

# *Michigan State University*

New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support (NAPAS) Activity

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

## *Quarterly Report*

1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017

<b>Chief of Party:</b>	Dr. Flora Janet Nankhuni
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:nankhuni@anr.msu.edu">nankhuni@anr.msu.edu</a>
<b>Telephone:</b>	+265-995-687-444



**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

## USAID/Malawi Quarterly Progress Report

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

**Reporting Period:** October 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

**Obligation Funding Amount:** US\$4,002,467

**Project Duration:** November 28, 2014 to November 27, 2018

**Evaluation Dates:** October 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

**Person Responsible for Drafting this Report:** Dr. Flora Janet Nankhuni and Mr. Zephania Nyirenda

**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

This is a quarterly report for the period covering October 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. The progress is reported for each of the project components. It should be noted that the initial phase of the project was completed on November 27, 2017. After that, the project was granted a one year costed extension running from November 28, 2017 to November 27, 2018.

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

### *National Fertilizer Policy (NFP)*

The Policy document was drafted at two writeshops that were held in Salima from October 23 to October 27, 2017 and in Lilongwe from November 9 to 10, 2017. The Policy has been submitted to the Director of Agricultural Research Services who will present it internally to senior management of MoAIWD before it is externally validated. The plan is to have it externally validated and submitted to Office of the President and Cabinet in February 2018.

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

The NAPAS team supported the MoAIWD in improving the draft ASFNS during a second writeshop that was organized by the DAES and the SANE activity on October 10, 2017 at the Malawi Institute of Management in Lilongwe. The NAPAS team provided technical support in improving the M&E section of the strategy. The draft is still being improved and is expected to be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture for adoption in March 2018.

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

A consultation workshop for the Farmer Organization Development Strategy was held on October 11 and 12, 2017. The consultation involved a total of 49 (15 female) participants from government agencies, development partners, private sector and civil society organizations. A survey was also conducted with organizations that deal with farmer organizations to solicit more input for development of the FODS. Representatives of 29 organizations contributed to the survey (28 were interviewed during this quarter). The input was consolidated and analyzed and a zero draft of the FODS has been developed. Internal consultations on the zero draft (with the task force overseeing development of the FODS) were also conducted. The draft is being revised. A consultation and validation meeting are planned for February 2018 and submission to the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development is planned for March 2018.

### *Value Chain Analyses to inform implementation of the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and the National Agricultural 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. These were demanded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development to provide information that would help in designing and implementing the NAIP that is also the implementation plan for the NAP. However, it was noted that data collection for some of the value chains especially mango, banana and tomato was done when the crops were out of season and the information was scanty. As a result, the NAPAS team conducted a follow-up survey of producers and traders of these crops in Lilongwe between 15 and 17 November, 2017. A Deputy Director of Crops, who is interested in promoting horticultural crop production in Malawi was also interviewed. A total of 142 (72 female) respondents participated in the survey. The information collected is being analyzed and incorporated in the respective value chains.

## **Component 2: Policy Communication**

### *Value Chain Analyses*

A dissemination workshop for value chain studies was conducted 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 during the workshop. The workshop was attended by 22 people (9 female) including officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (DAPS and DARS), NASFAM, EU, FUM, AICC, and the International Potato Center. Five more dissemination workshops are planned throughout the year including one planned for USAID-Malawi (and DCAFS) in March 2018. The dissemination workshops are meant to increase MoAIWD interaction with the private sector to ensure that the information collected is useful to them.

*Cooperative Policy Review and Farmer Organization Development Strategy (FODS) Scoping Study Report -Stakeholders Consultative Meeting*

The NAPAS team co-organized the above meeting with MoITT, MoAIWD, GIZ, FAO, WeEffect, FUM, NASFAM and MUSCCO to get feedback on results of the scoping study that GIZ funded to inform review of the Cooperative Policy and development of a Cooperative Strategy and a FODS. The meeting was held from 11-12 October, 2017. NAPAS presented on the draft background paper that was produced to inform development of the FODS. The meeting attracted 49 people (15 were female). Information to support development of the Cooperative Strategy and the FODS was also solicited from the participants.

*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 the Malawi Agricultural Marketing Information System at a meeting that was held in Cape Town on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 explored.

*The Compact 2015*

The COP of NAPAS was asked by the IFPRI Malawi Team Leader to support organization of the Compact 2015. She participated in the Program by praying and leading in the singing of the National Anthem and supporting the Minister of Gender, Children, and Disability and Social Welfare in her participation at the conference.

