

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE CONSULTANT TO
CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF THE SEED POLICY (2018-
2022)
(Ref No MW-MOA-513657-CS-INDV)**

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.

BACKGROUND TO THE NATIONAL SEED POLICY (2018-2022)

In June 2018, Malawi launched National seed policy that replaced the Seed Policy of 1993. The 2018 Seed Policy covered the provisions for farmers' rights and addressed emerging issues in the seed sector with an emphasis on the seed industry growth. The policy recognized the importance of a sustainable seed industry in enhancing agricultural production and diversification. The Policy aimed to establish an environment conducive to the development of the seed industry. The Policy Goal was to create a robust seed sector that meets the diverse needs of farmers. The policy objectives were: to strengthen the institutional, regulatory, and legal framework, to enhance seed certification and quality control, to establish an information system for the seed industry, to promote the production of different seed classes, to address biotechnology and biosafety research,

to improve seed marketing and distribution, to focus on seed orchards and vegetative propagated materials as well as to integrate seed-related topics into education curricula.

RATIONALE OF THE SEED POLICY REVIEW

The rationale to review Seed Policy (2018-2022) is to allow stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of the seed policy in achieving its objectives as its successor will be developed very soon. This will include evaluating its impact on seed production, availability, quality, and accessibility to farmers across different regions of Malawi. The process will also engage stakeholders such as seed producers, farmers, research institutions, and civil society organizations with an intention to gather feedback on the implementation of the seed policy. This review process will provide an opportunity to incorporate their perspectives and address any concerns or gaps in policy implementation. In addition, the review process will ensure that quality of seeds are maintained for improving agricultural productivity and farmers' livelihoods. The review will assess the effectiveness of mechanisms in place for seed certification, quality control, and adherence to international standards, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of Malawi's seed sector.

Nevertheless, this review process will also ensure that the seed policy complies with existing national and international laws, treaties, and agreements related to seed trade, intellectual property rights, and biodiversity conservation. Besides, this review exercise will evaluate the policy's impact on facilitating access to markets for seed producers and farmers, both domestically and internationally. This will include assessing trade barriers, market regulations, and export promotion strategies within the seed sector in Malawi.

OBJECTIVES SEED POLICY REVIEW

The main objective of the seed policy review is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Malawi Seed Policy in achieving its stated objectives; including increasing seed production, improving seed quality, enhancing farmers' access to certified seeds, and promoting the adoption of improved seed varieties.

SCOPE OF ASSIGNMENT/ TASKS FOR THE SEED POLICY REVIEW

The consulting firm is required to develop a comprehensive review report of the Seed Policy that incorporates lessons from the implementation of the existing policy, including the new developments in the agriculture sector. Under the overall supervision of the Director of Agricultural Planning Services, the consulting firm will undertake the following:-

- i. Identify areas where adjustments or improvements in the policy will be needed to achieve desired outcomes.
- ii. Assess whether vulnerable groups benefit adequately from seed policy interventions.
- iii. Explore climate-smart approaches within the policy framework for environmental Sustainability
- iv. Assess the role of private sector players in seed distribution, quality control, and innovation within the policy
- v. Assess the policy's impact on agricultural productivity, food security, income levels of farmers, and overall agricultural development in Malawi. This will help to know whether the policy has contributed to improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and enhancing resilience to climate change.
- vi. Engage with key stakeholders including seed producers, farmers, research institutions, extension services, government agencies, and civil society organizations to gather

feedback on the implementation of the seed policy. This will help to identify challenges, successes, and areas for improvement from the perspectives of different stakeholders.

- vii. Evaluate the integration of innovative technologies and research findings into seed production, breeding, and dissemination processes. This will identify opportunities to promote research and development within the seed sector to enhance productivity and resilience.

The assignment will be undertaken between February and April, 2026. The consultants will be required to use expert judgement in developing the methodology for the evaluation of this policy, but the expectation is that they will use desk reviews, qualitative data collection through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KII), and any other approaches as may be deemed necessary.

DELIVERABLES FOR THE SEED POLICY REVIEW

- i. Develop a work plan and an inception report;
- ii. Draft Report of the Seed Policy Review
- iii. Submit the Final Report incorporating stakeholder comments.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR SEED POLICY REVIEW

The consulting firm/ individuals will work hand in hand with the Secretariat to determine the assignment requirements that must be met to support the goals for the formulation of the policy. The consultant will be expected to produce and present an inception, interim and final report to the Ministry through the Secretariat.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT OF THE SEED POLICY REVIEW

Required skills and experience:

Education:

- o Advanced University Degree (Masters or higher level) in a discipline relevant to Agricultural economics, agronomy, Research, agricultural extension, rural development, policy studies, or related fields.

Experience:

- i. Minimum of 10 years' professional experience in agriculture and in-depth knowledge of seed systems, including seed production, certification, distribution, and quality assurance mechanisms.
- ii. Practical experience working in the seed sector or academic training in seed science, agronomy, or related disciplines will also be required.
- iii. Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal are necessary for preparing comprehensive review reports, policy briefs, and presentations. A background in communication, journalism, or public relations will be required for the team's ability to communicate findings effectively.
- iv. Proficiency in data analysis and statistics for analyzing seed sector data, interpreting trends, and deriving actionable insights. Skills in statistical software such as Stata, R or Python, as well as experience with agricultural databases and surveys, are beneficial.

- v. Experience and knowledge of Malawi policy formulation guidelines preferred;
- vi. Demonstrated and strong analytical and report writing abilities are required; and
- vii. Experienced in working with government and national stakeholders, with demonstrated ability to work under different settings and cultural environments.

DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT/SEED POLICY REVIEW

The consultant is expected to submit a final draft report within 90 days of commissioning the assignment. Besides, the consultant will draw a detailed work plan and timeline for specific activities to be undertaken.