



# Policy and Regulatory Environment to Catalyze Agri-food Systems Transformation in Malawi

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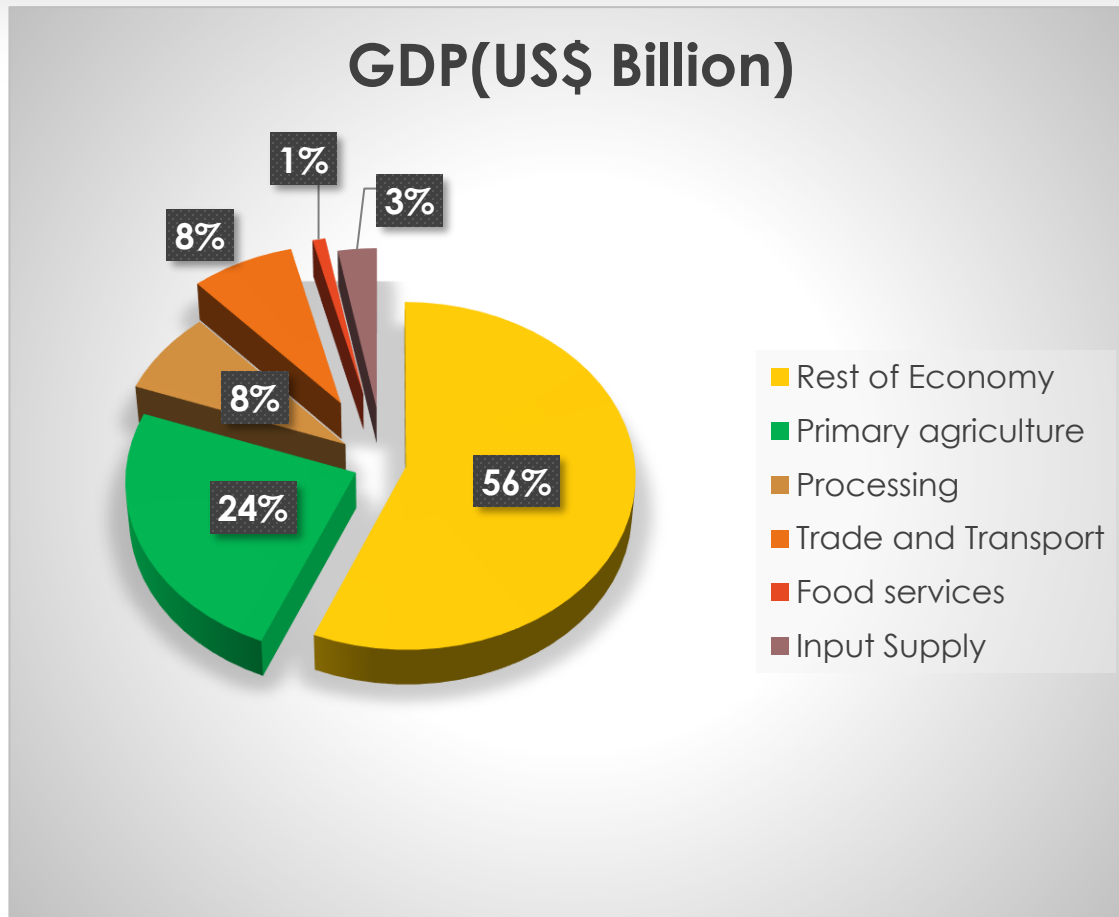
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# The Concept of Agrifood Systems Transformation

- ☀️ **Agrifood Systems** encompasses all the elements that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation, and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes
- ☀️ **Agrifood Systems Transformation** is a fundamental change in the structural, functional, and relational aspects of the food system that leads to new patterns of interactions and outcomes
- ☀️ A fundamental shift from a food value chain-centered approach to a systemic perspective that recognizes the food system's non-linear interactions and feedback loops

