



In Collaboration with Bunda College - Malawi

National consultative Meeting - Malawi¹

**Strengthening institutional
capacity for supporting Food,
Agriculture And Natural
Resources policy formulation and
implementation in the SADC
region**

held at the

Kalikuti Hotel, Lilongwe

July 22, 2005

A REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

¹ Funded by USAID – Regional Centre for Southern Africa (RCSA)

Table of Contents

	Page
<i>Executive Summary</i>	3
1. Preamble.....	6
2. Agenda.....	6
3. Introductory remarks.....	6
4. Statement by FANRPAN CEO.....	6
5. Official opening by Dr A. T, Daudi	7
6. Presentation on FANRPAN operational and institutional structure.....	8
7. Presentation by Civil Society for Agriculture Network Civil Society for Agriculture Network (CISANET).....	10
8. Presentation by National Association of Smallholder Farmers (NASFAM)	11
9. Presentation by Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN),.....	12
10. Presentation of the Look, Listen and Learn Project Concept.....	13
11. Group Discussions: Partners and Priorities for Advocacy and Research for Food Security	14
12. The Way forward.....	15
13. Closing Remarks.....	16
Annexes	
1. List of Participants	
2. Statement by the Principal Secretary – Dr A. T. Daudi	
3. Meeting Programme	

Executive Summary

The setting of the Malawi meeting was different from the Zambia one – in that – it was not hosted at an existing policy advocacy organization. The meeting was organized by Bunda College that currently hosts the FANRPAN node – and hosted at Kalikutu Hotel, in Lilongwe city. Bunda College is slightly outside the city – so it would have been rather difficult for participants to access – for a one-day meeting. The dual-capital aspect of Malawi was also a unique factor for this meeting. Several participants had to travel over 300km from Blantyre city in order to participate in the dialogue. A total of 25 participants cutting across government, private sector, civil society, farmer organizations, universities and research institutions attended the consultation.

Dr A. T. Daudi, the Principal Secretary in the Malawi Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) officially opened the consultation. As was the case in Zambia, this high level presence of government was indicative of the window of opportunity for policy influence available within the FANRPAN platform. Governments and universities have recognized FANRPAN as a source of comprehensive policy research. Strengthening and widening this platform will bring many stakeholders in the sector within the circle of influence for policy development. Dr Daudi observed that governments needed to focus more on the concept of food security as opposed to food self-sufficiency. He sighted Mauritius and Botswana who he said were food secure despite the fact they do not produce enough food. He also pointed out that government was willing to work closely with CSOs – but observed that CSOs tend to give conflicting and confusing signals. They criticize policies without presenting viable options. He pointed out that, for example, when the Malawi government was implementing the Targeted Input Programme (TIP), CSOs complained that this distorts markets. Then when the government switched to the Universal Fertilizer Subsidy (UFS) – the CSOs still complained that this kills the private sector. He likened this situation to “football (soccer) being played by spectators” and argued that “giving is better than receiving” – hence CSOs should aspire to give options alongside their criticisms.

Dr L. Sibanda, the FANRPAN CEO, presented the objectives of the consultation and the FANRPAN operational framework and programmes. She pointed out that the consultation was aimed at bringing together all the leading national stakeholders in the food security sector to map out on-going policy processes at national level, which have a regional scope and impact. She also pointed that the consultation would explore constraints to participation, involvement and engagement of key players – especially civil society – in food security policy development at regional level. She gave the main objectives of the consultation as 3-fold: firstly assessing the relevance and contribution of the proposed CSOs' project to key national players in Malawi; secondly strengthening the national FANRPAN platform for dialogue between agro-based CSO networks, private sector and government in the food security sector as a way of building a constituency for engagement at regional level; and thirdly identifying active agro-based CSO networks that will participate in piloting the evidence-based policy advocacy project. She pointed out this consultation was the second in a series of four being carried out in Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Three leading policy advocacy CSOs – the Civil Society Network for Agriculture (CISANET), the Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN), and the National Association of Smallholder Farmers (NASFAM) – presented their policy advocacy programmes. CISANET presented the study findings of a community participatory consultation process that they carried out in an effort to ensure the inclusion of people's voices and priorities in the national Food and Nutrition security policy. CISANET adopted the Malawi community “Bwalo” to suit the citizen jury multi-stakeholder consultation concept – and used it as the tool for community consultation across communities in 16 districts on Malawi. CISANET undertook this work as part of Food and Nutrition Policy Drafting Task Force. CISANET reported that they had plans to carry out a similar consultation for the national biotechnology policy.

NASFAM presented its advocacy work against unequal taxation of smallholder farmers and pointed out that it had succeeded in convincing government to withdraw withholding tax on tobacco proceeds for smallholder farmers – for at least 3 years. NASFAM was pushing for a similar tax relief on other crops. NASFAM represents small farmers on different national level committees – but pointed out that engagement at regional level was still a challenge due to limited financial and human capacity.

MEJN presented a comprehensive economic advocacy programme based on the analysis of government development framework documents including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and the national budgets. MEJN is also implementing the Budget Participation Initiative (BPI) as a project. MEJN is involved in monitoring the implementation of poverty reduction and public expenditure. It is involved in social mobilization through dissemination of economic governance policies. It is also involved in economic policy analytical studies as well as engaging parliament and

donors. From the presentations it was clear that these CSOs would be excellent partners in the project for promoting the use of CSO evidence in food security policy formulation.

Fred Kalibwani presented the Look, Listen and Learn project concept for promoting the use of CSO evidence-based research in developing food security policy at regional level. He outlined the food crisis in Southern Africa, the different roles of the CSOs in influencing policy, the project objectives and activities, as well as, the implementing partners: SARPN, ODI and FANRPAN. He pointed out that key on-going policy processes and key actors would be presented at the next dialogue to enable CSOs identify entry points for engaging at regional level.

