

Michigan State University

New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support (NAPAS) Activity

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Project Lifetime Report

November 27, 2014 to February 27, 2019

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USAID/Malawi Project Lifetime Progress Report

Project Name: New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support: Malawi (NAPAS: Malawi) Activity

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Project Objectives: The New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support: Malawi (NAPAS:Malawi) is an activity under the Sustainable Economic Growth (SEG) project of USAID/Malawi. The activity is being implemented by Michigan State University (MSU) in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the University of Pretoria (UP). NAPAS aims to enable the Government of Malawi to implement the policy reforms agenda it committed to under the New Alliance Country Cooperation Framework for Malawi. NAPAS has the goal of *providing effective technical support to the Government of Malawi so that it sustainably achieves the high-level commitments to policy reform made under the New Alliance Country Cooperation Framework for Malawi*. These policy reforms have the broader aim of improving the agriculture investment climate in Malawi through commercializing agriculture and increasing the role of the private sector in Malawi's agricultural sector. NAPAS has three components:

1. Policy Formulation
2. Policy Communication
3. Capacity Strengthening

This is a project lifetime report covering November 28, 2014 to February 27, 2019.

Component 1: Technical Support for Policy Formulation

National Agriculture Policy (NAP)

The National Agriculture Policy is the main deliverable that the NAPAS activity helped the MoAIWD to produce. It is the first overarching national agriculture policy for Malawi. It was produced in an evidence-based manner through production of the “Refocusing of Agriculture in Malawi” document that provided background information. It also involved extensive stakeholder consultations involving a total of 842 participants (22% female). The Policy was adopted in September 2016. It attracted the highest level of political commitment with the President putting his signature in the front pages of the document and presiding over its launch in November 2016. Information on the launch and the document itself can be found on:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/malawi-national-agriculture-policy>.

National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP)

The NAPAS team provided critical technical support for development of the NAIP, through a task force that the Ministry formed to oversee the process. The NAP formed the basis for development of the NAIP, which is a successor to the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach I (ASWAp I) that run from 2011 to 2016. It is the implementation plan of the NAP.

In support of the NAIP development and implementation process the NAPAS activity conducted 12 value chain studies (see section below). NAPAS also invited and supported Dr. James Thurlow, a General Equilibrium (GE) modeller at IFPRI Washington DC, to present results of a GE model, “*Identifying Priority Value Chains in Malawi*” to the NAIP development team and to the Ministry of Agriculture staff. The model was further presented by the CoP of NAPAS to stakeholders that the FAO/NAIP team convened at the Golden Peacock Hotel on February 15, 2017. The CoP also presented on “*Food and Nutrition Security, Food Safety, Social Protection, & Empowerment of Women and Youth in the National Agriculture Policy*” to the stakeholders at the NAIP meeting on February 15, 2017.

Furthermore, the NAPAS team facilitated involvement of Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD) in the NAIP process and key stakeholders in the Nutrition sector. As a result, the NAIP includes an intervention area on “Empowerment and Tenure Security”, whose interventions will be implemented by the MoLHUD. The NAIP also includes intervention areas on Nutrition and Food Safety and Quality Standards that the nutrition stakeholders suggested to be included.

NAPAS also supported a workshop on “Agricultural Policy and Institutional Strengthening” that contributed to development of a pillar on “Policies, Institutions and Coordination for Results” in the NAIP. NAPAS also supported a Budget and Policy Analysis Training to help the Ministry design a budget and work plan that would enable them to implement the NAP and NAIP. The NAPAS activity also supported finalization of the National Agriculture Investment Plan that took place at La-Riviera Hotel in Mangochi from 3rd to 6th April, 2018. This writeshop was organized for MoAIWD senior staff members to take a final look at the investment plan before it could be

approved and launched. The writeshop involved 7 officers from MoAIWD. The investment plan was launched on 13th June, 2018 by the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development at the Bingu International Convention Center in Lilongwe. A [blog](#) and a [video](#) on the launch were produced by the Communications Specialist of the NAPAS Activity.

Value Chain Analyses to inform implementation of the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP)

NAPAS conducted 12 value chain studies: groundnuts, pigeon peas, roots and tubers (cassava, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and yams), tea, coffee, macadamia nuts, bananas, tomatoes, and mangoes to support development and implementation of the NAIP. A total of 257 (135 female) stakeholders participated in value chain surveys in FY18. Reports and policy briefs on the value chains can be accessed on the MSU Food Security Policy website (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/fsp/countries/malawi/>). Some of the studies attracted international attention when they were presented at a 2018 International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research Conference on “*Disruptive Innovations, Value Chains and Rural Development*” that was held at the World Bank in Washington DC, from June 12-15, 2018. See blog on it on <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/napas-malawi-value-chain-studies-at-the-world-banks-icabr-conference-in-dc>

Reforming the Farm Input Subsidy Program

The NAPAS activity produced a brief on reform of the Farm Input Subsidy Program (FISP) for use by senior management of the Ministry to lobby for FISP restructuring. See

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/redesigning-the-farm-input-subsidy-programme-fisp-for-malawi>

The brief resulted in the Ministry increasing the contribution of farmers to the cost of purchasing the inputs from MK500 per bag of fertilizer to MK3, 500 per bag, in the 2015/16 season. The farmers’ contribution to purchase of seeds was also raised. In total, the farmers’ contribution to purchase of two bags of fertilizer and a package of maize seed and legume seed of their choice that the FISP programme provides was raised from MK1000 or MK1150 (about US\$ 2) to MK9000 (about US\$ 16). This was a decrease in the subsidy from about 97% to about 80%, thereby relieving the government of the fiscal burden that the 97% subsidy entailed. In addition, the government allowed the private sector to import and distribute 40 metric tonnes of fertilizer to 12 of the 28 districts in Malawi as a pilot towards increasing private sector participation in the FISP program. This was about 27% of the total fertilizer distributed under the FISP program. For the 2016/17 season these reforms were further enhanced to the extent that the private sector was sourcing and distributing about 60% of the fertilizer, with increased efficiency compared to the previous government-dominated system (<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/impacts-agricultural-input-subsidies-malawi>). These are positive steps towards improved financial sustainability and efficiency of the FISP program, which the NAPAS:Malawi contributed to through production of the FISP brief.

Contract Farming Strategy (CFS)

The Contract Farming Strategy (CFS) was initially developed by a Consultant who did not deliver what the Ministry had hoped for. The NAPAS team was therefore requested by the Ministry to help revise the document to the required standard. The CFS was adopted by the Ministry in August, 2016. In FY17, the NAPAS team worked closely with the Department of Agricultural Planning Services (DAPS) and Competition and Fair Trade Commission (CFTC) in disseminating the CFS. NAPAS co-organized 3 dissemination workshops in the Northern, Central and Southern regions of Malawi.

Agricultural Zonation Scheme

Production of an agricultural zonation scheme to use as a spatial tool to guide agricultural development planning across the country began in FY15. Dr Todd Benson of IFPRI led the effort of developing the Malawi agriculture zoning (crop suitability) atlas throughout fiscal year 2015/16. Two presentations of the maps generated from the agricultural zoning work were made, one at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI and the other in Lilongwe, Malawi at the Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA) research conference in June 2015. This output was shared with the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development, specifically with the Department of Land Resources Conservation, the Department of Crop Development and the Department of Planning. Electronic versions of the crop suitability atlas were shared with the Director of Crop Development in the MoAIWD who distributed them to agricultural officers in the Ministry at the district and EPA levels. The Director of Crop Development expressed his gratitude to the NAPAS team and indicated that the atlas would be used for planning purposes by officers in the Ministry at the ADD, district and EPA levels. Other stakeholders, including the SANE activity staff, the Oilseeds project (Malawi Oilseeds Transformation) in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and DCAFS have also received the crop suitability atlas and several received hard copies as well. This particular deliverable is now being used by the respective organizations (including the Agricultural Transformation Initiative) for planning purposes and additional analytical work. The agricultural zoning atlas can be accessed online at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/detailed-crop-suitability-maps-and-an-agricultural-zonation-scheme-for-malawi> and <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/detailed-crop-suitability-maps-and-agricultural-zonation-scheme-malawi-spatial>

Concept Note on Irrigation

In the period January 1st 2016 to March 31st 2016 the NAPAS: Malawi team focused on supporting the Department of Agricultural Planning Services in the MoAIWD with developing a concept note on irrigation for intensified food production, aimed at addressing food insecurity crisis and enhancing resilience of the food production system in Malawi. This work, which was urgently demanded by the Ministry, had not been planned for but was seen as an important request from the Minister of Agriculture. Hence, the NAPAS team ably and positively responded to this urgent request and spent most of the months of January and February 2016, working on background analyses and literature reviews as well as developing and revising different versions of the concept note. Following the development of the concept note, the NAPAS team was then asked by the Director of Planning, Mr Alex Namaona, to help the Ministry present the concept note to various stakeholders; first internally to the Minister and the PS of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development, as well as the Chief Director of Irrigation and his technical planners in the Ministry; then to several external stakeholders, including development partners, and farmers convened by the Farmers Union of Malawi. In this regard, the NAPAS team prepared and delivered three presentations to stakeholders and assisted the Ministry in drafting an Expression of Interest call, which was advertised in the newspapers seeking to engage private sector in irrigated maize production for supply to the National Food Reserve Agency.

In a related effort, the NAPAS team engaged with several private companies that were being surveyed as part of a related study on constraints to commercial investments in maize production. This study was part of research collaboration with the IFPRI SEBAP activity. The study led to the NAPAS team being asked by one of the private sector companies, Mtalimanja Holdings, to engage the Minister and PS in a visit to one of the company's sites (namely the School of Agriculture for Family Independence (SAFI)) in Dowa district, where the company is irrigating food crops. The Minister, PS, Director of Planning along with the NAPAS team and other Ministry officials visited SAFI in February, 2016.

The NAPAS team continued supporting the Ministry in efforts to increase irrigation investments in line with the New Alliance commitment. As part of this effort the NAPAS team continued its engagement with the private sector on irrigation investments. In particular, the NAPAS team paid a visit to Malawi Mangoes (Private Limited Company) in Salima on August 19, 2016, where the team learned about the policy-related challenges the company is facing, despite having invested heavily in irrigation and processing infrastructure. While irrigation equipment and processing facilities had been installed for some time then, the firm was still unable to utilize it to its maximum potential primarily due to land dispute issues on 1,700ha of land that the company had acquired in Salima. This left the company tending mango plants in greenhouses well after the due date for transplanting them into the field. The NAPAS team produced a report of the visit to the Director of Planning and the Principal Secretary of Agriculture, seeking their attention to the issue. The CoP also visited the Principal Secretary of Lands to discuss potential solutions to the issue. A visit by the NAPAS team to Malawi Mangoes in November 2018 confirmed that the land issue has been resolved.

Review of the 2000 Agricultural Extension Policy and Development of the Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy

Work on the review of the 2000 Agricultural Extension Policy and development of the Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy started in 2015. The NAPAS activity worked closely with DAES and the USAID-supported SANE activity to move the process of reviewing the Agricultural Extension Policy forward. The NAPAS COP produced a background paper to inform the process of review of the extension policy. The background document can be accessed [here](#).

Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) hired a consultant to work on the review and develop the Agricultural and Advisory Services Strategy. The NAPAS activity provided technical input in both processes. The Extension Policy Review was validated with stakeholders in March 2017, while the Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy was validated in November 2018. Progress on the Strategy was delayed due to failure by MoAIWD to pay the Consultants that were hired, following closure of the ASWAp-SP project. Comments from the validation workshop were incorporated in the draft Strategy and a revised draft has been submitted to DAES and would be reviewed by a technical team before the document is submitted to MoAIWD for adoption in 2019 (after closure of the NAPAS project).

