

National Seed Policy

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Foreword

More than 80% of Malawi population depends on agriculture for household food security, livelihood and income. The Malawi government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, is determined to develop and improve the seed sector to alleviate poverty and hunger. Seed is an important catalyst for the development of agriculture and the availability of quality seed is the foundation for crop production and productivity. Seed is a precursor to crop and food diversification which is a goal pursued by many governments in the region, including Malawi.

At present, the Malawi seed sector operates under the National Seed Policy of 1993 and without a strategy. The seed sector has undergone massive transformation over the years due to the mushrooming of seed companies, agro-dealers and numerous other players along the entire value chain. This development necessitated a comprehensive review of the policy and development of a strategy in order to provide for all aspects of a modern seed industry. This Policy document provides for the regulation and control of all seed issues, protects consumers and dealers and also promotes a responsible and productive seed industry, and defines the regulatory role of the government.

Effective seed trade is an essential component of activities to improve food security in the region. Legislation should facilitate the development and distribution of new plant varieties between countries in the southern Africa region. For this reason, it is necessary to harmonize seed laws and associated legislation at regional level so that seed trade is appropriately facilitated. Instruments from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA), Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Seed Harmonization Frameworks were reviewed in order to provide a robust policy that is in harmony with the existing pieces of legislation in the region and beyond to which Malawi is a signatory.

The successful implementation of the National Seed Policy will mainly depend on the involvement and participation of all concerned Ministries, Departments and Agencies, other public institutions, the media and many other seed industry stakeholders including Civil Society Organisations. It requires concerted efforts from all partners.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all the institutions and individuals who were actively involved in the review of the policy and development of the strategy for their support and immense contribution.

Dr. George T. Chaponda, MP
Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development

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Preface

Seed is a basic and vital input for successful agriculture production, as such, it is very important to maintain its purity and quality through the different recommended procedures for seed production.

A competitive seed sector is a key to ensuring timely availability of high quality seeds of improved and appropriate varieties at affordable prices to both large and small scale farmers in the country. The Seed Policy addresses the challenges in the seed industry in respect of research, imports and exports, production and quality control, marketing, distribution and the building up of strategic seed reserves, as well as developing an institutional and legal framework.

It is necessary to harmonize seed laws and associated legislation at regional and international level so that seed trade is appropriately facilitated. Instruments from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA), Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Seed Harmonization Frameworks were reviewed in order to provide a robust policy that is in harmony with the existing pieces of legislation in the region and beyond to which Malawi is a signatory.

I trust that the National Seed Policy will receive the fullest support of all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, plant breeders, seed producers and all other stakeholders in the seed industry so that it may serve as a catalyst to meet the objectives of sustainable development of agriculture, food and nutritional security for the population, and improved standards of living for farming communities.

I wish to thank the Department of Agricultural Research Services for spearheading the review of the National Seed Policy and development of the Strategy and promoting the agenda for harmonization of the seed legislation in the region in a quest to enhance seed production and trade.

Erica Maganga, (Mrs.)
Secretary for Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ARET	Agricultural Research and Extension Trust
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
DAES	Department of Agricultural Extension Services
DARS	Department of Agricultural Research Services
DUS	Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability
FRIM	Forestry Research Institute of Malawi
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
ISF	International Seed Federation
ITPGRFA	International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MoAIWD	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
NBRC	National Biosafety Regulatory Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSCM	National Seed Commission of Malawi
NVRC	National Variety Release Committee
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
OPV	Open Pollinated Varieties
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
QDS	Quality Declared Seed
SSE	Smallholder Seed Enterprises
SSMG	Smallholder Seed Multiplication Groups
SSU	Seed Services Unit
STAM	Seed Trade Association of Malawi
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects on Intellectual Property Rights
VAT	Value Added Tax
VCU	Value for Cultivation and Use

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Glossary of terms

In this Policy:-

“Quality Declared Seed” refers to a seed system in which 10 percent of the seed produced and distributed is checked by an autonomous seed certification agency which is in this regard, the Seed Services Unit.

“Seed” is defined as: “Any type of living material, including: fruit, root, rhizomes, corm, stem, sprout, tree seedling and leaf capable of regenerating crops, trees, shrubs and pastures that is true to its type”.

“Agriculture” is “the cultivation of plants, fungi, and other life forms for food, fiber, biofuel, medicinal and other products used to sustain and enhance human life. The major agricultural products can therefore be broadly grouped into foods, fibers, fuels, and raw materials, whereby raw materials include lumber and bamboo.”

