



Malawi Business, Investment, Trade and Tourism (BITT) Forum

Thursday 18th June 2015 | Edinburgh | 09:30-12:30

Item	Discussion / Progress / Agreement	Outcomes / Actions
<p>Update on progress since the last forum meeting</p>	<p>Keith Bohannon (SMP) presented on progress since the last meeting (in April), see presentation for details.</p> <p><u>Key points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-operatives meeting (29th of May)... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ see minutes and material (previously circulated) for more details. - Investment & Business Support... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing the new website. ➤ Continuing to work with MITC. ➤ Opportunities from Malawi (JCRLF, afriCUBE), circulated with the agenda. ➤ Meeting with SG (15th of June) to report on our BITT work, well received. - Mzuzu coffee promotion... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Traidcraft sales of Mzuzu in Scotland increased by over 80% in the last year. ➤ Good coverage of the coffee story in the media, see BBC coverage. 	<p>Outcome(s): Forum members updated on progress of key items.</p> <p>Link established with SDI at the SG meeting.</p> <p>Profile of Mzuzu coffee raised in Scotland.</p> <p>Sales of Mzuzu coffee in Scotland increased.</p>
<p>Discussion with rice farmer from Malawi</p>	<p>Chaired by John Riches (JTS) with visiting farmer from Malawi, Howard Msukwa from Kaporo Smallholders Farmer Association (KASFA).</p> <p><u>Key points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malawi's climate offers starkly different conditions, floods in the south while at the same time droughts in the north. - Rice grown both as a cash crop and a food crop. - 40,000 rice farmers in Karonga, 9,000 members of KASFA. - Having a strong market really helps as it gives motivation and room for price bargaining. - Visits to schools (90kg challenge) very motivational for visiting farmers. - Use of simple technologies (e.g. oxcarts, threshers, rotivators) can have a big impact on production yields. 	<p>Outcome(s): Forum members get a chance to speak directly with a rice farmer from Malawi to increase understanding of the challenges faced on the ground.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role for KASFA to help famers access this technology, e.g. via loan schemes, also provides knock on economic opportunities (e.g. need for welders). <p><u>Discussion (Q&A):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q. Norman Chipakupaku asked what the typical yields were? - A. 1.5 metric tonnes per acre. - Q. Megan Canning asked what KASFA/NASFAM's position on gender empowerment was? - A. The leadership group of NASFAM farmers (250) is 130 women, 120 men. - Q. David Hope-Jones asked how Karonga was in terms of food security? - A. In Karonga they grow maize, cassava and rice as food crops, so most people are okay. In other areas of the country they are very reliant on one crop so more at risk. 	
<p>Wage Labour and Livelihood Strategies in Malawi's Plantation Economy</p>	<p>PhD student, Megan Canning (Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh), shared an overview of her ethnographic research in Malawi on Wage Labour and Livelihood Strategies see presentation for details.</p> <p><u>Key points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plantation agriculture framed as a model for development in Malawi. - Illustrated by case studies of three sugar workers. - Three main learning points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Individual accumulation occurs outside the plantation economy; 2) Plantation wage-labour may be a safety net for Malawi's poor, but the plantation system produces those poor, as well; 3) The economics of the plantation system is predicated on an invisible, but critical contribution, not accounted for in economic calculations: food production. And this is the labour of Malawian women. 	<p>Outcome(s): Forum members aware of different livelihood strategies employed in Malawi through illustrative case studies.</p> <p>Action(s): Megan and Keith to put together a 1-2 page paper on policy recommendations (early 2016).</p>

	<p><u>Discussion (overview):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malawi will continue with an agricultural-led development strategy so it is very important that this strategy respects worker's rights (e.g. ILO). - Land rights, ownership and power are big issues here and could be impacted by the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition agenda. - Government of Malawi policy in this area is weak and needs strengthening. 	
<p>Review of a private sector engagement model</p>	<p>Edward Woollacott (University of Edinburgh & SMP) presented initial findings from his Masters research on private sector engagement, see presentation for more details.</p> <p><u>Key points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with the private sector is important but also difficult - different values, strategies and ways of working together. - SMP uniquely placed to try to bridge this gap, i.e. and NGO but with a partnership approach, members from both ID and private sectors. - Model of Engagement (MoE) developed based on learning from a number of case studies. - MoE based on a partnership approach with the following elements... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Motivations ➤ Strengths ➤ Actions and Co-operation ➤ Value added <p><u>Discussion (overview):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norman Chipakupaku commented that while there are advantages to working with private sector is should not be seen as the answer to everything. - Norman also suggested that engaging with the Chamber of Commerce might be useful? 	<p>Outcome(s): Forum members briefed on initial findings on models for private sector engagement.</p> <p>Action(s): Keith / Eddy to send on final report to members once completed (start of Sep).</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Jen Marshall, Head of DFID Malawi to visit Edinburgh and meet with SMP members on 28th of July.</p> <p>Next BITT Forum planned for Oct/Nov, date tbc.</p>	<p>Action(s): Members interested to attend the meeting with DFID to register interest with Keith.</p>