

# ***Michigan State University***

New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support (NAPAS) Activity

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

## ***Quarterly Report***

1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015

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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:** October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

**Obligation Funding Amount:** US\$1,000,000

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

**Evaluation Dates:** October 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

**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 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 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 the 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. Overall Progress of the Project for the Quarter

In the period October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to December 31<sup>th</sup> 2015 the NAPAS: Malawi team organized several workshops as part of policy formulation processes, capacity building and policy communications.

#### The workshops organized include:

- (i) The national maize markets symposium
- (ii) A validation workshop for the National Agriculture Policy,

- (iii) An initial consultation workshop on the development of the Fertilizer Policy,
- (iv) A validation workshop for the Contract Farming Strategy, and
- (v) A Media Interface Meeting with media CEOs and managers of Malawi's media houses in preparation for a series of journalists' trainings and policy communication activities.

(i) *National Maize Markets Symposium*

The NAPAS team played a critical role in organizing and holding the key national symposium on maize markets in Malawi, which was entitled "Making Maize Markets Work for All Malawians." The maize markets symposium was co-organized with the USAID/Malawi-funded Strengthening Evidence-Based Agricultural Policy activity (SEBAP) of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). It was attended by 108 participants, of which 22 were female. The symposium, was held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and was officially opened by the Right Honourable, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr Saulos Chilima. The NAPAS team played a crucial role in liaising with the Vice President's office to ensure the attendance of the Vice President and in informing him of the policy issues and options pertaining to improving the functioning of maize markets in Malawi. In addition, the NAPAS team worked closely with the Honourable Minister and Principal Secretary (PS) of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, communicating the research evidence that was to be presented at the symposium. The PS, Mrs. Erica Maganga, attended the national symposium and gave closing remarks highlighting Government's perspective on the policy issues discussed. Other notable dignitaries that attended the meeting include Member of Parliament, Honourable Chidanti Malunga, the EU Ambassador to Malawi, Mr Marchel Gerrmann, and the Representative of the Flanders Government, Mr Nikolas Bosscher, who is also the Chair of the Donor Committee on Agriculture and Food Security (DCAFS). In addition, the Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute, Dr Shenngen Fan attended the symposium and had the opportunity to meet the Vice President privately concerning Compact 2025, an initiative by IFPRI to end malnutrition and hunger by year 2025. In December 2015, the Vice President of Malawi, the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development and the Chief Economist in the Department of Agricultural Planning Services attended the launch of the Compact 2025 in Washington DC, with NAPAS' facilitation.

(ii) *Validation Workshop for the National Agriculture Policy*

The NAPAS team also led the organization of the validation workshop for the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), which took place on November 17, 2015. Once again, NAPAS was able to bring together a wide range of stakeholders (84 of which 24 were female) to give input and validate the draft National Agriculture Policy. Overall the validation workshop was viewed as a resounding success due to the inclusive, participatory and transparent approach that was put in place by the NAPAS team. This built upon the gains achieved previously from the wide consultation and inclusive drafting processes of the NAP that the NAPAS team used and the approach is now viewed as a model to effective policy development in Malawi. Given that several useful inputs were raised during the validation workshop, the NAPAS team took great care to incorporate the inputs after the validation workshop. As such, finalizing the drafting of the policy took additional time. Moreover, the NAPAS team drafted responses/letters to stakeholders documenting how their input had been incorporated or if not, why it had not been incorporated as suggested. The final NAP document has since been handed over to the

Principal Secretary for Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development for forwarding to the Minister and eventually to the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC). The NAPAS will be preparing a cabinet paper that needs to accompany the policy document when requesting Cabinet to approve the document as national policy.

*(iii) Initial Consultation Workshop for the National Fertilizer Policy*

Regarding the initial fertilizer policy stakeholder consultations, the NAPAS team was able to bring together a wide range of stakeholders (47, ten of which were female) including private sector, farmer organizations, government policymakers, civil society, and academia and researchers, to give input to the development of the fertilizer policy. Key international partner organizations such as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) were in attendance and provided valuable input on issues pertaining to regional harmonization of the fertilizer policy framework. On the other hand, local partners such as the Fertilizer Association of Malawi (FAM) as well as private companies such as Agriculture Resources Limited (ARL) and Agriculture Trading Company (ATC) and small-scale agro-dealers such as Pagwanji Enterprises participated and gave extensive input on the issues and challenges they face in the fertilizer industry due to policy constraints. Input derived from the initial stakeholder consultation was compiled and is being analysed by the NAPAS team together with technical research evidence that has been reviewed to inform the development of the fertilizer policy.

