



**National Medium-Term Priority Framework  
(NMTPF) 2010-2015**

for  
**the cooperation and partnership**  
between  
**FAO and the Republic of Malawi**

**Malawi**

**April 2010**

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADP	Agricultural Development Programme
ADD	Agricultural Development Division
ART	Antiretroviral Treatment
AU	African Union
ASWAp	Agricultural Sector Wide Approach
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CTC	Community Therapeutic Centres
DAES	Department of Agricultural Extension Services
DAHLD	Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development
DAPS	Department of Agricultural Planning Services
DARS	Department of Agriculture Research Services
DCP	Department of Crop Production
DF	Department of Fisheries
DFID	Department For International Development
DLRC	Department of Land Resource and Conservation
DNHA	Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS
DoDMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DoEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoM	Government of Malawi
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
JFFLS	Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MK	Malawi Kwacha
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MoDPC	Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoGCCD	Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development
MoIWD	Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development
MoIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MoLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
NAC	National AIDS Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NMTPF	National Medium-Term Priority Framework
NRU	Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit
NSO	National Statistical Office
OPC	Office of the President and Cabinet
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PLHIV	People living with HIV
SWAp	Sector Wide Approach
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme

UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
US\$	United States of America Dollar
UTF	Unilateral Trust Fund
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

## **1.0. INTRODUCTION**

The National Medium-Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) defines the joint Government of Malawi – FAO medium-term priorities for FAO’s technical cooperation in Malawi for the period 2010-2015. The NMTPF is both a framework and a planning and management tool, which is implemented jointly by the Government of Malawi and FAO. It identifies key priority areas in which FAO will focus its assistance in an effective and coherent manner to support the implementation of the Government’s priorities in the areas of FAO’s competence including agriculture, food security, nutrition, natural resources management and rural development sectors while ensuring maximum synergy and complementarity with the Millennium Development Goals, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (2006-2011), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Malawi (2008-2011), and other activities of development partners.

The preparation of the NMTPF was initiated at the request of the Government of Malawi and was formulated under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MOAFS) through intensive consultations involving all key line Ministries and Departments, concerned UN Agencies, civil society organisations and other development partners.

This NMTPF document consists of the review of existing priorities of the Government, UNDAF and MDGs vis-à-vis past and on-going interventions, including the analysis of gaps and future potential of FAO’s technical cooperation, identification of the following seven priority areas for FAO-Government of Malawi cooperation during 2010-2015 and their implementation mechanisms:

- 1) Food Security and Nutrition;
- 2) Commercial agriculture, agro-processing and market development;
- 3) Sustainable agricultural land and water management;
- 4) Technology generation and dissemination ;
- 5) Institutional strengthening and capacity building;
- 6) HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation;
- 7) Gender equity and empowerment.

## **2.0. SITUATION ANALYSIS**

### **2.1 The national context**

Agriculture is the most important sector of the Malawian economy considering that it employs about 80 per cent of the workforce, of which 70 per cent are female. It also contributes over 80 per cent of foreign exchange earnings, accounts for 39 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and contributes significantly to national and household food security. The agricultural sector has two main sub-sectors - the smallholder sub-sector that contributes more than 70 per cent and the estate sub-sector that contributes less than 30 per cent to agricultural GDP<sup>1</sup>. Smallholders cultivate mainly food crops such as maize, the main staple grain, cassava and sweet potatoes to meet subsistence requirements, while estates focus on high value cash crops for export such as tobacco, tea, sugar, coffee and macadamia. Smallholder farmers cultivate small and fragmented land holdings under customary land tenure with yields lower than in the estate sector. Female farmers produce 80 per cent of food

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Malawi (2009) Agriculture Sector Wide Approach, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Lilongwe

for household consumption, yet at household level they are less involved in the cultivation of cash crops, which are mostly the domain of men<sup>2</sup>. In the tea and tobacco estate sector however, women contribute 71% of casual labour<sup>3</sup>.

Development resources, strategies and policies in Malawi since independence have been heavily biased towards agricultural development. Malawi has benefited from substantial donor programmes over many years but, until recently, has suffered from chronic food insecurity at both household and national levels. Agricultural exports have remained undiversified, with little value addition.

Most Malawians are poor, with 40 per cent of the population living below the poverty line and 15 per cent living in ultra poverty. A consistently higher proportion of female-headed households are in these poverty categories<sup>4</sup>. Socio-economic indicators illustrate the depth and intractability of poverty. For example, the levels of malnutrition remain high, with 46 per cent of under-five children being stunted and 21 per cent underweight in 2006<sup>5</sup>. There is also high prevalence of HIV, with the current adult HIV prevalence estimated at 12 per cent, namely 13.5% among adult women and 10.3% among adult men aged 15 to 49<sup>6</sup>. The situation of women in rural areas remains particularly precarious, as they are disproportionately affected by the lack of health services, education, ownership of land and inheritance, economic opportunities and social benefits<sup>7</sup>.

Crop yields have been too low to provide adequate national growth. Furthermore there has been low uptake of improved farm inputs and smallholder agriculture remains unprofitable. This can partly be explained by the limited access to extension services and productivity-enhancing technologies. The IHS 2004-05 reported that only 13.1% of agricultural households got extension advice in 2005, of which 14.7% were men and 8.3% were women. This is exacerbated by weak links to markets, high transport costs, few and weak farmer organisations, poor quality control and inadequate information on markets and prices. Women are again disproportionately affected by these constraints and continue to produce low value agricultural products, if at all. Due to high risks in agricultural production and poor access to credit, investment and re-investment have been poor. The growth in per capita agricultural output averaged 1.9 per cent in the 1970s, compared to -2.3 per cent in the 1980s, 5.5 per cent in the 1990s and 0.36 per cent between 2000 and 2005<sup>8</sup>. However, these aggregate figures disguise the fact that growth was narrowly confined to the estate sector and to smallholders with larger landholdings. The poor were excluded from many development programmes, leaving a legacy of desperate poverty which troubles Malawi today.

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<sup>2</sup> Government of Malawi (2004), National Gender Programme (2004-2009), Ministry of Women, Children and Community Development

<sup>3</sup> United Nations (2008), Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Sixth periodic report of States parties, Malawi, see <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/562/67/PDF/N0856267.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>4</sup> National Statistics Office (2009), Welfare Monitoring Survey 2008, NSO, Zomba

<sup>5</sup> National Statistics Office (2008), Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006, NSO, Zomba

<sup>6</sup> Government of Malawi (2008), Malawi HIV and AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Report 2007, Office of the President and Cabinet, Lilongwe

<sup>7</sup> United Nations (2010), Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Malawi, see <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/co/CEDAW-C-MWI-CO-6.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Government of Malawi (2009) Agriculture Sector Wide Approach, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Lilongwe

The track record of past development programmes has dramatically changed with the introduction of broad-based initiatives which began with the 1998 starter pack programme and has been further developed into the bold Farm Input Subsidy Programme of the past five years i.e. 2005/06 to 2009/10. These programmes have explicitly recognised that the dominating factor in holding back the adoption of more productive and diversified agricultural technologies is the absence of purchasing power amongst the Malawians who are classified as poor. There has been high demand from farmers for improved access to the inputs that they need to lift themselves. Evidence from evaluations of these input subsidy programmes shows that where Malawians can access inputs, their response to production technologies is more rapid and substantial. However, although the programme is to target labour and resource-constrained households, female-headed households have been found to be less likely to receive any fertilizer coupons (46%) than male-headed households (57%)<sup>9</sup>.

The country's macroeconomic performance has been strong for the past four years as a result of sound economic policies pursued by the government and good performance in the agricultural sector. Malawi has registered a real GDP average growth of 8% and average single-digit inflation rate of below 10% for the past four years.

## **2.2 Review of the existing national policies and priorities**

The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) is the Government of Malawi's medium-term strategy (2006 - 2011) to attain the nation's *Vision 2020*. The main thrust of the MGDS is to create wealth through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development as a means of achieving poverty reduction. This is expected to transform the country from being a predominantly importing and consuming economy to a predominantly manufacturing and exporting economy.

