

INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN MALAWI

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Introduction

- Agriculture remains the main source of livelihoods, growth and exports in Malawi.
- With 85 percent of the population residing in the rural areas, the sector accounts for over 80 percent of the country's employment, over 30% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and about 80 percent of merchandise exports.
- Over 70 percent of all farmers in the country cultivate less than one hectare and a significant number of these farmers still struggle to produce enough food to meet their annual consumption requirements

Agriculture Sector Wide Approach Programme

Project Development Objective:

Improve the effectiveness of investments aimed at food security and sustainable agricultural growth, and [*GEF Global Environmental Objective*] to strengthen the natural resource base in agricultural lands, through a doubling of the area under sustainable land management as a basis for securing ecosystem services and sustainable agricultural productivity.

Project Components

- The project has four components:
 - 1 - Institutional development and capacity building in support of the Agricultural Sector Wide Approach to strengthen the leadership and coordination role of the Ministry of Agriculture as well as sector monitoring and evaluation;
 - 2 - Sustainable food security, agricultural growth and diversification through the implementation of a range of research and extension activities;
 - 3 - Project coordination; and
 - 4 - Improvement and maintenance of unpaved rural roads.

Component 2:

Component 2 is designed to:

- promote research and extension activities to increase:
 - adoption of selected technologies,
 - diversified crop and Livestock production
- expand the coverage and improve the quality of extension activities to reach out to more farmers by promoting innovative and more pluralistic extension methodologies
- promote conservation agriculture and increase area put under conservation agriculture
- increase production of legume basic seed
- support production of clean banana, cassava and cassava plant materials through tissue culture

Main crops supported by ASWp-SP

- Cereals
- Legumes
- Roots and Tubers
- Banana

Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA)

- APPSA is a six year collaborative regional project supported the World Bank:
- The collaborating countries are:
 - Malawi: leading in maize and maize based farming systems
 - Mozambique: leading in rice and rice farming systems
 - Zambia: leading in legume and legume based farming systems
- At the regional level APPSA is coordinated by CCARDESA

APPSA Objectives

Overall objective

To improve technology generation and dissemination within and among participating countries in southern Africa by building capacity within national R&D systems and enhancing regional collaboration

Objectives

- ❑ Enhance **regional specialization** in agricultural research and development;
- ❑ Enhance **regional collaboration** in research, technology dissemination, and training;
- ❑ Facilitate **transfers** of agricultural technology, information, and knowledge across national borders

Project Components

- APPSA programme is comprised of the following three components:
 - Technology Generation and Dissemination
 - Strengthening Regional Centers of Leadership
 - Coordination and Facilitation

Key Research Priorities (Malawi)

- i. Breeding for resistance to pests and diseases of economic importance
- ii. Breeding for tolerance to abiotic stresses, e.g. drought
- iii. Integrated Pest and Disease Control
- iv. Strengthening of seed production, supply and delivery systems
- vi. Soil fertility improvement and other soil and water management options

Review of Legislations

- Developed the following Policies:
 - Agriculture Policy
 - Irrigation Policy
 - Fisheries Policy
 - Seed Policy
- Reviewed/Developed the following Bills:
 - Breeders' rights bill
 - Seed bill
 - Fertilizer bill
 - Plant protection bill
 - Pesticides bill

STRENGTHENING SCIENCE AGENDA

- Building institutional capacities:
 - Training
 - Improving infrastructures
- Strengthening of intra and inter institutions
- Formation of national consortia e.g. Soil Health consortium supported by AGRA
- Creation of crop specific innovation platforms e.g.
 - Roots and Tuber Crops Development Trust
 - Legume Development Trust

THANK YOU