



Government of Malawi



Ministry of Agriculture

A NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY

A Strategic Agenda for Addressing Economic Development and Food Security in Malawi

**Ministry of Agriculture
P.O. Box 30134
Lilongwe 3.**

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PREAMBLE

In the period before 1985, Malawi was self reliant in food production, producing enough to even export to neighbouring countries. After that period until recently, Malawi has seen this trend seriously reversed. Following liberalization, not only has food production declined, but Malawi has become a net importer of most agricultural products mainly maize, livestock and horticultural products from countries within the region and beyond. This has had adverse effects on the economic development and dignity.

The Ministry of Agriculture has developed this policy framework in order to outline the actions to be implemented by the institution and other stakeholders in the agriculture sector in an effort to create *‘a nation with sustainable food security and increased agro-based incomes’*.

While the national goal is to create wealth through poverty reduction, this framework specifically seeks to fulfill the mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture which is, *‘to promote and facilitate agricultural productivity so as to ensure food security, increased incomes and creation of employment opportunities through the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, adaptive research and effective extension delivery system, promotion of value-addition and agribusiness and irrigation development’*.

This framework compliments the Agriculture and Livestock Development Strategy and Action plan (ALDSAP) that was developed in 1995; the Ministry’s Strategic Plan that was developed in 2003; the Road Map of 2004, and the draft Food Security and Nutrition Policy of 2005. The framework is geared at addressing a number of challenges that continue to affect the performance of the agricultural sector since ALDSAP was developed. While some of the challenges are new, others are on-going, having defied the initiatives that were outlined in the ALDASP. Among the challenges that have faced the agriculture sector include: the changing domestic and global economic policy environment; low adoption of technologies; poor access to agricultural inputs; inadequate institutional capacity; land degradation; gender imbalance; HIV/AIDS pandemic; Weak intra and inter sectoral linkages (lack of policy harmonization); security; poor infrastructure (markets, road network, communication facilities, micro finance institutions etc); weak legislation; and inadequate financial resources for the implementation of various programmes, among others.

During the implementation of this framework, the Ministry seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- i. To attain sustainable household and national food security and to improve the nutritional status of the population;
- ii. To expand and diversify agricultural production and exports;
- iii. To increase farm incomes;
- iv. To conserve the natural resource base;

- v. To formulate agricultural policies, legislation and regulations with stakeholder participation;
- vi. To provide agricultural information and market systems to stakeholders;
- vii. To generate and disseminate appropriate and demand driven technologies; and,
- viii. To provide quality control services on agriculture produce.

The achievement of these objectives will underpin the sector's significant and meaningful contribution to the well being of the Malawi population. At the same time, the Ministry realizes that for these aspirations to be achieved, partnership with co-operating partners and other stakeholders (Donors, NGOs, Private sector and farmers) will be of paramount importance.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy in Malawi. The sector contributes about 36% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 87% of the total employment, supplies more than 65% of the manufacturing sector's raw materials, provides 64% of the total income of the rural people, and contributes more than 90% of the foreign exchange earnings. It is the main livelihood of the majority of rural people, who account for more than 85% of the current estimated 12-13 million people.

Tobacco is the major export earner for Malawi contributing over 65 percent of the foreign exchange earnings although the crop is under threat through the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Other important export commodities include tea and sugar, which respectively contribute about 10 and 11 percent. Maize is on the other hand, the major staple food crop with 60% of the total cropped land devoted to its production. Livestock contributes about 7% to GDP. The livestock enterprise is largely constituted by ruminants such as cattle, goats and sheep and monogastrics such as pigs and chickens. The livestock enterprise provides for both subsistence and commercial requirements

The evolution of the agriculture strategy in Malawi has been punctuated by a post-independence strategy which focused on parallel attainment of food self sufficiency through enhancement of the smallholder agriculture, and rapid economic growth through estate production with almost all major agricultural programmes, strategies and action plans being guided by the food security policy.

Despite all these unparalleled efforts in the sector, poverty remains widespread and severe and, as such, poverty reduction has become a developmental objective of government. In this connection, initiatives in the agricultural sector are aimed at increasing agricultural productivity and output as a means to reducing poverty.

