

Malawi Baseline Livelihood Profiles (Draft)

May/June 2003

Lower Shire Valley		
Food Crops	Maize Rice Sorghum Millet	This hot dry lowland zone is nonetheless relatively productive by the standards of southern Malawi. A variety of crops are grown during both the main and winter seasons, with winter crops cultivated in wetlands beside the Shire river. Cotton is the zone's major cash crop. Cattle holdings are significant in the zone, although concentrated in the hands of the 'better-off'. Overall, very roughly one third of the zone's income comes from sale of food crops, one third from the sale of cotton and one third from the sale of livestock (mainly cattle and goats). The zone benefits from good access to neighbouring Mozambique, a source of both <i>ganyu</i> and relatively cheap maize in both good and bad years.
Income Sources	Food crops Cotton Livestock	
Livestock	Cattle Goats	

Information Source:

Malawi National Vulnerability Assessment Committee

In collaboration with the SADC FANR Vulnerability Assessment Committee

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