



This project is funded by the European Union

**Documentation of the webinar
“Policy dialogue on livestock for income, food and nutrition
security in Malawi: Policy gaps, needs and opportunities”**

**Virtual meeting, 16.09.2021, 9.30.-13.00
hosted by CISANET,
in partnership with the CLIM² project
and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development**

Director CISANET, Pamela Kuwali

The project was implemented in collaborative by ICRISAT, ILRI and SLLP, with several departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, funded by EU FIDP II. The project sought to improve crop livestock diversification and integration, to contribute to more efficient use of scarce farm resources, benefiting women in particular. The project considered that farm income growth through farm diversification is an important path to build Malawi's resilience in the face of external shocks such as climate change, and small land holdings.

The webinar aims to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss current policy challenges, needs and opportunities in the livestock sector. As CISANET we are excited to host the webinar, because despite livestock being so important for the Malawi economy and also food and nutrition security, it is a subject that is not being discussed as often. We hope that the dialogue will initiate discussions continuing beyond this webinar.

Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Mrs Erika Maganga

Livestock is a very important subsector, contributing 11% to National Gross Domestic Product, and 36% to Agricultural GDP. At household level the sector contributes 16 to 50% for annual income. The subsector is dominated by smallholders, with 70% of all livestock in rural area, mostly low input, low output, with more than 80% being indigenous or local breeds. Efforts are being made to commercialize the sector. Climate variability affects the sector, diseases, and declining productivity. Demand for livestock products is however increasing due to population growth and change in consumption preferences. It is hence important to strategize and sustainably enhance the performance of the sector for economic growth, and food and nutrition security. This will be achieved, while ensuring sustained adaptation to climate change and conservation of genetic and natural resources.

The Ministry embarked on the review on the livestock development policy that expired in 2021. The process has been vigorous, and consultative, with livestock field staff, NGOs, international organizations, development partners. The 2021 to 2026 livestock policy builds on the national agricultural policy, by elaborating on specific strategies, strategic investments, that need to be under taken. Agricultural policy outcomes include agricultural diversification, agro-processing and value addition, functioning agricultural input and output markets, and engagement of youth and vulnerable groups in agricultural value chain investments. The national livestock development policy is aligned to the 2063 Malawi Growth and Development strategy, priority on agriculture, water development and climate change management, in promoting livestock diversification, utilization, and structured markets. It is aligned to national agricultural policy in review. It complements to the national export strategy, which builds on the national climate change policy, developing livestock that can adapt to climate change. The revised livestock development policy has been formulated such that it achieves growth in livestock production, productivity, improving national food security, and reduced imports. It seeks to address the existing gaps, by increasing coordination of existing subsector policies. The coming up of the new revised policy, shall help to review some livestock acts, like the meat product act, veterinary act, practitioners act, animal health act, animal welfare act. Our expectations as government are that implementation of national livestock development policy will have the following benefits across the value chains:

1. Increased livestock production and productivity

2. Improved herd health, to meet national demand, and export markets
3. Reduced poverty levels, increased income and nutrition security
4. Increased public and private sector investment
5. Improved access to functional input and output markets
6. Increased participation of all gender groups, including women, youth and vulnerable groups
7. Increased contribution of livestock to climate change mitigation and resilience
8. Institutional development, coordination and capacity development, in compliance with regional and international standards.

This meeting has come at an opportune time, to discuss on the key role of the livestock sector, on its contribution to the agricultural sector, with reference to policy paradigm shift. It is therefore imperative that all stakeholder take part, in implementation of the revised strategies of the revised strategy. We need to address multiple challenges – how can we better invest.

CLIM² Project Coordinator, Dr Sabine Homann-Kee Tui, ICRISAT

See ppt.

Prof Sikhalazo Dube, ILRI, Policy gaps, needs and opportunities to develop SMEs

The project identified a series of gaps, that need addressing through policy and support mechanisms. These include