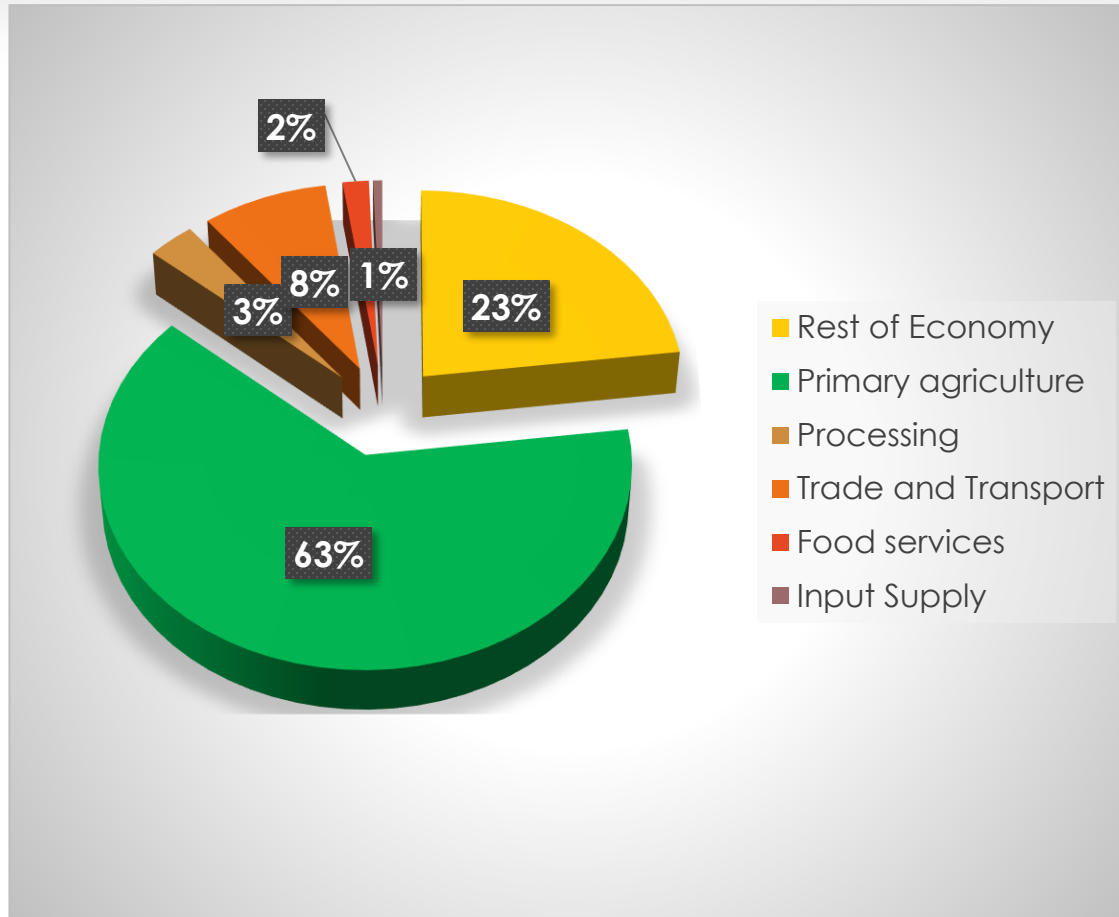
# Contribution of Agrifood Systems to Malawi's Economy



Source: De Weerd, et al., 2023

- ☀ Agrifood Systems contributed 44% to GDP
- ☀ Primary agriculture contributed 24.4% to GDP
- ☀ Off-farm activities contribute about 19.6% to GDP

