



Malawi Program for Aflatoxin Control (MAPAC)

FARMD Webinar Forum

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Isaac B. Gokoh

Outline

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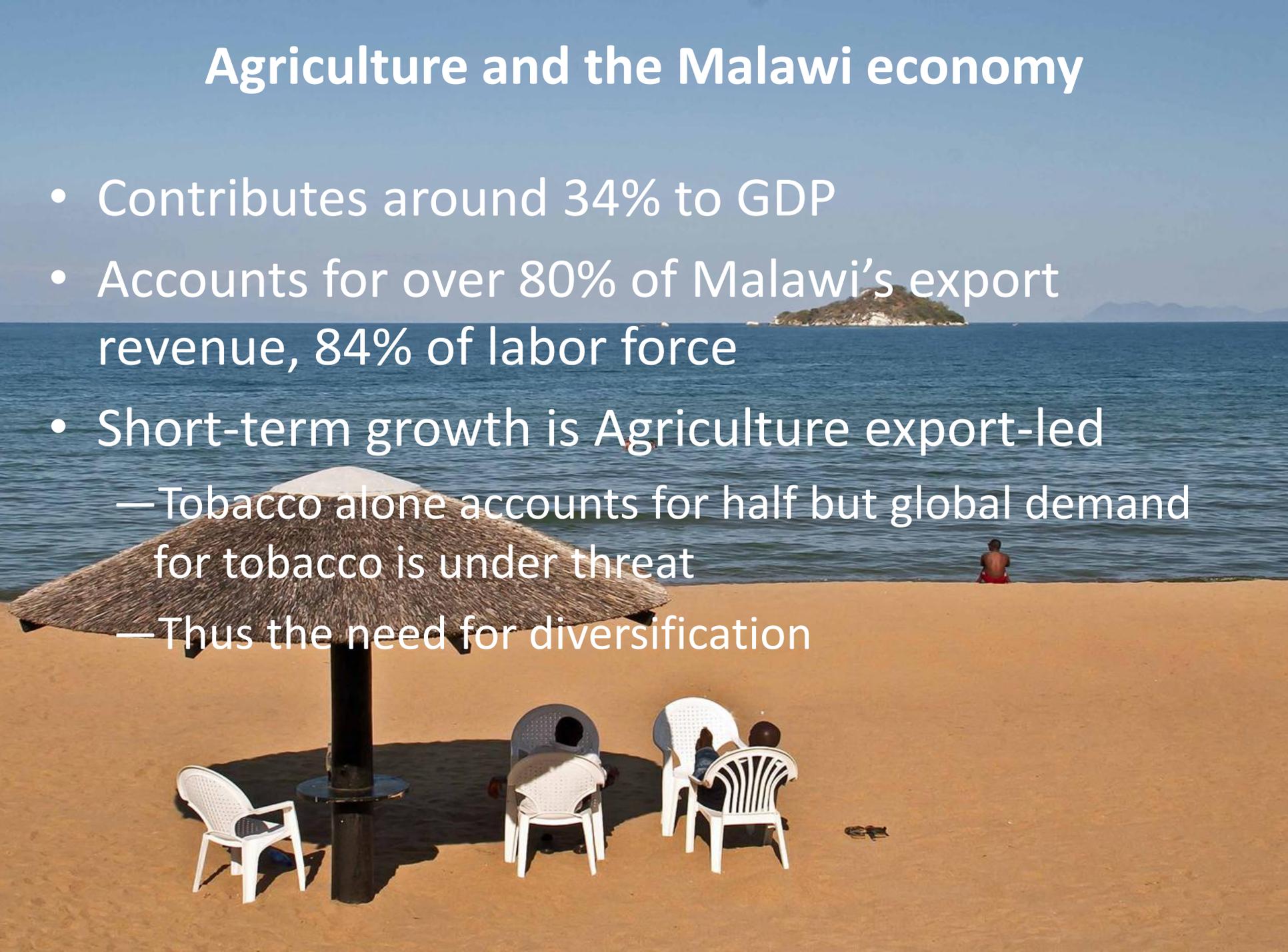


Malawi & Its Major Groundnut Producing Areas



Agriculture and the Malawi economy

- Contributes around 34% to GDP
- Accounts for over 80% of Malawi's export revenue, 84% of labor force
- Short-term growth is Agriculture export-led
 - Tobacco alone accounts for half but global demand for tobacco is under threat
 - Thus the need for diversification



