Malawi turns extension dialogues into policy influence

Extension policy, coordination and digital advisory services

Scope • National extension system in Malawi
Partners • MaFAAS, CAADP-XP4, Malawi Government and extension stakeholders

The starting situation

Malawi's extension system faced staff and funding constraints, while service delivery was not harmonised across providers.

How partners contributed

With CAADP-XP4 support, MaFAAS used its annual Extension and Farmers Conference for policy dialogue, produced a position paper on harmonised extension and supported policy reforms. Activities included dialogue and training on private-sector extension, the digital economy and climate resilience in 2024. MaFAAS co-organised the 7th Africa-wide Agricultural Extension Week in Lilongwe from 28 April to 2 May 2025.

What changed

The case reports an increased government budget for extension and recruitment of more Agriculture Extension Development Officers. MaFAAS members advanced to senior roles, including National Director of Extension. Malawi's Extension Policy was launched during the 2025 Extension Week alongside the Mlimi digital advisory application. The case identifies farmers as beneficiaries of a more defined extension workforce and coordinated service system.

Evidence and source

The source documents policy launch, budget direction, recruitment, appointments and the digital advisory application.

Source record • SS18 Infographics

Sustainability and lessons

The policy and budget line are described as part of government systems, providing an institutional basis for continuation. Sustained implementation will depend on funded staffing, coordination among providers and regular use of digital and in-person advisory channels. Monitoring coverage and farmer access can show whether these system changes are reaching communities.