Through a group exercise the participants identified priority thematic issues in food security and organizations that could engage in policy advocacy on these issues in Malawi. Another group identified priority issues in food security as well as those organizations in Malawi that could carry out evidence-based research on these themes. The table below represents the priority food security issues identified as well as the key partners for collaboration both at research and advocacy levels.

Themes and Organisations that can carry out Policy Advocacy		Themes and Organisations that can carry out Evidence-Based Research	
Themes and Issues	Organisations	Themes	Organisations & Individuals
Food Aid – GMOs; dumping; transport protocol, harmonizing Biosafety policies, Phytosanitary regulations	Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment CEPA, CISANET, JEFAP, C-SAFE & National Research Council of Malawi	Irrigation	Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Engineering at Bunda College, Total Land Care, Private Consultants
Food Reserves - Should a country keep Physical reserves or cash reserves; Food prices (how to stabilize them)	Ministry of Agriculture CISANET, FOSANET, MEJN and ECAMA	Biotechnology/GMO	BIOEROC, Chitedze Research Station, National Research Council, Crop Science Department at Bunda College of Agriculture, APRU, MOSANTO, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
Trade - Cross border trade Regulations, tariff and non tariff barriers, technical barriers, Phytosanitary regulations	CISANET, FOSANET, MEJN and ECAMA, NASFAM	Nutrition	Ministry of Agriculture, Care International, World Vision, CHAM and Nutrition Department at Bunda College
Production Systems -Irrigation, Fertilizer, Technology development, seed	CISANET, FOSANET, MEJN and ECAMA, NASFAM, Seed Security Network	Seed	Care, Mosanto, ICRISAT, CIAT, SARNET, Bunda College Crop Science department
Political & Economic Governance - Political will, Regional integration Social movement Accountability	CISANET, CDSC, MEJN and ECAMA, NASFAM, APRU, HRCC	Fertilizer	IDEAA, CARE, CIAT, ICRISAT, Bunda College of Agriculture crop science department, Chitedze Research Station,
FOSANET = Food Security and Agriculture Network JEFAP = Joint Emergency Food Aid Programme NRCM = National Research Council of Malawi MEJN = Malawi Economic Justice Network CISANET = Civil Society for Agriculture Network CFSC = Center for Social Concern APRU = Agricultural Policy Research Unit HRCC = Human Rights Consultative Committee ECAMA = Economic Association of Malawi NASFAM = National Association of Smallholder Farmers		Crop Protection Products	Cropserve, Chemicals and Marketing, Farmers Organisations Malawi Limited, Agricultural Trading Company, Crop Science department,
		Livestock	Land O Lakes, Department of Animal Health, Animal science Department at Bunda College
		Extension Services	ARET, ministry of agriculture, CADECOM, World vision, Department of Agricultural extension at Bunda College
		HIV/AIDS	Dr. Grace Malindi, Care, National Aids Commission, APRU, ministry of Health, Private Consultants
		Micro-finance	OIBM, MRFC, CARE, CUMO, FITSE
		Marketing	IDEAA, NASFAM, APRU, Private Consultants
		Irrigation	Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Engineering at Bunda College, Total Land Care, Private Consultants

As a way forward a multi-stakeholder steering committee for widening and strengthening the FANRPAN node, as a platform for policy dialogue in the FANR sector, was selected including the following organizations and individuals:

1. Bunda College of Agriculture – Dr Charles Mataya and Mathews Madola
2. Malawi Economic Justice Network – Mabvuto Bamusi and Collins Magalasi
3. NASFAM – Ms Betty Chinyamunyamu and Timothy Shawa
4. CISANET – Victor Muhone and Sophie Chitedze
5. Ministry of Agriculture – Ian Kumwenda and Dr Grace Malindi

6. *National Research Council of Malawi – F. K. Nyondo and A. K. Manda*
Bunda College was tasked to take the lead and convene the first meeting before August 05, 2005. The committee was tasked to discuss the new host organization for the revitalized FANRPAN node as well as recruit a fulltime FANRPAN node facilitator that will be hosted by the selected organization and remunerated by the FANRPAN regional secretariat.

The FANRPAN node coordinator, Mathews Madola, on behalf of the Acting Director of the Agricultural Policy Research Unit, closed the consultation.

1.0 Preamble

The chairman of the meeting Dr. Charles Mataya called the meeting to order at 9.30 hours and apologized to the Principal Secretary for late start due to the late arrival of participants. The meeting was graced with the presence of Dr. A. T. Daudi, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture.

2.0 Agenda

1. The proposed agenda (See Annex 3) for the meeting therefore included the following items:
 - A. Welcome Remarks by the Dr. Charles Mataya.
 - B. Objectives of the Consultative meeting by the FANRPAN Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda
 - C. Official Opening by the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Dr. A.T. Daudi
 - D. Presentation on SADC FANRPAN Policy Platform: Scope and Operations, by FANRPAN CEO, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda
 - E. Presentation of 3 Case Studies: Civil Society involvement in Policy Advocacy for reduced poverty, improved agriculture and food security at National level:
 - a. Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET)-by Edson Musopole
 - b. National Association of Smallholder Farmers (NASFAM)-by Mrs Betty Chinyamunyamu
 - c. Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN)-by Mabvuto Bamusi
 - F. Presentation on Look, Listen and Learn-An Action Research Project in Southern Africa by Mr. Fred Kalibwani
 - G. Group Discussions: Processes, Challenges and Opportunities to CSOs engagement at National and Regional levels
 - H. Group Feedback
 - I. Way Forward
 - J. Closing Remarks

3.0 Introductory Remarks

Dr. Charles Mataya welcomed all participants to National consultative meeting on 'Promoting the use of CSOs evidence in policies for food security'. He thanked the Principal secretary for accepting the invitation to officially open this very important meeting despite his busy schedule. The chairman then briefly informed the meeting the objectives of the National Consultative meeting before requesting participants to introduce themselves.