From mid 1980s, the Malawi government reviewed its role from that of policy formulator and implementer to that of policy initiator and regulator. This was in the wake of global economic changes that brought about the need for liberalized markets. Under the liberalization policy environment, it was assumed that prices would be determined by the market forces of demand and supply. Thus, restrictions on production of some commodities like burley tobacco were removed in the hope that smallholder farmers would participate and improve their livelihood. The challenge was that, there was no proper framework through which efforts by all players in the agriculture sector would be consolidated in order to realize the envisaged benefits.

In light of this shortfall, the Ministry of Agriculture produced the Agriculture and Livestock Development Strategy and Action Plan (ALDSAP) in 1995. Broadly, ALDSAP outlined the aspirations and a framework for the attainment of the sectors objectives. To date, this has registered little success because among other reasons, the market infrastructure collapsed with trade liberalization. Farmers were reluctant to invest in extensive farming.

In addition, the prevailing socio economic environment posed several challenges that needed thorough consideration for sustainable growth and development of the agriculture sector to be achieved. These challenges included; decentralization, market liberalization, HIV/AIDS pandemic, shrinking public sector resources, public sector reforms, high illiteracy levels of farmers, and the high malnutrition status of the farming communities. In the face of these challenges, MoA needs to develop sound policies and strategies that are holistic, collaborative and transparent using participatory approaches involving farmers and all other stakeholders under the decentralized national and district level structures. These have to be addressed within the framework of the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (MPRSP), The Malawi Economic Growth Strategy (MEGs), the Malawi Agricultural Sector Investment Process (MASIP) and various other Acts and Legislations that have provided the mandate for the existence of the agriculture sector.

2.0 VISION AND MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

The challenges facing the agriculture sector are formidable. There is need for creativity and innovativeness in generating and disseminating agricultural technologies, while conserving the natural resource base, to meet the increasing demands for food and cash by all Malawians. It is against this background that the Ministry has formulated its vision:

‘A nation with sustainable food security and increased agro-based incomes’. To realize this vision, the ministry’s mission is ***‘to promote and facilitate agricultural productivity so as to ensure food security, increased incomes and creation of employment opportunities through the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, adaptive research and effective extension delivery system, promotion of value-addition and agribusiness and irrigation development’.***

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The overall purpose of the Ministry of Agriculture is to promote and accelerate broad-based, sustainable agricultural and irrigation development policies so as to promote economic growth and contribute to poverty reduction. The mandates of the Ministry are;

- i. To attain and sustain household food self-sufficiency and to improve the nutritional status of the population;
- ii. To expand and diversify agricultural production and exports;
- iii. To increase farm incomes;
- iv. To conserve the natural resources base;
- v. To formulate agricultural policies, legislation and regulations with stakeholder participation;
- vi. To generate and disseminate agricultural information and technologies;
- vii. To regulate and ensure quality control of agricultural produce and services;
- viii. Monitor and manage the food security situation.

4.0 STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The technical structure of the Ministry of Agriculture comprises six programmes which are essentially pillars for the development of the agricultural sector. These are:

- Irrigation Development;
- Agricultural Research Services;
- Animal Health and Livestock Development;
- Crop Production;
- Agricultural Extension Services;
- Land Resources Conservation.

The Ministry is further divided both administratively and technically into 8 Agricultural Development Divisions (ADDs) which are areas of focus in programme delivery including extension. These are:

Southern Region: a) Shire Valley ADD
 b) Blantyre ADD
 c) Machinga ADD

Central Region : a) Lilongwe ADD
 b) Salima ADD
 c) Kasungu ADD

Northern Region: a) Mzuzu ADD
 b) Karonga ADD

There are research establishments in all ADDs which are responsible for technology generation and assist in technology transfer.

Service delivery at village level is through District Offices, Extension Planning Areas (EPAs) and Sections which cover over 400 villages or more and all these structures are now within the District structures as part of the decentralization programme.

