

National Research Dissemination Workshop on Climate Change and Economic Development in Africa

Tuesday, 16th May 2023, Lilongwe, Malawi



Picture 1: Group photograph of stakeholders who attended the dissemination workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) in partnership with the MwAPATA Institute organized a national research dissemination workshop on Climate Change and Economic Development in Africa. The workshop disseminated findings from part of collaborative research conducted in Malawi, Nigeria and Kenya aimed at deepening the understanding of climate change related challenges, mitigation and adaptation measures in the agrarian economies. The dissemination event was attended in person and virtually by about 70 various key experts and stakeholders including representatives from government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), development partners, Non-governmental Organizations, Academia, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Farmers and media.

In her opening remarks, the Director of Land Resource Conservation in the Ministry of Agriculture Mrs. Gertrude Kambauwa commended AERC for commissioning the studies which are timely considering the recent devastating climate-related disasters that have been witnessed in Malawi and the Southern Africa. She indicated the need for policy reforms and programming that are better informed by empirical studies undertaken by AERC.

Speaking during the event, the AERC Research Manager Dr. Dianah Muchai, indicated that the collaborative research that was conducted has helped in generating solutions to pressing economic problems emanating from environmental challenges. She



Picture 2: Dr. Dianah Muchai, Program Manager, AERC making a speech

highlighted the need for continued engagement with policy makers beyond the dissemination workshop to ensure uptake of recommendations from the research.

During the event, two research papers were presented. The first paper titled “How is climate erraticism prompting demand for commercially purchased inputs in smallholder farming across agro-ecological regions in Malawi? Lessons for adaptation” was done by Clifton Makate and Marshall. The second research paper titled “Sustainable scaling of climate-smart agricultural technologies and practices in east west and southern Africa: The case of Kenya, Nigeria and Malawi” was done by Austin T. Phiri, Sarah Edore Edewor, Miriam Karwitha Charimbu and Elias Gaveta.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion and feedback from stakeholders. During the discussion, there was a consensus that climate change is pushing the boundaries, and there is need to come up with innovative solutions to adapt to climate change. While acknowledging the gains that have been achieved in recent years in mitigating the effects of climate change, the participants agreed of the need to take an integrated and holistic approach in addressing climate change challenges. These include more investments in innovative climate financing mechanisms such as carbon markets, scaling up workable interventions in an integrated manner, and long-term programming of climate change initiatives. Further, there is need for further studies that will model futuristic climate change scenarios that are in tandem with the country’s long-term aspirations like the Malawi 2063 Agenda, and set up strong governance systems that will harmonize the messages being disseminated to our smallholder farmers.