

# *Michigan State University*

New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support (NAPAS) Activity

Associate Cooperative Agreement no. AID-612-LA-15-00001

## *Quarterly Report*

1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017

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**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

## USAID/Malawi Quarterly Progress Report

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

**Reporting Period:** July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017

**Obligation Funding Amount:** US\$2,958,070

**Project Duration:** November 24, 2014 to November 24, 2017

**Evaluation Dates:** July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017 and FY 2017 (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017)

**Person Responsible for Drafting this Report:** Dr. Flora Janet Nankhuni and Dr. Athur Mabiso

**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 in 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

While this report is a quarterly report for the period July 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017 it also serves as the end-of-year report, covering the period between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. Thus the content of the report is structured into the two respective segments, starting with content for the quarter (IA) followed by content for the annual report of the NAPAS:Malawi activity's third fiscal year of implementation (IB). As a consequence, some material is repeated solely to allow the sections to stand alone as separate reports if need be.

## **IA. PROGRESS FOR THE QUARTER (JULY 1, 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2017)**

### **Component 1: Technical Support for Policy Formulation**

#### *National Fertilizer Policy (NFP)*

Three regional stakeholder consultations were held to get input on the zero draft of the NFP: The first regional consultation took place on August 4, 2017 in Mzuzu, involving 70 stakeholders (7 female); the second one took place on August 15, 2017 in Blantyre, involving 76 stakeholders (12 female); and the third one took place on August 22, 2017 in Lilongwe, involving 115 stakeholder (31 female). In addition, a consultation with senior management of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development took place on August 21, 2017, involving 10 MoAIWD staff (1 female). These inputs were analyzed and will be incorporated in the draft during a writeshop scheduled for October 23-27, 2017 in Salima. The writeshop will involve 23 stakeholders representing Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Office of the President and Cabinet, ICRISAT (a CGIAR center), Farmers Union of Malawi, Malawi Fertilizer Association, NASFAM, CISANET and DCAFS. The drafted Policy is planned to be validated in November 2017 and submitted to Office of the President and Cabinet for Approval by December 2017.

#### *Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy (ASFNS)*

NAPAS team supported the MoAIWD in finalizing the drafting of the ASFNS during a writeshop that was organized by the SANE Activity from 11-15 September 2017. The draft is still being improved. It is expected to be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture for adoption by December 2017.

#### *Value Chain Analyses*

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. These were demanded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development to provide information that would help in designing and implementing the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP). The value chains are in their final stages of their development and are expected to be finalized by December 2017. Dissemination workshops will be conducted in conjunction with other programs that are promoting value chain development.

#### *Farmer Organizations Development Strategy (FODS)*

NAPAS has developed a background paper to inform the policy process of developing the FODS. The paper will be presented at a stakeholder consultation that will be held October 11-12, 2017. A survey is also being conducted with organizations that deal with Farmer Organizations to solicit more input for development of the FODS. The strategy is expected to be fully developed in FY 2018.

#### *Technical Inputs into the National Resilience Strategy, the MoAIWD Strategic Plan and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy*

NAPAS provided inputs into development of the National Resilience Strategy, the MoAIWD Strategic Plan and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, during the quarter.

## **Component 2: Policy Communication**

There was no major policy communication event during the quarter.

## **Component 3: Capacity Strengthening**

### *Media Training*

NAPAS organized a journalist workshop that exposed media professionals to agricultural research and findings. A total of 39 (13 female) participants were trained. More than ten articles appeared in media outlets, reporting different aspects of the training. Some of these articles are posted on: [http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/media\\_workshop\\_communicating\\_agricultural\\_science\\_for\\_impact](http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/media_workshop_communicating_agricultural_science_for_impact). In addition, more than 50 radio programs were aired through normal news bulletins in three languages (Chichewa, Tumbuka and English) creating awareness of the scientific knowledge that was being disseminated and also awareness of the NAPAS:Malawi project in general, across the whole country. The Malawi Broadcasting Corporation TV also aired a news bulletin on the training. The workshop was organized in conjunction with another MSU initiative, the Global Center for Food Systems Innovation (GCFSI) that has been supporting LUANAR staff and students in developing and implementing innovative research ideas that can be further developed by the private sector to promote innovations in agriculture.

