



**REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**INTERVENTION POINTS TO BE DELIVERED**

**BY**

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**DURING SESSION SEVEN OF THE VIRTUAL AFRICAN REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING (ARRM) OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs), ON THE THEME “*BUILDING SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS IN AFRICAN LDCs*”.**

**25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

- **Honorable Ministers;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. Agriculture still remains the main source of livelihoods for a larger section of our population in the LDCs. As such, any production shocks negatively impact on food security and nutrition status of an already very vulnerable population. The present COVID-19 pandemic has revealed how fragile and inequitable our food systems are, calling for a serious reflection by all stakeholders.
  
2. Despite the good progress made in coming up with innovative technologies, one of the major challenges impacting negatively on African LDCs and Haiti's farming systems is the limited responsiveness of the innovations to sustainably address unique needs arising from vulnerabilities to effects of climate change in the different ecologies. Thus, most of the technologies do not adequately address the needs of the local farmers. **Governments in African LDCs and Haiti therefore need to strategically scale up investments in agricultural research and development as well as strengthen agricultural extension delivery systems.** We urge development partners and other financiers of development initiatives in African LDCs and Haiti to have tailor made investment instruments on agricultural research and extension delivery systems. Increased investments

in agricultural research and development would ensure development of appropriate and responsive technologies to current and emerging challenges in the agriculture sector in African LDCs and Haiti. Similarly, a strong and effective extension delivery system would ensure that the messages on different available agricultural technologies are disseminated to farmers and also that the farmers needs and challenges are known to researchers.

**3. Agricultural financing has also been a big challenge in building inclusive and resilient food systems in African LDCs and Haiti.**

The current agricultural development financing mechanisms/arrangements in these countries do not provide adequate finances to address major underlying constraints that have affected growth and resilience of the sector overtime. In most cases, agricultural financing has been provided for small agricultural projects that would not even make a significant impact on the constraints to warrant transformation of the agriculture sectors. As such, from time to time the agriculture sector in African LDCs and Haiti has remained vulnerable to climatic shocks and other emerging issues. To address the underlying constraints that have affected the sectors performance in African LDCs and Haiti, there is need to increase and relook at the financing mechanisms by development partners as well as the size and type of funding towards agricultural interventions in African LDCs and Haiti.

4. Ladies and gentlemen, agricultural production faces many risks. In absence of appropriate risk transferring mechanisms at micro-level most farmers produce agricultural commodities that are deemed as less risky but not profitable. In addition, due to high risk associated, many risk-averse farmers remain reluctant to adopt some of the high performing agricultural technologies. **In African LDCs and Haiti, the market for agricultural insurance at micro-level is not fully developed.** This has negatively impacted on agricultural diversification efforts due to uncertainties in both weather and market outcomes. Even though there have been efforts to provide agricultural insurance at macro-level, the benefits of such insurance schemes do not address micro-level issues such as farm level crop failure and profitability. **There is therefore, need for deliberate efforts to look at means of how micro level agricultural insurance schemes could be further developed in the LDCs**
  
5. Lastly but not least, **building an inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems in African LDCs and Haiti, is a multi-sectoral effort requiring policies and commitments to address trade barriers, natural resources and land tenure among others.** With strong collaboration, it is easy to build on the comparative advantage on of the partners in delivering agricultural

programs and interventions. Furthermore, strong collaboration and coordination ensures that there is no duplication of efforts amongst partners in the agriculture sector as we reach the last mile of not leaving anyone behind.

**Thank you for your attention**