

Quarterly

October – December, 2024

Newsletter

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to share some highlights of our work from the October to December 2024. These include the Food Systems Transformation Policy Brief validation workshop, which we conducted with various stakeholders under the Transformation Initiative for Food Systems (TI) project in partnership with GIZ Malawi, CSONA and CISANET. The Issue also exhibits our participation and contributions in various local and international policy engagement events such as the Launch of Agriculture Policies by the Ministry of Agriculture; the 2024 World Food Day and Africa Day for Nutrition and Food Security joint commemoration; the EU Investment Forum, the 2024 ANAPRI Stakeholders Conference; and the United Nations Framework of Convention Conference of Parties. Other outreach events in the quarter include the Data Symposium on Fertilizer and Soil Health and the successful 13th Eminent Speaker Series event we conducted this quarter. Stay captivated!



Mr. William Chadza - Executive Director

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POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

STAKEHOLDERS VALIDATE POLICY BRIEF ON FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

As partners in the Transformation Initiative for Food Systems (TI) project, the MwAPATA Institute, GIZ Malawi, Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) and Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) jointly conducted a Policy Brief Validation Workshop on “Strategies for Accelerating Malawi's Food Systems Transformation.” The workshop was held at Lifestyle Boutique in Lilongwe on Friday, 29 November 2024. Key stakeholders in the Malawi Food Systems that participated in the validation workshop included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture - Malawi, the National ... **(To page 2)**

Food Systems Policy Brief Validated

(From page 1) ... Planning Commission, Oxfam, the Department of Nutrition, the Ministry of Local Government, the media, as well as Dedza, Chikwawa and Mzimba District Councils.

The MwAPATA Institute led the TI project team in the research process to publish the policy brief. The policy brief highlights the current challenges, draws some lessons, and identifies areas for accelerating the implementation of food systems transformation in Malawi. It also examines the ongoing efforts to transform Malawi's food systems.

Data that informs the policy brief was gathered from dialogues with various stakeholders in the agri-food systems sector. Such dialogues were organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with several development partners, including GIZ and USAID's Feed the Future Food Systems for Nutrition Innovation Lab at Tufts University. Participants at these events included representatives from the Government, private

sector, academia, development partners, and media.

The policy brief also incorporates lessons from the TI Project activities implemented in Mzimba, Chikwawa, and Dedza districts between July and August 2024. The project has been engaging stakeholders at the district and community levels, enabling them to imagine and work towards an ideal future for their local food systems.

MwAPATA Institute's Research Fellow Dr. Anderson Gondwe made the presentation on the Policy Brief highlighting key findings and recommendations. In reaction to the presentation, the participating stakeholders engaged in critical discussions on the ongoing efforts to transform Malawi's food systems. They also gave input to the policy brief and validated it. Pending approval to be published, the policy brief was revised by the MwAPATA Institute based on the given input.



Dr. Anderson Gondwe during his presentation at the Policy Brief Validation event.

MwAPATA's Contribution to Agriculture Policy Research Exhibited at the Launch of MoA Policies

As one of the key partners for the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the MwAPATA Institute participated in the MoA's Launch of three policies, namely the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), the Agriculture Land Resources Management Policy and the National Irrigation Policy. The three policies were launched by the Minister of Agriculture Hon. Sam Dalitso Kawale on 4th December 2024 at the Bingu

International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe.

As an Agriculture Policy Think Tank in Malawi, the MwAPATA Institute also pitched on its research's contribution to the three launched agriculture policies. This was done during the Minister's touring of pavilions at the event as MwAPATA was one of the MoA's partners that exhibited their work in line with the new policies. The

Executive Director Mr. William Chadza welcomed the Minister at the MwAPATA's exhibition booth where the Research Analyst Mr. Bonface Nankwenya pitched on the institutes research processes and specific studies informed policy recommendations to the MoA. The Minister urged MwAPATA to continue supporting MoA with evidence-based policy recommendations to inform decision-making even during the implementation of the launched policies.



Minister of Agriculture Hon. Sam Kawale (2nd from right) touring the MwAPATA Pavilion



Minister of Agriculture Hon. Sam Kawale making his remarks during the launch of the new policies

Data Symposium on Fertilizer and Soil Health

On 10th October 2024, MwAPATA Institute conducted a Data Symposium on “Fertilizer and Soil Health” at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe. The symposium’s objective was to increase awareness of existing, publicly accessible data and promote knowledge sharing essential for advancing the goals of the country’s 10-Year Action Plan. Learn more about the symposium [here](#).

