



National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi

Fostering gender balance and women empowerment

**-key for responsible investment in
agriculture-**

19 May 2016





National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi

Presentation outline

- Brief overview of NASFAM
- NASFAM's stance on gender integration
- Gender issues addressed by NASFAM
- Efforts for addressing the gender gap
- Gender action and learning system



Overview of NASFAM

- **NASFAM:** Largest independent smallholder farmer-owned org. in Malawi.
- Founded on principle of collective action
- 164,000 paid-up members (56% women)
- Promotes and empowers farmers to farm as business
- Actively promoting efforts to move smallholders up the value chain
- Operating in 22 districts



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NASFAM's stance on gender integration

- Gender integration promoted because it makes good business sense for farming and agribusiness
 - gender equality and women empowerment key for NASFAM's success
- Encourages equal participation in employment, membership, leadership and in its activities
- Employs evidence-based approaches to prove existence and guide farmers to address gender gaps

Gender issues addressed

- Evidence shows that female farmers;
 - invest more effort, labour and time but benefit less (financially or actual utilization)
 - have more responsibility in HIV and AIDS management
 - have less voice in agricultural decision making
 - operate in unfriendly environment (legally, politically, economically, socially etc)

Efforts for addressing the gender gap

- Internal GHA Strategy
- GHA Coordinating Unit
- Gender by-laws
- GHA Media campaigns
- GHA coordination committees
- GHA Conferences
- Adult literacy for GHA Strategy implementation
- GHA Sensitization
- Biennial GHA audits
- Promoting female friendly interventions
- Mentoring for effective leadership
- Good nutrition initiatives
- ***Gender action and learning system (GALS)***



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Gender action and learning system (GALS)

- **GENDER** is about the relationships between women and men
- **ACTION** is what people will do to change their lives and relationships
- **LEARNING** is not just from the GALS trainers but from each other
- **SYSTEM** means that people's action and learning about gender is continuous after the training





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Spread of GALS in NASFAM

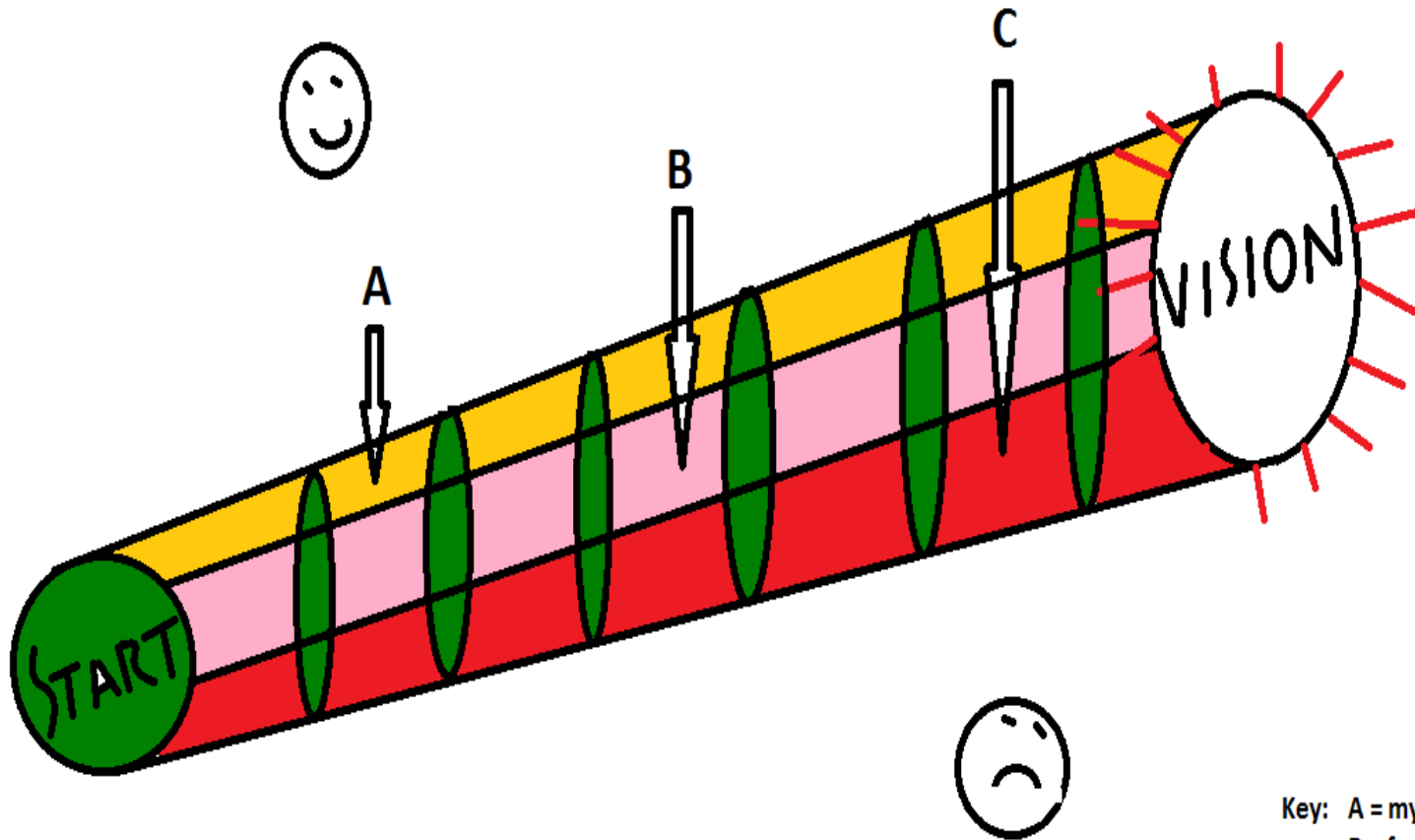
- Started in October 2013 with 30 GALS Champions from Lilongwe
- To date 240 Champions trained from 5 districts (Mangochi, Balaka, Lilongwe, Mchinji and Kasungu)
- These further trained 3,747 (with over 70% women)



