

AUGUST 19, 2025



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APRIL - JULY, 2025

NEWSLETTER



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Dear Readers,

We are pleased to share some highlights of our work from April to July 2025. One of the activities is the Malawi Green Corps Dissemination, which we conducted in collaboration with our partners: the UNDP Malawi, Catholic Relief Services, and the Ministry of Climate Change and Natural Resources.

The Issue also highlights our participation and contributions in various local policy engagement events, such as the 2025 National Agroecology Conference and the Learning Event on Food Systems Governance, which was conducted under the Transformative Initiative on Food Systems (TI) project.

In addition, the newsletter exhibits international events that MwAPATA participated in, such as the Side Event on the Localization of the Implementation of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (FSH-AP) at the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) conference.

Stay captivated!



Mr. William Chadza
Executive Director

PHOTO: MwAPATA's Research Analyst, Bonface Nankwenya presenting the project evaluation report during the MGC Dissemination Workshop .

Malawi Green Corps Project Benefits the Youth

The MwAPATA Institute disseminated the Malawi Green Corps (MGC) Project Evaluation Report in partnership with UNDP Malawi, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Malawi Government (Ministry of Natural Resources & Climate Change, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports). The MGC Dissemination workshop was held at the BICC in Lilongwe on 25 June 2025, graced by the Minister of Natural Resources & Climate Change, Hon. Owen Chomanika. The theme for the event was "Green jobs for youths: Transformational solutions towards a greener and cleaner Malawi."

The workshop provided a platform for young people to showcase their achievements and contributions to transformational solutions towards a greener and cleaner Malawi. The MGC implementing partners and stakeholders also showcased best practices on youth engagement in environmental programs, particularly land restoration and waste management.

Presenting on behalf of the MwAPATA Institute, our Research Analyst Mr. Bonface Nankwenya highlighted the impact of the project on the youths' economic empowerment, challenges faced by the youths, lessons learnt from the project, as well as policy recommendations to the government and other stakeholders towards expanding socio-economic opportunities, particularly for youths, while accelerating a greener economic transition through sustainable natural resources management.

MwAPATA Participates in the FANRPAN 2025 Regional High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue

The Board Chairperson of MwAPATA Institute, Professor Richard Mkandawire and our Research Fellow, Dr. Anderson Gondwe, participated in the FANRPAN 2025 Regional High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue at Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa. The event took place from Monday, 4th August 2025 to Thursday, 7th August 2025.

The dialogue brought together various partners from across Africa to contribute to the regional policy dialogue and knowledge sharing on agri-food systems. During the event, Prof. Mkandawire made a keynote address on "Policy and Practice in Localization of Continental and Regional Frameworks and Policies in Transforming Food Systems in Africa".

Other partners from Malawi participating in the event included the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Planning Commission (NPC), CISANET, LUANAR, CARE, Trust Africa, and FOSTA-Health.



Prof. Richard Mkandawire (left) and Dr. Anderson Gondwe during the FANRPAN 2025 Regional High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue.



MwAPATA's Research Analyst, Bonface Nankwenya (right) during the pavilion time at the International Day of Forests, 2025.

MwAPATA Exhibits Publications on Forestry Studies at the "International Day of Forests, 2025"

MwAPATA joined the Government of Malawi and other partners in commemorating the "International Day of Forests, 2025" which was held at Nsaru ADMARC Ground in Lilongwe on 16th April 2025. The Guest of Honour at the event was Hon. Dr. Owen Chomanika, Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change. During the event, MwAPATA exhibited some of the publications from forestry studies conducted by the institute. Research Analyst, Bonface Nankwenya and Policy Engagement Officer, Mercy Mikanda, represented MwAPATA at the event.



Research Fellow, Dr. Christone Nyondo, making the presentation on behalf of MwAPATA during the 2025 National Agroecology Conference.

Dr. Nyondo Participates in the 2025 National Agroecology Conference

The MwAPATA Institute, which serves as the Secretariat for a multi-stakeholder platform that coordinates the implementation of the Malawi Action Plan on Fertilizer and Soil Health (MAP-FSH), participated in the 2025 National Agroecology Conference, held at the Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe from July 29 to 31, 2025. The theme for the conference was "Fostering Innovation, Advocacy, and Research for Scalable Agroecological Solutions."

The conference brought together various experts, advocates, researchers and innovators to explore cutting-edge solutions for sustainable farming, land restoration, and food security in Malawi. During the conference, Dr. Christone Nyondo, a Research Fellow at the MwAPATA Institute, made a presentation titled "Domestication of the Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan in Malawi: Process, Stakeholder Roles, and Pathways for Progress".