There are also government owned (Parastatals) in the agricultural sector which include: the Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC), National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), Smallholder Farmer Fertilizer Revolving Fund of Malawi (SFFRFM) and the Tobacco Control Commission (TCC). The Ministry provides oversight functions over these institutions; and the upcoming Pesticides Control Board (PCB).

5.0 STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR ROLES IN THE MINISTRY

The key stakeholders in MoA are government ministries and programmes, NGOs, donors, small and large-scale farmers, farmers' associations, input suppliers, agro-processors, public sector institutions, international agriculture research centres and produce buyers.

The training of professional staff is done at the University of Malawi (Bunda College of Agriculture, Chancellor College and the Polytechnic) while training of Field Assistants is done at Natural Resources College. Short and long term training courses are provided at various institutions outside Malawi, which are mainly funded by co-operating partners.

6.0 CHALLENGES IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR.

The agriculture sector is operating in an environment that is full of challenges. Some of these challenges are new while some are on-going. These challenges include:

- (i) Poor access to agricultural inputs by the majority of smallholder farmers due to high costs of inputs, low access to credit, and inavailability of the inputs among others; and a high percentage of farmers relying on local seed particularly maize (75%).
- (ii) Poor infrastructure to support initiatives for improved productivity. These include lack of adequate and competitive markets for products, transport and other communication facilities;
- (iii) Low adoption of improved technologies such as irrigation techniques, agro-processing facilities due to inaccessibility and inaffordability of those technologies for most farmers;
- (iv) Unfavourable weather conditions characterized by inadequate or excess rains in some seasons, dry spells, droughts and wash aways;
- (v) Environment depletion characterized by land degradation and deforestation thereby threatening the sustainability and productivity of natural resources;
- (vi) Weak intra and inter sectoral linkages as well as poor private sector participation in formulation and implementation of agricultural programmes;
- (vi) Inadequate social and property security;
- (viii) Weak legislation in the agriculture sector;
- (ix) Dependency syndrome both at household and national levels;
- (x) HIV/AIDS impact on the productive age group;
- (xi) Gender imbalance characterized by marginalization of vulnerable groups like women, children, orphans, old and the poor in the formulation, implementation and sharing of benefits from agriculture programmes; and,
- (vii) Heavy reliance on rainfed agriculture (98%).

7.0 THE DECLINE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN MALAWI

Malawi's agricultural sector was performing well before trade liberalization when government subsidized inputs and provided a functioning market system which was the best in Africa through ADMARC. In 1983, Malawi exported over 250,000 metric tones of maize to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya. The government provided massive investment in research and extension by training a cadre of over 250 professionals to BSc, MSc and PhD. The Research Department had over 30 PhDs trained and has developed world-class technologies. A significant figure of most of these people have left the Ministry through retirements, resignations in search of greener pastures and natural wastage. This has negatively affected the efforts of human capacity development in the Ministry.

There was also an effective extension delivery service and animal disease control programme.

The system collapsed soon after trade liberalization and withdrawal of subsidies. The removal of ADMARC from the agricultural sector was a deterrent to production. Malawi, which was once a star performer in agriculture in Africa, became a net importer of food. Although the private sector has taken hold, its capacity to source produce from rural areas is limited. The country does not have the ability to sustain production because farmers cannot sell their produce at a profit. The market information system is inadequately addressing farmers' needs.

The price of farm inputs is exorbitant and farmers realize low yield because they cannot use improved seeds and fertilizers, hence imperfect system.

8.0 THE NEW ERA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The country experiences recurrent food shortages and a dwindling export base. There is a flood of agricultural imports which are severely depressing local production.

It is becoming quite evident that unless bold decisions are undertaken in agricultural investment, the country is destined to languish in poverty with no hope of redemption in a globalized market which is advocated by the World Trade Organization.

The challenge is to develop a technology driven competitive agricultural sector which has the primary goal of producing food for its people besides exports.

On this account, the Ministry of Agriculture has put maize at the core of its agenda with the primary aim of reverting the country from a net importer of the staple into self sufficiency and even exporting to the region and beyond.

