



# The Role of Higher Education Institutions in implementation of Malawi 2063: The case of LUANAR

**“Diversified agricultural value chains for improved trade balances and foreign currency reserves”**

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# Outline

1. Role of Higher Education Institutions towards MW2063
2. The MW2063 Catalyst: Diversified Agricultural Value Chains
3. LUANAR and MW2063
4. Current Deliberate Efforts towards MW2063
5. Conclusion





# Role of HEIs towards MW2063

- MW2063 guides Malawi's development amidst global shocks
- Anchored by 3 pillars and 7 enablers, MW2063 is clear on how the promotion of research, science, technology, and innovation will contribute to the realization of inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance
- The pursuit of the “knowledge-based economy” requires that Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) be considered as an integral part of the journey.





Malawi's eyes are on



MW2063 ALL INCLUSIVE WEALTH & SELF RELIANT NATION

1

Agricultural Productivity & Commercialization

Economic Infrastructure

Environmental Sustainability

2

Industrialization

Effective Governance Systems & Institutions

3

Urbanization

Private sector Dynamism

Mindset Change

Enhanced public Sector Performance

Human Capital Development

Knowledge | Innovation | Excellence





# Role of HEIs towards MW2063

- HEIs play a multifaceted and integral role in advancing a nation's development goals.
- In Malawi, HEIs are among the few players that have direct role to play towards all the 3 pillars of MW2063
- HEIs play a pivotal role in shaping the future of nations by:
  - Producing skilled professionals
  - Fostering innovation
  - Conducting impactful research





# Human Capital Development

- HEIs play a pivotal role in developing a skilled and adaptable workforce that aligns with the evolving needs of industries and sectors.
- Graduates equipped with specialized knowledge and practical skills contribute significantly to economic productivity and innovation.
- HEIs also foster a culture of entrepreneurship by supporting startup incubators, providing mentorship, and equipping graduates with the skills to innovate and create new ventures.

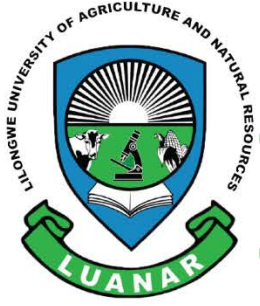




# Research, Innovation & Policy

- HEIs are engines of research and innovation, generating new knowledge, technologies, and solutions that address complex challenges.
- HEIs serve as knowledge hubs that nurture talent, drive innovation, and contribute to sustainable growth across sectors.
- Research outcomes contribute to advancements in agriculture, health, technology, and various other fields, directly impacting the nation's progress
- HEIs provide evidence-based research and expertise that inform policy formulation, helping governments make informed decisions.





# Outreach, Cultural & Social Contributions

- The outreach efforts facilitate knowledge transfer, technology adoption, and sustainable development at the grassroots level.
- HEIs contribute to preserving cultural heritage, promoting arts, and advancing social awareness through research, education, and community engagement







# LUANAR's Contribution Towards MW2063

- Amidst the global crises, agricultural diversification is the feasible pathway towards the MW2063 pillar of **Agricultural Productivity and Commercialization.**
- Diversification of production and exports needs to be pursued strategically by promoting agriculture that goes beyond maize for food security and tobacco for income.
- As a leading HEI in the sector, LUANAR is pivotal to the pillar given its indispensable mandate.





# LUANAR & MW2063

- Agriculture and natural resources are foundational to Malawi's economy, contributing significantly to employment, exports, and overall livelihoods.
- LUANAR's unique focus on agriculture and natural resources places it at the forefront of addressing core challenges and opportunities within these sectors.
- The University plays a pivotal role in producing skilled graduates, conducting impactful research, and engaging with communities to address sector-specific challenges.





# LUANAR & MW2063

- LUANAR's specialized education, research, and outreach programs directly cater to the needs of Malawi's agricultural and natural resource sectors.
- LUANAR understands that a long-term vision for creating world-class university—and its implementation—need to be closely articulated with the country's overall development strategy.
- The University has taken a number of deliberate efforts aimed at ensuring specialized contribution towards realization of MW2063





# Current Deliberate Efforts Towards MW2063

- Curriculum revision-relevant programmes
- Research Agenda – drawn from the National Research Agenda
- Development and Implementation of Technology Commercialization and Industry engagement policies
- Establishment of Technology Transfer Office – process initiated
- Enhanced capacity of researchers-research grants and scholarships to staff members and postgraduate students
- Mega teaching farm establishment – directly involved for food security





# LUANAR for More Impact

## LUANAR FOR MORE IMPACT

L4MI is about having a deep conversation on how we can further enhance the life and quality of LUANAR students and graduates, and how we can play a more impactful role in Malawi's 2063 Agenda.

L4MI is about leveraging the much needed resources so that together we ascend to transform the agricultural and natural resources sectors for wealth creation and improved livelihoods – for the young and the old.





# Curriculum Development & Revision

- LUANAR offers a diverse range of academic programmes focused on agriculture, natural resources, and related fields.
- LUANAR's programmes are designed to equip students with practical skills, knowledge, and innovative thinking to holistically tackle challenges in the sector.
- Emphasis placed on Knowledge, Innovation, and Excellence while maintaining the vision of becoming a World-Class University





# Research Agenda

- Since the launch of the National Research Agenda, LUANAR has emphasized on the need to conduct research guided by the NRA.
- Faculties and departments are developing their research focus areas based on the NRA. This will be consolidated into a LUANAR Research Agenda.
- By doing so, all faculty members and students are guided to conduct research that is relevant towards the realization of MW2063.





# Technology Transfer & Commercialisation

- Innovations and solutions developed at LUANAR have the potential to transform agricultural practices and drive economic growth.
- LUANAR is currently providing research grants to researchers whose research outputs have potential for translating into social and commercial value other than just knowledge generation
- This year, LUANAR has set aside funds to support 10 outstanding research projects.
- LUANAR has put in place policies guiding commercialization of research outputs







# Partnerships & Collaborations

- To foster innovation and technology transfer, LUANAR is engaged in collaborations with industry and private sector entities (CAT Student Internship Programme).
  - The partnerships are helping to bridge the gap between academic research and practical applications, leading to tangible outcomes that benefit the agricultural and natural resource sectors.
- LUANAR engages in collaborations with international organizations, universities, and research institutions.
  - The international partnerships enhance knowledge exchange, cross-cultural learning, and the adoption of best practices from around the world.





# Highlights of some of LUANAR's Contribution so far

- Over 20,000 professionals trained in diplomas and degrees since establishment
- Notable alumni:
  - Dr. Dalitso Kabambe-Former Governor of the Reserve Bank
  - Dr. Thomas Munthali-Director General of NPC
  - Dr. Yanira Mtupanyama-Chief Director of Ministry of Agriculture
  - Mr. Dybon Chibonga-Former CEO of NASFAM
- ETC





# Highlights

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## Luanar embarks on K29 billion mega farms drive

by **Nation Online** — 23/06/2023 in **National News** 2 min read

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The Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Luanar), has embarked on a K29.2 billion mega farms teaching programme that will see the university establishing mega farms but also teaching students in establishment and management of such farms.

The mega farms are expected to promote both crop production, livestock production and aquaculture





# Conclusions

- HEIs are essential partners in achieving MW2063.
- Given the three pillars, MW2063 remains a collective responsibility by all HEIs.
- HEIs must become innovative to navigate challenges that limit their capacity in contributing towards MW2063.
- LUANAR will continue to channel its efforts and resources towards MW2063, particularly the agricultural productivity and commercialization pillar.





# Thank you

