

# *Michigan State University*

New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support (NAPAS) Activity

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

## *Quarterly Report*

1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016

<b>Chief of Party:</b>	Dr. Flora Janet Nankhuni
<b>Email:</b>	nankhuni@msu.edu
<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:** April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016

**Obligation Funding Amount:** US\$2,000,000

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

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**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 the following three principal objectives:

1. Provide effective technical support for policy formulation by working jointly with staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development in Malawi and members of pertinent Technical Working Groups (TWG) to draft evidence-informed policy and program design documents for consideration by senior government officials and stakeholders in agriculture and food security policy processes.
2. Engage in effective policy communication to inform debate on agriculture and food security policy issues in Malawi. Improve the quality of debate among participants in the policy process through which policy reforms committed to under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition will be undertaken. NAPAS: Malawi will contribute to policy communication efforts led by other policy research and civil society organizations in Malawi. These policy communications efforts will include conferences, workshops, or production of periodic policy briefs.
3. Ensure that gaps in expertise constraining effective agricultural policy reform are filled.

### I. Progress of the Project for the Quarter

#### *Policy Communication*

The NAPAS activity has continued to make significant progress on several areas of its work plan, with major achievements being recorded in all three components of the activity's objectives. In the period April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 the NAPAS: Malawi team focused much of its efforts on organizing and hosting two major policy communications events, namely, (i) the Malawi Land

Symposium and (ii) the Malawi Compact 2025 Roundtable Discussions. These two key policy communication events are linked to three New Alliance commitments outlined in the Malawi New Alliance Country Cooperation Framework, specifically: (i) Enactment of the new Land Bill into law, (ii) Identification of land, in phases, suitable for commercial agriculture (10,000ha/year from 2013), and (iii) Improving advocacy for the growing and consumption of more nutritious food crops and agro-processed foods (annual basis).

Regarding the Malawi Land Symposium, this was held on April 20, 2016 at the Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi, and was considered a milestone event in terms of facilitating communication of research evidence on land issues in Malawi (and other developing countries) to policymakers. The NAPAS team had spent several months preparing for this event, liaising with the PS of Lands (Dr Ivy Luhanga) as well as the PS of Agriculture (Mrs Erica Maganga) on various aspects of the symposium. In addition, several technical staff in the respective Ministries were engaged and worked closely with NAPAS, primarily the Chief of Party (COP) of NAPAS. At the same time, the NAPAS team made arrangements to bring in international experts on land policy issues to give presentations at the symposium. Despite this intensive process of organizing the event collaboratively with the respective line ministries, several challenges were met, including at some point, the prospect of cancelling the event due to sensitivities within government regarding land issues and fears that the event could derail the on-going debate on the land bills in Parliament. Ultimately, the event took place after concerted and coordinated efforts between the NAPAS team and the USAID Mission to convince government on the importance of holding the event.

As a result, the Symposium has since been hailed a resounding success by various stakeholders, having brought together over 80 participants from various sectors to discuss the important and at times controversial issues on land policy and legislation in Malawi.

A detailed report is currently being produced by the NAPAS COP, and will include the symposium proceedings as well as policy and legislative recommendations emanating from the debates and discussion that took place at the Land Symposium. Several components of the Symposium raised issues linked to the ongoing processes of debating the Land Bills in Parliament as they relate to commercial investments in agriculture for food security and nutrition. For instance, the keynote address by Professor Thomas Jayne of Michigan State University and the panel discussion amongst key stakeholders in the land sector in Malawi brought up key issues around the role of Traditional Authorities in land administration in Malawi as well as unclear processes of land transactions and equity-related challenges associated with the rise of medium-scale emergent farmers who are found to be acquiring pieces of land from poorer households. These and many other issues will be reflected in detail in the forthcoming report.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 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. In this regard, NAPAS played an instrumental role in engaging the new Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development by meeting him to inform him of the initiative and its importance. Moreover, NAPAS liaised with

officers in the Vice President's Office to ensure coordinated commitment from the Vice President's Office and the MoAIWD. As part of this facilitation process, the NAPAS team held a second meeting with the new Minister, where the IFPRI Washington DC team was present and where issues of the role of agriculture in nutrition in Malawi were discussed. The forthcoming development of the Agriculture-Nutrition Strategy was also noted as an important Ministerial strategy document that will help chart the way forward in terms of Agriculture's contribution to nutrition outcomes in Malawi. It was also noted that there needed to be clear links between the Compact2025 Malawi Roundtable Discussion background document, which IFPRI-Washington will produce, and the agriculture nutrition strategy document of the Ministry.