The MGDS outlines six priority areas through which this objective will be achieved, namely:

- (i) agriculture and food security;
- (ii) irrigation and water development
- (iii) transport infrastructure development;
- (iv) energy generation and supply;
- (v) integrated rural development; and
- (vi) the prevention and management of nutrition disorders, HIV and AIDS.

This policy represents a shift from social consumption as a poverty reduction strategy, to more emphasis on economic growth and infrastructure development.

The MGDS is expected to rejuvenate rural economies and transform them into potential engines for economic growth that translate to increased redistribution of wealth. Furthermore, the MGDS also identifies five thematic areas in which progress must be made if the overall strategy is to be successful. These thematic components of the MGDS are sustainable economic growth; social protection; social development; infrastructure development; and improved governance. Gender is also highlighted as a cross-cutting issue to be mainstreamed across the board.

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<sup>9</sup> Dorward, A., Chirwa, E., Kelly, V., Jayne, T., Slater, R. and Boughton, D. (2008), Evaluation of the 2006-07 Agricultural Input Subsidy Programme, Malawi.



In June 2009, when the newly elected government took office, a new set of priorities within priorities was announced, with three additional priority areas to the aforementioned six, namely: Climate Change, Natural Resources and Environment Management; Youth Development and Empowerment; and Education, Science and Technology.

The MGDS aims at increasing the contribution of the agricultural sector to economic growth through enhancing production and value addition for both domestic and export markets. Higher productivity is to be achieved through: (i) increasing value addition of smallholder farmers and encouraging commercialisation; (ii) strengthening linkages between farmers and markets through infrastructure development; and (iii) enhancing irrigation and water development. It is evident that food production and income generation from agricultural activities are key in achieving food security through own production and/or incomes realised from sales of agricultural outputs. Moreover, such agricultural activities need to ensure that natural resources are used in a sustainable manner.

**Table 1: Key Priorities for Agriculture, Food Security, Irrigation and Rural Development in the MGDS**

<i>Key Priority Area</i>	<i>Long and Medium Term Goals</i>	<i>Expected Outcome</i>
Agriculture and Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase agricultural productivity</li> <li>• No food shortages even in times of disasters (e.g. drought and floods)</li> <li>• Increased exports of food staples</li> <li>• Increase the contribution of agri-processing to economic growth, move up the value chain in key crops, and increase exportation of agri-processed products</li> <li>• To open up the linkages to the sea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased value added to agricultural products by rural farmers and orient smallholder sub-sector to greater commercialisation and international competitiveness</li> <li>• Food is available in sufficient quantities and qualities and supplied through domestic production or imports</li> <li>• All Malawians have at all times physical and economic access to sufficient nutritious food required for leading a healthy and active life</li> <li>• Increased contribution of agri-processing to GDP</li> <li>• An active inland network in local and international shipping that facilitates trade and tourism in a safe manner</li> </ul>
Irrigation and Water Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that water resources are well protected and managed to meet agricultural, domestic and industrial demands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased agricultural land under irrigation</li> <li>• Reduced dependence on rain-fed agriculture</li> <li>• Basic water requirements of every Malawian are met while the country's natural ecosystem is enhanced</li> <li>• Increased access to water is within 500m distances</li> </ul>
Integrated rural development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the growth and development of rural growth centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced re-distribution of wealth to all citizens</li> <li>• Reduced negative consequences of rural-</li> </ul>

		urban migration
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Source: GOM (2006)

In order to operationalise these agriculture-related goals in the MGDS, the GoM recently formulated the Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) now transformed into Agricultural Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp), a medium-term prioritised investment framework for the agricultural sector, which was approved by the Cabinet in 2009. The ASWAP has targeted three focus areas, two key support services and two cross-cutting issues as follows:

- a) Focus areas
  - i) Food Security and Nutrition
  - ii) Commercial agriculture, agro-processing and market development
  - iii) Sustainable management of land and water
  
- b) Key support Services
  - i) Technology generation and dissemination
  - ii) Institutional strengthening and capacity building
  
- c) Cross-cutting issues
  - i) HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation
  - ii) Gender equity and empowerment

In order to have significant impact in the sector, the ASWAP emphasises the following sub-programmes and activities

- Increasing maize productivity to attain food security and food self-sufficiency at household and national levels;
- Diversifying food production to improve nutrition at household level;
- Managing risks to ensure food stability at national level;
- Promoting agro-processing for value addition and import substitution;
- Developing the domestic market for import substitution;
- Expanding the export market to increase foreign currency earning potential of the country;
- Generating technologies to increase agricultural productivity;
- Improving extension services and technical services to improve efficiency of production;
- Building capacities of the various public and private institutions and implementers of the ASWAP;
- Promoting good land husbandry practices for soil conservation and improving soil fertility;
- Developing irrigation systems and promoting efficient use of water; and
- Mainstreaming gender, HIV and AIDS in the ASWAP focus areas and key support services.

In order to achieve its objectives, the ASWAP is targeting an annual 6% agricultural growth rate, which it indicates will require a minimum allocation of 10% of the national budget to the agricultural sector. Maize and tobacco are the two main commodities that will bring significant additional growth in the sector resulting from small-scale and large-scale farmers respectively. Further growth will come from the following commodities: cotton, sugar, coffee,

groundnuts, pulses, vegetables, fruits spices (chillies and paprika), macadamia, cassava, rice and dairy products. However, the performance of the agricultural sector during the past two years has been impressive with an average growth rate of 11.4% (Annual Economic Report, 2008).

Malawi, as a member of several regional economic groupings, has to align its development activities to be consistent with achieving the development targets set at regional level. Under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Africa's Heads of State and Government have recognized the critical importance of agriculture as the cornerstone of sustained growth and poverty reduction through the adoption of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) - a strategy to put African agriculture on the path of strong and sustained growth. The Malawi ASWAp represents the vehicle for implementing the CAADP and clearly shares its principal elements, priorities and pillars, closely mirroring its emphasis on agricultural productivity, through land and water management, commercialisation, food security, enhanced research, technology dissemination and adoption.

### **2.3 Review of UNDAF and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

The United Nations system in Malawi has developed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2008-2011 (UNDAF) with the Government of Malawi based on the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) and in consultation with concerned Government agencies and development partners. The UNDAF is fully aligned with national development policies, embodied in the MGDS (2006-2011) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and aims to support Malawi to achieve the MDGs and contribute to equitable economic growth and poverty reduction by strengthening systems of accountability and the delivery of quality social services to every woman, man, girl and boy.

The UNDAF guides strategic, coordinated and focused UN interventions in Malawi from 2008 to 2011 and has defined the following five (5) focus areas of cooperation for concerted efforts by the UN:

- Cluster 1: Sustainable Economic Development and Food Security
- Cluster 2: Social Protection and Disaster Reduction
- Cluster 3: Social Development
- Cluster 4: HIV and AIDS
- Cluster 5: Good Governance

Malawi has recently achieved the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) completion point. This achievement highlights Government's success in restoring fiscal discipline, improving economic management and addressing corruption. The challenge now facing Malawi is whether it can leverage improvements in fiscal discipline and the promise of the MGDS to promote equitable economic growth as the primary engine of poverty reduction while strengthening democracy and expanding the enjoyment of basic rights by all citizens.

It is worth noting that 85% of the population lives in rural Malawi and is engaged in small-scale agriculture. This is also the part of the population that is living in the deepest poverty. Recognising that agriculture is the driver of the economy and the home grown solution to chronic food insecurity, Cluster 1 focuses on improving food and nutrition security policy development, coordination and implementation; increasing agricultural productivity and

developing rural livelihoods<sup>10</sup>. This will enable Malawi to achieve MDG 1, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

Additionally, understanding that the ecological integrity of Malawi is intimately linked to its agricultural practices and in order to contribute to MDG 7, to ensure environmental sustainability, UN Malawi is supporting the Government to strengthen its policies and plans to preserve the natural resource base, not least through improved land husbandry and water management practices, and by increasing access to sustainable sources of energy.

Through its food-based approach to preventing malnutrition among infants, under fives, school-going children, as well as pregnant and lactating women, UN Malawi aims to further contribute to the achievement of MDG 4 (reduce child mortality) and MDG 5 (improve maternal health).