“Commission” means National Seed Commission of Malawi (NSCM)

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1.0 Introduction

The Government of Malawi recognizes the fundamental importance of a sustainable seed industry in contributing to increased agricultural production and diversification. Through appropriate policies and programmes, Government endeavors to establish a conducive environment for the development of the seed industry. Furthermore, government recognizes the importance of both public and private investments in research, training, marketing and the provision of support services in the seed industry

In order to realize improved productivity in the agricultural sector, increased access to affordable and high quality inputs such as seed is critical. The crop sub-sector forms the bulk of both the rural livelihoods and the 39 per cent contribution to the country's GDP. There are a number of commodities within the crop sub-sector that contribute to the rural economic livelihoods as well as the country's GDP. Amongst the major crops being cultivated are cereals, legumes, oil seeds, tuber crops, fiber crops, plantation crops, and horticultural crops. For the agricultural sector to thrive there is need for a vibrant, sustainable, and dynamic seed industry which has to be supported by a comprehensive and dynamic seed policy.

1.1 Overview of Malawi's Seed Industry

A review of the Malawi National Seed Policy (1993) revealed a number of gaps considering the various developments that have taken place in the seed industry since the policy came into effect. Amongst the many gaps in the 1993 Seed Policy is the absence of the definition of the term "seed". Omission of the definition of seed in the National Seed Policy of 1993 limited the scope of commodities that fell under the mandate of the policy. For example, the 1993 Seed Policy was not explicit enough on matters related to forestry, horticultural and other special seed systems. It is based on this background that the revised National Seed Policy defines seed to avoid ambiguity on what type of commodities that should be under the mandate of the revised National Seed Policy. In addition to omitting the definition of seed, the 1993 National Seed Policy was also not explicit on issues to do with biotechnology.

The seed industry in Malawi is comprised of the formal and informal seed systems as main sources of seed to farmers. The formal seed system is the one that is regulated. The commercial seed is the one that has gone through the formal seed system. The informal seed system on the other hand, constitutes the major source of seed for the majority of smallholder farmers. The source of seed in the informal sector is farm saved seed; .

This national seed policy focuses on the formal seed system because it is the only system that has scientifically traceable sources. Furthermore, it is the only seed system that

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maintains the distinctiveness, uniformity and stability (DUS) as well as the Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) of varieties.

1.2 Linkages with other Policies and legislation

The National Seed Policy is internationally linked with instruments from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA), Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Seed Harmonization Frameworks.

Locally, the policy is linked with a number of sectoral policies and Acts which include; the Environment Management Act, Forestry Act, Bio-safety Act and Plant Protection Act.

1.3 Problem Statement

The seed sector has undergone massive transformation over the years due to the mushrooming of seed companies, agro dealers, growers and other players involved in seed industry.

Effective seed trade is one of the essential components in the attainment of food security in the region. However, a number of factors that include trade restrictions, restrictive regulations and standards, lack of access to improved seed, diseconomies of scale arising from small national seed markets, long payback periods and lack of credit have inculcated inefficiencies in agricultural seed marketing. Legislation should facilitate the development and distribution of improved plant varieties between countries in the African region, hence the need to review the National Seed Policy and also harmonize seed laws and associated legislations at regional level so that seed trade is appropriately facilitated.

In addition, it is important for Malawi to meet its regional and international obligations as stipulated in the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol, the TRIPS Agreement, the ITPGRFA and other processes and initiatives within the COMESA and SADC region. Malawi therefore, recognizes role by breeders, farmers and will protect breeders and farmers. This policy therefore urges the enactment of plant breeders rights and farmers rights legislations.

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2.0 Broad Policy Directions:

2.1 Policy Goal

The overall goal of the National Seed Policy is to provide clear guidelines for the development and promotion of the seed industry in order to raise agricultural productivity through the provision of sustainable, adequate and high quality seeds.

2.2 Policy Outcomes

- 2.2.1 Enhanced appropriate and effective seed regulatory framework
- 2.2.2 Enhanced seed quality assurance for better performance of agriculture
- 2.2.3 An established reliable and internationally acceptable seed certification system
- 2.2.4 Enhanced growth of the local seed industry to ensure farmers' access to improved varieties and seeds

2.3 Policy Objective(s)

Specifically, the National Seed Policy objectives are:

- 2.3.1 To enhance appropriate and effective seed regulatory framework
- 2.3.2 To enhance seed quality assurance for better performance of agriculture
- 2.3.3 To establish reliable and internationally acceptable seed certification system
- 2.3.4 To enhance growth of the domestic seed industry

3.0 Policy Priority Areas

The National Seed Policy has areas that need attention and are presented as policy priority areas. The Policy Statements associated with these priority areas contribute towards providing solutions to the issues. The policy priority areas include establishment of a commission and a fund; institutional, regulatory and legal framework; institutional and operational linkage; and variety research and development Signatory to Treaties and

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Protocols on Seed; Harmonization of Seed Regulations; Information System for the Seed Industry ; Production of Breeders', Pre-Basic, Basic and Certified Seed; : Biotechnology; Adoption of Improved Seed and Complementary Technologies; Supply of Affordable Seeds; Variety Research and Development; Variety Research and Development; Quality Control; Recycling of Self Pollinated varieties; Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR).