The Director of Crop Development in the Ministry of Agriculture, Elida Kazira, officially opened the conference with a call for Malawi to adopt policies that promote sustainable farming practices.



A group photo of MwAPATA staff and other participants at the Side Event on the Localization of the Implementation of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (FSH-AP) during the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) Conference

Stakeholders Brainstorm on the Domestication of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (FSH-AP) at the Alliance for African Partnership Conference

As the Secretariat for a multi-stakeholder platform coordinating the implementation of the Malawi Action Plan on Fertilizer and Soil Health for 2024 to 2034 (MAP-FSH), the MwAPATA Institute in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) organized and facilitated the Side Event on the Localization of the Implementation of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan (FSH-AP) at the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) conference, held at BICC in Lilongwe. Our various partners, including the National Planning Commission, LUANAR, ANAPRI, Catholic Relief Services, farmers' representatives and other private sector stakeholders, participated in the side event.

The side event, which was conducted on June 11th, 2025, provided a platform for various relevant local stakeholders in the fertilizer and soil health subsector to brainstorm on the best ways to localize and effectively implement the strategies and actions of the continental 'Fertilizer and Soil Health 10-year Action Plan', to which Malawi's 10-year action plan is aligned.

The side event featured a panel discussion, which was preceded by a keynote presentation and followed by a plenary session. The panel comprised representatives from the government, non-state actors, the private sector, and farmers. Representing the Secretariat, MwAPATA's Research Fellow Dr. Christone Nyondo made a keynote presentation titled "The Domestication of the Fertilizer and Soil Action Plan in Malawi: Process, Stakeholder Roles and Pathways for Progress". Also, Dr Anthony Chapoto, Executive Director for ANAPRI, made a presentation on "Innovative Funding for the Implementation of the Africa FSH-AP". During his presentation, Dr Chapto urged all partners to start thinking outside the box in terms of mobilizing resources for implementation of the Africa FSH-AP as donor fatigue keeps growing.

It is anticipated that from this workshop, a roadmap detailing localization activities that align with the 10-Year Action Plan on Fertilizer and Soil Health will be actualized. The Africa FSH-AP was adopted at the African Union Summit on Fertilizer and Soil Health in Nairobi in May 2024. The plan outlines strategies and actions to be implemented to tackle challenges in fertilizer and soil health at the continental level. By the time of the FSH Summit in Nairobi, Malawi had completed the development of the draft 2024 to 2034 MAP-FSH.

Currently, Malawi is aligning its plan with the continental plan to initiate the domestication process. The MAP-FSH was developed collaboratively through a consultative process involving the Ministry of Agriculture, the MwAPATA Institute, and the participation of relevant stakeholders in the fertilizer and soil health subsector.

TI Malawi Partners Conduct a Learning Event on Food Systems Governance

The Transformative Initiative for Food Systems in Malawi (TI Malawi) project conducted a Learning Event on Food Systems Governance, which was held at Sunbird Capital in Lilongwe on 29 May 2025. TI Malawi partners comprising the Mwapata Institute, GIZ, CSONA and CISANET organized the event in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Planning Commission. The theme for the learning event was “Strengthening Malawi's Food Systems Governance”.

The multi-stakeholder learning event brought together several food systems actors to share updates on their involvement in food systems and plans for the future. The stakeholders also co-created actionable solutions to strengthen the food systems governance structures in Malawi and identified systemic gaps and opportunities for improved coordination.

The stakeholders that participated in the event include development partners like UNICEF Malawi, AGRA, Irish Aid, etc, government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), farmers' organizations, the youth, women, civil society organizations, the private sector, the media, and academia. By bringing the diverse views together, the event provided a platform for learning, enabling policymakers, development partners, and government actors to incorporate the lessons into their planning processes.

The Ministry of Agriculture and NPC utilized the platform to inform stakeholders of the recent establishment of the National Food Systems Steering Committee and the imminent formation of Food Systems Technical Working Groups. The outcomes of the event shall be synthesized into a report to guide follow-up actions with relevant stakeholders towards strengthening Malawi's Food Systems Governance.



Research Fellow, Dr. Anderson Gondwe, making remarks on behalf of Mwapata during the Learning Event on Food systems Governance.

Research Outcome Published

Strategies for Accelerating Malawi's Food Systems Transformation (Policy Brief)

Date of Publication: April 30th, 2025



The study utilizes data gathered through a series of food systems dialogues and meetings held between April and October 2024 to identify strategies for fast-tracking the operationalization of Malawi's food systems transformation agenda. The study recommends the need to map the existing food systems initiatives, strengthen the coordination and governance structure of food systems, and establish a monitoring and evaluation framework for tracking progress.

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Mwapata Institute

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Evidence Matters for Transformational Impact

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