



Transforming Malawian Agriculture through Mega-farms: A Roundtable Discussion

- The roundtable discussion on Transforming Malawian Agriculture through Mega-farms was held on 10th August, 2022, as part of the key policy actions that were agreed upon during the Malawi Agricultural Productivity and Commercialization Conference that took place in June 2022 in Lilongwe.
- Leading experts and key stakeholders discussed specific strategies to inform the implementation of the mega-farm concept by the Ministry of Agriculture in order to increase its probability of success.
- The event comprised two presentations. The first presentation was made by the Ministry of Agriculture, which focused on the Government's strategy for developing mega-farms. The second presentation was done by MwAPATA Institute focusing on the key lessons from regional experience and results from stakeholder consultations.
- The presentations were followed by a six-member panel discussion and an open floor discussion, with feedback from stakeholders.
- Some key takeaways from the roundtable include the following:
 - The need for multi-stakeholder engagement, both inter-government and intra-government coordination, and provision of incentives and enabling environment for private sector operations.
 - Strengthening of existing large-scale estates and implementation of policies that seek to addressing factors limiting production and productivity.
 - Consensus on the need to look at different business models in the implementation of the mega-farms including the Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs), private sector driven and supporting graduation of small and medium scale farmers.
 - Implementation of mega-farms to build on lessons and experiences from the Shire Valley Transformation Project, ILLOVO and Salima Sugar Company Limited.
 - Flexible and conducive financing mechanisms, and utilizing the already available marketing and trade agreements in the region such as COMESA Free Trade Area and African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA).
- The outcomes and key action points from the Roundtable will be summarized in the form of a policy brief and shared with the relevant government ministries and other key stakeholders to inform the implementation of mega-farms.