In preparation for the Compact2025 Roundtable discussion, 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. A follow up meeting was then held at the NAPAS offices in the Ministry where the IFPRI-Washington team working on the Compact2025 initiative interacted at a technical level with the technical staff in the Ministry. The SEBAP team also participated in the technical meeting to ensure that the contents of the background document reflected the relevant research work on agriculture-nutrition linkages that SEBAP has done in the last few years. Going forward, the NAPAS team will continue to draw from the outcomes of the Compact2025 Roundtable Discussions in drafting the Agriculture-Nutrition Strategy for the MoAIWD, in close collaboration with the Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension Services (SANE) activity to further develop the draft Agriculture-Nutrition Strategy, which will eventually be a key government strategy document guiding investments and programmes in the agriculture sector aimed at improving nutrition outcomes in Malawi.

#### *Technical Work Group, ASWAp Review and DCAFS Meetings*

The NAPAS team continued to actively participate in several Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings under ASWAp, to help inform and shape various debates on agricultural policy in Malawi. Specifically, the NAPAS team attended the TWG meetings on Food Security and Risk Management, Agricultural Technology Generation and Dissemination and the Commercial Agriculture, Agro-processing and Market Development. These TWG meetings provided platforms for discussing policy issues related to the National Agriculture Policy (draft), the ASWAp review process, the Contract Farming Strategy, the Extension Policy Review, the Fertilizer Policy and the Seed Policy. In all these meetings and on all these issues, the NAPAS team provided evidence-based input to help inform the on-going policy reforms. In addition, further discussions around the irrigation concept note that has developed by MoAIWD with substantial support from the NAPAS team, were discussed. Moreover, there were discussions on institutional setup and potential reforms of the structures of the TWGs. Here, the NAPAS team had opportunity to make some proposals on the way they function and the use of issue-focused taskforces/teams that could be set up with selected champions to address some of the pending issues under each TWG.

The NAPAS team also attended several meetings on the review of the ASWAp, and had the opportunity to give input to the FAO team that is working on reviewing the ASWAp. Finally, the NAPAS team was invited to a DCAFS meeting to present on the progress made thus far, by the NAPAS activity. This presentation was well-received and the NAPAS team has been asked to keep DCAFS updated on its progress.

### *National Agriculture Policy and Contract Farming Strategy*

Other than working on the two key policy communications events and attending key meetings such as the TWG and ASWAp review meetings, the NAPAS team also supported the MoAIWD with the last stage processes of finalising the adoption of the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and the Contract Farming Strategy (CFS). Both documents have already been validated and are undergoing final internal government processes prior to being endorsed and adopted by senior government leadership.

As part of facilitating the internal government processes on the NAP, the NAPAS activity used its financial resources to support a PS's Committee meeting to discuss the NAP, and this took place in Zomba, Malawi on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Following the PS Committee meeting, the NAPAS team revised and resubmitted the policy with a document showing how the PS Committee's comments were addressed. The PS's Committee then endorsed the NAP document which allowed the document to be forwarded to the Cabinet Committee for further review. The NAP was then scheduled to be tabled at a Cabinet Committee meeting for further scrutiny in June. To facilitate this Cabinet Committee meeting, the NAPAS activity provided additional financial support for the cabinet meeting and has since received comments from the cabinet committee, which have also been addressed prior to resubmission of the NAP to Cabinet. What remains is for the President of the Republic of Malawi to convene a full Cabinet meeting to consider endorsement of the NAP as national policy.