Dr. Mataya then called upon Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for FANRPAN to say a few words.

4.0 Statement by FANRPAN CEO, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda

Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, the FANRPAN CEO, made a brief opening Statement by presenting the overall objectives of the project and the objectives of the Consultative meeting specifically.

- Dr Sibanda indicated that the project is about Strengthening Institutional Capacity for supporting Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Policy Formulation and implementation at regional level and influencing Policy with Evidence based research.

Dr Sibanda informed the meeting that the overall objectives of the project are:

- Bring together the leading national stakeholders – particularly Civil Society but also relevant government officials and donors - in the Food Security sector and identify key on-going policy processes with a regional scope and impact.



Dr L. M. Sibanda, Chief Executive Officer,
FANRPAN

- To explore constraints to participation, involvement, and engagement of key players in food security policy development at regional level

While the objectives of the Consultative meeting were:

- Assess the relevance and contribution of the proposed CSOs' project to key national players in each country
- To create a platform for national dialogue between agro-based CSO networks, private sector and government in the food security sector that will serve to build a constituency for engagement in regional dialogue
- Identify active agro-based CSO networks that will participate in this evidence-based policy advocacy project, particularly in piloting different approaches to feeding CSOs evidence into regional policy processes affecting food security

Dr. Lindiwe told the participants that it was on the basis of these three issues that the meeting was being held. The meeting was the one of the series of workshops lined up for four SADC countries of Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. These countries were chosen as pilot case studies before the project is expanded to the other remaining SADC countries.

After the Statement by Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, the Chairperson, Dr. Charles Mataya then called upon Dr. A. T. Daudi, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture to officially open the consultative meeting.

5.0 Official Opening by Dr. A. T. Daudi

Dr. A. T. Daudi, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture delivered the opening address (See Annex 2 for the Speech). The important points of the Speech are highlighted below.



Dr. A. T. Daudi, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture delivering the opening address

- Malawi's food security policy should differentiate between food security and food self-sufficiency.
- Malawi is spending a lot of money in order to achieve food self-sufficiency. The past few years Malawi has spent billions of Kwacha on Targeted Input Programme (TIP) while this year government is spending 5 billion kwacha on the universal fertilizer subsidy in order to achieve food self sufficiency. But is this really what we want.
- He gave the example of countries like Mauritius and Botswana who he said do not produce enough food but are food secure.
- Dr Daudi also said that government is willing to work with CSO but that they should not always be criticizing government just for the sake of it. For example, when government started implementing TIP, CSO's were accusing government that TIP was distorting markets. This year government is implementing the universal fertilizer subsidy, some CSO are saying that such a policy will kill the private sector. It is not clear what the CSOs want government to do to improve food security. They are not providing alternatives.
- He argued that the safety nets the government has put in place would not develop this country.
- He said that according to the World Bank, for Malawi to reduce, its GDP has to grow by more that 6 per cent per annum.

- He also said that he had attended so many workshops and meetings and had a lot of consultancy reports with so many good recommendations but what is lacking in Malawi is implementation.

6.0 Presentation on the SADC FANRPAN Policy Scope And Operations: By Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda

6.1 Background

SADC region (200 million people) face food insecurity challenges. Agriculture is the prime driver of economic development across SADC. Agricultural investments by governments have remained low. Agricultural yields for crops and livestock have been level or declining. Food aid and imports have almost doubled in the last 10 years. HIV/AIDS pandemic, natural disasters (droughts, floods) and civil conflicts have compromised SADC's efforts to ensure food security. Against this background, SADC Ministers of Agriculture recommended the formation of FANRPAN in 1994 to promote appropriate agricultural policies in order to reduce poverty and increase food security and promote sustainable agricultural development.

6.2 Objectives of FANRPAN

- Promote appropriate agricultural policies in order to reduce poverty
- Increase food security and promote sustainable agricultural development
- Focus on promoting regional trade and exchange of information across member states
- Provide a conducive policy and legal framework, including functional input supply and markets for produce

6.3 FANRPAN Mission

FANRPAN Mission to coordinate, influence and facilitate policy research, analysis and dialogue at the national, regional and global levels in order to develop the food, agriculture and natural resources sector. The Mission is achieved through networking, capacity building and information generation for the benefit of the SADC region

6.4 Governance

Institutional Framework: An autonomous stakeholder-driven policy research analysis and implementation network. Regional secretariat based in Harare but is re-locating to Pretoria South Africa. Strategically positioned to deal with policy aspects of food security at the national and regional levels. Represented in 11 SADC countries through an inter-sectoral platform designated as a country node

Institutional Structure: The FANRPAN Structure has 4 levels:

- 1) Country Nodes which comprise of Government, Policy Analyst, Private Sector and Farmer Organizations
- 2) Regional Office Secretariat comprising of CEO, Research Analyst, Communication Officer, and Administration Officer
- 3) Thematic Technical Advisory Groups
- 4) Board of Governors with the following representations: Government Representative currently from Malawi and Botswana; 1 Donor representative (USAID); 2 Farmer representatives currently from Zambia and Mozambique; 2 Private Sector representative currently from Namibia and Zimbabwe; 2 Policy Analyst representatives currently from South Africa and Tanzania; and 1 SADC Representative.