3.1 Policy Priority Area 1: Institutional, Regulatory and Legal Framework

Government recognizes the importance of an effective institutional, regulatory and legal framework in order to undertake the required activities in the seed industry. Government, through the Commission and in collaboration with the private sector will therefore establish and develop institutional, regulatory and legal framework for the effective and efficient functioning of the seed industry.

For proper control and coordination, all seed related legislation, rules and regulations shall be streamlined in accordance with the mandate of the Commission. The Commission shall ensure that harmonization of different Acts and pieces of regulations and legislation that fall under different government ministries and departments is done by parliament such as: the Seed Act, the Forestry Act, the Biotechnology and Biosafety Act, the Environmental Act, the Tobacco Act and the Cotton Act.

Within the seed industry, Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs) will be encouraged in areas of research and development, extension, quality control, trade and commerce. Government shall endeavour to create an enabling environment for operations of different institutions in the seed sector while at the same time assuring that farmers' needs and interests are protected.

In addition, relevant committees, task forces and institutions as well as PPPs shall be established and promoted to spearhead different activities in the seed industry.

In order to improve efficiency in the delivery of services, the Seed Service Unit (SSU) will be turned into a semi-autonomous institution to be known as the "*National Seed Commission of Malawi*" (NSCM). Transformation of the SSU into a semi-autonomous entity will enhance operations of the Seed certification and Quality Control Unit.

The Commission's objectives shall include: Ensuring that farmers in Malawi are planting high quality seeds and planting materials of all crops and other commodities; Developing appropriate seed certification, processing and testing procedures and standards; Conducting field inspections, sampling and laboratory tests of all types of seeds;

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Conducting research in seed science and technology that includes conducting seed purity trials; Providing advisory services and training farmers and all stakeholders in seed production, certification and quality control; Monitoring all players in the seed industry and carry over seed stocks in the country;

To the extent possible, the Commission will meet its operating costs by charging levies for services rendered. The levies will be reviewed periodically and a Fund will be established.

Policy Statement(s)

- i. The policy will spearhead the putting in place of all the legal frameworks for the smooth operation of the Commission
- ii. The policy will advocate for the promotion of public and private partnerships
- iii. The policy will ensure the transformation of the SSU to National Seed Commission of Malawi
- iv. The policy will provide for the establishment of the Fund that will assist to finance the operations of the National Seed Commission
- v. The policy will provide for the establishment of National Variety Release Committee to evaluate a proposed new variety, release and enter it in the variety catalogue or with draw it from catalogue.
- vi. The policy will provide for the establishment of a governing Board for the Committee
- vii. The policy will provide for introduction of a levy on seed

3.2 Policy Priority Area 2: Institutional and Operational Linkages

The Commission in collaboration with the public and private sector will operate a market-oriented variety improvement programme for all the main crops grown in Malawi. Potential varieties will be evaluated to determine their suitability prior to release.

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The use of high quality seed of improved varieties will be promoted by public sector and other relevant extension media in collaboration with the private sector. Extension messages on seed production practices will continue to be disseminated while field demonstrations will be intensified for extended massive awareness on merits of improved seed.

The Commission will continue to play a key role in all necessary tasks in the seed certification and quality control programmes, including crop inspection in the field and operations of the seed testing laboratories.

The Commission will also be responsible for enforcement of the Malawi Seed Act that includes commissioning of tests for distinctiveness, uniformity and stability (DUS) and Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) as part of its certification, quality control and regulatory activities and undertake the necessary applied research including training and licensing of seed inspectors and seed analysts in seed technology in both private and public sectors to meet the needs of the Malawian seed industry.

Through the agro-dealer network, the Commission in collaboration with the private sector will ensure that high quality seed is timely made available in the rural areas and all seed outlets.

The Commission in collaboration with the private sector shall register all the seed producers and Agro-dealers that deal with seed for easy monitoring on compliance of the required standards

Policy Statement(s)

- i. The policy will empower the commission and the private sector to establish dissemination channels of appropriate technologies and their institutional linkages
- ii. The policy will ensure that every seed producing organisation, must have its own internal quality control unit for adequate control of seed quality which requires constant supervision, checks, inspection and tests
- iii. The policy will ensure that high quality seed is timely made available to all farmers
- iv. The policy will encourage a wider dissemination of improved seeds and other complementary technologies
- v. The policy will also advocate for imposition of penalties for misleading and false

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advertises on improved seeds

3.3 Policy Priority Area 3: Harmonization of Seed Regulations

Government will put in place measures to harmonize on Seed Regulations with those of SADC, COMESA and beyond. Government will, therefore, periodically review the policy on seed trade in the light of standards, price, preference, availability and other factors pertaining to local suppliers while developing and promoting both domestic and international seed industry.