Regarding the CFS document, the NAPAS: Malawi team working closely with the Department of Planning in the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development held a technical meeting in Lilongwe to go over internal recommendations to revise the document. Internal comments raised several concerns regarding the document. Chief among these concerns is that it was felt that the document did not contain adequate data on actual contracts prevailing in the farming subsector in Malawi and that additional information needed to be sourced and included in the document before it could be forwarded to the PS of Agriculture and the Minister. Therefore, NAPAS supports the continued revision of document, while staff in the MoAIWD searched for additional data and information to be included in the CFS document. Once revision of the document is finalized it will be submitted to the PS and Minister for final adoption as the Ministry's Strategy document on Contract Farming in Malawi.

### *Agricultural Extension Policy*

The COP of NAPAS has continued to work closely with the Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) to move the process of reviewing the Agricultural Extension Policy forward. Previously, NAPAS COP had made an appointment to meet with the Director of Agriculture Extension Services and her team to discuss the matter further. NAPAS also facilitated a partnership between SANE and Flanders, who is funding a nationwide study on extension to assess demand and supply for extension services in Malawi. Through this partnership SANE offered additional funds towards the study, enabling it to cover all districts of Malawi. This allowed the survey to be used for monitoring different aspects of provision of extensions services and advisory services that as outlined in the NAP. NAPAS also convened a meeting with DAES to inform them of the

importance of the upcoming survey and facilitated the PS's positive response to Flanders' and SANE's efforts.

In June 2016, NAPAS participated in a meeting that was convened by the SANE activity and DAES, where issues on the policy processes for reviewing and developing the next Agricultural Extension Policy were discussed. The Flanders Government was also present at the meeting, however the DAES director herself was not present as she had delegated her responsibilities for the meeting to one of the Deputy Directors in DAES. During the meeting, NAPAS requested for an update on the status of hiring the consultant that was to be funded through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (ASWAp) to conduct the review of the agricultural extension policy. The DAES deputy director noted that a few consultants had been shortlisted and that it was expected that by July/August the consultant would begin the work. At the meeting, it was also agreed that the review of the agricultural extension policy would still be the responsibility of the consultant that would be hired under the MDTF (ASWAp) funding while NAPAS: Malawi would play a critical technical supportive role. In terms of using the review report to inform policy development, the DAES team expressed their interest in having NAPAS and SANE activities support the development of a new extension strategy, with the SANE activity leading the technical support.

#### *Fertilizer Policy*

The NAPAS team also supported the Department of Agriculture Research Services (DARS) to draft a letter requesting a no-cost extension of funding from the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), which had been earmarked to support the development of the fertilizer policy and fertilizer bill in Malawi. The letter has since been submitted to AGRA regional office in Nairobi, through the PS of Agriculture, requesting for a no objection of use of funds to accelerate development of the Fertilizer Policy.

In the meantime, the NAPAS team has been conducting one-on-one interviews with key informant stakeholders in the fertilizer industry in Malawi with a large share of the respondents coming from the private sector, including the major fertilizer companies operating in Malawi. In addition, transporters of fertilizer as well as farmer organizations have been interviewed. This effort on the fertilizer policy has been done in conjunction with DARS and CISANET, who agreed to collaborate in conducting nationwide interviews with communities and farmers at grassroots levels. This is expected to ensure a wide and deep consultative process that will gather extensive input for the development of the fertilizer policy and the fertilizer bill. Once AGRA gives a no objection on the use of funds to develop the fertilizer policy the NAPAS team will work with DARS to conduct three regional consultations in the Northern, Central and Southern regions of the country before initiating the policy drafting process. To date, some of the input that has been gathered so far is being analysed and synthesized.