*(iv) Initial Validation Workshop for the Contract Farming Strategy*

The NAPAS team also supported the Ministry in organizing a national validation workshop for the Contract Farming Strategy (CFS). Eighty-five people attended; eighteen of them were female. In preparation for the meeting the consultant who was hired to draft the Contract Farming Strategy with support from the Multi-Donor Trust Fund through the ASWAp – Support Project worked with the NAPAS policy analyst and the Principal Economist in the Ministry to refine the CFS draft and to prepare for the workshop. Eighty five stakeholders attended the validation workshop and during the workshop concerns were raised about the direction the consultant had taken to regulation of contract farming in Malawi. Particularly, stakeholders felt it would be difficult to establish a new Contract Farming Council to regulate all contract farming activities in Malawi. As a result, the NAPAS policy analyst suggested engaging the Competition and Fair Trading Commission of Malawi in regulating some aspects of contract farming, particularly issues pertaining to competitive behaviour and fair trade. Other issues such as those pertaining to child labour etc. could be left to other existing organizations such as the District Labour offices. Moreover, the NAPAS policy analyst highlighted the importance of engaging farmer organizations and private companies that offer contract farming opportunities, through existing platforms including technical working groups under the ASWAp framework. In the end, the NAPAS team was asked to take over the lead in revising the Contract Farming Strategy and in engaging with the Competition and Fair Trading Commission to ensure that the document could be completed in the following quarter and submitted to the Minister of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development for approval as a national strategy document.

(v) *Interface Meeting with Media CEOs and Managers*

Another activity that the NAPAS team engaged in was hosting a media interface meeting with CEOs and managers of major media houses in Malawi. Twenty four people attended, of which six were female. The objective of the media interface meeting was to first provide information to CEOs and Managers of the media houses about the importance of investigative journalism on agriculture and professional and balanced reporting of agricultural issues in the media for impact, including to improve access to knowledge on agriculture issues particularly for the farming community and policymakers. As part of the process of preparing for the media interface meeting, the NAPAS team helped planning meetings with staff from the Agriculture Communications Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development as well as several other interested organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Farmers' Union of Malawi, the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET), as well as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The NAPAS team helped develop a memorandum of understanding which was presented at the media interface seeking buy in from the CEOs and managers of media houses to allow their staff to engage in a series of capacity building training sessions that NAPAS: Malawi will organize in future. In addition, the MOU commits the media houses to providing free space in their media channels for broadcasting and publishing news on agriculture throughout the year. The media houses requested that the MOU be redrafted, hence a drafting committee was elected by the media houses, with Mr Samuel Chunga of the Nation Newspaper elected as chair while other members of the committee included the CEO of Zodiak Broadcasting Corporation, the Voice of Livingstonia and a professor of communications, Dr. Jacob Jimu of the 2016.

Ms Kady Chiu of the USAID/Malawi office attended the media interface meeting and noted that while the activity is being implemented under the Sustainable Economic Growth project office of USAID/Malawi there were possible synergies that could be realized by involving the communications and outreach team at USAID as well as the communications team at the Department of State in the US Embassy in Malawi. Thus the NAPAS team planned to meet Ms Kady Chiu and her counterpart from the Department of State in the following quarter to brainstorm possible areas of collaboration.

**Analysis of the baseline stakeholder survey**

During this reporting period, the NAPAS team also produced a draft report and a policy brief on the quality of agriculture and food security policy processes at national level in Malawi ([NAPAS:Malawi working paper](#) and [NAPAS:Malawi brief](#)). These two documents are analytical outputs that are based on a stakeholder survey that the NAPAS team conducted in 2015 as part of its monitoring and evaluation. The preliminary documents were shared with the Office Director of the Sustainable Economic Growth office at USAID/Malawi as well as with other stakeholders. The report has helped inform several stakeholders about the quality of the policy processes and institutional architecture on agriculture and food security in Malawi. Positive responses have been received regarding this output. For example, one recipient stated that *“This has provided a good insight on the policy processes and institutional frameworks on policy development”*. Another recipient stated that *“WOW.. thank you for sharing this.. will definitely read it as this is a next step in C3 work that I don't think we have discussed much, but it seems to be what Jeff Hill and others in BFS really would love to see at the country-level.”*

