



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES STRATEGY



FY 2020/21-2024/25



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"DEMAND-DRIVEN AND MARKET-LED AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES WITHIN REACH"

December, 2020



Department of Agriculture Extension Services
Ministry of Agriculture
P.O. Box 30145
Lilongwe,
MALAWI

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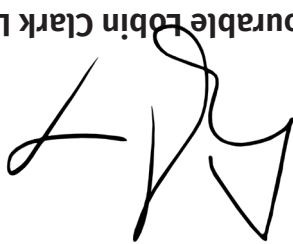
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FOREWORD

The Government of Malawi, through the Ministry of Agriculture has developed the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy to guide and inspire agriculture extension service providers and their clients in the country on planning and implementing different interventions of public importance for the transformation of the agriculture sector. Beneficiaries of this strategy include farmers of different age groups, gender, and scale; the government of Malawi, the general public, non-state actors, Farmer-Based Organisations, the private sector, and cooperating partners. This strategy has been developed through a systematic consultative and development process with the various sector stakeholders and actors.

This strategy is consistent with the Government of Malawi's commitment of transforming the agriculture sector as specified in the National Agriculture Policy (2016) and the National Agriculture Investment Plan (2017). The two documents have flagged the importance of robust and improved agriculture extension and advisory services from both public and non-state actors to achieve goals set for the agriculture sector in Malawi. I encourage all stakeholders in agriculture to make use of this strategy so that they can all facilitate the agriculture transformation agenda and move smallholder farmers from subsistence status to commercial and market-oriented status in this country.

The Ministry of Agriculture recognizes that agriculture extension is key to the attainment of the sector's aspirations and goals hence instrumental in achieving agriculture transformation. This call for a pluralistic, decentralized, inclusive and integrated agriculture extension system that serves all agriculture extension clients with appropriate services and innovative technologies. My Ministry therefore is committed to leading and sustaining the level of commitment and action required to realise the aspirations laid out in this strategy for agriculture transformation in Malawi.



Honourable Lobin Clark Lowe, MP.
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

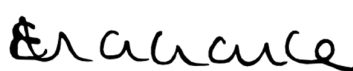
PREFACE

The majority of Malawians still continue to rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. The smallholder sub-sector plays a dominant role in crop and livestock production for national and household food, nutrition and income security. This calls for high quality agriculture extension and advisory services for increased production and productivity.

The National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy is an outcome of an extensive consultative processes that emanated from the review of the National Agriculture Extension Policy (NAEP); “Agriculture Extension in the New Millennium: Towards Pluralistic and Demand-driven Services in Malawi” that was adopted in 2000 to guide implementation of agriculture extension services in Malawi. The policy created both opportunities and challenges for public and private sector organizations to provide services to farmers of different categories and interests and diverse needs.

This strategy outlines specific approaches and strategic actions to exploit the opportunities available and to address challenges of agriculture extension experienced in the country with a view to contributing towards agriculture transformation. This strategy emphasizes building up on past successes while identifying and mitigating implementation challenges that have adversely impacted the provision of agriculture extension services in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture appreciates key roles that extension service providers play in supporting increased agriculture production and improved markets. There is need for increased and sustained funding towards scaling-up agriculture extension and advisory services in Malawi.

I therefore appeal to all stakeholders to partner with the Ministry of Agriculture support the effective implementation of the interventions outlined in this strategy document.



Erica Maganga (Mrs)

SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy is a product of a consultative process, concerted efforts and support of various organizations within the agriculture sector in Malawi. The Department of Agriculture Extension Services led the process on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) acknowledges and expresses its gratitude to all those who participated in the process, too numerous to list. Vote of thanks should go to the team of experts from various organisations for their technical reviews of the draft strategy documents. This team comprised Mr. Anderson Chikomola co-leader of the process, Mr. Kenneth Chaula, Mr. Pearson Jasi-Soko, Mr. Noel Limbani, Mrs. Sylvia Mapanje, Mrs. Martha Mwale, Mr. Blessings Susuwele, Mr. Willard Kapindu, Mr. Godfrey Liwewe, Mr. Enford Kanyimbo, Ms. Mphatso Magombo, Mr Alfred Kambwiri, Mr. Henry Msatilomo, Mr. Andrew Chamanza, Mr. Roman Malumelo, Dr. Daimon Kambewa, Dr. Kennedy Lweya, Mr. Mayamiko Kakwera, Mrs. Beatrice Makwenda, Mr. Hastings Chiwasa, Mr. Frank Tchuwa, and Mr. Ganizani Nkhwazi. Vote of thanks should also go to all the stakeholders that participated in the consultations and validation meetings for their invaluable input. PSI Consult International also deserves special mention for engaging different stakeholders during the consultative process leading to the development of the current strategy.

Special thanks should go to the Multi Donor Trust Fund through ASWAp-SP I and II managed by Word Bank for providing the technical and financial support to accomplish most of the tasks in the strategy development process. In addition, let me also extend my gratitude to the Sustainable Agriculture Productivity Programme (SAPP) and Sustainable Agriculture Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA) for technical and financial support.

Finally, but not least, the Department is grateful to Mr. Maxwel Kupatsa, Ms. Tuchitechi Hawonga, Mr. Maclean Mafubza, Mr. Matsimbe Mkambeni and Ms. E. Kazembe for their efforts in editing, type-setting and designing the current strategy.



Jerome Chim'gonda-Nkhoma, PhD.
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICES

ACRONYMS

ADD	Agriculture Development Division
AEDC	Agriculture Extension and Development Coordinator
AEDO	Agriculture Extension and Development Officer
AEAS	Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services
AGRESS	Agriculture Gender Roles Extension Support Service
ASP	Area Stakeholder Panel
ASWAp	Agriculture Sector Wide Approach
ATCC	Agriculture Technology Clearing Committee
BES	Block Extension Systems
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CISANET	Civil Society Agriculture Network
DAC	District Agriculture Committee
DADO	District Agriculture Development Officer
DAECC	District Agriculture Extension Coordinating Committee
DAES	Department of Agriculture Extension Services
DARS	Department of Agriculture Research Services
DCD	Department of Crop Development
DAHLD	Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development
DAESS	District Agriculture Extension Services System
DEC	District Executive Committee
DSP	District Stakeholder Panel
DTC	Day Training Centre
EPA	Extension Planning Area
FBO	Farmer-Based Organisation
FFS	Farmer Field School
FHA	Farm Home Assistant
FISP	Farm Input Subsidy Programme
FUM	Farmers' Union of Malawi
GFRAS	Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services
GoM	Government of Malawi
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IRDP	Integrated Rural Development Programmes
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
LUANAR	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MaFAAS	Malawi Forum for Agriculture Advisory Services
MDAs	Ministries Departments and Agencies
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MDHS	Malawi Demographic and Health Survey
MIHS	Malawi Integrated Household Survey
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
NAEASS	National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy
NAEP	National Agriculture Extension Policy
NAIP	National Agriculture Investment Plan
NASFAM	National Association of Smallholder Farmers in Malawi
NAP	National Agriculture Policy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NRDP	National Rural Development Programme
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSP	National Stakeholder Panel
PEA	Participatory Extension Approach
RDP	Rural Development Project
RTC	Residential Training Centre
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programmes
SHEP	Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion
T&V	Training & Visit System
TOR	Terms of Reference

OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES STRATEGY

The National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (NAEASS) for Malawi has been developed to strengthen effectiveness of pluralistic, demand-driven and market-led agriculture extension and advisory services with a view to contributing towards agriculture transformation for food, income, and nutritional security in Malawi. The goal of this strategy is to enhance adoption of improved agriculture technologies, practices and methods to achieve food, income and nutrition security for sustainable socioeconomic growth and development of Malawi in the context of climate change. The strategy was developed in stages, which included: desk reviews, consultative meetings with various stakeholders, and validation workshops.

The NAEASS is aligned to relevant prevailing agriculture sector policies and strategies. It outlines specific actions for addressing challenges affecting agriculture extension and advisory services. The following are key policy instruments to which the NAEASS is aligned: The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) and other Agriculture related policies and strategies that prioritise agriculture as the engine for socio-economic transformation in Malawi.

The strategy recognises that agriculture extension and advisory services have wider scope spanning from supporting food security interventions to market competitiveness for commercial agriculture in a holistic and integrated manner. In this regard, the strategy shifts the agenda of agriculture extension and advisory services from a biased and exclusive focus on agriculture production to a broader range of services relating to demand-driven production, marketing, savings and credit, natural resource management, nutrition, climate change adaptation, youth and gender mainstreaming.

The NAEASS is anchored on four strategic pillars that draw-out and address specific areas of focus in agriculture extension and advisory services. The pillars aim at articulating an implementation framework that complements agreed principles and core values. The pillars are as follows:

- Pillar 1: Human, Institutional and Organizational Capacity.
- Pillar 2: Decentralized Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services.
- Pillar 3: Innovation and Learning.
- Pillar 4: Sustainable Financing of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy.

The NAEASS is guided by the following principles: a) holistic and inclusiveness; b) responsiveness and accountability; c) accessibility; d) regulation and coordination; e) sustainability; and f) mainstreaming cross-cutting and multi-sectoral issues.

The strategy defines clear roles and technical coordination mechanisms among Ministry of Agriculture technical departments, NGOs, the private sector as well as farmer organizations. The MoA shall play a critical role in facilitating coordination, collaboration and stronger linkages among extension service providers and other actors of the innovation system. The ministry, through the Department of Agriculture Extension Services shall define the relationships of actors for the innovation system, especially research,

input suppliers, financial and marketing institutions. Through its structures, the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) shall be responsible for providing guidance on agriculture extension and advisory services delivery under the decentralized arrangements in place in all districts in Malawi. The major roles of the private sector actors, NGOs and farmer organisations shall include financing and providing agriculture extension and advisory services to farmers and other actors in the agriculture value chains to compliment efforts and interventions of public service providers. It is envisaged that agriculture extension services from the private sector will support the agriculture commercialization agenda in the country.

The National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy has a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System (MEALS) for its effective monitoring. The system will be implemented to track and report progress on the various indicators as reflected in the Results Framework of the current strategy. This strategy will be evaluated periodically to generate lessons for progressive changes and addressing issues affecting implementation of the strategy in the process.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services have potential to spur agriculture development in Malawi. The services play critical roles of availing farmers and other clients appropriate and relevant agriculture technologies and information besides encouraging good agriculture practices through implementing innovative approaches and strategies with a view to attaining food, income and nutrition security in the country. Despite the importance of agriculture extension and advisory services, the services have not inspired the much anticipated development in the agriculture sector in Malawi owing to challenges that have rocked agriculture extension services in the country.

Important challenges that have impacted provision of agriculture extension and advisory services and slowed down agriculture transformation drive in Malawi include: weak regulatory framework for agriculture extension and advisory services; limited engagement of clients in technology generation; management and use at different levels; poor coordination, collaboration and accountability among agriculture extension and advisory services providers. With introduction of pluralism in services provision in Malawi, quality assurance in agriculture extension and advisory services has been a very big challenge. This has compromised effectiveness of agriculture extension and advisory services.

Notwithstanding, the challenges experienced and cited in the foregoing; there are opportunities for agriculture extension and advisory service providers to deliver on expectations from clients and the country. Important opportunities include: the growing interest by organisations and cooperating partners to support provision of extension services in the country; enabling policy environment; available professional capacity, and willingness of farmers to participate in agriculture development programmes and projects. Agriculture extension and advisory services can therefore make significant contributions towards agriculture transformation in Malawi with strategic direction that can guide exploitation of the available opportunities to address the current host of challenges rocking the services and achieve agriculture transformation objectives in the country. This strategy provides service providers, farmers and stakeholders in agriculture with a framework for coordinating and harmonising interventions and for guiding stakeholder collaboration in order to make agriculture extension and advisory services more responsive to diverse farmer and market needs and demands with a view to facilitating agriculture transformation.

1.1. Background

1.1.1 Broader Context of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

Agriculture remains the key sector of Malawi's economy. It is vital for the livelihoods of most Malawians. Agriculture is important for household and national food, income and nutrition security. The sector generates 29% of GDP, 65% of employment, and 67% of export earnings. However, the agriculture sector operates far below its potential owing to a number of challenges. One of the challenges is limited extension services for the smallholder sector and lack of dedicated extension and advisory services for the commercial agriculture sector in the country.

Malawi has registered over 30,000 estates on one million hectares. Estates in the country focus on high-value cash crops for export such as: tea, sugar, tobacco, coffee and macadamia. On the other hand, the country has a record of over 4.2

million smallholder farmers on 3.3 million hectares under communal land tenure; with an average land holding size of 0.4 hectares. The dual nature of the sector has investment implications for different interventions and most important for agriculture extension and advisory services.

The agriculture sector has a number of opportunities such as growing interest by organisations to invest and support agriculture commercialization, abundant water resources in some parts of the country, conducive policy environment, and hardworking farming population. However, the sector also faces a number of challenges including low productivity due to over dependence on rain-fed farming, low uptake of improved technologies, insufficient technology development. Furthermore, the sector also has weak agricultural extension services, weak farmer organizations, high transportation costs for farm inputs and outputs, inadequate and inefficient inputs and output markets, as well as limited access to agricultural credit and market information.