#### *Farmer Organization Development Strategy*

NAPAS made significant progress in preparing for the initial consultation on the Farmer Organisation Development Strategy (FODS). This consultation meeting will involve over 150 farmers from all districts of the country and will be held on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Organization of the consultation event has mainly involved collaboration among the NAPAS team, technical staff in the Department of Agricultural Extension Services in MoAIWD, as well as the Feed the Future

USAID Integrating Nutrition in Value Chains (INVC) activity which will be bringing some of its beneficiaries involved in cooperatives to give input into the development of the FODS. In addition, NAPAS has continued to liaise with international experts on farmer cooperative development, especially Dr Nicola Gian Francesconi of the Centre of International Agriculture in the Tropics (CIAT) in Kampala, Uganda who has agreed to collaborate with NAPAS, FAO and GIZ in hosting a Cooperatives Leadership Event in Malawi the last week of September 2016. These developments are now being coordinated through a Farmer Organizations Development Steering Committee (FOD-SC) that was set up through the Ministry of Industry Trade and Tourism, facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with support from GIZ. NAPAS has been asked to inform and support this steering committee, in as far as evidence-based approaches for farmer organisations development are concerned, and to support the MoAIWD technical staff to ensure that their technical contributions to the steering committee’s work is evidence-based and closely linked to the New Alliance commitment to “promote effective smallholder farmer participation in agricultural value chains by formulating a special Farmer Organizations Development Strategy”.

#### *Agricultural Zoning (Crop Suitability) Atlas*

Dr Todd Benson has led this effort and has worked on refining the agricultural zoning/crop suitability atlas of Malawi and adding additional maps. This output has been shared with the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development, specifically with the Department of Land Resources and Conservation and the Department of Planning. Electronic versions of the crop suitability maps have been shared with the Director of Crop Development in the MoAIWD who has also shared them with agricultural officers in the Ministry at the district and EPA levels. The Director of Crop Development has suggested that the atlas will 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 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 viewed as having been delivered by the NAPAS team, nevertheless, the team will continue to disseminate the outputs in any contexts deemed useful to broaden the value and application of the crop suitability atlas.

#### *Journalists Training*

The NAPAS team organized and conducted several training on agriculture policy reporting for journalists in Malawi. The journalists’ training took place on April 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 and was jointly organized with the University of Pretoria and the IFPRI-Washington Capacity Strengthening team. The training entailed classroom style teaching for the first two days followed by in-field practical news investigation and reporting. Journalist 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 and it is possible that additional stories generated during the training were later released. This training also attracted international attention as a twitter hashtag, [#Media tools for policy change](#), was set up during the training and journalist and trainers alike had the opportunity of posting 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.



Figure 1: Classroom style training on agriculture policy reporting





Figure 2. Investigative fieldwork on agriculture, as part of the journalists training conducted by NAPAS (Michigan State University, University of Pretoria, and IFPRI).

### *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 development and linking the budget of the Ministry to the ASWAp framework and the National Agriculture Policy priority areas. This training took place from April 25<sup>th</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

The training also involved the DCAFS Coordinator and the World Bank staff who provided 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 team agreed to work on developing a manual for government officers on programme-based budgeting and alignment to policy priorities through the NAP and ASWAp investment frameworks. It was also noted that there would be need for separate training on budget analysis. This was an area that could not be covered during this week-long training, but will continue in future NAPAS activities. The training also attracted the attention of the FAO consultants who were in country, working on the ASWAp review. It was recommended that future phases of the ASWAp should incorporate capacity strengthening and coordination on budgeting, particularly linking this capacity strengthening with the NAP and ASWAp framework.

### *Student Mentorship*

The policy analyst of the NAPAS: Malawi activity has continued to provide technical and mentorship support to a Master of Science student (Mr Derrik Kapolo) who is in Agricultural Economics at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). This is an activity that NAPAS has taken on in collaboration with the SEBAP activity under its Bunda Grant Scheme that provides some financial support to Masters' students at LUANAR Masters for research.

The policy analyst's research guidance to a Bachelor of Science student at LUANAR (Ms Catherine Zindichoke) has been finalized following completion of her undergraduate research on potato storage. This support was in collaboration with the student's advisor at LUANAR, Dr Joseph Dzanja and Dr Paul Demo of the International Potato Centre (CIP).

