

MALAWI PLR recommendations

A total of 2 key multi-part recommendations to address deficiencies and/or opportunities in the PLR area of Malawi's seed system have been developed by the assessment team and vetted with stakeholders. The recommendations are roughly, but not strictly, listed in order of importance or recommended sequencing.

Recommendation 1: Support Relevant Policy and Regulatory Revisions and Developments
Description
<p>1. Develop Seed Strategy and Investment Plan</p> <p>Malawi has a seed policy but lacks an implementation strategy and investment plan. These should be developed with the Seed Strategy, showing government's plans for achieving the policy statements in the Seed Policy and a Seed Sector Investment Plan showing government's commitment towards funding activities in the seed industry and establishing strategic partnerships with the private sector to foster their investment in the seed sector.</p> <p>2. Prioritize Development and Approval of Plant Breeders' Rights Regulations</p> <p>While a PVP Act exists, regulations are still under development, and the PBR regulatory framework is incomplete without them. Currently, the draft Plant Breeders' Rights Regulations have undergone stakeholder validation and are awaiting ministerial approval and publication in the gazette. These processes should be prioritized, and an institutional framework in line with best practice will also have to be put in place.</p> <p>3. Develop Public Research Institutional Guidelines on Supply of EGS</p> <p>Guidelines on supply of EGS are needed in order to streamline the process of access to EGS by the private sector. The guidelines would provide procedures on application and supply of EGS. They could require, for instance, that public research institutions are notified of demanded quantities a season before planting, supported with pre-payment and binding contracts on EGS supply.</p> <p>4. Revise Seed Regulations and Align them with the Seed Act</p> <p>The current Seed Regulations should be revised to provide procedural guidelines on the implementation of the new Seed Act, including on provisions related to seed certification, variety release and registration, and penalties.</p>

Recommendation 2: Support In-Country Capacity to Implement Seed Rules
Description
<p>1. Implement and Support Private Seed Inspection</p> <p>As a good regulatory practice, authorization of private seed certification can help alleviate financial and capacity stresses on regulators and leverage private sector specialized skills. Malawi should prioritize implementation of the provisions of the new Seed Act that recognizes authorization of private seed inspectors.</p> <p>2. Support SSU Capacity and Resources to Conduct Variety Release and Registration and Seed Certification</p> <p>Under the new Seed Act, the SSU is to be replaced by a national seed authority. The validation meeting revealed, however, that the SSU will remain the national seed authority. Currently, the SSU has various capacity, financial and resource gaps, and support could be provided to better enable it to implement the seed rules.</p> <p>3. Support Implementation of Anti-counterfeiting Measures</p>

SSU could benefit from support to strengthen its capacity to implement the penalties for anti-counterfeiting in the law and regulations.