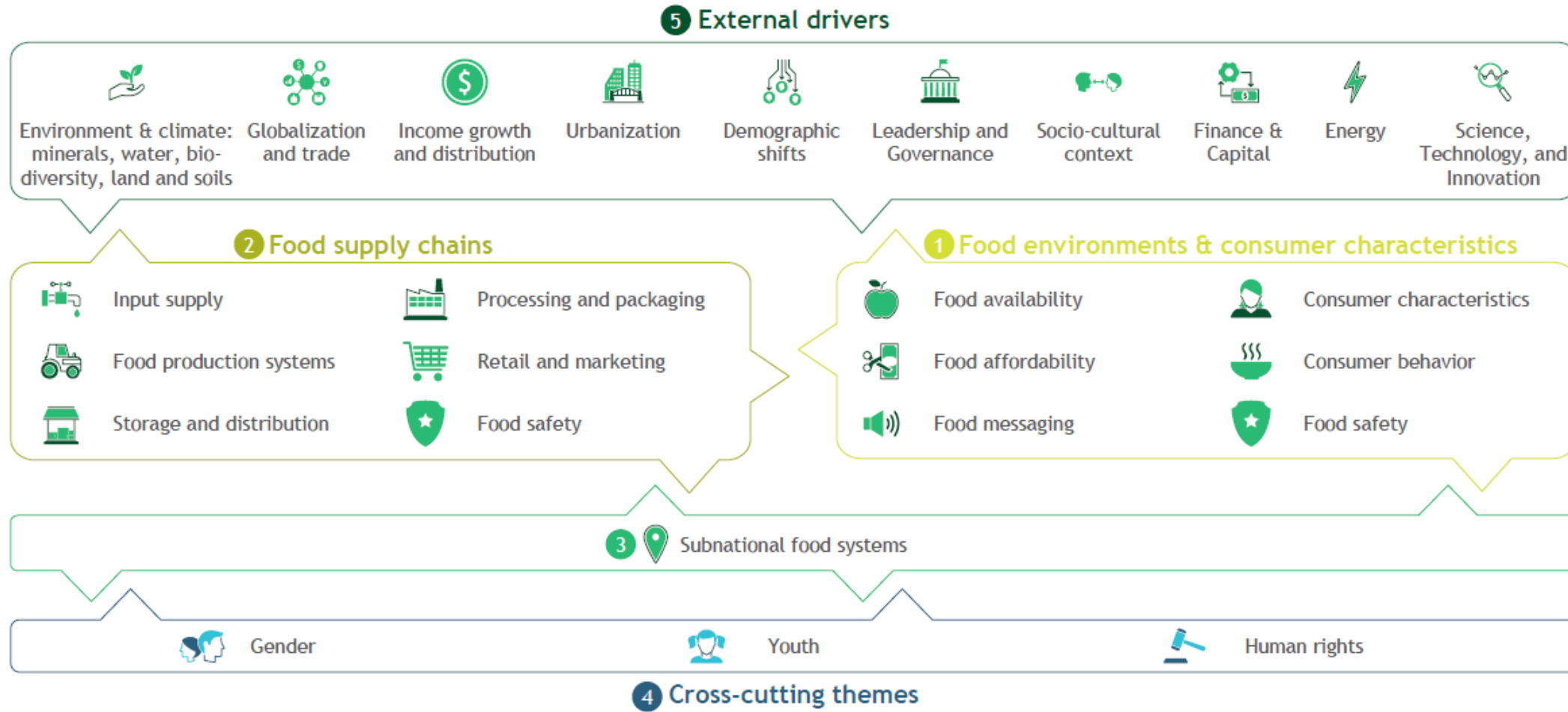
# Contribution of Agrifood System to Employment



Source: De Weerd, et al., 2023

- ☀ Agrifood system employs 77% of the population
- ☀ 63% of the population is employed in primary agriculture
- ☀ Agrifood systems activities are low-value activities - employ more but contribute less to GDP

# A Framework for Describing Food Systems



# Coherence Between National Pathways Report and National Policies

	Food Systems Challenges in National Pathways Report	Supporting Policies	Comment
<b>ACTION TRACK ONE: ENSURE SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR ALL</b>			
1	Low productivity and production of diversified and nutritious foods	MIP-1, NAP, NAIP	AIP focused on maize only
2	Inadequate dietary diversification and low consumption of nutrient dense foods	National Multi-Sector Nutrition Policy (NMSNP), MIP-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasis on under-five aged children</li> <li>• AIP focused on maize only</li> </ul>
3	Consumption of unsafe foods	NMSNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A food safety policy drafted.</li> <li>• Nutrition Bill should be finalized and enacted</li> </ul>

# Coherence Between National Pathways Report and National Policies

	Food Systems Challenges in National Pathways Report	Supporting Policies	Conflicting Policies/Programs/Comments
<b>ACTION TRACK TWO: SHIFTING TO SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION PATTERNS</b>			
1	Inadequate capacity in agro-processing, value addition and utilization	MIP-1 NAP	
2	Food wastage and losses	MIP-1 NAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food waste is not covered adequately in national policies</li> <li>• Investments in retail marketing and cold storage not well captured</li> </ul>

# Coherence Between National Pathways Report and National Policies

	Food Systems Challenges in National Pathways Report	National Policies	Comment
<b>ACTION TRACK THREE: BOOSTING NATURE POSITIVE FOOD PRODUCTION</b>			
1	Poor industrial and domestic waste management	MIP-1 Waste management regulations available	Little enforcement of waste management regulations
2	Poor farming practices and unsustainable food production systems	MIP-1 Land Act	
3	Increased energy demand due to rapid urbanisation	MIP-1 Energy Policy	