### *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 the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), the NAPAS activity co-organized a partial equilibrium analysis training at the at the Center for Agricultural Development at LUANAR, where 18 Malawians (6 female) were trained in new analytical techniques that can enhance their policy analytical skills. LUANAR is in the process of developing a soya bean partial equilibrium model. The training was used to sharpen the model and to introduce a larger number of Malawian analysts to partial equilibrium modeling. The training took place from 25 to 29 September, 2017. One of the participants from the Ministry of Agriculture (DAPS), Dr. Dominic Nkhoma, who is in charge of the Ministry's M&E system, applauded the opportunity of the training and plans to link the Ministry's M&E system to CARD/LUANAR for improved policy analysis in the Ministry. An article on the training can be accessed on: <http://mbc.mw/index.php/component/k2/item/5173-experts-trained-on-partial-equilibrium>.

## **IB. PROGRESS FOR THE 2017 FISCAL YEAR (OCTOBER 1, 2016 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2017)**

### **Component 1: Policy Formulation**

There were a total of 10 policy (and strategy) commitments that the Agriculture sector worked on in the 2017 fiscal year, with support of NAPAS:

#### *The National Agriculture Policy and the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP)*

In the first quarter of the year, the NAPAS team co-organized the launch event for the National Agriculture Policy that was approved in September 2016. The launch was officiated by the President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency, Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika on

November 30, 2016. The event attracted more than 1,000 participants. Also in attendance was the US Ambassador to Malawi, Her Excellency, Madam Virginia Palmer as well as other Ambassadors and heads of cooperation. This signalled a high political commitment to the NAP. Information on the launch and the NAP document itself can be found on: [http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/national\\_agriculture\\_policy\\_report](http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/national_agriculture_policy_report). The National Irrigation Policy that was also developed with NAPAS' technical input was launched during the same event.



The Malawi State President, Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika and the first lady Dr. Gertrude Mutharika visiting pavilions at the Bingu International Conference Center, prior to launching the National Agriculture Policy and the National Irrigation Policy.

The NAPAS team also collaborated closely with the FAO Investment Center staff members that were tasked to lead the technical support to the MoAIWD in producing the NAIP. The NAIP is the implementation plan for the NAP. In support of the process, 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 workplan that would enable them to implement the NAP.

In support of the NAIP development process, NAPAS has also 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. Dissemination workshops will be conducted in FY2018 in conjunction with other programs that are promoting value chain development.

#### *The National Fertilizer Policy (NFP)*

A zero-draft of the NFP was produced in July 2017. Input on the draft was sought through three regional consultations that took place on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in Mzuzu in the Northern region, on August 15, 2017 in Blantyre in the Southern Region and on August 22, 2017 in Lilongwe in the Central region. The consultations involved a total of 261 participants of which 50 (19 percent) were women. The draft was also reviewed by Senior Management of the MoAIWD on August 21, 2017. A writeshop to incorporate the comments received is scheduled for October 2017, validation of the document is scheduled for November 2017 and submission to the Office of the President and Cabinet, for approval, by January 2018.

#### *Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy (ASFNS)*

NAPAS co-financed three regional consultations on the ASFNS: first one in Mzuzu from 2-3 February 2017 where 40 stakeholders (12 female) attended; second one in Lilongwe, from 7-8 February with 53 stakeholder (14 female); and the third one in Blantyre from 9-10 February, with 58 stakeholders (22 female) participating. NAPAS also co-financed a validation workshop for the ASFNS on April 25, 2017 in Lilongwe that attracted 72 participants (24 female). The other co-financers were the FtF Strengthening Agriculture and Nutrition Extension (SANE) Project also funded by USAID/Malawi and the Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (DNHA) in Ministry of Health. DNHA funded an extra consultation meeting on July 19, 2017, with 27 nutrition stakeholders. 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 total 11 stakeholders (8 females) were members of the writeshop. A follow-up writeshop is scheduled for October 2017 to finalize the document (particularly the M&E section). The strategy is expected to be submitted to MoAIWD for approval by December 2017.

#### *Farmer Organization Development Strategy (FODS)*

In the second and third quarter of the FY2017, the NAPAS team analyzed the input that stakeholders provided at the June-July 2016 Farmer and Farmer Organizations' consultation and produced a video of the highlights of the consultation process. The video can be accessed on:

[http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/video\\_encouraging\\_and\\_strengthening\\_cooperatives](http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/video_encouraging_and_strengthening_cooperatives).

The analysis and video was shared with Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism and DAES in MoAIWD to chart the way forward for developing the FODS. This was followed-up by additional planning meetings with MoITT staff, FAO, DAES, Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM), NASFAM, MUSCCO (Malawi Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives), and WeEFFECT (an International NGO supporting cooperative development in Malawi) to chart the way forward on collaborating to conduct further consultations on the FODS. The first joint consultation is scheduled for October 2017. NAPAS has produced a background paper to inform the process.