Efforts to commercialize the sector have been constrained by weak private sector participation, low investment in the sector, as well as low levels of mechanization along value chains including: production, harvesting, storage, processing and other forms of value addition. Despite Malawi's boasting the existence of various policies guiding the sector, implementation of the policies is generally weak and such that stakeholders barely engage, link-up and coordinate on different interventions in the agriculture sector. The policies have also failed to guide delivery of quality and relevant agriculture extension and advisory services. In addition, the policies have not stimulated increased and coordinated financing of agriculture extension and advisory services.

The situation described in the foregoing underscore the need for agriculture extension and advisory services to ensure that farmers of all gender groups and scale access information and messages in good agriculture practices to inspire contribution of the agriculture extension subsector to agriculture development. The National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy for Malawi has been developed to achieve efficiency and effectiveness of pluralistic, demand-driven agriculture extension and advisory services from 2020 to 2025.

1.1.2 National Policy Context

This strategy has been aligned to prevailing relevant policies and other strategies in Malawi. It has also drawn from specific strategies that directly influence agriculture extension and advisory services. These include; the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, the National Agriculture Policy, the National Agriculture Investment Plan, the Agriculture Sector Gender and HIV and AIDS strategy, the Farmer Organisation Development Strategy, the National

Agribusiness Strategy, the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy, the Cooperative Development Policy, the Decentralisation Policy and the 1998 Local Government Act. All these policy instruments prioritise agriculture as the engine for socio-economic transformation.

1.2. Approach and process of developing the current Strategy

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) through the Department of Agriculture Extension Services (DAES) led the process of developing the NAEASS. The strategy has been developed in four broad stages that encompassed desk reviews and consultative meetings. The desk review involved detailed review of the 2000 National Agriculture Extension Policy (NAEP) to assess its implementation performance. The review focused on establishing the extent to which the policy changed the extension approach from supply-driven to demand-driven services and how decentralisation of the extension services increased farmer participation in the decision-making process and in accessing the services.

A comparative review of the National Agriculture Extension Policy was done through case studies from Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Uganda and Rwanda to draw lessons and experiences. Analysis of experiences of the selected study African countries that have implemented reforms on agriculture extension and advisory services provision, broadened the base of ideas for consideration in the current strategy. Key lessons drawn from the case studies were as follows:

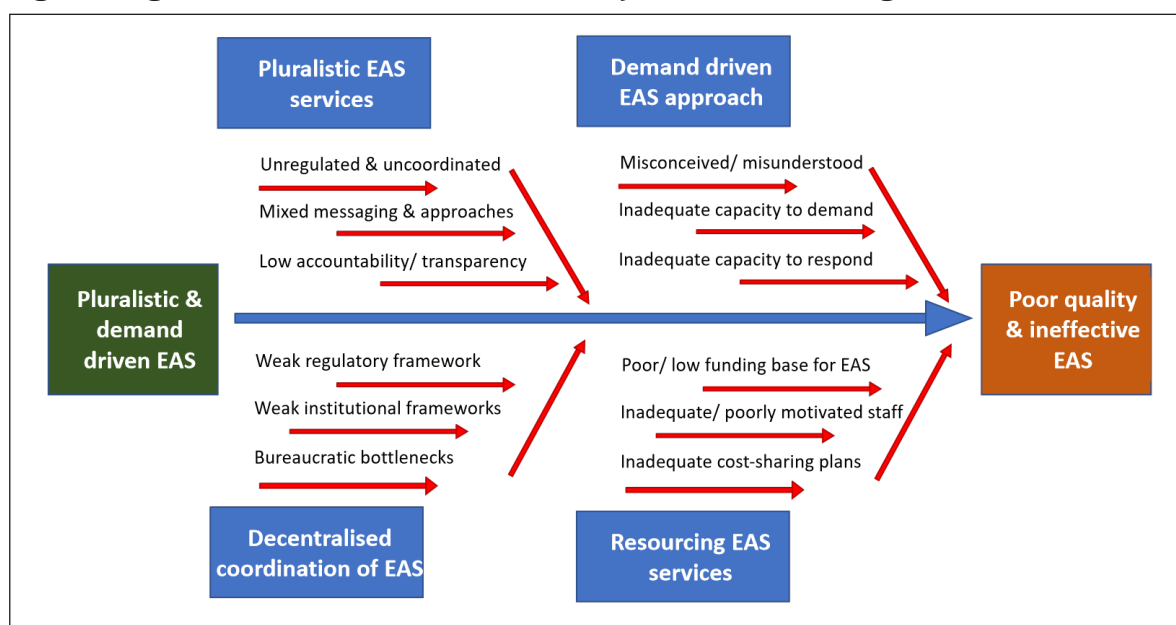
- Countries studied have developed comprehensive agriculture extension systems that are grounded on sound guiding principles consistent with pluralism in provision of demand-driven agriculture extension services in decentralised set-ups.
- The case study countries have developed and are able to maintain a level of professional capacity to provide quality agriculture extension services that are bearing positive results.
- Full ownership of extension service programmes by key actors and reconciliation of differences in values between development partners and governments.
- Implementation of inclusive institutional reform programs that with large-scale implementation commitments and consensus-building have ensured commitments to support service delivery by key actors at national level.

In the processes of developing the current strategy, stakeholders in Malawi debated and adapted some of the strategies employed by countries whose cases were analysed and had registered some success in service provision at the time of consultations. The Strategy was validated by all stakeholders who participated in the consultative processes. Following the validation workshop, multidisciplinary team of experts refined the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Draft Strategy. The experts were drawn from government departments and agencies; NGOs; private sector and development partners and farmer organisations. Results of the consultative processes have informed the current strategy document.

1.3. Current Situation of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services in Malawi

The frame of reference for agriculture extension and advisory services analysis in Malawi comprised the seven guiding principles of the Agriculture Extension Policy of 2000. The principles are: Pluralism, Demand-driven services, Accountability, Those who benefit pay, Resource sustainability, Equalisation, and Decentralised Coordination. The analysis focused on relevant policy documents that identify agriculture extension and advisory services as being integral to achievement of their objectives such as the National Agriculture Policy, the National Agriculture Investment Plan and the Decentralisation Policy. The NAP for instance recognises dissemination of agriculture information and innovations as the prime responsibility of agriculture extension. Figure 1 depicts the interrelationships of the principles of the Agriculture Extension Policy of 2000 and how they impacted on effectiveness and quality of agriculture extension and advisory services. The figure also depicts policy shortfalls that constrain effective services delivery to clients in Malawi.

Figure 1 Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services challenges in Malawi



1.3.1 Regulatory Framework for Agriculture Extension Services in Malawi

Enabling policy environment is critical for increased investment and efficiency of service providers and institutions in extension service delivery in Malawi. In addition, policy coherence across various sectors and departments is crucial for effective agriculture extension and advisory services delivery. Malawi acknowledges that enabling business environment is an important driving force for agriculture transformation. Among others, government policies and regulations have played key roles in shaping the business environment through their impacts on costs, risks and barriers to competition for various players in the value chains and have also challenged agriculture growth. In Malawi, various studies have demonstrated that policies and regulations are characterised by high spatial stickiness. This suggests that they cannot flow easily across the country especially to the district and local structures, which results in weak implementation. Furthermore, unpredictability of the regulatory framework and business environment puts stakeholders, especially the private sector in a difficult situation to optimize their productive decisions and investments.

Besides that, inadequate and non-supportive regulatory framework for agriculture extension and advisory services has contributed to poor performance of the agriculture sector. There is currently no legal instrument empowering the Department of Agriculture Extension Services to enforce guidelines and standards for the provision of quality and professional agriculture extension and advisory services. The effect of this gap has been non-compliance by a number of organisations providing agriculture extension and advisory services, who have failed to live up to expectations of professional service provision. The direct impact on the agriculture sector has been low productivity for most crop and livestock enterprises, which is generally below their potential. This underscores the need to enact an Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Act to help enforce standards in agriculture extension services investment and provision that can inspire increased agriculture productivity in Malawi.

1.3.2 Coordination of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

The Decentralization Policy (1997), Local Government Act (1998), Extension Policy (2000) and NAP (2016), call for strengthened and decentralized coordination in the provision of agriculture extension and advisory services. Following these policies, Malawi has experienced an influx of agriculture extension and advisory service providers, where on average a typical district has 20 service providers, with ranges from 15 to 50 service providers per district. However, these stakeholders are uncoordinated. The presence and participation of uncoordinated multiple players has created challenges to maintain coherence and quality in delivery of agriculture extension and advisory services. The poor coordination has, among others, led to development and use of conflicting approaches and messages. In addition, there is weak coordination and collaboration between extension, research and markets. This strategy therefore promotes strengthened coordination of service providers and stronger linkages among research, extension, markets and farmers in Malawi.

1.3.3 Institutional and organizational capacity for agriculture extension

Institutions for supply and demand of agriculture extension and advisory services in Malawi include public, non-state actors, farmers and academia. The institutions use agriculture extension operational structures at local level under the District Agriculture Extension Services System (DAESS). There is no functional agriculture extension structure at national level linked directly with DAESS structures. This poses challenges of coordination and harmonization between national based structures and district-based on matters on services provision more especially priorities and needs of farmers in different districts. This gap results in delivery of top-down services because of lack of understanding of farmers issues and lack of feedback from farmers due to the absence of formal engagement between national level decision-makers and district-based actors. As such this strategy has provided for the establishment of a national level structure to leverage coordination with significant representation from district-based structures for articulation and feedback purposes of district and nation-wide aspirations and experiences with service provision respectively.

Whilst institutions for delivering agriculture extension and advisory services are in place, Malawi agriculture extension and advisory service providers are challenged by few well-trained staff, limited staffing, and non-participation of private sector extension service providers. Further to this, farmers are not adequately capacitated to demand agriculture extension and advisory services hence reinforcing the top-down mentality among service providers.

Provision of agriculture extension and advisory services by public and private actors is also affected by the poor working environment culminating from limited access to basic amenities such as housing, schools, hospitals, electricity, roads and mobility in the public sector. Public frontline extension workers are not motivated to stay and work in the rural areas thereby depriving farmers of agriculture extension and advisory services. This strategy has provided for actions to address this situation.

1.3.4 Ethical erosion in Agriculture Extension and Advisory services

Ethics are at the centre of professionalism in any trade, and agriculture extension is not an exception in Malawi. Services providers, agents, clients, and farmers have to uphold ethics to be able to build trust among them. Agriculture extension and advisory services are self-incentivised because clients appreciate the value and impact of agriculture extension and advisory services on them and the society they belong to when the services are ethically delivered and with efficiency. However, ethics seem to be eroded in a number of agriculture extension service providers in Malawi. There are experiences of suspicious actions at organizational level where one sees organisations buying participation of farmers in the implementation of its interventions. Such actions are detrimental to agriculture extension as they have eroded the sense of commitment and the self-help spirit. This has resulted in lack of both ownership and sustainability of agriculture development interventions by farmers in Malawi. Cases of farmers demanding compensation for participating in agriculture extension interventions are common in some districts that have been hosting so many service providers. This has resulted from the fact that service providers are accountable more to their financiers than clients or farmers. Some service providers buy participation of farmers to outcompete others in terms of patronage of their activities so they can show-off their financiers for more resources. This is undesirable in Malawi and is partly responsible for slow progress in agriculture development. This strategy has provided for redress of the current situation with strategic actions to be implemented by stakeholders and the government.

1.3.5 Agriculture Extension Approaches and Methods Pluralism

In keeping with the principle of pluralism in the provision of agriculture extension and advisory services in Malawi, several approaches and methods are in use by various agriculture extension services providers. In principle, this presents clients and especially farmers with a basket of approaches and methods to access agriculture extension and advisory services through a wide range of approaches in the country. However, in practice pluralism of approaches and methods has not benefitted farmers significantly because of limited validation and adaption of the extension approaches and methods. This has led some service providers to use approaches that are technically wanting and conflicting. In view of this Malawi needs to promote innovativeness and coordinate extension approaches and methods that are technically sound, ethical and relevant to farmers' varying situations including the unprecedented farmer population growth rates. This strategy advocates promotion of innovative approaches, including ICT-based extension approaches.

1.3.6 Financing Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

Agriculture extension and advisory services have gained currency in Malawi in terms of number of players expressing interest to provide the services. Agriculture extension policy orientation has partly influenced this development. There is relative ease of entry in the agriculture extension subsector in Malawi because of weak regulatory mechanisms. Relatively having more service providers in principle suggests relatively, more financial and other resources available for use. However, the practical picture of financing agriculture extension services in this country is not clear different because it is difficult to get details of budgets dedicated to agriculture extension and advisory services with organisations apart from the government where budgets are easily accessible.

In Malawi, the general trend is that the public sector agriculture extension and advisory services are poorly funded and not prioritized at project, programme, district and national budgets except in few projects implemented through the government system. Other associated challenges are limited coordination of resources for agriculture extension and advisory services and farmer payment systems for the services particularly for underdeveloped agriculture value chains. In cases where clients of agriculture extension and advisory services pay for the services transparency, accountability and governance have emanated as challenges.

