



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January to March 2022

## Executive Directors Remarks:



New year greetings from MwAPATA Institute. We are so glad that you can take time to read what we have been up to in the past quarter.

As a Malawian led policy think tank, MwAPATA continues to inform and guide national policy issues related to agriculture, natural resources and rural transformation by generating evidence and undertaking policy engagements through different platforms.

The year 2021 was fulfilling as we managed to publish seven working papers, seven policy briefs, three policy perspectives and two peer reviewed journal articles. We are excited that in the first quarter of 2022 we have published eight policy briefs, two reports and two peer reviewed journal articles.

We also look forward to more outreach events where our research work will be disseminated. I invite you to read this first newsletter from MwAPATA. I hope you stay expectant for more.

All the best and happy reading!

William Chadza  
Executive Director

## In this Issue:

- Institutional Establishment & Development...Page 1
- Partnerships & Cooperation...Page 2
- Policy Research...Page 3
- Policy Engagement & Outreach...Page 4

## Editorial Team:

Mr. William Chadza; Ms. Ndidza Chisanu; Dr. Christone Nyondo; Mr. Lemekezani Chilora

**Layout and Design:** Ms. Ndidza Chisanu

**Contributors:** Mr. Zephaniah Nyirenda; Ms. Ndidza Chisanu; Dr. Christone Nyondo

## Institutional Establishment & Development

### Staffing Updates



**Current Staffing:** MwAPATA Institute currently has 11 full time staff and 3 part time staff. The Institute is receiving technical and institutional development support from the Michigan State University (MSU) in the areas of finance, administration, research and communication.

**Recruitments:** The Institute is in the process of bringing on board -

- A Research Director
- 2 Research Fellows
- 2 Research Analysts
- A Communications Assistant
- A Driver

**Good byes:** In this quarter, we bid farewell to Dr. Makaiko Khonje who has been a Research Fellow for the past one year. Wishing Dr. Khonje all the best!

### Finance Update

MwAPATA Institute receives financial support from the Foundation for Smoke Free World (FSFW)/Agriculture Transformation Initiative (ATI) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



For transparency and accountability, MwAPATA submits monthly financial reports to the Michigan State University (MSU) who are the grant holders.

Currently, Graham Carr & Co. who are the authorized external auditors for MwAPATA have finalized 2021 audit and are preparing the audit report for the Institute.

## Upcoming Events

**April:**

- **Aquaculture Seminar** in partnership with the Department of Fisheries (Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change) and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) – Aquaculture Value Chain Project (AVCP)
- **8th Eminent Speaker Series** in partnership with the National Planning Commission (NPC) & Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)

**June:**

**Malawi Agricultural Productivity and Commercialization Conference (MAPCC)**  
Under the theme “Driving Agricultural Diversification in Support of the Aspirations of MW2063

# PARTNERSHIPS & COOPERATION



MwAPATA Institute's commitment to long-term, inclusive, and transformational partnerships is of paramount importance to its success and sustained policy influence. The Institute has partnered with several key stakeholders along the research life cycle through Partnership Agreements (PAs) and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). Also, MwAPATA is building and supporting national capacity for policy research through innovative partnerships with public and private sector partners, including the National Planning Commission (NPC), the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET), Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM) and Michigan State University (MSU). Discussions are underway to expand its partnership base with other key stakeholders for the signing of Memorandum of Understanding.

**MICHIGAN STATE**  

---

**UNIVERSITY**



[Read More](#)

# POLICY RESEARCH



## Policy Briefs

During the quarter, Mwapata Institute has released and shared the following policy briefs on its website:

- **Policy Brief #13:** Policy Options for Smart Subsidies in Malawi by Mr. William Chadza (Mwapata) and Dr. Jan Duchoslav (IFPRI)
- **Policy Brief #14:** Redesigning the Affordable Inputs Program to Diversify and Sustain Growth by Dr. Christone J. Nyondo, Dr. William J. Burke, Dr. Milu Muyanga and Mr. William Chadza
- **Policy Brief #15:** Distributional Impacts of Tobacco Cultivation in Malawi by Mrunal Shah, Jacob Ricker-Gilbert & Makaiko G. Khonje
- **Policy Brief #16:** Opportunities for Small-Scale Aquaculture in Malawi by Maggie G. Munthali, Lemekezani Chilora, Zephania Nyirenda, Dinah Salonga, Ayala Wineman, and Milu Muyanga
- **Policy Brief #17:** Characteristics of the Small-Scale Aquaculture Sector in Malawi by Maggie G. Munthali, Lemekezani Chilora, Zephania Nyirenda, Dinah Salonga, Ayala Wineman, and Milu Muyanga
- **Policy Brief #18:** How Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Will Affect the Food Security Situation in Malawi: Implications for Malawian Policy Response by William Chadza, William J. Burke, Thom S. Jayne & Milu Muyanga

[Read More](#)



## Reports

We have also created a dedicated page for reports, longer versions of working papers. These reports will carry more topical issues compared to working papers or policy briefs. Currently, the reports page has released the following reports :

- Challenges and Opportunities for Small-Scale Aquaculture Development in Malawi by Maggie G. Munthali, Lemekezani Chilora, Zephania Nyirenda, Dinah Salonga, Ayala Wineman, and Milu Muyanga
- The African Continental Free Trade Area: Opportunities, Threats and Challenges for Agriculture in Malawi

[Read More](#)



## Research work in the pipeline:

Some research work coming up include:

- Climate action and social protection
- Impacts of delayed delivery on productivity
- Impediments to private sector investments in the agricultural sector

# POLICY ENGAGEMENTS & OUTREACH



The MwAPATA Institute's outreach program entails informing public and private sector stakeholders about promising policy and investment opportunities to promote rural incomes, food security and agricultural diversification in Malawi. The relevant empirical information provided by the Institute forms the basis for meaningful discussions and interactions among researchers, policy makers, and other stakeholders. Consequently, such discussions will be based on reliable evidence-based policy recommendations, which will inform and guide investment opportunities and lead to economic growth. Our work is shared to the public and private sector stakeholders through several platforms, such as conferences, seminars, workshops, breakfast forums for policy makers, media briefings and more.



## AIP Roundtable Discussion 24.02.2022

Malawi has been implementing a large agricultural inputs subsidy program since the 2004/5 season to improve smallholder farmers' access to seed and synthetic fertilizers, primarily for maize production. By examining how the AIP can be reformed, without disrupting the food security status of Malawian households, to improving its contribution to the nationals' economy, as well as to accelerate wealth creation, MwAPATA organized a roundtable discussion to explore options for Redesigning the AIP for diversified agricultural growth

[Read More](#)



## Impacts of Cyclone Ana Media Briefing 29.03.2022

MwAPATA analyzed the impacts of Cyclone Ana on Agriculture and livelihoods in Malawi and agricultural systems. Among others, MwAPATA recommends winter cropping for the affected communities and relocation in the long term.

Members of the media were briefed at a press briefing where a press statement was read by the Executive Director of MwAPATA Mr. William Chadza. Full statement and report are available [here](#)

[Read More](#)