National Fertilizer Policy (NFP)

The NAPAS team has been supporting the Department of Agriculture Research Services (DARS) to draft the National Fertilizer Policy (NFP) since 2015. Consultations on the Fertilizer Policy started in November 2015. CISANET joined the Ministry and NAPAS team to conduct further consultations on the Fertilizer Policy between April and July, 2016. A large share of the respondents came from the private sector, including fertilizer companies, the fertilizer association of Malawi, agro-dealers and transporters operating in the fertilizer industry in Malawi. The NAPAS team produced a background paper to inform development of the NFP that can be accessed [here](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/making-fertilizer-use-more-effective-and-profitable-the-role-of-complementary-interventions) (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/making-fertilizer-use-more-effective-and-profitable-the-role-of-complementary-interventions>).

A zero-draft of the NFP was produced in July 2017. Input on the draft was sought through three regional consultations that took place in August 2017 in Mzuzu, Blantyre, and Lilongwe. The Senior Management of the MoAIWD also reviewed the draft Policy in August, 2017. In FY18 the NAPAS activity held a number of writeshops to draft the National Fertiliser Policy. Two drafting sessions were convened during the first quarter; one session held at Bayview Lodge in Salima from 23rd to 27th October, 2017 and another held at Lilongwe hotel from 9th to 10th November, 2017. The draft National Fertilizer Policy (NFP) was internally validated with senior management of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) in February 2018. After the comments were incorporated in the draft, an external validation workshop was held in March, 2018 at Ufulu Gardens in Lilongwe. During the third quarter of FY18, the NAPAS team together with the Department of Agricultural Research Services held a writeshop in Salima from 16st to 19th May, 2018 to incorporate comments made during the 28th March 2018 validation workshop and those that came from various stakeholders through emails. The Secretary for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development requested another validation of the policy with senior management of the

Ministry. The validation took place on 17th July, 2018. The draft policy was then submitted to the Secretary for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development on 24 July, 2018 by the Director of Agricultural Research Services.

The draft policy was submitted to the Office of President and Cabinet (OPC) by the Secretary for Agriculture in November, 2018. Following this, OPC called for a meeting on November, 29, 2018 for Principal Secretaries to provide input into the document. The meeting was postponed to 10th January, 2019 by OPC, but also failed to take place due to unavailability of the PS of Agriculture. The Policy had not gone through the OPC approval process by end of the NAPAS project. A total of 629 stakeholders (112 female) provided input in the development of the NFP through consultations and drafting sessions.

National Fertiliser Bill (NFB)

The NAPAS activity started working on the Fertiliser Bill in the fourth quarter of the FY18. A meeting was held with the Director of Agricultural Research Services to map the way forward for developing the Fertiliser Bill in August, 2018. Following this, the NAPAS activity organized a writeshop to align a 2014 draft Fertiliser Bill to the current National Fertiliser Policy draft in September, 2018 where 18 (2 female) stakeholders were involved.

In FY19, the NAPAS activity worked closely with the Department of Agricultural Research Services to draft regulations in the Fertilizer Bill. A writeshop was held from 30th January, 2019 to 1st February, 2019 at Kabumba Hotel in Salima but it was not sufficient to finalize the drafting. With no more funds available under the NAPAS project to complete drafting the Bill, the MoAIWD will have to use resources from other Policy projects to finalize the process of developing the NFB, including aligning it to the finalized NFP.

Famer Organization Development Strategy (FODS)

The NAPAS activity supported DAES in developing the Farmer Organization Development Strategy (FODS). The work started in FY16. Initial consultations were conducted in July 2016, where over 182 (40 female) farmers and stakeholders from each district of Malawi participated. A video capturing some of the activities during the consultation can be accessed here <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/video-encouraging-and-strengthening-cooperatives>.

The following organizations worked hand in hand with DAES (MoAIWD) and the NAPAS team to develop the draft FODS: MoITT, FAO, Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM), NASFAM, Malawi Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (MUSCCO), and WeEFFECT (an International NGO supporting cooperative development in Malawi).

In FY2018 the NAPAS activity, in conjunction with DAES, MoITT, FAO and GIZ held a stakeholder consultation workshop on 11th and 12th October, 2017 to inform development of the FODS and the Cooperate Development Policy and Strategy (in MoITT). NAPAS also conducted a survey with organizations that deal with farmer organizations to solicit more input for development of the FODS. Representatives of 29 organizations participated in the survey. The input was consolidated and analyzed and a zero draft of the FODS was produced in December, 2017. Internal consultations on the zero draft (with the task force overseeing development of the

FODS) were also conducted. A national consultation workshop on the FODS was held in February, 2018 at Lilongwe hotel.

Two writeshops were organized to draft the FODS; the first from 3rd to 6th April, 2018 and the second from 24th to 30th June, 2018 both at La-Riviera Hotel in Mangochi. The writeshops were attended by participants from NASFAM, MUSCO, Malawi Microfinance Network, DCAFS, DAES, and CISANET. In the fourth quarter, the Strategy was internally validated with senior management of MoAIWD and with external key stakeholder in September, 2018. A total of 318 participants (80 female) provided input into the draft FODS through consultations and drafting.

During the first quarter of FY19, the NAPAS activity further refined the FODS draft in readiness for submission to MoAIWD. The Strategy was submitted to the Director of DAES in MoAIWD in February, 2019. The Director will push for its adoption in the Ministry.

Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy (ASFNS)

The NAPAS Activity worked hand-in hand with Department of Agricultural Extension (DAES) in the MoAIWD, the SANE activity that is also funded by USAID and the Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (DNHA) in Ministry of Health to develop the ASFNS. NAPAS co-financed three regional consultations on the ASFNS in FY2017: first one in Mzuzu from 2-3 February 2017; second one in Lilongwe, from 7-8 February 2017 and the third one in Blantyre from 9-10 February 2017. NAPAS also co-financed a validation workshop for the ASFNS on April 25, 2017 in Lilongwe. The other co-financers were SANE and DNHA. DNHA also funded an extra consultation meeting in July 2017. The inputs from stakeholder consultations were incorporated in the draft ASFNS at a writeshop that took place in Mponela from 11-15 September 2017. NAPAS, SANE, DAES and DAPS in MoAIWD, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Gender were represented at the writeshop.

In FY2018, another writeshop was organized by the DAES and the SANE activity on October 10, 2017 at the Malawi Institute of Management in Lilongwe where the NAPAS team provided technical support in improving the M&E section of the strategy. Another meeting was convened on 21st and 22nd March, 2018 at NAPAS' offices where the NAPAS team and representatives from the DAES worked on several sections of the Strategy. Additional meeting were convened in April and May where the task team worked on several sections of the document. The draft document was internally validated by senior management of MoAIWD on 17th July, 2018. The draft Strategy was finalized together with costing on 16th November, 2018. The Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) in the Ministry of Health called for a meeting of nutrition specialists to have a final look at the document from February 12th to 13th 2019 and in March 2019. After incorporating comments from the nutrition specialists, the Strategy will be finalized and submitted to MoAIWD for adoption. A total of 590 (322 female) stakeholders have provided input in the development of the ASFNS through consultations and drafting sessions.

Strategic Plan for the MoAIWD

During the fourth quarter of FY2015, the MoAIWD, through the Department of Agricultural Planning Services requested for technical support from the NAPAS activity in developing the Ministry's Strategic Plan. The Director of Planning in the MoAIWD (Mr Alexander Namaona) indicated that this document was a requirement from the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) and that it would largely spell out the role of the MoAIWD in implementing the NAP. In addition, development of the Strategic Plan was included as part of the roadmap towards developing the next National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP).

During FY17, the Ministry produced a zero draft of the Strategy in May 2017 and sought inputs on it through 3 regional consultations. The first consultation took place in Salima on 4th May 2017, the second consultation took place in Mzuzu on 10th May and the third consultation took place in Blantyre on 18th May, 2017. The NAPAS Activity financed these consultations.

In FY2018, a drafting session was held at La-Riviera Hotel in Mangochi, from 29th May 2018 to 2nd June, 2018 to incorporate comments from the consultations. Dr. Flora Nankhuni and Mr. Joseph Kanyamuka of the NAPAS team joined officials from MoAIWD to finalize the document. Another working session was organized at La Riviera Hotel in Mangochi from 2nd to 6th July 2018. The Ministry's Strategic Plan delayed finalization because it was noted that it did not include activities from the Department of Human Resources (MoAIWD). The omission was corrected and the Strategic Plan has been finalized and submitted to the Department of Agricultural Extension Services for printing. A total of 292 (57 female) stakeholders provided input in the development of the Ministry's Strategic Plan.

Review of the Special Crops Act (SPA), Agriculture General Purposes Act (AGPA) and Development of Contract Farming (CF) Legislation

The NAPAS activity was requested by the MoAIWD to review the Special Crops Act and the Agriculture General Purposes Act. The reviews also sought to explore the possibility of developing the CF legislation and drafting it in the AGPA. In relation to development of CF legislation, the NAPAS team held a meeting with the Competition and Fair Trade Commission (CFTC) in January 2018, since the CFTC had been proposed to be enforcers of a CF legislation that would be drafted into an amended Competition and Fair Trade Act (CFTA). However, in consultation with the CFTC, a decision was made to incorporate contract farming legislation in the amendment to the Agriculture General Purposes Act rather than to the CFTA. The NAPAS team including IFPRI colleagues, Todd Benson and Andrew Comstock developed an inception report that was presented to key stakeholders on 14th March, 2018 at Wankulu Palace in Lilongwe. The NAPAS activity then hired a legal consultant and the MoAIWD asked the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) to provide two legal experts that would support the review process. The NAPAS team also conducted a survey to solicit stakeholder input. The survey was conducted between April and July 2018. A draft review report was produced and externally validated with stakeholders on 27th September, 2018 at Ufulu Gardens Hotel in Lilongwe. A total of 411 (113 female) stakeholders were consulted in the whole process.

Following the external validation workshop on the review the NAPAS activity produced a preliminary report that can be accessed [here](#). However, stakeholders at the validation workshop expressed a need for further investigation into contract farming issues to better inform development of the Contract Farming Legislation. As a result, the NAPAS team conducted a Contract Farming (CF) study to inform development of CF legislation. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions were conducted in the tobacco, tea, coffee, cotton, macadamia, and sugar industries from December 2018 to February 2019 to inform the study. Results of this study were supposed to be incorporated in the final report on the Review of Special Crops Act and Agriculture General Purposes Act. The project closed in February 2019 before the final report was produced. The MoAIWD was expected to use the final review report to inform drafting of new Agriculture Legislation.

Horticulture Policy and Strategy

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development requested for technical support from the NAPAS team to assist in development of a Horticulture Policy and Strategy. The Deputy Director in the Department of Crop Development (Dr. Nyalugwe) engaged the CoP of NAPAS to guide the development process. Initially, the Department engaged a consultant to produce a draft Strategy that was provided to the NAPAS team for further development. Land O' Lakes' MSIKA project that is supported by the US Department of Agriculture also had resources dedicated to development of a Horticulture Policy for Malawi. The Deputy Director of Crops organized a task force that composed of Ministry officials, the MSIKA team, the NAPAS team and several key stakeholders in the Horticulture sector to develop the Horticulture Policy and Strategy. A writeshop was then organized with financial support of the Ministry and the MSIKA project to review the draft Horticulture Strategy that was produced by the consultant. The writeshop was held at Mpatsa Lodge in Salima from 18th to 20th June, 2018, under the NAPAS CoP's technical guidance. Thereafter, the NAPAS activity participated in a planning meeting on development of the Horticulture Policy and Strategy that was held on 23rd August, 2018 in Dr Nyalugwe's office. The aim of the meeting was to map the way forward for developing the Policy and Strategy.