The government has been providing limited financing to agriculture extension and advisory services over the years because of competing needs for same resources. This has been manifested in limited service delivery, inadequate maintenance of extension workers' offices, houses, limited staff capacity building, low provision of portable water, no access to electricity, and poor means of transport for staff especially at grass-root level. Some non-state actors have not been crystal clear about budgets they dedicate to agriculture extension and advisory services' operations. Lack of openness has triggered questions of transparency and accountability by the service providers. The uncertainty of available finances from some stakeholders has in practice over the years challenged overall planning for service provision at all levels in Malawi.

1.3.7 Food and Nutrition Security

Despite agriculture extension services being key to addressing food and nutrition insecurity, malnutrition, stunting and wasting remain common challenges in Malawian communities. Usually agriculture programmes fail to mainstream nutrition interventions resulting in poor access and availability of nutrient dense foods. Worse more, not all households have the right information about quality food and nutrition. This strategy unmask the role of extension in preventive malnutrition and attaining food and nutrition security.

1.3.8 Gender, HIV and Youth participation in Agriculture Extension

About 70% of fulltime farmers in Malawi are women and produce 80% of food for home consumption. However, women and the youth, compared to men, have low access to and control over agriculture production resources and services such as extension, farm implements, technology and inputs, land, credit. Furthermore, the participation of women in decision making in the agriculture organizations and institutions is also limited. The situation is even worse among the youth whose participation in agriculture is limited partly due to the unattractive nature of the sector. Another challenge in the delivery of agricultural extension and advisory services has been HIV and AIDs pandemic that has affected both staff and the farming community. This strategy will promote a gender and youth sensitive approaches in the provision of agricultural extension and advisory services.

1.3.9 Climate change and Variability, and agriculture extension

Climate change and variability continue to pose threats to agriculture production and food security. Farmers and stakeholders have limited capacity to make appropriate decisions for their farming enterprises in the face of these challenges. Agriculture extension and advisory services play an important role in helping farmers to make informed decisions and choose plausible options that respond to the climatic conditions in line with their different contexts and risks. In addition to challenges associated with climate change, Malawi faces serious land degradation resulting in low agriculture productivity. The critical role for extension is to promote sustainable best land management practices. This strategy prioritises integration of climate change and variability interventions in agriculture extension and advisory services in Malawi.

1.3.10 Agriculture Commercialization and Agribusiness Management

In Malawi, agriculture commercialization remains largely undeveloped mainly because more emphasis has been placed on improving agriculture productivity with little or no emphasis on strategic agribusiness development. This is also constrained by poor market systems where trading of most agriculture commodities is done through unstructured and unregulated markets usually offered to the market in raw form. This strategy proposes to organise farmers, build their capacity to effectively participate in the value chains. The strategy further encourages provision of agriculture extension to emerging and commercial farmers to improve the capacity to produce for the market and enhance agribusiness in Malawi.

1.4. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services in Malawi

Different analyses from studies of agriculture extension in Malawi have uncovered opportunities and challenges affecting agriculture extension. While the opportunities provide hope of advancement in service provision, the challenges threaten achievement of some objectives of agriculture extension. This strategy provides for actions of mitigating against the threats towards achievement of agriculture extension objectives while leveraging on the opportunities.

1.4.1 Strengths of the Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services subsector

- Functional agriculture extension and advisory system that provides for support of both programming and delivery of agriculture extension and advisory services in Malawi.
- Availability of institutional arrangements to support both planning and implementation of agriculture extension and advisory services in the country. The institutional arrangements include Agriculture Development Divisions (ADDs), District Agriculture Development Offices for each District Council, Extension Planning Areas (EPAs), and Agriculture sections with some office space, means of transport and some equipment for use.
- Availability of structures to support the agriculture extension systems at decentralized levels. National Stakeholder Panel (NSP), District Agriculture Extension Coordinating Committee (DAECC), District Stakeholder Panel (DSP), Area Stakeholder Panel (ASP), Village Agriculture Committees (VACs). For planning, coordination and implementation of extension interventions in Malawi.
- Availability of highly qualified personnel with some stakeholders such as government and some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to drive the agenda of agriculture development hence extension and advisory services in the country.
- Availability of many agriculture extension service providers serving different clients in different parts of the country avails farmers with a broad range of options.
- Availability of knowledgeable, skilled and experienced personnel in some organisations to lobby, advocate, mobilise variety of resources for instance: human, financial, material resources for agriculture extension and advisory services.
- Institutionalised agriculture extension approaches and techniques for reaching out to farmers. These include: The Model Village Approach, Household Hold Approach, Integrated Household Farming Approach, Lead Farmer Approach, techniques such as Farmer Field School, Farm Business School.

1.4.2 Weaknesses in the Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services subsector

- Overreliance on interpersonal engagement approaches compounded with few extension workers and limited skills and knowledge for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for extension.
- Limited qualified personnel in some specialized fields such as agribusiness for most of the agriculture extension service providers and limited technical capacity by most NGOs who do not employ extension personnel or employ unqualified personnel for extension workers.
- Inadequate and poor means of transport for most of the extension personnel to serve clients efficiently and effectively especially public extension personnel.
- Lack of a system of incentivising agriculture extension personnel especially public extension workers in Malawi.
- Inadequate financing for agriculture extension and advisory services provision especially in the public sector.
- Weak regulatory framework for extension and advisory service in the country resulting in poor quality agriculture extension services by some service providers.
- Weak research-extension-farmer linkage in the country has implications for relevance of technology generation. Some technologies generated are irrelevant to farmers' needs in the country.

1.4.3 Opportunities for Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

- An enabling policy environment supporting agriculture extension services development in the country, National Agriculture Policy, National Agriculture Investment Plan, Agriculture Extension Policy, Agriculture Sector Gender, HIV and AIDS Strategy, Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy, Decentralisation Policy, National Youth Policy, Gender Policy, National Multi-Sector Nutrition Policy. All the prelisted policy instruments leverage provision of agriculture extension and advisory services strategy.
- Availability of value addition infrastructure like warehouses, agro processing units with some organisations like cooperative is a big opportunity for agribusiness development.
- Availability of irrigation infrastructure for agribusiness development with increased enterprise production.
- Political will to transform agriculture extension and advisory services in the country.
- Development partner willingness to support agriculture extension and advisory services in the country.
- Development programmes and projects designed to promote agriculture extension and advisory services in the country.

1.4.4 Threats to Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

- Unreliable markets for agriculture produce and high volatility of agricultural commodity prices jeopardises agribusiness development in the country.
- Limited financial facilities for farmers and poor access to agriculture finance can challenge the zeal to increase agribusiness investment.
- Relatively attractive extension personnel conditions of service by other development organisations than the public services may lead to brain drain from the public agriculture extension service agencies which is the main service provider in the country.
- Climate variability has potential to challenge and discourage efforts in agriculture extension and advisory services in Malawi.

In this strategy, it is acknowledged that delivery of agriculture extension and advisory services has the foregoing strengths and opportunities for further development and faces the highlighted weaknesses and threats that can constrain success of the agriculture extension sub-sector. This strategy provides for actions of mitigating against the threats towards achievement of agriculture extension objectives while leveraging on the opportunities.

1.5. Rationale for the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy

Agriculture extension and advisory services in Malawi are faced with a number of challenges which include; poor coordination and collaboration, poor linkages with research, weak regulatory framework, limited financing, lack of standardised extension messages, poor infrastructure, poor access to information, and low capacity of extension workers as well as of farmers to demand quality extension services. While the country has a lot of innovations in relation to agriculture extension services, it still faces the challenge of how to integrate, package and promote them for effective service delivery. These challenges have resulted in slow agriculture transformation. Agriculture extension and advisory services have been identified as a crucial component for agricultural development in the country. This underscores the need to have a robust extension strategy that can guide implementation of pluralistic and demand-driven extension and advisory services efficiently and effectively for agriculture transformation in Malawi. This among others shall call for capacity development of farmers to demand extension services.

The strategy is premised on the understanding that agriculture extension and advisory services are wide in scope. They do not only support food security interventions but also market competitiveness for commercial agriculture in a holistic and integrated manner. The strategy shifts widens the focus of agriculture extension and advisory services from a biased and exclusive focus on agriculture supply-driven crop production to a broader range of services supporting other enterprises as livestock and horticulture, and to demand-driven production, marketing, savings and credit, natural resource management, nutrition, climate change adaptation, youth and gender mainstreaming.

The current strategy also defines technical coordination mechanisms and clear roles among MoA technical departments, NGOs, the private sector as well as farmers and farmer organizations. A results framework has been developed to facilitate subsequent monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the strategic innovations and interventions.

2.0 STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN MALAWI

The new direction for Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy in Malawi is: first to reform the system and approaches of providing services from predominantly interpersonal engagements to embrace Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for wider and faster outreach services in a collaborative and coordinated manner. The second dimension is; to provide services that address needs and wants of both smallholder and commercial farmers of all gender groups, particularly women, and all ages, including the youth, and all actors across agriculture value chains. The third dimension is; to provide quality agriculture extension and advisory services by using acceptable standards and professionally trained agriculture extension personnel for agriculture commercialisation and transformation in Malawi.

2.1. Vision

The vision of the agriculture extension and advisory services sub-sector is: “All small, medium, and large-scale farmers and all actors across agriculture value chains in Malawi are accessing demand-driven and market-led agriculture extension and advisory services from professional and competent service providers”.

2.2. Mission

The mission of agriculture extension and advisory service providers is: To provide farmers of all gender groups and scale, legal ages especially the youth and other clients with pluralistic, demand-driven, and market-led quality agriculture extension and advisory services in a professional and efficient manner using acceptable systems and approaches.

2.3. Strategic Goal

To contribute to agriculture transformation through the use of gender sensitive approaches, research-proven models, promotion of Good Agriculture Practices for improved food, income and nutrition security in Malawi.

2.4. Strategic Objectives

- a. To build capacity of farmers and other value chain players in agriculture extension and advisory services.
- b. To establish a well-coordinated, harmonized, pluralistic agriculture extension delivery system.
- c. To develop a sustainable mechanism for promoting Good Agriculture Practices to farmers of all gender groups including the youth and other actors along agriculture value chains.
- d. To develop sustainable funding mechanisms for effective delivery of agriculture extension and advisory services.

2.5. Guiding Principles

The National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy is guided by the following principles:

- **Holistic Approach and inclusiveness:** This principle recognizes developmental commitments and obligations regarding issues of gender, people with disabilities, the youth, HIV and AIDS, climate change and nutrition which have direct impact on provision of agriculture extension and advisory services. This principle is designed to promote equalization by ensuring that all gender groups and segments of society access agriculture extension and advisory services along value chains from production to consumption.
- **Responsiveness and accountability:** This principle is designed to ensure that agriculture extension and advisory services provision is done in response to farmers' demands and that service providers are accountable to the service users.
- **Decentralized, Demand and Market-led services:** This principle promotes establishment of decentralized extension structures that are empowered to facilitate identification and addressing of farmers' needs in response to the domestic and external markets. This also implies that public and private research service providers develop user friendly, demand and market-led and client oriented agriculture innovations.
- **Accessibility:** This principle supports the development and use of innovative approaches and methods to make agriculture extension and advisory services easily accessible to all clients particularly farmers of all gender and age groups.
- **Coordination and Collaboration:** This principle recognizes the importance of proper coordination of interventions from different stakeholders and collaboration among innovation developers, users, and public and private service providers to reduce inefficiencies in agriculture extension and advisory services provision.
- **Quality and Regulation:** This principle advocates provision of quality services and ensures that agriculture extension and advisory services are regulated with clear code of practice, standards and accreditation for impact in Malawi.
- **Sustainability of services:** This principle ensures that agriculture extension and advisory services are sustainable for progressive changes. This advocates comprehensive mainstreaming and capacity building of extension personnel on new innovations, approaches and methods for them to be able to manage them alone. The principle further calls for ownership and contributions towards services provision. It also ensures that farmers participate and own extension through vibrant farmer organizations. It also recognizes the need for provision of sustainable financing mechanisms for agriculture extension and advisory services.

2.6. Strategic Outcomes

The National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- i. Improved human capacity of all players supplying and demanding agriculture extension and advisory services in the agricultural value chains.
- ii. Improved institutional and organisational capacity for responsive agriculture extension and advisory services.
- iii. Strengthened regulatory framework for agriculture extension and advisory services.
- iv. Functional decentralised system in the delivery of agriculture extension and advisory services.
- v. Empowered communities and household members of all gender groups driving social economic development.
- vi. Improved mainstreaming of Nutrition, HIV, Climate Change interventions in agriculture extension and advisory services.
- vii. Increased utilization of innovative, effective and appropriate methodologies, approaches and messages in agriculture extension and advisory services.
- viii. Improved agriculture extension and advisory services monitoring, evaluation and learning system.
- ix. Increased and sustainable financing of agriculture extension and advisory services.

