



MALAWI



COUNTRY PRESENTATION

On

Present and Future Agricultural Extension System of Malawi

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By

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MALAWI



Introduction



- Malawi is a landlocked country and borders with Zambia, Mozambique, and Tanzania.
- The geographical extension of Malawi is from 09° 25' and 17° 08' latitude South and 32° 40' and 34° 55' longitude East, covering an area of 118,000 square km of which about 20% is taken up by the lakes. Forest, wildlife reserves, settlement and infrastructure cover about 19%, leaving 61% with varied potential and limitations to agricultural use.
- The lowest point lies at meeting point of the Shire River with the international boundary of Mozambique.
- Sapitwa, at Mulanje mountain having an altitude of 3,002m is the highest point.



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Currently, (2013 Population est. *www.infoplease.com.*)
The population is estimated at:

- ✓ 16,777,547 million
- ✓ Growth rate of 2.758%
- ✓ Birth rate: 40.42/1000
- ✓ Infant mortality rate: 79.2/1000
- ✓ Life expectancy: 52.31



Malawi Map



MALAWI



Political And Economic Background

- Malawi is a democratic country that has a multiparty political system.
- The government administrative system has three arms (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary.
- National Policies are formulated, interpreted and implemented by the Central government
- Local Govt has Councils that formulate policies at local level and set development priorities as the govt ministries and dept devolved their functions to the Local Councils (LCs) with the decentralised structures in place.



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- The Local Councils are composed of elected members (Councillors) with the District Commissioner as the Head.
- Below the District Council there are Area Development Committees (ADCs) and Village Development Committees (VDCs) where development agendas come from.



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- Malawi's economy is largely dependent on agriculture, which accounts for 31% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employs 85 % of the population contributes 90% of forex earnings and is the most important source of income accounting for over 63% of total income
- Trade contributes 13%, other sectors like tourism, transport contribute less than 10 % each.



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- Malawi has a sub-tropical climate, which is relatively dry and strongly seasonal.
- The warm-wet season is from November to April, but hot in Sept to Oct with average temperatures varying between 25 and 37 degrees Celsius
- A cool, dry winter season is from May to Aug with mean temperatures varying between 17 and 27 degrees Celsius, and temperatures falling between 4 and 10 degrees Celsius.
- Annual average rainfall varies from 725mm to 2,500mm.



Present and Future Agricultural Extension System of Malawi



Historical Brief

First Phase: Colonial Period

- In 1903, the Government introduced some sort of organised agricultural extension service and was mainly for the estate farmers for productivity of their cash crops e.g. tea, tobacco, cotton with soil and water conservation.
- Department of Agriculture was established in 1907
- Used individual contact methods (**Master Farmers**)
- For smallholder farmers, the emphasis was regulatory – coercing them to conserve their land through agricultural laws



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- In the year 1948/1949 there was worst drought and famine in Malawi history and government reviewed its policies in general agricultural production and extension in particular
- Consequently, in 1950, **six agricultural policy objectives** including those affecting extension were introduced as follows;



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- Establish a National agricultural extension and training system
- Establish a national soil and water conservation programme
- Provide credit and subsidies to farm inputs
- Introduce regulations governing marketing of agricultural produce
- Establish agricultural projects and settlement schemes
- Establish new and strengthen existing agricultural research institutions that focussed on applied research.



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Second Phase: One-Party Rule

- Soon after independence the govt developed its extension system to a more user-friendly advisory service through **Achikumbe (progressive farmers)** but very few were reached.
- ***Block Extension System + Training & Visit*** to cover more farmers
- **1990s** the BES was heavily criticised as favouring the progressive farmers at the expense of the majority of smallholder farmers who were resource poor and women.
- Adoption rate of the recommended inputs such as the inorganic fertilisers and high yielding varieties of maize continued to be poor.



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- **Major Projects** were established across the country;
- Lilongwe Land Development Project (LLDP) in 1968
- Shire Valley Agricultural Development Project (SVDP) in 1969
- Karonga Rural Development Project (KRDP) in 1972
- Lakeshore Rural Development Project (LRDP) in 1968.

Mass media methods were intensified through of print materials, radio programmes and use of mobile vans.



