

Malawi: Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector (GIAE)

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 provides income and employment to more than 85 % of the population. The average plot size of smallholder households is about one hectare, which is being managed with simple, foremost manual production and processing methods. Value addition is rare. The negative effects of **climatic change**, such as recurring dry spells and floods combined with low diversification of agricultural production are the main contributor to food insecurity and increasing poverty.

Our approach

Development of three value chains (VC) in line with the government's priorities – **soybean**, **groundnuts**, and **cassava**.



The programme works together with partners at all levels, including Government, private sector, training colleges, NGOs, farmer organisations etc..

Strengthening structures, implementing, and disseminating **climate-resilient innovations** is in the focus of the partnerships. A **demand orientated** approach is followed, which drives, and effectively interlinks, applied research, training, and practical extension work in the field. The programme leverages agricultural finance and digitization solutions to sustainably increase the adoption of innovations. In respect to the prevailing climatic and biological conditions, principles of natural resource management are an integral part of the interventions including the promotion of renewable energy technologies such as solar irrigation, organic agriculture interventions, and climate smart technologies.

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

The project is part of the German Government 'transformation of the agri-food systems' initiative through which the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is helping to promote rural development and agriculture. The thematic focus is on eradicating hunger and malnutrition, realizing the right to food, expanding bilateral cooperation, and promoting sustainable agriculture.








Photo left: Ms. Oppermann (BMZ) visiting an agro-food processing unit at Magomero Community Development College

Photo middle: Female Lead farmers that received bicycles at Lisasadzi RTC in Kasungu, February 2023

Photo right: EU KULIMA Graduation of Master Trainers at Lisasadzi RTC in Kasungu, April 2023

Success factors

The GIAE in Malawi managed to over-achieve the 5 main goals below:

- 
Productivity of **100.000** smallholder farms in the selected VCs, has increased by **20 %**
- 
100.000 promoted smallholder farms that apply the innovations in selected rural regions, the **average income** from the sale of products in the promoted VCs has increased by **20 %**
- 
72000 promoted smallholder farms apply the promoted innovations that take **climate change** into account to cope with the projected consequences of climate change
- 
80 % of the **1000** promoted upstream and downstream enterprises, there's an improvement in three out of five of these **key figures**: turnover, number of customers, formalised business relationships, production costs, and investments
- 
Additional jobs in the supported upstream and downstream enterprises of selected VCs increased by **850 jobs**, of which **50 %** are taken by young people and **50 %** by women

Progress so far - Smallholder Farmers



Productivity increase

Soybean 1.11 t/ha (**12 %**)
Groundnuts 1.17 t/ha (**59 %**)
Cassava 11.25 t/ha (**158 %**)

Gross margins increase

Soybean 240 EUR/ha (**346 %**)
Groundnuts 346 EUR/ha (**420 %**)
Cassava 24 EUR/ha (**417 %**)

247,789 farmers

Trained in GIAE innovations
53 % women, 44 % youth
132,390 applied climate resilience innovations

57,632 farmers

Trained in improved farming practices
Trained in use of bio-fertilizer *rhizobium inoculant*
41 % women, 38 % youth

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

- 162** enterprises have shown an improvement in the 3 out of 5 key business performance figures (**16 %**)
- 952** jobs created (**46 % women, 9 % youth**)
- 1609** persons from **1015** MSMEs and service institutions applied the promoted innovations
- 685** enterprises were trained and coached in MSME loop (**167 women, 242 youth**)
- 1469** persons from the targeted MSMEs were trained in digital financial services and digital marketing

An example from the field

Esther Sichali gained practical skills and experience in cassava value chain production from GIZ GIAE programme in partnership with Self Help Africa (SHA) through the CADMORE project. She is a mother of five, and hails from Mwechesese village, in Karonga. Through the acquired skills, Mrs. Sichali earns money to feed her family and improve her household livelihood. She uses one acre to grow *Sauti*, a high-quality cassava variety, which she sells to the local market at MK 20,000/20kg.

During a recent visit by GIZ GIAE to her farm, she was able to harvest about 62 kg of cassava from one part of her farm. The 41-year-old Esther attributed her bumper yield to following the lessons from the training received. Mrs Sichali is one of the few farmer-examples adopting and following recommended good agricultural practices (GAP) for cassava production, such as the 90 cm ridge spacing rule hence the success.

"I am grateful for the knowledge gained and I will transfer the skills to others and encourage them to follow the lessons for more yields", remarked Esther Sichali. Sichali is also a member of Tikolelane Farmers Club which has 36 members from three villages. She shared the importance and benefits of being a cooperative member, which she highlighted her ability to share knowledge with and learn more from her fellow group members.



Photo: GIAE Malawi

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication

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