2.7. Strategic Pillars of the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy

The NAEASS is founded on four strategic pillars that address specific areas of focus in agriculture extension and advisory services as expressed by stakeholders following consultations, literature review and studies. These pillars aim to articulate an implementation framework that complements agreed principles. The four pillars of the NAEASS are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Strategic Pillars and Outcomes for NAEASS

ID	Pillar	Outcomes
1	Human, Institutional and Agriculture Extension Organisational Capacity	Outcome 1: Improved human capacity of all players demanding and providing agriculture extension and advisory services in the agriculture value chains. Outcome 2: Improved institutional and organisational capacity for responsive agriculture extension and advisory services.
2	Decentralised agriculture extension, advisory and support services	Outcome 3: Strengthened regulatory framework for agriculture extension and advisory services. Outcome 4: Functional decentralised system in the delivery of agriculture extension and advisory services. Outcome 5: Improved mainstreaming of gender including the youth in agriculture extension and advisory services. Outcome 6: Improved mainstreaming of Nutrition, HIV, Climate Change interventions in agriculture extension and advisory services.
3	Innovation, Learning and Agriculture Transformation	Outcome 7: Increased utilisation of innovative, effective and appropriate approaches, methods and messages in agriculture extension and advisory services. Outcome 8: Improved agriculture extension and advisory services monitoring, evaluation and learning system
4	Sustainable Financing of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services	Outcome 9: Increased and sustainable financing of agriculture extension and advisory services.

3.0 STRATEGIC PILLARS, OUTCOMES AND INTERVENTIONS

Pillar 1: Human, Institutional and Agriculture Extension Organisational Capacity

Outcome 1: Improved human capacity of all players demanding and providing agriculture extension and advisory services in the agricultural value chains

In pursuit of this outcome, the strategy shall enhance skills and knowledge of extension service providers and farmers; existing innovations will be promoted among the agriculture extension and advisory services actors. The outcome will also work on incentivizing agriculture extension and advisory services and improving its inclusivity. This is in line with the realization that the functionality of agriculture extension and advisory services requires that there be improved human capacity.

Intervention 1.1: Enhance capacity of state and non-state extension actors in the provision of agriculture extension and advisory services

Periodic capacity assessment for service providers will be conducted to identify capacity gaps on technologies, good agriculture practices, extension methods and approaches. Service delivery institutions will develop comprehensive long and short-term training programmes to address the capacity gaps. In addition, refresher courses, need based international and local exchange and learning visits will be periodically conducted to enhance staff knowledge and skills on implementation of various technologies, good agriculture practices, extension methods and approaches. Staff capacity on use of ICT based extension methods will be enhanced to use a variety of technologies such as phone, radio, and television.

Intervention 1.2: Improve productive capacity of farmers for all gender groups and categories

Comprehensive capacity assessments will be conducted to identify needs of farmers of all gender groups and categories. Tailor-made trainings and linkages to relevant service providers, financial services, inputs and output markets will be conducted using innovative approaches and methods.

Intervention 1.3: Promote availability and use of innovations in agriculture extension

The strategy will create and promote an environment for farmers, researchers, extension experts and other extension actors to co-generate, validate, out-scale and upscale innovations. The intervention will specifically build the capacity of the actors of innovation platforms under DAESS to spearhead their role in innovation generation and use. Functional DAESS platforms will become community learning hubs through which various solutions can be collectively innovated, prototyped and out-scaled.

Intervention 1.4: Incentivise Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services.

The strategy will revitalise the inherent value of agriculture extension and advisory services by ensuring that the services are appropriate and beneficial to the clients. The strategy will also enforce provision of agriculture extension and advisory services, which respect the needs of farmers and clients. Farmers and clients will be engaged to reorient them on the importance of agriculture extension and advisory services and their participation to agriculture extension and advisory services activities for their livelihoods.

Outcome 2: Improved institutional and organisational capacity for responsive Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

As part of this strategy, this outcome aims at institutionalising structures for coordinating agriculture extension and advisory services at all levels and developing vibrant farmer organisations and youth clubs. The outcome also aims at professionalising agriculture extension and advisory services and revitalising delivery of institutional training programmes for staff and farmers by agriculture extension and advisory services actors. It also ensures improved working and living conditions for agriculture extension and advisory services providers.

Intervention 2.1: Improve working and living conditions of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services workers

The strategy will ensure improved working and living conditions for agriculture extension and advisory services workers especially at grass-root level. Capacity of District Councils will be improved in order for the councils to be responsive to infrastructure and material demands of the agriculture extension and advisory services workers. State and non-state actors will be expected to construct and rehabilitate staff houses, offices and farmer training centers wherever need arises. They will also ensure provision of working equipment, transportation, and protective clothing.

Intervention 2.2: Revitalise delivery of institutional training programmes for extension personnel and farmers

The strategy will ensure intensified provision of training programmes to staff and farmers. Training institutions, both formal and informal will be capacitated to develop tailor made training programmes for both staff and farmers. The strategy shall also ensure that staff undergo short term, long term and professional training for career development.

Intervention 2.3: Develop vibrant Farmer Organisations and Agro-based Youth clubs

The strategy will ensure strengthened formation of farmer-based organizations (FOs) such as farmer groups, clubs, associations and cooperatives in order to improve farmers' access to extension services. Capacity of FOs will be improved in provision of purchasing, marketing, financing and farm guidance services to its members. Furthermore, the strategy will reinforce FOs capacity in governance, business management, agro processing, value addition and strengthening market linkages. In addition, youths will be capacitated with skills and finance to engage in agribusiness.

Intervention 2.4: Promote Agribusiness for farmers and other value chains

The strategy will ensure that agriculture extension and advisory services provision embrace agribusiness development and market linkages. This will enhance value chain players' ability to intensify use of productivity-enhancing technologies to achieve maximum output for markets and consumption. The strategy will facilitate investments in production, agro-processing, transportation, storage, and warehousing.

Intervention: 2.5: Professionalise Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services and institutions

The strategy promotes professionalism in agriculture extension and advisory services provision. It will promote availability of professional institutions and safeguard availability of well-qualified staff and quality agriculture extension and advisory services. In addition, the strategy will provide support to implement and reinforce minimum standards and mechanisms for regulation and enforcement of professionalism in agriculture extension and advisory services.

Pillar 2: Decentralised agriculture extension, advisory and support services**Outcome 3: Strengthened regulatory framework for Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services**

This strategy promotes provision of high quality agriculture extension and advisory services in Malawi. This will be achieved through the enactment of statutory regulations and the enforcement these regulations. Both technical and management issues such as technology development licensing of service providers will be addressed by the regulations for the sector.

Intervention 3.1 Development of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Regulatory Framework

The strategy promotes development of the Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services in Malawi. The framework will essentially provide for licensing of service providers for agriculture extension and advisory services to meet the minimum standards, code of conduct for technology dissemination and adaptation. The strategy prioritises establishment of a regulatory authority for the sector.

Intervention 3.2: Enforcement of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Regulations

The regulatory authority shall be responsible for enforcement of the regulations for agriculture extension and advisory services to meet the minimum standards. Other regulations that are related to the delivery of extension and advisory services in Malawi shall also be enforced by the authority. Bye-laws on agriculture extension and advisory services will be formulated and enforced through the Decentralised Agriculture Extension Services System.

Outcome 4: Functional Decentralised Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services system

This outcome aims at creating and improving the delivery of decentralised agriculture extension and advisory services by institutionalising agriculture extension and advisory services structures and institutions, enforcing standards in provision of agriculture extension and advisory services, Strengthening and establishing agriculture extension and advisory services coordination structures at all levels. The outcome will also promote implementation of community led interventions, conduct periodic joint planning, monitoring and review the functionality of DAESS structures.

Intervention 4.1: Strengthen and establish AEAS coordination structures at all levels

The NAEASS promotes establishment of a functional National Stakeholder Panel at national level to coordinate provision of and strengthen operational capacity of DAESS structures at all levels. Key activities under the intervention shall include sensitisation of all stakeholders on DAESS, formation and revamping of DAESS structures, orientation on roles of various DAESS structures, orientation on various policies and conduct learning visits. The linkage between the structures will be strengthened to ensure that there is better articulation of farmer demands and response. Farmer participation especially in the higher level structures of DAESS will be encouraged to ensure that they are involved in decision making at every level and that development is people centered. Lower structures will be encouraged to support the participation of their democratically elected representative in the higher structures.

Intervention 4.2: Enforce Standards in provision of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

The intervention will ensure that all service providers at their level of operation, sign a Memorandum of Understanding, which will among other things stipulate the agriculture extension and advisory services provision standards to be followed. Government institutions mandated to regulate agriculture extension and advisory services provision at national and district level will lead in enforcing standards in agriculture extension and advisory services provision through monitoring and support visits, conduct periodic technical audits, setting up of bye-laws, development of service charters by service providers. Adherence to standards will ensure that there is quality, harmonisation and inclusiveness in the provision of agriculture extension and advisory services.

Intervention 4.3: Enhance inclusive planning, monitoring and feedback for service providers using DAESS structures

The intervention will focus on building capacity of stakeholders and DAESS structures within the system to plan, monitor and review their programmes and interventions. Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation (CBME) will be introduced to the lower structures whereas MEALS will be implemented in all the structures. Available mapping tools will be used to map stakeholders within each DAESS and show their levels and strengths of collaboration with each other. Lessons drawn from implementing all these activities will be documented to help build good foundation for improving functionality DAESS structures.

Intervention 4.4: Develop and implement Agriculture Community-led interventions

ASPs and VACs are very instrumental in articulating community-based demands and responses, which can culminate into full community-based projects. The intervention therefore aims to empower local structures to prepare proposals for possible financial and technical support by service providers and development partners. Village Action Plans (VLAP) will be developed for each VAC to help generate activities that could be implemented at that level as well as feed into proposals that could be written.

Outcome 5: Improved mainstreaming of Gender, including Youth and Women in Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

This strategy aims to give attention and support to issues that affect women and youth in accessing agriculture extension and advisory services. This will mainly be done by fostering active participation of the all gender groups including women and youths. In addition, the strategy will promote equal access and control agriculture extension services. Capacity of staff and farmers will be built to increase their knowledge and skills that will facilitate proper mainstreaming of the issues affecting the various gender groups in provision of agriculture extension programmes. This will be supported by establishing focal point persons in various organizations.

Intervention 5.1: Enhance participation of Youth, Women and people with disabilities in Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

Service organisations should be able to recognise the potential of the youth, women and People with Disabilities (PWD) in agriculture development. Implementation of agriculture extension and advisory services shall focus on empowerment of the youth, women and PWD through engagement in various interventions such as active participation in interventions including in income generating projects and in leadership positions. Customised extension services that meet the special needs of the youth, women and PWDs will be promoted. Strategies and guidelines to guide how the various gender groups will be involved in agriculture development including extension and advisory services will be developed. The strategy will also promote interventions aiming at addressing the gender relations at household level such as the household methodologies will be promoted.

Intervention 5.2 Promote Agro-based enterprises development among Women, Youth and vulnerable groups

The strategy promotes interventions that aim to economically empower women, youth and other vulnerable groups to address challenges they face to access financial services and other agriculture extension and advisory services. This will be done through promotion of commercially-oriented agro-based enterprises and marketing among women, youth and other vulnerable groups. In addition, the capacity of the women, youth and other vulnerable groups will be enhanced to facilitate transfer of knowledge and skills on business organisation and management. Linkage of women, youth and other vulnerable groups to macro and micro finance institutions as well as improving financial literacy will be prioritized. Furthermore, matching grants and business startup capital will be provided to youth and women groups in order to promote entrepreneurship along their priority value chains.

Intervention 5.3: Strengthen Leadership and Coordination for harmonised and decentralised implementation of the Gender, HIV and AIDS interventions

The strategy will facilitate capacity building of existing implementation structures on mainstreaming gender interventions amongst the various agriculture extension and advisory service providers. This will also involve interventions to increase the number of women in decision-making positions both in farmer based organisations, local institutions supporting agriculture extension and advisory services and staff from extension service providers.

Outcome 6: Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, and Climate Change Mainstreamed in Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services

This outcome will revitalise the role agriculture extension and advisory services in addressing nutrition, HIV and AIDS, and climate change. The strategy encourages nutrition sensitive agriculture to among other things address HIV and AIDS and malnutrition. The strategy also enhances farmers' decisions in the face variable and changing climate.

Intervention 6.1: Promote Diversified production and Utilization of nutritious and safe foods

Nutrition sensitive agriculture will be achieved through diversification of agriculture enterprises at farm level. Agriculture extension and advisory services actors will be reoriented from the monoculture to embracing diversified agriculture systems. The strategy will also support technologies that reduce post-harvest losses in production, storage, preservation and food processing including those that save time and labour. In addition, the strategy will promote production of nutrient dense indigenous foods and bio-fortified crop varieties.

Intervention 6.2: Promote Nutrition Education and Behaviour Change Communication for improved diets

The strategy will promote nutrition education and behaviour change among farmers of all gender groups in order to attain healthy diets, reduce food wastage and nutrient loss. To achieve this, actors will train communities on food budgeting, meal planning and preparation. Community awareness campaigns on dietary diversity based on the six food groups will also be promoted. This shall also involve food recipes and product development competitions using locally available foods. In addition, household visits will be intensified to provide tailor made food, nutrition and HIV education and counselling, and reinforce positive behaviours among farmers. To track changes in dietary intake and change in behaviour, food and nutrition surveys will be periodically conducted whose results will inform nutrition interventions programming at all levels.

Intervention 6.3: Strengthen Farmer decision-making in the face of Climate change

The strategy aims to support farmers to make informed decisions, in the face of a variable and changing climate, using: (i) location-specific climate and weather information; (ii) locally relevant crop, livestock and livelihood options; and (iii) participatory decision-making tools. On this intervention the strategy is informed by two key principles:

- **The farmer decides:** farming decisions should be made by farmers themselves, because they have all the responsibility for the decisions they take.
- **Options by context:** different farmers have different contexts including differences in wealth, education, land, goals and attitudes to risk. Therefore, what works for one farmer might not work for another.

