

Malawi Baseline Livelihood Profiles (Draft)

May/June 2003

Middle Shire Valley		
Food Crops	Maize Pulses Rice	This is a relatively dry mid-lowland area with winter cropping and fishing along the Shire River. It is similar to a number of other southern zones in that normally, total production for the zone is enough to achieve rough self-sufficiency in staple food. Quite a high proportion of production is sold post-harvest by most households; however, and this has to be replaced by purchases later in the year. The latter are financed by charcoal burning and other collection-activities, which are helped by the low population density and more abundant woodland, feeding the market in the Southern Region's urban centres. A range of crops are grown, including cotton, but low prices mean that cotton sales provide 20% or less of total income for a majority of households. Other sources of income for 'poor' and 'middle' households are ganyu, petty trade, firewood and charcoal.
Income Sources	Food crops Other Cotton	
Livestock	Cattle (few) Goats	

Information Source:

Malawi National Vulnerability Assessment Committee

In collaboration with the SADC FANR Vulnerability Assessment Committee

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