Recognising that food insecurity is both a driver of the HIV epidemic and a critical concern for treatment efficacy and adherence, as well as AIDS impact mitigation, the UN and the GoM are increasingly seeking effective mechanisms in the agriculture, natural resources, food and nutrition security sectors to combat HIV and AIDS (MDG 6).

In order to achieve MDG 3 (promote gender equality and empower women), the MGDS has highlighted gender as a cross-cutting issue to be mainstreamed across all sectors. Fully aligned to the MGDS, the UNDAF further underscores the centrality of gender equality to the realisation of equitable human development in the face of negative socio-cultural practices and traditions that limit women's achievement of basic social, economic and political rights, and access to basic social services. The Gender Assessment of the MGDS that was conducted to guide the development of the UNDAF identified a number of priorities for UN support, in particular support to developing public sector capacity in gender analysis, mainstreaming, budgeting and the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data; as well as promoting rural women's access to modern agricultural technologies, training, land, credit and markets.

#### **2.4 Analysis of institutions involved and their role in the sector**

There are several Ministries involved in agriculture, natural resources, nutrition and rural development. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MOAFS) is responsible for the overall agricultural sector including crops, fisheries, livestock, agricultural land development and extension services.

The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development leads in the area of irrigation, water harvesting and management. The Ministry of Trade and Industry Development is responsible for the development of export-oriented agricultural industries and the creation of an enabling investment environment for investments in the agricultural sector. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development oversees the decentralisation process and the devolution of programme implementation to the District Assemblies. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is responsible for land tenure, forestry and wildlife conservation.

Given the many actors in the overarching nutrition sector, the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS under the Office of the President and Cabinet, is mandated to guide and coordinate nutrition-related policies across several sectors, including agriculture, health, community

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<sup>10</sup> UN Malawi (2007), United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2008-2011, see [http://unmalawi.org/reports/undaf/undaf\\_malawi\\_2008-2011.pdf](http://unmalawi.org/reports/undaf/undaf_malawi_2008-2011.pdf)

development and education. Likewise, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development is mandated to support gender mainstreaming across all sectors, while the National AIDS Commission is responsible for coordinating HIV and AIDS mainstreaming.

The UN System is coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator in Malawi. It has 8 Resident Agencies organised in 5 thematic UNDAF clusters and associated outcomes, out of which FAO chairs Cluster 1 on Sustainable Economic Development and Food Security. FAO also participates actively in all of the other 4 clusters in areas of its comparative advantage (agriculture-related emergency coordination, nutrition, reducing vulnerability to HIV infection, agriculture-based AIDS impact mitigation, rural gender equality).

In times of disasters, such as floods, droughts, outbreaks of animal and crop diseases, FAO has been actively involved in supporting the Department of Poverty and Disaster Management and the MOAFS to respond in a timely, commensurate and effective manner.

## **2.5 Review of past and on-going interventions and their achievements**

### Donor programmes and actions in the sector

There are a number of international and bilateral donors and development agencies involved in the agriculture, natural resources and rural development sectors, including FAO, UNDP, IFAD, UNEP, the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the EU, DFID, Norway, Japan, FICA and USAID. There are also several international non-governmental organisations implementing agriculture and food security projects at community level, such as World Vision International, Concern Universal, Care International, Africare and Catholic Relief Services.

Several agricultural sector projects are being funded by these development partners and are being implemented by or with the MoAFS. These projects support the agricultural sector in crop production (improving productivity, irrigation development, expansion of specific crops, diversification of food and cash crops, marketing of agricultural crops and value addition), promotion of livestock (breeding, income generation); provision of technical services in areas of diversification, irrigation development, research and the regulatory environment; and also provision of managerial assistance in areas of information management and fishery management. Most of the projects are concentrated in the promotion of crops grown by smallholder farmers, particularly cash crops such as sugar, cashew nuts, macadamia, cotton, wheat, cassava, sweet potatoes and horticultural products.

### FAO's programme and its achievements

FAO has a long history of cooperation with the Government of Malawi and has had in-country representation since 1986. Currently, the Government of Malawi works with FAO more as a partner than a recipient. FAO's field programme is grouped into four main categories:

- (i) focused technical assistance to address pressing development issues;
- (ii) implementation of catalytic projects serving as demonstration platforms;
- (iii) provision of emergency assistance to meet unexpected immediate needs; and
- (iv) direct support to poor farm families through Telefood grass-roots level micro-projects.

FAO's annual field programme delivery (including emergency projects) over the past five years ranged between US\$ 1.8 million and US\$ 5.4 million with an average delivery of US\$ 3.7 million per year and a total five-year delivery of US\$ 18,585,839. This delivery trend has been characterised by a steady increase, peaking in 2008 and expecting to further grow in 2010.

As of December 2009, FAO Malawi in collaboration with the Government of Malawi, was implementing 5 country-specific Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects and 4 Malawi-specific Trust Fund projects. In addition, FAO Malawi's portfolio included approximately 15 regional/sub-regional projects in which Malawi is one of the core participating countries, funded through FAO's regular budget or external donor resources (i.e. Japan, Sweden, Spain, USA, the African Development Bank, UNICEF, the Global Environmental Facility and the International Livestock Research Institute).

The details of FAO's field programme in Malawi are as follows:

***Focused technical assistance***

FAO has been lending its breadth of experience to Malawi in devising agricultural policy, supporting planning, drafting and advocating for effective legislation, and strategically building capacity to achieve rural development and hunger alleviation goals.

Through TCP projects using FAO's regular programme resources, FAO has implemented/is implementing 11 TCP projects since 2006 (including small TCP facility projects), based on requests from the GoM.

- ***Policy and technical advice***

FAO has increasingly mobilised financial and technical resources to provide policy advice and technical assistance to the GoM in the past few years. In 2007 and 2008, FAO provided extensive support to the government in the formulation and development of the Agricultural Development Programme, now ASWAP, as well as in ensuring that nutrition was well anchored in this programme-based approach for the agricultural sector. FAO intends to further assist the GoM where necessary in the operationalisation of this SWAp.

Additionally, since 2008, FAO is providing a Nutrition and Food Security Policy Advisor to the Office of the President and Cabinet Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, to advise the government on the integration of nutrition and food security policies and programming.

Since 2006, FAO has supported the GoM in mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in the agricultural and natural resources sectors, through the generation of policy-relevant knowledge on HIV/AIDS in these sectors and through the formulation of gender-responsive HIV and AIDS strategies for the forestry and fisheries sectors. Once the latter were launched, FAO further assisted these sectors in kick-starting the implementation of their strategies. Since 2009, FAO is providing technical assistance to the MOAFS to evaluate and revise the expired agricultural sector HIV and AIDS strategy and to build the requisite capacity for its implementation.

In order to support the legislation of the gender-sensitive bill on Wills and Inheritance rights, FAO and UNFPA conducted advocacy campaigns to sensitise Members of Parliament, media houses and the general population on the importance of enacting this bill.

After being involved in the first phase of the regional UN and Partners' Alliance for Livelihood-based Social Protection for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), FAO is further supporting the national OVC and Social Support Technical Working Groups to document and incorporate promising programming models of livelihood-based social protection for OVC in the development of the expanded National Plan of Action for OVC and in the development of national social support programmes.

FAO has also been contributing to strengthening food security and nutrition M&E systems, in collaboration with UNICEF, by testing and integrating various tools on dietary diversity and food insecurity into standard M&E tools in Malawi, to be used in the context of situation and vulnerability assessments, targeting communities and M&E purposes.

FAO is working with the World Bank on sustainable land management. In particular, a review has been conducted of completed and ongoing work in this area and thereafter a Public Expenditure Review of Land Management related activities is underway to determine what additional funding is required for the Sustainable Land Management interventions in the ASWAP.

- *Capacity development*

FAO has been supporting government's efforts to improve information and knowledge management. Data collection and analysis are vital for national planning and implementation. However, a lack of confidence in agricultural statistics by the donor community has become a major concern. An example is FAO's recent assistance to the National Statistics Office to improve access to nationally owned, quality, sex-disaggregated statistics on food security and agriculture. The statistics division at FAO, through CountryStat, provided training courses to national statisticians and follow-up mentoring.