The strategy will promote working with groups of farmers. The farmers will use a series of participatory tools to map out their household resources, analyse locally specific climate information, and then select, compare and budget for suitable coping and adaptation options for their households. These tools are anticipated to culminate in actionable outputs in the form of clear and logical plans, which farmers can use to implement their selected options.

Pillar 3: Innovation and Learning for Agriculture Transformation**Outcome 7: Increased Utilization of innovative, effective and appropriate methodologies, approaches and messages in Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services**

The provision agriculture extension and advisory services is aimed at helping farmers learn by raising their awareness, increasing knowledge and skills, as well as enabling them to have the right attitudes and motivation to put into practice the agriculture innovations required for addressing their farming problems and needs. However, such changes in farmers' behavior demand the availability and utilization of innovative and appropriate methodologies and approaches to effectively deliver the right messages to farmers in specific contexts. In addition, to support equitable access to agriculture extension and advisory services by diverse farmer categories (for instance, men and women; youth and elderly; male, female and child headed farm households; physically challenged farmers, poor and well-off farm households; and small, middle and largescale farmers), there is need for a variety of effective methods and approaches, which agriculture extension and advisory service providers can select and utilize to reach out to a particular farmer category.

Further, ICT is widely recognised in this technology era as offering innovations essential to transforming the delivery of agriculture extension and advisory services in developing countries including Malawi. Therefore, this strategy promotes dissemination of messages through ICT-based extension methods that use devices such as mobile phone, radio, television and computer to help diverse farmers access agriculture extension and advisory services.

To increase farmer awareness of new agricultural innovations or technologies and practices, the strategy shall promote packaging and dissemination of technical information through production of various Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. Different IEC materials will be used to disseminate messages, depending on the problem being addressed, the innovation being promoted, the category of farmers being targeted, and context in which the targeted farmers operate. These IEC materials will include leaflets, posters, flyers, farmer Magazines as well as radio, TV programs and video documentaries that are also posted on social media platforms. In addition, Agricultural Resource Centres and mobile campaigns will also be used to package information that will be disseminated to farmers and other stakeholders.

The production of user-friendly handbooks, manuals and booklets for use by staff and farmers will also be promoted. DAESS and the Academia in collaboration with relevant stakeholders from NGOs, private and farmer organisations will organize and facilitate periodic experience sharing conferences and community of practice platforms to widely spread best bet technologies and practices for their adoption.

Intervention 7.1: Development of comprehensive and effective Agriculture Extension and Advisory approaches, methods and messages.

The provision of quality agriculture extension and advisory services requires innovative methods and approaches that are all encompassing and appropriate for all categories of farmers and actors along the value chains. This calls for scholars and practitioners to draw on soft systems approaches as well as participatory learning and innovation methods and approaches for instance farmer-led extension including the Lead Farmer, Farmer Field School, Farmer Business School, and Farmer Research Network. There is need to embrace ICT-supported learning platforms for instance radio learning circles, participatory video training and learning market-led and integrated household extension approaches. Therefore, this intervention will promote engagement of multiple stakeholders including farmers in participatory action research to develop, identify, test and validate effective and appropriate agriculture extension and advisory services methods, approaches and messages across the value chain.

The intervention will also involve the use of participatory approaches for instance: Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) and Rapid Appraisal of Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems (RAAKS) to jointly identify, analyze, prioritize and generate solutions and messages for addressing farmers' problems and needs.

Intervention 7.2: Scale-Up and -Out Innovative Extension, Approaches and messages

This intervention will involve building the capacity of stakeholders including farmers to effectively apply the innovative agriculture extension and advisory services methods and approaches which have been developed, tested and validated in different contexts. It will also involve supporting the application of the innovative agriculture extension and advisory services methods and approaches on a broader scale, covering different districts, EPAs and villages with features similar to contexts in which they were tested and validated. These innovative extension approaches and methods will be used to facilitate dissemination of technologies and messages on good agriculture practices to a wider farming community of Malawi.

Outcome 8: Improved Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system

Quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation are necessary mechanisms for ensuring delivery of high-quality extension services. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit will be set up to oversee the identification of M&E criteria and indicators, data collection protocols, process, and ethics, data management and analysis, as well as reporting of progress, relevance, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of agriculture extension and advisory services related interventions. Establishment of such a system will be very instrumental in informing the design of future agriculture extension and advisory services projects and programmes as well as research initiatives. It will also facilitate evidence-based agriculture extension and advisory services policy formulation. The M &E units and database will be based at the district, ADD and national levels. The district M &E unit will be sending consolidated data to the divisional and national data bases.

Intervention 8.1: Set up Monitoring and Evaluation units at national, divisional and district levels

The current strategy shall promote establishment of M &E units at all levels and ensure that they are well-equipped physically, financially and in terms of human resources to be able to coordinate all monitoring and evaluation activities related to agriculture extension and advisory services. Using participatory monitoring and evaluation as well as the results-based monitoring and evaluation, these units will develop Theories of Change (TOCs) and identify Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that will help in tracking progress and measuring performance of agriculture extension and advisory services in the country.

Pillar 4: Sustainable Financing of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services**Outcome 9: Increased and sustainable financing of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services**

The outcome will ensure increased, diversified and harmonized sources of finances for agriculture extension and advisory services. To facilitate this several interventions will be undertaken such as coordination of agriculture extension and advisory services providers on financing and cofinancing of interventions as well as the establishment of agriculture extension fund.

Intervention 9.1: Financial Coordination with Development Partners and Private sector.

A coordinated approach towards financial resources allocation and management will ensure that there is no duplication of efforts thereby increasing effectiveness in the provision of agriculture extension and advisory services. It will also help improve accountability and transparency in the way financial resources are applied for agricultural related activities. At various implementation levels coordination meetings will be conducted to discuss conditions that will facilitate smooth implementation of agriculture extension and advisory services activities.

Intervention 9.2: Harmonised Funding, Transparency and Accountability

National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy shall promote prudence in use of resources earmarked for agriculture extension and advisory services. All agriculture extension services providers shall declare financial allocations towards specific interventions for mutual accountability and transparency. It will also be necessary for agriculture extension and advisory services providers to adhere to Local Government Act of pooling resources (basket fund) together to fund prioritized activities at district level. Resource mobilisation should be considered as one of the key interventions to be done to raise resources for implementation of interventions on agriculture extension and advisory services. In this regard, the skills and capacity of finance, administrative and technical officers will be improved to ensure proper finance management and instill discipline for good financial management.

Intervention 9.3: Develop Cost-recovery mechanisms for some extension services, providers and some categories of farmers.

It is not all farmers who can afford to pay for agriculture extension and advisory services. In this regard the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy shall promote identification of high-value agriculture activities and category of farmers for which extension and advisory services could be on cost-recovery basis. Payment for cost-recovery services shall be deposited into the Trust Fund. The fund shall be established with very clear operational guidelines where donors and other partners will be encouraged to put resources for agriculture extension and advisory services.

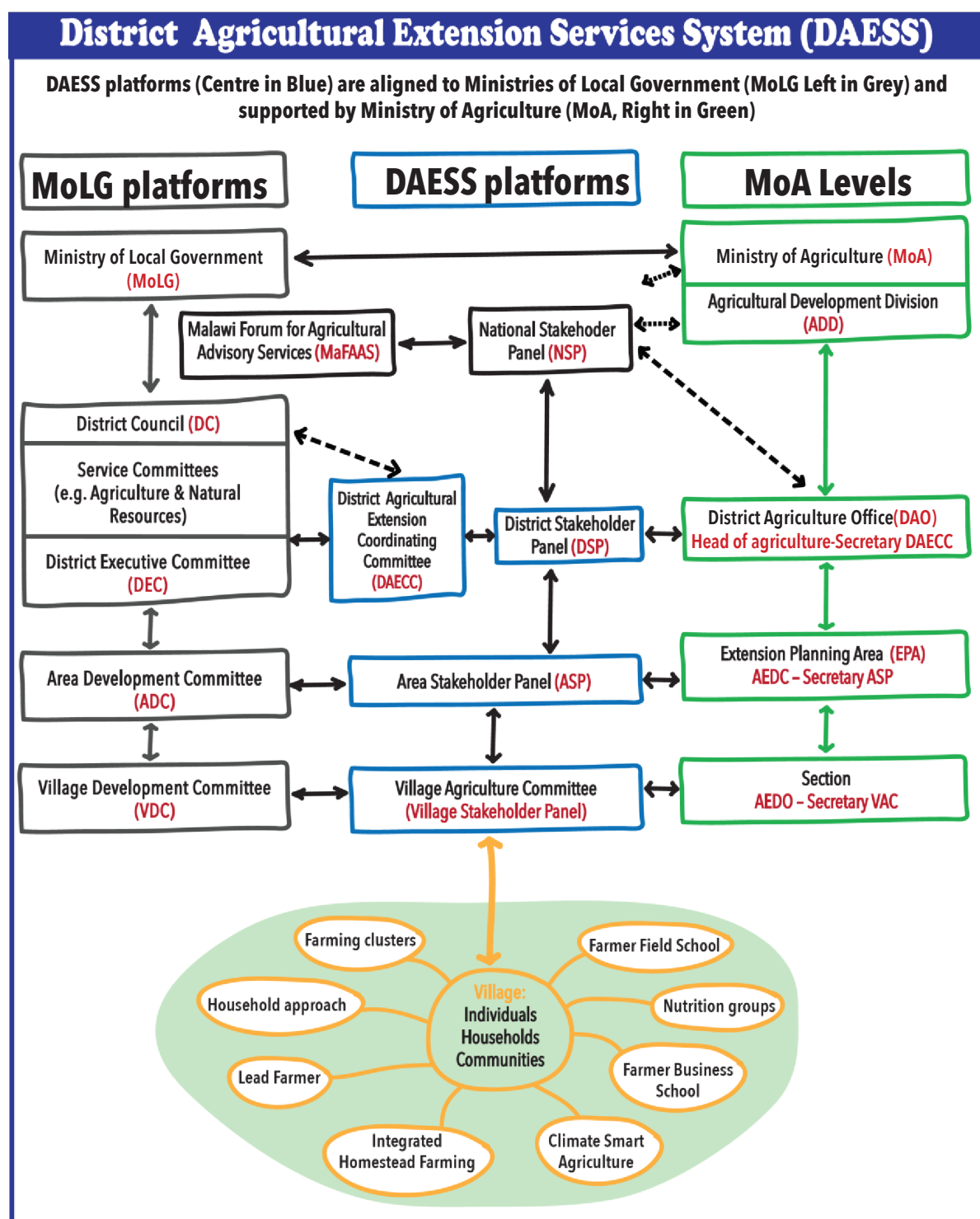
4.0. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Implementation and Coordination Framework for the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy

The implementation framework for the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy is shown in Figure 2. It delineates roles and responsibilities of the various institutions and other actors that will be involved in the implementation of the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy. The framework follows principles of pluralism, and demand-driven extension services. It is built around the Decentralised Agriculture Extension Services System. The Decentralised Agriculture Extension Services System rests on four pillars: 1) Organization of

Farmer Demands; 2) Facilitation of Service Providers' Responses; 3) Coordination of the overall Agricultural Development Strategy; and 4) Acquisition of funding to guarantee availability of extension and advisory services to farmers. Considering that most structures are not functioning to the required standard, lessons will be drawn from districts that have institutionalized the functionality DAESS to be implemented in all the districts.

Figure 2: The Decentralised Agriculture Extension Services System



4.1.1 Key Implementers and Governance for the National Agriculture Extension Services Strategy

All Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services providers, including MDAs, NGOs and private sector, shall work through the established structures to ensure more effective coordination and collaboration. The roles and responsibilities are provided in the Decentralised Agriculture Extension Services System guidelines.

4.2. Roles and Responsibilities of Key Actors

4.2.1 National Stakeholder Panel (NSP) Key Roles

The NSP shall be a platform where agriculture service providers and farmers plan and coordinate their activities at the national level. The purpose of NSP is to provide a forum for dialogue among all stakeholder thus providing agenda for demand and feed-back to which the agriculture extension and advisory services system as a whole has to respond. The NSP shall comprise various stakeholders including: agriculture extension service providers, the private sector, academia, farmers and Farmer Organizations.

4.2.2 District Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee (DANRC) Key Roles

The main policy and political structure at district level for supporting farmer demands shall be the District Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee (DANRC). The DANRC comprises elected members of the District Council with Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) providing secretarial services. The DANRC shall support implementation of agriculture extension services strategies through at district council during budgetary discussions and commitments.

4.2.3 District Agriculture Extension Coordinating Committee (DAECC) Key Roles

The DAECC shall provide technical leadership for regulating and coordinating agriculture extension and advisory services and particularly responses to farmer demands. DAECC comprises heads of agriculture technical departments at the district level, representatives of NGOs that provide services, micro-financing institutions, private sector, input suppliers, and farmer organizations that provide services for instance farmer associations. The DAECC is technically facilitated by the Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources at district council level.