### *International Travel*

During this reporting period, the COP travelled to Washington DC and to East Lansing, MI for planning and update meetings with IFPRI and MSU staff respectively. During the meetings at IFPRI, Washington, the COP had meetings with Dr Todd Benson and Dr Catherine Ragasa to discuss the upcoming research on agricultural extension services delivery in Malawi. The COP has been working to support efforts to fund and launch the study as it directly relates to the work she is doing in terms of helping MoAIWD review the agricultural extension policy. In addition, the COP met with administrative support staff of MSU and IFPRI to discuss the budget and administrative challenges being experienced on the NAPAS activity, such as the difficulties IFPRI has experienced in hiring local staff for the NAPAS activity as well as delayed submission of invoices to the MSU administrative offices.

The Policy Analyst of NAPAS also travelled to Arusha, Tanzania in May 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. Travel and lodging costs were covered by IFDC, which is funded by USAID/Washington, African Union and AGRA. Other officers from the MoAIWD, including the FISP coordinator and FISP assistant coordinator attended the training workshop. During the training, the NAPAS Policy Analyst delivered a presentation on the role of markets for inputs access and business development for smallholder farmers in Africa. Options for reforming the farm input subsidy programmes across Africa were recommended based on research/literature

from various countries in the region. IFDC presented a certificate of appreciation to the Policy Analyst and invited his future technical support on this capacity strengthening activity.

## **II. Challenges, Solutions and Actions taken**

A major challenge that the NAPAS team has had to deal with in this reporting period was the backtracking by the PS of Lands on holding the Malawi Land Symposium. Despite having spent several months working on organizing the event well in advance, the government later decided to cancel the event, behind NAPAS' back. It however took efforts from both the NAPAS team and the USAID Mission to convince the government that the symposium should continue. In the end, the symposium did take place with representatives from both Ministries attending.

A separate challenge, which was associated with the Malawi Land Symposium pertains to the branding requirements of USAID on materials displayed or used during policy communication or capacity strengthening events. In the case of the Land Symposium that took place on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the MoAIWD and OPC government officers were very unhappy about the USAID branding requirements imposed on the event and in the end they advised the NAPAS team to remove any government logo from the event's materials. This may have affected the way the event was viewed and perhaps led to uncommitted ownership of the event by government. It is hard to tell if this may have also affected the decision on whether to hold the event or not but certainly created difficult working relations with government for the NAPAS activity. In an effort to address this challenge, the NAPAS COP submitted a request to USAID for exemption/waiver on the branding requirements for the NAPAS events that require government buy in/ownership.

Another major challenge that the NAPAS activity has continued to face is that of hiring a permanent finance and administration assistant as well as an M&E and research assistant. This has necessitated the continued hiring of these two staff positions under consultancy arrangements. However, because IFPRI's Human Resources Management does not allow long-term hiring of consultants the finance and administrative assistant has now been hired as a consultant under Michigan State University while the M&E and Research Assistant position has been hired under an agreement with IITA. In the meantime, a recruitment process for the M&E and Research Assistant position is under way through IITA and interviews for the position are scheduled to take place in July, 2016. MSU has also started considering other options in terms of hiring of local staff and it is likely that a local company may be contracted to hire local staff positions for NAPAS in the future.

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

Several lessons have been learned during this reporting period. In particular, it has been learned that despite the problems that may arise in convincing government officials to support important yet potentially controversial policy communication events, there may be several approaches that could be taken to enable important policy debates and research evidence to proceed. In particular the working relationship between the NAPAS staff who are seating within the Ministry at Capital Hill and the USAID Mission may prove very useful to deflect pressures from within the Ministry rather than having the NAPAS team address all the challenges independently. Moreover, it is best practice for communication between the two to first take place before any decisions are made, as this would ensure coordination.

#### **IV. Success stories**

Despite the many challenges experienced in organizing and hosting the Malawi Land Symposium, the event was hailed a resounding success in that many pertinent land policy issues were openly discussed by participants, with significant bearing in terms of informing the current debate around the land bills in Parliament. Moreover, many areas of further research were identified through the symposium to the extent that there is now a call by academic experts and policymakers to hold the land symposium on an annual basis to help address the many issues that still need to be researched and disseminated in order to inform the land policy and legislative frameworks in Malawi.