## *Agricultural Extension Policy Review and Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy Development*

NAPAS provided technical advice, including developing a background paper that was used by the teams that were commissioned to conduct a review of the 2000 Malawi extension policy and to develop an Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy document. The background paper is accessible on:

([http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/resources/agricultural\\_extension\\_in\\_malawi](http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/resources/agricultural_extension_in_malawi)). The Extension Policy review was validated in March 2017. The Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy has been developed but has not yet been validated by stakeholders. Both documents are being held by the consultants because of failure by MoAIWD to pay them, following closure of the ASWAp-SP project. The process will be continued when the payments are made.

### *Strategic Plan for the MoAIWD*

During the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2015/16 the MoAIWD, through the Department of Planning Services, approached the NAPAS team and requested technical support in developing the Ministry's Strategic Plan. The Ministry produced a zero draft of the Strategic Plan in May 2017 and sought inputs on it through 3 regional consultations. The first consultation involving 63 MoAIWD staff members (18 female) took place in Salima on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, the second consultation took place in Mzuzu on 10<sup>th</sup> May involving 97 MoAIWD staff members (11 female) and the third consultation took place in Blantyre on 18<sup>th</sup> May, involving 109 participants (19 female). The Ministry has stalled in finalizing the draft.

### *Technical Inputs into the National Resilience Strategy and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy.*

Although these documents are outside the direction of the DAPS, they are related to the New Alliance Commitments and required NAPAS' inputs. The National Resilience Plan, particularly, used a significant portion of the Policy Analyst's time (Dr. Athur Mabiso). This contributed to delays on the National Fertilizer Policy and the Farmer Organization Development Strategy.

## **Component 2: Policy Communication**

During the FY2017, the NAPAS team organized/co-organized and participated in at least 6 policy communication events:

### *Agriculture Policy and Institutional Strengthening Workshop (APIS)*

In the first quarter of the fiscal year, the NAPAS team organized a workshop on Agriculture Policy and Institutional Strengthening (APIS), with the goal of familiarizing key stakeholders in Malawi's agriculture sector on the NAP and the institutional reforms that will be necessary if implementation of the NAP is to be effective. Information on the workshop can be found on <http://fsg.afre.msu.edu/fsp/malawi/index.htm>. Highlighting issues of institutional reforms contributed to development of a pillar on "Policies, Institutions and Coordination for Results" in the NAIP.

### *Malawi Land Symposium*

The NAPAS team supported the MoAIWD and the MoLHUD to organize the 2017 Malawi Land Symposium in conjunction with the EU delegation to Malawi and other stakeholders, including

FAO and LandNet. This took place on May 10, 2017, as a follow-up to the first Malawi Land Symposium that took place in April 2016. A total of 106 stakeholders (20 female) attended the symposium, whose report can be found on:

[http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/uploads/files/Malawi/Proceedings\\_Report\\_of\\_2nd\\_Malawi\\_Land\\_Symposium\\_held\\_in\\_May\\_2017.pdf](http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/uploads/files/Malawi/Proceedings_Report_of_2nd_Malawi_Land_Symposium_held_in_May_2017.pdf). More information on both land symposia can be found on:

[http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/initial\\_steps\\_in\\_implementation\\_of\\_the\\_malawi\\_land\\_laws\\_implications\\_for\\_co](http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/initial_steps_in_implementation_of_the_malawi_land_laws_implications_for_co).

#### *Presentations to the NAIP team and stakeholders to support development of the NAIP*

NAPAS invited and supported Dr. James Thurlow, a general equilibrium (GE) modeller at IFPRI Washington DC, to travel to Malawi and present results of his (and IFAD's) 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, 2015. Presentations on the value chains that NAPAS:Malawi conducted were also made to MoAIWD staff and to the NAIP development team by the Policy Analyst, Dr Athur Mabiso and some of the consultants that NAPAS hired to help with producing the value chain studies.

In March 2017, the CoP of NAPAS also supported the MoLHUD to provide input into the NAIP process that resulted in having an intervention area on "Empowerment and Tenure Security" included in the draft NAIP. The technical inputs by NAPAS into the NAIP have ensured that the NAIP effectively include strategies supporting different policies that the NAPAS team helped the MoAIWD put in place, which we believe to be the first step in ensuring that the policies will be implemented. For example, strategies to support development of farmer organizations came from the NAP document and conversations with the NAIP development team on the importance of strengthening farmer organisations if commercialisation efforts espoused in the NAP are to peak off.