The FANRPAN Research Process



6.5 Current Work

- 1) Study on Impact of HIV/AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security from 2003 to 2005
- 2) Rural Livelihoods Project in Southern Africa from 2003 to 2004
- 3) Profiling of SADC Farmer Based Organisations from 2003 to 2004
- 4) Biotechnology Policy for Food Security 2003 to 2004
- 5) Maize Marketing Study 2004 to 2005
- 6) Contract Farming from 2004 to 2007
- 7) Centre for Technical Cooperation (CTA): Communication and Networking from 2004 to 2005
- 8) Agricultural Policy Harmonisation Project from 2005 to 2007
- 9) NMTIPCAADP from 2003 to 2004
- 10) BioSafety Risk Analysis from 2005 to 2006
- 11) Strengthening SACA from 2004 to 2006

6.6 Capacity Strengthening Project

Dr Sibanda also indicated that FANRPAN is implementing a project aimed at strengthening of the capacity of FANRPAN regional office and country nodes. She said that the regional office would be strengthened through recruitment of additional staff while recruiting programme assistants and other activities will strengthen country nodes.

She further reiterated that national nodes have not been very effective in FANRPAN activities because of various reasons including lack of financial resources. The people who are currently doing FANRPAN work do it voluntary basis without any resources. But she indicated that the regional office has now found some resources to strengthen country node.

6.7 Discussion/Comments on the Presentation

- After the presentation some participants wanted some clarification on whether FANRPAN have a voice of its own or it speaks through organisations like SADC and, NEAPD. In response, the participants were informed that FANRPAN has a voice of its own as an autonomous organisation but participates directly in SADC deliberations as it has a seat in the SADC Council of Ministers of Agriculture
- Participants also wanted to know which crops are being looked at in the contract farming study. In response the participant was informed that the purpose of the study is to explore the opportunities of commercialising smallholder production. The study will recommend policies and institutions, which will have to be in place to encourage or promote contract farming which has a potential of linking smallholder farmers to markets and inputs. In Malawi the study is looking at a number of crops including tobacco, sugar, cotton, paprika and some pulses like beans.
- One participant observed that there are organisations within Malawi that have resources that can be used to organise workshops to disseminate research results.
- He further indicated that although Fertilizer is one of thematic areas that FANRPAN has chose to look into, it was better to look at soil fertility issues more broadly rather than looking at fertilizer only.
- The chairperson (Dr. Mataya) took up the issue of strengthening of the country node. He said that there need to replicate institutional structure that at regional level at national level. He suggested that that an interim board be appointed immediately which would later meet and elect office bearers. Other members suggested that a Task force be formed to take the issue of strengthening the Malawi FANRPAN node. Participants stressed the importance of electing people who are committed to the FANRPAN ideals, as most of the work will be done on volunteer basis.
- Other participants noted that it was also important to look at the host organisation of the network. The current arrangement whereby the secretariat of the nodes are based in Universities because academicians initially took at active role in establishing the network but they may not be the best institutions to house the network now because of the nature of their work.

- The meeting recommended that an interim committee composed of the following organizations be formed to work out the modalities of strengthening of the Malawi FANRPAN node.

1. Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN)
2. Civil Society Network for Agriculture (CISANET)
3. National Association of Smallholder Farmers (NASFAM)
4. Forum for Agribusiness
5. Bunda College of Agriculture
6. National Research Council of Malawi
7. Ministry of Agriculture.

The meeting resolved that the chosen committee should meet within two weeks and discuss how the Malawi FARNPAN Node can be strengthened and organize a wider stakeholders workshop within 6 weeks. . The interim committee was also asked to decide where the secretariat of the node will be housed and appoint a Facilitator who will be paid by the regional office

7.0 Presentation of 3 Case studies: Civil Society Involvement in Policy Advocacy for Reduced Poverty, Improved Agriculture and Food security at national level.

7.1 The People’s Voices ‘ A community Consultation Report’ by Mr. Edson Musopole (Chairperson of CISANET)

This was civil societies contribution to the Food and Nutrition Security policy. CSO's realized that policymaking should not be a monopoly of the urban elite or technocrats. It felt that rural communities represented a majority of food producers and consumers in Malawi and that they should have a voice in decision making on matters that affect their lives and that their voice be in the fore front of the food and nutrition policy debates. Therefore, the purpose of the consultations was to offer a platform for rural communities in Malawi to discuss and contribute policy recommendations on priority food and nutrition security issues.



Mr. Edson Musopole presenting the Community Consultations Report.

The specific objectives of the community consultations were:

1. To articulate the community opinions and recommendations in priority food and nutrition security issues to be addressed by the Food and Nutrition Security policy.
2. To document scripts and video films of community groups (bwalo) discussion proceedings on prioritized food and nutrition security issues.
3. To lobby and advocate with the drafting team, government of Malawi and donors for the adoption of community input into the policy formulation process

7.1.1 Methodology

A citizen jury group discussions approach known as bwalo was adopted to facilitate the process of grassroots community consultation. The key issues discussed include the following: Community definition and perception of food; Available diversity of food types and food security; Community nutrition food on knowledge; Community perceptions on issues affecting food availability in the area; Community perceptions on the constraints to food production; Stability of food and input market access and constraints; Coping mechanism among others.

7.1.2 Constraints to food production and security

These were given as the following: Low soil fertility and productivity of unimproved seed; Low land holding size; Lack of credit/Collapse of farmer club system; Disease prevalence; Pest and diseases; Erratic rainfall; Food aid/Laziness

7.1.3 Recommendations

- 1) Subsidy on the price of agricultural inputs
- 2) Increase the number of beneficiaries of the IP
- 3) Increased access to credit
- 4) Redeployment of extension staff
- 5) Re-introduction of farmers clubs to increase access to credit.
- 6) Regulation of the free market system.

Mr. Musopole also reported that CISANET is also intending to undertake community consultations to contribute toward the biotechnology policy.