Estimated to be between 14% and 40%, post-harvest losses are considered a priority issue in the ASWAP. Indeed, while advanced estate farmers are less affected, smallholder farmers, with poor storage structures and limited access to chemicals, experience higher losses, which can go up to 100% if the attack is from the Larger Grain Borer (*Prostephanus truncates* (Horn)). FAO has been supporting the MoAFS to make a technically sound estimate of the current status of post-harvest losses and to develop appropriate methodologies for future estimates. In addition, FAO has been supporting Government's initiative to improve crop storage, especially of grain crops, through the introduction of small metallic silos. Local trainings for master trainers on how to fabricate the mini silos were conducted and these have so far trained entrepreneurs in all three regions of the country.

Through the TCP project for *Capacity building in farm planning and management for extension workers and farmers*, FAO contributed to enhancing the capacity of farmers and extension workers in farm planning, marketing and management in order to increase incomes of small-scale farmers by encouraging agricultural diversification and improving market access of agricultural produce. After building the capacity of 335 technical staff and extension workers, the training is being rolled out to farmers through the so-called Farm Business Schools. This approach has been highly appreciated by staff and farmers alike and appears to have great potential for scale up. The MoAFS has therefore developed a national scale-up plan.

By promoting economically viable aquaculture at the community level through the TCP project *Support to Small-scale Fish Farming Enterprises*, FAO is assisting in improving seed

quality and supply by establishing sustainable catfish hatcheries at three carefully selected sites, with the aim of improving household and national food security through an affordable and sustained supply of good quality fish protein.

Based on the recognition that there is a serious gap at the community level in nutrition counselling, care and support for the prevention of malnutrition, particularly for PLHIV, FAO and WHO developed generic training materials and pre-tested them for their local relevance in Malawi (and in six other countries in the region). Given the acceptance and perceived usefulness of these materials in Malawi, FAO further supported the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, in consultation with key stakeholders, to consolidate national guidelines and training materials on Nutrition Care and Support.

The dire need for capacity development in the nutrition sector goes far beyond the specific needs of PLHIV. Indeed, a recent FAO-commissioned capacity assessment found that in order to respond to the chronic malnutrition plaguing the country, Malawi requires significant increases in the numbers of nutrition professionals and their upgrading. FAO is assisting the government and other stakeholders to develop a capacity building strategy for nutrition.

A unique feature of FAO's capacity development efforts is the deliberate strategy to promote South-South cooperation between developing countries that can learn from each other's experts. Currently, FAO is supporting intra-African training and dissemination of the technological know-how accumulated by African experts that have benefited from training under past Japanese technical cooperation programmes. Moreover, several ongoing projects are being supported by experts from other developing countries in irrigation, water management and aquaculture.

### ***Catalytic Pilot Projects***

FAO puts its breadth of knowledge to the test through a number of national and district projects throughout the country and seeks to demonstrate the effectiveness and promote the uptake of agricultural technologies.

From 2002 to 2004, FAO supported the GoM in the implementation a 3-year pilot phase project of a Special Programme for Food Security, with funding from the African Development Bank. The objective was to contribute to the improvement of household and national food security by promoting the adoption of appropriate agricultural production technologies through participatory demonstrations and Farmer Field Schools. The main focus of the SPFS project was on irrigation; water control and management, crop intensification and diversification, crop storage and marketing. These approaches have proven to be an effective tool for implementing the Poverty Reduction Strategy as households have been enabled to grow more than one crop annually and diversify their sources of income. The experience from the SPFS pilot phase identified appropriate actions needed to create a conducive socio-economic environment for a sustainable increase in production.

As a follow-up to this project, FAO started implementing the five-year project *Enhancing Food Security and Developing Sustainable Rural Livelihoods* in 2006, with funding from Norway. This USD 5.29 million project is targeting 3 districts in the Southern region (Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi) and aims to alleviate poverty and food insecurity amongst 23,500 resource-poor households, particularly the marginal farmers with less than 2 hectares of land, female-headed households and orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), by providing these households with means to increase food production and generate income opportunities.



It sets out to demonstrate the potential and advantages of conservation agriculture, water harvesting techniques, the sustainable use of natural resources and various income-generating activities coupled to innovative community saving schemes.

The Flemish-funded project *Improving Food Security and Nutrition policies and programme outreach* is a USD 5.5 million project, which was launched in 2008 and is being implemented in Kasungu and Mzimba. Through its outreach component, FAO expects to demonstrate the effectiveness of various nutrition, sanitation and food security interventions on the well being of 29,000 households. In this project, female-headed households, PLHIV and households caring for OVCs are specifically targeted, due to their vulnerability. These interventions include among others, crop production (rain-fed and irrigated), storage, processing and marketing of field and horticultural crops; the production, rearing and marketing of small livestock; aqua-culture; reforestation, improved sanitation; school gardening and nutrition; nutritional care and support for PLHIV; and off-farm income generating activities.

FAO is implementing a project on *Enhancing Food Security in Cassava-based farm systems*, funded at regional level by the Italian Government. The project is demonstrating that cassava produced by smallholder farmers can increase household incomes, especially when farmers apply appropriate production and processing technologies, are provided with adequate support services, and when linked to functional markets for the various products of the crop.

With an alarmingly high 2.8% per annum deforestation rate and a rapid increase in the demand for forest resources for livelihoods, infrastructure development and energy, FAO has set up a *National Forest Programme Facility* to provide grants to NGOs to formulate and implement pilot forestry projects in Malawi, funded from carbon credit sources.

FAO promotes garden-based learning models as a means to improve household nutrition. An example is the *Junior Farmer Fields and Life School (JFFLS)* model, which has been piloted in Malawi, in collaboration with UNICEF and WFP. The model targets a gender-balanced group of orphans, vulnerable children, young people and their households with agricultural, nutritional and life skills aimed to improve their livelihoods, as well as their long-term food and nutrition security. This knowledge and skills are shared through the establishment of learning gardens in selected primary schools and youth clubs.

### ***Emergency programme***

FAO has been supporting the GoM to respond to recent emergencies such as droughts, floods, and disease outbreaks to protect rural livelihoods and help people rebuild their lives. For example, FAO's Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit supported the most vulnerable households affected by the 2007-2008 floods as well as households affected by the rising food prices to strengthen their agricultural livelihoods and improve their long-term food and nutrition security.

In addition, the unit has been assisting in the control and prevention of animal and crop diseases, through the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) surveillance, preparedness and response programme, the containment of the transboundary spread of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, the control of Red Locust and the prevention of the Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome.

### ***Telefood***

FAO and MOAFS support small, self-motivated farmers' groups in achieving self-reliance through Telefood projects which are grassroots level micro-projects funded from the Telefood

Special Fund through donations from people world-wide. Since 2007, five Telefood projects have been implemented in Malawi, with a total budget of US\$ 38,000.

## **2.6 Gaps and areas receiving inadequate attention**

While food security and nutrition have made it to the top of the government's agenda, there are still a number of areas requiring more attention. In particular, although significant efforts and considerable resources have been invested in increasing access to agricultural inputs for increased agricultural productivity, there is still a gap in linking these gains in food production to improved food utilisation for better nutrition. Indeed, the overemphasis on maize as the national staple is undermining diversified and nutritious diets, based on the six food groups. The resulting high rates of chronic malnutrition speak for themselves.

Moreover, post-harvest losses at farm level are still very high ranging from 14% to 40%. FAO and other partners continue to assist government's initiative to reduce the losses by promoting improved storage structures, such as the metallic silos which were introduced by FAO in 2006. The uptake of these technologies is slow, because of the high initial cost and the absence of a culture of keeping food grain in communal granaries, although this is slowly changing.

