MALAWI NATIONAL DIALOGUE CONCEPT NOTE

on Climate-Related Risks to Crop Production and Post-Harvest Loss Management

20-21 October 2015

Background
The Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Platform for African-European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD) will convene a regional dialogue on Climate-Related Risks to Crop Production and Post-Harvest Loss Management.

FANRPAN Food Systems Programme
FANRPAN is a regional multi-stakeholder policy research and advocacy network. The network engages with targeted constituencies at local and national levels through its current 17 member countries in Africa. FANRPAN’s strategy is centred on three mutually supportive thrusts: Policy Research; Capacity Building; and Policy Advocacy. FANRPAN’s mission is to promote effective Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) policies by: (i) facilitating linkages and partnerships between government and civil society, (ii) building the capacity for policy analysis and policy dialogue in Africa, and (iii) supporting demand-driven policy research and analysis.

Within its Food Systems portfolio, FANRPAN implements a number of projects including aspects pertaining to Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Post-Harvest Loss Management (PHM). The programme currently covers the following countries: Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The dialogue presents an opportunity for wide range of national multi-stakeholders to deliberate on the evidence presented from the ongoing research programmes and provide policy recommendations for consideration by the national policy makers.

The objectives of the dialogue are to:

1. Provide a Regional perspective of the climate risks to crop production and post-harvest loss management.
   - Regional and national overview; and
Specific focus on the Groundnut Value Chain and aflatoxin contamination

2. Provide a status update on the on-going FANRPAN projects focussing on PHLM.
3. Chart a way forward for developing synergies among different stakeholders and sectors, with the aim of maintaining continuous dialogue on climate risks to crop production and post-harvest losses management including Aflatoxin issues.
4. Deliberate on means to facilitate community-driven information and knowledge sharing platforms for risk management.
5. Identify priority CSA and PHM policies and technologies relevant for the country.
6. Solicit policy recommendations from stakeholders.

Expected Outcomes
- Improved understanding of the climate risks to crop production and post-harvest handling including Aflatoxin issues.
- Policy options, innovative approaches and technologies discussed and documented.

Projects to be profiled in the dialogue

1. FANRPAN Management of Climate-Related Risks to Crop Production and Post-Harvest Management Programme

Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Southern Africa to better manage Climate-related Risks to Crop Production and Post-harvest Handling is a project jointly funded by the European Union and the FAO, which spans from 2013 to 2015. The overall objective of the project is to improve and sustain household and national food security in southern Africa through better management of climatic risks by smallholder farmers. The project was formulated to contribute to addressing the challenge of climatic hazards such as droughts, floods and cyclones, interacting with other factors such as food insecurity, and high HIV prevalence which lead to high vulnerability for millions of smallholders across southern Africa. Droughts alternate with floods and/or cyclones with devastating humanitarian effects, leading to loss of human life and assets in farming communities across the region. Climate change, with projected increases in the incidence and intensity of extreme climatic events, is likely to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Against this background, the project will contribute to the achievement of the following expected results:

- Develop and promote smallholder farmer innovative techniques, methods and approaches to managing risks to crop production and post-harvest handling associated with drought, floods and cyclones.
- Strengthen regional knowledge and institutional arrangements on risk management for crop production and post-harvest handling in areas prone to climatic hazards.

2. Stemming Aflatoxin pre- and post-harvest waste in the groundnut value chain (GnVC) in Malawi and Zambia to improve food and nutrition security in the smallholder farming families

Funded by the Platform for African - European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD), the project seeks to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses by reducing Aflatoxin in the Groundnut Value Chain (GnVC) for improved food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers by addressing main constraining factors of technology dissemination and adoption, knowledge and information sharing, and policies. The project interventions are at three levels:

- Identifying promising pre- and post-harvest practices and technologies for assessment, validation and further development through participative evaluation in selected rural households;
- Documentation, appropriate dissemination tools and methodologies developed, and capacities built at local, national and regional levels; and
- Advocacy and policy dialogues conducted through multi-stakeholder platforms at the local, national and regional levels with the aim of strengthening these aspects in policies and regulatory frameworks.