



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

5th African Soil Partnership plenary meeting

**VIRTUAL MEETING
6-7 JULY 2021**

SOILS 4 NUTRITION PROJECT IN MALAWI
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Soils 4 nutrition project in Malawi

Sustainable soil management for nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Sub Saharian Africa and South East Asia



Government of Malawi

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICES

CHITEDZE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION



Malawi

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General Information

Main objective: To promote and support the application of soil management (SSM) for nutrition-sensitive agriculture with the purpose to improve the nutritional quality of locally produced foods.

Main entry points:

- i) Multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach to understand the current situation of soils and nutrition.
- ii) Extensive stock-taking of existing knowledge about the transfer conditions of nutrients from soils to edible parts of the crops.
- iii) Expand knowledge about the role of sustainable soil management in the implementation of food and nutrition interventions.

Main stakeholders:

- i) Department of Land Resources Conservation (DLRC) in collaboration with other department and technical support of FAO.

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Output 1. The link between sustainable soil management for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and micronutrient deficiencies is assessed and promoted



- Joint effort led by the Ministry of Agriculture and its Departments of Land Resources Conservation (DLRC), Research (DARS) and Agriculture Extension Services (DAES).
- Expert consultation and review of national information available.
- Identification of good practices for nutrition-sensitive agriculture in place through different research methods.

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Output 2. National capacities are developed to strengthen technical and local extension services to implement sustainable soil management practices



Soil sample collection underway



Baseline nutrient status of soils, crops and the local population from different sites in the country.

Revision of existing tools and training materials for extension staff.

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Output 2. National capacities are developed to strengthen technical and local extension services to implement sustainable soil management practices

Maize - Soja - Amaranthus



Field trials to verify and disseminate **sustainable soil management practices** for nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

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Output 2. National capacities are developed to strengthen technical and local extension services to implement sustainable soil management practices



Training sessions of farmers and extension services



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Output 3. The policy environment for investment and technical cooperation integrates nutrition-sensitive agriculture, supported by related guidelines developed under the Global and Regional Soil Partnership

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Current Status and next steps

- Data collected in several locations in the country under analysis.
- Revision of different sources looking for empirical evidence and data about soil nutrition.
- Multi-stakeholder discussions held with technical experts.
- Identification of possible interventions support nutrition-sensitive agriculture and extension services to scale up knowledge dissemination.
- Preliminary revision of training materials available to orient the dissemination.

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