### **Concept Notes demanded by the Director of Agricultural Planning Services.**

The NAPAS team was also called upon by the Director of Planning in the Ministry to help develop several concept notes including:

- (i) The More Food Programme concept to access funding from the Government of Brazil for mechanization of agriculture in Malawi.
- (ii) The Robust Value Chains Concept note to develop selected value chains as part of the Ministry's effort to diversify agricultural production in Malawi.
- (iii) An irrigation for food production concept note aimed at addressing the food security crisis and enhancing resilience of the food production system in Malawi.
- (iv) Youth employment, entrepreneurship and financing in agriculture concept note.

The NAPAS team also received requests for technical support from the USAID/Malawi Mission to help inform the US Ambassador about the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition and the achievements to date of the Government of Malawi. In response, the NAPAS team provided some background material on the New Alliance to the Office Director, Mr Cullen Hughes and held meetings with the Sustainable Economic Growth office staff to help inform the US Ambassador. The NAPAS team was then invited to help brief the US Ambassador on the New Alliance. The briefing meeting took place on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **Capacity strengthening**

Finally, the policy analyst of the NAPAS: Malawi activity supported a Master of Science student in Agricultural Economics at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in developing his research. 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 by well as technical support to build capacity of the students and guide them in their research in order to improve the quality of their research outputs. In addition, the policy analyst has been providing guidance to a Bachelor of Science student at LUANAR who is developing her research on potato storage. This is in collaboration with the student's advisor, Dr Joseph Dzanja as well as the International Potato Centre (CIP), after the policy analyst had introduced the student and her professor to a senior scientist at CIP, Dr Paul Demo. Dr Demo is currently researching storage options for Irish potato planting material.

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

The NAPAS activity has continued to face challenges in hiring a permanent finance and administration assistant as well as an M&E and research assistant. This has necessitated the continued hiring of two staff members under consultancy arrangements. However, because IFPRI's Human Resources Management does not allow long-term hiring of consultants the administrative assistant has now been hired as a consultant for Michigan State University. In the meantime, IFPRI is in the process of addressing the issue by seeking a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Malawi, which will enable IFPRI to directly hire local staff. Currently, most staff working for IFPRI are actually hired by IITA through a memorandum of understanding between IITA and IFPRI. However, the arrangement has not managed to facilitate hiring of staff for the NAPAS activity despite having attempted to recruit a permanent administrative assistant staff through IITA arrangement in 2015.

A separate challenge that the NAPAS team has had to deal with is the slow pace with which government processes are executed. This has led to delays in the development of the National Agriculture Policy and the Contract Farming Strategy that were supposed to be submitted for adoption by end of December 2015 according to NAPAS work plans. The NAPAS team has used multiple tactics to help accelerate the process that are largely out of the control of NAPAS. Some of the strategies include communicating directly with the PS or the Minister on some of the issues, even though the Director of Planning has insisted that communications should follow the government chain of command, which would imply first communicating with the Principal Economist in the Planning unit before communicating with the Director of Planning thereafter the PS and finally the Minister. The approach has proven quite effective though at times it has created some discomfort for the Director of Planning.

Another challenge is that several staff positions in the Ministry have remained vacant for some time and one of the Economists in the department of planning who had relatively higher levels of capacity had to go on maternity leave during the reporting period. As such many tasks had to be assigned to the NAPAS team by the Director of Planning, even though these tasks fell outside of the scope of work of the NAPAS activity. For example, development of several concept notes was not directly linked to the deliverables and outcomes outlined in the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP) of the NAPAS activity. Nevertheless, in the interest of fostering good working relations, the NAPAS team gladly took on some of these tasks and the Director of Planning has indeed shown appreciation of this contribution by NAPAS. Moving forward the NAPAS team will have to continue providing such support while carefully managing these types of demands, selecting judiciously those that NAPAS can take on without compromising the overall objectives of the activity, while diplomatically declining or at least delaying other tasks that may pose a risk on delivering on outputs outlined in the PMEP of the NAPAS activity.

