



Policy Dialogue, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Wamkulu Palace, Lilongwe, Malawi 20 August 2013

A Policy Dialogue between the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management (MoECCM) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS), as well as a number of other stakeholders, was held at the Wamkulu Palace in Lilongwe, Malawi on 20 August 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss linkages between climate change and agricultural policies. The dialogue considered agriculture in the draft National Climate Change Policy (NCCP). It also considered climate change in the ASWAp, using these to consider elements and design features for a National Agricultural Policy (NAP), currently under preparation by MoAFS.

The dialogue was facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as part of a project on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), funded by the European Commission.

The Dialogue was opened by a series of interventions made by the Controller of Agriculture Extension and Technical Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the FAO Representative in Malawi and the Director of Environmental Affairs/MoECCM.

At the first working session a presentation on the NCCP was made by the Director of Environmental Affairs, MoECCM. The presentation provided a comprehensive snapshot of the NCCP and indicated that sectors would need to expand upon sector-specific policy measures and create windows for channeling climate financing to support implementation.

During discussion, questions were raised and suggestions made to strengthen the NCCP, especially the section on agriculture but also sections on forestry and biodiversity. Some of the issues raised included:

- the need to mention legislation related to land use;
- fertilizer use;
- the need for indicators for monitoring and evaluation of adaptation;
- the development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions in Malawi, taking into account that emissions from land-based sectors are the largest source of emissions in the country;
- the need for assessing impacts of climate change prior to policy decision-making;
- the lack of a comprehensive land-use policy;
- the institutional arrangements for coordination of climate change management in Malawi, as laid out in the NCCP and the possibility of splitting governance and implementation arrangements;



In the afternoon a presentation on the ASWAp was made by the Deputy ASWAp Coordinator, MoAFS, followed by discussion of possible elements for improving the agricultural section in the NCCP.

Dialogue participants, recognized that:

(i) climate change is a cross-cutting issue that needs to be mainstreamed into development and sectoral policies, plans and programmes, for which coordination, consultation, and integrated approaches, from local to international level, are necessary. MoECCM is taking the lead in enabling and facilitating this, and in conjunction with MoAFS is seeking better alignment of agricultural sector and climate change policies. This will ensure that the close linkages between agriculture and climate change inform respective policies and reduce potential policy conflicts that may negatively affect their implementation;

(ii) climate change, through changing temperature, rainfall, pest and disease patterns, threatens Malawi's food security, poverty reduction, and economic growth. This is because agriculture in Malawi is the most important sector of the economy, underpinning the livelihoods of the majority of the population, and is highly sensitive and vulnerable to climate change. Also, agriculture is, and will increasingly become, one of the main sources of Malawi's Greenhouse Gas emissions, unless more climate-smart approaches to agriculture are adopted. For these reasons, MoAFS seeks to mainstream climate change into its National Agricultural Policy;

(iii) there is value in continuing dedicated consultation between MoAFS and MoECCM on the formulation of future agricultural and climate change policy implementation instruments (strategies, plans);

(iv) policy implementation activities (programmes, projects, resource mobilization) could also benefit from close consultation and coordination to ensure attainment of desired outcomes and outputs.

Adopted at Wamkulu Palace, Lilongwe, Malawi 20 August 2013