#### *Presentation of Preliminary Results on the Value Chains at the Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF)*

NAPAS conducted several meetings with the Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM) and the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) to organize a PPDF that substantially discusses issues that are inhibiting the full potential of the private sector to participate in agricultural development. The PPDF convenes four meetings in a year, one of which was used to increase discussion of agriculture-related issues by allowing NAPAS to present preliminary results of the value chains that were demanded by the Ministry of Agriculture to inform agriculture stakeholders and to help the Ministry in prioritizing investments among the so many different crops. The PPDF took place on June 21, 2017. The chair of the PPDF, who is now a Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, requested that the NAPAS team use the information gained through the process of developing the value chain studies to produce a list of bankable projects that can be presented to potential investors at a 2017 Investment Forum. NAPAS developed the list but the



demand for this has been reduced due to postponement of the Investment Forum to 2018 or beyond. However, the value chain studies will form a basis for engaging with the private sector much more, in FY2018, when results of the finished studies will be disseminated.

#### *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 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017. Since the event coincided with one of the journalist training activities, the NAPAS team was only able to partially attend the week-long conference. As part of participating in the event, the NAPAS team shared input on the review of the agricultural extension policy.

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

NAPAS collaborated with the IFPRI 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. This 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 development of the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy.

#### *Inputs into the Political Economy Analyses of the: Farm Input Subsidy Program (FISP); the Seed Policy; and Grain Marketing Policy*

During FY 2017, NAPAS supported development of three political economy analyses of the FISP, Seed Policy and Grain Marketing Policy to inform the NAPAS activity and USAID policy reform efforts, of the best and practical ways to effect positive change in these areas.

### **Component 3: Capacity Strengthening**

In terms of capacity building activities, NAPAS conducted four trainings: (i) a budget and policy analysis training; (ii) a training of journalists and media professionals on avoiding fake news; (iii) another media training on reporting agricultural science for impact, and (iv) a training on partial equilibrium modeling, which focused on training government officers, private sector players and civil society staff on policy analysis using a partial equilibrium model for Malawi. The NAPAS team also continued to provide day-to-day capacity strengthening of staff within the Department of Agricultural Planning Services in the MoAIWD. This was done in the context of the everyday tasks that the policy analysts and planners in MoAIWD undertake in collaboration with NAPAS:Malawi staff. For example, the NAPAS team supported the MoAIWD in compiling the country's Malabo-CAADP Biennial Report, which is a mutual accountability tool for tracking the country's progress on commitments made under the Malabo Declaration. Malawi performed above average in the SADC region on its progress to achieve the Malabo targets (a score of 4.9 out of 10, compared to SADC countries average score of 3.8)<sup>1</sup>. The NAPAS team also supported the Ministry in developing the Strategic Grain Reserves guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> A score of 3.94 or above is considered "on track" to achieve the Malabo goals.

*February 15-17, 2017 Budget and Policy Analysis Training*

The NAPAS team organized and conducted a training on budgeting and policy analysis that was delivered to staff in the MoAIWD, in the budgeting section as well as planning officers in other departments and planning officers in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. A total of 119 planners/budget officer (83 male and 36 female) in the Government of Malawi were trained on policy-aligned programme-based budgeting. The training also provided a platform for development of 2017 MoIAWD's budget in line with the NAP.

*June 19-22, 2017 Journalist Training on “Journalism Ethics in Agriculture: Avoiding Fake News”*

In the third quarter, the NAPAS team conducted a journalist training workshop on journalism ethics in agriculture: avoiding fake news. The journalist training, which took place in Salima, brought together mainstream media houses and community radio stations as well as civil society organizations. In addition, government officials from MoAIWD, the Malawi Communications and Regulatory Authority (MACRA) and the Ministry of Information attended the training. A total of 33 journalists (15 female) were trained. Information on the training can be accessed on:

[http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/media\\_training\\_on\\_journalism\\_ethics\\_in\\_agriculture\\_avoiding\\_fake\\_news](http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/media_training_on_journalism_ethics_in_agriculture_avoiding_fake_news).



Group photo with journalists that attended the journalist training on 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.

### *August 7-11 Journalist Training on “Communicating Science for Impact”*

NAPAS organized a journalist workshop that exposed media professionals to agricultural research and findings. A total of 39 (11 female) participants were trained. More than ten articles appeared in media outlets, reporting different aspects of the training. Some of these articles are posted on: [http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/media\\_workshop\\_communicating\\_agricultural\\_science\\_for\\_impact](http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/media_workshop_communicating_agricultural_science_for_impact). The workshop was organized in conjunction with another MSU initiative, the Global Center for Food Systems Innovation (GCFSI) that has been supporting LUANAR staff and students in developing and implementing innovative research ideas that can be further developed by the private sector to promote innovations in agriculture. In addition, more than 50 radio programs aired news bulletins in three languages (Chichewa, Tumbuka and English) creating awareness of the scientific knowledge that was being disseminated and also awareness of the NAPAS:Malawi project in general, across the whole country. The Malawi Broadcasting Corporation TV also aired a news bulletin on the training.