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

While there are many day-to-day demands in the Ministry that end up at the desks of the NAPAS team, the ability to manage these demands and ensure they are aligned to the overall mandate and objectives of the NAPAS activity remains crucial. At the same time building capacity of the DAPS staff will continue to be a critical component towards managing the levels of demands coming to the NAPAS team. With respect to moving the processes forward with speed, there may be instances where NAPAS may need to hire consultants or work with consultants hired by the Ministry or other agencies also supporting the efforts of policy reforms under the New Alliance. An example of such is the Extension Policy and the Fertilizer Policy where the Ministry had proposed hiring consultants and now has asked NAPAS to take the lead while potentially still engaging consultants to work closely with the NAPAS team. However, the NAPAS team would need to be closely engaged if a consultant is hired by the Ministry in order to avoid problems such as those recently experienced in developing the Contract Farming Strategy or the Strategic Grain Reserves (SGR) study that was supposed to generate the drawdown guidelines for the SGR.

### **IV. Success stories**

NAPAS: Malawi was able to move the process of developing the National Agriculture Policy closer to completion and this has been done through a highly inclusive, participatory and

transparent process that has been informed by research evidence. The approach has been hailed a model approach to effectively developing policy by stakeholders and government staff alike.

## **V. Management Issues**

Starting with the reporting period moving forward, the NAPAS organizational structure has been revised to include a research and M&E assistant to help the Chief of Party and the Policy Analyst focus their efforts on policy formulation, policy communication and capacity strengthening. Given that the work plan for the current financial year has a longer list of policy reforms that will be worked on, it is anticipated that there shall be need for more support in terms of policy analysis and tracking of progress (monitoring). As such, finding a solution to the hiring arrangement for the two support staff positions will be critical, particularly through an MOU with the government of Malawi or another alternative such as an MOU between IFPRI and the International Potato Centre or an MOU between Michigan State University and government of Malawi since relying on the MOU between IFPRI and IITA has proven difficult administratively for the NAPAS activity.

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

The NAPAS team has analysed most of the data collected from the Food and Agricultural Policy Stakeholder Survey, which serves as a baseline for the NAPAS intervention. A draft report and policy brief have already been authored, presenting the findings of the assessment of the quality of the policy process and the institutional architecture in Malawi. In general the findings show that there is still significant room for improving the quality of the policy processes and institutional architecture in order to facilitate effective policy reforms. Indeed, the efforts of NAPAS: Malawi appear to have already started making improvements to the policy processes as highlighted by some stakeholders after the process of developing the National Agriculture Policy. Other indicators tracked to measure progress of the NAPAS:Malawi activity are in the table 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 nine. 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>9 (NAP, Seed Policy, 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>7 – The FISP brief; 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; Input into the Contract Farming Strategy document; Input into the Fertilizer Policy development;</b>

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 mid-2017	Stakeholder survey implementation and analysis	Twice over life of project	1.80
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	1.80
<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>2 – 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</b>

Result Area	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Data Source	Method of Data Collection	Frequency of Data Collection	Result & Description
2	Number of stakeholder learning forums on agriculture and food security policy issues supported.	Number of learning forums			Annually and quarterly	<b>2 – Making Maize Markets Work for all Malawians; Media Interface Meeting</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>0*</b>
4	Number of institutions where trained individuals are applying new practices	Number of institutions			Annually and quarterly	<b>0*</b>
5	Number of private sector and civil society organizations assisted to participate in policy formulation processes.	Number of firms & CSOs assisted (including CGIAR centers, Universities and University Centers)			Annually and quarterly	<b>72 (this quarter only)</b>
<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 – 12 weeks spent on technical support (revising the draft NAP, analyzing the extension policy and the Agriculture Food Nutrition Strategy by Dr. Nankhuni), 11 weeks-revising the Draft NAP, developing the National Fertilizer Policy and writing several concept notes for the MoAIWD by Dr. Mabiso. 5 weeks by Todd Benson revising the draft NAP and analyzing the National Fertilizer Policy and Bill. On capacity building roughly 1 week (each) spent by Dr Mabiso interacting with Junior staff of the MoAIWD on the Contract Farming Strategy.	NAPAS:Malawi record keeping	Annually and quarterly	<b>Technical support-28 man weeks</b>
2	Financial resources directly expended by NAPAS:Malawi on policy process strengthening activities.	US dollars expended				\$95,000

\* While there were no structured training sessions conducted in the October-December 2015 quarter, the media interface meeting with the Media CEOs and Managers provided a learning opportunity for the Media captains to sensitize them on the importance of the planned journalist trainings. As such, it was part of planning future trainings and will facilitate a series of training sessions for journalist in Malawi.