A second writeshop was held at La Riviera hotel in Mangochi from 16th to 19th October, 2018. The writeshop involved subject matter specialists from selected districts and horticulture farmers. A - 1 draft of the Horticulture Policy and Strategy was developed during the writeshop. Another writeshop was held from 19th to 21st November, 2018 at Mpatsa Lodge in Salima. A zero draft of the Horticulture Policy and Strategy was produced in February 2019 and is going through internal review with officers in DAPS. The zero draft Policy will then be validated internally in the MoAIWD and externally, across the three regions of Malawi, after closure of the project.

National Resilience Plan

The NAPAS team was requested to work on the agriculture component of the National Resilience Plan (NRP), which the MoAIWD needed to submit to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) that was managed under the Vice President's Office. This work was also requested by USAID Malawi due to concerns that the agriculture component was not adequately incorporating key elements and interventions necessary to effectively enhance resilience in the agriculture and food system of Malawi to break the cycle of food insecurity. Apart from providing

technical input on the agriculture component of the NRP, the NAPAS team also provided technical input on the other sections of the document. A National Resilience Strategy was produced and is going to be a basis for an upcoming Food for Peace Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) that USAID will fund.

Three Political Economy Case Studies

The NAPAS activity provided technical input to three case studies on the political economy of agriculture in Malawi in the areas of: 1) Grain output market policy, with particular focus on policy reform effecting ADMARC and NFRA; 2) FISP policy reform, and; 3) Malawi's stalled seed system policy reform. These studies were carried out at the behest of USAID/Malawi and were done by an international consultant, in collaboration with a local consultant who is an expert on the political economy of Malawi. The consultants presented the study results on April 11 2017 at the IFPRI Headquarters in Washington DC, after receiving input on the draft studies from the NAPAS team. Additional input was also provided during the seminar presentation. These studies were expected to inform the design of the next policy support efforts by USAID/Malawi in the country.

Component 2: Policy Communication

In the second component of the Project, the following policy communication activities were carried out:

National Agriculture Policy (NAP) consultations, validation, launch and dissemination

Eleven National Agriculture Policy consultations at district and national levels in February and March of 2015 were held in several areas including Lilongwe (twice), Karonga, Mzuzu, Kasungu, Salima, Dedza, Blantyre, Mulanje, Nsanje, and Balaka. In total, more than 2,000 stakeholders participated in the consultations, the validation workshop and the launch of the NAP document. More stakeholders were reached in extensive policy dissemination events that the NAPAS Activity conducted in FY17/18 (see section on Policy Dissemination Events).

Linkages between Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition

The NAPAS team supported the International Food Policy Research Institute (SEBAP activity) in organizing a conference on “Linkages between Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition” that was held on April 28, 2015. The CoP of NAPAS, Dr. Nankhuni presented on “The Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition Landscape in Malawi” (https://www.canr.msu.edu/profiles/nankhuni_janet/presentations). Through this conference, NAPAS: Malawi brought to attention, issues of nutrition to policy makers in the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development. Following this engagement with nutrition stakeholders, NAPAS:Malawi staff members were invited to comment on the National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan and later to be part of the task force involved in development of the

Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy. The CoP of NAPAS was also involved in development of the Micronutrient Policy in Malawi paper that has become one of the most downloaded paper in the Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN). The paper can be accessed [here](#)

2015 ECAMA Research Symposium

The NAPAS Activity co-funded a panel discussion that was aired on Malawi TV prime time, 3 times and by audio on Zodiac radio (one time). The discussion was on the theme of the conference, “Agricultural transformation and value chain development for sustainable economic development”.

Making Maize Markets Work for All Malawians

The NAPAS team supported IFPRI in co- organizing the conference on “Making Maize Markets Work for All Malawians” that was held on October 1, 2015. One of NAPAS’ analysts presented a paper at the conference. Details of the event can be accessed here: <http://massp.ifpri.info/2015/10/08/research-symposium-on-making-maize-market-work-for-all/>

1st Malawi Land Symposium

The NAPAS Activity organized the first Malawi Land Symposium that was held on April 20, 2016 at the Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi. It was considered a milestone event in that it brought together land and agriculture stakeholders to discuss the implications of land issues on commercialization of agriculture efforts that the NAP was proposing. Over 100 participants attended the symposium. A detailed report of the symposium can be accessed on

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/fsp/countries/malawi/MALAWI_LAND_SYMPOSIUM_EVENT_REPORT\(1\).pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/fsp/countries/malawi/MALAWI_LAND_SYMPOSIUM_EVENT_REPORT(1).pdf)

2nd Malawi Land Symposium

NAPAS organized the Second Malawi Land Symposium in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD) and MoAIWD on May 10, 2017. This was a follow-up to the first Malawi Land Symposium that took place in 2016. The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Honourable Atupele Austin Muluzi, MP officially opened the symposium and stayed beyond the opening ceremony to listen to the key technical presentations. 106 participants (20 women) from various constituencies including government, private sector, civil society, academia and researchers participated. A report of the symposium’s proceedings and a policy brief can be accessed on

https://www.canr.msu.edu/fsp/countries/malawi/Proceedings_Report_of_2nd_Malawi_Land_Symposium_held_in_May_2017.pdf



Participants at the Second Malawi Land Symposium held on May 10th, 2017 in Lilongwe, Malawi

The symposium was hailed a great success and stakeholders expressed a desire to see the symposium held yearly. A video on the symposium can be accessed on this link, <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/malawi-land-symposium-video>

Malawi Compact 2025 Roundtable Discussion

On May 26th, 2016 IFPRI convened the Compact 2025 Roundtable discussion for Malawi, with support from both the NAPAS and the Strengthening Evidence-Based Agricultural Policy (SEBAP) activities. The Compact2025 is an initiative of the International Food Policy Research Institute's Washington DC office, and as part of the initiative NAPAS was asked to help facilitate the process from a government-engagement point of view. For example, the NAPAS team assisted the IFPRI-Washington team by reviewing the draft Compact2025 background document and facilitated review of the document by Ministry staff in the Department of Agricultural Planning Services. More information on the Compact2025 roundtable in Malawi can be found at: <http://www.compact2025.org/2016/05/10/initiating-compact2025-in-malawi-roundtable-discussion/>

Technical Working Group, ASWAp Review and Other Meetings

The NAPAS team continued to actively participate in several Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings under ASWAp I, to help inform and shape various debates on agricultural policy in Malawi. Some of these TWGs were organized by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism such as on Oilseeds and Ware House Receipts legislation.

Agriculture Policy and Institutional Strengthening Workshop (APIS)

In the first quarter of FY17, the NAPAS team organized a workshop on Agriculture Policy and Institutional Strengthening (APIS) on 27th October, 2016 with the goal of familiarizing key stakeholders in Malawi's agriculture sector on the NAP and the institutional reforms that will be

necessary if the implementation of the NAP is to be effective. Information on the workshop can be found on <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/agriculture-policy-and-institutional-strengthening-apis-in-malawi-a-national-workshop-on-aswap-ii>

One major recommendation from the workshop was a need for a policy implementation agency that spurs economic transformation as has been the case in Ethiopia (through the Agricultural Transformation Agency) or in Rwanda. Recent developments in the agriculture sector shows that such recommendations were widely accepted by Malawi stakeholders. For example, the Foundation for A Smoke Free World and AGRA have brought financing to support transformation of the Malawi agriculture sector. Both development partners engaged with the CoP of the NAPAS project before they made a decision to support the Malawi policy processes and agricultural transformation activities.

Improving Food Security, Diets and Nutrition through Multisectoral Actions Workshop – May 30 2017

NAPAS collaborated with the SEBAP activity and Save the Children on a policy communication event that took place on May 30, 2017 on improving food security, diets and nutrition through multisector action. The event was organized to disseminate research evidence and case studies on multi-sectoral approaches that have worked to improve nutrition and food security with a view of informing on-going government policy efforts on nutrition, including the development of the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy.



Participants at the “Improving Food Security, Diets and Nutrition through Multi-sectorial Actions” Workshop – May 30, 2017

Presentation at the Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub meeting on Malawi’s Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)

The COP of NAPAS:Malawi was invited by the Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub to lead a discussion on the status of Malawi Agricultural Marketing Information System at a meeting that was held in Cape Town on 29th November 2017 on the verge of the ReNAPRI 2017 meeting. The meeting also identified challenges and opportunities with the AMIS that could shape the Hub’s interventions in supporting existing and on-going efforts that fall within the ambit of AMIS

activities. The potential for private-public partnerships (PPPs) in leveraging expertise and resources to strengthen the AMIS was also explored.

National Fertilizer Policy

The Communications Specialist for the NAPAS Project, Ms. Paida Mpasu produced an article in the Nations Newspaper to make people aware of the process of developing the National Fertilizer Policy. The article titled “On Course to National Fertilizer Policy” was published in the Nations Newspaper of 21st March 2018. The same article was also posted as a blog on the Michigan State University Food Security Policy Innovation Lab (FSP) website:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/soil-health-issues-dominate-fertilizer-policy-consultations>

In addition, the Zodiak Television reported about the National Fertilizer Policy Validation workshop that was held on 28th March, 2017 on their evening news. A video can be accessed on this link, <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/fertilizer-policy-reform-in-malawi>

National Symposium on Fertilizer

The NAPAS team co-organized A National Symposium on the role of policies and regulations in stimulating private sector investment in the fertiliser value chain in conjunction with LUANAR, the Alliance of African Partnership at Michigan State University (MSU/AAP), the International Fertiliser Development Center (IFDC), the African Fertiliser and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP), the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI) and the New Markets Lab. The symposium was held on 29th May, 2018 at Sunbird Lilongwe Hotel. The NAPAS COP presented on the National Fertiliser Policy and also facilitated the Malawi Fertiliser Company (MFC)’s participation. MFC presented on innovations that the Farmer Services Unit of the company has developed to promote soil testing, soil mapping and blending of fertilizers.

Presentations of the Agricultural, Food Security and Nutrition Policy Processes in Malawi

The COP of the NAPAS Project delivered a lecture to postgraduate students pursuing Masters and PhD degrees in Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) on 12th February, 2018. The students were taking a course on Policy Analysis and Project Planning, taught by Professor Emmanuel Kaunda. The lecture titled, Agricultural, Nutrition and Food Security Policy Processes in Malawi was delivered to acquaint the students with knowledge on policy development processes both at national and international levels.

On 8th and 9th February, 2018 the COP also delivered two other presentations on Malawi’s Policies in Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition to the Japanese Ambassador to Malawi and her team, at the Japanese Embassy and to a group of 25 students from the United States of America (USA) that visited Malawi to learn about agricultural policy making, food security and agricultural decision making. Information on the presentations can be found in the NAPAS Newsletter accessed here <https://mailchi.mp/668e57fd1cc4/napas-malawi-happenings-newsletter>

NAPAS: Malawi Newsletters

The NAPAS: Malawi activity produced the first newsletter in March 2018 that was sent to 1496 stakeholders and was received by 1161 stakeholders. About half of them read the newsletter and several clicked on the links that were provided in the newsletter. The newsletter, which is accessible [here](https://mailchi.mp/668e57fd1cc4/napas-malawi-happenings-newsletter) (<https://mailchi.mp/668e57fd1cc4/napas-malawi-happenings-newsletter>) contributed to increased awareness of the Project's activities to stakeholders in Malawi and in other countries.

