

# Malawi: Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector

Raising agricultural productivity and value addition in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way

## The challenge

In Malawi, the agricultural sector accounts for approximately 30% of the Gross Domestic Product and employs over 85% of the labour force. The average plot size of smallholder households is about one hectare which is being managed with simple manual processing methods. Value addition is limited. The negative effects of climatic phenomena, such as recurring dry spells and floods, combined with low diversification of agricultural production are major reasons for increased poverty and food insecurity.

## Our approach

Development of 3 value chains in line with government priorities – Soybean, Groundnuts and Cassava

The program works with partners to strengthen structures to identify, implement, and disseminate climate-resilient innovations.

A demand orientated approach is followed, which drives, and effectively interlinks, applied research, training and practical extension work in the field.

The project leverages agricultural finance and digitization solutions to sustainably increase the adoption of innovations.

The GIAE EU KULIMA Farmer Field School provides a platform for the provision of extension services, participatory identification of innovations, promotion of dissemination and adoption by smallholder farmers.

In respect of the prevailing climatic and biological conditions, natural resource management is an integral part of the part of interventions, including the promotion of renewable energy technologies such as solar milling and irrigation.



Project name	Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Selected districts in the Northern, Central and Southern Region
Political Partner	Ministry of Industry (MoI)
Duration	01.11.2014 – 31.03.2024

The project is part of the German Government 'One World-No Hunger' initiative through which the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is helping to promote rural development and agriculture. Within this context, an additional sum of more than EUR 0.5 billion has been earmarked for GIAE programs carried out by GIZ and other implementing organizations. The thematic focus is on eradicating hunger and malnutrition, realizing the right to food, expanding bilateral cooperation and promoting sustainable agriculture.



Photo Left: The official handover of the Mwimba College Agribusiness Innovation Centre, in Kasungu.

Photo Right: A participant of the cassava value addition demos in Nkhotakota showcasing cassava flour pastries.

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## Success factors

The “Green Innovation Centre for the Agriculture and Food Sector” in Malawi aims to achieve the three main goals below

1. Increase productivity and income for over 100,000 smallholder enterprises.
2. Employment creation and performance enhancement of key figures (turnover, clients, etc.) for MSMEs
3. Promoted climate-resilient innovations are adopted and applied by clients.

## Progress so far

### Smallholder Farmers

VALUE CHAIN	PROGRESS
	<p><b>Increased productivity</b>– by 31%),</p> <p><b>Increased gross margins</b> by 20 EUR/ha</p> <p>Over 57,632 farmers of (ca. 41% female and ca. 38% youth) have participated in <b>training on improved farming practices</b> and proper use and application of a bio-fertilizer (rhizobium inoculant)</p>
	<p><b>Increased gross margins</b> by 39 EUR/ha</p>
	<p>68.6% adopted <b>FBS Cassava</b></p> <p>68.5% adopted the use of <b>improved cassava varieties</b></p>

- Over **72,000** smallholder farmers are applying climate resilience innovations.
- Over **70,000 smallholder** farmers have been trained in **farming as a business** in partnership with private sector companies and smallholder farmer associations.

## Support to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

- Over 685 enterprises have been trained on the **MSME Business Training and Coaching Loop**.
- 630 MSMEs **increased their performance**: 45% achievement.
- 626 **jobs created** through expansion of existing businesses

## An example from the field

### Reaping the benefits of FBS training



Timothy and Alise Katumbu show off their training manuals and FBS attendance certificates

Timothy and Alise Katumbu joined Gwiritse Cooperative of Nsaru in 2016 and have reaped the benefits of being in the association. Before joining the cooperative, they grew groundnuts and soybean on 8 acres of land but did not get much profit from it. However, after attending training including Farmer Business School (FBS), and putting the lessons into practice, they have seen their income and productivity increasing. They have adopted good agricultural practices such as seed selection, early land preparation, inoculation and good post-harvest handling which increased their yields and reduced the waste at the end of the harvest season. They now use certified seeds and inoculants which they have easy access to through the cooperative. From selling their soybean yields, they have been able to develop their home and educate their 8 children. In addition, they are building two iron sheet roofed houses and intend to put up two more. Through diversification, they now grow maize and beans for consumption only while focusing on soya and groundnuts for business.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
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As at

November 2021

Photo credit: Kondwani Jere

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In cooperation with Ministry of Industry (MoI) Malawi