13th Ndizotheka Eminent Speaker Series

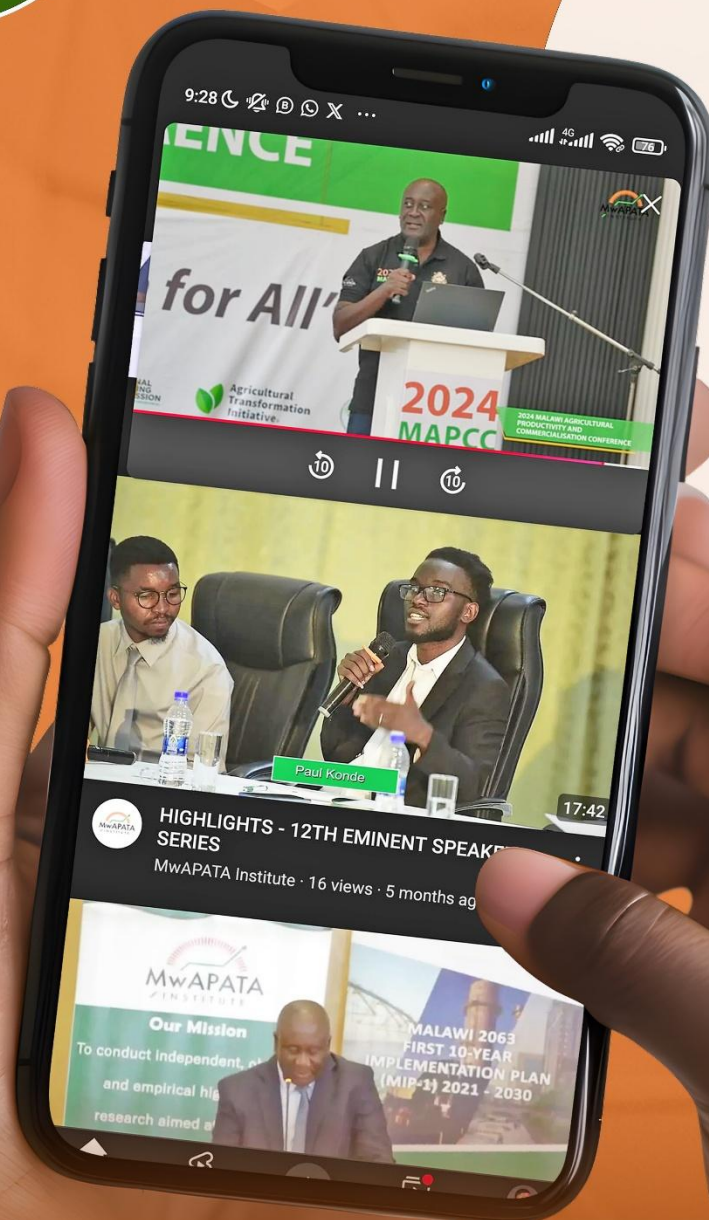
In partnership with the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and the National Planning Commission (NPC), MwAPATA Institute conducted the 13th Ndizotheka Eminent Speaker Series (ESS) on 17th October 2024 at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe. The Eminent Speaker was Mr. Zwide Jere, Managing Director at Total Land Care. The theme for the 13th ESS was “Leveraging Carbon Market and Climate Finance to Accelerate Sustainable Development in Malawi”. Learn more about the 13th ESS [here](#).



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Research Outcomes Published (October - December 2024)

Plantation Forestry in Malawi: Challenges and Policy Options

(Policy Brief)

Date of Publication: December 16th, 2024

Forest plantations significantly contribute to Malawi's economic growth through revenue generation, job creation, and forex earnings. However, the plantation forest sector represents untapped potential. In this study, we analyze the challenges that inhibit the development and growth of the forest plantation sector in Malawi. Additionally, we provide policy options to address these challenges and capitalize on the missed opportunities.

READ MORE [HERE](#)

Innovative Options of Financing for Sustainable Forests Development and Management in Malawi

(Policy Brief)

Date of Publication: December 16th, 2024

Adequate and sustainable financing is crucial for managing forest resources in developing countries like Malawi. This study highlights potential forest financing mechanisms and instruments that the government of Malawi and other stakeholders in the forest sector can explore to ensure the sustainable management of forest resources.