### *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 Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), the NAPAS activity co-organized a partial equilibrium analysis training at the Center for Agricultural Research Development at LUANAR, where 18 Malawians (6 female) were trained in new analytical techniques that can enhance their policy analytical skills. LUANAR is in the process of developing a soya bean partial equilibrium model. The training was used to sharpen the model and to introduce a larger number of Malawian analysts to partial equilibrium modeling. The training took place from 25 to 29 September, 2017. One of the participants from the Ministry of Agriculture (DAPS), Dr. Dominic Nkhoma who is in charge of the Ministry’s M&E system, applauded the opportunity of the training and plans to link the Ministry’s M&E system to CARD/LUANAR for improved policy analysis in the Ministry. An article on the training can be accessed on: <http://mbc.mw/index.php/component/k2/item/5173-experts-trained-on-partial-equilibrium>. The CoP of NAPAS also presented a PowerPoint to the trainees, explaining the NAPAS:Malawi project, what has been achieved so far and how the Project fits into other Food Security Policy Innovation Lab (FSP-IL) activities that are managed by Michigan State University. The ReNAPRI partial equilibrium training at LUANAR was also being supported through core funds of the FSP-IL project that is funded by the USAID Bureau of Food Security in Washington DC.

## **II. International Travel**

There was limited international travel during FY2017. At the beginning and middle of the fiscal year, the CoP travelled to Michigan State University to report on the Project’s progress and update the Senior Management of the FSP-IL Project on FY2017 planned activities. The Policy Analyst, Dr Mabiso also travelled to IFPRI in Washington DC to attend the IFPRI annual meeting in September 2017 and update the meeting on NAPAS’ activities. Both the CoP and the Policy Analyst also attended a Bureau of Food Security meeting in Washington DC in March 2017 to report on progress of the FSP-IL activities in Malawi. The meeting involved all countries that are part of the FSP-IL project.

### **III. Challenges, Solutions and Actions Taken**

One of the challenges that the NAPAS activity has had to deal with during the financial year was the slow progress on MoAIWD's part on several policy efforts including the Farmer Organizations Development Strategy (FODS), the Agricultural Extension Policy review and Agricultural Extension Strategy development process. In large part, the delays on development of the Farmers Organizations Development Strategy have been due to the fact that MoAIWD saw this as the mandate of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, which is responsible for cooperatives in the country. Therefore, NAPAS has since 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. Other stakeholders including GIZ, FUM, NASFAM, MUSCCO, WeEFFECT and the FAO are also part of the collaboration. There has been some movement in this process, with FAO and GIZ financially supporting review of the Cooperative Policy that NAPAS has leveraged to start development of the FODS.

Regarding the Agricultural Extension Policy review process, the limited progress was largely attributed to the fact that it took a while for the MoAIWD to hire a consultant, funded under the Multi-donor Trust Fund through the ASWAp Support Project. It took facilitation by the NAPAS and the SANE teams as well as several meetings with the DAES to discuss the issue about the delay. Significant progress has been made on the review of the Agricultural Extension Policy and drafting of a new Agricultural Extension Strategy. However, towards the end of the fiscal year, that progress has been slowed down due to closure of the ASWEAp-SP project before the consultants were paid. As a result, the consultants are holding the documents that have been developed and the Ministry is waiting for resumption of ASWAp (or NAIP) to finish the policy processes.

Another challenge that the NAPAS activity was facing include limited capability to effectively communicate some of the work being achieved under the NAPAS activity. To remedy this, the NAPAS activity recruited a communications specialist whose efforts have helped increase documentation of NAPAS' activities on the FSP-IL website. More focused communication, especially to the Malawi stakeholders is still needed and will become a focus of the Project in FY2018.

During the FY17, 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 has led to delays in charges being billed to USAID resulting in a poor reflection of the rate at which NAPAS finances are being expended by the NAPAS activity. As such, the CoP had several meetings with the NAPAS AOR to discuss the financial position of the NAPAS activity. For FY2018, IFPRI will not be used to manage NAPAS resources, instead NAPAS plans to use an IMPREST account to manage Project resources.