Groundnut: Suited for Diversification

- Groundnut is one of the strategic crops in the National Export Strategy (NES) and Presidential Initiative on Hunger and Poverty Reduction
- Majority of farmers in Malawi, including women, have long history and experience in the growing of groundnuts.
- Groundnut requires less inputs compared to other high valued crops such as tobacco
- It is grown for both food and income generation
- Groundnut provides 25% of smallholder household income in Malawi (Diop *et al.*, 2003).
- Builds soil fertility and therefore will help replenish the declining soil fertility

Groundnut: Suited for Diversification (2)

- Groundnut exports ranked second only to tobacco in terms of foreign exchange earned by Malawi in 1980s
- The country lost its share of the world market for groundnuts in mid 1980s – as a result of:
 - high incidence of aflatoxin and increasing stringent standards on aflatoxin, and
 - Other supply side factors
- But Malawi still have the natural endowment for growing groundnuts



The Aflatoxin Mitigation Challenge

- *“The Aflatoxin problem has become like the HIV/AIDS problem. Any consultant who is able to write a proposal gets funding to implement an aflatoxin control project”* Anonymous.
- Piecemeal approach to aflatoxin control with little impact
- Lack of national effort to mitigate aflatoxin contamination – the reason for MAPAC
- Regional involvement patchy and limited



MAPAC Rationale

- A national program that:
 - take stock of existing initiatives to address aflatoxin contamination in groundnuts and maize,
 - Identify outstanding gaps, and
 - prioritize and promote coordination and synergies among various stakeholders involved in addressing aflatoxin-related problems
 - An initial effort to:
 - create a shared vision,
 - prioritize entry points, and
 - create mechanisms for effective coordination and collaboration
 - A conduit to effectively engage in regional/continental efforts such as PACA
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- A scenic view of a beach with a thatched umbrella, white plastic chairs, and a person sitting on the sand. The ocean and a small island are visible in the background.

