

Trends on sustainable agriculture and trade

SDGs and political coherence for sustainable development

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The importance of agriculture in Malawi

- ✓ A great majority (84%) of the population lives in rural areas
- ✓ Most farmers practice subsistence agriculture and have less than a hectare on which to grow their food
- ✓ Challenges:
 - **Poverty** (50% of the population, of which almost half in extreme poverty)
 - **Climate change** (Increased risk of drought and late onset of rains will affect food production)
 - **Food insecurity** (36.7 percent of rural Malawian households fail to access sufficient calories, 47 percent of children under five are stunted)



To support smallholder farmers is to fight against hunger and poverty

Women are among the most vulnerable groups



- ✓ Key players in agriculture (produce 70% of food that is consumed locally)
- ✓ Lower access to land, education, inputs and financial resources
- ✓ Inequality exacerbated by climate change, less resources to protect themselves from its effects



Gender gap: Female-managed plots are, on average, 12% smaller than those of their male counterparts and 25% less productive as a result of differing levels of knowledge and access to inputs

Agricultural trade and diversification

- Dependency from the tobacco sector:
 - 30-40% of exports
 - 11% of GDP
 - 60% of foreign exchange earnings
- Maize is the most widely cultivated crop (80% of farmers), but for consumption
- Diversification in production and trade for increased stability and resilience.



Main topics of the workshop

1. Poverty reduction



2. Food security



3. Gender equality



4. Environmental sustainability



5. Climate change adaptation



To improve agricultural economic growth

Objectives of the workshop

1. **Generating knowledge** and increasing understanding among stakeholders
2. Integrate the findings and suggestions emerging from the workshop into a concrete **policy action plan**
3. Foster a dialogue between the different ministries in order to create **political coherence** on their respective policy priorities in a sustained way
4. Provide a base for potential future dialogue and collaborations between Malawi and UN organizations



Thank you for your attention



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