NAPAS: Malawi also partnered with the University of Pretoria to train media specialists for one week in Blantyre, with field work taking place in Zomba during the same week. Two mainstream television and at least four radio broadcasts were released based on the activities of the training, during the training week and it is possible that additional stories generated during the training were later released. This training also attracted international attention as a twitter hashtag, [#Media tools for policy change](#), was set up during the training and journalist and trainers alike had the opportunity of posting tweets and photographs of the week-long training workshop.

Use of the budget and policy analysis training to enable MoAIWD departments produce coordinated budgets (coordinated across departments and with the DCAFS) was also an innovative approach that significantly improved the quality of budgets that were submitted to Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development.

#### **V. Management Issues**

NAPAS: Malawi has continued to operate administratively through the support of a finance and administrative consultant hired by Michigan State University. Also, the M&E and research assistant has been hired under a consultancy arrangement with IITA but this position will soon be hired on a permanent basis as recruiting for this position is well in progress. MSU is exploring alternative hiring mechanisms and there are prospects of engaging a local hiring firm to hire local staff for the NAPAS activity going forward. Given that the IFPRI Washington DC office has decided not to pursue an official memorandum of understanding with the government of Malawi which would have enabled IFPRI to hire local staff directly, the option of working with an alternate institution appears to have become necessary.

#### **VI. Update of the PMP**

The NAPAS team has been analysing progress on the policy formulation component of the activity and already four of the eight policy formulation goals have been achieved or are at an advanced stage, including: (i) the National Agriculture Policy, (ii) Irrigation Concept note, and (iii) the agricultural zoning atlas, and (iv) the Contract Farming Strategy. There is also good progress in other policy areas, including the Fertilizer Policy, the Agricultural Extension Policy review and the Farmer Organizations Development Strategy where NAPAS has either conducted initial consultations or is in the process of facilitating reviews thereof. It is also important to note that the NAPAS activity, through the policy communication component has hosted two key policy communication events, the COMPACT2015 that is related to development of an agriculture-nutrition strategy and the Land Symposium pertaining to two land policy related commitments under the New Alliance, which are not necessarily the mandate of the MoAIWD but have significant bearing on the ability to attract private sector investments for the improvement of food

security and nutrition. Indicators tracked to measure progress of the NAPAS: Malawi activity are shown in table 1 below (pages 13 to 16).

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	Annually and quarterly	<b>8 (NAP, Contract Farming Strategy, Agriculture-Nutrition Strategy, Extension Policy/Strategy, Farmer Organization Development Strategy, FISP/ Fertilizer Policy, Agriculture Zoning, Irrigation investment concept note**</b>

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	Annually and quarterly	<b>6 – More Food Brazil for Mechanization of Agriculture Concept Note; Robust Value Chains Concept Note; Youth Employment and Financing Concept Note; Irrigation Investments for Food Production Concept Note; Contract Farming Strategy document; Fertilizer Policy;</b>
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 mid-2017	Stakeholder survey implementation and analysis	Twice over life of project	<b>1.80</b>
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 mid-2017	Stakeholder survey implementation and analysis	Twice over life of project	<b>1.80</b>
<b>Output:</b>						

Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
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>5 – Brief on quality of agriculture and food security policy processes at national level in Malawi; report on quality of agriculture and food security policy processes at national level in Malawi; Constraints to Commercial Maize Production in Malawi-Final Brief (with IFPRI-SEBAP)</b>
2	Number of stakeholder learning forums on agriculture and food security policy issues supported.	Number of learning forums			Annually and quarterly	<b>5 – Making Maize Markets Work for all Malawians; Media Interface Meeting ; Media Training on Food Security and Agriculture Policy; Land Symposium; Compact2025 Roundtable Discussions</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>69 (this quarter only)</b>



Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
4	Number of institutions where trained individuals are applying new practices	Number of institutions			Annually and quarterly	<b>36 institutions sent trainees –this quarter (13 are media institutions, and 18 are government departments).</b>
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>16 (Respondents to the Fertilizer Policy Survey that are from private sector and civil society)</b>
<b>Input:</b>						
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	NAPAS:Malawi record keeping	Annually and quarterly	<b>Technical support-24 man weeks (Flora 11; Athur 10; Todd 2)</b>
2	Financial resources directly expended by NAPAS:Malawi on policy process strengthening activities.	US dollars expended				<b>\$80,000 (estimate)</b>

\*\* These are the policies and strategies that NAPAS has worked on since November 2014. They are at different stages of development. The Seed Policy that NAPAS planned to work on has been dropped because DARS is already at an advanced stage with it (submitted to OPC).