While there are several programmes being implemented across the country to increase food security, considerably less is being done to support the transition from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture, including among smallholders. Intensified focus is required to increase smallholder farmers' capacity in agro-processing and agri-business. This is particularly important given the prevailing crop marketing system, where commercial marketing corporations (such as ADMARC) are no longer interested in purchasing excess crop from farmers in remote non-profitable areas, while private vendors are using the situation to purchase crops at very unfavourable prices. FAO has supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to strengthen the extension services by enhancing their capacity in farm planning and management as well as encouraging agribusiness diversification aimed at benefiting market oriented small-scale farmers. This so-called Farm Business School model represents a promising approach to be taken to scale, as part of a Farmer Field School approach to extension.

The fisheries sub-sector has vast potential that is yet to be fully tapped. In particular, aquaculture deserves more attention and support in a country with a drastic declining trend in fish landings from capture fisheries, while fish represents 70% of the population's animal protein intake<sup>11</sup>. Despite nutrition education campaigns and recent strides in poverty reduction, the average animal protein intake remains very limited in Malawi. And although fish is the most common (affordable) source of animal protein, in absolute terms, the population's fish consumption is estimated to be a meagre 3-4 kg per capita per year. FAO has started supporting the sub-sector to develop a national strategy, behind which development partners could rally their support and which could provide a platform for mobilizing resources for the Presidential Initiative on Aquaculture Development, whose tangible progress on the ground is still limited.

The major constraint to increasing agricultural productivity in a sustainable and predictable manner is the over-reliance on rain-fed production. Although one-third of the country is

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<sup>11</sup> Government of Malawi (2007) Fisheries HIV and AIDS Strategy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Lilongwe.

composed of sweet water, the use of irrigation and water harvesting technologies is extremely limited. Making it a priority, the government has conceptualised the Green Belt Initiative, aimed at bringing critical value chain players together to promote increased agricultural productivity and market value of agricultural commodities for the common good, by integrating intervention packages for greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving food and nutrition security as well as increased income earnings from agricultural production. The focus of this initiative is on the expansion of irrigation sites and technologies. There is a critical need for capacity building for experts in irrigation to fill the current technical gap in this area.

Environmental degradation is a serious concern in Malawi, with high rates of deforestation and soil erosion, combined with the effects of climate change. Recently, additional efforts are being made to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture, through the promotion of conservation agriculture, which is also well adapted to female farmers and PLHIV, given its labour-saving attributes. FAO has assisted in establishing the institutional framework, namely the National Taskforce on Conservation Agriculture, and is further demonstrating the feasibility and effectiveness of these technologies in its field projects. Further assistance is likely to be required to take conservation agriculture to full scale adoption, including among large-scale estate producers.

It has been observed that the uptake of improved agricultural technologies by farmers remains very low. This is hardly surprising given the inadequate extension services and high extension agent-to-farmer ratio. The sector is therefore seeking to adopt innovative extension approaches to reach out to more farmers, in a more effective and gender-sensitive manner. Indeed, the MoAFS is championing a new approach to extension, which uses lead farmers, model villages, clusters and green belts as entry points. FAO has developed a number of useful approaches as well and could assist in strengthening and rolling out these models.

The ASWAp process is a path that Malawi has taken to align its agricultural development agenda with the CAADP agenda. Currently, these arrangements need to be formalised through between the government and development partners through a Code of Conduct (CoC) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on financing support to the ASWAp. These documents, together with the ASWAp document, would represent the Country's CAADP Compact, which is due to be signed in April 2010. FAO has been requested to support the compact signing, as well as post-compact signing technical assistance in investment planning.

A lack of confidence in agricultural statistics by the donor community is a major concern and national capacity in quality and gender-disaggregated agricultural statistics methodology is an urgent issue. Data collection and analysis are vital for national planning and implementation, as well as ongoing monitoring and evaluation of food and nutrition security. FAO has been working with national statisticians on agricultural, food security and nutrition statistics over the past few years, and it is expected that ongoing capacity development will be required.

While women represent 70% of the agricultural workforce, their access to, and control over production factors, such as capital, land, agriculture extension, inputs and technology is still limited. Access to profitable markets is also limited due to high transport costs, heavy workloads and responsibilities, and cultural norms. Moreover, female-headed households are consistently poorer and more vulnerable to external shocks, including HIV and AIDS. Almost one million Malawians are living with HIV. Although considerable efforts have been made nationally to roll out antiretroviral therapy (ART), these labour-constrained and nutritionally

vulnerable individuals and households require additional support to mitigate the potential impact of AIDS. The agricultural sector has a unique contribution to make to advance gender equality in rural areas and to the national AIDS response. FAO is currently one of the very few development partner assisting the agricultural sector in this area through longer term programmes and this technical support needs to be sustained.

### **3.0. PROPOSED PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK**

#### **3.1 Future opportunities for FAO's intervention in the next 5 years (2010-2015)**

Based on the situation analysis and existing medium-term priorities of the Government and the UN System, and taking into account past and on-going FAO and partner's programmes and their gaps vis-à-vis the Government and UN priorities, the following seven priority outcomes of FAO's interventions in the next five years in Malawi have been selected:

- 1) Food Security and Nutrition;
- 2) Commercial agriculture, agro-processing and market development;
- 3) Sustainable management of land and water;
- 4) Agricultural research and Extension services;
- 5) Institutional strengthening and capacity building;
- 6) HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation;
- 7) Gender equity and empowerment.

#### **3.2 Priority outcomes for FAO – Government of Malawi cooperation**

##### ***3.2.1 Priority outcome 1: Food and Nutrition Security***

Until recently, Malawi has faced chronic food shortages and food insecurity. Limited access to farm inputs and an overdependence on rain-fed agriculture have, among others, been identified as major constraints to national food security. With the targeted agricultural input subsidy programme, seeds and fertiliser have been made more accessible to vulnerable small-holder farmers and Malawi has experienced four consecutive bumper maize harvests (2006-2009), the national staple. Despite these recent achievements in maize productivity, malnutrition remains widespread, with 46% of under-fives being stunted and 21% underweight.

FAO therefore aims to support the GoM to increase agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and to promote agricultural and dietary diversification.

##### **Major priority outputs/focused activities**

- i) Food security, livelihoods self-sufficiency and sustainable development in rural communities improved through catalytic programmes and their expansion, including through targeted multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral interventions in food insecure districts.
- ii) Post-harvest losses reduced, through the promotion of improved on-farm storage technologies (such as metallic silos, community grain banks, etc.).
- iii) Diversified food production and dietary diversification promoted through capacity development and technology transfer for the production, preservation, processing and utilization of diversified, micronutrient-rich indigenous crops, small livestock and fisheries, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

- iv) Fish productivity increased, with a focus on strengthening the fisheries sub-sector's institutional framework and building capacity in aquaculture development.
- v) Vulnerable farmers protected from natural disasters and commodity price fluctuations through prompting disaster prevention and preparedness measures and crop/agriculture insurance schemes, within the context of disaster risk reduction and social protection.

### ***3.2.2 Priority outcome 2: Commercial agriculture, agro-processing and market development***

Smallholder agriculture is associated with a lack of value addition in agricultural products. There is very little agro-processing in Malawi and most smallholder farmers sell raw agricultural produce without adding value. Moreover, most of Malawi's agricultural exports are relatively low grade, undifferentiated primary commodities. In order to offset the high transport costs associated with Malawi's position as a landlocked country, efforts are needed to produce higher quality products targeting higher value export markets. This requires the adoption of better technologies such as quality seeds and planting materials, access to appropriate inputs, and the pursuit of higher quality standards in production and grading systems.

Hence, FAO's support will be geared towards increasing value addition to agriculture and productivity of farmers, and the reorientation of the smallholder sub-sector towards greater commercialisation, first for national market development and secondly, for international competitiveness.

#### **Major priority outputs/focused activities**

- i) Smallholder farmers' capacity in market-oriented agro-processing enhanced, especially in cassava and horticultural produce.
- ii) Farmers' capacity and competitiveness enhanced through capacity development models for agri-business (e.g. Farm Business Schools), namely among the youth.
- iii) Trade facilitated through enhanced biosecurity, in particular by building the capacity of relevant inspectorates.