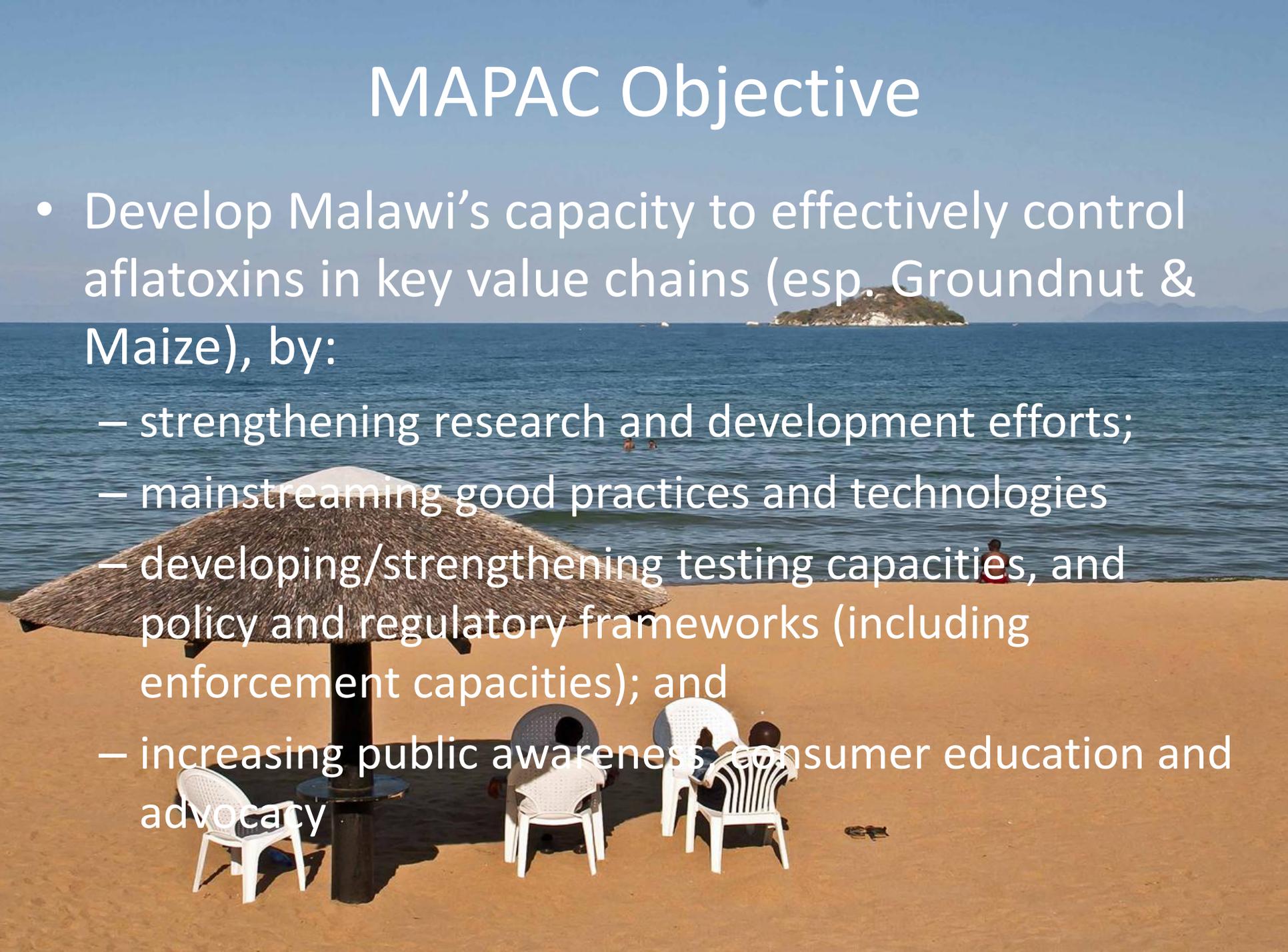
MAPAC Development

- Funded by WTO STDF based on MCDA Study
- International Consultant supported by national team of experts
- Multi-stakeholder consultations & working group meetings
 - national, regional & international
 - Government, private sector, NGOs, academia & civil society



MAPAC Objective

- Develop Malawi's capacity to effectively control aflatoxins in key value chains (esp. Groundnut & Maize), by:
 - strengthening research and development efforts;
 - mainstreaming good practices and technologies
 - developing/strengthening testing capacities, and policy and regulatory frameworks (including enforcement capacities); and
 - increasing public awareness, consumer education and advocacy



MAPAC Components



1. Mainstreaming (Integrating) Good Practices and Technologies into key Value Chains

- Assessments and Research
- awareness creation, training and technology dissemination/transferring
- Strengthening supply-chain coordination for mainstreaming practices/ technologies

2. Testing, Standards & Policies

- Diagnostic testing and accreditation
- Standards, regulations and policy frameworks

3. Public awareness, advocacy and consumer education

So far

- Bio-control
 - discussion with key partners; IITA, COMESA, USAID/SATH
 - National dialogue meeting to be held as a side-event of the PACA regional workshop on aflatoxin in Malawi in February 2014
- Awareness Creation
 - Collaboration with TWIN on awareness working group and strategy
 - Collaboration with ICRISAT on fine-tuning aflatoxin communication message
 - Stakeholder meeting on integrating aflatoxin message into nutrition campaigns

The Wayforward

- Discussion and concretizing implementation institutional arrangements
- Discussion with development partners – USAID, DFID - on possible funding proposals
- Proposal to African Trade Fund – US\$755,000
 - Define the prevalence of aflatoxins in the groundnut value chain and conduct a cost benefit analysis of post harvest interventions for improved aflatoxin control and management;
 - Develop and implement a sector wide aflatoxin awareness and skills development strategy;
 - Strengthening aflatoxin testing analytical capabilities at Chitedze Agricultural Research Station (CARB)
 - Establish the MAPAC Programme Coordination Unit -

Way Forward

- Other Funding Gaps:
 - Bio-control – US\$600,000
 - Assessment of the occurrence and prevalence of aflatoxins in the maize value chain – US\$400,000
 - Market analysis of value addition products (groundnut oil, groundnut cake) that can be created from contaminated groundnuts (US\$113,000)
 - Complement the assessments of the distribution of aflatoxins in groundnuts carried out by ICRISAT in 2008/2009
 - Conduct research to better understand the effects of irrigation and fertilization as an aflatoxin risk-reduction measure in Malawi
 - further research to study the association between aflatoxin contamination and stunting