The second newsletter was produced in October, 2018. It covered some of the important activities that were done by the project between April and October, 2018. The newsletter can be accessed [here](#).

Mainstreaming Land in the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) validation workshop

The CoP presented a PowerPoint on “Land in the NAP and NAIP” at a stakeholder validation workshop that was organized by the Land Policy Initiative, an African Union Project that is monitoring land governance issues in several African countries. The workshop was held in Lilongwe at the Golden Peacock Hotel on 8th March 2018. NAPAS was requested to support the Ministry of Agriculture prepare this presentation because of the role that the Project played in helping the Ministry of Lands incorporate their interventions in the NAIP. This turns out to be one outcome of the Project's activities, namely the two Malawi Land Symposiums that were held in 2016 and 2017 that initiated closer working relationship between the Ministry of Lands and Ministry of Agriculture.

14th CAADP Partnership Platform/Policy Learning Event

The CoP for the NAPAS activity, Dr Flora Nankhuni, the Director and Deputy Director of Agricultural Planning Services, Mr Alex Namaona and Mr Readwell Musopole and the NAPAS: Malawi AOR at USAID, Mrs Eluphy Nyirenda participated in the 14th CAADP Partnership Platform/Policy Learning event in Gabon from 24th to 28th April, 2018. The event provided an opportunity to meet with and learn from other countries on how they are performing on CAADP indicators. The work that the NAPAS: Malawi activity did in helping the Ministry to produce the CAADP Malabo Bi-ennial Report was recognized at the conference.

Launch of National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP)

On 13th June 2018, the Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) launched the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), which is the medium-term investment framework for the agricultural sector covering a five-year period (FY2017/2018 - FY2022/2023). The NAIP is the main implementation vehicle for the

National Agriculture Policy (NAP) that the NAPAS project helped develop. During the launch ceremony, the Project disseminated several policy briefs and documents. Paida Mpasu, Communications Specialist for the Project produced a blog and a video on the launch, which can be accessed on the FSP website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/launch-of-the-malawi-national-agriculture-investment-plan> and the video on <http://www.opti.maeap.net/resources/video-malawi-national-agriculture-investment-plan>

Value Chain Studies Dissemination Workshops

The first dissemination workshop for value chain studies was conducted at a brownbag seminar at IFPRI Lilongwe office on November 21, 2017. Groundnuts, pigeon peas, roots and tubers (cassava, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and yams), macadamia nuts value chain studies were presented. A total of 22 (9 female) stakeholders attended the dissemination workshop.

In January 2018, seven abstracts from results of the value chain studies were submitted and all were accepted for presentation at the 2018 International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research Conference on “*Disruptive Innovations, Value Chains and Rural Development*” that was held at the World Bank in Washington DC, from June 12-15, 2018. These include:

- 1) Me-Nsope, N.M., & Nankhuni, F. J., (2018). Is the future of Malawi’s pigeon pea industry at the mercy of India?
- 2) Kanyamuka, J.S., Dzanja, J.K., & Nankhuni, F. J., (2018). Analysis of the Value Chains for Root and Tuber Crops in Malawi: The Case of Cassava. -- presented as a research paper.
- 3) Du Toit, J.P., Nankhuni, F. J., & Kanyamuka, J.S., (2018). Opportunities to Enhance the Competitiveness of Malawi’s Tea Industry: Evidence from an Analysis of the Tea Value Chain --presented as a research paper.
- 4) Dzanja, J.K., Kanyamuka, J.S., & Nankhuni, F. J., (2018). Analysis of the Value Chains for Root and Tuber Crops in Malawi: The Case of Irish Potato. --presented as a poster.
- 5) Du Toit, J.P., Nankhuni, F. J., & Kanyamuka, J.S., (2018). Can Malawi Increase its Share of the Global Macadamia Market? Opportunities and Threats for the Expansion of Malawi’s Macadamia Industry. -- presented as a poster.
- 6) Nyondo, C.J., & Nankhuni, F. J., (2018). Is there scope for commercial up scaling of the Malawian groundnut value chain? A systematic analysis of production, processing and marketing of groundnuts in Malawi. -- presented as a poster.

Furthermore, the NAPAS: Malawi team presented several value chain studies to USAID on 23rd May, 2018. The objective of the value chain presentations was to inform USAID on results coming out of the value chain studies. 6 USAID staff attended the meeting, including the Deputy Mission Director, Mr Peter Trenchard.

Demand for the value chains is coming from different stakeholders, apart from the Ministry of Agriculture that requested them. For example, the COP met with staff of the USAID supported Agricultural Diversification (Ag-Div) Project to report on preliminary findings of the value chains. The COP also discussed the value chains with a person from FAO (Ms. Alethia Cameron). The NAPAS team (Dr. Flora Nankhuni, Mr. Zephania Nyirenda, Mr. Joseph Kanyamuka and Ms. Paida Mpasu) also discussed the value chains with Vikramjeet Sharma and Sally Mansour from

Technoserve who were working on value chains promoted by MSIKA Project (a US Department of Agriculture supported project). Mr. Joseph Kanyamuka of the NAPAS project also discussed the value chains with a person from the Pride project who told him that the Pride project is conducting value chain studies and they would like to use NAPAS' value chain studies as input into their value chain studies. The COP of NAPAS also discussed the value chain studies with a consultant for the Agriculture Technology Institute of the Foundation for the Smoke Free World to inform the Institute/Foundation's value chain development strategies/activities. The NAPAS activity conducted several dissemination workshops on these value chains, including at the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) Malawi strategy awareness workshops that took place to guide Malawian investors on how they can take advantage of the AGOA to export to the USA, duty free.

The National Rice Development Platform

Mr. Joseph Kanyamuka of the NAPAS: Malawi activity attended the National Rice Development Platform stakeholder meeting on the 6th of June, 2018 at ICCO in Lilongwe. He made a presentation on an Update on Agricultural, Nutrition and Food Security Policies in Malawi and how these are related to development of the rice sub-sector

Policy Dissemination Events

The NAPAS Activity participated in four key agricultural events across the country where key policy outputs were disseminated. These were:

- 1) The 15th National Agriculture Fair, from 12th to 15th September 2018, in Blantyre.
- 2) The 1st Farmers' Conference, from 18th to 19th September 2018 at LUANAR.
- 3) The 6th International Conference of the Pan African Fish and Fisheries Association (PAFFA6) from 24th to 28th September, 2018 in Mangochi.
- 4) The 3rd International Trade Fair, October 5–7, Mzuzu

Value chain study reports and policy documents that have been developed over the years were disseminated at these events including:

- About 600 value chain study policy briefs
- 39 copies of the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP)
- 35 copies of the National Agriculture Policy (NAP)
- 35 copies of the Contract Farming Strategy
- 21 copies of the Chichewa (local language) abridged version of the NAP.

Several stakeholders provided their emails requesting documents to be sent to them electronically.

NAPAS Baseline and Endline Survey

A baseline survey was conducted in 2015 as a way of monitoring progress towards policy processes in agriculture and food security policy arena. Results of the baseline report can be accessed on <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/the-quality-of-agriculture-and-food-security-policy-processes-at-national-level-in-malawi>. A policy brief can be accessed [here](#). The endline survey was

conducted between October 2017 and March 2018. The report can be accessed [here](#) and the policy brief here (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/the-quality-of-agriculture-and-food-security-policy-processes-at-national-level-in-malawi-results-from-the-2017-18-malawi-agriculture-and-food-security-policy-processes-endline-survey>).

Agricultural Commercialization Project's Value Chain Prioritization Workshop

The NAPAS activity was approached by the Agricultural Commercialization (AgCom) Project National Coordinator Dr Teddie Nakhumwa to present value chain studies at a Value Chain Prioritization workshop for the AgCom project. The AgCom project is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development in Collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC). The project will support development of a number of value chains in the agriculture sector. The workshop was organized to facilitate prioritization and selection of value chains based on empirical evidence. It was held from 3rd to 5th October 2018 at La Riviera Hotel in Mangochi. The NAPAS activity presented 11 value chain studies at the workshop among which, groundnuts, banana, macadamia, were selected as some of the high priority value chains the AgCoM would consider concentrating on.

African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Malawi Strategy Regional Dissemination Workshops

The NAPAS activity was requested by USAID to provide technical and financial support towards dissemination of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Malawi Strategy. The Strategy was developed by the Ministry of Industry Trade and Tourism with technical support from a USAID-supported Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub implemented by DAI and the Malawi Investment and Trade Center (MITC). The regional workshops were organized to disseminate a National Response Strategy for increasing Malawian exports to the USA under the AGOA program. The first workshop took place on 29th October, 2018 at Mzuzu Hotel in Mzuzu, the second took place on 31st October, 2018 in Lilongwe and the third on 2nd November, 2018 in Blantyre. The NAPAS team presented 3 value chain studies (macadamia, tea and mangoes) that are among AGOA targeted crops. The NAPAS activity also distributed 26 policy briefs on the value chains, 4 copies of the NAP, 3 copies of the Contract Farming Strategy, one copy of the NAIP document and 8 copies of the Chichewa abridged version of the National Agriculture Policy to workshop participants that were interested.

Fish Value Chain Gap Identification Workshop

The NAPAS: Malawi activity participated in a Fish Value Chain Gap Identification workshop that took place at Sun and Sand Holiday Resort in Mangochi from 8th to 9th October, 2018. The CoP of the NAPAS: Malawi activity made a presentation on a proposed Fish Value Chain study that NAPAS was planning to conduct. Stakeholders provided input on the direction the study should take. However, it is not clear if the follow-on to the NAPAS project will conduct the fish value chain study. It was one of the value chains that the Ministry asked the Project to conduct, considering the rest of the value chains that were conducted were on crops.

Component 3: Capacity Strengthening

The NAPAS activity conducted a number of short term trainings and mentorship during its lifetime. These include:

Policy Process and Policy Communication training, 1st April, 2015

This was held on April 1, 2015 at Ufulu Gardens in Lilongwe. The topics included: introduction to Policy Communication, introduction to the Kaleidoscope Model, introduction to evidence-based policy communication, importance of understanding the policy process and stakeholder audience in order to effectively communicate, as well as an introduction to policy communications tools and methods.

Policy Communication Training 24th June 2015

A policy communication training was held on 24th June 2015 at Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe. The training focused on writing a policy brief based on research evidence. Group and individual exercises involved participants in developing policy briefs based on actual IFPRI research on agriculture-nutrition linkages in Malawi.

2nd Policy Processes and Communication Training 7-10 September, 2015

This was held from 7 September to 10 September 2015 at Hotel Victoria in Blantyre. The training focused on policy analysis.

1st Journalists Training

The first journalists training took place on February 15th to 17th, 2016 and was jointly organized with the Malawi Agriculture Policy Support activity (MAPS) that was being implemented by Farmers Union of Malawi. The SEBAP activity was also involved in delivering a session on agriculture and nutrition during the training workshop. Other partners involved in delivery of the training included: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations where the Country Representative made a presentation on food security and reporting; the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services; the Department of Agricultural Research Services, and the University of Malawi (Chancellor College and The Polytechnic).

2nd Journalists Training

The training took place on April 18th to 22nd, 2016 and was jointly organized with the University of Pretoria and the IFPRI-Washington Capacity Strengthening team. It entailed classroom style teaching for the first two days followed by in-field practical news investigation and reporting. Journalists engaged in investigative fieldwork in Zomba district and generated stories on

agriculture, which were later published through various outlets of their respective media houses. Two mainstream television and at least four radio broadcasts were released during the training. This training also attracted international attention as a twitter hashtag, [#Media tools for policy change](#), was set up during the training. Both journalist and trainers had the opportunity to post tweets and photographs of the week-long training workshop. Below are some of the photographs from the training that can be found on the twitter hashtag webpage.