7.1.4 Discussion/Comments on the Presentation

Participants wanted to know what is the coverage of the study and how was government incorporated in the study. In response, the presenter pointed out that the exercise covered 16 districts of the 27 districts of Malawi. The sample had no statistical justification but was still acceptable. It was a very rapid rural assessment. He also said that Government was incorporated because it was a member of the joint task force that was responsible for developing the food security policy. This task force was informed of the work

7.2 National Association of Smallholder Farmers by Betty Chinyamunyamu

NASFAM is today the largest rural democratic organisation in Malawi. With the formal establishment of NASFAM in 1997 the organisation established a democratic organisation headed by a Board of Trustees. Today the number of registered associations is 35, serving approximately 100, 000 members (some 41% being women). NASFAM's mission statement is: *To develop and build a commercially viable network of smallholder directed business associations that provide a consistently higher level of return for farmers who participate.*

NASFAM represents the needs of smallholder farmers who are trying to uplift their lives but are facing different problems. The representation of farmers is done at different levels. At local level, executive committee members of NASFAM associations are encouraged to participate in the district development committee so that they can influence development activities at local level.

At National level, the NASFAM head office takes the lead in advocating for policy changes for the betterment smallholder farmers.



Ms Betty Chinyamunyamu making a presentation on NASFAM

- One such policy, which NASFAM has managed to successfully advocate for smallholder farmers, is the removal of withholding tax on tobacco proceeds.
- The Malawi Tax system does not discriminate between smallholder farmers and large-scale farmers. The law simply assumes that all tobacco farmers make profits in excess of MK35, 000.00 that meant that they were supposed to pay withholding tax to government. But after some research, NASFAM found that most smallholder farmers do not make such profits and therefore it was wrong to deduct any withholding tax from their tobacco proceeds.
- NASFAM advocated for three years for the removal of this withholding tax. Government has now accepted and smallholder farmers no longer pay withholding taxes. NASFAM is now currently, also advocating for the removal of withholding tax on other crops.
- NASFAM also sits on different committees to represent the interest of farmers.

- Representing farmers at regional and internal level is a big challenge due to lack of capacity (both human and financial resources)
- NASFAM tries its best not to impose its views on farmers. But most smallholder farmers adopt a laissez faire attitude towards their situation. They seem to have resigned and accepted their situation. It takes capacity building to convince smallholder farmers that influencing policy takes time.
- Farmers have other needs like education and health and NASFAM has to work with other players to provide these services to its members.

7.3 Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN) presentation by Mabvuto Bamusi Director of Programs/Deputy Director



Mr Bamusi making a presentation on Malawi Economic Justice

7.3.1 Background

MEJN was established in 2000 as a CS network in economic governance. Has over 100 networking partners locally and has international partners too. Remnant of the debt cancellation campaign and a leading CSO in poverty reduction. Has implemented economic literacy, budget/PRSP monitoring, Budget Participation Initiative (BPI) and General Advocacy on economic governance from 2001 to 2004.

7.3.2 Civil society and the MPRSP

In Nov 2000, CSOs agreed on a strategy to actively participate in PRSP. In Jan 2001, MEJN lead CSOs to participate in the TWGs. Initially no CSOs were allowed. MEJN lobbied comprehensively and 17 CSOs were integrated the 21 Thematic Working Groups. However, lots of mistrust from Govt. partners, little information shared. By then, we had not developed proper evidence based advocacy tools.

7.3.3 Advocacy approaches used

The advocacy approaches used included: Monitoring implementation of poverty reduction and public expenditures (SDSS and PETS); Social Mobilisation through dissemination of economic governance policies; Systematic studies (Agricultural Liberalisation); Engaging parliament, donors; Media advocacy

7.3.4 Specific areas of food security advocacy

1. Budget Submissions: More funding and protection of food security PPEs, and the universal fertiliser subsidy
2. Budget Analyses: Assessment of allocations to MOA and other food security initiatives vs. non-PPEs like OPC, State Residences "and portraits".
3. Trade Liberalisation: Effects on small-holder farmers and therefore on food security (Dumping, Patents, and GM foods)
4. Food Security institutions: Campaign for clear social roles in the restructuring of ADMARC
5. International aspects

7.3.5 Challenges

- Systematic monitoring of expenditures still hindered by inconsistent and unreliable data sources, -e.g.. different figures on "Presidential Portraits".
- Technical areas of some relevant policies are problematic to CSOs in the absence of reliable data.
- Capacity to conduct wide dissemination of policy findings (Budget advocacy)
- Political interests overriding popular interests (ADMARC campaign)

7.3.6 Discussion/Comments on the Presentations

- Participants made a few observations after the two presentations. For instance it was noted that although in the studies done about marketing problems in Malawi, many people indicated that they were missing ADMARC, but the studies are not mentioning the competitors/alternatives of ADMARC like NASFAM. In light of this, the participant wondered whether the presence of organisations like NASFAM who are getting a lot of money from donors levels the playing field when ADMARC is struggling and CSO always make a lot of noise when government tries to bail out ADMARC.
- Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda informed the meeting that FANRPAN is trying to form a committee of Permanent secretaries of agriculture in the SADC region. And in the process of doing this she is meeting some PS who are welcoming the idea of working with CSO but do not like the attitude of some CSO who always want to blame government without providing any alternatives and evidence.
- A follow up question raised the issue of the legitimacy of organisations like MEJN. In response the presenter indicated that MEJN has established itself as credible institutions and is like a bridge between policymakers and people, it provides policy makers with the necessary information to enable them make rational decisions.
- A question was also raised as what NASFAM doing to change the structure of not only taxes but also agriculture sector in general in terms of cash crops and food crops, urban bias of development and issues of value adding (agriculture or rural areas being the suppliers of raw materials for industry)
- In response the presenter indicated that NASFAM encourages its farmers to grow both food crops and cash crops. It is important that they grow food crops because there is no credit for food crops in Malawi. NASFAM is also trying to add value to some of the commodities produced by its members including groundnuts, rice and cotton