### ***3.2.3 Priority Outcome 3: Sustainable management of land and water***

The critical natural resource inputs into the production of food and commercial crops are land and water. However, these resources are currently not sustainably managed resulting in land degradation, soil erosion, deforestation, diminishing water resources and declining biodiversity. The sustainable management of natural resources will enhance the productivity of both food and cash commodities and increase sustainability of output per unit of resource, mainly land and water, while protecting the environment.

FAO will therefore contribute towards sustainable land and water management, as well as towards the mitigation of weather variability and climatic change.

### **Major priority outputs/focused activities**

- i) Sustainable water and soil conservation and management enhanced through the promotion of conservation agriculture.
- ii) Increased area under sustainable irrigation through the Green Belt Initiative.
- iii) Programmes to meet the challenge of climate change in natural resources, the environment and the agricultural sector implemented through the promotion of farming, forestry and fishing system adaptation.

#### ***3.2.4 Priority outcome 4: Agricultural research and extension services***

Public expenditure on agricultural research and extension is currently low and major investments are needed to revitalise the research and extension services if their support for increased agricultural production is to be successful. Furthermore, international and regional as well as private technology flows need to be further integrated and used for farmers to benefit from the most appropriate technology options.

The success of these programmes will depend to a large extent on appropriate technologies being developed and used by women and men farmers. FAO will therefore support the government to strengthen technology generation (research) and technology dissemination (extension) services.

### **Major priority outputs/focused activities**

- i) Improved delivery of extension services, through capacity development of agricultural extension staff in Good Agricultural Practices.
- ii) Support to technology generation and to the sector's prioritised research agenda.

#### ***3.2.5 Priority outcome 5: Institutional strengthening and capacity building***

The successful pursuit of an agricultural programme-based approach or SWAp will require strengthening of the capacities of the MoAFS, as the lead ministry, to design and implement a coordinated investment programme. Improvements in systems and processes in programme planning, budgeting, procurement, financial management, M&E and administration will encourage donors to contribute directly to a national investment plan. Furthermore, training programmes targeting the resolution of critical gaps in technical skills will enhance the capacity of the Ministry to implement the agreed agenda. An innovative principle under the ASWAP is that capacity will be built not just in the public sector, but in partnership with community organisations, communities and the private sector.

FAO will therefore support the sector's capacity development efforts.

### **Major priority outputs/focused activities**

- i) Improved access to nationally-owned quality statistics on food and agriculture
- ii) Improved capacity in monitoring food security and nutrition data
- iii) Improved national capacity in human nutrition
- iv) Improved capacity to manage, monitor and evaluate the sector-wide approach
- v) Improve on the quality of institutional infrastructure and equipment, in particular the veterinary laboratory services and horticultural development services.

#### ***3.2.6 Priority outcome 6: HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation***

With an adult HIV prevalence of 12%, Malawi will be experiencing the impact of the pandemic for decades to come. HIV and AIDS has serious implications on agricultural development as it affects the quality and supply of labour; access to food and income; as well as the productivity of service providers and farmers in general. Although substantial progress has been made in addressing the AIDS pandemic, the key challenges remain those of reducing high risk behaviour, providing adequate nutrition for PLHIV, including those receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), and mitigating the impact of the pandemic on rural livelihoods and informal safety nets.

FAO is therefore committed to assisting the agricultural sector to mainstream HIV and AIDS into its core business to better contribute to the national AIDS response.

### **Major priority outputs/focused activities**

- i) Strengthened institutional framework for HIV/AIDS mainstreaming, in particular through the revision of the Agricultural sector Gender, HIV and AIDS Strategy.
- ii) Strengthened capacity at all levels in HIV/AIDS mainstreaming within the agricultural sector's core business.
- iii) Generation and dissemination of policy-relevant knowledge on HIV and AIDS in relation to the agricultural sector.

#### ***3.2.7 Priority outcome 7: Gender equity and empowerment***

Gender inequality remains a critical constraint to national human and economic development. Although women are the main contributors to agricultural production in the smallholder sector, gender imbalances have led to poor female participation in agricultural decision making processes, poor division of labour between men, women, boys and girls and limited access for women to resources, benefits and opportunities. Moreover, female-headed households face the worst labour shortages and the consequent food insecurity and



malnutrition.

Based on the ASWAP, the UNDAF, FAO's Gender Plan of Action (2008-2011) and Strategic Objective K (Gender Equity), FAO will contribute to women's empowerment and gender equality by mainstreaming gender throughout its work and assisting the agricultural sector to do the same.

### **Major priority outputs/focused activities**

- i) Generation and dissemination of policy-relevant knowledge on the gender dimension of agriculture.
- ii) Strengthened accountability framework for gender mainstreaming, in particular through the institutionalisation of gender auditing and gender budgeting.
- iii) Strengthened capacity at all levels in gender mainstreaming within the agricultural sector's core business.

### **3.3 Functions of FAO in assisting the Government**

FAO's basic mandate to member countries, including Malawi, is to raise the levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the economy.

With the government's commitment to making agriculture the driver of poverty reduction and economic development, the sector will have to overcome serious challenges and constraints, as well as optimise the many existing opportunities. FAO's services, especially in the areas of focused technical cooperation and capacity building, knowledge sharing, policy advice, organisation of neutral forums and networking, building partnerships including those with the private sector and NGOs, mobilisation of external resources, etc., have become increasingly important in meeting these challenges. FAO will promote the provision of these services during the implementation of the NMTPF.

In line with its own reforms (see Table 2 below) and the move from a project approach to a programme approach, FAO will refocus its assistance on technical advice and capacity development, rather than direct project implementation. This will require more technical expertise at country-level or timely missions from sub-regional, regional and headquarter offices to provide the required assistance. Another strategic priority will be to ensure the evolution of catalytic and emergency projects into nationally-owned programmes.

**Table 2: FAO's Core Functions (Medium Term Plan 2010-2014)**

- a) Providing long-term perspectives and leadership in monitoring and assessing trends in food security and agriculture, fisheries and forestry.
- b) Stimulating the generation, dissemination and application of information and knowledge, including statistics.
- c) Negotiating international instruments, setting norms, standards and voluntary guidelines, supporting the development of national legal instruments and promoting their implementation.
- d) Articulating policy and strategy options and advice.
- e) Providing technical support to:
  - promote technology transfer;
  - catalyse change; and
  - build capacity, particularly for rural institutions.
- f) Undertaking advocacy and communication, to mobilise political will and promote global recognition of required actions in areas of FAO's mandate.
- g) Bringing integrated interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to bear on the Organization's technical work and support services.
- h) Working through strong partnerships and alliances where joint action is needed.

## **4.0. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **4.1 Financial resources**

The total financial resource requirement for the implementation of NMTPF (2010 – 2015) is provisionally estimated at approximately US\$ 31,561,000, out of which approximately US\$ 8,167,000 has already been committed. The details are shown in Annex 2.

The full implementation of the NMTPF depends very much on the availability of financial resources for which various types of resources, including those from FAO's regular programme (TCP, TCP Facility), Trust Funds from external donors and the Government's budget (including Unilateral Trust Fund), should be explored and tapped.

As an immediate step, FAO's TCP resources will be utilised for the implementation of small and medium-sized national projects with a budget of up to US\$500,000 for each selected priority projects which meet TCP criteria and for a maximum of US\$ 1,500,000 per biennium (i.e. US\$ 4,500,000 for the five-year period of the NMTPF). The TCP Facility for FAOR (total budget up to US\$200,000 per biennium, or US\$ 600,000 for the period of the NMTPF) will be used for the implementation of projects, which fall under the following categories:

- rapidly solve a specific technical problem for which the expertise may not be immediately available within government services;
- formulate project proposals or documents in the areas of FAO's mandate, required for submission to potential funding sources, including to the TCP;
- prepare background documents required by the Government; and

- carry out small sector and subsector related studies or assessments as required by the Government, including facilitating field programme development and participation in related UN processes.

FAO and the Government of Malawi will jointly facilitate the mobilisation of external donor resources for funding of Trust Fund projects (which are usually larger than US\$500,000) through donor consultation and active joint resource mobilisation efforts.