Classroom style training on agriculture policy reporting



Investigative fieldwork on agriculture, as part of the journalists training conducted by NAPAS, University of Pretoria and IFPRI.

3rd Journalists Training

In FY 17, the NAPAS activity organized the third journalist training workshop on journalism ethics in agriculture: avoiding fake news. The training, which took place in Salima from June 19th to 22nd 2017, brought together mainstream media houses and community radio stations as well as civil society organizations to be trained on issues of ethical reporting of agricultural news. In addition, government officials from MoAIWD, the Malawi Communications and Regulatory Authority (MACRA) and the Ministry of Information attended the training. See <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/media-training-journalism-ethics-in-agriculture-avoiding-fake-news>



Group photo with journalists that attended the training workshop on journalism ethics in agriculture: avoiding fake news



Civil society leaders engage in a panel discussion on working with media for evidence-based advocacy at the journalists training workshop.

4th Journalist Training

The fourth journalist workshop exposed media professionals to agricultural research and findings from 7-11 August, 2017. A total of 39 (11 female) participants were trained. More than five articles appeared in media outlets, reporting different aspects of the training. More information on the training can be found on:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/media-workshop-communicating-agricultural-science-for-impact>

1st Budget and Policy Analysis Training

A crucial capacity strengthening activity was undertaken with staff from the Department of Planning in MoAIWD and in collaboration with the SEBAP activity. It centred on budget

developing and linking the budget of the Ministry to the National Agriculture Policy priority areas. The training took place from April 25th to April 29th, 2016 in Zomba, Malawi. Two of the budget analysts from the DAPS, MoAIWD worked closely with the SEBAP and NAPAS team to prepare and deliver training on programme-based budgeting and alignment of budgets to the ASWAp and NAP. In the process, the Ministry staff at national and district levels used the actual draft budget of the Ministry for the exercises that were conducted during the training, with the end result being the Ministry's draft budget that was eventually submitted to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development the following week.

2nd Budgeting and Policy Analysis Training

A second training on budgeting and policy analysis was conducted in Blantyre from February 15th to 17th 2017. A total of 120 planners/budget officer (84 male and 36 female) in the Government of Malawi were trained on policy-aligned programme-based budgeting. The government participants included staff from MoAIWD, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MoFEPD), as well as Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. This training also resulted in the MoAIWD submitting a NAP aligned budget to the MoFEPD. The training also involved the DCAFS Coordinator and the World Bank staff who were resource persons to train the government staff on alignment of Development Partner and project budgets to the Ministry budget.

In addition, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) as well as officers from the Ministry of Local Government participated in the training to ensure that the linkages between MoAIWD budgets and the decentralized budgets allocated through the Local Government Ministry's vote but dedicated to agriculture are coordinated. This training was well-received and the government officers (both central government and local government) requested for additional training on the same, preferably well before budgeting season when there is more time to prepare their budgets. In addition, the SEBAP team together with the NAPAS and DAPS developed a manual for government officers on programme-based budgeting and alignment to policy priorities.

ReNAPRI Partial Equilibrium Training at LUANAR.

In conjunction with the Regional Network of National Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI), the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), University of Pretoria & Stellenbosch, South Africa and LUANAR, the NAPAS Activity co-organized a Partial Equilibrium Analysis training at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) at the Center for Agricultural Development where 18 Malawians (6 female), including MoAIWD staff were trained in new analytical techniques that can enhance their policy analytical skills. The training took place from 25 to 29 September, 2017. It was intended to introduce a larger number of Malawian analysts to partial equilibrium modeling. Click on the click to access the brief; <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/napas-presentation-at-renapri-pe-training>

Policy Analysis Mentorship

Other capacity strengthening activities involved conducting joint policy analysis with policy analysts and planners in MoAIWD to fill knowledge gaps in their general understanding of and ability to do policy analysis. These efforts were done within the context of day-to-day tasks that policy analysts and planners in MoAIWD undertake in collaboration with NAPAS:Malawi staff. In that respect, NAPAS:Malawi also supported the Department of Agricultural Planning Services (DAPS) in the production of concept notes, briefs, and other government documents needed by the Ministry to engage effectively with agricultural stakeholders, including development partners as they conceptualize and develop their programs in the country. The concept notes that NAPAS:Malawi helped develop include:

- Concept note for proposed IDA Investment Operation: The Agricultural Commercialization, Rural Growth and Poverty Reduction Project (May 18, 2015)
- Climate-Smart Agriculture Project (CSAP) Initial Recommendations for Proposal (May 22, 2015)
- Agriculture Sector Bankable Projects and Proposed Areas of Investment in the Agriculture Sector brief for the Malawi Investment Forum (June 24, 2015)
- ADMARC Limited Proposed Reforms (June 5th 2015)
- A Concept Note on Development of National Agricultural and Commercial Fair Ground (August 2015)
- Maize Export Development Programme (Programme Concept Note) – October 2015.

Student Mentorship

The Policy Analyst of the NAPAS: Malawi activity, Dr. Athur Mabiso provided technical and mentorship support to a Master of Science student (Mr Derrik Kapolo) who was enrolled in the Agricultural Economics Masters' program at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). This is an activity that NAPAS had taken on in collaboration with the SEBAP activity under its Bunda Grant Scheme that provides some financial support to Masters' students at LUANAR for their research.

Dr. Mabiso also provided research guidance to a Bachelor of Science student at LUANAR (Ms Catherine Zindichoke). The support was in collaboration with the student's advisor at LUANAR, Dr. Joseph Dzanja, and Dr. Paul Demo of the International Potato Centre (CIP).

In November, 2018 the CoP, Dr. Flora Nankhuni helped the Director of Foundation for Agribusiness and Youth Empowerment (FAYE), Mr. Aubrey Mchonkhwe, prepare talking points for a United Nations conference in Lusaka Zambia where he was one of the panelists. Mr Mchonkhwe is a youth who graduated from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) with Bachelors in Agribusiness Management in August, 2016 and established the organization to support youths to join agribusiness as a career. The CoP also

introduced Mr. Mchonkhwe to key stakeholders in the agriculture sector, some of which have supported his youth organization.

Agriculture Policy and Institutional Strengthening Workshop

NAPAS team organized an Agricultural Policy and Institutional Strengthening workshop from 24th to 27th October, 2017. This was a policy communication event meant to assist the Government of Malawi in prioritizing institutional reforms that were necessary for effective implementation of the NAP and NAIP if Malawi were to truly realize a transformation of its agriculture. Information on the workshop can be found on <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/agriculture-policy-and-institutional-strengthening-apis-in-malawi-a-national-workshop-on-aswap-ii>

Strategic Grain Reserves Guidelines

The NAPAS activity was requested to provide technical support on the review of Strategic Grain Reserves guidelines. The request came when the Ministry was not satisfied with the report that the Consultant that the Ministry had hired had submitted. Dr. Athur Mabiso provided the required technical input to bring the document to an acceptable level.

2017 African Union Malabo Bi-ennial Review Report

During the third and fourth quarters of FY17, the NAPAS team also assisted the Ministry in compiling the Government of Malawi's biennial report on the CAADP/Malabo commitments. This effort was undertaken as part of the technical support that NAPAS provides to the technical working group on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) under the ASWAp framework. The NAPAS team worked very closely with the staff in the DAPS to collate data and analyse the data in order to come up with the parameters and indicators necessary to report on the Malabo commitments.

MaFAAS week

The NAPAS team participated in the Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services week conference, which took place at the Bingu International Convention Centre from June 19th to 22nd 2017. The CoP made a presentation at the conference to show the extent to which extension issues were addressed in the National Agriculture Policy.

M&E Training

NAPAS organized a Monitoring and Evaluation workshop at Linde Motel in Mponela from 3rd to 6th October, 2017. 16 (3 female) stakeholders attended the training representing government and the civil society organizations. The aim of the training was to equip participants with knowledge on developing a comprehensive monitoring system for the agriculture sector. Several reports

including review of the ASWAp and development of the AU-Malabo Bi-annual review for Malawi exposed gaps in the sector data systems. It was noted that the ministry spends a lot of time preparing various reports at the national and local level but data was a challenge. To address these challenges, the ministry proposed developing a comprehensive management information system which would encompass all data that are required for the various reports and various levels. The training aimed at kick-starting the process by allowing stakeholders to brainstorm the data needs and identifying data that is readily available and data that is important but not readily available, and finding means of capturing such data.

An outcome of the training was development of the Ministry's National Agriculture Management Information System (NAMIS) that has attracted funding in the tune of US\$1million (as of December 2017) to enable the Ministry develop and implement the system.

2016/17 and 2017/18 Agriculture Sector Performance Report

Production of the 2016/17 Agriculture Sector Performance Report was done at the sidelines of the M&E training that was held in Mponela from 3rd to 6th October, 2017. The training gave participants hands-on-experience in developing the 2016/17 agriculture sector performance report. It was noted that most of the times, sector performance reports are developed by consultants and the quality is at times questionable. It was therefore necessary to transfer technical writing skills to the stakeholders that participated in the training, the majority of which were officers in the Department of Agricultural Planning Services. The draft sector performance report that the Ministry produced after the workshop was presented during the Agriculture Joint Sector Review meeting that was held on 15 November 2017 at Ufulu Gardens in Lilongwe. The report was relatively more analytical than previous reports.

The NAPAS: Malawi team was also involved in preparation of the 2018 Agriculture Sector Performance Report that was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development at Palm Haven Lodge in Mponela. The 2018 Joint Agriculture Sector Review (JSR) report has, however, not yet been produced by the Ministry due to Ministry capacity constraints.

II. International Travel

During FY2016, the COP travelled to Washington DC and to East Lansing, MI for planning and update meetings with IFPRI and MSU staff respectively.

The Policy Analyst of NAPAS, Dr. Athur Mabiso also travelled to Arusha, Tanzania in May 2016 at the invitation of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) to train participants (mainly government officers from various African countries) at an IFDC training workshop on Farm Input Subsidy Programmes in Africa. Other officers from the MoAIWD, including the FISP coordinator and FISP assistant coordinator attended the training workshop.

The COP and Policy Analyst also travelled to Nairobi, Kenya in the first week of September 2016 to attend the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) annual meeting.

The COP also travelled to Pretoria, South Africa in third week of September 2016 where she attended a workshop organized under MSU's Food Security Policy Innovation Lab and co-hosted by the University of Pretoria. During this workshop, the CoP shared experiences on the CAADP process in Malawi to inform an FSP study that used the Kaleidoscope model to reflect on the first generation CAADP policy and implementation processes. The study meant to identifying and recommend improvements in the CAADP design process to improve the likelihood of the second generation investment plans and their institutional architecture delivering on the Malabo commitments.

The Senior Policy Analyst, Dr. Athur Mabiso left the Project in November 2018 to join his family in the Washington DC area where his spouse found a new job.

The CoP travelled to Michigan State University in December 2017 to report on the Project's costed extension that USAID had granted MSU and to discuss the draft FY 2018 workplan. During the visit, the CoP presented 7 value chain studies that were also presented at the IFPRI Malawi brown bag seminar in November 2017.

In FY2018, Dr Christone Nyondo, Mr Joseph Kanyamuka, Dr. Joseph Dzanja of LUANAR, and Mr Justin Du Toit (from South Africa) travelled to Washington DC to present value chain studies at the World Bank's ICABR Conference from June 10-16, 2018. The CoP of NAPAS was proactive in getting them sponsored to attend the conference. They were sponsored by organizers of the conference and made positive impressions to the organizers, to the extent that the organizers decided to include several African researchers in the plenary sessions of their next conference, as a way of encouraging African researcher at this forum.