## VII. Planned Activities for Next Quarter

The following activities shown in Table 2 are planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (July-September, 2016)

Table 2. Planned NAPAS activities for April to June, 2016

Activity Description	Month or Date	Description of NAPAS contribution or efforts	Staff responsible
Finalize revision of the Contract Farming Strategy and resubmit the strategy to MoAIWD.	August, 2016	NAPAS will help DAPS finalize revision and submission of the Contract Farming Strategy document to the PS and Minister.	Dr Athur Mabiso (NAPAS)
Malawi Land Symposium Report	31 July, 2016	NAPAS to Finalize preparation of the Report on the Land Symposium that took place on April 20, 2016.	Dr Flora Nankhuni
Consultations on the Farmer Organizations Development Strategy	July, August, September, 2016	NAPAS to organize and hold consultations with farmers (1 <sup>st</sup> meeting) and stakeholder organizations [civil society, government and development partners, academia] (2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting) Hold a validation workshop for the FODS and support a Cooperative Leadership Event being hosted by CIAT, FAO and GIZ.	Dr Athur Mabiso
Finalize and present study on understanding the constraints to investing in agriculture and particularly on investment in maize for food security	August 2016	Present policy brief to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism as well as other stakeholders.	Dr Athur Mabiso
Review of the Agricultural Extension Policy	July, August, September, 2016	Completing literature reviews, interviews with key stakeholders and research institutions working on agricultural extension; convening meetings and collaborating with the Department of Agricultural Extension Services, MaFAAS and the USAID/Malawi-funded activity, SANESA, being implemented by University of Illinois. NAPAS will also collaborate with SANESA on completion of the Agriculture-Nutrition Strategy and development of the Extension Strategy. SANESA is leading these two activities.	Dr Flora Nankhuni

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Month or Date</b>	<b>Description of NAPAS contribution or efforts</b>	<b>Staff responsible</b>
Continue studies on the FISP reform and the NAP Policy Process	September, 2016	Literature review and interviews on the FISP reform study to help guide the existing reform process	Dr Flora Nankhuni Dr Suresh Babu Dr Nick Sitko
Consultations for the Fertilizer Policy, analysis of stakeholder input and drafting of the Fertilizer Policy and Bill	August, September, 2016	NASPAS will work closely with the Department of Agricultural Research Services and coordinate with a consultant identified in order to develop the Fertilizer Policy and Bill	Dr Athur Mabiso
Public-Private Dialogue Forum on Agriculture	September, 2016	Collaborate with Farmers Union of Malawi and MCCCI to support a PPD on Agriculture co-chaired by Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, & Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism	Dr Flora Nankhuni
Study Tour on Agricultural Transformation and Innovative Institutions	September, 2016	Study tour to Ethiopia's Agriculture Transformation Agency, and Rwanda's government, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources – Rwanda Agriculture Board and National Agricultural Export Development Board. Some of the proposed team members for the study tour include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development; Dr Chaponda, MP</li> <li>2. PS Agriculture (Mrs Maganga)</li> <li>3. Director of Planning, Agriculture (Mr Namaona)</li> <li>4. Deputy Director Planning, Agriculture (Mr Musopole)</li> <li>5. Desk officer for Agriculture – Ministry of Finance</li> <li>6. Ministry of Industry and Trade, PS Cliff Chiunda</li> <li>7. Private Sector: (Cane Growers Association of Malawi, Mtalimanja Holdings; etc.)</li> </ol>	Dr Flora Nankhuni