Policy Statement(s)

- i. The policy will ensure the enactment of the necessary legislation related to seed industry
- ii. The policy will promote the development of the seed industry

3.4 Policy Priority Area 4: Information System for the Seed Industry

The Commission in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders in the seed industry will establish a databank for the Malawi seed industry. This will involve the development of an inventory of all public and private sector key stakeholders (breeders, seed companies, agro-dealers, etc) in the Malawi seed industry as well as conduct periodic updates of the database.

Policy Statement (s)

- i. The policy will provide for the establishment of the database.
- ii. The policy will provide for the establishment and update of the seed website to make seed information accessible to the public
- iii. The policy will establish a communication strategy

3.5 Policy Priority Area 5: Production of Different Classes of Seed

To minimize the problem of inadequate availability of Parental lines, Breeders', Pre-basic, Basic, Certified Seed and Quality Declared Seed. The private sector will be

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encouraged to produce all classes of seed of different varieties. In addition to this, recycling of self-pollinated seeds beyond their genetically recommended recycling times will be discouraged. The production of all classes of seed will be under the supervision of the Commission.

Policy Statement

- i. The policy will open up the production of all classes of seed to any organization or individuals provided the seed standards are met

3.6 Policy Priority Area 6: Biotechnology

The Commission shall promote biotechnology and biosafety research and commercialization of related seed alongside capacity building for local scientists in collaboration with technology developers and other stakeholders in various institutions while at the same time creating awareness on biotechnology issues.

Research on biotechnology including research related to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) seeds shall be promoted with strict adherence to the Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy guided by the Biosafety Act and Regulatory laws as developed by the country. Training on biosafety shall be provided to scientists and extension agents in both public and private sectors with the help of technology developers and in turn sensitize and involve the farming community and the general public based on empirical evidence.

User friendly guidelines and protocols shall be developed for the production and management of GMO related seeds in accordance with the relevant Acts in order to avoid contamination with conventional crops or varieties.

Policy Statement

- i. The policy will encourage further research on biotechnology including research related to GMO but with strict adherence to the Biotechnology and Biosafety policy, Act and Regulations

3.7 Policy Priority Area 7: Supply of Affordable Seeds

In order to make improved seeds affordable to farmers, government will from time to time review the pricing mechanisms of seed producers and provide a conducive

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environment that minimizes cost of seed production. To avoid overcharging of seed by different players in the seed industry and to promote fair competition, Government will monitor seed prices prevailing on the market. Government shall therefore intervene and negotiate on prices where necessary for purposes of protecting farmers' interests.

Policy Statement(s)

- i. The policy will encourage a fair pricing of the improved seeds that is accessible to smallholder farmers
- ii. The policy will also empower Government to intervene in the pricing of improved seeds but in an inclusive manner

3.8 Policy Priority Area 8: Seed Marketing and Distribution

The Commission will develop appropriate standards for packaging, labeling and seed treatment materials for various crops that will be uniform to all seed suppliers with exception on companies' logos and designs.

To deter prevalence of counterfeit seed on the market, all seeds shall be properly tested and verified by inspectors before marketing. All lot numbers shall be generated and registered with the Commission for easy traceability. Random checks shall be undertaken on the markets for compliance to standards.

Seed suppliers shall provide all data related to both production and trade (hectares, volumes, number of outlets, returns, etc) to the Commission every year for easy planning and forecasting by government on seed supply and demand.

Policy Statement

- i. The policy will encourage the Commission to monitor internal quality control systems of the commercial seed companies to undertake necessary measures and to ensure that only high quality seed is marketed

3.9 Policy Priority Area 9: Plantation and Vegetative Propagated Materials

The Commission shall develop and enforce quality control modalities for forestry, horticultural crops, industrial plants, pastures, tubers and cuttings. This entails the Commission to develop proper certification guidelines for tree seeds and seedlings, tubers, cuttings and stolon materials for commercial purposes in consultation with the

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stakeholders involved in those materials.

Policy Statement

- i. The policy will encourage the Commission to facilitate development and production of high quality plantation and vegetative propagated materials

3.10 Policy Priority Area 10: Other Government Interventions

The Commission will participate and advocate for the inclusion of seed topics in the curricula of academic institutions that offer courses related to seed technology in order to improve the skills and level of knowledge of extension workers and those who may enter the commercial seed industry. In view of the high proportion of the population engaged in agriculture, schools will also include basic teaching on seeds in order to increase general awareness levels. Academic institutions shall engage members of the Commission in both curricula development and delivery of courses to benefit from practical experiences.