9.0 NEW POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO STIMULATE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The Ministry has experience in terms of what can work based on past experience before liberalization. The new initiative draws on best practices which made the country to be a star performer in the past.

The immediate goal of this policy initiative will be to ensure *that the country has adequate maize within the next two years.*

In terms of priority setting, the Government has to revitalize and commission ADMARC to play its role to buy produce and distribute inputs in remote areas as a social function, and the new ADMARC social set-up may take up this responsibility. ADMARC Marketing System will be a catalyst for development and maize purchases will be given top priority. This should be done immediately. The provision and expansion of irrigated land and irrigation facilities will mitigate the effect of drought and will provide the capacity for double or triple cropping in a year and stabilize production.

The use of more of the maize seed hybrids and open pollinated varieties that are high yielding and some early maturing varieties will reduce the persistent hunger problem.

There will also be need to improve extension delivery systems and zone areas for development in Malawi in order to achieve a critical mass in agricultural outputs. The policy will promote production of commodities in areas of comparative advantage. The underutilized estates will also have to be mobilized by providing resources to potential investors and the development of infrastructure (roads, electricity and water). There should be policies to support targeted input subsidies for fertilizer, seeds, livestock and machinery. Maize should be promoted as a cash crop with appropriate supporting policies including contract farming to supply the strategic grain reserves.

There should be a deliberate strategy to diversify eating habits besides having maize as the only food while the program of crop diversification is underway.

Capacity building through training of newly recruited staff has to be enhanced for continuity and sustainability of the Agriculture Policy.

To achieve the above objectives government should increase its budgetary allocation to the agricultural sector to 10% of the GDP as recommended by NEPAD.

The comprehensive policy initiatives and strategies are listed in a matrix framework in the appendix.

10.0 THE WAY FORWARD

The implementation of the new policies and strategies should be a priority during the next two years in order for Malawi to provide sustainable solution to food security challenges through the development of a market driven production system. Co-operating partners and United Nations Agencies should assist in achieving successes towards these developmental endeavours.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1: AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

POLICY OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
<p>Revitalization and development of marketing infrastructure in Malawi to induce production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate rehabilitation and commissioning of ADMARC markets through out the country. Priority should be on maize purchases. - Organization and strengthening farmer cooperatives through ADMARC Social. Commodity prices should be known in advance(prior to planting) - Provision of timely market information - Upscaling of existing market information systems such as the one provided by Initiative for Development and Equity in African Agriculture (IDEAA) - Establishment of Malawi commodity exchange market - Promotion of maize contract farming to service strategic grain reserves - Promote agribusiness training and practices <p style="text-align: center;">Short term (ST)*</p>
<p>Commercialize maize production in order to achieve food security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liberalise the maize market to induce competitiveness - Upgrade the capacity strategic grain reserves to 200,000 MT to ensure that adequate maize is in stock to allow free exports of maize - Promote efficiency in maize production in order to release land for other farm enterprises <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
<p>Development of agriculture zones in order to produce sufficient quantities of agricultural commodities for the export market</p>	<p>Production of commodities in areas with comparative advantages e.g</p> <p><i>Shire Valley</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cattle - Cotton - Sorghum - Sugarcane - Horticultural crops - Rice <p><i>Shire highlands with small land holdings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dairy - Fruits <p><i>Lakeshore Areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cotton - Cassava - Cattle

POLICY OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maize - Sugarcane - Rice - groundnuts <p><i>Mid altitude areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maize - Tobacco - Ground nuts - Small grains (Beans, Pigeopeas, chickpeas, Soy, sesame) - Sweet potatoes <p><i>High altitude areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beans - Vegetables - Potatoes - Wheat - Coffee - Macadamia - Tea <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
<p>Utilization and development of areas with large tracks of underutilized land e.g Mbalachanda (Mzimba) and large estates in Central and Southern regions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Promote beef cattle and production of maize. -Provide infrastructure in rural areas (roads, water and electricity) to induce investment in agriculture and rural banks. <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
<p>Increasing and stabilizing agricultural production through irrigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitation of existing irrigation facilities such as Muona, Mkhate, Bwanje, Likangala and Limphasa. (ST)* - Development of new large scale irrigation schemes such as Shire Valley (40000ha) and utilization Lake Malawi water in Lakeshore and upland districts (200,000 ha). Long Term(LT)* - Development of water resources for irrigation through construction of dams, drilling of boreholes and canalization. (ST)* - Enhance technical capacity in irrigated agriculture through support to training institutions, staff and farmer training. - Promotion of rainwater harvesting technologies through out the country (ST)* - Provide technical services to medium and large scale commercial farmers in irrigation technologies. (ST)* - Enhance technical capacity in the local artisans in the repair and maintenance of irrigation equipment through training. (LT)*

