



Administrator Power's Round Table Meeting on Food Security and Resilience
Saturday, July 2, 2022, 16:00 to 17:30pm
MwAPATA Institute Boardroom

1. Context

Administrator Power and Ambassador Young hosted a food security and resilience roundtable discussion at MwAPATA Institute on July 2, 2022. The roundtable discussed the chronic and acute food insecurity, as well as the impacts of recent economic challenges due to rising global prices, and major actions to address the food-security crisis.

The meeting included six roundtable participants, five USAID/Malawi Mission attendees, and seven delegates that accompanied Administrator Power. The roundtable was facilitated by Maurice Shines, Deputy Office Director for USAID/Malawi's Office of Sustainable Economic Growth. The meeting was very engaging and Administrator Power and Ambassador Young raised various topical issues.

2. Key Issues that Emerged from the Roundtable

2.1 Food security situation/major concerns

- Declining maize yield response to inorganic fertilizers
- Multiple weather shocks – floods – droughts
- Forex crisis – less than one month import cover, IMF program not yet in place
- Surging fertilizer, fuel and food prices
- Covid-19 impacts
- Dominance of subsidy program in MoA budget – crowding out extension, research, development, livestock

- Dualistic approach to agriculture – ignoring emerging medium scale farmers – but government does not want to support these medium scale farmers because they are relatively well off compared to subsistence farmers.

2.2 Major actions that could be undertaken

- Social protection – to be looked at within the context of AIP reforms, by unbundling the current AIP beneficiaries (smallholder farmers) and identify the unproductive farmers who need social protection
- AIP reforms – could AIP be given up? System is not fit for purpose – not working what decisions need to be made first? AIP reforms should not be looked at in isolation. Need clear road map
- Access to credit for diversified agriculture
- Mega farms – anchor farms – need private sector investment
- Emerging medium scale farmers – need to understand their numbers, location, potential and kind of support they exactly need to contribute to agricultural transformation.
- Irrigation potential in Malawi
- Soil health – this area needs urgent attention in order to improve crop response to inorganic fertilizers
- Agricultural diversification

2.3 Key opportunities

- Private sector engagement – address concerns around barriers created by legislation on land, crops, export mandates – evidence/identify the specific concerns – sustain dialogue between government and private sector
- Legumes production that improve soil health but do not need inorganic fertilizers
- Fertilizer – consider manufacturing and blending in the region

3. Next Steps

- Ambassador Young would like all of us to sustain the dialogue on all the issues that were discussed in the roundtable – USAID/Malawi to organize next roundtable – so we work together to identify concrete steps and road map.
- Let us move together to try to get stuff done.

4. List of Attendees

4.1 Roundtable Participants:

- i) William Chadza, Executive Director of MwAPATA Institute
- ii) Prof Richard Mkandawire, Chairperson of National Planning Commission and MwAPATA Institute, and Africa Director for the Alliance for African Partnership
- iii) Prof Winford Masanjala, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Finance
- iv) Dr. Alexander Bulirani, Controller of Agricultural Services, Ministry of Agriculture
- v) Dr. Joseph Nagoli, Director of Knowledge and Learning, National Planning Commission
- vi) Dr. Jan Duchoslav, Senior Researcher at IFPRI Malawi

4.2 Malawi Mission Attendees:

- i) Ambassador David Young
- ii) Belien Tadesse, Acting Deputy Mission Director
- iii) Anna Toness, Office Director for Sustainable Economic Growth
- iv) Maurice Shines, Deputy Office Director for Sustainable Economic Growth and Site Officer
- v) Louis Kawenda, Agricultural Policy Specialist, and co-Site Officer/Notetaker

4.3 Delegation:

- i) Samatha Power, USAID Administrator
- ii) Isabella Blecha, Special Assistant
- iii) Dennis Vega, Chief of Staff
- iv) Maria Price Detherage, DAA for the Bureau for Africa
- v) Rebecca Chalif, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs
- vi) Ronalie De Alwis, Trip Director
- vii) Zachary Wayton, Security Advisor to A/AID
- viii) Homa Hassan, NSC Director for Southern Africa