READ MORE [HERE](#)

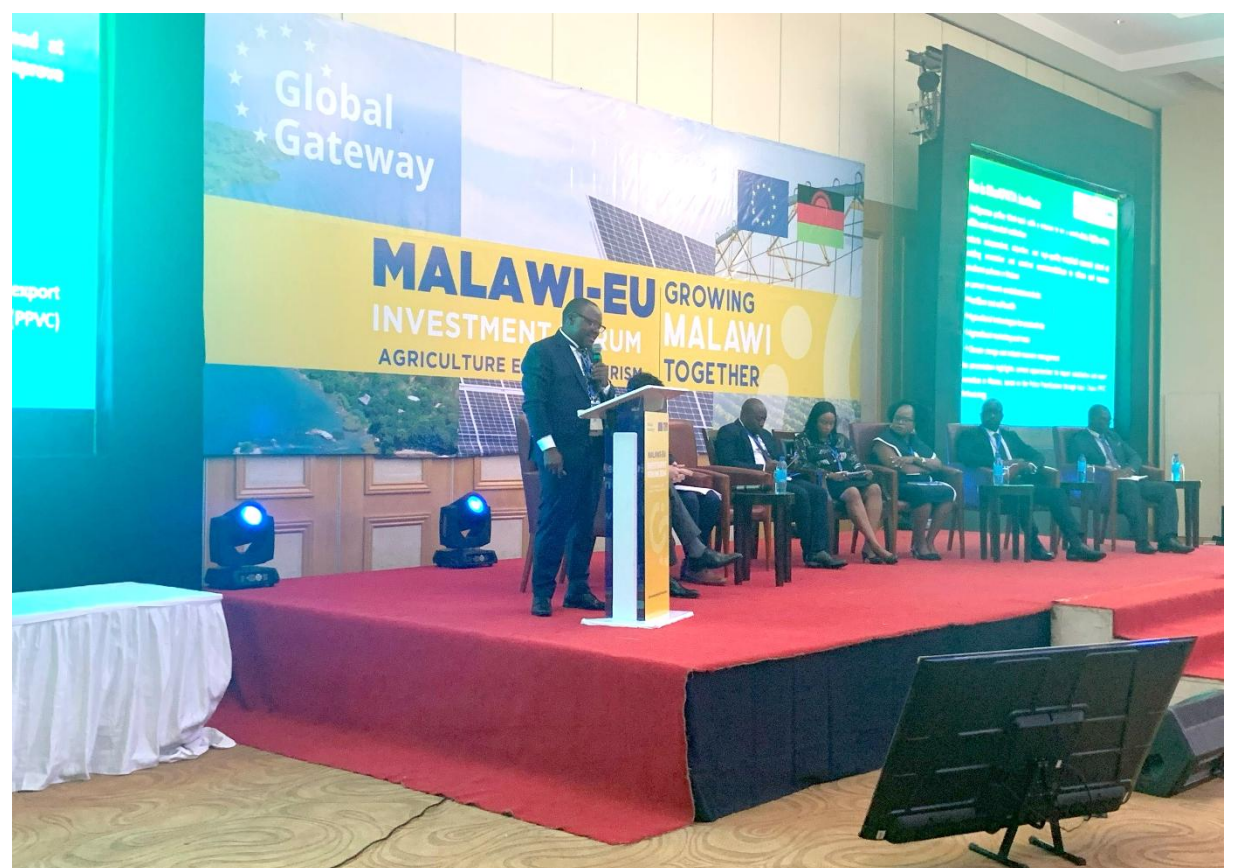
PARTNERSHIP AND CORPORATIONS

MwAPATA Participates at 2024 Malawi-European Union (EU) Investment Forum

MwAPATA Institute's Research Fellow, Dr. Christone Nyondo represented the Institute at the 2024 Malawi-European Union (EU) Investment Forum held at Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe. The two-day event, which ran from 7th to 8th November 2024, was officially graced by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi.

During the two days of the forum, various public and private sector players provided testimonials and investment project pitches in the Agriculture, Energy and Tourism fields. The stakeholders also discussed financing investments in Malawi and shared experiences on the same.

On behalf of the MwAPATA Institute, Dr. Nyondo made a presentation on "Import Substitution and Export Opportunities for Malawi's Agriculture Value Chains". Among other things, the presentation outlined evidence-based policy recommendations on tackling challenges affecting agricultural markets in Malawi.



Dr. Christone Nyondo (standing) during his presentation at the EU Investment Forum

MwAPATA Awarded at the 2024 World Food Day and Africa Day for Nutrition Joint Commemoration



Mrs. Mercy Mikanda (right) receiving the MwAPATA's award from the Minister of Agriculture Hon. Sam Kawale

The MwAPATA Institute joined the Malawi Government and other various partners and stakeholders in Zomba for the 2024 World Food Day and Africa Day for Nutrition and Food Security joint commemoration which was held at Chimbiya Primary School on 30 October 2024. The Guest of Honor at the commemoration was the Minister of Agriculture Hon. Sam Dalitso Kawale MP.