1. Availability of capital, inclusive finance of SMEs, especially for those that women and youth are participating in. We contacted financial institutions, who have money and are willing to develop products that smallholder farmers can access. We tried to develop packages in the value chains of stallholders and businesses, in recognition of the constraints that smallholders face, constraints for inputs, and running operation, product that comes due at maturity of the products, eggs, cows, to call depth. We could not finalize this, most financial institutions have set rules, that don't adapt to agricultural business. Capital is a major issue, and yet key for investment in infrastructure. Once we realized the capital constraint we developed starter kits to support SMEs. It became important to recognize that starter kits support can be vital to nurture passion in business. Structuring within support systems sustainable starter kits can be important; the buy-in involved contributions from those going into business, with 10% contribution of physical value of the business, including existing buildings and infrastructure (private business registered companies, farmer business groups). Co-investment to existing and ownership, with support of business.
2. Skills and knowledge: To mold the passion of smallholder farmers and SMEs, there is need for continuous capacity development and supporting the businesses. There was a lot of investment, there is need to bring in people who understand the business better, incl Ministry of Trade, MBS, human and animal welfare and health.
3. Alignment of policies: Meat and meat processing policy, dairy policy, to address and mitigate losses, through quicker processing, storage. Government moving into that direction to address policy gaps.
4. Market oriented agriculture: In the different value chains, preferential policies, that recognize potential to procure from enterprises that are being stimulated, eg. milk, meat,

- eggs. With the technical support to product quality, preferential procurement is critical to stimulate businesses to survive, recognize that investments can be done locally, benefit locally. There are good products out there, which we could get cheaper to local markets.
5. Mismatch between what consumer and producers require. The IPs allowed for dialogue for consumers, traders, producers – produce a goat that someone would buy and pay for. As policy formulators or implementers, we need to remain mindful to develop and enforce policies that lead to price quality recognition. A business that has invested in goats cannot be rewarded the same as one that does not.
 6. Waste, effluents: Support proper climate smart processing of hides and slaughtering. Demonstrate to consumers that we care about the environment, dispose and process for further utilization. Credits for the abattoirs to run clean. Civil society could monitor abattoirs and sale pens if environmental issues are taken care off, and promote those.
 7. Business orientation: Thrust around market-oriented agriculture needs to be cascaded to all implementing partners and teams, to better support SMEs technically, and also in terms of innovations around markets, behavioral change, better husbandry. Capacity to be continuously built. When we capacitate beneficiaries, we need to also capacitate services on reducing costs, better integration and better marketing. Structuring markets, auction sales recognized before, asking government of Malawi if it should be structured, objectivity through scales in pricing, helps visualize on quality, and impact o business, and for those off-taking livestock. What structures of markets ensure price quality into account, district level handling should also benefit, markets become education center, and generate income for the district.
 8. Existence of good breeding material. There are breeding opportunities for community-based breeding schemes. Market in Middle east would be happy to have those. Veterinary, feeding housing, would improve animal quality substantially. The market is ready for quality products.
 9. Emissions: How best to deal with emission issues, GHG. Demonstrate in handling, housing, feeding and breeding regimes, identify opportunities for feeding to reduce emissions. It is an issue, and lets deal with it.

Dr Patrick Chikungwa, Director, Department of Livestock and Animal Health

See ppt.

We have a new livestock policy, recently approved. I will show on what we are working on, key policy issues.

Interplay of key challenges results in reduced productivity, requiring a paradigm shift in the livestock policy.

The CLIM² project has brought evidence on the multiple issues, including livestock disease pressure, low public funding, low involvement of stakeholders, low technology uptake, low commercialization.

Previous policies have increased numbers, but did not look at increasing productivity and per capita consumption. Farmer empowerment to some extent, eg through pass on schemes, organizing farmers in associations. But the yield per animal can be improved, we have not attended. We now try to address that:

The new 2021-2026 livestock policy is set to govern strategic direction, with 9 priority areas, reflecting urgent attention.

1. Having analyzed previous policy and its gaps, develop agriculture through sustainable commercial activities, by promoting SMEs through increased investments (new focus on commercialization and requirements for extension, as the project has demonstrated, supporting small scale production, through hammer mill, dairy, etc.)
2. Health and welfare: This was a missed opportunity in the CLIM2 project, to demonstrate that improving animal welfare will be more adequate. Welfare is a big challenge, need evidence that it is there, enforcement currently not adequate.
3. Research, innovation, technologies and dissemination: There will be promotion of demand driven and cost-effective livestock technologies, in response to environment. Diversity of breeding programs.
4. Market development and value addition – CLIM² has clearly demonstrated that there is no any other driver for SMEs than having a better market for livestock products. Without market productivity and value chain flops. On a serious note to set up markets and promote value addition and chains, promote systems. Had auctions before, controlled by governments, were privatized. What you have evidently shown, through CLIM is the direction we want to follow as government, hence a priority.
5. Resilience and risk management. Livestock coming in during periods of shocks, to assist communities. Important priority area for policies, and promote livestock diversification, to buffer economic shocks. CLIM2 demonstrated through chicken, dairy and goat business – we want to go deep into these strategies, through this policy.
6. Empowerment of women: The role livestock can play through vulnerable groups, through mainstreaming and promotion of financing targeting women and groups. Access to finance, taken into consideration, as important policy area. The project attempted finance as challenge number 1, we agree with you and ensure you that we take this into consideration as important policy area.
7. Institutional development, coordination, capacity development. Coordination was not well tackled over years. Low participation of private sector. At institutional level, coordination and capacity development of all stakeholders was not well managed. To be strengthened through policy area strategies, promoting efficient institutions, community based, NGOs, etc, taking everyone on board to move the sector forward. Facilitation and strengthening infrastructure development across the country, is now being taken seriously.
8. Environment –improvement of livestock management, through sustainable NRM, climate change mitigation, waste management.
9. Access to finance, mechanization, investment. There are other sectors playing a major role. In agriculture we need to be part of this. We will facilitate access to finance, value addition.