POLICY OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
<p>Enhance uptake of improved technologies for increased agricultural production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop appropriate technologies such as high yielding, drought tolerant and disease tolerant crop varieties and livestock breeds. (LT)* - Provide pluralistic extension services through improved extension methodologies. (ST)* - Promote Agriculture Extension Services through parliamentarians and the District Agriculture Services System. (ST)* - Increase the number of field extension staff by conducting a crush training programme. (ST)* - Rehabilitation of all farmer training centres and start conducting intensive farmer training programmes. Medium Term(MT)*
<p>Promote value adding/processing of agricultural products in order to increase farm incomes and create jobs in communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the introduction of agro-processing equipment in local communities through the support of Malawi Rural Development Fund, One Village One Product and other initiatives. - Development of appropriate agro-processing skills through training. (ST)*
<p>Reduce human drudgery in farm operations and improve labour productivity through mechanization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the tractor hire schemes across the country and expand coverage of tractors to one per constituency. - Revival of the draught power programme. - Introduce appropriate hand planters and maize shellers and other agro-processing machines. - Promote conservation farming (ST)*
<p>Minimize losses in livestock and crop productivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote and expand strategic dipping to control tick borne diseases. - Expand vaccination against common livestock diseases. - Monitor and control red locust and army-worm outbreaks. - Establish an emergency disease control fund for both crops and livestock. - Promote integrated pest management for crops and livestock. (ST)*
<p>Improved and expanded livestock production to meet demand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitate and restock livestock multiplication centres to improve supply of breeding stock. - Expand dairy schemes to areas with comparative advantage. - Prevent indiscriminate slaughter of young and breedable

POLICY OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
	<p>stock through movement controls and strict inspections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote improved breeding and management systems to promote productivity. - Promote and expand strategic dipping to control tickborne diseases through rehabilitation of dipping tanks. - Repair and revitalize livestock markets and promote auctioning across the country. - Promote value addition for livestock products. <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
<p>Improve regulatory systems to maintain quality and safeguard against the sale of substandard produce and inputs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen and expand quality control and certification services for seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and feeds. - Introduce an effective inspectorate system and prosecute offenders (enforce existing laws). <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
<p>Promote regional and international trade on agricultural commodities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct an extensive promotional campaign for Malawi's agricultural products abroad through foreign missions and trade fairs. - Create positions for agriculture attachés in our foreign missions. - Strengthen Malawi's negotiating capacities in world trade issues. - Comply with international protocols and agreements on trade, (sanitary and phytosanitary issues). <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
<p>Promote food safety control measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce monitoring mechanisms for agriculture products such as detection of aflatoxin and maximum residual levels. - Intensify inspection of livestock products against transboundary animal diseases. <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
<p>Regular review and updating of agricultural policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of tobacco industry policies in order to increase the income of growers. - Review of tariffs for electricity for irrigation development purpose. - Review taxation policy for agricultural inputs and products. <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
<p>Promote commercialization of farming in the smallholder agriculture sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Initiate smallholder farmer managed agriculture credit system (ST to MT)* -Enhance linkage between farmer organizations and microfinance and marketing institutions (ST)* -Facilitate formation and management of agricultural cooperatives in ADMARC markets (ST)*