\*\* These are the policies and strategies that NAPAS has worked or is working on.

## VII. Planned Activities for Next Quarter

The following activities shown in Table 2 are planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (January-March 2016) for the NAPAS activity:

**Table 2. Planned NAPAS activities for April to June, 2015**

Activity Description	Month or Date	Description of NAPAS contribution or efforts	Staff responsible
Do further analysis of Baseline Stakeholder Survey data (module D)	January-March 2016	NAPAS staff will analyze Module D of the baseline data from the stakeholder survey that was collected in June-August 2015.	Dr. Flora Nankhuni (NAPAS) Dr. Athur Mabiso (NAPAS) Dr. Todd Benson (FSP IL) Dr. Mywish Maredia (FSP, IL)
Writing of cabinet paper and facilitating submission of the NAP Draft to OPC	February to March 2016	Department of Agricultural Planning Services has ownership but with significant support from NAPAS.	Dr. Flora Nankhuni (NAPAS) Dr. Athur Mabiso (NAPAS) Dr. Chance Mwabutwa (IFPRI-SEBAP) Staff of DAPS, MoAIWD
Validation workshop for the Contract Farming Strategy	February 2016	Department of Agricultural Planning Services has ownership but with significant support from NAPAS. NAPAS will provide financial support for the final validation workshop.	Dr. Athur Mabiso (NAPAS) Dr. Flora Nankhuni (NAPAS) Charles Mwenda (NAPAS administrative assistant) Zephania Nyirenda, M&E and Research Specialist
Consultations for the Fertilizer Policy, analysis of stakeholder input and drafting of the Fertilizer Policy and Bill	January, February and March 2016	NAPAS will work closely with the Department of Agricultural Research Services and coordinate with a consultant that has been identified in order to develop the Fertilizer Policy	Dr Athur Mabiso Dr Flora Nankhuni Charles Mwenda (NAPAS administrative assistant) Zephania Nyirenda, M&E and Research Specialist
Develop the Irrigation of Food Crops Concept Note	January and February 2016	NAPAS team will continue providing support to the DAPS and the Department of Irrigation Services in the Ministry by further developing a concept note on irrigated food production to address food security	Dr Flora Nankhuni, Dr Athur Mabiso, Dr Chance Mwabutwa (IFPRI) Dr Brent Edelman (IFPRI)

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Month or Date</b>	<b>Description of NAPAS contribution or efforts</b>	<b>Staff responsible</b>
		problems arising as a result of weather variability including the El Nino phenomenon. IFPRI-SEBAP project will collaborate through research that informs viability of the ideas proposed in the concept note.	Zephania Nyirenda, M&E and Research Specialist
Support study on understanding the constraints to investing in agriculture and particularly on investment in maize for food security	January, February, March 2016	Analyzing the data collected and financing part of the travel costs associated with the study as well as labor allocation by research and M&E consultant	Dr Athur Mabiso, Dr Flora Nankhuni, Mr Zephania Nyirenda
Media Practitioners/ Journalists Training	February, 2016	NAPAS to support facilitating training of journalists and Media practitioners in collaboration with Food Security Policy Innovation Lab (UP), FUM, CISANET, FAO, AGRA and NEPAD.	Dr Athur Mabiso (NAPAS) Dr Flora Nankhuni (NAPAS) Mr Hamilton Chimala (DAES Communications Department)
Consultations for the Agriculture-Nutrition Strategy	February, March 2016	Putting together research evidence in a synthesized form for use in the development of the Agriculture-Nutrition Strategy	Dr Flora Nankhuni
Development of the Agricultural Extensions Policy/Strategy	January, February, March 2016	Literature reviews, interviews with key stakeholders and research institution working on agricultural extension including the new USAID/Malawi funded activity implemented by University of Illinois (SANESA)	Dr Flora Nankhuni
Development of the Farmer Organizations Strategy	January, February, March 2016	Literature reviews, interviews with key stakeholders and research institution working on farmer organizations	Dr Athur Mabiso
Develop the concept note for the Land Symposium scheduled for April 20, 2016 and making preparations for the conference (invitations, etc.)	February to March 2016	Literature reviews, consultations with relevant stakeholders, writing the concept note and invitations to speakers and participants.	Dr Flora Nankhuni