During the development of this new policy, the CLIM² project consulted us, and their input was taken into consideration in developing the policy review.

Discussion

Convergence of science, market, security and finance. All players benefiting. Currently farmers produce community, but left short-handed, do not benefit from technologies. Livestock being and orphan.

Markets - do not benefit farmers, but processors are thriving.

Security – we produce, food health needs to be attended to. Can we produce commodities that others cannot produce. Need to harness science, equitable markets, in environmentally friendly way. Price quality recognition.

Finance: Be able to chase the right genetics, mechanize on farm and factories. To link farmers to markets and off-takers in an equitable way. Research and development to support sustainable enterprises, through equitable markets.

Research: Local chicken breeds, investments in improved breeds.

The link to nutrition link is missing. The link to food security is there, to have access to all food groups.

Response: The project was designed to address on farm diversification, through stimulating various value chains, to increase farm income. Half way through the project we realized that we cannot promote income, without addressing nutrition. We then developed relations with Care groups and DNCCs. If we would start again we would incorporate nutrition from the onset of the project.

Missing is also the link to the coordination system, Decentralized Agricultural Extension Support System, through ASP, VSPs, DVH. Working through the EPA is not sufficient. Many challenges could have been addressed if the project would have worked through DAESS. Improving coordination was not even mentioned as lesson, to work through DAESS.

Response: This was a weakness, as we discovered the DAESS as we went along through DAEC and DEC. We will deal with DAESS in future. We would have removed some challenges earlier.

Malawi has a poor road network – people don't have access to infrastructure. People from other Ministries should be involved.

Response: The issues on road infrastructure is critical, livestock markets have to be accessible. Not only the livestock sector, also other sectors depend on improved roads. We will collaborate with Ministry of Transport on that. There is need for coordination to achieve that.

Can we focus on increasing productivity, by encompassing all issues, including export markets? There are regulatory issues that we need to tackle at early stage. Sanitary issues, certification, traceability, as fundamental areas to export markets. Let's think about back-up systems that enable us to export. HCP has to be audited through special mechanisms, strengthen our laboratories, to enhance productivity, tapping on export markets.

Countries who have developed their livestock sector have focused on export markets, like Botswana, Eswathini, Namibia, Lesotho, exporting to EU markets. Their secret is in export. We may organize SMEs for export, but will not reach that without proper strategies for export. We will need to approach animal health and welfare, along with traceability. We started looking at this in 2004, but it was not finalized.

Sector specific political economic analyses were set up as part of the invitation to this dialogue. Dr Chikungwa responds that the presentations confidently elucidated the

challenges on the ground and made recommendations, which we are trying to address from a policy angle. The issue has been addressed.

These are interesting accounts on the CLIM² project, on the way how the different value chain actors have been put in touch to discuss issues. Through Innovation Platforms, that served this purpose of stakeholders coming together, thoughts of replicability, the role government in that and how these IPs get together, what is necessary to incentivize this sort of value chain actor dialogue?

Various innovations were tested in the field. The Kuroiler are waiting for approval to be released, what's the status? How do we turn this to farmers accessing the innovations? Also how can they access dual-purpose seed?

Dr Chikungwa responds that from a policy and strategic direction, we have interacted with the CLIM² project. We understand the technical issues and implications for policy development. The issue on the lessons is very critical. As government we are aware of the critical breakthroughs of Innovation Platforms, we are taking them as lessons coming out of the IPs. Where possible we will expand them, in particular areas where they can make impact. The evidence this project has brought forward will be taken up and upscaled, and is part of the packaged lessons.

In terms of Kuroiler, we are aware of the stage and are speeding up. Data have been completed, there is a team to prepare the final report. Very shortly we will finalize final report. The next step is to present at Agricultural Clearing Committee, then we will put it into implementation.