### **IV. Lessons, Best Practices and Recommendations**

During the year, NAPAS has learned that some of the impact that a Project can have, comes from close association to influential people in the policy process. For example, once the NAP was produced, it was not obvious that the NAIP process was going to incorporate or be mindful of what the NAP Policy direction is, in developing the NAIP. In fact, since activities tend to take place in parallel depending on who is leading development of the particular activity, there is little coordination across different activities. When the NAIP process was being initiated, the CoP talked to the Deputy Director in DAPS that was supposed to lead the NAIP process, informing him that it is important for him to ensure that the NAIP becomes an implementation plan for the NAP. The

CoP even offered the Deputy Director that it is crucial for the AU CAADP team that is coming to Malawi to be well informed of the NAP policy process that has taken place in Malawi, as they embark on developing the NAIP. This advice was ignored. The CoP took advantage of the AGRA annual meeting that was convened in early September 2016 to inform the key AU personnel of the NAP document and that CAADP efforts in Malawi should line up with the document's aspirations. When FAO, SADC and AU teams came to Malawi to "domesticate the Malabo in Mid-September 2016, they did not have any presentation on the NAP. The very first day of the conference, stakeholders asked them how their framework fits into the recently approved NAP. It was at that point a NAPAS staff member was requested to present the contents of the NAP to the stakeholders that had been assembled. From then on, the NAIP process started to build on what the NAP had already started to build and produced a document that is being termed the implementation plan of the NAP. More substantively, most of the strategies that the NAP identified formed the basis for the four program areas and the 16 intervention areas that the NAIP identified. This essentially puts the NAP document closer to implementation stage, as the NAIP costed and identified resources for the different intervention areas.

In addition, the CoP of NAPAS also had several conversations with the Deputy Director that was responsible for producing a budget for the Ministry of Agriculture to convince him that the NAP document should be the basis for how they allocate resources to different Ministry activities. NAPAS also provided a training on how the Ministry budget could be aligned to the NAP. In addition the NAPAS CoP involved the DAES team and other stakeholders that were working with her in developing the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy to engage with the NAIP development team. The same was done with MoLHUD staff members. These efforts were meant to direct the MoAIWD into implementing the strategies that are outlined in the NAP document. Chances are that the MoAIWD budget, the NAIP, the draft Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy, and the NAP may not have been coordinated to the extent they are now, without someone "forcing" the coordination to happen.

During the FY17, NAPAS also learned that it is useful to be responsive and supportive to Government and USAID in terms of working on unplanned work that the Ministry or USAID may request. This willingness to be responsive, especially to MoAIWD has been found to improve the working relationships in the Ministry and has increased the appreciation for the NAPAS team's efforts in the MoAIWD. For example, NAPAS support to the Ministry's production of the AU Malabo biennial report helped the country show a relatively good standing (in the SADC region) on achievements towards Malabo targets. Two of the areas where Malawi scored high are: completion of the CAADP process and evidence-based policies. Another area where the NAPAS team supported the Ministry and USAID is in working on the National Resilience Plan. The fact that was not in NAPAS' work plan did not prevent the team from working on the document. This resulted in much appreciation from the Government of Malawi and also from USAID/Malawi that also wanted to see the cycle of vulnerabilities to be broken by building a resilient agricultural system. This emphasizes the importance of building in flexibility in the NAPAS work plan, while at the same time ensuring that significant key milestones and deliverables are being achieved.

Given the new demands for NAPAS's support to the DAPS, 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 production of the AU Malabo

biennial report, the NAPAS staff decided to recruit new staff while engaging consultants. This has enabled the NAPAS team to effectively respond to the dynamic demands of the MoAIWD in an effective manner and ensure that the DAPS 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 has led to significant progress on several fronts, including the work on developing the National Resilience Plan, the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy, and the FODS. 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 two journalist trainings. Due to continuous such trainings, a group of journalists have created a network of “Agricultural journalists” that they registered using their own funds. This group is now being trained by another USAID communication activity and will probably produce high quality agricultural journalists in Malawi. It was particularly interesting to notice that radio journalists produced more than 50 stories from the “communicating science” journalist training that they aired through their media. In addition, through collaborative efforts of the NAPAS team, a policy communication event on the new Land Laws of Malawi (second Malawi Land Symposium) was successfully organized, with other organizations such as the EU delegation to Malawi co-financing the event.

## **V. Success stories**

NAPAS: Malawi was able to successfully organize the joint launch of the National Agriculture Policy and the National Irrigation Policy, which was officiated by the State President, His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika (<http://www.maravipost.com/malawi-president-mutharika-launches-national-agriculture-irrigation-policies/>). The launch event was hailed a great success and crowning moment for the NAPAS activity by many stakeholders in and outside government. See for example:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2017/01/31/new-policies-to-transform-malawi-agriculture-sector>. More than a thousand people attended. In fact, the President chose to sign the National Agriculture Policy, something that is unprecedented. More importantly, the NAP guided development of Malawi’s second generation NAIP, content for the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, development of the Ministry’s budget and several sub-sectoral strategies.