POLICY OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
	-Facilitate formation and management of sustainable farmer based organizations.(ST)*
Reduce HIV/AIDS impact and gender disparities in the agricultural sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainstream gender and HIV/Aids at work place and farming communities. - Promote agro-based income generating projects for vulnerable groups. - Generate technologies that are friendly to HIV/Aids affected persons. - Promote dietary diversification. <p style="text-align: center;">(LT)*</p>
Promote dietary diversification and appropriate agro-processing technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance dietary diversification in the farming communities including the youth in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth. (ST)* - Improve knowledge, attitude and skills of staff and farmers in dietary diversification (ST)*
Develop and strengthen capacity in the agricultural sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rehabilitate and expand laboratories, offices, research stations. - Recruit and train staff in specialized fields to offset the impact of HIV/Aids and normal attrition. - Purchase vehicles and equipment <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
Promote access to agricultural inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce targeted subsidy for fertilizers, seeds and livestock inputs. Priority should be provision of inputs for maize production to enhance food security. - Establish a land bank for the agricultural sector with concessional rates. - Introduce safety net programmes. - Promote use of hybrid and OPV maize seeds and fertilisers. - Promote food -for - work programmes targeted for agricultural production, such as distribution of inputs and construction of agricultural infrastructure. - Promote organic manure production and agroforestry technologies - Promote seed production of all crops. <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
Promote sustainable utilization of land resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control surface run-off for agriculture and other uses - Upscale and out scale soil conservation and fertility improvement technologies. -Reclaim and rehabilitate degraded lands. <p style="text-align: center;">(ST)*</p>
Protect River line erosion associated with treadle pump and other modes	-Enforce cultivation regulations/guidelines on the width of free zone of the river line to avoid environmental

POLICY OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
of irrigation	degradation. -Promote afforestation and reforestation on the river banks -Intensify planting of vetiver, Napier grass and/or bamboos on the river banks -Mount campaigns on protection of river lines -Enforce the requirement as provided for in the Environmental Act that any irrigation scheme above 10ha must undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment (ST)*
Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in the big ADDs (Mzuzu, Lilongwe and Blantyre)	-Subdivide each of the three ADDS into two manageable ADDs basing on the size and number of EPAs -Provide appropriate infrastructure for proper functioning of three new ADD centres (Offices, transport, houses) -Determine appropriate staffing levels and establishment -Recruit required staff (ST)*
Develop and rehabilitate rural infrastructure network to facilitate movement of inputs and marketing of agricultural commodities and enhance investment in farming	- The national budget should target the development of rural roads infrastructure through the Economic Growth Strategy. - Rural electrification communication and water development should target areas of high agriculture potential to induce investment (ST)*
Induce Malawians and other investors to invest in agriculture	- Provide capital and land to Malawians and other investors for large scale commercial farming. - Disseminate information on crop and livestock production to potential farmers. - Collaborate with Malawi Investment Promotion Agency (MIPA) and Ministry of Trade and Private Sector Development in programme delivery. (ST)*
Agricultural Diversification	- Target crops and livestock with high market potential. - Promote alternative cash and food crops. - Implement special programme to intensify cotton and cassava production which have high international market potential. - Intensification of rice production under irrigation. - Promote dairy and small stock production. (ST)*
Market information Systems in place	- Link farmers to markets. - Provide information systems. - Use internet to access marketing information. - Provide intelligence system in marketing.

POLICY OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revolutionalise the whole marketing system (ST)*
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation of all Strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide monitoring and evaluation system for all the strategies. - Provide reporting mechanisms to: Policy makers, Co-operating partners, International Agencies, Public; through print and electronic media on regular basis. (ST)*
<p>Mobilise youth in agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide start-up capital to school leavers who want to start farming(ST)* - Provide appropriate skills through crush training programmes (maximum 4 weeks) to school leavers before providing capital(ST)* - Introduce maize contract faming programme for youth (ST)* - Review agricultural education curriculum in schools to enhance agriculture business training programmes. (ST)*
<p>Launch a National Farming Day to be observed by all people (This is done in many countries).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intensify Field Days and agricultural shows (ST)* - Launch annual crop inspection visits by the State President, Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament (ST)*

(ST)* Short term (2 years); (MT)* Medium term (3 to 5 years); (LT)* Long term (Over 5 years)