

# **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUCCESSOR NATIONAL FERTILISER POLICY (2021-2026)**

**REF. NO. MW-MOA-513660-CS-INDV**

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Government of Malawi, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) in close collaboration with Ministry of Industrialization, Business, Trade and Tourism (MoIBTT) and Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD) is implementing the Malawi Food System Resilience Program (MFSRP) with \$390m financing from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank, International Agriculture development fund (IADF), African Development Bank (AfDB) and Global Agriculture Food Security Program (GAFSP).

The Malawi FSRP builds upon many years of successful experience implementing the Malawi Agricultural Commercialization and Resilience Enhancement Project, AGCOM (1.0), the GoM's flagship agrifood commercialization project. The Malawi FSRP will continue to pursue the main objective of AGCOM (1.0), which is to increase the commercialization of primary and value-added agricultural products as a means of enhancing national and regional food systems resilience.

The Malawi FSRP will also build food systems resilience by helping to develop climate-smart farming and irrigation systems, including through investments in research, extension, and infrastructure, and by building the capacity of pivotal public institutions to undertake resilience-enhancing policy reforms.

The project development objective (PDO) is to increase the resilience of food systems and the country's preparedness for food insecurity in project areas. It specifically aims to increase the commercialization of primary and value-added agricultural products.

The project has six components, Component 1: (Re-)Building Resilient Agricultural Production Capacity, Component 2: Supporting the Sustainable Development of Natural Resources for Resilient Agricultural Landscapes, Component 3: Getting to Market, Component 4: Promoting a Greater Focus on Food Systems Resilience in National and Regional Policymaking, Component 5: Project Management and Component 6: Contingent Emergency Response Component.

## **2.0 RATIONALE**

For decades, low and inefficient use of fertiliser has been a primary constraint to agricultural productivity in Malawi, perpetuating a cycle of low incomes, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Although initiatives like the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP) and its successor, the Affordable Inputs Program (AIP), have improved access, fundamental challenges persist. These

include the prohibitive cost of commercial fertilizer for smallholders, logistical delays in subsidy programs, improper application techniques, and environmentally damaging land management practices.

The National Fertiliser Policy (NFP) was conceived as a comprehensive strategic framework to break this cycle by holistically addressing the entire fertilizer value chain. Its mandate is to promote the sustainable increase in the supply of, access to, and critically, the **efficient use** of quality fertilizers to enhance soil health and crop productivity.

An evaluation of this policy is now imperative to assess its effectiveness and strategic direction. This evaluation will determine the extent to which the NFP has succeeded in:

1. Providing effective coordination. Thus, creating a coherent and well-coordinated fertiliser sector.
2. Driving sustainable adoption by promoting not only access but also the correct, efficient, and environmentally sustainable use of fertilisers.
3. Achieving strategic alignment by ensuring the policy's outcomes are directly contributing to Malawi's long-term national development vision, MW 2063, and are effectively operationalizing the goals of the National Agriculture Policy (2024) for a productive and resilient agricultural sector.

### **3.0 OBJECTIVE OF ASSIGNMENT**

#### **Primary Objective:**

The main purpose of this assignment is to review and develop the successor National Fertiliser Policy (NFP).

#### **Specific Objectives:**

- Evaluate the NFP's contribution to the agricultural sector by measuring its performance against its original objectives and assessing the effectiveness of its implementation.
- Identify key lessons and recommendations from the implementation experience to provide a robust evidence base for designing a successor NFP that effectively operationalizes the National Agriculture Policy (NAP), 2024.

### **4.0 SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT**

The Consultant will work under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and in close collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) and the Department of Agricultural Planning Services (DAPS). The scope includes, but is not limited to, the following key activities:

- Review the existing Malawi National Fertilizer Policy (2021–2026) and related legal, regulatory, and strategic documents to:
  - Identify key policy gaps, implementation bottlenecks, and emerging issues requiring attention.

- Identify inconsistencies, overlaps, or enforcement challenges within the regulatory framework.
- Propose legal and regulatory reforms to strengthen fertilizer quality assurance, compliance, and enforcement
- Review consistency with regional commitments (e.g. SADC, COMESA) and international best practices.
- Integrate emerging global trends in fertilizer policy and sustainable intensification.
- Analyze fertilizer demand, supply, pricing, distribution, and access across different agro-ecological zones.
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- Assess linkages between subsidy programmes and private input markets.
- Propose options for improving efficiency, transparency, and fiscal sustainability.
- Analyze the roles and coordination mechanisms among public institutions, private sector actors, and development partners.
- Assess the alignment of fertilizer use with soil fertility status, soil health management, and climate-smart agriculture principles.
- Review integration of organic and inorganic fertilizers, soil testing, and site-specific nutrient management.
- Assess how the current policy addresses gender, youth, and vulnerable groups in fertilizer access and use.
- Identify barriers faced by women, youth, and smallholder farmers.
- Propose inclusive policy measures to enhance equitable access and adoption.
- Prepare a revised draft of the National Fertilizer Policy incorporating agreed recommendations.
- Develop an implementation framework, including roles, timelines, financing options, and monitoring indicators.
- Propose a results-based M&E framework with clear indicators, baselines, and reporting mechanisms.
- Recommend data and information management systems to support policy implementation.
- Finalize the policy document following stakeholder validation and government review.

## **5.0 Reporting requirements**

The consultant will report to the Secretary for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development. The Consultant shall work closely with the Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) and the Department of Agricultural Planning Services (DAPS). **Qualification Requirement**

The consultant is expected to provide the services that should ideally comprise the following competency.

### **Consultants Qualification**

#### **Educational Qualification**

- PhD with 6 years of experience or a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics, Social Science, Agricultural Policy with 12 years of work experience, or any other agriculture-related field.

### **Functional Competencies**

- Proven experience in agriculture, fertiliser systems or agricultural policy development.
- Ability to assess and recommend institutional reforms that enhance fertilizer industry governance, capacity building, and the operational environment for both public and private stakeholders.
- Demonstrated ability to coordinate and facilitate multi-stakeholder consultations involving government institutions, private sector actors, farmers' organizations, NGOs, and development partners.
- He/she should have experience and knowledge in sector program design and evaluation
- Experience with Sector Based Approaches
- Experience in conducting mid-term and final evaluations of projects and programs, including knowledge of Results Frameworks and monitoring and evaluation quantitative skills.
- Proven ability to liaise with government departments, various stakeholders, also at decentralized level, including experience in conducting participatory evaluation of agricultural sector programs
- Additional qualifications in Agricultural Knowledge and Project Management are an advantage.
- Strong understanding of Malawi's agricultural context.
- Strategic leadership
- Excellent communication, negotiation, and stakeholder facilitation skills.
- Ability to coordinate multidisciplinary teams and deliver on time.
- High-level analytical and report writing skills.
- Decision making and problem solving
- Proficiency in gender-sensitive and inclusive programming.
- Integrity and professionalism
- Teamwork and collaboration

### **6.0 Duration of the Assignment**

The assignment will be conducted within 5 months, providing adequate time for comprehensive stakeholder consultations, policy drafting and validation processes.