The COP for NAPAS travelled to Vancouver, Canada where she attended the 30th International Conference of Agricultural Economists from July 28 to August 2, 2018. She was one of the keynote speakers of the conference. The COP also travelled to Washington DC where she held a meeting with IFPRI colleagues regarding the legislative reviews that NAPAS was carrying out in Malawi (in conjunction with the IFPRI colleagues). The CoP also held a meeting with the Foundation for a Smoke Free World -FFSW (together with other MSU colleagues) on August 6, 2018 to negotiate for a grant to support a follow-on activity to the NAPAS: Malawi project.

On 3rd September, 2018 the COP of NAPAS travelled to Kigali Rwanda where she attended the 2018 African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) that took place from 4th to 7th September, 2018 and also met with the FFSW colleague, together with other MSU colleagues.

III. Challenges, Solutions and Actions Taken

During FY2015 the NAPAS activity faced a challenge of lack of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IFPRI and the government of Malawi that necessitated IFPRI, the sub-contractor managing the project in Malawi, to use the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) for hiring local staff and managing various administrative tasks. As a result of this arrangement, that NAPAS activity failed to hire a full-time Finance and Administration Officer because IITA Human Resource Manager was unwilling to hire people at a rate that is higher than the IITA salary

scale. Consequently, an IFPRI consultancy contract was put in place to hire the NAPAS:Malawi Finance and Administration Officer from January 2015 to October 2015, after which he had to be hired as a consultant by Michigan State University because IFPRI's policies do not allow long-term consultancy arrangements.

In FY2016 MSU moved forward with the alternative option of hiring of local staff through a consulting firm AMG Global, which is an international company that have experience offering labor services of this kind. Consequently, the Finance and Administration Officer, 2 Policy and Research Analysts and a Communications Specialist were hired through an AMG global contract. The hiring of a Communications' Specialist helped a challenge of limited capability to effectively communicate some of the work being achieved under the NAPAS activity to stakeholders.

Another challenge in FY2015 was related to delivering results according to a predetermined timeline. For example, the NAP was supposed to have been validated and submitted to OPC by July 2015 according to FY2015 work plan. However, the document took longer to be submitted. This was mainly due to MoAIWD's way of operation that does not appreciate planning ahead of time or pay attention to deadlines. Moreover, government protocol for communicating with senior government officials such as the Principal Secretary and the Minister, does not recognise communication. These caused unnecessary delays and cancelations of planned workshops and meetings. It was therefore frustrating for NAPAS:Malawi staff to continuously push things through the government system in an effort to accomplish planned deliverables on time. At times NAPAS:Malawi bypassed government protocol or bureaucratic procedures in an effort to accelerate the processes, which was not taken very well by some MoAIWD staff, particularly the Director of Planning in the DAPS. Despite this, the approach taken by NAPAS:Malawi resulted in some progress of activities that needed to be delivered.

There has also been slow progress on MoAIWD's part on several policy efforts including development of the Farmer Organizations Development Strategy and Agricultural Extension Strategy. In large part, the delay on development of the Farmers Organizations Development Strategy was due to the fact that MoAIWD saw this as the mandate of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, which is responsible for development of cooperatives in the country. Therefore, CoP of NAPAS adopted a new approach to advancing the work on the FODS by approaching and working with MoITT while still collaborating with the Department of Agricultural Extension Services. This collaboration brought on board a number of stakeholders including GIZ, FUM, NASFAM, MUSCO, WeEFFECT and the FAO who were supporting review and development of the Cooperative Development Policy and Strategy alongside the FODS. The delay with regards development of the Agricultural Extension Strategy was as a result of closure of the ASWAp-SP project. Closure of the ASWAp led to the Ministry's failure to pay consultants that were hired to develop the Strategy. As a result, the consultants were holding the documents that have been developed and the Ministry was waiting for resumption of ASWAp (or NAIP) to finish the policy processes. The NAIP, a successor to the ASWAp was approved in May, 2017 and the consultants have since been paid. The Strategy was also validated in November 2018 and is expected to be adopted by the Ministry in early 2019.

There has also been slow progress on the part of government to fast track approval of the National Fertiliser Policy. As mentioned earlier, the policy was officially submitted to the Secretary for

Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development in July 2018. The Policy was submitted to OPC in November, 2018 and a PS' committee validation workshop that was scheduled for 27th November, 2018 was postponed to 10th January, 2019. The January date was also postponed. By project end date the PS meeting had not taken place.

A major challenge that the NAPAS team has had to deal with in FY2016 was the sudden request by the Ministry to assist in finalizing several documents, including the Strategic Grain Reserves guidelines as well as the Contract Farming Strategy, which were supposed to be finalized by the Ministry. In addition, the Ministry made requests for financial support for the development of the Ministry's Strategic Plan, something which was not in the New Alliance Policy commitments. However, because these were seen as important in enabling the Ministry to deliver on the National Agriculture Policy as well as National Agriculture Investment Plan, the NAPAS team provided the requested support. Fulfilling such requests was also seen as a means of maintaining good working relationship with the Ministry. However, by the end of the project, the Ministry had still not finalized their Strategic Plan.

After development of the NAP that was directly being supervised by the Director of Planning Services (DAPS), the NAPAS team worked with other departments of the Ministry: the Department of Agricultural Research Services on the National Fertilizer Policy and Bill; the Department of Crop Development for the Horticulture Policy and Strategy and the review of the Special Crops Act and the Agriculture General Purposes Act; the Department of Agricultural Extension on the review of the Extension Policy and development of the Extension Strategy, the FODS, and the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy. It was difficult for the NAPAS team to manage a product under one director who does not necessarily report to the DAPS, who was the custodian of the Project. Although DAPS staff were invited to every policy meeting (consultations and validation workshops) there are cases where absence of the DAPS indicated lack of ownership of a particular policy. For example, at the internal validation workshop of the National Fertilizer Policy and ASFNS (17th July 2018), there was no representative from the department of planning when all other departments were in attendance.

During the FY2017, the NAPAS team had to deal with the tension between Michigan State University and International Food Policy Research Institute regarding reporting of financial expenditures and the delays by IFPRI in providing MSU with invoices. This led to delays in charges being billed to USAID resulting in a poor reflection of the rate at which NAPAS finances were being expended by the NAPAS activity. Several meetings with IFPRI helped solve the problem as IFPRI started submitting their invoices to MSU more regularly. In the final year, which was also the year that USAID granted MSU a costed extension, this issue did not arise because MSU handled its own finances through an imprest account that was managed by the CoP.

IV. Lessons, Best Practices and Recommendations

While there are many demands in the MoAIWD that end up at the desks of the NAPAS team, the ability to manage these demands and ensure they are aligned to the mandate and objectives of the NAPAS activity is crucial. At the same time building capacity of the DAPS staff is a critical component towards managing the levels of demands coming to the NAPAS team. More and more

demands for technical assistance were coming to the NAPAS team, which in some sense is a good sign that the DAPS staff see the NAPAS team as resourceful expertise they can turn to when in need. However, this showed the importance of building capacity among the DAPS staff to ensure that they are not continuously asking for assistance from the NAPAS team for every task at hand. As such striking a balance between simply performing a task versus working closely with the DAPS staff and building capacity on-the-job, despite it taking more time, proved to be critical during the lifetime of the project.

Given the new demands for NAPAS's support to the DAPS in FY2016, including working on value chains studies to inform the National Agriculture Investment Plan, working on the Strategic Plan for the MoAIWD, working on the Strategic Grain Reserves Guidelines and the AU Malabo biennial report, the NAPAS CoP decided to recruit new staff while engaging consultants. This enabled the NAPAS team to effectively respond to the dynamic demands of the MoAIWD in an effective manner and ensure that the Ministry is satisfied with the support from the NAPAS team. In addition, the ability for the NAPAS team to collaborate closely with several other activities and Ministries, including the SANE and SEBAP activities, and MoITT led to significant progress on several fronts, including the work on the Farmer Organization Development Strategy and the Agriculture Sector, Food and Nutrition Strategy. This shows the importance of strategically partnering with other activities and stakeholders as well as the importance of being able to bring on board consultants and other capable stakeholders to accelerate policy design and reform.

The NAPAS team also learned the importance of continued collaboration with journalists in organizing the training on journalism ethics in agriculture. Owing to continued collaboration, the NAPAS team was able to continue building the capacities of the mainstream media houses in Malawi on issues of agriculture, food and nutrition policy while at the same time adding to the list of trainee participants from community radios. In addition, through collaborative efforts of the NAPAS team, a policy communication event on the new Land Laws of Malawi was successfully organized and as a result of working well with other organizations and projects, the NAPAS team was able to deliver a high-quality policy communication event in the form of the Second Land Symposium.

During FY2017 the COP was involved in applying for a costed extension of the Project that ended up being awarded. In the process, the Project learned that the Ministry actually appreciated the support that the Project had been providing since November 2014 and would appreciate such support being continued. This was expressed by the then Principal Secretary Mrs Erica Maganga in a letter to the USAID Mission Director in July 2017 and in the consultations that the COP had with several Directors of different departments.

During FY2018, the COP of the NAPAS activity also noted that sometimes it is easy to push things quickly if she directly meets the Secretary for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (PS) than having to go through Directors. This was noticed during preparations for the validation workshop of the National Fertilizer Policy in that the Director was taking time to request the PS to put internal validation of the policy on the Senior Management meeting agenda. The COP went directly to the PS' office on February 16, 2018 to figure out what the issue was, and the PS organized that the internal validation take place three days later, on February 19 2018. Because of this, the Project was able to conduct an external validation in March 2018. This suggests that for

any future policy project, having the CoP interact and relate to the PS (and report to the PS) rather than to the Director of Planning or any Director, may increase the efficiency of the Project. Since Directors are usually at the same level and they all report to the PS, it has also been difficult, in the past, for the CoP to work with other Directors in the Ministry when she is reporting to/working hand in hand with the Director of Planning. Removing this layer of bureaucracy could improve efficiency of project implementation. Alternatively the CoP could report to the Controller of Agricultural Services who oversees all technical departments of the Ministry.

The NAPAS: Malawi activity has learned that many times, policy formulation can be swift and delivered within the timeframe. However, once the policy leaves the hands of technical people involved in the formulation process, there is limited room to influence the pace at which the policy is approved. There is need for policy projects to be structured in such a way that the Project Chief of Party also works more closely with other key stakeholders in the policy process (such as OPC staff) and political figures like the Minister and the PS and the Chief Secretary (who convenes all PS committee meetings).

V. Success stories

Reforms to the FISP started with efforts of the NAPAS activity, particularly production of the FISP brief that was requested by the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, after a long period of about 10 years during which such reforms were not considered a possibility. During FY2015, government for the first time raised the contribution of farmers to the FISP package from about 3% to about 20% of the commercial price of the package. In addition, the private sector started distributing about 27% of the total fertilizer distributed under the FISP program to 12 of the 28 districts in Malawi, as a pilot to engaging the private sector in importation and distribution of fertilizer to smallholder farmers. These reforms have been sustained and expanded over time. The private sector contribution has now reached 60% of all fertilizers distributed.