FAO and the Government of Malawi will explore the potential of Unilateral Trust Fund funding using regular government resources through the ASWAP for the implementation of FAO–GoM technical cooperation projects.

#### **4.2 Coordination and implementation mechanisms including monitoring and evaluation**

The NMTPF is co-owned by the Government of Malawi and FAO and the coordination and implementation mechanism is established based on this basic principle.

The National Executive Management Committee, chaired by the Principal Secretary (PS) for Agriculture and Food Security and consisting of representatives from key line ministries/departments, is to be the overarching coordinating body of the ASWAP<sup>12</sup>, mandated to provide strategic direction and inter-ministerial coordination, oversee implementation of policy decisions, endorse annual work plans and monitor progress. In order to avoid creating parallel structures in a time of harmonisation and alignment, it is proposed that the NMPTF be coordinated as part of the ASWAP through this committee. Since FAO is not an official member of the National Executive Management Committee, FAO would be invited to the committee meetings when it discusses subjects associated with the NMTPF.

The ASWAP Partnership Forum, which reviews progress in ASWAP implementation and represents stakeholders' views at the central level, could also take decisions on the implementation of the NMTPF within the approved framework and work plan, while matters requiring policy decisions will be referred to and decided by the National Executive Management Committee.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for the priority outputs (ref. Annex 2) will be established during the first year of NMTPF implementation, and be fully aligned to the ADP indicators, with an aim to promote the effectiveness of the M&E process.

The ASWAP Secretariat consolidates annual work plans and prepares an annual implementation report within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year (July to June). This report will be based on the planning for the previous year and will explain which targets have been met, which not and why. This report will form the basis for an Annual ASWAP Review (coinciding with the Partnership Forum) to be held in September that will make a performance assessment of the Ministries and the ASWAP during the previous year,

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<sup>12</sup> Members include Principal Secretaries for Agriculture and Food Security (chair); Irrigation and Water Development; Trade and Industry; Nutrition, HIV and AIDS; Local Government and Rural Development; Gender, Children and Community Development; Finance; Development Planning and Cooperation; Land and Natural Resources.

including FAO's programmes and projects. The report will also contain financial and budget execution information.

As the aid harmonisation process is underway and as various guiding frameworks, namely the MGDS (2006-2011) and the UNDAF (2008-2011), will be reaching their term during this NMTPF period, this document should be viewed as a living document, which can be modified based on post-2011/12 national priorities. That being said, the major priority areas are not expected to change significantly, given that the new government reiterated them when it took office in June 2009 for the next 5 years.

**NMTPF 2010-2015 for Malawi**  
**Seven Priority Outcomes and their Relevance to the Government and UN Medium-term Priorities**

Priority Outcomes for FAO-Malawi Cooperation 2010-2015	Relevance to the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (2006-2011)	Relevance to UNDAF 2008-2011	Relevance to FAO Medium Term Plan (2010-2013) Strategic Objectives (SO)
<b>1. Food Security and Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Agriculture and Food Security</li> <li>• Priority 4: Integrated Rural Development</li> <li>• Priority 6: Prevention and management of nutrition disorders, HIV and AIDS</li> <li>• Theme Two, sub-theme 2: Improving disaster risk management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened Government capacity to coordinate and implement food and nutrition security policies and plans (Outcome 1.1)</li> <li>• Nutrition friendly agricultural productivity increased, especially at household level, and oriented towards commercialization (Outcome 1.2)</li> <li>• Improved nutrition outcomes for under 5 children, pregnant and lactating women, PLHIV and other at risk groups (Outcome 3.2)</li> <li>• Government will have disaster risk reduction and emergency management systems and practices for efficient response at national and sub-national levels (Outcome 2.2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable intensification of crop production (SO A)</li> <li>• Increased sustainable livestock production (SO B)</li> <li>• Sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources (SO C)</li> <li>• Improved quality and safety of food at all stages of the food chain (SO D)</li> <li>• Improved food security and better nutrition (SO H)</li> <li>• Improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies (SO I)</li> </ul>
<b>2. Commercial Agriculture, Agro-processing and Market Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Agriculture and Food Security</li> <li>• Priority 4: Integrated Rural Development</li> <li>• Theme One: Sustainable Economic Growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition friendly agricultural productivity increased, especially at household level, and oriented towards commercialization (Outcome 1.2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling environment for markets to improve livelihoods and rural development (SO G)</li> </ul>
<b>3. Sustainable Agricultural</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 2: Irrigation and Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced environmental conservation of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable management of forests</li> </ul>

<b>Land and Water Management</b>	Development	the natural resources base (Outcome 1.3)	and trees (SO E)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme One, Sub-theme 4: Conservation of the Natural Resource Base</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable management of land, water and genetic resources and improved responses to global environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture (SO F)</li> </ul>
<b>4. Technology Generation and Dissemination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Agriculture and Food Security</li> <li>• Priority 4: Integrated Rural Development</li> <li>• Priority 6: Prevention and management of nutrition disorders, HIV and AIDS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrition friendly agricultural productivity increased, especially at household level, and oriented towards commercialization (Outcome 1.2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Function B: Assembly and provision of information, knowledge and statistics</li> <li>• Core Function E: Technical support to promote technology transfer and build capacity</li> </ul>
<b>5. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Agriculture and Food Security</li> <li>• Priority 4: Integrated Rural Development</li> <li>• Priority 6: Prevention and management of nutrition disorders, HIV and AIDS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened Government capacity to coordinate and implement food and nutrition security policies and plans (Outcome 1.1)</li> <li>• Cross-cutting theme: Capacity Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased and more effective public and private investment in agriculture and rural development (SO L)</li> </ul>
<b>6. HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 6: Prevention and management of nutrition disorders, HIV and AIDS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced social and economic impact of HIV and AIDS on families and communities (Outcome 4.3)</li> <li>• Improved national and district level capacity to coordinate manage and monitor HIV responses in line with the Three Ones Principles (Outcome 4.4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equity in access to resources, goods, services and decision-making in the rural areas (SO K)</li> </ul>
<b>7. Gender equity and empowerment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme Three, Sub-theme 3: Gender</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2011, gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced (Outcome 5.3)</li> <li>• Cross-cutting theme: Gender</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender equity in access to resources, goods, services and decision-making in the rural areas (SO K)</li> </ul>

**FAO NMTPF 2010-2015 in Malawi**  
**Matrix of Major Priority Outputs, Focused Activities and Resources**

(Resources in US\$ ,000)

Major Priority Outputs	Focused Activities	Responsible Min./Dept. (Remarks)	Resources Committed	Additional Resources Required	Total Resources Planned	Source of Funding
<b>1. Food Security</b>			<b>5,736</b>	<b>8,847</b>	<b>14,683</b>	
1.1 Food security, livelihoods self-sufficiency and sustainable development in rural communities improved	a) Enhancing Food Security and Developing Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi.	MoAFS	1,100	-	1,100	Norwegian govt
	b) Improving Food Security and Nutrition Policy and Programme Outreach in Kasungu and Mzimba.	MoAFS OPC/DNHA	2,020	-	2,020	FICA
1.2 Post-harvest losses reduced	a) Recommend methodologies to estimate post-harvest losses and build the requisite capacity	MoAFS/DCP	50	50	100	TCPf
	b) Promote technologies for reducing post-harvest losses, such as metallic silos	MoAFS/DCP	-	400	400	-
	c) Support the development of a community grain storage management system	MoAFS/DCP	600	600	1,200	One UN Fund
1.3 Diversified food production and dietary diversification promoted, especially among vulnerable groups, through capacity development and technology transfer	a) Promote fruit tree propagation through the One Family One Fruit Tree approach	MoAFS	198	600	898	One UN Fund
	b) Control of Banana Bunchy Top Virus disease	MoAFS/DCP	-	489	489	-
	c) Increase the consumption of micronutrient-rich foods through production and promotion of indigenous vegetables	MoAFS/DCP	-	483	483	-
	d) Promotion of Small Stock Production for Nutrition Security and Poverty Reduction-Goats and Poultry, including among households affected by HIV and AIDS	MoAFS/DAHLD	838	1,100	1,938	One UN Fund

