

Learning valuable skills

Connex Lodzani is a Field Officer, working for JCM Power at **Salima Solar**.
He recently attended the company's beekeeping training.

Co-developed by PIDG's project development solution, InfraCo, and JCM Power, the Salima Solar plant delivers 60MWac of clean energy to Malawi's national grid. The Salima project employs 35 full time employees and JCM delivers a wide programme of training for these individuals.

As part of its wider work to increase biodiversity in the vicinity of the plant, JCM identified beekeeping as an excellent source of additional income for local farmers.

Connex said, **"I am 26 years old, and I have one child and a wife who depends on me. I came to learn about beekeeping today to acquire knowledge and experience in beekeeping using modern ways."**

Delivered by an international expert beekeeper, the training involved participants gaining hands-on experience of modern beekeeping techniques and equipment. The six employees learned how to

use Langstroth hives to maximise their yields whilst reducing disturbance of the bees. They also used machinery to extract the honey, resulting in a better product for sale.

Connex was surprised by the economic potential of beekeeping, **"The most surprising thing I have learnt today is how much a single beehive can produce in terms of monetary returns - we found out that it is over USD200 per year!"**

Reflecting on the training at the end of the session, Connex felt motivated to become a beekeeper, **"With the knowledge and skills learnt today, I plan to educate my fellow interested farmers in modern beekeeping and be able to manage beehives on a large scale for my own enterprise!"**

