



PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Launches the Climate Smart Agriculture Project

Climate change with its multifaceted impacts is increasingly being recognized as one of the biggest challenges of our time. Nowhere is this challenge more daunting than in the agriculture sector, which is highly climate-sensitive and yet the main source of livelihoods, growth and foreign exchange earnings in agriculture-based economies like Malawi. Many of the development and food security gains, which countries have achieved today, could easily be eroded because of climate change impacts, resulting in greater poverty and hunger in future.

In a bid to sustain agricultural production in the face of climate change the Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations formulated the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Project: Capturing the synergies between Mitigation, Adaptation and Food Security. The project was launched on 10th July 2012 at Livingstonia Sunbird Hotel in Salima by the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Honourable Professor Peter Mwanza, MP.

The project's outcome is to strengthen the institutional capacity in scaling up and implementation of CSA options to increase community resilience. This outcome will be achieved through four outputs: Establishing an evidence base for planning, developing CSA options and review of CSA related policies; Formulation of country owned CSA frameworks; Development of CSA investment proposals and identification of financing mechanisms, and; Building capacity in planning and implementation of CSA initiatives. The most important component of the project is to enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers to access both, feasible CSA options relevant to their agro ecological zones and farming systems and the related financing mechanisms.

The project outputs support the Agricultural Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp) and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) pillars by contributing the technology generation through research, institutional strengthening and capacity development. The project would support Malawi in developing the necessary policy, technical and financial mechanisms to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and

incomes, integrating the risks of climate change and capturing potential mitigation co-benefits. The project links policy needs and research. The research component which is derived from the needs and gaps from the agricultural sector, will be handled by Bunda College of Agriculture and other research institutions in Malawi.

The project is implemented with financial support from the European Commission and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations amounting to 5,300,000 Euros to be implemented in three countries of Malawi, Vietnam and Zambia.