8.0 Presentation on Look, Listen, and Learn: An Action Research Project For Southern Africa - By Mr. Fred Kalibwani

8.1 The Food Crisis in Southern Africa

Southern Africa is lagging behind global trends in strengthening food security. Hunger has increased in the region over the last decade. Progress in the region is too slow to meet the Millennium Declaration goal of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015. There is evidence that in Southern Africa, poor progress with strengthening food security has been as much the result of weaknesses in policy processes as failures in food production and utilisation technologies. Better policies for increasing food availability, strengthening effective access to food, and improving food utilisation are now recognised as priority. There is concern to move beyond focus on domestic food production to considering the opportunities and constraints for using cross border trade to strengthen food security



Mr. Fred Kalibwani-presenting the Project Concept

8.2 The Role Civil Society Organisations: Where countries have conducted reviews of national food and nutrition security policies, CSOs have actively contributed by providing evidence of the failures of past policies and communities' current policy priorities

8.3 Civil Society Organisations and Regional Policy: In the same way that at country level Agro-based NGOs have played an important role in promoting more appropriate policies for food security, there is a need for them to increase their influence on regional policies

8.4 CSO Definition: CSOs include a wide range of institutions such as; NGOs, Faith Based Institutions, Farmer Organisations, Trade Unions, Professional Associations, research Institutes and Think Tanks

8.5 CSOs and Policy Processes:

The policy process can be defined as a purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors. CSOs can strengthen policy processes by working in the arena between the household, the private sector and the state to negotiate matters of public concern

8.6 Different Roles of CSOs in Policy Influencing: Advising through policy briefings; Advocacy like Environmental petitioning e.g. Green Alliance; Activism through direct action like the Green peace; and Lobbying

8.7 Role of CSOs in Policy Influencing: CSOs are in a unique position to present and promote the needs of poor and vulnerable people, whose voices may not otherwise be heard effectively in the policy process. How this evidence is best presented is determined by the political context, by the nature of the links between policy makers and other stakeholders

8.8 Project Objectives: The project is intended to engage with a range of development partners at national and regional levels in Southern Africa to:

1. Promote the contribution of CSOs to debate within Southern Africa on food security policy
2. Promote the voice of CSOs in the international debate on food security policy

The project will:

1. Publish within the region and internationally the policy and practice lessons learnt
2. Disseminate within the region relevant evidence and policy lessons from civil society organisations elsewhere in the world

8.9 Implementing Partners: These are: Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis (FANRPAN); Overseas Development Institute (ODI); Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPAN)

8.10 Project Outputs: The project will use action research to develop understanding around:

1. Lessons about how CSOs use evidence to influence policy
2. Lessons about how CSOs relate to their downstream and upstream partners
3. Lessons about food security priorities for poor and vulnerable people in Southern Africa

8.11 Activities

Stage 1: Planning: Prepare and circulate draft concept paper; Inaugural project meeting

Stage 2: Regional Activities: Research current policy processes at regional level; Host one-day country meetings; Ongoing preparation of project alerts

Stage 3: Pilot Influencing Activities: Project stakeholders will disseminate information products; After action review meeting of project partners and lessons learnt report; Regional meeting

8.12 Discussion/Comments on the Presentation

A question was raised at the end of the presentation as to what will be the level of participation of CSOs in the project. The presenter said that the idea is to find out the current policy processes in Malawi and see the entry point of CSOs in Malawi. CSOs will have to be engaged in the Malawi FANRPAN node so that they can eventually get a platform into the regional arena

9.0 Group Discussions: Partners and Priorities for Advocacy and Research for Food Security

9.1 Group One Presentation on Advocacy

Group one looked at themes and individuals and organizations that can do advocacy in Malawi

	Theme	Issues	Organisations/Individuals
1	Food Aid	GMP, dumping, transport protocol, harmonizing biosafety policies, Phytosanitary regulation	Ministry of Trade Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Natural Resources and

			Environment CEPA, CISANET, JEFAP, C-SAFE & National Research Council of Malawi
2	Food Reserves	Should a country keep Physical reserves or cash reserves Food prices (how to stabilise them)	Ministry of Agriculture CISANET, FOSANET, MEJN and ECAMA
3	Trade	Cross border trade Regulations, tariff and non tariff barriers, technical barriers, Phytosanitary regulations	CISANET, FOSANET, MEJN and ECAMA, NASFAM
4	Production Systems	Irrigation, Fertilizer, Technology development, seed	CISANET, FOSANET, MEJN and ECAMA, NASFAM, Seed Security Network
5	Political /Economic governance	Political will Regional integration Social movement Accountability	CISANET, CDSC, MEJN and ECAMA, NASFAM, APRU, HRCC

9.2 Group 2 Presentation on Evidence-Based Research

Group looked at the themes and who can do evidence based research in Malawi

	Themes	Organisations /Individuals
1	Irrigation	Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Engineering at Bunda College, Total Land Care, Private Consultants
2	Biotechnology/GMO	BIOEROC, Chitedze Research Station, National Research Council, Crop Science Department at Bunda College of Agriculture, APRU, MOSANTO, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
3	Nutrition	Ministry of Agriculture, Care International, World Vision, CHAM and Nutrition Department at Bunda College
4	Seed	Care, Mosanto, ICRISAT, CIAT, SARNET, Bunda College Crop Science department
5	Fertilizer	IDEAA, CARE, CIAT, ICRISAT, Bunda College of Agriculture crop science department, Chitedze Research Station,
6	Crop Protection Products	Cropserve, Chemicals and Marketing, Farmers Organisations Malawi Limited, Agricultural Trading Company, Crop Science department,
7	Livestock	Land O Lakes, Department of Animal Health, Animal science Department at Bunda College
8	Extension Services	ARET, ministry of agriculture, CADECOM, World vision, Department of Agricultural extension at Bunda College
9	HIV/AIDS	Dr. Grace Malindi, Care, National Aids Commission, APRU, ministry of Health, Private Consultants
10	Microfinanace	OIBM, MRFC, CARE, CUMO, FITSE
11	Marketing	IDEAA, NASFAM, APRU, Private Consultants

10.0 Way Forward

Dr Sibanda informed the meeting that it was imperative to strengthen the Malawi FANRPAN node to include more stakeholders as a starting point for the project. She said that it was important to propose names of people who should lead the process of strengthening FANRPAN. After some discussion the names of people were suggested to be in the interim committee and should meet as soon as possible to call for a bigger national consultative meeting that will re-launch the activities of FANRPAN Malawi within the month of August.