Government recognizes the need for the seed policy to be relevant to the current state of development in the seed sector and the institutional capacity to undertake the required activities. As this is an evolutionary process, periodic reviews of seed policy alongside capacity building initiatives will be undertaken to ensure that the policy continues to be appropriate to the needs of the farmers.

Policy Statement

- i. The policy will encourage the inclusion of Seed Production and Technology in the curricula from Primary schools to tertiary institutions

4.0 Implementation Arrangements

Seed is a very critical resource in the agriculture sector and there are many stakeholders in the seed industry who play various roles along the entire seed value chain. In this Policy and strategy, only those organizations and sectors that play key roles and assume fundamental responsibilities are included in the institutional arrangements for administration and management of seed. This section defines institutional roles and responsibilities which will facilitate efficient, effective and accountable production and supply/distribution of seed.

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4.1 Institutional Arrangements

This section highlights the mandates, roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of this Policy.

4.1.1 Ministry responsible for Agriculture

The mission of the Ministry responsible for Agriculture is to improve agricultural productivity, sustainably develop and manage land and water resources to achieve food, nutrition and income security for economic growth and development.

The Ministry's mandate will be to accelerate broad-based sustainable agriculture, water and irrigation development for socio-economic growth and development. The National Seed Policy therefore falls within the ministry's mandate. Therefore, the Ministry responsible for Agriculture will facilitate the implementation of the National Seed Policy for a vibrant seed industry.

4.1.2 The Department of Agricultural Research Services

The Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) will be responsible for conducting research for agricultural technology development that will provide improved varieties, technology dissemination and specialised services related to the seed industry.

4.1.3 The National Seed Commission of Malawi

The National Seed Commission of Malawi will be mandated to ensure that high quality seeds/propagating plant materials of improved varieties of crops including horticultural crops, forestry, industrial plants, pastures, tubers, cuttings, fiber crops and plantation crops are produced and made available to the Malawi Farming Community.

4.1.4 Other Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as Local Authorities shall be responsible for their roles specified in the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

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Strategy document. Besides, they will be responsible for collecting, organizing and storage of relevant information on seeds pertaining to them.

4.1.5 Other Implementing Agencies and Institutions

A wide range of public and private sector actors will participate in the implementation of the National Seed Policy.

4.1.5 Development Partners and International Agencies

Development partners will assist in providing technical and financial support for the establishment of seed administration and management systems for efficient and effective services in the seed industry

4.2 Implementation Plan

All priority areas will be implemented concurrently according to the implementation plan. A detailed implementation plan as presented in the Annex I.

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be used to track the implementation of the Policy. Monitoring will be done on a regular basis. Evaluations will be conducted to assess whether and to what extent policy implementation has succeeded in making the intended impact as in the Annex II.

The National Seed Policy will undergo necessary periodic and regular reviews during its life span in relation to its key elements to meet changing developmental objectives and priorities. Policy reviews will be carried out every five years.

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ANNEX I: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Policy Priority Area 1: Strengthen Institutional, Regulatory and Legal Framework of the Seed Industry			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will put in place of all the legal frameworks for the smooth operation of the Commission and raise awareness on the same			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance appropriate and effective seed regulatory framework	Create awareness of the national seed policy, Seed Act and Seed Regulations.	Ministry responsible for Agriculture	on going
	Facilitate periodic reviews of the national seed policy and any related legislation pertaining to seed.	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Ministry responsible for Agriculture	2020
	Promote the establishment of breeders and other related technology developers' association	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Ministry responsible for Agriculture	2020
	Transform the Seed Services Unit (SSU) into a National Seed Commission	Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Ministry responsible for Legal and Constitutional Affairs, OPC	2020
	Establish a Board for the Commission	Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Ministry responsible for Legal and Constitutional Affairs, OPC	2020

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	Establish a Fund to finance operations of the National Seed Commission	Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Ministry responsible for Legal and Constitutional Affairs, OPC	2020
	Introduce a levy on seed to finance operations of the National Seed Commission	Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Ministry responsible for Legal and Constitutional Affairs, OPC	2020
	Establish National Variety Release Committee	Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Ministry responsible for Legal and Constitutional Affairs, OPC	2020
Policy Priority Area 2: Strengthen Institutional and Operational Linkages for seed industry			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will empower the commission and the private sector to establish dissemination channels of appropriate technologies and their institutional linkages			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance seed quality assurance for better performance of agriculture sector	Facilitate establishment and regular review of an inventory of all producers and agro-dealers and have them registered.	National Seed Commission of Malawi	on going
Policy Statement 2: The policy will ensure that every seed producing organization, must have its own internal quality control unit for adequate control of seed quality which requires constant supervision, checks, inspection and tests			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe

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To enhance seed quality assurance for better performance of agriculture	Develop quality control procedures for any type of seed programs or processes for monitoring compliance	National Seed Commission of Malawi	2020
	Monitor producers and agro-dealers for compliance on standards for production, processing, storage, marketing and general management of seed	National Seed Commission of Malawi	on going
Policy Statement 3: The policy will ensure that high quality seed is timely made available to all farmers			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance seed quality assurance for better performance of agriculture	Retrieve unsold seed from the market and sample for retesting a month after main selling season	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going
Policy Statement 4: The policy will encourage a wider dissemination of improved seeds and other complementary technologies			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance seed quality assurance for better performance of agriculture	Disseminate messages on seed handling and usage to farmers	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Private Sector	On going
Policy Statement 5: The policy will also advocate for imposition of penalties for misleading and false adverts on improved seeds			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance seed quality assurance for better	Conduct review meetings on Seed Policy and Seed Act	National Seed Commission of Malawi,	2018 &2020

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performance of agriculture		OPC, Ministry responsible for Justice	
Policy Priority 3: Harmonization of Seed Regulations			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will ensure the enactment of the necessary legislation related to seed industry			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To establish reliable and internationally acceptable seed certification system	Enforce implementation of Technical Agreements on Harmonization of Seed Regulations for purposes of safeguarding the Malawi seed industry	Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Ministry responsible for Justice	on going
	Regulate Imports and exports of seed when need arises	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Ministry responsible for Trade and Industry	On going
	Put up regulations and procedures for the externalization or export of domestic genetics or land races	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Ministry responsible for Justice, Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Ministry responsible for Trade	2020
	Facilitate the formation of different task teams on harmonization of different policies and legislation,	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going

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	Review research agenda related to the seed industry and development of appropriate extension messages;	Ministry responsible for Agriculture	On going
	Monitor seed trade	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Ministry responsible for Trade	On going
Policy Priority Area 4: Develop Information System for the Seed Industry			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will provide for the establishment of the database.			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance access of information amongst various stakeholders	Develop an inventory of all public and private sector key stakeholders in the seed industry	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going
	Conduct periodic updates of the database	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going
Policy Statement 2: The policy will provide for the establishment and update of the seed website to make seed information accessible to the public			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance access of information amongst various stakeholders	Develop a website	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Private Sector	2018

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Policy Priority Area 5: Promote Production of Different Classes of Seed			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will open up the production of all classes of seed to any organization or individuals provided the seed standards are met			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance availability and accessibility of quality seed for sustenance of the seed system	Register and monitor activities of all qualified individuals/firms to produce all classes of seed	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going
	Empower seed houses to bulk pre basic and basic seed for their own certified seed production	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going
	Encourage farmers to use seed of Open Pollinated Varieties (OPV) or hybrids as per recommendations	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going
Policy Priority Area 6: Promote Biotechnology and Biosafety Research			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will encourage further research on biotechnology including research related to GMO but with strict adherence to the Biotechnology and Biosafety policy, Act and Regulations			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance seed quality assurance on Biotechnology and Biosafety Research	Ensure adherence to the Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy on related seeds guided by the Biosafety Act, Regulations and Laws	National Seed Commission of Malawi, National Biosafety Regulatory Committee,	On going
	Build capacity on biotechnology and biosafety	National Seed Commission of Malawi,	On going

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	for local scientists and farmers.	& Technology Developers	
	Put in place appropriate infrastructure for biotechnology and biosafety research	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Dept of Environmental Affairs (NBRC)& other Partners	on going
	Assess technology risks prior to issuance of licenses by the National Biosafety Regulatory Committee (NBRC)	National Seed Commission of Malawi, National Biosafety Regulatory Committee (NBRC)	On going
	Enforce the application of guidelines on utilization of seeds from biotechnology and biosafety research in line with the Biosafety Act	National Seed Commission of Malawi, National Biosafety Regulatory Committee (NBRC)	on going
Policy Priority Area 7: Ensure Availability and accessibility of Affordable Seeds			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will encourage a fair pricing of the improved seeds that is accessible to smallholder farmers			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance growth of the domestic seed industry	Promote waiver on duties and taxes imposed on equipment and materials used in the seed industry	Ministry responsible for Finance	2018
	Encourage farmers through farmer organizations to establish revolving funds for purposes of procuring farm inputs including seeds		On going

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	Encourage Private Sector to pack seeds and chemicals in different sizes to suit different categories of farmers depending on their landholding sizes and income levels	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Private Sector	On going
	Promote local production and marketing of seed processing equipment and materials	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Ministry responsible for Trade, Academia	On going
Policy Priority Area 8: Enforce Seed Marketing and Distribution Procedures			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will empower the Commission to monitor internal quality control systems of the commercial seed companies to undertake necessary measures and to ensure that only high quality seed is marketed			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance availability of high quality seed for better performance of the agriculture sector	Enforce certified seed producers to treat, package and label seeds according to standards.	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Certified Seed Producers, Malawi Bureau of Standards	On going
	Ensure that seed processing houses have internal Quality Seed Management Systems	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Malawi Bureau of Standards,	On going
	Enforce transportation rules and regulation for seed to avoid physical damage and contamination	Ministry responsible for Transportation, National Seed Commission,	on going
	Monitor seed advertisement messages by the media to	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going