The director presented the 9 priorities, mentioning improving extension services. We have staff hanging around, trained graduates, it is taking long for them to be adsorbed. How fast can the staff be adsorbed, to support the livestock sector in Malawi. What is the plan?

The 9 priority areas tackle most challenges raised in the past. As stakeholders let us look at the 9 areas as entry points, think of our interests, and think how we can come in to support the government in implementing these areas.

We agree that deliverables need to be scaled through DAESS, and IPs bringing forward innovations and lessons for scaling.

Dual purpose varieties were identified and tested by the project. We will communicate to promote the suitable varieties, and need DARS and the research stations to promote genetic material for livestock.

Priority area 8 talks about institutional strengthening and coordination, livestock reforms aligned with government agenda. Functional reviews are ongoing at ministerial and livestock sector level. We have gaps in implementation. We look at it from policy strategic direction, need specialists, and have identified expertise to drive the ambitious initiative.

Have the priority areas been disseminated?

We are disseminating the information for the first time. The policy was approved by cabinet 2 weeks ago. In October we will launch the livestock policy, inviting all stakeholders. Then we will have many dissemination points across the country. You have the privilege of first information.

Comment to livestock identification, and breeds. There is lots of influx of people breeding. There is a difference between purebred and high breed animals. Need robust breeding regulatory system.

This is an important point. From policy angle we are taking care of that, it is our concern, as we don't want to erode our indigenous breeds. We have good breeds, and selection among indigenous animals can bring significant improvement. Need to come up with legal framework to assist in enforcement.

Equipment for dairy not yet in the country, how will the dairy be completed? The EU granted NCE, through which all equipment is in the country, preparing for training.

For dairy sector, screening for tuberculosis and vaccinations, does the policy address this? The strategic areas, under veterinary health, will handle the screening for various zoonotic diseases.

Free range livestock affects crops negatively, is there a policy? This is part of production systems. Every system has advantages and disadvantages. Local chickens have to move free. Moving to commercialization systems needs to be confined.

Agriculture and private sector need to be supported to attract knowledgeable people to the rural areas.

Many farmers prefer raising small breeds, due to poverty and lack of market insurance, but large-scale farmers are favored by interventions. We recognize that larger farmers have capital. We aim at equitable development.

There are segments in rural populations that would want to invest in livestock. Without deliberate targeting they might not make it. Strategies that can bring them in, as they carry the will and passion for agriculture, are important to support them. Women and youth have double challenges, being rural person and being rural and woman/young, hence we need to provide targeted support, not favoritism. We need to ensure being inclusive and allow them space to participate in agricultural value chains, without falling into welfare programs. The big private sector also need some other form support, while having access to collateral from livestock or other investment. Those who don't have that collateral, need support, in the form of starker kit, to participate and lead them.

We are trying to reach a balance, equity, whether small holder or large scale, both need being assisted adequately.

Way forward

We had this extended discussion about livestock, have gone into the new livestock policy, 9 priority areas to tap into full potential of livestock to improve own peoples' nutrition, income, livelihoods, nutrition, export markets. What are next steps?

For us representing the CLIM² project it is important to embed our research in this type of feedback. It requires that CISANET and ICRISAT document the session, share the outcomes through national networks. It then also depends on priorities identified by government, participants, the feedback from this dialogue, where you see niches and entry points to continue supporting the crop and livestock sectors. To appreciate this as important dialogue we will document and provide communications.

We have a window to open the project, getting this feedback on policies, allows us to go back to our results and incorporate into our results.

Prof Sikhhalazo Dube highlights that there is a new project funded by IFAD, emerging from this exercise, inclusive red meat value chain for women and youth in Eastern and Southern Africa, Beef and goats. We saw that as gap and use some of the investments, technologies, IPs, business orientation, building on those for the next 3 years.

The lessons from the meeting will inform us going forward, business coaching and capacity building of the SMEs. We will revisit the dairy issues and wrap those activities up and move activities forward. We will also align properly with DAESS and others to coordinate better.

Dr Chikungwa emphasizes that with assistance of CISANET and the CLIM² project, we will package the policy messages. Incidentally, the new policy takes up most policy gaps that have been evidently shown by the CLIM² project. The new policy responds to and takes forward the lessons, technologies from the project, to expand them across the country, where we can see equally good impact.

We await the launch of the new policy in October, there after we will be policy dissemination workshops, to attract all stakeholders in the country to raise awareness about our new livestock policy and paradigm shift. This to recognize that the livestock sector has been stuck for a while, and we now address the challenges and gaps through the new policy. We have identified the challenges and want to address them through the new policy.