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- **1981-1993 National Rural Development Programme (NRDP)**
- Establishment of the current eight Agriculture Development Divisions (ADDs) namely; Karonga, Mzuzu, Kasungu, Salima, Lilongwe, Machinga, Blantyre and Shire Valley.

In 1990s, BES was heavily criticised as favouring the progressive farmers at the expense of the majority of smallholder farmers who were resource poor and women. The adoption rate of the recommended inputs such as the inorganic fertilisers and high yielding varieties of maize continued to be poor.



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- **Third Phase: Democratic Rule (The Present and Future)**
- Multiparty politics 1994 that gave ordinary Malawians such as smallholder farmers a voice.
- The public extension system that was based on top down approach could no longer hold
- **Proliferation** of NGOs and other players
- Agricultural markets were liberalised and decentralisation processes introduced.
- A new extension policy was therefore developed in 2000 focusing on pluralistic and demand driven extension services



THE NEW AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION POLICY IN MALAWI

- ❖ The Agricultural Extension Policy stipulates that Agricultural Extension Services be **demand driven, pluralistic, decentralised co-ordination and liberalised** in the provision of agricultural extension services in Malawi.
- ❖ The Department of Agricultural Extension vision is that **"All farmers' demand and access high quality extension services from those best able to provide them"**.