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	ensure conformity to the variety characteristics;		
	Ensure that seed traders market seed is in line with the standards	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going
Policy Priority Area 9: Enhance Quality of Vegetative Propagated Materials			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will empower the Commission to facilitate development and production of high quality vegetative propagated materials			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To ensure availability and accessibility of the high quality vegetative propagated materials	Facilitate development of seedlings, roots, rhizomes, corms, stems, sprouts and leaf production, quality control procedures and guidelines	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Forestry Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM)	From 2018
	Develop institutional capacity (personnel and infrastructure) to deal with seedlings, roots, rhizomes, corms, stems, sprouts and leaf issues including inspection for compliance to standards	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Forestry Research Institute of Malawi,	On going
	Develop seed production, quality control procedures and guidelines in collaboration with commodity specific institutions	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Tea Research Foundation, Mzuzu Coffee Trust, other Partners	2020
	Facilitate germplasm improvement programs	Forestry Research Institute of Malawi, National Seed Commission of Malawi,	On going

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		Tea Research Foundation, Mzuzu Coffee Trust and the Agricultural Research and Extension Trust (ARET);	
	Conduct annual review meetings with the commodity specific institutions on seed quality control protocols;	National Seed Commission of Malawi	On going
Policy Priority Area 10: Strengthen Other Government Interventions			
Policy Statement 1: The policy will encourage the inclusion of Seed Production and Technology in the curricula from Primary schools to tertiary institutions			
Objective	Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
To enhance growth of the domestic seed industry	Promote Seed Technology curricula at Primary, Secondary schools and tertiary institutions;	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Ministry responsible for Education, Academia,	On going
	Develop well established seed technology messages	National Seed Commission of Malawi, Ministry responsible for Agriculture,	On going

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ANNEX II: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

Policy Priority Area 1: Strengthen Institutional, Regulatory and Legal Framework of the Seed Industry						
Outcome: Enhanced appropriate and effective seed regulatory framework						
Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions / Risks
To enhance appropriate and effective seed regulatory framework	National Seed Policy, Seed Act and Seed Regulations widely publicized	No of dissemination workshops/ meetings	6	0	Reports	
	Periodic reviews of the national seed policy and any other related legislation conducted	No of reviews	2	0	Reports	
	Breeders' and other related technology developers' associations established	Association in place	1	0	Reports	
	National Seed Commission of Malawi established	National Seed Commission of Malawi in place	1	0	Reports	
	Commission Fund established	Commission Fund in place	1	0	Reports	

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	Technical Advisory Committee for the Commission established	Board in place	1	0	Reports	
	National Variety Release Committee established	National Variety Release Committee	1	0	Reports	
Policy Priority Area 2: Strengthen Institutional and Operational Linkages for the seed industry						
Outcome: An established reliable seed quality assurance for better performance of agriculture sector						
Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions / Risks
To enhance seed quality assurance for better performance of agriculture sector	Inventory of all producers and agro-dealers established	Inventory in place	3	0	Reports	
	Quality control guidelines for any type of seed program or processes reviewed	No of guidelines	10	0	Reports	
	Producers and agro-dealers monitored	No of monitoring exercises	5	0	Reports	

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	for compliance on standards for production, processing, storage, marketing and general management of seed					
	Unsold seed from the market retrieved and sampled for retesting a month after main selling season	No of samples	200	0	Report	
	Messages on seed handling and usage disseminated	No of titles of messages	10	0	Reports	
	Quality control and variety release guidelines for any type of seed	No of guidelines	5	0	Reports	

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	program or processes developed					
	Review meetings on seed policy and Seed Act conducted	No of meetings	5	0	Reports	
Policy Priority 3: Harmonization of Seed Regulations						
Outcome: An established reliable and internationally acceptable seed certification and quality control						
Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions / Risks
To establish reliable and internationally acceptable seed certification system	Technical Agreements on Seed Industry in the Region domesticated	No of pieces of legislation	5		Reports	
	Export and imports of seed regulated when need arises	No of Press Releases on Seed exports and imports	2	0	Phytosanitary certificates, import permits, reports	
	Regulations and procedures for externalization or export of domestic	No of Regulations & procedures	1	0	Reports	

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	genetic or land races established					
	Task teams on harmonization of different policies formed	No of task teams		0	National Seed Commission of Malawi reports	
	Research agenda related to the seed industry and development of appropriate extension messages reviewed	No of Meetings		0	National Seed Commission of Malawi reports	
	Seed trade monitored	No of Certificates issued		0	National Seed Commission of Malawi reports	

