



KULIMA: Revitalising agricultural clusters and ulimi wa m'ndandanda through farmer field schools in Malawi

Project description

This project contributes to objective 1 of the KULIMA programme: promoting sustainable agricultural growth and incomes to enhance food and nutrition security in Malawi within the context of a changing climate. The specific outcome of the project is sustainable increase of agricultural productivity and diversified production.

Outputs conceived to achieve the desired outcome

Output 1. Putting in place an institutional framework to anchor the farmer field school (FFS) programming in the Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES);

Output 2. Consolidate ongoing efforts towards quality assurance of FFS programming in the country;

Outputs 3 and 4 are designed to build the requisite capacity to implement FFS programmes.

Project strategy

Action activities will be articulated through a three-pronged strategy of mutually reinforcing pillars of institutionalisation, quality assurance and strengthening capacity development of FFS. The project, which is anchored on District Agriculture Extension Service Systems (DAESS), aims to strengthen agricultural clusters and ulimi wa m'ndandanda, and the lead farmer approach. **600** FFS master trainers and **8 000** community based facilitators will be trained .

Key facts

Duration: May 2017–April 2022.

Project partners

- **Government counterparts:** Ministry of Agriculture, and Food Security and District Local Government.
- **Collaborating institution:** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Location

- 10 Districts: Karonga, Chitipa, Nkhatabay, Mzimba, Nkhotakota, Salima, Kasungu, Chiradzulu, Thyolo and Mulanje.

Funding

- European Union: EUR 28 million; FAO co-financing: EUR 2 million.

Beneficiaries

- **600** FFS master trainers and **8 000** community based facilitators.



Farmer field schools are being supported to enter into income generating activities such as pineapple farming

Highlights

Training of extension service providers and community based facilitators (targeting 600 and 8 000 respectively).

- Ongoing season-long (13 week) FFS master trainer (MT) and 7 week community based facilitator (CBF) courses at Mzuzu, Lisasadzi and Thuchila residential training centres (RTCs).
- Two cohorts concluding training between January 2018 and May 2019. **185** (30 percent female) extension workers and **186** (31 percent female) CBFs completed courses at the RTCs.
- Trained government of Malawi FFS MTs have been facilitated to establish 1 CBF course each in their respective sections for an 18-month hands-on cycle. CBF courses are ongoing in 79 sites (94 percent) with a total enrolment of 2,366 and are being facilitated by MTs trained from the first cohort.



Master trainers and community based facilitators graduate from season-long learning facilitated at government residential training centres



Farmer field schools studies include field studies to find sustainable solutions to the management of Fall Armyworm, which has since 2016/2017 affected maize yields posing a threat to food and nutrition security



Farmer field schools are venturing into enterprises such as fish farming as opportunities for income generation and food and nutrition security.



Through farmer field school learning groups are improving livestock productivity and keeping livestock for income generation at group and individual levels



As part of the strategy to revitalize the banana industry in Malawi, the project is supporting multiplication of clean banana planting material

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