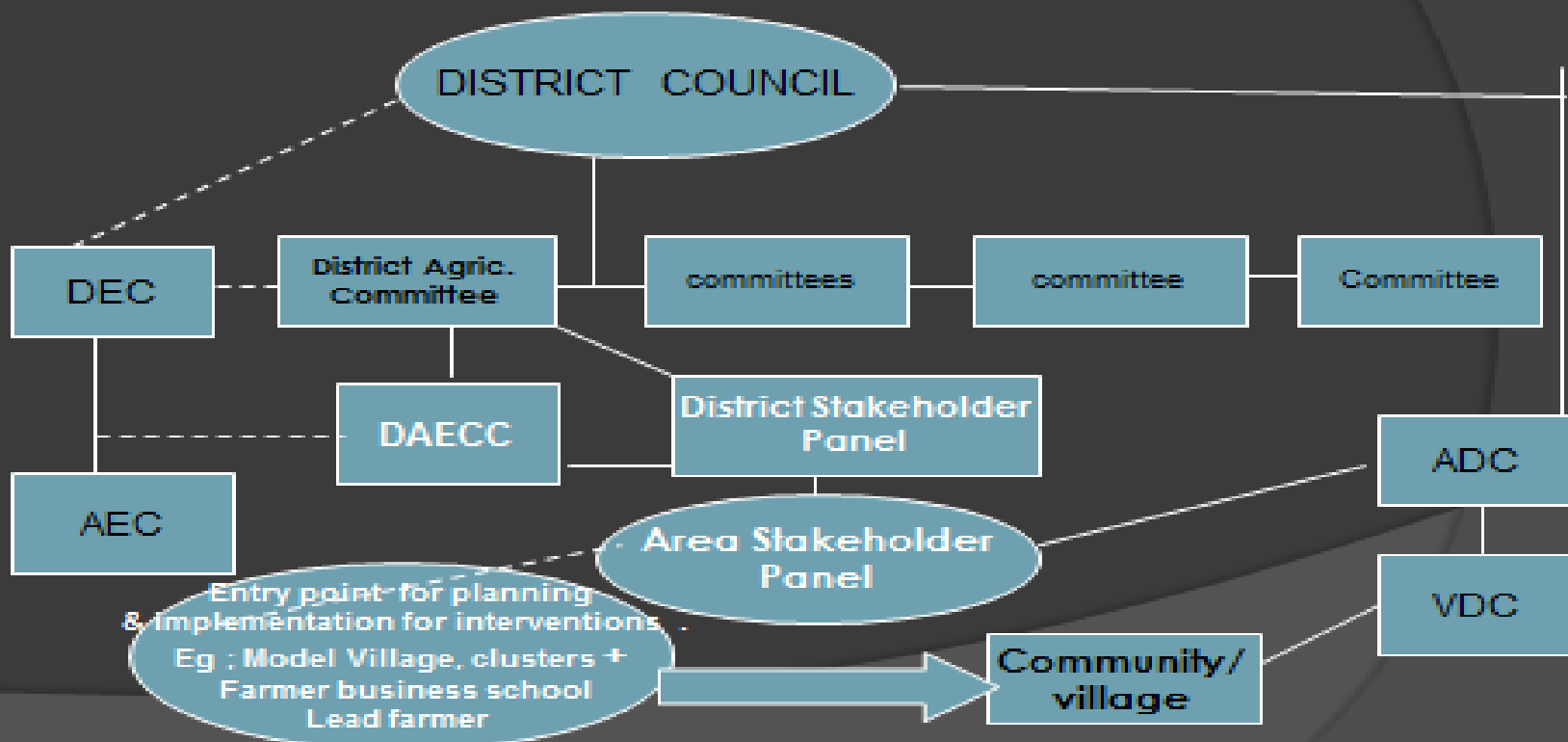


Extension Implementation System

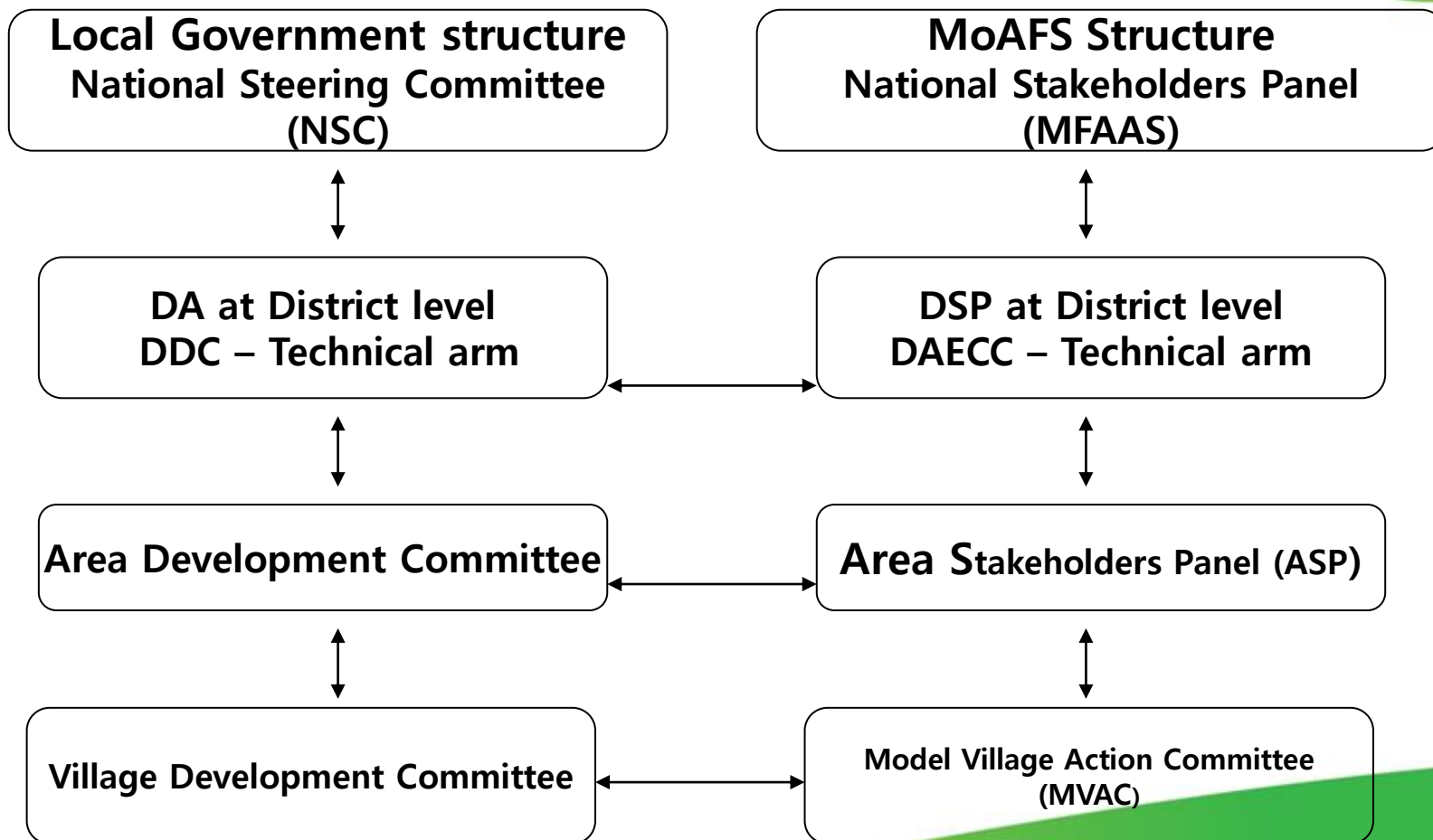
DAES implements its extension policy through
**District Agricultural Extension Services
System (DAESS)**, based on Model Village Approach

