, Mwaiwathu and Austen irrigation scheme; restoration of micro-catchments; promotion of climate-smart agriculture; and the strengthening of farmer organizations; and address other critical challenges posed by climate change. The project targets 151 hectares of damaged irrigation infrastructure. It also introduces digital agricultural solutions and climate advisory services, supports secure land tenure, and fosters inclusive, community-led business development. The intervention is structured around three components:

- (1) Climate Adapted Production and Productivity,
- (2) Digital Information and Climate Advisory Ecosystem, and
- (3) Policy and Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Sustainable Climate Adaptation.

The project supported by the African Development Bank under the Climate Action Window, will be implemented by a consortium led by FAO and comprising of UNOPS, IFAD, and the Ministry of Agriculture’s Department of Irrigation.