NAPAS: Malawi trained 120 planners/budget officer (84 male and 36 female) in the Government of Malawi on policy-aligned programme-based budgeting. In the process the training enabled the MoAIWD to develop its annual budget and align it to the National Agriculture Policy. The training took place in Blantyre from February 15 to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Planners and budget officers at district level as well as from central government from MoAIWD participated. The training was hailed a resounding success because it enabled Government budget officers to compile the MoAIWD’s annual budget using the programme-based budgeting approach that the MoFEPD has instituted across all line Ministries.

NAPAS: Malawi also 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.

The NAPAS activity successfully conducted consultation workshops on the National Fertilizer Policy in the northern, central and southern regions of Malawi. The workshops were highly received by stakeholders and involved a total of 261 participants of which 50 (19 percent) were females.

## **VI. Management Issues**

The NAPAS Chief of Party and Policy Analyst held several job interviews (together with an AMG Global1 representative) to fill three new positions that have been created within the new organizational structure of the NAPAS activity. Given that the work plan for the current financial year has a long list of policy reforms that will need to be completed by end of the activity in November 2017 and that the MoAIWD has requested the NAPAS team to take on additional work, especially on the NAIP design process and the Strategic Plan, it was found to be essential that NAPAS hire more staff. The new arrangement also solved the rigidity that existed with relying on IFPRI and IITA to do the local hirings for the NAPAS activity.

The NAPAS team experienced issues with the financial arrangement and reporting of financial expenditures through the IFPRI financial and administrative system. This affected the pipeline performance of the NAPAS activity as exhibited by delays in invoicing MSU. NAPAS will manage its project finances using an IMPREST account.

## **VII. Update of the PMP**

Indicators tracked to measure progress of the NAPAS:Malawi activity are in the table below. In general the NAPAS activity has made significant progress on 12 policy reform areas, with the Farmer Organizations Development Strategy being the area that will need concerted effort in the cost extension period of the NAPAS activity.

Indicators tracked to measure progress of the NAPAS: Malawi activity are shown in table 1 below.

**Table 1. Indicators for Monitoring Progress of the NAPAS activity**

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	10 in this quarter, 12 for FY 2017 (National Agriculture Policy, Contract Farming Strategy, National Irrigation Policy, Seed Policy, FISP/zero-draft Fertiliser Policy, Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy, Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy, Farmers Organizations Development Strategy; National Agricultural Investment Plan, National Resilience Plan, Strategic Grain Reserves Guidelines, Strategic Plan of the MoAIWD)**



Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
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.	<b>3 this quarter</b> – (1) NAIP draft used the NAP as one of the main documents. The NAIP is the implementation plan for the NAP; (2) the NAIP used the IFPRI/IFAD GE model on “Prioritizing value chains in Malawi”. The study was identified by NAPAS:Malawi, who also funded one of the authors to present the study to NAIP stakeholders. The results are reflected in the latest NAIP document; (3) Concept notes on bankable projects to be submitted to the 2018 Malawi Investment Forum used results of the value chains that NAPAS has produced; <b>(11 – cumulative, this FY)</b> ; (4) Winter Cropping Concept Note; (5) Legume Promotion Concept Note; (6) Value Chains Studies to inform NAIP; (7) Presentation on Returns to Irrigation Investments for Intensive Food Production Programme Concept Note and to inform the National Resilience Plan; (8) Presentation on Fertilizer Policy Consultation Results to update stakeholders on the development of the Fertiliser Policy (9) Presentations by NAPAS to the NAIP Development team on including Nutrition, Social Protection, Food Safety and Inclusive (gender and youth) interventions in the NAIP (10) Presentations to the NAIP Development team and MoAIWD staff on value chains (to inform the NAIP); (11) Presentation of the value chains studies during the Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF).
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	<b>1.80.</b> (Follow up survey planned for November 2017)

Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
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 survey in April 2015; endline survey in end November-2017	Stakeholder survey implementation and analysis	Twice over life of project	<b>1.80</b> (Follow-up survey planned for November 2017)
<b>Output:</b>						
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	<b>1 produced this quarter. 10 (cumulative-this year)</b>
2	Number of stakeholder learning forums on agriculture and food security policy issues supported.	Number of learning forums			Annually and quarterly	<b>6 this quarter</b> (3 regional Fertilizer Policy Consultation Workshops in Mzuzu, Lilongwe and Blantyre; one consultation meeting with senior management of MoAIWD; 1 journalist training, and 1 partial equilibrium training). <b>28 (cumulative this year).</b>
3	Number of people receiving short-term training in policy analysis, planning, formulation, advocacy, monitoring, and evaluation.	Number of trainees			Annually and quarterly	<b>59 (this quarter)</b> – those that attended the journalist training in August, 2017 and the Partial Equilibrium training in September, 2017. <b>190 (cumulative this fiscal year).</b>
4	Number of institutions where trained individuals are applying new practices	Number of institutions			Annually and quarterly	<b>30 this quarter</b> from the two trainings. <b>56 (cumulative this year);</b>

Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
5	Number of private sector and civil society organizations assisted to participate in policy formulation processes.	Number of firms & CSOs assisted			Annually and quarterly	<b>30 this quarter</b> (those that attended National Fertilizer Policy Consultations) <b>491 (cumulative this year)</b> . In addition 309 private sector firms, 576 producer firms (farmers) and 231 civil society organizations provided input into the 12 value chains studies that NAPAS:Malawi conducted, hence indirectly participating in the policy formulation process.
<b>Input:</b>						

Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
1	Labor allocations to activity, disaggregated by level of expertise and type of activity – technical support, communications, capacity strengthening.	Person-weeks allocated	Annual and quarterly NAPAS:Malawi reports to USAID/Malawi – 59.25 man-week on Technical support (Flora 10, Athur 7.25, Todd 3, Zephania 12; Joseph 12; Christone 13); 1.5 weeks on the journalist training (preparation plus actual training); and 23.5 weeks on Administration (Flora 1; Athur 1; Charles 12; Oyinkan 2; Li-Xiao 1; Odom Chad 2.5; David Tschirley 2; Scott Frump 1; and Daniele Fahrni 1), and 14.75 weeks on Communications (Paida 12; Flora 1; Athur 1.25 and Elisabeth Paymal 0.5).	NAPAS:Malawi record keeping	Annually and quarterly	<b>100 man weeks (this quarter). 273 total for FY 2017.</b>
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	<b>\$56, 879.44 (for this quarter-</b> for the following activities: Journalist Training; Fertilizer Policy Consultations; Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy Consultations; and Partial Equilibrium Training) <b>\$272,537.46 cumulative for FY17.</b>

\*\* These are the policies and strategies that NAPAS has worked on since November 2014. They are at different stages of development. NAPAS is planning to support DARS on the Seed Bill once the Seed Policy, which is with OPC, is adopted.

## VII. Planned Activities for Next Quarter

The following activities shown in Table 2 are planned for part of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of FY 2018 (October-November, 2017) for the NAPAS activity:

**Table 2. Planned NAPAS activities for October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 27, 2017**

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Month or Date</b>	<b>Description of NAPAS contribution or efforts</b>	<b>Staff responsible</b>
Completion of drafting the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy (ASFNS)	1 October-27 November, 2017	Conducting a follow-up to the writeshop to finalize the drafting of the ASFNS (in collaboration with the SANE activity and DAES). Presenting the completed draft to the Senior Management of MoAIWD before submitting it for approval and adoption.	Dr Flora Nankhuni
Drafting and finalizing the National Fertilizer Policy	1 October-27 November, 2017	NAPAS to work in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) and the Department of Planning Services in MoAIWD to draft, validate and submit the National Fertilizer Policy document to the Office of President and Cabinet.	Dr Athur Mabiso
Continued consultations on the Farmer Organizations Development Strategy	1 October-27 November, 2017	NAPAS to conduct consultation meeting on the Farmer Organizations Development Strategy and continue administering stakeholder survey on development of the FODs.	Dr Christone Nyondo
Support MoAIWD in development of their Strategic Plan	1 October-27 November, 2017	Support the ministry to finalize and submit the strategic plan to the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development for approval.	Dr Todd Benson and Dr Christone Nyondo
Support MoAIWD in preparation of the 2017 Agriculture Sector performance report and the Joint Sector Review	1 October-27 November, 2017	NAPAS to provide technical support in preparation of the 2017 Agriculture Sector performance report and the Joint Sector Review.	Dr Athur Mabiso Mr. Zephania Nyirenda Mr. Joseph Kanyamuka
Conduct an M&E Training	October, 2017	NAPAS to conduct an M&E Training.	Dr Athur Mabiso Mr. Zephania Nyirenda
NAPAS Endline Survey	November, 2017	NAPAS to conduct an Endline Survey on the quality of agriculture and food security policy processes in Malawi	Dr Todd Benson Dr Flora Nankhuni Mr. Zephania Nyirenda

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Month or Date</b>	<b>Description of NAPAS contribution or efforts</b>	<b>Staff responsible</b>
NAPAS Trainings Survey	November, 2017	NAPAS to conduct a survey on the effectiveness of Trainings it has been conducting	Dr Athur Mabiso Dr Flora Nankhuni Mr Zephania Nyirenda