District Agricultural Extension Services System (DAESS)

STRUCTURES OF THE DAESS



Linkage of Structures of the Local Government and District Agriculture Extension Services Systems – DAESS





Four Pillars Of DAESS



- **Organization of farmer demand:**

Extension agents organize farmers based on their categories and respond to their needs and problems accordingly

- **Facilitation of service provider response:**

Focuses on the need for the DAECC to coordinate extension services in the district and ensure that the services respond to the needs of all farmer categories.

- Commercial farmers (CFs):
- Small-scale commercial (SSC)
- Smallholder food security (SHFS) farmers:



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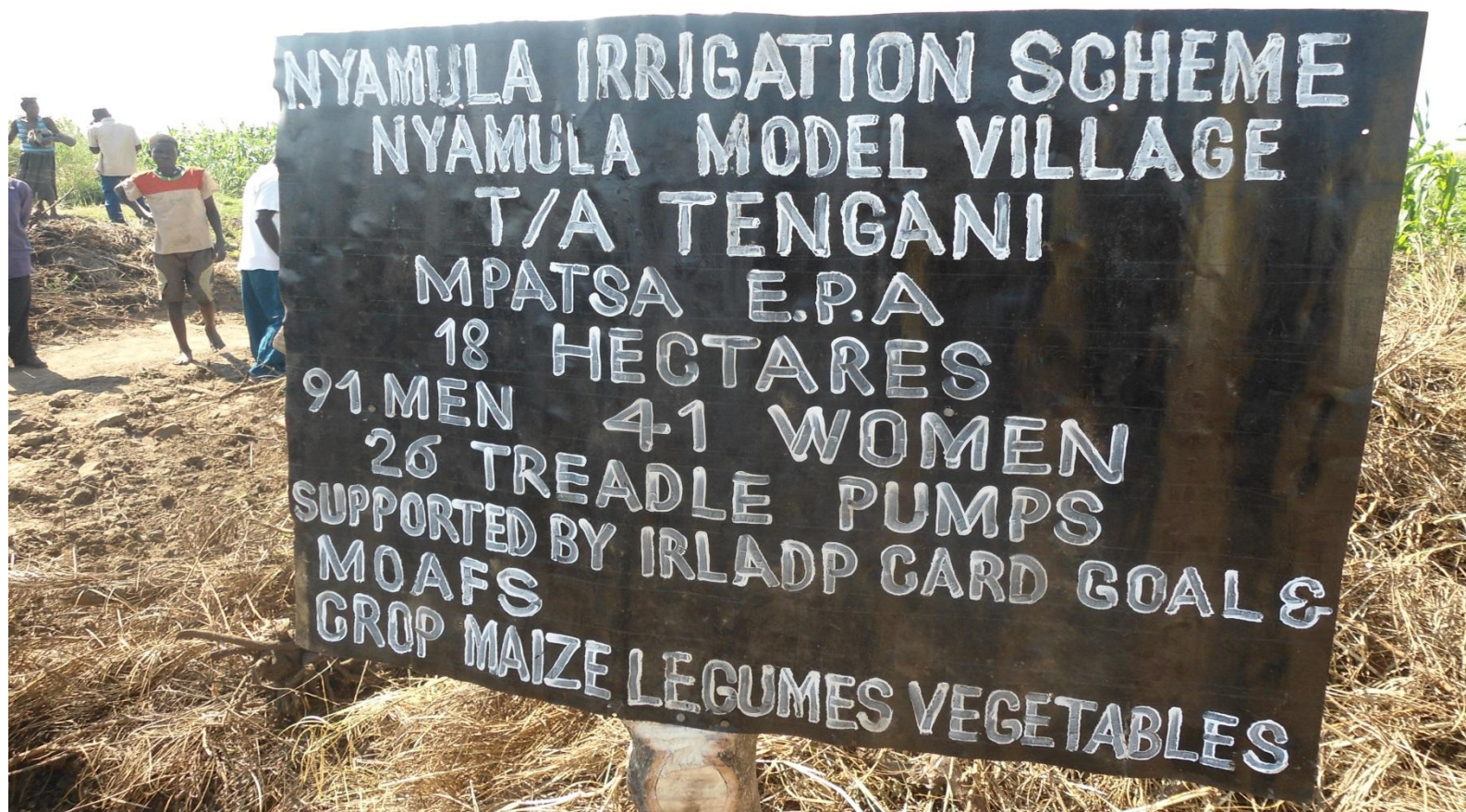
- **Coordination and agricultural strategy development:** calls for the development of an agric strategy for the district in view of many players in extension service delivery with different approaches and methods helps minimize conflicts that may bring confusion among farmers.
- **Funding acquisition:** In response to dwindling public resources for ext services, this pillar encourages extension providers to maximize the available resources from different stakeholders in the district as well as work to source more funds for the benefit of the farmers.