The following names were suggested

Organization	Name of Individuals
Bunda College of Agriculture	Dr Charles Mataya
	Mr. Mathews Madola
Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN)	Mabvuto Bamusi Collins Magalasi
NASFAM	Mrs Betty Chinyamunyanu
	Mr. Timothy Shawa
CISANET	Victor Muhone

	Sophie Chitedze
Ministry of Agriculture	Mr. Ian Kumwenda
	Dr Grace Malindi
National Research Council of Malawi	F.K. Nyondo
	A. K. Manda

The meeting agreed that Bunda College should take the lead to convene the first meeting before 5th August 2005

11.0 Closing Remarks: Mr Mathews Madola,

The FANRPAN Node Coordinator, Mr. Mathews Madola closed the meeting on behalf of the Acting Director of the Agricultural Policy Research Unit, who was unable to attend the afternoon session due to other equally important commitments.

He thanked all participants for actively participating in the discussions and for being very patient until late afternoon on a Friday. He specifically thanked the chairman Dr Dzowela for gladly accepting to chair the meeting and ably handled the deliberations to articulate the debate and meet the workshop objectives. He thanked the Secretariat of FANRPAN for identifying and providing financial resources to enable Malawi to hold the National Consultative meeting which has opened eyes of the participants in terms of how CSOs can influence policy at regional level. He further thanked the various presenters at the workshop and participants for making the consultative meeting a success. He finally thanked the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for their interest and support to the process.

ANNEX 1

Annex 1: A Participant list for the national consultative meeting on the promoting the use of CSOs' evidence in policies for food security

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
1. Luka Japhet Nyirongo	MASIP	P/Bag 8, Lilongwe; 265 09357527; lukaj@webmail.co.za
2. Donald Makoka	Bunda – APRU	Box219, Lilongwe; 265 1277433; 2658539512; donmakoka@yahoo.co.uk
3. Joseph Mizimbe	The People's Voice Publications	265 1757609; openmediamalawi@yahoo.com
4. P.M.Kamwendo	AFRICARE/Malawi	Box 2346, Lilongwe, Plot No.9/367; Tel: 265 01755155; 09226633; phillip@africaremw.org ; kamwendopm@yahoo.com
5. V.V. Gondwe	Concern World Wide	265 1755217; 265 8851164; Vincent.gondwe@concern.net vvgondwe@yahoo.com
6. Hope S.K. Chavula	Min. of Economics and Planning Development	265 01788888; 09208184; chavula@mepdgov.org
7. Paul K Jere	P.J. Development consultancy Co.	Amina House, Box 1142, Lilongwe; 265 01759429; 08828746 pjere@globemw.net
8. Senard Mwale	Concern Universal	Box 228; 265 01235623; 09552968; senard.mwale@concern-universal.org
9. G.G.Chande	MOA	Box 30134, Lilongwe; 265 1789033; 265 8897396; gchande@yahoo.com
10. Betty Chinyamunyamu	NASCENT	265 01772866; bchinyamunyamu@nasfam.org
11. Norah Kamba	Cadecom Blantyre	Box5565, Limbe; 265 01643898; 265 8823832; cadecombt@malawi.net ; cadecombt@sdnp.org.mw
12. Frade K. Nyondo	National Research Council of Malawi	Lingadzi House; 01 771550/01 774197; nrcm@sdnp.org.mw
13. Bonface J. Mkoko	Biotechnology – Ecology Research & outreach consortium	NAISI Box 403, Zomba; 01525636; 08379478; bioeroc@sdnp.org.mw
14. Dr.Ben H. Dzowela	ADMARC	Box30952, Lilongwe; 01751981; bendzowela@eomw.net
15. Mavuto Bamusi	Malawi Economic Justice Network	Amina House; 01750533; 08892240; mbamusi@mejn.mw
16. Sophie L. Chitedze	Care International Malawi, Arwa House City Centre	08526447; sophiec@caremalawi.org
17. Essau Mwendo Phiri	World Vision International Malawi	01524010; 08832156; essau-mwendo@wvi.org
18. Wongani Chisala	MASIP	265 796667; 08523519; wonganichisala@yahoo.com
19. Edson L. Musopole	ACTION AID	01757500; edsonm@actionaidmalawi.org
20. Dr. Teddie O Nakhumwa	Bunda APRU	01277433; 09330286; tonakhumwa@yahoo.com
21. Mr Mathews Madola	Bunda APRU	01277438; 09307393; mathews@malawi.net
22. Dr. Charles Mataya	Bunda APRU	01277438; 09511104; cmataya@yahoo.com
23. George Chande	Ministry of Agriculture	01789033
24. Fred Kalibwani	Consultant	263-91-936008; fkalibwani@yahoo.com
25. Dr L. M. Sibanda	FANRPAN Regional Secretariat	263-11-262441; linds@ecoweb.co.zw

ANNEX 2

Speech by the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture: DR. A.T. DAUDI

- The Chairman of this workshop
- Chief Executive Officer, FANRPAN, Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda
- Government Officials
- Officials from various Civil Society Organisations
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to perform the official opening of this important National Consultative Meeting on ‘**The Promotion of Civil Society Organisations’ Evidence-based Policies for Food Security**’. Before I go any further, let me also join the Chairman and the preceding speakers in welcoming all of you to this Workshop. It is my sincere hope that you will feel free to bring out all the pertinent critical issues and discuss the implementation of an 18-month project seeking to use action research to better understand how CSOs can promote civil society evidence to influence food security policy issues and processes at the regional (and international) level.