4.2.4 District Stakeholder Panel Key Roles

The District Stakeholder Panel (DSP) shall be a platform where service providers and farmers plan and coordinate and consolidate their activities. The purpose of DSP is to act as a forum for dialogue among all stakeholders thus providing agenda for demand and feed-back to which the agriculture extension and advisory services system as a whole has to respond. The DSP is composed of heads of agriculture technical departments at the district level, representatives of smallholder farmers who should form 50% of the total membership, semi-commercial and commercial Farmers, Farmer Organisations (FOs), NGOs, agribusiness groups, community-based organisations and a member of a relevant service committee of the assembly.

4.2.5 Area Stakeholder Panel Key Roles

The Area Stakeholder Panel (ASP) at the Traditional Authority level is the main structure for organizing demands for agriculture extension and advisory services. The panel comprises actors in the agriculture sector including extension workers at area level in ex-officio capacity, representatives of smallholder farmers, who constitute 50% of the total membership, semicommercial and commercial farmers, Farmers Organisations, NGOs, agribusiness groups, community-based groups and relevant committees of the Area Development Committee. The Agricultural Extension Development Coordinator (AEDC) provides secretarial services.

4.2.6 Village Agriculture Committee(VAC)/Village Stakeholder Panel (VSP) Key Roles

The Village Agriculture Committee shall comprise all actors in the agriculture sector operating under the respective Group Village Headperson. This includes extension workers and NGOs representatives at Village Development Committee (VDC) level village, and farmer representatives of the three categories namely: smallholder, semi-commercial and commercial who constitutes at least 50% of the total membership, Farmers Organizations, agribusiness groups, community-based groups and relevant committees of the VDC such as Village Nutrition Coordinating Committee (VNCC) and Village Natural Resource Management Committee (VNRMC). The smallholder farmers will be representatives from each Village under the respective Group Village Headman. At least 30% of the total membership should be women and 30% youths. The Agriculture Extension Development Officer (AEDO) shall provide secretarial services and provide technical advice to the committee.

4.2.7 Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Key Roles

The MoA shall play a critical role in achieving better coordination, collaboration and stronger linkages among extension providers and other actors of the innovation system. This will include overseeing implementation of this strategy and explaining or clarifying the roles of other actors; and promoting collaboration. The ministry, through the Department of Agriculture Extension Services shall also define the relationship of extension with other actors of the innovation system, especially research, input suppliers, financial and marketing institutions. In addition, the Ministry shall be responsible for identifying best local, regional and international practices and experiences for sharing with stakeholders including how to institutionalize joint planning and execution of extension activities through approaches like multi-stakeholder innovation platforms that have been piloted in Malawi.

Furthermore, through its implementation structures, the Ministry of Agriculture will also play the following roles the roles and responsibilities:

- Draft and enact an Act of Parliament to regulate the provision of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Service in Malawi.
- Develop statutory instruments for the regulation of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Service in Malawi.
- Enforce the regulatory framework for Agriculture Extension and Advisory Service in Malawi.
- Facilitate mechanisms for approval of extension messages and technologies through the Agricultural Technology Clearing Committee.
- Set minimum qualifications for extension staff.
- Set minimum registration requirements for extension providers.
- Facilitate the activities of Content Development Committee.
- Provide technical support and backup on extension services to district councils

4.2.8 Ministry of Local Government Key Roles

Through its structures, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLG) shall be responsible for providing guidance on agriculture extension and advisory service delivery under the decentralised arrangements in various districts of the country.

4.2.9 Department of Agriculture Extension Services Key Roles

For successful implementation of the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy at national level DAES shall play several key roles as follows:

- Provide leadership in the implementation of the strategy by ensuring adherence to the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Policy and other relevant agriculture policies in Malawi.
- Organise and take lead in national meetings and related activities with other departments, stakeholders on matters of agriculture extension and advisory services
- Represent the interests of extension services in public fora and provide leadership on matters of agriculture extension and advisory services.
- Empower farmers to access and make use of agriculture extension and advisory services.
- Promote farmer groups and organisations to develop capacity to manage agribusinesses.
- Support the private sector and non-state actors to develop capacity for delivering agriculture extension and advisory services.
- Strengthen linkages with agriculture education institutions to ensure relevant manpower development for the agriculture sector in Malawi.
- Support agribusiness development, management, and agriculture enterprise development through promotion of value addition and primary processing of agriculture produce in Malawi.
- Promote human nutrition, household incomes and food security through increased agriculture productivity and market-oriented enterprise production and development.
- Ensure that research needs of farmers are identified, communicated to and addressed by research scientists in Malawi.

4.2.10 District Councils Key Roles

District Councils (DCs) are institutions responsible for delivering agriculture extension and advisory service. DCs responsibilities shall include;

- setting mechanisms for registering agriculture extension and advisory service providers in their respective districts;
- registering service providers in their districts;
- maintaining an inventory of service providers;
- drafting by-laws to regulate agriculture extension and advisory service provision in their districts; establishing DAESS structures in their districts;

- facilitating activities of DAESS structures in their districts;
- providing core funding for agriculture extension and advisory service provision in their districts and;
- monitoring activities of agriculture extension and advisory service providers in the districts.

4.2.11 Private sector Key Roles

This category will encompass two categories of private sector thus those that are for profit and those that are not profit oriented. The major role of the private sector such as private companies, NGOs and farmer organisations is to finance agriculture extension and advisory service delivery at different level in line with their interests and those of farmers. In addition, private sector agriculture extension service providers shall provide relevant extension services to farmers and other actors in the agriculture value chains in such a way that compliments interventions by public service providers. Private Service providers shall be required to work through DAESS structures to ensure collaboration with other stakeholders and coordination of their activities among themselves and with public service providers. Private Service providers should register themselves at the district councils through the DAEC.

4.2.12 Development Partners Key Roles

This category shall play the following roles

- Support policy and advocacy for agriculture extension and advisory service;
- Provide technical assistance for agriculture extension and advisory service and
- Mobilize financial resources for agriculture extension and advisory service interventions in Malawi.

4.2.13 Academia Key Roles

Relevant Academic institutions in Malawi shall be responsible for:

- Developing and reviewing of agriculture extension and advisory service curricula;
- Capacity development of agriculture extension and advisory service providers including specialised training for agriculture extension and advisory service professionals and;
- Provision of research services for agriculture extension and advisory service

5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Successful implementation of the NAEASS will require a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning system to track and report progress on various indicators. In this regard, a NAEASS monitoring and evaluation and learning (MEALS) framework as well as an agriculture extension and advisory service information management system (IMS) will be developed and aligned to the existing sectoral M&E framework. A results framework has also been developed to support the monitoring and evaluation and learning of the current strategy. A more detailed M&E plan that describes in detail the approach and methodology to be used together with the NAEASS IMS will be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The purposes of MEALS and the IMS in the implementation of NAEASS is to facilitate the use of timely, relevant and comprehensive information for decision making at policy, programme management and implementation levels and to build the necessary capacity to effectively monitor and evaluate the implementation of strategy.

5.1 Monitoring Strategy Implementation

Monitoring implementation of the strategy shall involve systematic tracking of activities and actions to assess progress. Progress will be measured by achievements of specific outputs against expected or planned output targets. This will help the Ministry/Department to take timely corrective measures when implementation progress is off track. Effective monitoring helps to identify challenges and problem areas, and permits taking immediate remedial action, thereby ensuring that the relevant expected targets are achieved. In this regard, monthly, quarterly, semiannual and annual monitoring reports will be generated for necessary actions.

5.2 Evaluation of Strategy Implementation

Within the implementation period of the Strategy a systematic and objective assessment of ongoing or completed projects, programmes and policies will be undertaken. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfilment of objectives, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. This will provide credible and useful information that will inform decision-making and future programming.

5.3 Data Collection, Storage, Analysis and Reporting

Data will be collected and stored using appropriate data collection tools for instance, survey methods and a secure database. The data collected and reported at each level will be subjected to quality checks and validation to ensure completeness, consistency, accuracy and reliability before releasing it to users. The Ministry/Department will ensure that there is adequate capacity for generating quality data. Respective programme and project implementers will be expected to systematically collect both qualitative and quantitative data on implementation progress of their projects and feed into the database. To improve policy research, the Ministry/Department will strengthen linkages with research, academic and private sector institutions.

5.4 Knowledge Management and Learning

Interventions promoting knowledge management and learning will be implemented within the period. Comprehensive periodic reviews involving relevant stakeholders in the sector will be conducted to manage knowledge and learning amongst stakeholders.

5.5 Review of the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Service Strategy

The annual implementation plans will be reviewed at the end of each financial year prior to the formulation of the next budget to help appropriate budgeting for the impending fiscal year. This Strategy will be subjected to a mid-term review in 2022/23, while a full review will be conducted at the end of the implementation period in 2024/25.

5.6 Resource Mobilisation

The implementation of this five-year strategy will require additional funding from both new and traditional sources of funding. Therefore, Ministry/DAES shall implement rigorous mobilisation campaigns for funding from government, development partners, non-governmental organizations and private institutions. Renewed effort will be made to develop proposals that will be used to solicit new funding avenues nationally and internationally.

In order to effectively deliver the strategic outcomes, the Ministry will mobilize human, equipment and financial resources. In this respect, a resource mobilisation strategy will be developed.

Implementation of the Strategy will require a total of USD 4,810,000 over the five-year period.

This cost has been disaggregated by key focus area in Table 3.