The Model Village Approach



- Currently focusing on Model Villages as entry points of Agricultural technologies developed by Department of Agricultural Research
- There is a **multi-sectoral** approach developing these model villages using Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs).
- Harmonized planning and implementation of activities is emphasized
- **Lead Farmers (Farmer to Farmer extension)** are key in technology dissemination because of high extension staff vacancy rate in which sometimes staff/farmer ratio is as high as **1:2000**





Extension Methods



- Therefore, DAES reaches farmers mainly through **group extension methods**.
- Extension workers mobilise farmers into groups such as clubs, clusters, *ulimi wa m'ndandanda*, associations, cooperatives etc



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- Some of the group methods include the following;
 - **Demonstrations**
 - **Farmer Field Schools**
 - **Farmer Business Schools**
 - **Field Days**
 - **Agricultural shows**
 - **National Agricultural Fair**

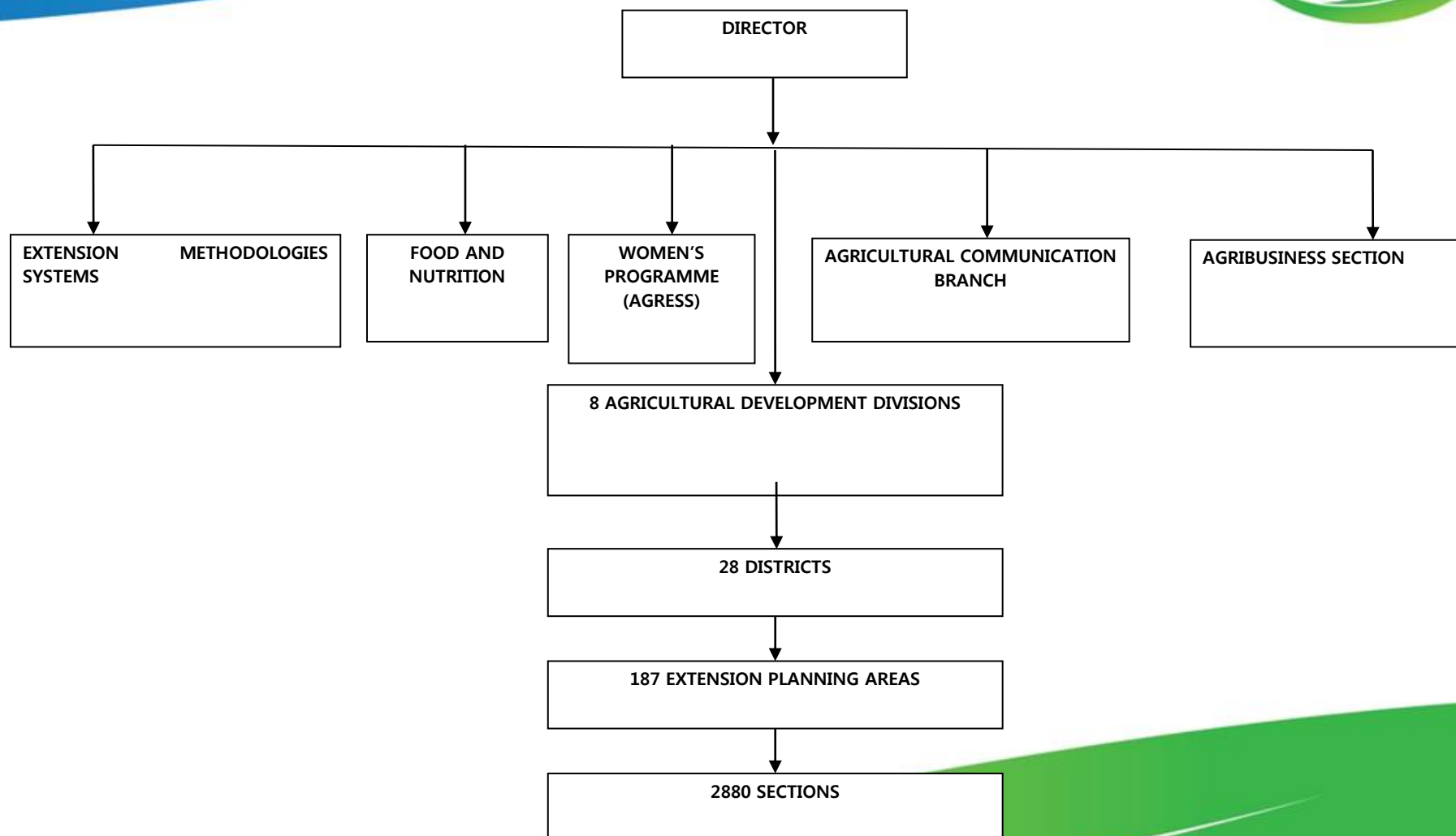
A Lead Farmer of a Cluster explaining what he does during a field day



Agricultural message delivery through use of a Mobile Van and Drama groups



The Department of Agriculture Extension Services Structure





Success Stories



1. Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP)

- Started in 2005. There was low maize production because most smallholder farmers could not afford farm inputs.
- Government. Since then there has been high maize production.
- The average number of beneficiaries is one million five hundred thousand (1,500,000.00) farmers
- Fertiliser Bag for Basal dressing (50kgs NPK).
- Fertiliser Bag for Top dressing (50kgs UREA).
- Maize Hybrid seed 5kgs or OPV 8kgs.
- Legumes seed 2kgs of groundnuts, soy beans or pigeon peas



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- Funding ranges from MK 20-30 billion, equivalent of **(75,000,000 USD)** every year.
- Farmers pay **MK500.00 {1.25 USD}** for each bag of fertiliser against a current market value of about **MK 16,000.00){40 USD}**.
- Legumes seeds are given free. Farmers pay only around **MK100.00 (0.25 UDS)** for maize seed.

FISP beneficiaries receiving inputs coupons





Officers Monitoring of availability of inputs in Markets





Maize stand under FISP



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Success stories cont...



2. Sasakawa Global 2000 Project:

- Where one-one maize planting was promoted has been widely adopted by smallholder and commercial farmers in Malawi.
- The project started small in a few districts where demonstrations were mounted and field days were conducted to let farmers appreciate the benefits from the technologies where it was noted that the adoption rate was very high within a short period of time.



Malawi Extension Challenges



- Democratisation
- Market liberalisation
- Decentralisation
- HIV/Aids crisis
- Shrinking public sector resources
- Public sector reform
- Co-ordination
- Difficulty to assess extension impact
- High malnutrition levels among the farming communities
- Low literacy level of farmers and
- Shrinking production resources.



Conclusion

Despite major challenges in the implementation of the new Agricultural Extension Policy, the policy remains very useful current and future guide of extension activities in the country.

End of Presentation



Thanks for being a very good Audience!