*Meeting with the EU on potential collaboration*

In line with previous collaboration with the EU on the 2017 land symposium, the COP for NAPAS had a meeting with staff of the EU Delegation to Malawi in November 2017 to introduce the activities of the Project to the new leader of the Sustainable Agriculture Department at the EU (Ms. Beatrice Neri) and also the new leader of the New Alliance initiative at the EU, Mr Joost Bakkeren. The person in charge of land issues (Mrs Mutemwe Kavalo) also attended the meeting. Potential areas for future collaboration were identified, including continued support for the land symposium should one be demanded in the future. The EU expressed interest to fund the Department of Land Resources Conservation for land profiling work to update the data that was used to produce the crop suitability maps by the NAPAS Project. These maps can inform development of the agricultural zonation scheme for Malawi. For concrete collaborations, the meeting concluded that future meetings need to be held.

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

#### *M&E Training*

NAPAS organized a Monitoring and Evaluation workshop at Linde Motel in Mponela from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. The aim of the training was to equip participants with knowledge on developing a comprehensive monitoring system for the agriculture sector. A total of 16 (3 female) participants attended the training workshop. Several reports including review of the ASWAp, and development of the AU-Malabo Bi-annual review for Malawi indicated 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 and 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.

The training also 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.

### **II. International Travel**

The Senior Policy Analyst, Dr. Athur Mabiso left the Project in November 2018 to look for employment in the Washington DC area where his spouse found a new job. The CoP travelled to Michigan State University the week of December 2018 to report on the Project's costed extension that USAID has granted MSU and to discuss the draft FY 2018 workplan. During the visit, the COP presented the 7 value chain studies that were also presented at the IFPRI seminar in November 2017. This was for information to members of the Agricultural Food and Resource Economics Department and to get feedback/comments of the results.

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

There has been slow progress on the Agricultural Extension Policy Review and development of the Agricultural Extension Strategy because of closure of the ASWAp-SP project. Closure of the ASWAp led to the Ministry's failure to pay consultants working on the two documents. 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.

With regards to the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy, NAPAS has worked hand-in-hand with the SANE activity to have the Strategy completed. The document is undergoing further improvement before it can be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development for approval. The submission is planned for February 2018.

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

During the quarter, 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 has been providing since November 2014 and would appreciate such support being continued. This was expressed in the previous quarter by the Principal Secretary 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. Such appreciation is rarely acknowledged to Project staff members. The lesson learned was that, regardless of lack of appreciation or negative comments that specific individuals may make about an individual's performance, if good work was done, it will be appreciated by someone who matters. The recommendation being that, it is important to remain focused on what you are working on as a Project and doing the best that you can do.

#### **V. Success stories**

The 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 Agriculture 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.

#### **VI. Management Issues**

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, whose contract was not renewed. In addition, the NAPAS team transitioned from using the IFPRI financial system for managing its resources due to reduced IFPRI role on the project. Currently, an IMPREST account has been established. Three bank accounts have been opened, one in the USA where resources are deposited when they are needed, and two in Malawi: a dollar-dominated account where the Project's resources are transferred to, from the US bank account, and a Malawi kwacha account where day to day financial activities of the Project take place. The Malawi accounts have been opened with National Bank of Malawi and the US account, with Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU). The MSUFCU account has David Tschirley and Eric Crawford, co-Directors of the Food Security Group at MSU, where the Project is managed, as co-owners together with the COP.

#### **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 some progress on 4 policy reform areas this quarter.

**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	<b>4 in this quarter</b> (Enabling environment for private sector investment: Value Chain analyses to support effective implementation of the NAP and NAIP; Agriculture Inputs Policy: National Fertilizer Policy; Agriculture Trade Policy: Farmer Organization Development Strategy; Nutrition Policy: Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy;
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>2 this quarter</b> – (1) Some indicator targets in the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy have been based on the NAP that was supported by the project in its development; (2) 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. The Ministry acknowledged NAPAS’ support at the validation meeting of the report.

Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
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> (To be updated in April, 2018 from follow-up survey)
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> (To be updated in April, 2018 from follow-up survey)
<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	1 this quarter “The National Agriculture Policy in Malawi: Farmers on the Move, from Subsistence to Commercialization”. ( <a href="http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/malawis_national_agriculture_policy_how_a_policy_reform_comes_about">http://foodsecuritypolicy.msu.edu/news/malawis_national_agriculture_policy_how_a_policy_reform_comes_about</a> )
2	Number of stakeholder learning forums on agriculture and food security policy issues supported.	Number of learning forums			Annually and quarterly	<b>4 this quarter</b> (Cooperative/Farmer Organization Scoping Study Report Stakeholders Consultative Meeting: 11-12 October, 2017; National Fertilizer Policy Drafting Writeshop 1: 23-27 October, 2017; National Fertilizer Policy Drafting Writeshop2 10 November, 2017; Value Chains dissemination Workshop-29 November, 2017)



Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
3	Number of people receiving short-term training in policy analysis, planning, formulation, advocacy, monitoring, and evaluation.	Number of trainees			Annually and quarterly	<b>16 this quarter</b> from the October 2017 M&E Training.
4	Number of institutions where trained individuals are applying new practices	Number of institutions			Annually and quarterly	<b>3 this quarter</b> (from the October, 2017 M&E Training.
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>25 this quarter</b> (from FODS consultations and the National Fertilizer Policy writeshops in Salima and at Lilongwe Hotel)
<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 – 48 man-week on Technical support (Flora 10, Christone 13, Zephania 12; Joseph 13); 14 on policy communication (Paida 13, Flora 1) 1 man week on Capacity Strengthening (Zephania 1 man week) and 15 weeks on Administration (Flora 2, Charles 13)	NAPAS:Malawi record keeping	Annually and quarterly	<b>78 man weeks (this quarter).</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>\$25,434.34 (for this quarter)</b> -for the following activities: Fertilizer Policy writeshops; M&E Training; Value Chains Studies follow-up survey and Value chain dissemination workshop)

## VII. Planned Activities for Next Quarter

The following activities shown in Table 2 are planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2018 (January 2018-March, 2018) for the NAPAS activity:

**Table 2. Planned NAPAS activities for January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31, 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 of the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy (ASFNS)	January, 2018- March, 2018	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 Mr Zephania Nyirenda
Finalizing the National Fertilizer Policy	January, 2018- February, 2018.	NAPAS to work in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) and the Department of Planning Services in MoAIWD to validate and submit the National Fertilizer Policy document to the Office of President and Cabinet.	Dr Flora Nankhuni and Mr Zephania Nyirenda
Farmer Organization Development Strategy (FODS) consultation.	January, 2018- March, 2018	NAPAS to conduct consultation on the Zero draft and incorporate input from the consultations.	Dr Christone Nyondo
Support MoAIWD in development of their Strategic Plan	January, 2018- March 2018	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
NAPAS Endline Survey	January, 2018- March 2018	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
Review of the Special Crops Act	January, 2018- March 2018	NAPAS to hire a consultant to work on review of the Special Crops Act document and submit to Ministry of Justice for review and approval for subsequent adoption by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD).	Dr Flora Nankhuni, Dr Todd Benson Dr Milu Muyanga Mr Andrew Comstock
Review of the Agriculture General Purposes Act	January, 2018- March 2018	NAPAS to review the Agriculture General Purposes Act document and submit to Ministry of Justice for review and approval for subsequent adoption by MoAIWD.	Dr Flora Nankhuni Dr Todd Benson Dr Milu Muyanga Mr Andrew Comstock

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Month or Date</b>	<b>Description of NAPAS contribution or efforts</b>	<b>Staff responsible</b>
Provide support for the amendment of the Competition and Fair Trade Act	January, 2018- March 2018	NAPAS to hold consultative meetings with CFTC, MoJCA, and MoAIWD to draft legislation for contract farming in Malawi. The legislation will be amended in the Agriculture General Purposes Act and submitted to Ministry of Justice.	Dr Flora Nankhuni Dr Todd Benson Dr Milu Muyanga Mr Andrew Comstock
Draft Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy	January, 2018- March 2018	NAPAS will support validation workshop of the draft Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy and submission to Minister of MoAIWD.	Dr Flora Nankhuni Mr Joseph Kanyamuka
Fish Value Chain study	March 2018	NAPAS to conduct a Fish Value Chain Study.	Mr Joseph Kanyamuka, Dr Flora Nankhuni
Prepare a position paper on NAPAS:Malawi support to the establishment of commodity exchanges in Malawi	March, 2018	NAPAS to prepare and disseminate a position paper on commodity exchange establishment in Malawi.	Dr Flora Nankhuni Mr Joseph Kanyamula
Secondary legislation for the revised Control of Goods Act	January, 2018- March 2018	NAPAS to draft legislation document for the revised Control of Goods Act submitted to Ministry of Justice/OPC for approval	Dr Flora Nankhuni Dr Todd Benson Dr Milu Muyanga Mr Andrew Comstock
Value chain dissemination workshop	March, 2018	NAPAS to hold dissemination workshops for value chain studies jointly with partner institutions, particularly the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) that co-funded some of the studies.	Dr Flora Nankhuni Dr Christone Nyondo Mr Joseph Kanyamuka