

Rapid Evidence and Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Trade Restrictions in Malawi



Group photo of the participants at the Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Trade Restrictions in Malawi

On 21st April 2026, the MwAPATA Institute convened a Rapid Evidence and Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Trade Restrictions in Malawi. The dialogue, held at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe, was organised in collaboration with the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and supported by the Africa Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ANAPRI). The event brought together stakeholders in trade and related sectors to discuss, expand the scope, and address the knowledge gaps left by the MwAPATA and LUANAR's recent study on the potential impacts of export mandates on Malawi's economy and development trajectory on an "ex-ante" basis.

The stakeholders shared more extensive insights required to quantify the impacts of broader trade restrictions beyond those of export mandates. Among other things, most of the participating stakeholders in the dialogue agreed that trade restrictions risk undermining long-term agricultural growth in Malawi. The participants called for more predictable, rules-based trade policies supported by targeted safety nets and strategic grain reserves to balance food security concerns with stable and competitive agricultural markets. [Read more](#). Watch the event's video [here](#).