6.0 ANNEXES

ANNEXE 1: MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK/MATRIX

STRATEGIC PILLARS, OUTCOMES, INTERVENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES								
ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Pillar 1: Human, Institutional and Organizational Capacity								
Outcome 1: Improved human capacity at all levels both at demand and supply sides of agricultural extension and advisory services								
Intervention 1.1: Enhance capacity of state and non-state extension actors in the provision of agriculture extension and advisory services								
1.1.1.1 Conduct staff training needs assessment	1 TNA	1	0	0	0	0	11,250,000.00	15,000.00
	2 Curricula reviewed	1		1			232,141,500.00	309,522.00
	20 Staff upgraded to PhD	4	4	4	4	4	750,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
	225 Staff upgraded to BSc	45	45	45	45	45	3,375,000,000.00	4,500,000.00
	225 Staff upgraded to MSc	45	45	45	45	45	5,062,500,000.00	6,750,000.00
	200 Staff receive short term training	40	40	40	40	40	750,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
1.1.1.4 Recruit extension professionals at all levels including NSA	1500 frontline extension workers recruited	250	500	500	250	250	3,000,000,000.00	4,000,000.00
	300 Agribusiness Officers recruited	150	150	0	0	0	810,000,000.00	1,080,000.00
	204 Field Food and Nutrition Officers recruited and trained	82	122	0	0	0	978,225,750.00	1,304,301.00
1.1.5 Conduct in service and short courses in extension methodologies, approaches and GAPS	3000 Extension Staff trained	600	600	600	600	600	2,587,663,500.00	3,450,218.00
1.1.1.6 Conduct local and international exchange visits	500 local visits c	100	100	100	100	100	1,540,500,000.00	2,054,000.00
	50 International visits	10	10	10	10	10	770,250,000.00	1,027,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
1.1.7 Strengthen ICT based extension service system	3 Call centres established	2	1	0	0	0	375,000,000.00	500,000.00
	10 SMS based extension services	2	2	2	2	2	375,000,000.00	500,000.00
	1- Portal established	1	0	0	0	0	150,000,000.00	200,000.00
	ICT packages available at 28 districts and 9 national level offices	37			37		1,312,500,000.00	1,750,000.00
Intervention 1.2: Improve productive capacity of farmers for all gender groups and categories								
1.2.1 Conduct participatory needs assessment and appraisal	2880 Needs assessment and appraisals	576	576	576	576	576	592,500,000.00	790,000.00
1.2.2 Conduct farmer trainings on extension approaches and GAPs	3,000,000 farmers trained	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	3,637,500,000.00	4,850,000.00
1.2.3 Implement extension approaches and methods	5000 Model villages	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200,000,000.00	1,600,000.00
	2880 Farmer Field School	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200,000,000.00	1,600,000.00
	2880 Farmer Business School	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200,000,000.00	1,600,000.00
	200,000 Households implementing HHA	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	1,200,000,000.00	1,600,000.00
	1,000,000 Households implementing IHF	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	1,875,000,000.00	2,500,000.00
	1020 Mndandandas	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1,875,000,000.00	2,500,000.00
1.2.4 Promote use of ICT based extension services among farmers (Radio, Mobile SMS, Television etc)	50,000 Clusters	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	3,750,000,000.00	5,000,000.00
	500 plant clinics supported	100	100	100	100	100	1,200,000,000.00	1,600,000.00
	3,000,000 farmers accessing ICT based services	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	750,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
1.2.5 Facilitate formation and development of farmer organisations and companies	500 FOs and Companies	100	100	100	100	100	562,500,000.00	750,000.00
1.2.6 Facilitate linkage of farmer organisations to service providers	750 FOs linked	150	150	150	150	150	150,000,000.00	200,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Intervention 1.3: Promote availability and use of innovations in agriculture extension								
1.3.1 Develop and disseminate IEC materials	10,000,000 copies of IEC materials produced	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	5,250,000,000.00	7,000,000.00
	50,000 Copies of Agricultural booklets	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	153,750,000.00	205,000.00
1.3.2 Conduct strategic campaigns	20 Campaigns conducted annually	20	20	20	20	20	450,000,000.00	600,000.00
1.3.3 Establish and manage agricultural resource centres	612 Agricultural Resource Centres	204	204	204			1,125,000,000.00	1,500,000.00
1.3.4 Document and disseminate best practices	50 best practices documented and disseminated	10	10	10	10	10	750,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
1.3.5 Establish and manage Agricultural Radio and TV stations	2- Farm radio and TV stations established	0	0	2	0	0	75,000,000.00	100,000.00
1.3.6 Produce and air radio and TV programmes	7800 Radio programmes	1560	1560	1560	1560	1560	1,875,000,000.00	2,500,000.00
	1500 TV programmes	300	300	300	300	300	539,383,500.00	719,178.00
Intervention 1.4: Incentivize agriculture extension and advisory services								
1.4.1 Develop incentive award package for both service providers, staff and farmers	1 incentive award package	1					7,500,000.00	10,000.00
	1500 frontline staff receiving hardship allowance	300	300	300	300	300	1,849,314,750.00	2,465,753.00
1.4.2 Conduct performance assessment	5 Performance Assessments	1	1	1	1	1	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
1.4.3 Conduct performance award ceremonies at all levels	185 award ceremonies	37	37	37	37	37	382,500,000.00	510,000.00
Sub Total							53,767,479,000.00	71,689,972.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Outcome 2: Improved institutional and organisational capacity for responsive Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services								
Intervention 2.1: Improve working and living conditions of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services workers								
2.1.1 Develop and rehabilitate District and EPA infrastructure	204 EPA maintained with office power and housing facilities	40	41	41	41	41	18,900,000,000.00	25,200,000.00
	22 Agriculture Training Centres rehabilitated	5	5	5	5	2	825,000,000.00	1,100,000.00
	28 district level structures maintained	6	6	6	5	5	315,000,000.00	420,000.00
	9 Central level structures rehabilitated	2	2	2	2	1	315,000,000.00	420,000.00
	3000 protective kit procured for extension officers	3000			3000		622,500,000.00	830,000.00
	Office equipment and furniture procured and maintained at all levels		17	20			375,000,000.00	500,000.00
2.1.2. Improve mobility and ICT infrastructure at all levels	3500 motorbikes procured for frontlines staff	1500	1000	1000	0	0	7,875,000,000.00	10,500,000.00
	70 vehicles procured for field operations	28	28	14	0	0	3,412,500,000.00	4,550,000.00
	Mobile vans procured and maintained		4	5			585,000,000.00	780,000.00
Intervention 2.2: Revitalise delivery of institutional training programmes for extension personnel and farmers								
2.2.1 Develop and implement Agriculture Extension Training Programmes (eg. curriculum development)	18 RTC Agriculture Extension Curricula developed	18					20,250,000.00	27,000.00
	1080 Residential training courses offered	216	216	216	216	216	9,750,000,000.00	13,000,000.00
2.2.2 Roll out implementation of Agriculture Extension Training Programmes	24280 DTC training courses offered	4896	4896	4896	4896	4896	251,250,000.00	335,000.00
	12240 Mobile training courses offered	2448	2448	2448	2448	2448	63,750,000.00	85,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
2.2.3 Conduct targeted training programme for Training Institution coordinators	30 coordinators trained	30			30		12,750,000.00	17,000.00
2.2.4 Establish centre of excellence on agriculture enterprise development	Centre of excellence on agriculture enterprise development established		1				300,000,000.00	400,000.00
Intervention 2.3: Develop vibrant Farmer Organisations and Agro-based Youth clubs								
2.3.1 Train cooperatives in business and cooperative management	250 cooperatives trained	50	50	50	50	50	225,000,000.00	300,000.00
2.3.2 Train agribusiness SMEs, women and youth on technical and business management	300 SMEs, Women and Youth trained	60	60	60	60	60	517,500,000.00	690,000.00
2.3.3 Train FOs in principles of good leadership, advocacy and governance	1500 FO leaders trained	300	300	300	300	300	225,000,000.00	300,000.00
2.3.4 Conduct business mentorship for youth agribusiness entrepreneurs	2000 youths mentored	400	400	400	400	400	3,000,000,000.00	4,000,000.00
2.3.5 Train cooperatives in savings and investments	250 cooperatives trained	30	30	30	30	30	225,000,000.00	300,000.00
2.3.6 Provide matching grants and agricultural inputs to FOs	150 FOs supported	30	30	30	30	30	2,250,000,000.00	3,000,000.00
2.3.7 Enhance capacity of FOs to engage in contract farming	550 FOs engaged in contract farming	110	110	110	110	110	739,125,000.00	985,500.00
	100,000 farmers operating under contract farming arrangements	20000	20000	20000	20000	20000	1,491,750,000.00	1,989,000.00
2.3.8 Facilitate registration of FOs as legal entities to enable them access formal markets	204 FOs registered	40	44	40	40	40	225,000,000.00	300,000.00
2.3.9 Facilitate dissemination of policies/strategies for farmer organizations	300 FOs sensitized	80	80	80	30	30	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
	100 Stakeholders sensitized	20	20	20	20	20	210,000,000.00	280,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
2.3.4 Review FO Development Strategy	Strategy developed		1				150,000,000.00	200,000.00
2.3.5 Establish and update Farmer Organisation database	Database established and updated	1					150,000,000.00	200,000.00
2.3.5 Link Farmer Organisations to warehouses receipt systems and/or commodity exchanges	150 FOs linked	30	30	30	30	30	187,500,000.00	250,000.00
Intervention 2.4: Promote Agribusiness for farmers and other value chains								
2.4.1 Promote private sector investments in agribusiness	300 agribusiness PPPs implemented	60	60	60	60	60	225,000,000.00	300,000.00
2.4.2 Map agribusiness potential at regional/district level and five Special Economic Zones for agribusiness established in high potential areas	Map of Agribusiness potential	1					75,000,000.00	100,000.00
2.4.3 Establish high-level public-private coordination forum	Number of forums established		1				37,500,000.00	50,000.00
2.4.4 Develop and strengthen regulatory and institutional frameworks for developed value chains	Number of frameworks developed			1			112,500,000.00	150,000.00
2.4.5 Increase value of warehouse receipt financing	1000 warehouse receipts financed	200	200	200	200	200	112,500,000.00	150,000.00
2.4.6 Strengthen analytical capacity of staff to analyze market and price trends is strengthened	300 staff trained in market analysis	60	60	60	60	60	150,000,000.00	200,000.00
2.4.7 Integrate market information in an ICT-based market information system accessible to large numbers of farmers and other value chain actors	80 ICT based market information messages integrated	16	16	16	16	16	75,000,000.00	100,000.00
2.4.8 Increase capacity (Tonnes) of quality storage in rural areas through private investments of PPPs.	Storage capacity increased by 400,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	7,500,000,000.00	10,000,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
2.4.9 Build capacity of farmers and SMEs in warehouse receipt systems and commodity exchange	400 FOs trained in WHRS and commodity exchanges	80	80	80	80	80	150,000,000.00	200,000.00
2.4.10 Strengthened capacity of warehouse operators in warehouse operations and use of warehouse receipts.	100 warehouse operators and 5 commodity exchanges supported	20	25	20	20	20	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
2.4.11 Conduct National and district Agricultural Fairs	National Agricultural Fair conducted	30					525,000,000.00	700,000.00
2.4.12 Conduct annual agribusiness investment fora	5 annual agribusiness fora conducted	1	1	1	1	1	375,000,000.00	500,000.00
2.4.13 Establish and support additional priority commodity value chain platforms	6 additional priority commodity value chain platforms established and supported	1	1	2	1	1	600,000,000.00	800,000.00
Intervention: 2.5: Professionalise Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services and institutions								
2.5.1 Conduct mapping of agriculture extension service professionals	1 inventory of extension professionals updated annually	1	1	1	1	1	26,250,000.00	35,000.00
	1 inventory of extension service providers updated annually	1	1	1	1	1	26,250,000.00	35,000.00
2.5.2 Establish an Agriculture Extension Professional Body	1 Agriculture Extension body established	1					10,500,000.00	14,000.00
Sub Total							63,294,375,000.00	84,392,500.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Pillar 2: Decentralized agriculture extension, advisory and support services								
Outcome 3: Strengthened regulatory framework for Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services								
Intervention 3.1: Develop of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Regulatory Framework								
3.1.1 Conduct gap analysis on current Acts and Laws on AEAS provision	1 gap analysis exercise conducted	1	0	0	0	0	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
3.1.2 Document existing legislation	1 catalogue of existing legislation on AEAS	1	0	0	0	0	3,000,000.00	4,000.00
3.1.3 Develop minimum standards for AEAS provision	1 guideline for minimum standards	0	1	0	0	0	15,750,000.00	21,000.00
3.1.4 Develop bill to regulate AEAS provision	1 bill developed	0	1	0	0	0	71,250,000.00	95,000.00
Intervention 3.2: Enforce of agriculture extension and advisory services regulations								
3.2.1 Establish regulatory body on AEAS	1 Agriculture Extension Council/institute established	0	1	0	0	0	90,000,000.00	120,000.00
3.2.2. Register and license AEAS providers	Catalogue of licensed stakeholders in place and updated annually	0	1	1	1	1	22,500,000.00	30,000.00
Sub Total							240,000,000.00	320,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Outcome 4: Functional Decentralised Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services system								
Intervention 4.1 Strengthen and establish AEAS coordination structures at all levels								
4.1.1 Conduct sensitization meetings on DAESS	195 sensitization meetings conducted	39	39	39	39	39	600,000,000.00	800,000.00
4.1.2 Conduct orientation sessions for District councils and AEAS providers on DAESS	140 Orientation sessions conducted	28	28	28	28	28	375,000,000.00	500,000.00
4.1.3 Coordinate implementation of DAESS Structures	10 national level meetings conducted	2	2	2	2	2	62,250,000.00	83,000.00
	28 District coordination structures meet 2-4 times a year	332	332	332	332	332	1,286,625,000.00	1,715,500.00
	628 Village level structures meet biannual	1591	1591	1591	1591	1591	1,690,500,000.00	2,254,000.00
	204 Area Stakeholder Panels meet biannually	816	816	816	816	816	1,530,000,000.00	2,040,000.00
4.1.3 Facilitate action plan development for DAESS structures	145 Action Plan Development Sessions conducted	29	29	29	29	29	297,945,000.00	397,260.00
4.1.4 Conduct DAESS structures review meetings	740 Review Meetings conducted	148	148	148	148	148	2,280,000,000.00	3,040,000.00
4.1.5 Conduct exchange visits on DAESS structures	150 Exchange Visits Conducted	30	30	30	30	30	462,000,000.00	616,000.00
4.1.6 Coordinate joint work-plan and budgets for DAESS implementation	5 sector-wide harmonized work plans	1	1	1	1	1	15,000,000.00	20,000.00
4.1.7 Lobby for recruitment of qualified M&E officers at District Agriculture Offices	28 Agriculture M&E Officer recruited		28				70,500,000.00	94,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Intervention 4.2: Enforce Standards in provision of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services								
4.2.1 Conduct dissemination meetings on minimum standards	195 dissemination meetings conducted	35	40	40	40	40	187,500,000.00	250,000.00
4.2.2 Conduct sensitization on available legislation for AEAS providers	74 sensitization meetings conducted at district and ADD levels	37	0	37	0	0	52,500,000.00	70,000.00
4.2.3 Conduct periodic technical audits	5 Technical Audits Conducted	1	1	1	1		102,750,000.00	137,000.00
4.2.4 Facilitate setting up of bye-laws to regulate AES provision at district level	28 by-laws formulated and updated periodically	28	0	0	0		37,500,000.00	50,000.00
4.2.5 Facilitate development of service charters by service providers	29 sensitization meeting on formation of Service Charters conducted	29	0	0	0		89,400,000.00	119,200.00
4.2.6 Revamp National Agricultural Content Development Committee	1 National Committee revamped and conducting meeting bi-annually	2	2	2	2	2	131,250,000.00	175,000.00
4.2.7 Develop a catalogue of cleared approaches, methods and messages	1 Catalogue of cleared messages updated annually	1	1	1	1	1	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
Intervention 4.3: Enhance inclusive planning, monitoring and feedback for service providers using DAESS structures								
3.3.3.1 Develop a system for tracking compliance of set standards	1 system developed	1	0	0	0	0	18,750,000.00	25,000.00
3.3.3.2 Conduct supervision on implementation to track compliance to set standards	10 monitoring visits	0	2	2	2	2	52,500,000.00	70,000.00
3.3.3.3 Document experiences on compliance of standards	5 compendiums of experiences on compliance to standards	1	1	1	1	1	71,250,000.00	95,000.00
3.3.3.4 Conduct stakeholders mapping	5 stakeholder mapping exercises conducted	0	1	1	1	1	18,750,000.00	25,000.00
3.3.3.5 Develop data base for AEAS service providers	1 inventory of service providers developed and updated annually	0	1	1	1	1	15,000,000.00	20,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Intervention 4.4: Develop and implement Agriculture Community-led interventions								
4.4.1 Conduct training sessions on preparation of winning proposals	150 training sessions on Winning Proposal conducted	30	30	30	30	30	77,250,000.00	103,000.00
4.4.2 Conduct training sessions on management of community-based projects/interventions	60 Training Sessions Conducted	30	0	0	30	0	308,250,000.00	411,000.00
		Sub Total					9,907,470,000.00	13,209,960.00
Outcome 5: Improved mainstreaming of gender and youth in AEAS								
Intervention 5.1: Enhance participation of youth, women and people with disabilities in Agriculture extension and advisory Services								
5.1.1 Develop and disseminate guidelines for vulnerable groups in agriculture programmes and projects.	1 guideline developed	1	0	0	0	0	22,500,000.00	30,000.00
5.1.2 Promote use of labour, time and energy cost-saving technologies amongst vulnerable gender categories.	1000000 vulnerable farmers using labour and time saving	200000	200000	200000	200000	200000	82,500,000.00	110,000.00
5.1.3. Document and disseminate gender and HIV responsive agriculture technologies and information	1 database developed and disseminate annually	1	1	1	1	1	97,500,000.00	130,000.00
5.1.4. Train staff as gender focal persons	200 staff trained	30	30	30	30	30	75,000,000.00	100,000.00
5.1.5. Review agriculture sector gender HIV and AIDS strategy	1strategy reviewed	1	0	0	0	0	232,125,000.00	309,500.00
5.1.6 Create stakeholders' awareness on the GHSA strategy	195 stakeholders awareness meetings on GHSA strategy	0	30	30	0	0	67,500,000.00	90,000.00
5.1.7 Facilitate Implementation household approach (household methodologies)	50,000 households implementing household approach	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000	337,500,000.00	450,000.00
5.1.8 Form and strengthen Agricultural youth organizations	300 youth organizations formed and strengthened	50	100	100	50		112,500,000.00	150,000.00
5.1.9 Promote youth participation in agricultural value chains	300 youth groups participating in value chains	50	100	100	50		375,000,000.00	500,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
5.1.10 Train youth groups on improved technologies in agriculture and nutrition	900 youth groups trained	100	200	200	2000	200	225,000,000.00	300,000.00
5.1.11 Promote value addition on priority agricultural value chains by youth	100 youth groups engaged in value addition	20	20	20	20	20	375,000,000.00	500,000.00
5.1.12 Facilitate access and ownership of production resources among women	50% ratio of women to men with access to resources	20%	25%	30%	40%	50%	75,000,000.00	100,000.00
	33% ratio of women to men with ownership of resources	15%	20%	25%	30%	33%	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
	33% ratio of women to men with control over resources	15%	20%	25%	30%	33%	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
Intervention 5.2: Promote agro-based enterprises among women, youth and other vulnerable groups								
5.2.1 Promote commercially-oriented agro-based enterprises and marketing among vulnerable farmer groups.	2040 Income Generating Project groups promoted	408	408	408	408	408	62,250,000.00	83,000.00
5.2.2 Build the capacity of women, youth and people with disability on financial literacy and management skills	600 Income Generating Project groups trained	120	120	120	120	120	2,250,000,000.00	3,000,000.00
5.2.3 Facilitate linkages between vulnerable groups and microfinance institutions, markets and other services	2040 GP groups linked capacitated in financial management and literacy skills	408	408	408	408	408	62,250,000.00	83,000.00
5.2.4 Promote entrepreneurship among identified women and youth groups	900 youth SME groups	100	200	200	2000	200	60,000,000.00	80,000.00
5.2.5 Facilitate provision of matching grants and business start-up for women and youth groups	100 groups accessing matching grants	20	20	20	20	20	750,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
5.2.6 Conduct youth agribusiness and investment conferences/forums	400 groups participating in the forum/conference	100	100	100	100	0	112,500,000.00	150,000.00
5.2.7 Build capacity of youth and women groups on financial literacy and management skills	300 groups capacitated	50	100	100	50		112,500,000.00	150,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Intervention 5.3: Strengthen leadership and coordination for harmonised and decentralised implementation of the gender, HIV and AIDS interventions								
5.3.1 Institute and revamp the structural arrangements for implementing the gender and HIV mainstreaming interventions at all levels	241 GHA structures revamped at all levels	50	50	50	50	41	187,500,000.00	250,000.00
5.3.2 Increase the number of female and youth farmers in policy and decision-making positions at all levels in the agriculture sector	40% of decision-making positions occupied by women	35%	37%	38%	39%	40%	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
	30% of decision-making positions occupied youth	20%	22%	24%	27%	30%	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
Sub Total							5,824,125,000.00	7,765,500.00
Outcome 6: Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, and climate change mainstreamed in agriculture extension and advisory Services								
Intervention 6.1 Promote diversified production and utilization of nutritious and safe foods.								
6.1.1 Advocate for production of diversified crops, animal foods and underutilized food species	2 advocacy meetings conducted per annum.	2	2	2	2	2	20,833,500.00	27,778.00
6.1.2 Advocate for scale up of integration of nutrition in agricultural initiatives such as in the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP)	4 advocacy meetings conducted annually	4	4	4	4	4	41,667,000.00	55,556.00
6.1.3 Advocate for propagation of seed for underutilized nutritious foods among household including those living with HIV, e.g. black jack, moringa, tamarind, finger millet, cat whiskers.	1 advocacy meeting conducted per annum	1	1	1	1	1	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
6.1.4 Mobilise smallholder farmers to participate in multiplication of nutrient dense indigenous foods and bio fortified crop seeds.	100,000 farmers mobilised	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	75,000,000.00	100,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
6.1.5 Promote production of nutrient dense indigenous foods and bio fortified crop varieties	2,000,000 households	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	150,000,000.00	200,000.00
6.1.6 Promote integrated homestead farming among households including PLHIV	1,000,000 households	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	375,000,000.00	500,000.00
6.1.7 Promote agriculture nutrition programmes implementation in schools	5,000 schools	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	187,500,000.00	250,000.00
6.1.8 Train communities on use of improved technologies for food storage, food preservation and food processing	100,000 Households trained	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	135,000,000.00	180,000.00
6.1.9 Mobilize communities and train them on the use of fuel-efficient stoves, solar dryers, solar cookers and other fuel-efficient food preparation and preservation methods.	100,000 Households trained	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	112,500,000.00	150,000.00
6.1.10 Promote agro-processing and preservation of seasonal foods using improved technologies	500,000 households	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	450,000,000.00	600,000.00
6.1.11 Promote processing and utilization of legumes and oils seeds using appropriate technologies	300,000 households	50,000	100,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	300,000,000.00	400,000.00
6.1.12 Increase awareness on food safety issues for safe food availability	1,000,000 households with proper knowledge on food safety	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	375,000,000.00	500,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Intervention 6.2 Promote nutrition education and behaviour change communication for improved diets								
6.2.1 Train communities on food budgeting, meal planning and meal preparation to reduce food waste and nutrient loss.	100,000 Households trained	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	135,000,000.00	180,000.00
6.2.2 Conduct food and nutrition fairs and open days using all 6 food groups, including indigenous and bio fortified foods	29 fairs conduct annually	29	29	29	29	29	157,500,000.00	210,000.00
6.2.3 Conduct food recipes and product development competitions using locally available foods	1 competition per annum.	1	1	1	1	1	15,000,000.00	20,000.00
6.2.4 Conduct household visits to provide tailor made food, nutrition and HIV education and counselling, and reinforce positive behaviours.	100 000 households visited	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	150,000,000.00	200,000.00
6.2.5 Conduct community awareness campaigns on dietary diversity based on the 6 food groups	4 campaigns conducted annually	4	4	4	4	4	150,000,000.00	200,000.00
6.2.6 Conduct dietary assessment	2800 Households interviewed	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	150,000,000.00	200,000.00
6.2.7 Publish Food and Nutrition surveillance results	2 reports per annum.	1	1	1	1	1	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
6.2.7 Improve coordination and delivery of agriculture nutrition programmes	3 food and nutrition policy instruments disseminated		1	1	1	1	22,500,000,000.00	30,000,000.00
Intervention 6.3 Strengthen farmer decision in the face of climate change								
6.3.1 Build Capacity of farmers on climate and weather sensitive agriculture	1,000,000 households trained	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	450,000,000.00	600,000.00
6.3.2 Facilitate implementation of Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA)	1,000,000 households implementing PICSA	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	375,000,000.00	500,000.00
Sub Total							26,380,000,500.00	35,173,334.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Pillar 3: Innovation and Learning for Agriculture TransformationInnovation and learning								
Outcome 7: Increased utilization of innovative, effective and appropriate methodologies, approaches and messages in agriculture extension and advisory Services								
Intervention 7.1: Development of comprehensive and effective Agriculture Extension and Advisory approaches, methods and messages								
7.1.1 Conduct Research studies on effectiveness of extension systems, methodologies, methods and approaches	2 studies conducted	1				1	187,500,000.00	250,000.00
7.1.2. Conduct adoption studies	2 studies conducted	1				1	150,000,000.00	200,000.00
7.1.3 Disseminate research study findings	74 Dissemination meetings	37				37	225,000,000.00	300,000.00
7.1.7 Conduct interface meetings between public and private extension and research service providers	10 Interface meetings	2	2	2	2	2	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
Intervention 7.2: Scale-up and -out innovative extension, approaches and messages								
7.2.1 Establish gaps on the existing methodologies and approaches	5 gap analyses conducted	1	1	1	1	1	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
7.2.2 Develop or redesign participatory extension methods and approaches	5 Participatory Extension Methods and Approaches	1	1	1	1	1	75,000,000.00	100,000.00
7.2.3 Disseminate the developed extension methods and approaches	222 Dissemination meetings	74	74	74	74	74	187,500,000.00	250,000.00
7.2.7 Conduct learning routes	10 learning routes conducted	2	2	2	2	2	112,500,000.00	150,000.00
Sub Total							1,012,500,000.00	1,350,000.00