Gender action and learning system (GALS) *conti...*

- *Key principle is “Success through improved gender relations”*
- Uses drawings with minimal or no text
- Helps men and women to set visions
- Presents pictorial actions and milestones for achieving visions
- Guides users to identify and utilize opportunities while overcoming potential challenges

The multi-lane highway

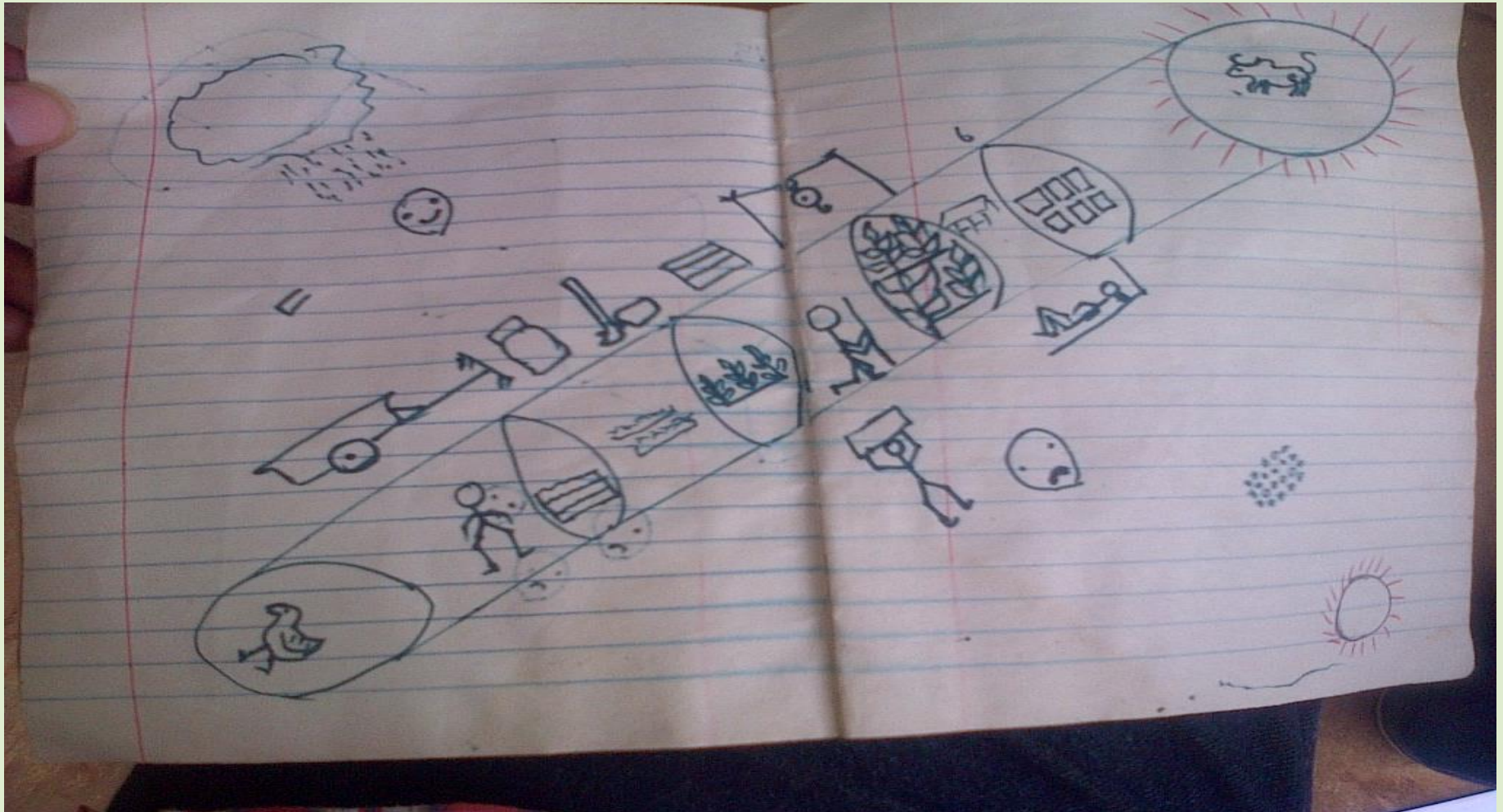


Key: A = my journey (use OVJ)
B = family journey (use GBT)
C = community journey (use SEM)



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Example of “farmers’ vision journey”



Benefits of the GALS approach

- Increases farmers' passion to work hard towards achieving visions
- Strengthens household gender relations
- Use of drawings makes it friendly for the illiterate
- Promotes sharing of experiences
- Cultivates leadership skills especially in women

Benefits of the GALS *cont...*

- Shifts attitudes about men and women working together
- Rise in cases of joint ownership of property
- Reduced cases of gender based violence
- More joint discussion on expenditure
- Open discussion on taboos on gender
- Reduction of personal expenditure in certain unnecessary areas

Common visions for smallholder farmers

- House construction/renovation (over 50 %)
- Solving transportation challenges (cars, motorcycles, oxcarts and bicycles)
- Purchase of livestock (goats, cattle, pigs etc)
- Buying of household furniture
- Achieving household food security
- Installation of electricity (hydro or solar)



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Best GALS Achiever

(double-click icon)



Microsoft Word
Document





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Thank you for your attention