

MAKING MAIZE MARKETS WORK

FOR ALL MALAWIANS



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INTERNATIONAL
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National Research Symposium Making Maize Markets Work for all Malawians

1 October 2015

Bingu International Conference Centre, Lilongwe

Agenda		
08:00 – 8:30	Registration	
08:30 – 10:00	Official opening <u>Chair:</u> Dr. Athur Mabiso, IFPRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions: Dr. Athur Mabiso, Senior Program Manager/Policy Analyst, IFPRI-NAPAS • Welcome remarks: Dr. Shenggen Fan, Director General, IFPRI • Opening remarks: Mrs. Erica Maganga, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development • Official opening: Rt. Hon. Dr. Saulos Chilima, Vice President, Republic of Malawi • Group photo
10:00 – 10:30	Tea break	
10:30 – 11:45	Technical Presentations <u>Chair:</u> Assoc. Prof. Flora Nankhuni, Michigan State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Karl Pauw, IFPRI -- <i>Are maize market policies harming food security in Malawi?</i> • Dr. Antony Chapoto, IAPRI – <i>Policy and price stability: evidence from Southern and Eastern Africa</i> • Mr. Christian Derlagen, FAO – <i>Incentives for staple food production: a regional perspective</i> • Ms. Asa Giertz, World Bank – <i>Agricultural risk management for growth and food security</i> • Questions and answers for clarification
11:45 – 13:00	Panel discussion <u>Facilitator:</u> Dr. Suresh Babu, IFPRI	Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Government:</i> Mr. Alex Namaona, Ministry of Agriculture • <i>Private sector (commercial):</i> Mr. Dimitri Giannakis, Farmers World • <i>Private sector (farmers):</i> Mr. Prince Kapondamgaga, Farmers Union of Malawi • <i>Civil society:</i> Mr. Rex Chapota, Farm Radio Trust/CISANET
13:00 – 13:15	Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Government of Malawi
13:15-	Lunch	

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Technical presentation descriptions

Title: Policy and price stability: evidence from Southern and Eastern Africa

Presenter: Dr. Antony Chapoto, Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI), Zambia

Synopsis: Do trade restrictions help to keep grain prices within reasonable bounds for consumers and producers? Can trade restrictions support medium-term objectives of increased grain productivity, agricultural-led poverty reduction, and improved food security? Using regional evidence, this presentation will discuss relationships between trade restrictions and price stability. It will use specific country case studies to identify alternative approaches to improving food security and productivity. This session will conclude by providing a suite of policy options for government to consider when formulating staple food policy interventions.

Title: Price incentives to maize production: results from Malawi and Eastern Africa

Presenter: Mr. Christian Derlagen, FAO

Synopsis: To make the maize market work for Malawians, it is essential to understand how policy and market structure are affecting maize prices. Are farmers supported or taxed? Which are the main drivers of incentives or disincentives that farmers face? This presentation will draw on the indicators and analysis produced by FAO's Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) Programme in the country and the region and will provide insights on the effects of policy and market structure on maize prices in Malawi in comparison to other countries of the region.

Title: Agricultural risk management for growth and food security

Presenter: Ms. Asa Giertz, World Bank

Synopsis: In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development, the World Bank conducted an agricultural sector risk assessment which identified maize price volatilities as a result of unpredictable interventions in the maize market to be the biggest risks to the agricultural sector in addition to production risks. Further analysis of the sector revealed that current interventions in the sector have put pressure on farmgate prices while input prices have remained high, thus acting as a disincentive for productive investments in the sector. This session will present the findings of the assessment and discuss alternative policy options for managing strategic reserves that, based on international experience, are more conducive to investments and growth in the sector.

Special thanks to the members of the Organizing Committee



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