

Appendix 4: Research Information Statement

To be translated to Chichewa or the relevant dialect (with advice from the local supervisor), or provided in English as requested and read out after the Invitation to Participate/Research Information Sheet

Research Title: *Assessing agricultural adaptation and performance under a changing climate in Malawi: Implications for the Green Belt Initiative (GBI) and Farm Input Subsidy program (FISP).*

Period of Research: January 2014 – March 2015

Researcher: Floney Patame Kawaye

Floney Kawaye is a student from the Australian National University (ANU) in Australia and she is also a member of staff at The University of Malawi–The Polytechnic

Research supervisors: Prof. Michael Hutchinson and Prof. Jamie Pittock – ANU, Dr Richard Stirzaker CSIRO and Dr Henrie Njoloma – Green Belt Initiative (GBI), Lilongwe, Malawi.

The research

The research intends to assess the agricultural adaptation and performance under a changing climate in Malawi with respect to Farm Input Subsidy Program (FISP) and the Green Belt Initiative (GBI) projects. Specifically, the researcher focuses on identifying the uncertainty, risks, benefits and costs of FISP and the GBI, as adaptation options to climate change, in terms of social, environmental and economic consequences. The researcher is conducting interviews to hear views regarding this subject. It is expected that the research will provide broader insights of sustainable adaptation to climate change in the water and agriculture sectors in Malawi. This knowledge is intended to be helpful to the farming communities, NGOs and government institutions such as those involved in policy formulation.

Funding for this study comes from the Australian Government through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

Invitation to participate in the research

The researcher would like to invite you to participate in the interviews. The interviews would take about one to one-and-a-half hours. The interview will be conducted in a semi-structured format in English or Chichewa.

Participation

Participation in the research is voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the interview should you feel uncomfortable to continue. You do not have to explain to me as to why you have decided to withdraw. Withdrawal will not have any negative consequences to the participants, researcher and any institution connected to the research. Should you decide to withdraw, the information that you should have already given me will not be used in the research and it will be destroyed immediately. Be informed that you will not receive any incentives either as an individual or a community because of participating in this research. You will get a copy of the summary report of the study findings. I will write notes of our interview in the book. Should you accept, I would like to audio-record the interviews.

Data protection

Interview audio-records and notes (notebooks) will always be kept in a locked system and and/or password protected in a computer while travelling, and in a locked filing cabinet and/or password protected in computer upon return to ANU for data analysis and write up. After analysis, the research interview material will be stored at the Australian National University for five years after any publication arising from the research, after which it shall be destroyed.

Use of data

Data from the interviews will be analysed to produce a thesis. Analyses of the data may also be published in journal papers and/or books. Selected anonymous quotes may also be used in the thesis and in publications.

Confidentiality

I am aware that confidentiality is paramount. As such, your name will not appear in any research material such as in the thesis and further publications. The interview data will be presented in broader terms such as regions and sites (e.g. Central region, Chikwawa) or according to discipline such as agriculture (farming).

Ethics approval

The ethical aspects of this research have been approved by the Australian National University Human Research Ethics Committee.