



STRENGTHENING BUSINESS ORIENTATION FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FARMERS IN MALAWI

Significant potential exists in Malawi for agricultural production and productivity gains, which could be tapped for value creation and the improvement of living conditions of the broader population. Diversification and business orientation in a market and private sector-led environment can lead to higher and stabilized farm incomes. In order to design and implement this pathway in an inclusive manner, small and medium-sized farmers/processors need a strong institutional support structure that empowers them to link up with more formalized and higher-value market channels, helping them to realize new income opportunities.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project activities were geared towards strengthening farmer organizations in Malawi by improving the institutional and regulatory framework at both macro and medium levels. The project's outputs were carefully crafted to nurture technical capacity-building and ensure full ownership by relevant stakeholders. These included umbrella farmer organizations, such as the Malawi Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives and the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi, and Malawi's Ministries for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development and Industry, Trade and Tourism.

IMPACT

Collaboration and networking among key players in the agricultural sector was achieved, while capacities were built within farmer organizations. Project activities developed the capacity of partners through the sharing of information, experiences and also through the organization of the learning visits on Integrated Cooperative Business Models. Importantly, an enabling environment for cooperative development was created by clearing the bottleneck affecting cooperative development in Malawi. The promotion of business-oriented farmer organizations is key to the socio-economic development of business entities, as well as increased income levels for farmers and their families.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 216 594

Duration

October 2015 – January 2018

Resource Partners

Government of Germany, through the German Corporation for International Cooperation

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Farmers' Union of Malawi, National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi, Malawi Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives and WeEffect

Beneficiaries

Micro, small and medium-sized farmers, farmer organization bodies, savings and credit cooperatives

ACTIVITIES

- Steering Committee and a technical team on farmer organization development established, comprising representatives from key stakeholders, such as umbrella farmer organizations and the relevant government ministries.
- Dialogue platform established around farmer organizations through quarterly meetings.
- Inaugural Cooperative Leadership Event held in Malawi in September 2016. This capacity building training event on cooperative management attracted 150 participants drawn from cooperatives across the country.
- Assistance provided to the Government of Malawi in the review of the Cooperative Development Policy.
- Learning visits for seven technical team members to Kenya and Uganda to study how Integrated Cooperative Business models are implemented in other countries.
- Support provided to selected farmer organizations for participation in the National Agriculture Fair 2017.



Project Code

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Project Title

Strengthening the Institutional and Regulatory Framework for Farmer Organizations in Malawi

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