In recognition of MwAPATA's support and commitment to the commemoration event and acknowledging the Institute's dedication to supporting food security in Malawi, the MoA in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) awarded the MwAPATA with a Certificate of Recognition. Policy Research Engagement Officer Mrs. Mercy Mikanda represented MwAPATA at the commemoration and received the certificate on behalf of the institute.

TI Partners Conduct Decentralized Dissemination of the Food Systems Synthesis Report



MwAPATA Institute Research Fellow Dr Anderson Gondwe facilitating a plenary session during the Southern Region Meeting at Amaryllis Hotel in Blantyre

The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Local Government and the National Planning Commission of Malawi, in collaboration with the Food Systems Transformation Initiative Project (comprising GIZ Malawi, MwAPATA Institute, Civil Society Organization Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) and Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET), conducted regional meetings with district council representatives in all the four regions of Malawi: Southern, Eastern, Central and Northern regions.

The objectives of the regional meetings included disseminating the Food Systems Synthesis report and consolidating feedback on the Food Systems

Strategy and Investment Plan from the district stakeholders.

On 16 October 2024, the first regional meeting which was for the Southern Region took place at Amaryllis Hotel in Blantyre City. District council representatives from Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Chiradzulu, Blantyre, Neno and Mwanza participated in the meeting. The second one was the Eastern Region meeting on 18 October 2024 held at T&G Conference Centre in Zomba. District council representatives from Zomba, Phalombe, Machinga, Balaka, Mangochi and Ntcheu participated in the meeting. This was followed by the Northern Region Meeting on 21 October 2024, held at Mzuzu Sunbird Hotel, where

participants from Nkhatabay, Mzimba, Rumphi and Likoma converged. Lastly, the Central Region meeting was conducted on 25 October 2024 at Sigelege Hotel in Salima, bringing together the district council representatives from Dedza, Lilongwe, Salima, Mchinji, Kasungu, Dowa, Ntchisi and Nkhatakota. All Agriculture Development Division (ADD) project managers also participated in the regional meetings.

In all the regional meetings, the councils presented the progress made in their respective districts so far in operationalizing the Food Systems action tracks and reported the key challenges encountered.

MwAPATA Institute's Research Fellow Joins the Malawi Carbon Markets Delegation at the United Nations Framework of Convention Conference of Parties

The MwAPATA Institute's Research Fellow Dr. Maggie Munthali attended the United Nations Framework of Convention Conference of Parties No. 29 (COP 29), accompanying the Malawi Carbon Markets Delegation. The conference was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11th to 22nd November 2024.

Dr. Munthali was one of the negotiators for carbon trading who accompanied the Vice President, Right Honorable Dr. Michael Usi, and other government officials from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs as well as the Ministry of Energy and Mining, at the COP 29.



Dr. Maggie Munthali, representing the Malawi Carbon Market Delegation at the COP 29

MwAPATA Institute Participates at the 11th Annual ANAPRI Conference

As a member of the Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI), the MwAPATA Institute participated at the 11th Annual ANAPRI Stakeholders Conference held at Azalai Hotel Dakar in Senegal. Representing the Institute at the conference were the Executive Director, Mr. William Chadza, the Research Director, Prof. Levison Chiwaula, Research Fellow, Dr. Maggie Munthali and Research Analyst, Mr. Bonface Nankwenya. These were also joined by two members of the Institute's Technical Support Team from the Michigan State University (MSU), Dr. Milu Muyanga and Dr. William Burke. The conference ran from Tuesday 26th November 2024, to Thursday, 28th November 2024 under the theme: "From Policy to Practice: Strengthening Local Institutions for Sustainable Food Systems Transformation in Africa".



From right: Mr. Bonface Nankwenya, Mr. William Chadza, Prof. Levison Chiwaula, Dr. Maggie Munthali, Dr. William Burke and Dr. Milu Muyanga at the ANAPRI Conference.



ABOUT MwAPATA

Evidence Matters for Transformational Impact

VISION

Our vision to be a world-class, highly active, credible, and respected local agricultural policy research think tank in Malawi, the most sought-after in Africa, and among the most respected in the world.

MISSION

Our mission is to conduct independent, objective, and empirical high-quality research aimed at providing innovative and practical recommendations to inform and improve agricultural sector policies in Malawi

OUR CORE VALUES

Professionalism/Integrity

Relevance

Independence

Mutual respect

Excellence



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