

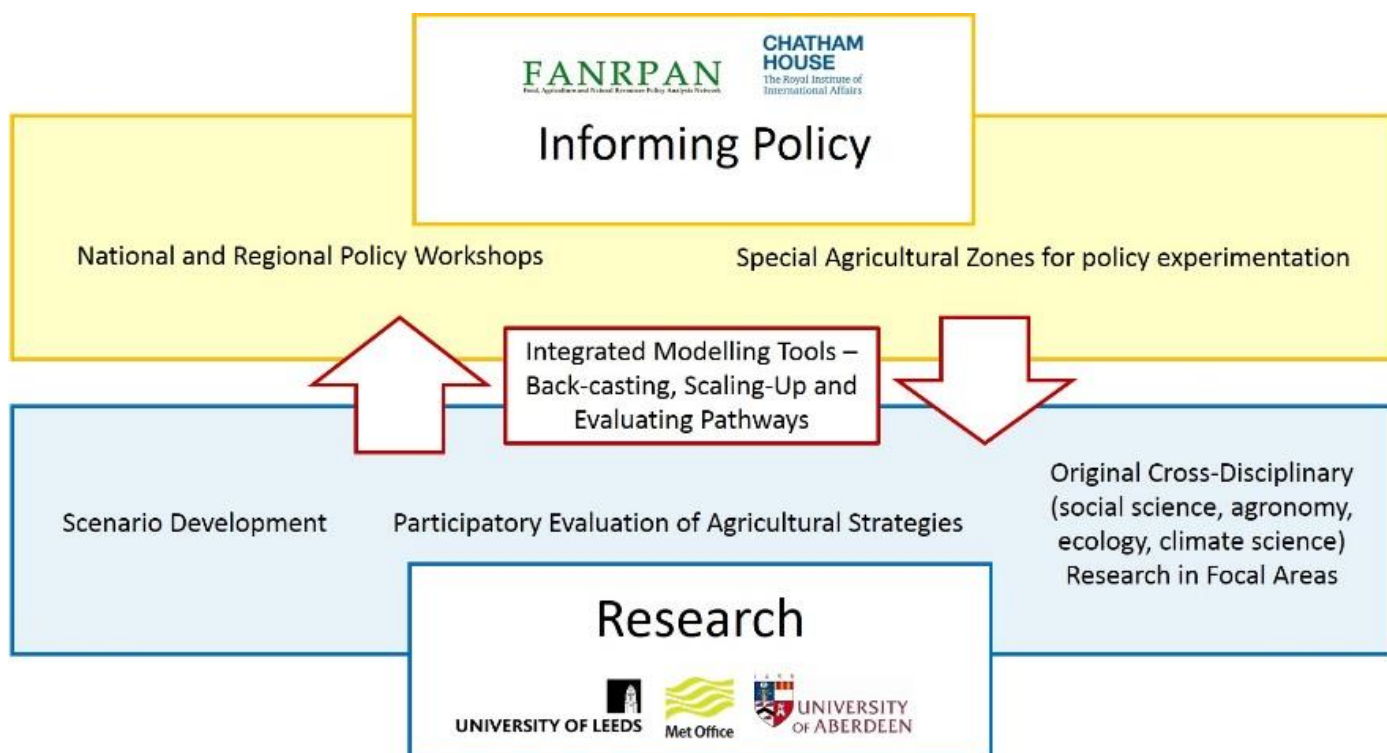
Agricultural and Food-System Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy

Programme Overview

GCRF-AFRICAP is a new programme of work funded by the UK Government’s Global Challenges Research Fund. It aims to establish and strengthen partnerships between UK and African research and policy institutions and to develop capacity in the field of climate smart agriculture. It is driven by a goal to **build capacity for, co-develop and demonstrate, nationally owned SDG-compliant agri-food development pathways** that can be productive, sustainable and climate-smart.

The programme’s aim is to identify and implement evidence-based policy pathways to facilitate the **development of sustainable, productive, climate-smart agricultural systems to meet food security and economic development needs.**

The University of Leeds, along with UK Met Office and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) have been awarded £7.9m to develop a programme of research and training activities in eastern and southern Africa. Study countries include **Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa**. Project activities cross relevant disciplines inclusive of agronomic, climate, social and ecological sciences, with a particular emphasis placed on building capacities for research to directly inform policy and agricultural development planning.



