



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

1. Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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 and Farmers.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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 a need for further studies that will model futuristic climate change scenarios that are in tandem with the country’s long-term aspirations, the Malawi 2063 Agenda, and set up strong governance systems that will harmonize the messages being disseminated to our smallholder farmers.

2. Policy actions and recommendations

The detailed agreed policy actions and recommendations made at the event are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of policy actions and recommendations

Strategic Area	Policy Actions & Recommendations	Champions and Responsible Actors
<p>1. Holistic and integrated programming approach to climate change</p>	<p>1.1 Deal away with a personalized approach in programs aimed at dealing with environmental degradation, both within government MDAs, and the CSOs. Scaling up workable interventions should take an integrated approach in order to have multiple investment outcomes</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources</p>
	<p>1.2 Explore irrigation opportunities extensively as one way of mitigating the impact of climate change.</p>	<p>Department of Irrigation</p>
	<p>1.3 Use Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) for successful targeting of beneficiaries for social protection and resilience building programs.</p>	<p>Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Disaster Management Affairs</p>

	<p>1.4 Climate smart interventions need to deliberately target women and children as vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Youths also need targeting to benefit from their technological skills.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Gender and Children, Ministry of Youth and Sports</p>
<p>2. Harmonize delivery of messages and extension to farmers</p>	<p>2.1 There is need for strong governance systems to deal with conflicting messages on climate-smart agriculture for our smallholder farmers</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension Services</p>
	<p>2.2 There is need for innovative ways of delivering messages to farmers to reach out to more farmers such as digital platforms and targeted outreach programs</p>	<p>National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi, Total Land Care, Department of agricultural extension services.</p>
	<p>2.3 Create awareness of the developed guidelines on climate-smart agriculture messages</p>	<p>Department of land Resource management, Department of agricultural extension services.</p>
<p>3. Financing and crop insurance for farmers</p>	<p>3.1 Long-term programming and financing of climate change related projects to effectively build the resilience of communities to climate change.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, private sector and Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources</p>

	<p>3.2 Invest in innovative climate financing mechanisms such as Carbon Markets and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)</p>	<p>Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources</p>
	<p>3.3 Create awareness of the available crop insurance schemes targeting smallholder farmers, and how they can be accessed.</p>	<p>National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi</p>
	<p>3.4 Support emerging urban young farmers and women with financing</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture</p>
<p>4. Research</p>	<p>4.1 More Research and development of new seed varieties by the seed companies to develop seeds that are climate smart, and for all crops to encourage crop diversification.</p>	<p>Seed Traders Association of Malawi, Department of Agricultural Research Services</p>
	<p>4.2 More studies to model the futuristic impacts of climate change with different scenarios, and in line with the MW2063</p>	<p>CGIARs, MwAPATA</p>
	<p>4.3 Need for data and information on forecasted weather patterns to inform the demand for particular seed varieties in different ecological zones. There is need to have a National seed plan to enable seed companies produce the right amounts of the demanded seeds.</p>	<p>Department of Metrological Services, Seed Traders Association of Malawi</p>