

## INVESTMENT CASE STUDY

# THE PICK OF THE CROP



Northern Zambia has scant formal infrastructure and employment, and is highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture, despite being naturally rich in water. Until now, Zambia has also been 100% reliant on imported seed potatoes, an economically important food crop.

Following our investment of \$6.0 million in Saise Farming Enterprises Limited (SFEL), the first priority was to tap into the Northern Province's ample river water supply by installing 16.5 hectares of irrigation. With one third of the water fed by gravity, overreliance on pumps was eliminated and power requirements reduced. This work has led to a major breakthrough: high-quality, certified seed potatoes are now being cultivated for the first time ever in this area. We anticipate that 50% of Zambia's current seed potato requirements will now be met through SFEL replacing expensive imports, and with considerable knock-on benefits: millions of dollars saved in foreign exchange costs for Zambia; better quality and cheaper seeds for local farmers; and exports opened up to three neighbouring countries.

**ALONGSIDE INCREASING ZAMBIA'S SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND FOOD SECURITY, AGDEVCO'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH WILL ATTRACT FUTURE INVESTMENTS AND BOOST EXPORT POTENTIAL FOR OTHER CASH CROPS IN THIS UNDERDEVELOPED PROVINCE.**