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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



MALAWI

NEW ALLIANCE POLICY ACCELERATION SUPPORT: MALAWI PROJECT (NAPAS: MALAWI)



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MISSION AND GOALS

In 2013, the Government of Malawi committed to many reforms under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development (MoAIWD) is leading the implementation of this initiative. The New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support: Malawi project (NAPAS: Malawi) provides policy advisory support to the Ministry to better enable the government of Malawi achieve these policy reforms. NAPAS: Malawi is part of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy project (FSP).

The twin objectives of the NAPAS: Malawi project are to improve the agriculture investment climate in Malawi and to enable increased commercialization of Malawi's agricultural sector.

The project has three main components:

- Provide technical support for policy formulation;
- Engage in communication activities to inform debates on agriculture and food security policy issues; and
- Address gaps in analytical expertise constraining agricultural policy reform.

BACKGROUND

Agriculture remains the mainstay of Malawi's economy, contributing significantly to employment, economic growth, export earnings, poverty reduction, food security, and nutrition. It also plays a critical role in ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. However, Malawi must confront and overcome several challenges in the sector, including low agricultural productivity, susceptibility to weather shocks, and poor management of land, water, and soils.

All of these pose a threat to food security and nutrition in the face of a growing population, increased land pressure, and climate change. In trying to address these challenges in the past, Malawi has over-concentrated on maize self-sufficiency for food and tobacco as a cash crop, at the expense of other agricultural commodities, including livestock and fisheries. Moreover, the sector remains predominantly subsistence-oriented.

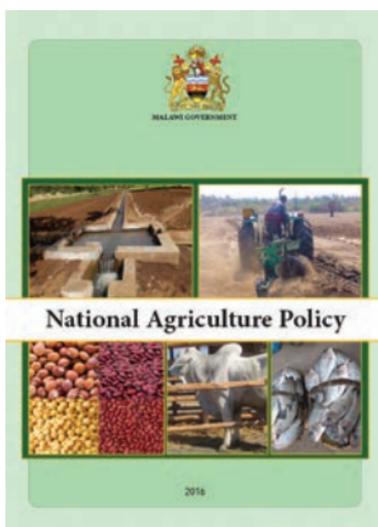
The reforms that the NAPAS: Malawi is supporting, seek to sustainably transform the agriculture sector from a subsistence to a market-orientation in order to increase agricultural production, marketed surpluses of commodities, and real incomes.

NAPAS KEY ACTIVITIES

Policy Formulation

NAPAS: Malawi supports MoAIWD to address the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition policy reform commitments that primarily involve policy definition and strategy development. Many of these aim to increase levels of private sector investment and agricultural commercialization. NAPAS: Malawi's advisors participate in the Ministry's policy processes

by contributing insights from theory and models, and, at a practical level, by participating in the drafting of policy, strategy, and position papers. NAPAS: Malawi particularly contributed to the 2016 National Agriculture Policy document and the Contract Farming Strategy. They are helping the Ministry finalize review of the National Agricultural Extension Policy, design of an Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy, an Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy, a National Fertilizer Policy and a Farmer Organization Development Strategy. They also attend and organize meetings across sectors and with all stakeholders to build consensus on the policy changes required and the action needed.



Policy Communication

NAPAS: Malawi works to increase the number of informed actors engaged in policy deliberations through targeted policy communication efforts. NAPAS: Malawi supports other stakeholders to lead conferences and workshops, and also organizes conferences and workshops. The project has produced several policy reports and briefs.



NAPAS KEY ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Capacity Strengthening

NAPAS: Malawi staff strengthens the analytical capacity of policy analysts within the Department of Agricultural Planning Services and other state and non-state agricultural policy institutions. These collaborations provide objective evidence on the best policy direction to take, improving the quality of the discussions in agricultural policy reform processes.

NAPAS: Malawi advisors carry out targeted policy analysis to bring further evidence to strengthen political will or to promote buy-in from stakeholders. These studies are led in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Planning Services staff and Malawian academic institutions, as well as with civil society organizations from the sector. These joint efforts are pursued to also build more skills in policy analysis and to effectively communicate the research results for application.

NAPAS: Malawi has trained journalists from all major media corporations in Malawi on effective communication of agriculture, food security and nutrition policy stories.

NAPAS: Malawi also offers short-term training courses on analytical methods, budget analysis and policy communication.



ABOUT

The New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support: Malawi project (NAPAS: Malawi) is part of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy (FSP) funded through USAID. FSP is coordinated by Michigan State University in collaboration with IFPRI and the University of Pretoria.

For more information on NAPAS: Malawi

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