In FY2016, the NAPAS activity was applauded for the consultative policy reform approach that it had embraced. NAPAS was able to involve a wide range of stakeholders (842 individuals, of which 22% were women) to be part of the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) formulation. NAPAS also brought together staff from several line Ministries to be part of the NAP drafting team that camped out in Mangochi to move the process of developing a NAP forward. The sentiments from various stakeholders suggested that previously, drafting of policies did not consult that widely and did not include a wide range of experts. Similarly, the collaboration between NAPAS: Malawi, FUM, CISANET, IFPRI-SEBAP and ECAMA in putting together a televised policy discussion at the 2015 ECAMA conference was considered a success as it brought together several non-state actors as well as representatives from the MoAIWD and MoIT to discuss policy issues in the Agriculture Sector in a public forum. Several stakeholders have expressed gratitude that government through the project consults them on policy reform processes. During consultations on the review of the Special Crops Act and Agriculture General Purposes Act, most stakeholders were happy that there is now a channel through which their views can be taken on-board to inform policy decision making.

Furthermore, the day-to-day capacity strengthening activities of the NAPAS in the DAPS have led to improvements in the quality of outputs by the DAPS staff, including presentations, policy analysis reports, memos and speeches. Email comments from participants of the formal training workshops that NAPAS conducted also suggest the use and appreciation of the capacity strengthening efforts that the NAPAS team has provided.

NAPAS: Malawi successfully supported the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development as well as the MoAIWD to jointly host the Second Malawi Land Symposium, which drew over 100 participants from various groups of stakeholders and experts on land research (in Malawi and abroad). A large part of the success was attributed to concerted efforts by the NAPAS team to coordinate a wide range of stakeholders in preparation for the event. The EU delegation to Malawi co-financed the event after having realized the potential synergies of working together with the NAPAS team.

One of the outcomes of the Land Symposiums is the progress Malawi Mangoes (a private company) made with regard to land conflicts that it used to have. During the first Land symposium, one of the directors of Malawi Mangoes, who was on panel discussion, mentioned that they had issues acquiring land for investment in Salima. They also reported that because of such conflicts, the communities around used to steal their bananas and mangoes meant for factory production. However, the NAPAS activity visited Malawi Mangoes in FY18 where it learnt that government acted swift to solve land conflicts that Malawi Mangoes was facing.

Flexibility of the NAPAS project to respond to demands from the government has improved working relationships with line ministries and departments. In particular, the NAPAS project was requested by the Deputy Director responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation in the Department of Agricultural Planning Services to help the ministry produce an Agriculture Sector Performance Report. This emanated from the support that NAPAS provided to MoAIWD in preparation of the AU-Malabo Bi-annual review report for Malawi. As a result, the NAPAS project organized a training session that was also meant to transfer technical skills to officers working in the Department of Agricultural Planning Services in preparation of such reports. The report was developed to reflect the priorities in the NAP and NAIP and has formed a baseline for future reporting on the NAP and NAIP progress. The training also resulted in one of the trainees developing the Ministry's National Agriculture Management Information System (NAMIS) which has now been adopted by the Ministry and has attracted at least US\$1million from development partners, including the World Bank.

The NAPAS activity also received recognition at the World Bank's International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research (ICABR) conference. The conference organizers highlighted the value chain presentation made by Dr. Nyondo on the groundnut value chain indicating that it was very well received and provided huge visibility at the poster sessions. The organisers hope that more African researchers will contribute substantially to future ICABR conferences.

The NAPAS activity was also recognized at the 14th CAADP Partnership Platform/Policy Learning Event in Gabon for the work it did in supporting MoAIWD to produce the Malawi CAADP Malabo Bi-ennial report.

In capacity strengthening, one of the journalists that was trained by the NAPAS activity Ms. Eunice Ndhlovu, who is also the President of the Association of Agricultural Journalists (an association formed at the NAPAS: Malawi Journalist Training in June 2017) was awarded a Scholarship to the 2018 International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ)/Corteva Agriscience Master Class. Eunice was awarded the scholarship after she had submitted an article that she developed during a journalist training that the Project organized. Development of the Association and excellence from the trained journalist are some of the positive outcomes/success stories of the Project.

VI. Management Issues

During FY2015, the NAPAS activity hired a Finance and Administrative Assistant on a short-term consultancy basis through MSU instead of IFPRI as planned through the sub-award. This was due to challenges outlined earlier. This problem was solved when the NAPAS activity started hiring staff through AMG Global.

The NAPAS activity lost the services of the Senior Policy Analyst (Dr Athur Mabiso) whose contract ended with the International Food Policy Research Institute in September, 2017. Besides him, the Project also lost the strong collaboration it had with Dr Chance Mwabutwa, a Budget and Policy Analyst for the Malawi Strategy Support Program of the International Food Policy Research Institute in the same month, following non-renewal of his contract. In addition, the NAPAS team transitioned from using the IFPRI financial system for managing its resources due to reduced IFPRI role on the project. Subsequently, an IMPREST account was established. Three bank accounts were opened, one in the USA where resources were deposited when they were needed, and two in Malawi: a dollar-dominated account where the Project's resources were transferred to, from the US bank account, and a Malawi kwacha account where day to day financial activities of the Project took place.

Mr Charles Mwenda who was working as Finance and Administration Officer resigned from the project in April 2018. The person who was assisting him with administration duties, Ms Doris Eliza Likwenga took over his responsibilities, with increased supervision of Dr Christone Nyondo. Since this was a costed extension phase of the project, there were no plans to hire another Finance and Administration Officer, until a future donor is identified to support continuation of the NAPAS-type of activities.

VII. Update of the PMP

Indicators tracked to measure progress of the NAPAS: Malawi activity are presented in the Table below. In general the NAPAS activity made progress on 21 policy reforms throughout the project lifetime. Although the New Alliance policy reform commitments that were identified to be fulfilled by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2015 were eight, the Project ended up working on more policies, strategies and reviews following requests by the Ministry. In addition, the Project also conducted

12 value chain studies to support development and implementation of the NAIP, following the Ministry's request. These were not part of the deliverables in the project's original work plan.

Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
2	Number of policy reform commitments the government of Malawi made under the Country Cooperation Framework to support the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Malawi for which MoAIWD is responsible that have been completed or are in progress.	Number of New Alliance policy reform commitments	Twenty-six policy reforms were made in the New Alliance Country Cooperation Framework for Malawi that are the responsibility of MoAIWD to implement. In December 2015, the government of Malawi approved a revised set of policy commitments under the New Alliance, with the number of policy commitments being reduced to 15 and those under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture being reduced to eight. Records on progress on these policy reforms will be updated on a regular basis by NAPAS: Malawi staff.	NAPAS: Malawi record keeping; contact: New Alliance secretariat	Quarterly and annually	21 Cumulative: 1) National Agriculture Policy (NAP); 2) Seed Policy; 3) Contract Farming Strategy; 4) National Nutrition Policy and Strategy; 5) Farm Input Subsidy Program (FISP); 6) Agriculture zoning, Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy; 7) Agriculture Extension Policy Review and Strategy; 8) Farmer Organization Development Strategy; 9) Irrigation investment concept note; 10) MoAIWD Strategic Plan; 11) National Agricultural Investment Plan; 12) National Irrigation Policy; 13) National Fertilizer Policy; 14) National Resilience Plan; 15) Strategic Grain Reserves Guidelines; 16) Value Chain analyses to support effective implementation of the NAP and NAIP; 17) Review of Special Crops Act; 18) Review of Agriculture General Purposes Act; 19) Contract Farming Legislation; 20) Horticulture Policy and Strategy; 21) Fertiliser Bill

3	Number of demonstrated uses by policy makers of evidence (analyses and policy papers) generated or presented through NAPAS:Malawi.	Number of demonstrated uses	Annual NAPAS:Malawi records will be used. NAPAS:Malawi will maintain records of use by policy makers of evidence supplied by the project	NAPAS: Malawi record keeping	Quarterly and annually.	<p>44 Cumulative:-1) FISP brief; 2) Refocusing Agriculture paper; 3) ADMARC Reforms paper; 4) Climate Smart Agriculture Presentation; 5) Commercial Agriculture Discussion Paper; 6) Agricultural Zoning Paper; 7) Presentations on the NAP Consultation/Results; 8) More Food Brazil for mechanization of Agriculture Concept Note; 9) Robust Value Chains Concept Note; 10) Youth Employment and Financing Concept Note; 11) Irrigation Investments for Food Production Concept Note; 12) Input into the Contract Farming Strategy document; Input into the Fertilizer Policy development; 13) Use of the NAP in guiding development of the second generation NAIP (ASWAp II) for Malawi; 14) Use of the NAP in informing the extension policy review process; 15) NAPAS team providing TA in the ASWAp Review processes; 16) NAPAS team being asked by DCAFS to provide progress on their activities (presumably to help guide/inform their investment plans and collaboration efforts; 17) Irrigation Investments for Food Production Concept Note (the piloting of private sector to produce irrigated maize for the SGR used this concept note); 18) Review of the SGR Guidelines; 19) Budget Development for the Ministry; 20) New AfDB project for Malawi (based on a concept note that NAPAS helped produce); 21) MoITT use of the agricultural zonation scheme; 22) National Agriculture Policy is being used for the development of the Fertilizer Policy and Bill; 23) NAPAS's analysis of input from stakeholder consultations used to inform the drafting of the National Fertilizer Policy of Malawi; 24) NAP used to inform the design of the Strategic Plan for the MoAIWD; 25) Winter Cropping Concept Note; 26) Legume Promotion Concept Note; 27) Presentation of the value chains studies during the Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF); 28) the NAIP used the IFPRI/IFAD GE model on "Prioritizing value chains in Malawi"; 29) Concept notes on bankable projects to be submitted to the 2018 Malawi Investment Forum used results of the value chains that NAPAS has produced; 30) background paper on Farmer Organization development Strategy; 31) Production of the Agriculture Sector Joint Performance Report directly used the skills that were taught in the M&E training that NAPAS conducted for MoAIWD staff in October 2017; 32) Land in NAP and NAIP PPT presentation informed the Land Policy Initiative (An African Union Project) on extent of mainstreaming land governance issues in the agriculture sector; 33) PPT presentations on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition Policy Processes to the Japanese Embassy helped them design their Agriculture AID to Malawi strategy; 34) Presentations to students at LUANAR and visiting students from the USA also helped them understand the policy environment and its role in agriculture development in Malawi; 35) Several value</p>
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						<p>chain researchers (Ms. Alethia Cameron from FAO, MAFAP Project; Vikramjeet Sharma and Sally Mansour from Technoserve who are working on the value chains promoted by MSIKA Project (a US Department of Agriculture supported project); and Carl Larkins and Elizabeth Sibale of Ag-Div Project also supported by USAID, among others, all benefited from interviews with the NAPAS team, to understand the status of some of the value chains that NAPAS conducted; 36) the 2018 International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research Conference on “Disruptive Innovations, Value Chains and Rural Development” that was held at the World Bank in Washington DC, from June 12-15, 2018 used 7 of the value chains that the Project conducted as research papers and posters presented at the conference—providing/contributing to global knowledge in international development field; 37) presentation on the draft National Fertiliser Policy at the National Fertiliser Symposium; 38) Presentation on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition policies at the Rice Development Platform conference; 39)) draft National Fertiliser Policy used to inform development of Fertiliser Bill; 40) Results of value chain studies informing prioritization of value chains to be developed under the World-Bank funded AgCom Project; 41) NAPAS presentation on policies affecting the rice subsector at the National Rice Development Platform; 42) NAPAS presentation at the 2018 National Agriculture Fair; 43) NAPAS CoP’s participation as one of the keynote speakers at the 2018 International Conference on Agricultural Economists (ICAE) and as one of the discussants on a session on Farm Input Subsidy Programs in SSA -- in Vancouver, Canada; 44) Results of value chain studies informing dissemination of the AGOA Strategy.</p>
4	Index (or scorecard) of quality of the institutional architecture for agriculture and food security policy processes in Malawi	Index of quality of institutional architecture	Measured by stakeholder evaluation survey to capture level of satisfaction and confidence. Baseline survey in April 2015; endline survey in end November-2017	Stakeholder survey implementation and analysis	Twice over life of project	<p>1.8 baseline, 1.0 Endline</p> <p>http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/the-quality-of-agriculture-and-food-security-policy-processes</p> <p>See also Baseline report and policy brief</p>
5	Index (or scorecard) of quality of agriculture and food security policy processes in Malawi.	Index of quality of policy processes	Measured by stakeholder evaluation survey to capture level of satisfaction and confidence. Baseline	Stakeholder survey implementation and analysis	Twice over life of project	<p>1.8 baseline; 1.3 Endline</p> <p>http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/the-quality-of-agriculture-and-food-security-policy-processes</p>

