

THE ROLE OF  
WOMEN IN  
DRIVING  
AGRICULTURAL  
DIVERSIFICATION.  
THE CASE OF UN  
WOMEN



# Introduction and Background

UN Women works for the empowerment of women.

- Agriculture employs over 80% of the population and is the mainstay of Malawian economy
- Agriculture drives livelihoods of two-thirds of the Country's population of about 18 million people.
- Female population in Malawi is estimated at 52% and Gender inequalities exist in all sectors of the economy
- Malawi being an agro-based economy, women provide more than 70% of the labour force

## UN Women's Experiences and Reflections

In line with the Malawi 2063 and the MIP-1 aspirations UN Women aims at:

1. Contributing towards closing the **Gender Productivity Gap**;
2. Enhancing women's income through promotion of **Horticulture, soybean and Groundnuts value chains**;
3. Promoting adoption of promoted technologies in Under ASWAp-Sp II in a **Gender-sensitive manner**

# Why women in CSA ?



Addressing Gender gaps in agricultural productivity while at the same time addressing practical and strategic gender needs of women farmers in Malawi



Unpaid care and domestic work have an “opportunity cost” to women that directly impact their agricultural performance



Addressing Gender differences that arise from social norms and values –Access to inputs and services

**Need to improve women farmers' resilience to climate change**

# UN Women's role in Agricultural Diversification

UN Women is contributing towards the achievement of increasing agricultural productivity through:

- Skills development in innovative strategies of engaging communities,
- Promoting women's access to extension services and technologies,
- Increasing women's participation in leadership positions,
- Promoting women's access to markets

# UN Women's role in Agricultural Diversification

## ASWAp SP II

### Results

- Capacity to invest in climate smart agriculture technologies enhanced among 14,731 (9,236F, 7263 M) across districts (Mzimba, Kasungu, Ntchisi, Mchinji, Lilongwe districts from September 2020 to December 2021
- Increased incomes by 42% among 13,233 farmers (7218M,6015F) as a results of Market survey training sessions.
- Examples include Mwachisosa Cooperative in Chitsime EPA, Lilongwe East bought a maize meal after selling 90 metric tonnes of Groundnuts at MK850/kg in July 2021.
- Increased access to gender sensitive extension services by 10% from 2020 baseline to December 2021 among the women farmers resulting in increased adoption promoted technologies

# UN Women's role in Agricultural Diversification

## Standard Bank Promoting the livelihoods of women and their families through increased participation of women in groundnut production

### Results

- Enhanced production of groundnuts using Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies for enhanced income by 42 percent ( 800kg/ha to 1500kg/ha) within two production seasons against a target of 1800kg/ha among 10,000 women
- A total (3051 women and 982 male farmers) moved up the groundnut value chain by establishing business clusters and sold 43.2 metric tonnes of certified groundnut seeds at an average of US\$ 1.2 per kg
- Capacity enhanced among 830 men as champions in the male engagement strategy to address Socio-cultural barriers that prevent women from accessing equal rights for enhanced agriculture productivity

# UN Women's role in Agricultural Diversification

## **KOICA Promoting the livelihoods of women and their families through increased participation of women in Horticultural Value Chains**

### **Results**

- Enhanced production of Horticultural crops such as tomatoes and Bell peppers 60% by December 2021 from 2018 baseline using Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies
- Capacity enhanced among 3000 women farmers from 9 Farmer organisations in greenhouse production, gender mainstreaming using the household approach, business management skills and market surveys



# Way forward

- Scaling out best practices in a coordinated manner with key stakeholders- Government, Small and Medium Enterprises and the Private sector
- Advocating for policies that promote increased access to finance by women and youth farmers in collaboration with Ministry of Finance and other line Ministries.
- Infusing Savings Culture among Cooperative members –learning from Village Savings and Loan Groups- to ensure they are self reliant.

# VIDEO

UN WOMEN CLOSING.....mp4

Thank you!!