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	e) Support to the establishment and institutionalization of demonstration gardens and cookery demonstrations in Nutrition Rehabilitation Units, Community Therapeutic Centres and Community Home-Based Care	OPC/DNHA; MoAFS/DAES; MoH/DCN; MoGCCD/DCD	225	775	1,000	One UN Fund
	f) Scale up Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools for school-going vulnerable children	MoEST	500	1,300	1,800	One UN Fund
1.5 Fish productivity increased, through aquaculture development	a) Support to the review of the Malawi Fisheries Policy Framework	MoAFS/DF	-	350	350	-
	b) Institutional capacity building for Integrated Aquaculture development in Malawi	MoAFS/DF	-	500	500	-
	c) Support to small-scale fish farming enterprises	MoAFS/DF	31	800	831	TCP
1.6 Farmers Protected from Natural Disasters and Commodity Prices Fluctuation	a) Support disaster risk reduction efforts to protect against natural disasters and commodity price fluctuations	OPC/DoDMA	-	500	500	-
	b) Provide emergency and rehabilitation support to households affected by natural disasters	OPC/DoDMA	100	800	900	One UN Fund
	c) Strengthen institutions for risk management of transboundary animal diseases (TADs)	MoAFS/DAHLD	74	100	174	African Dev Bank
<b>2. Commercialisation</b>			<b>445</b>	<b>4,650</b>	<b>5,095</b>	
2.1 Smallholder farmers' capacity in market-oriented agro-processing enhanced, especially in cassava and	a) Enhancing Cassava-based farming systems for profitable agri-business.	MoAFS/DCP	100	1,150	1,250	One UN Fund



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horticultural produce						
2.2 Farmers' capacity and competitiveness enhanced through capacity development models for agri-business	a) Promote rural youth employment, through an adaptation of the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools	MoYSD	345	1,600	1,945	One UN Fund
	b) Promote Farm Business Schools, with a particular focus on female farmers and women's groups	MoAFS/DAES	-	1,500	1,500	-
2.3 Trade facilitated through enhanced biosecurity	a) Strengthen capacity of the Plant Protection Inspectorate in the implementation of the Plant Protection Act	MoAFS/DARS	-	400	400	-
<b>3. Natural Resource Management</b>			<b>774</b>	<b>4,033</b>	<b>4,807</b>	
3.1 Sustainable water and soil conservation and management enhanced through the promotion of conservation agriculture	a) Promote Conservation Agriculture for sustainable food production	MoAFS/DLRC	414	1,100	1,514	One UN Fund, USA, SWE
	b) Conservation of the natural resource base, increasing productivity and protecting natural resources in Machinga, Mangochi, Balaka, Kasungu	MoAFS/DLRC	360	440	800	One UN Fund
3.2 Area under sustainable irrigation increased, through the Green Belt Initiative	a) Conduct feasibility studies on potential green belt sites	MOAFS/MOIWD	-	1,000	1,000	-
	b) Prepare appropriate irrigation designs	MOAFS/MOIWD	-			-
	c) Determine the governance and institutional framework; the appropriate enterprise mix (choice of crop, livestock, fisheries); and the full investment costs for each irrigation site	MOAFS/MOIWD	-			-
	d) Prepare a comprehensive bankable programme document, which can be used for resource	MOAFS/MOIWD	-			-

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	mobilisation					
3.3 Programmes to Meet the Challenge of Climate Changes in Natural Resources, Environment and Agriculture Sector Implemented	a) Promote Citrus fruit trees, as a key to conserve biodiversity in Mwanza and Neno districts	MoAFS/DCP	-	493	493	-
	b) Joint UN programme on Climate risk management	MoLNRE/DoEA	-	1,000	1,000	-
<b>4. Technology generation and dissemination (Research &amp; Extension)</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>800</b>	
4.1 Delivery of extension services improved	a) Strengthen capacity of frontline extension staff	MoAFS/DAES	-	500	500	-
4.2 Technology generation and the sector's prioritized research agenda supported	a) Support the generation of new or adapted technologies.	MoAFS/DARS	-	100	100	-
	b) Support the sector's research agenda.	MoAFS/DARS	-	200	200	-
<b>5. Institutional strengthening and Capacity building</b>			<b>768</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>4,347</b>	
5.1 Access to nationally-owned quality statistics on food and agriculture improved	a) Support the institutionalization of COUNTRYSTAT in Malawi	NSO	50	50	100	BMG
	b) Provide capacity building to national statisticians	NSO	-	300	300	-
5.2 Capacity in monitoring food security and nutrition data improved	a) Develop a joint FAO/WFP Household Income and Food Consumption Simulation Model for Food Security Monitoring and Needs Assessment	NSO	40	60	100	Ireland
	b) Build capacity in nutrition and food security surveillance	MoAFS; OPC/DNHA	-	300	300	-

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5.3	National capacity in human nutrition developed	a)	Capacity Development in Food and Nutrition Security	OPC/DNHA; MoAFS/DAES	560	1,240	1,800	One UN Fund
		b)	Strengthen Coordination Mechanisms for Food and Nutrition Security Policies and Plans	OPC DNHA	118	382	500	One UN Fund, FMPP
5.4	Quality of institutional infrastructure and equipment improved, in particular the veterinary laboratory services and horticultural development services	a)	Strengthen the essential veterinary laboratory services in Malawi, through rehabilitation and training	MoAFS/ DAHLD	-	489	489	-
		b)	Build the capacity of staff, students and farmers to understand horticultural production, through the rehabilitation of the Horticulture and Training Centre and training	MoAFS/DCP	-	483	483	-
5.5	Capacity to manage, monitor and evaluate the sector-wide approach strengthened	a)	Support the CAADP compact signing and post-compact signing investment planning	MoAFS/DAPS	-	100	100	-
		b)	Support the Mid-term and Final Evaluation of the ASWAp	MoAFS/DAPS	-	175	175	-
<b>6. HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation</b>					<b>428</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>903</b>	
6.1	Institutional framework for HIV/AIDS mainstreaming and coordination strengthened	a)	Facilitate the development and launch of a new Agricultural sector Gender, HIV and AIDS Strategy	MoAFS/DAES	88	25	113	TCP
		b)	Support the institutionalisation of coordination mechanisms for gender, HIV and AIDS.	MoAFS/DAES	40	70	110	One UN Fund
6.2	Sector capacity in HIV/AIDS mainstreaming strengthened	a)	Support capacity development of senior managers, technical officers, district officers and frontline staff on HIV/AIDS and agriculture.	MoAFS/DAES	270	130	400	TCP
		b)	Support the incorporation of HIV/AIDS in the curricula of agricultural learning and training institutions	MoAFS/DAES	-	100	100	-

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6.3	Policy-relevant knowledge generation and dissemination	a) Support the assessment of agricultural programmes from an HIV perspective and document promising practices.	MoAFS/DAES	30	150	180	One UN Fund
<b>7. Gender equity and empowerment</b>				<b>16</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>926</b>	
7.1	Policy-relevant knowledge on the gender dimension of agriculture generated and disseminated	a) Support specific research and analysis to inform policy, programming and implementation on the gender dimension of agriculture	MoAFS/DAES	-	100	100	-
		b) Facilitate the dissemination of gender and agriculture messages and advocacy efforts to promote rural gender equality	MoAFS/DAES	-	200	200	-
7.2	Accountability framework for gender mainstreaming strengthened	a) Support the institutionalization of gender auditing, gender-responsive budget analyses and gender-responsive budget tracking in the context of the ASWAp	MoAFS/DAES	16	160	176	One UN fund
		b) Provide technical support to engendering the sector's M&E systems and tools	MoAFS/DAES	-	100	100	-
7.3	Capacity developed at all levels in gender mainstreaming within the agricultural sector's core business	a) Support capacity development in gender auditing, budgeting, analysis and mainstreaming	MoAFS/DAES	-	150	150	-
		b) Build capacity in the generation and use of sex-disaggregated data	MoAFS/DAES	-	200	200	-
<b>Total of Resources</b>				<b>8,167</b>	<b>23,294</b>	<b>31,561</b>	