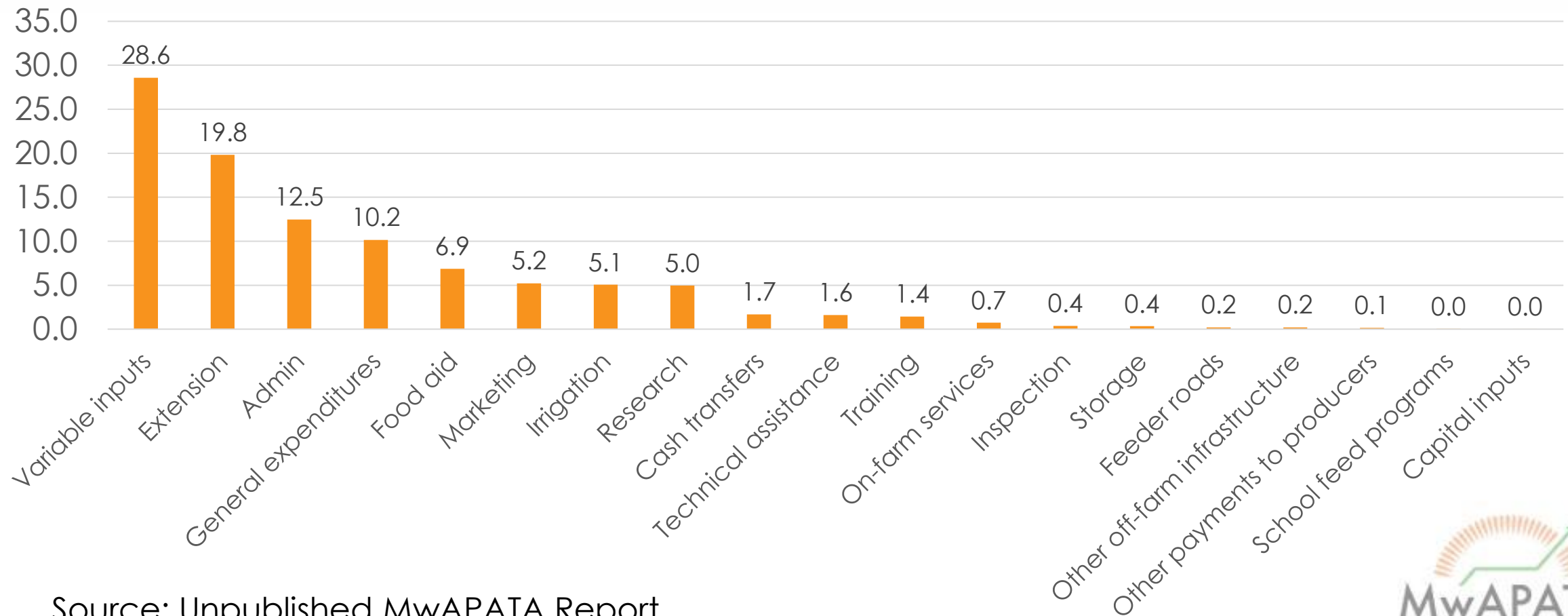
# Coherence Between National Pathways Report and National Policies

	Food Systems Challenges in National Pathways Report	Supporting Policies	Conflicting Policies/Programs/Comments
	<b>ACTION TRACK FOUR: ADVANCING EQUITABLE LIVELIHOODS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN FOOD SYSTEMS</b>		
1	Unequitable distribution of resources and productive assets	MIP-1	
2	Systemic market failures	MIP-1	
3	Lack and poor infrastructure	MIP-1	Weak enforcement of construction standards.

# Coherence Between National Pathways Report and National Policies

	Food Systems Challenges in National Pathways Report	Supporting Policies	Conflicting Policies/Programs/Comments
<b>ACTION TRACK FIVE: BUILDING RESILIENCE TO VULNERABILITIES, SHOCKS, AND STRESS</b>			
1	Limited resilience to systemic, multiple hazards, risks, and disasters	MIP-1 National Resilience Strategy	
2	Seasonality of availability of foods		
3	Negative coping mechanisms		

# How are we spending public resources for Agrifood System(2016/17 to 2021/22)



Source: Unpublished MwAPATA Report

# Policy Considerations for Accelerating Food Systems Transformation

## Repurpose Agrifood Systems Expenditure

- Re-allocate some of the AIP resources to high value programs – irrigation, extension, agro-processing, postharvest loss reduction

## Reform remaining AIP

- Include nutrient-dense foods
- Integrate extension and SFMI

## Food loss and waste reduction

- Scale out proven food loss reduction technology
- Develop and test other technologies

# Policy Considerations for Accelerating Food Systems Transformation

## Improved coordination

- Strengthen government's coordination role
- Donors should work collaboratively

## Adopt systems approach extension services

- Agricultural production, processing, packaging, etc
- Nutrition/consumer education

## Scale Climate Resilient Production Systems

- Promote Climate Smart Agriculture
- Intensify irrigation

# Acknowledgements



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