



**CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE MALAWI FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES (MaFAAS)
1ST FARMERS CONFERENCE 18TH TO 19TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT BUNDA CAMPUS OF LILONGWE
UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (LUANAR), LILONGWE MALAWI**

THEME: HEAR FARMERS' VOICES FOR AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

1.0 What is MaFAAS?

The Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (MaFAAS) is an umbrella organization of agricultural extension and advisory service (AEAS) providers, actors and stakeholders in Malawi. MaFAAS is a member of the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS). The vision of MaFAAS is “*agricultural advisory services that efficiently and effectively contribute to sustained growth and transformation of agriculture*”. MaFAAS also takes on its mission as, “to create harmonization, standardization and add value to initiatives in agricultural advisory services through sharing of information and increase professional interaction”. For more details on MaFAAS objectives, membership and other relevant information visit our website www.mafaas.org.

2.0 Why MaFAAS Farmers Conference?

The MaFAAS Farmers Conference has been designed as an event aimed at enabling farmers and other stakeholders in agriculture from Malawi and beyond to share experiences and lessons, network, discuss critical issues and develop an action plan to address the issues.

The theme for 2018 Farmers Conference is “**Hear farmers’ voices for agricultural transformation**”. The aim is to reposition farmers and advisory service providers to take their rightful role in attainment of Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III agriculture goals.

2.1 Sub-Themes?

The sub-themes under the conference include;

1. Farmer engagement
 - a) Farmer participation in various agriculture value chains
 - b) Linking associations and cooperatives to markets
 - c) Farmer, extension, research linkage
 - d) Access to finance

- e) Access to extension
- f) Access to land
- g) Governance of farmer organizations
2. Pavilions and side events
 - a) Resilience and climate change mitigation
 - b) Innovation in extension service delivery
 - c) Private sector and agricultural transformation
 - d) Awards to outstanding contributors
3. New extension strategy and extension landscape
 - a) Extension policy
 - b) Extension financing
 - c) Working conditions – housing, transport, promotion, remuneration
 - d) Recruitment and training
 - e) Coordination, collaboration and accountability
 - f) Quality of extension messages
 - g) Harmonization of extension approaches
 - h) Harmonization of extension service providers/ harmonized programming
3. Post harvest management

2.2 Where Is It Taking Place?

The venue for 1st MaFAAS Farmers Conference is Bunda Campus of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Lilongwe, Malawi.

2.3 When Is It Happening?

The Farmers Conference will be conducted from 18th to 19th September 2018.

3.0 Who Should Participate?

Participants to the conference will be all those interested to participate, both local and international. These include government departments, civil society organizations (Non-Governmental Organizations, Farmer organizations), donor agencies, agricultural training institutions (universities and colleges), banks, the media, research

institutions, agro processors, input and produce traders, transporters, Agricultural Development Division representatives, District Agriculture Offices representatives; District Agriculture Extension Services System representatives, frontline agricultural extension and advisory service providers, consultants and individual practitioners in agricultural extension and advisory services.

4.0 Can I Present a Poster or Make an Exhibition?

Individuals and organizations/institutions are invited to posters on topics related to the central theme of the Farmers Conference or any of the above related sub-themes. Posters should be clear, in color and should be of sizes A1, A2, A3 & A4.

There will be space where individuals and organizations will showcase their current or future activities and products related to the central theme of the Farmers Conference or any of the above related sub-themes. Potential exhibitors should state the day(s) when they wish to make their exhibitions and describe their exhibition in a half page concept note with pictures if possible. The cost of exhibitions is **MK50,000 or \$70 per day.**



All the Posters and Exhibition Concepts Are Due Not Later Than 12 September 2018 and should be sent to the MaFAAS Secretariat, E-mail: mafaasextensionweek@afaas-africa.org, Cell: +265999638978 or +265884613748. Those who applied for the cancelled extension week should confirm if they will still make their contributions by **12 September 2018.**

5.0 What to Expect During the Conference?

The schedule of tasks is as follows:

| Day/Time | Task |
|-----------------------|---|
| Day One Session One | |
| Farmers Day | |
| 8:30 – 9:15 | Farmer procession in the city |
| 10:00 – 16:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening ceremony • Presentations • Panel discussions • Posters • Exhibitions |
| Day One Session Two | |
| 12:00 – 16:30 | Pavilions and Side events on Innovation, Private sector, Climate Change Resilience, stakeholder mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Training • Panel discussions • Exhibitions |
| Day One Session Three | |
| 17:00 – 19:00 | Networking dinner and Award presentation |
| Day Two Session Four | |
| 9:00 – 12:00 | Extension strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Panel discussions |
| 12:00 – 16:00 | Postharvest Management training |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Closing ceremony |

5.1 What will be the Outcomes

Farmers, stakeholders and policy makers will:

- be equipped with knowledge on challenges that farmers and extension workers face in agriculture in Malawi;
- have ownership of the new extension strategy and therefore be committed to it;
- be capacitated to respond to key issues in agriculture.

6.0 How Do I Provide Funds to Support the Event?

NBS Bank, Account Name: Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services, Branch: Lilongwe, Local Currency Account Number 17526383, Foreign Currency Account Number 17526391. Stakeholders are requested to fund any item of the budget which will be made available upon request.