			survey in April 2015; endline survey in end November-2017			See also Baseline report and policy brief
Output:						
1	Number of policy research and best policy practice papers generated.	Number of papers produced	NAPAS:Malawi records will be used. Activity staff will maintain records on all policy research and best policy practice papers generated; all training sessions held, with sex-and sector-disaggregated information on participants; and all engagements with private sector and civil society organizations to work with them on how their engagement in policy formulation processes might be strengthened	NAPAS: Malawi record keeping	Annually and quarterly	37 Cumulative:- 1) FISP brief; 2) NAP background paper; 3) NAP Draft; 4) Contract Farming Strategy Draft; 4) Brief on quality of agriculture and food security policy processes at national level in Malawi; 5) Report on quality of agriculture and food security policy processes at national level in Malawi; 6) Constraints to Commercial Maize Production in Malawi policy note; 7) Crop suitability map/atlas; 8) Background paper on Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services in Malawi; 9) Micronutrient policy process in Malawi (IFPRI Discussion Paper 1568); 10) Agriculture Policy and Institutional Strengthening Workshop report (and summary); 11) Brief on strengthening policy systems: enhancing media’s capacity to report on food and nutrition security - http://www.afre.msu.edu/uploads/resources/Policy_Brief_35.pdf ; 12) Background paper on initial inputs from the Farmer Organizations Development Strategy consultations; 13) Land Symposium Proceedings Report (http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/uploads/files/Malawi/Proceedings_Report_of_2nd_Malawi_Land_Symposium_held_in_May_2017.pdf); 14) the National Agriculture Policy in Malawi: Farmers on the Move, from Subsistence to Commercialization”. (http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/malawis_national_agriculture_policy_how_a_policy_reform_comes_about); 15) FODS National Consultation Workshop; 16) National Fertilizer Policy Internal Validation; 17) National Fertilizer Policy External Validation; 18) Mainstreaming Land Governance in the NAIP; 19 presentations on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition Policy Processes in Malawi -- to the Japanese Embassy staff, LUANAR students and USA students visiting Malawi) ; 20) Me-Nsope, N.M., & Nankhuni, F. J., (2018). Is the future of Malawi’s pigeon pea industry at the mercy of India? http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/resources/is_the_future_of_malawis_pigeon_pea_industry_at_the_mercy_of_india ; 21) Kanyamuka, J.S., Dzanja, J.K., & Nankhuni, F. J., (2018). Analysis of the Value Chains for Root and Tuber Crops in Malawi: The Case of Cassava. http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/resources/analysis_of_the_value_chains_for_root_and_tuber_crops_in_malawi_the_case_of ; 22) Du Toit, J.P., Nankhuni, F. J., & Kanyamuka, J.S., (2018). Opportunities to Enhance the Competitiveness of Malawi’s Tea Industry: Evidence from an Analysis of the Tea Value Chain. http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/S=2f8e5fa3f0abe1f6b370a7385b

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	<p>2</p> <p>Number of stakeholder learning forums on agriculture and food security policy issues supported.</p>	<p>Number of learning forums</p>	<p>Annually and quarterly</p>	<p>44 Cumulative :-1) Beating famine; 2) ECAMA Research Symposium; 3) Climate Smart Agriculture; 4) Linkages between Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition; 5) 2015 ECAMA Research Symposium; 6) Internal Government Seminar on Maize Markets in Malawi; 7) The 11 NAP Consultations; 8) Making Maize Markets Work for all Malawians; 9) Media Interface Meeting; 10) Media Training on Food Security and Agriculture Policy; 11) 1st Malawi Land Symposium; 12) 2016 Compact2025 Roundtable Discussions; 13) Dissemination Workshop on Export bans and minimum farm gate prices study; 14) Agriculture Policy and Institutional Strengthening Workshop; 15) National Agriculture Investment Plan design workshop/meetings; 16) NAP launch; 17) Agriculture Budgeting Training for MoAIWD and other related Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies; 18) Contract Farming dissemination workshops (in Mzuzu, Lilongwe and Blantyre); 19) 3 Strategic Plan Consultation workshops in Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu; 20) Agriculture and Nutrition Strategy</p>
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Validation workshop; 21) 2nd Malawi Land symposium; 22) Fertiliser Policy consultation meeting with senior management of MoAIWD; 23) Cooperative/Farmer Organization Scoping Study Report Stakeholders Consultative Meeting; 24) National Fertilizer Policy Drafting Writeshop 1: 23-27 October, 2017; 25) National Fertilizer Policy Drafting Writeshop, 10 November, 2017; 26) Value Chains dissemination Workshop-29 November, 2017) ; 27) Strategic Plan Finalization Workshop from 2nd to 6th July 2018; 28) Senior Management Validation workshop of Fertilizer Policy and Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy on 17th July 2018; 29) Fertilizer Bill Writeshop from 10th to 12th September, 2018; 30) FODS Internal Validation Workshop on 3rd September, 2018; 31) FODS External Validation Workshop on 6th September, 2018; 32) Validation Workshop on Review of SCA, AGPA and Contract Farming Legislation on 27th September, 2018 33) First Horticulture Policy and Strategy Writeshop from 18th to 20th June, 2018; 34) Second Horticulture Policy and Strategy Writeshop from 16th to 19th October, 2018; 35) Policy documents dissemination/exhibition at the 2018 Agriculture Fair in Blantyre – from 12th to 15th September 2018; 36) Policy documents dissemination/exhibition at the first Farmers’ conference at LUANAR from 18th to 19th September 2018; 37) Policy documents dissemination/exhibition at the Mzuzu Trade Fair from 5th to 7th October, 2018; 38) Policy documents dissemination/exhibition at the PAFFA6 in Mangochi from 24th to 28th September, 2018; 39) NAPAS presentation at the Stakeholders’ workshop to inform design of a an upcoming FAO/MSU/LUANAR/MoAIWD value chain project; 40) policy documents dissemination/exhibition at the Mzuzu Trade Fair from 5th to 7th October, 2018; 41) NAPAS presentation at the Stakeholders’ workshop to inform design of a an upcoming FAO/MSU/LUANAR/MoAIWD Fish value chain project; 42) NAPAS value chain study presentations at the Value Chain Prioritization Workshop held in Mangochi (3rd to 5th October 2018); 43) NAPAS value chain presentations at the AGOA Strategy Dissemination Workshop in Mzuzu (October 29, 2018); 44) NAPAS value chain presentations at the AGOA Strategy Dissemination Workshops in Mzuzu, Lilongwe and Blantyre in October and November, 2018

3	Number of people receiving short-term training in policy analysis, planning, formulation, advocacy, monitoring, and evaluation.	Number of trainees			Annually and quarterly	424 Cumulative (129 female) from the following trainings: Budget and Policy Analysis Training 1 that took place from 25 to 29 April, 2016; Budget and Policy Analysis Training 2 that took place from 13 th to 17 th February, 2017; 1 st Journalist training that took place from 15 th to 18 th February, 2016; Second Journalist training that took place from 18 th to 22 nd April, 2016; 3 rd Journalist training that took place from 19 th to 22 nd June, 2017; fourth journalist training that took place from 7 th to 11 th August, 2017; Monitoring and Evaluation training that took place from 3 rd to 6 th October, 2017; Policy communication training that took place on 24 th June, 2015; 1 st Policy processes and policy communication training that took place on 1 st April, 2015; second policy processes and policy communication training that took place from 7 th to 10 th September, 2015 and a Partial Equilibrium training from 25-29 September, 2017. One training was one-on-one training on proposal writing with the Executive Director of FAYE Mr. Mchonkhwe.
4	Number of institutions where trained individuals are applying new practices	Number of institutions			Annually and quarterly	114 Cumulative
5	Number of private sector and civil society organizations assisted to participate in policy formulation processes.	Number of firms & CSOs assisted			Annually and quarterly	573 Cumulative from (NAP consultations; Fertilizer Policy Meeting; Survey on Constraints to Maize Commercialization; Respondents to the Fertilizer Policy Survey; APIS workshop; Update presentation on the Fertilizer Policy; Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy Validation workshop; 2nd Land Malawi Land Symposium; National Fertilizer Policy Consultations; FODS consultations and the National Fertilizer Policy writeshops; FODS National consultations; National Fertilizer Policy validation workshop; Value chain studies; Review of Special Crops Act and Agriculture General Purposes Act Inception report presentation; FODS writeshops, National Fertilizer Policy writeshop; Fertiliser Bill Writeshop; FODS External Validation Workshop; consultations on Review of SCA, AGPA and Contract Farming Legislation , and Validation Workshop on Review of SCA, AGPA and Contract Farming Legislation; Contract Farming Study
Input:						
1	Labor allocations to activity, disaggregated by level of expertise and	Person-weeks allocated	Annual and quarterly NAPAS:Malawi reports to USAID/Malawi –	NAPAS: Malawi	Annually and quarterly	779.5 man weeks cumulative

	type of activity – technical support, communications, capacity strengthening.			record keeping		
2	Financial resources directly expended by NAPAS: Malawi on policy process strengthening activities.	US dollars expended	Annual, Quarterly and Monthly Financial Reports	NAPAS: Malawi record keeping	Annually and quarterly	US\$1,181,078.33 cumulative from Journalist Trainings; Fertilizer Policy Consultations; Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy writeshop; and Partial Equilibrium Training; Fertilizer Policy writeshops; M&E Training; Value Chains Studies follow-up survey and Value chain dissemination workshop; Fertilizer Policy Validation Workshop; FODS National Consultation workshop and Value chains follow up surveys, Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy; and Review of Special Crops Act and Agriculture General Purposes Act Inception Report presentation); National Fertilizer Policy Validation, Farmer Organization Development Strategy writeshops, 14th CAADP Partnership Platform (Libreville - Gabon), Review of SPA and AGPA/Contract Farming Legislation, MoAIWD Strategic Plan writeshop, World Bank’s ICABR Workshop, Horticulture Development Strategy and launch of National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP); MoAIWD Strategic Plan Finalization; Senior Management Validation of National Fertiliser Policy and Agriculture Sector Food and

						Nutrition Strategy; Farmer Organization Development Strategy Validation; Review of SPA and AGPA/Contract Farming Legislation Consultations; Review of SPA and AGPA/Contract Farming Legislation Validation workshop; Fertilizer Bill Writeshop; National Fertilizer Policy External Validation Outstanding payment to Platinum hotel; Production of Documentaries; Value Chains Dissemination at National Agriculture Fair; Value Chains Dissemination at MAFAAS Week; Dissemination of Policy documents in support of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development; International Trade Fair; Regional Value Chains and AGOA Dissemination Workshops in Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu; Fisheries Value Chains Gap Identification Workshop in Mangochi; Dissemination of Value Chains in Mangochi; Horticulture Policy and Strategy Formulation writeshop in Mangochi; NAPAS Project End Wrap up; 2018 AGRF Meeting; MOAIWD Horticulture Strategy Development ,Mpatsa Lodge ,Salima;
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