

Declaration on the Malawi CAADP Compact and draft Agriculture Sector Wide Approach documents by Agricultural Civil Society and Farmer Organisations

We, the Boards of Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) and Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM), on behalf of our members; food security civil society organisations and farmer organizations, respectively; hereby applaud Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS) for leading the process of developing the Malawi Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact and Agricultural Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp) draft document.

We would also like to thank the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security for according us the opportunity to take part in the final consultations to seek our input on the updated Cabinet approved version of the ASWAp document and also the development of the draft CAADP Compact document. However, we would like to express our concern on the lapse in communication for almost 2 years since the completion of the first draft ASWAp and the limited time provided for consultation.

Despite the above challenges, we have reviewed the documents and observed the following issues which we want to bring to the attention of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security:

A. Draft CAADP Compact document

1. The draft document in its current form does not:
 - a) Clearly inform farmer organisations and civil society about what they will be endorsing and the roles which each player who will be endorsing to the process will be expected to play.
 - b) The principles which will underpin the compact have not been clearly outlined, as the Compact is a charter committing all sector players to specific values and principles for effective implementation
2. We would like to suggest the following issues be included in the draft Compact document:
 - a) Specific roles of each player, which should include but not limited to:

MoAFS as lead ministry	Civil society & farmer organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinate generation and dissemination of appropriate and demand driven technologies ▪ Facilitate the formulation, review and monitor agricultural policies, legislation and regulation with stakeholder involvement ▪ Facilitate provision of agricultural information and market systems to stakeholders ▪ Facilitate public-private dialogue and partnerships ▪ Facilitate capacity building of sector's human resources ▪ Facilitate the commercialization of agriculture concept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participate in policy dialogue to ensure that their interests of the farming community are reflected ▪ Support training and skills improvement of sector human resources ▪ Invest in productive activities in the sector ▪ Align programs in compliance with sector program and participate in sector monitoring and evaluation.

- b) That the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security will play both a facilitatory and implementation role and gradually reduce its implementary role as it devolves some of its activities to the non-state actors after Core Functional Analysis (CFA) whilst civil society, farmer organizations and other stakeholders be implementers.
 - c) Principles to govern the Compact should be outlined as follows:
 - ✓ Ownership: the Compact shall be led by Government of Malawi but co-owned by all sector players
 - ✓ Alignment: All sector players shall align all their programs to the Malawi CAADP compliant strategies, systems and programs
 - ✓ Mutual transparency and accountability: All sector players to be accountable for sector program results
3. All signatories to the Malawi CAADP Compact and other key stakeholders should be part of the Executive Management Team of the ASWAp so as to take active role in decision making on this sector program.
4. We will support the whole process and work for it to succeed provided there are **clearly laid out commitments** which will bind our partnership in this very important undertaking for sector growth and development, and that these have been specifically stipulated in the dossier for signing.

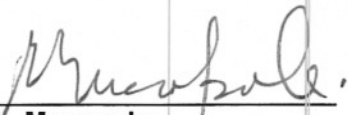
B. Agriculture Sector Wide Approach document

5. The implementation arrangements:
- a) There is need for clarity of roles, responsibilities, and linkages of the institutions within the implementation structure.
 - b) In its current form, the ASWAp has placed major emphasis on program implementation and management as a public sector program with little or no decision making process involving the sector. We strongly recommend that as a sector program, Executive management of the sector program which is the decision-making body should include all key sector representatives and not only limited to public sector
 - c) At district level, the reference committee should be the District Agricultural Extension Coordination Committee (DAECC) which is a subset of the District Executive Committee (DEC) and not only referring to the DEC which is broad-based and might not address sector issues efficiently.
6. Capacity for effective service delivery: The success of this sector program will hinge upon the human capacity across the sector to implement it. The document does not provide a clear indication on capacity issues (especially the skills requirements) for both public and private sector which includes NGOs, farmer organization and private sector, and how these sector-wide and not limited to public sector capacities will be addressed. We applaud Government for recognizing the importance of Core Function Analysis in the document but we are of the opinion that it should be taken strongly as a pre-requisite for the successful development of this partnership program. We therefore recommend that:
- a) There is need for sector-wide human capital capacity assessment which will provide the basis for development of sector-wide capacity development programs.

7. The ASWAp should adopt a farmer-focused and centered approach and the document does not give a clear map on how the poor will be lifted out of poverty through the interventions. We recommend that
 - a) With support of sector players rework the document to develop a clear path on how to lift poor people out of poverty.
 - b) In view of the serious shortage of field level extension staff and the challenge of rapidly increasing their numbers in response to the demands of this programme, we propose that a formal pattern of training be quickly developed for lead farmers to provide a large corps of volunteers to supplement the work of the Ministry's frontline staff.
8. Livestock is not clearly placed as a key priority in terms of prominence and financial investment in the document
9. Revise the baseline information used in the document since there has been a time lapse from the time the documents were prepared in 2007/08 which was largely based on pre-2005 data.
10. Little or no support has been provided for revision and implementation of legislation most of which is out of date and needs revision and some will need consultations before enactment.

It is therefore the considered opinion of the Civil Society Agriculture Network and the Farmers Union of Malawi that the ASWAp document in its current form is a **draft** which is not yet ready for implementation and should be refined further by sector players. We would therefore urge the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security to develop a clearly laid out roadmap for the consultative finalization of the ASWAp document to reflect and address issues raised by the stakeholders.

This statement is made in Lilongwe, on Wednesday, 14th April 2010; after consultations with all members of our organizations; and hereby signed by:



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Chairman, CISANET Board



Abiel Banda
President, Farmers Union Board