I have been informed that this workshop is collaboration between The Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN), Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The main objective of this meeting is to provide a forum for dialogue and consultations among stakeholders in the food security sector to identify key on-going policy processes with a regional scope and impact and explore the constraints to the participation, involvement and engagement of CSOs in food security policy development at regional level.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am also made to understand that the purpose of this workshop is to discuss a project concept code-named ‘**Look Listen and Learn: Promoting the Use CSOs evidence in Policies for Food Security**’. The project aims to improve the targeting of regional policies in southern Africa to the food security needs of poor and vulnerable people, through:

- Promoting the contribution of CSOs to the debate within southern Africa on policies affecting food security;
- Promoting the voice of southern Africa CSOs in the international debate on policies affecting food security;
- Disseminating within southern Africa relevant evidence and policy lessons from CSOs elsewhere in the world.

The project is expected to contribute to achieving the following outputs:

1. An understanding of policy processes relating to food security regionally and internationally amongst CSOs and other development partners in southern Africa.
2. Lessons about the role of CSOs in using evidence to contribute to pro-poor policy processes internationally.
3. The promotion of the voice of southern Africa poor people in the international debate on food security policy.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, strengthening the food security of poor and vulnerable people is an issue attracting increasing regional and international attention. The need to strengthen food security in southern Africa has been highlighted by the recent humanitarian crisis in the region, and the Millennium Review process is raising the profile of food security issues worldwide. The Millennium Declaration adopted by world leaders in 2000 set out goals for contributing to a better and safer world in the 21st Century, including a specific target of halving, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

But progress towards achieving food security has been slow. Although prevalence rates of underweight children have been falling in most regions of the world, the rate has been too slow to achieve the 2015 target, and in some regions the proportion of hungry people continues to grow. Progress in southern Africa has lagged behind global trends, and hunger has actually increased in some countries in the region over the last decade.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentelemen, there is increasing evidence that in southern Africa the poor progress towards strengthening food security over the last two decades has been as much the result of weaknesses in policy processes as failures in food production and utilization technologies. I need not stress that better policies for increasing food availability, strengthening effective access to food, and improving food utilization are required for our countries.

I would like to acknowledge that Civil Society Organisation's (CSOs) have actively contributed to national policies by providing evidence of the failures of past policies at grassroots level and communities'. However, one common concern is to move beyond a focus on domestic food production to consider the opportunities and constraints for using cross-border trade to strengthen food security.

Action at regional level is particularly important to address cross-border constraints to food security, namely: regional early warning; disaster preparedness; customs controls; import and export tariffs, duties and bans; phytosanitary and other regulations affecting the movement of grain and seed.

Unfortunately, inadequate or uncoordinated action at regional level has contributed significantly to food insecurity in southern Africa in recent years, for example the breakdown of regional early warning systems during the 1990s and the failure to implement the SADC transport protocol.

In the same way that at country level CSOs have played an important role in promoting more appropriate policies for addressing the food security needs of poor and vulnerable people, so there is a need for them to increase their influence on regional policies.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen, Civil society organisations (CSOs) have an important role to play in strengthening policy processes by working in the arena between the household, the private sector and the state to negotiate matters of public concern. In particular, CSOs are in a unique position to present and promote the needs of poor and vulnerable people, whose voices may not otherwise be heard effectively in the policy process.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen, looking at the composition of experts gathered here, I have every reason to believe that the objectives set for the workshop will be achieved. It is my hope that, you will critically analyse the presentations and recommendations thereof and blend it with your own experiences for a more pragmatic recommendations from this workshop.

At this juncture, let me on behalf of the workshop participants and the Government of Malawi express my sincere gratitude to the Southern Africa Poverty Network (SARPN) for funding the consultative meeting through the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and The Food Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and the Civil Society Agricultural Network (CISANET)

In conclusion, I wish to urge you distinguished guests, you ladies and gentlemen, to fully commit yourselves to the discussions in this workshop. With an open-minded approach to the issues that will be raised here, I am sure, Mr. Chairman that we will contribute towards better policies for food security in Southern Africa.

With these few remarks, Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my singular privilege and pleasure to declare the Consultative meeting officially open.
Thank you very much for your attention.
Thank you.

ANNEX 3
SARPN, FANRPAN, ODI

*LOOK, LISTEN & LEARN: An Action Research Project in Southern Africa:
Promoting the use of CSOs' evidence in policies for food security*

**Malawi National Consultative Meeting:
22 July 2005**

Time	Activity	Facilitator/Presenter
08.00hrs	Registration	CARD Secretariat
08.30hrs	Welcome Remarks	Chairperson
	Statement by FANRPAN	Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda FANRPAN CEO
	Official Opening	Dr. A. T Daudi, Secretary for Agriculture
09.00hrs	SADC FANRPAN policy platform: scope and operations	Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda FANRPAN CEO
09.30hrs	Presentation of 3 Case studies: CSO involvement in Policy Advocacy for reduced poverty, improved agriculture and food security at National level	√ CISANET : Mr E. Musopole √ NASFAM: Mrs B. chimyamunyamu √ MEJN: Mr M. Bamusi
10.30hrs	TEA BREAK	
11.00hrs	Presentation on Look, Listen & Learn Action Research Project in Southern Africa	Mr. Fred Kalibwani
12.00hrs	Group Discussions: Processes, Challenges & Opportunities to CSO engagement at: (1) National level (2) Regional level	Dr. C. Mataya
13.00hrs	LUNCH BREAK	
14.00hrs	Group Feedback	Group Rapporteurs
14.45hrs	Way Forward	√ Mr. Edson Musopole √ Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda FANRPAN CEO
15.15	Closing Remarks	Mathews Madola