Policy Priority Area 4: Develop Information System for the Seed Industry

Outcome: Enhanced access of information amongst various stakeholders

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions / Risks
To enhance access of information amongst various stakeholders	An inventory of all public and private	Inventory in place	1	0	Reports	

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	sector key stakeholders in the seed industry developed					
	Periodic updates of the database conducted	No of updates	5	0	Reports	
	A website developed	No of websites	1	0	Reports	
Policy Priority Area 5: Promote Production of Different Classes of Seed						
Outcome: Enhanced availability and accessibility of quality seed for sustenance of the seed system						
Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions / Risks
To enhance availability and accessibility of quality seed for sustenance of the seed system	Activities of all qualified individuals/firms to produce all classes of seed registered and monitored	No of individuals/firms	5000	0	Reports	
	Seed houses to bulk pre basic and basic seed for their own certified seed	No of seed houses	20	0	Reports	

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	production empowered.					
	Farmers to use seed of Open Pollinated Varieties (OPV) or hybrids as per recommendations encouraged	No of awareness campaigns	10	2	Reports	
Policy Priority Area 6: Promote Biotechnology and Biosafety Research						
Outcome: Enhanced seed quality assurance on biotechnology and biosafety research						
Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions / Risks
To enhance seed quality assurance on biotechnology and biosafety research	Adherence to the Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy on related seeds guided by the Biosafety Act, Regulations and Laws ensured	No of awareness campaigns	2	0	Reports	
	Local scientists and	No of scientists and	50 scientists	0	Reports	Availability of funds

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	farmers trained	farmers	250 farmers			
	Appropriate infrastructure for biotechnology research on related seed issues developed	No of laboratories No of pieces of lab equipment	2 1000	0	Reports	
	Risk of each technology assessed	No of assessments	3	0	Reports	
	Use of developed guidelines on use of seeds from biotechnology research enforced	No of awareness campaigns on use of guidelines	3	0	Reports	

Policy Priority Area 7: Ensure availability and accessibility of affordable seeds

Outcome: Enhanced growth of the local seed industry to ensure farmers' access to improved varieties and seeds

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions / Risks
To enhance growth of the domestic seed industry	Waiver on duties and taxes imposed on equipment and materials	Waiver on taxes and duties effected	2	0	Reports	

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	used in seed industry promoted					
	Revolving fund for farmer organisations established	No of awareness campaigns	2	0	Reports	Enough cooperation
	Private sector to pack seeds and chemicals in different sizes to suit different categories of farmers depending on their landholding sizes and income levels encouraged	No of awareness campaigns	2	0	Reports	
	Local production and marketing of seed processing equipment and materials	No of awareness campaigns	2	0	Reports	

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	promoted					
Policy Priority Area 8: Enforce Seed Marketing and Distribution Procedures						
Outcome: Enhanced seed quality assurance for better performance of the agriculture sector						
Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions / Risks
To enhance availability of high quality seed for better performance of the agriculture sector	Seeds treatment, packaging and labeling by certified seed producers enforced	No of certified seed producers processing seed	20	10	Reports	
	Quality Seed Management Systems established by seed processing houses	No of seed houses with Internal Quality Control Systems in place	10	5	Reports	
	Transportation rules and regulation for seed enforced	No of awareness campaigns	2	0	Reports	
	Seed advertisement messages by media and other methods to farmers	No of messages vetted	20	0	Reports	

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	vetted and monitored					
	Seed traders' marketing of seed enforced	No of monitoring visits	10	2	Reports	
Policy Priority Area 9: Enhance Quality of Vegetative Propagated Materials						
Outcome: Enhanced availability and accessibility of high quality vegetative propagated materials						
Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions / Risks
To ensure availability and accessibility of high quality vegetative propagated materials	Seedlings, roots, rhizomes, corms, stems, sprouts and leaf production, quality control procedures and guidelines developed	No of Guidelines in place	4	0	Report	
	Review meetings with the commodity specific institutions on quality	No of review meetings	5	0	Reports	

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	control protocols conducted					
	Institutional capacity to deal with seedlings, roots, rhizomes, corms, stems, sprouts and leaf developed	No of personnel trained No of structures developed No of pieces of equipment acquired	300 50 100	0	Reports	
	Germplasm improvement program developed	No of Improvement programs in place	5	3	Reports	
Policy Priority Area 10: Strengthen Other Government Interventions						
Outcome: Enhanced growth of the domestic seed industry						
Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Target	Baseline	Source of Verification	Assumptions/Risks
To enhance growth of the domestic seed industry	Seed technology curricula included at primary, secondary schools and tertiary institutions	No of modules of seed technology included in the curricula	5	2	Reports	

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