Work will be co-ordinated by FANRPAN country nodes (CISA-Net in Malawi), together with a range of delivery partners, working to collect new research data, to design and implement policy and downscale climate models. We will work with key stakeholders to design climate-smart scenarios and agree development pathways to guide national policy and its implementation.

AFRICAP in Malawi

AFRICAP work in Malawi will be co-ordinated by the **Civil Society Agriculture Network** (CISA-Net, via Pamela Kuwali and Alfred Kambwiri), and will involve support for ongoing field trial studies at Chitedze Agricultural Research Station through the **Department of Agricultural Research Services** (DARS, via Wilkson Makumba and Ivy Ligowe).

We will also build on existing partnerships between the **University of Leeds** and Department for Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In particular, it is envisaged that opportunities will include:

- Running and providing bursaries for African and UK scholars to attend bespoke research training courses;
- Jointly developing and running applied research projects; and,
- Developing and disseminating research outputs through joint research-policy forums.

In Malawi this work builds on ongoing partnerships between the University of Leeds, UK Met Office, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi Meteorological Services, and the Department for Agricultural Research Services (DARS) investigating both Conservation Agriculture (CA) and the resilience of agri-food systems to climate shocks such as drought or floods. Our joint work to date, includes:

- Agricultural Climate Resilience to El-Niño in sub-Saharan Africa (ACRES) – Leeds, LUANAR; working in Balaka, Machinga and Thyolo Districts.
- Agglomeration payments for catchment conservation and improved livelihoods in Malawi – Leeds, LUANAR & NASFAM working in Balaka, Machinga and Zomba Districts.
- Resilience to Drought, Pests and Disease in the Chitedze long-term Conservation Agriculture experiment (as per images below) – Leeds, DARS continuing trial work of CIMMYT.
- Uncertainty Reduction in Models for Understanding Development Applications (UMFULA) – Leeds, UK Met Office, LUANAR, Malawi Meteorological Services.
- DFID-NERC funded project on designing incentive schemes for promoting conservation agriculture, managed by IFPRI, DLRC, NASFAM, and LUANAR, with involvement from Leeds. Working in Balaka, Machinga, and Zomba.

Further information on these existing projects can be found at –

<http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/research/sri/consagric/>
<http://www.futureclimateafrica.org/project/umfula/>



Conservation Agriculture Field Trial Site at Chitedze & Fall Armyworm pest damage to maize crop.

We will maintain the Conservation Agriculture trial site jointly run by Leeds and DARS at the Chitedze Research Station, expanding current data collection to include soils (carbon storage, water holding capacity etc.) and ecological (on crop pests and ecosystem services) research work and to showcase this work through training at on-farm sites. We will run policy engagement activities to co-design and communicate this research work, with the aim of translating it into effective policy pathways for prioritisation of Agricultural Research and Land Conservation activities of both Government and NGOs.

There is scope (& some funding available) to collaboratively design and undertake on-farm monitoring programmes for research capable of integrating agricultural, social, nutritional, climatic and ecological understandings of Malawian food systems with a view to better underpinning sustainable land management and economic growth.

AFRICAP social and ecological studies across a range of study Districts across Malawi will seek to provide evidence on the resilience of agri-food systems, with a view to informing debates on the following policies and their implementation:

- **National Resilience Strategy** - Office of Vice President;
- **Malawi Growth & Development Strategy III** – Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Development;
- **National Agricultural Policy and National Agricultural Investment Plan** – Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Water Development;
- **Food and Nutrition Bill** – Ministry of Health;
- **National Climate Change Policy and draft Meteorological Policy** - Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining.
- **National Irrigation Plans & Shire Valley Basin Management Plan** - Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Water Development.
- **National Social Protection Policy** - Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Development.

We will seek to work across Civil Society, NGO and policy advocacy bodies to ensure the transfer of research findings into action plans to inform the development and implementation of a wide range of national policies and donor programmes.

Specific plans for research study areas and projects, using a “Special Agricultural Zones” approach, will be developed through a series of stakeholder consultations between March and October 2018.

For further information on the GCRF-AFRICAP project, including scope for inclusion in national planning events, please contact:

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