This is my appeal to all stakeholders in the country to move together, following all 9 priority areas which cover each and every challenge in a way. We will also get in touch with donor and development partners as government alone cannot address all challenges. There is need for resource mobilization with donors and development organizations, with the new policy setting pace and direction for this country.

There will be dissemination, launch of policy. Many people in the chat expressed willingness to assist and partner. This is a good opportunity to start the partnership. They need access to the launch if virtual.

Mrs Pamela Kuwali, CISANET director: Thanking the PS for being available, and all participants, ICRISAT for willingness to partner with us in the policy discussion. This has helped us to

achieve our goal of having at least a policy discussion this quarter focusing on livestock development. This is one of many discussions we will have on livestock. As CISANET we host many policy dialogues, if you need an organization to share your lessons, with us having convening power, please reach out. The CISANET website is up and running for dissemination.

Appendix

A1. List of participants

	Name	Organisation	Designation/Position	Email	Phone
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8	Dr Martin Ng'oma	Karonga ADD	Chief Animal Health and Livestock Development Officer	martin.ngoma@yahoo.com	265995281729
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A2. Program

Livestock for food and nutrition security in Malawi Policy gaps, needs and opportunities.

Date and Time: 9:30 -12.30pm Thursday, 16 September, 2021

Venue: Online, Zoom

Time	Activity	Responsibility	Moderator
9:30 – 9:45 am	Participants logging in Opening Prayer Self-Introductions	All Volunteer All	CISANET
9:45 – 9:50 am	Welcoming Remarks and Objectives	Pamela Kuwali CISANET National Director	CISANET
9:50 – 10:00 am	Presentation “Crop Livestock Integration and Diversification in Malawi: Entry points and Lessons”	Dr Sabine Homann-Kee Tui Social Scientist, ICRISAT	ICRISAT
10.00-10.15 am	Remarks from Guest of Honor	Principal Secretary Mrs Erica Maganga	CISANET
	Video ”Diversifying Agri-food value chains in Southern Malawi”		ICRISAT
10:15 – 10:45 am	Presentation “Livestock for food and nutrition security in Malawi: Policy gaps, needs and opportunities”- Messaging	Prof Sikhalazo Dube Project Coordinator, Inclusive Red Meat Value Chains	ILRI
10:45 – 11:30 am	The role of livestock in building a vibrant and resilient agricultural sector in Malawi. Panel Discussion moderated by Tendai Saidi, CISANET Head of Programs	Dr Patrick Chikungwa Director, Department of Livestock and Animal Health Martin Isyagi Managing Director Sani Ltd	CISANET
11:30 – 12:00 am	Plenary	All	CISANET/ICRISAT
12:00 – 12:15 am	Way forward	All	CISANET/ICRISAT
12:15 – 12:30 am	Closing Prayer End of Livestock Policy Messaging Webinar	Volunteer	CISANET

A3. Invitation

From: Pamela <pamela@cisanetmalawi.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 3:01 PM
To: 'CISANET MW 2020'
Subject: Invitation
Importance: High

Dear Esteemed Colleagues:

I am pleased to inform you that CISANET in partnership with the Improved livelihoods through sustainable intensification and diversification of market-oriented crop-livestock systems in southern Malawi (CLIM2) project is organizing a policy dialogue (webinar) focusing on **Livestock for Food and Nutrition Security in Malawi**. The policy dialogue will take place on **Thursday, 16 September from 9:00 am**. I therefore take the honor to invite you to the webinar as a participant.

To give you some background, the CLIM project has been implemented by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and the Small-Scale Livestock and Livelihoods Programme (SSLLP), with several departments within the Malawi Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development. The project was funded by the European Union under the Farm Income Diversification Programme (FIDP) Phase II – Agribusiness. The project sought to support on-farm diversification and crop-livestock integration to contribute to a more efficient use of scarce farm resources, benefiting women in particular. The project took into account the fact that farm income growth through on-farm diversification is an important trajectory to build Malawi's resilience in the face of external shocks, such as climate change, food price spikes, lack of farm inputs, and small landholdings. The project team therefore conducted sector-specific political economy analyses for the three value chains (dairy, poultry/eggs, and goats) to uncover issues in policy and regulation.

Based on lessons learnt from the project, the policy dialogue will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss current policy challenges, needs and opportunities in the livestock sector. The dialogue is expected to gather experts and actors in the food and nutrition from the public and private sectors as well as the civil society. Find the log in details for the Webinar below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84204370035?pwd=MXdYQVawZ3VaSS9HRHY2bFpMbmdxQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 0437 0035

Passcode: 803456

Kindly email Edwin@cisanetmalawi.org to confirm your participation.

Best Regards

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National Director

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