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Outcome 8: Improved agriculture extension and advisory Services monitoring, evaluation and learning system								
Intervention 8.1: Set up Monitoring and Evaluation units at national, divisional and district levels								
8.1.1 Develop a system to coordinate monitoring of AEAS	1 system in place to coordinate monitoring of AEAS and updated annually	1	0	0	0	0	150,000,000.00	200,000.00
8.1.2 Develop key performance indicators on AEAS.	1 set of performance indicators developed	1	0	0	0	0	75,000,000.00	100,000.00
8.1.3 Conduct a Baseline Study on extension and advisory services	1 Baseline study on extension and advisory services conducted	1	0	0	0	0	240,000,000.00	320,000.00
8.1.4 Conduct monitoring and support visits	2120 M & E Visits conducted	424	424	424	424	424	1,620,000,000.00	2,160,000.00
8.1.5 Hold review meetings at all levels.	10 meetings conducted at national level	2	2	2	2	2	375,000,000.00	500,000.00
	10 meetings conducted at ADD level	2	2	2	2	2	225,000,000.00	300,000.00
	280 meetings conducted at district level	56	56	56	56	56	585,000,000.00	780,000.00
8.1.6 Conduct mid-term reviews	1 mid-term review conducted			1			75,000,000.00	100,000.00
8.1.7 Produce quarterly and annual reports	10 Semi-annual reports produced	2	2	2	2	2	37,500,000.00	50,000.00
	5 annual reports produced	1	1	1	1	1	15,000,000.00	20,000.00
8.1.8 Conduct evaluation of the strategy	1 evaluation of the strategy conducted					1	210,000,000.00	280,000.00
Sub Total							3,607,500,000.00	4,810,000.00

ACTIVITIES		OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
			2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Pillar 4: Sustainable Financing of Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services									
Outcome 9 Increased and sustainable financing of agriculture extension and advisory services									
Intervention 9.1: Financial coordination with development partners and private sector									
9.1.1 Develop mechanisms for consolidating funds for AEAS from public, private and civil society organizations	1 mechanism developed and implemented	1	0	0	0	0	22,500,000.00	30,000.00	
	8 programmes developed	2	2	2	2	0	120,000,000.00	160,000.00	
	1 financial tracking system established	1	0	0	0	0	37,500,000.00	50,000.00	
9.1.3. Institute financial tracking system for AEAS	5 annual financial reports compiled on AEAS	1	1	1	1	1	52,500,000.00	70,000.00	
Intervention 9.2: Harmonized funding, transparency and accountability									
9.2.1 Facilitate sub-sector-wide technical and financial auditing of AEAS	1 sectoral technical and financial audits conducted annually	1	1	1	1	1	150,000,000.00	200,000.00	
	3 regional trainings conducted annually	3	3	3	3	3	225,000,000.00	300,000.00	
9.2.3 Mobilize resources for operationalization of performance awards	500,000 USD mobilized	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	375,000,000.00	500,000.00	

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	TARGETS					COST (MK)	COST (USD)
		2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025		
Intervention 9.3: Develop cost-recovery mechanisms for some extension services, providers and some categories of farmers								
9.3.1 Conduct mapping of AEAS to isolate services to be put on cost recovery	1 study conducted to map services	1	0	0	0	0	112,500,000.00	150,000.00
9.3.2 Establish AEAS Trust Fund	1 AEAS trust fund established	0	1	0	0	0	375,000,000.00	500,000.00
9.3.3 Conduct sensitization meetings on cost-recovery mechanism in AEAS	5 sensitization meetings conducted annually for the first 3 years	5	5	5	0	0	75,000,000.00	100,000.00
Sub Total							1,545,000,000.00	2,060,000.00
GRAND TOTAL							165,540,949,500.00	220,721,266.00



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