

Agriculture

in Malawi



LAND USE

57,900 km²
FOR AGRICULTURE



94,080km²
TOTAL
LAND
AREA

17.6
MILLION
PEOPLE

NOW

POPULATION



34.8
MILLION
PEOPLE IN

2050

GDP

Agriculture
accounts for
more than:

40% GDP

85% EXPORT
EARNINGS

MONOCULTURE STATE

MAIZE



PRIMARY
CROP



76% AGRICULTURAL PLOTS
CULTIVATE MAIZE

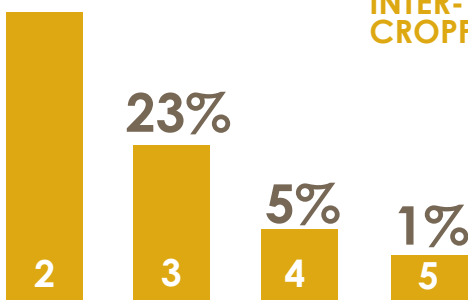
34% OF AGRICULTURE LAND
IN MAIZE CULTIVATION



DAILY
CALORIC
INTAKE IS
55%
MAIZE

MAIZE + ?

FARMERS PLANT



CROPS INTERPLANTED WITH MAIZE

53% PRACTICE
INTER-
CROPPING



21%
CULTIVATE
TREES

AVERAGE AGRICULTURAL LANDHOLDING

1.2
HECTARES

= 1994

0.6
HECTARES

= 2017

As population increases, ↑
landholding size will
continue to decrease ↓

WHICH CROPS?

BEANS 6.2%

SOYA 2%

GROUNDNUTS 7%



CASSAVA 4.2%



1990-2012

34% increase in cultivated
land most likely due to

FOREST CLEARING 

Agriculture in Malawi

82% of population are subsistence farmers

61% of population is food insecure

PRODUCTIVE SOIL LOSS IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM
29 tonnes/hectare/yr of productive soil lost

IMPACT ON SOIL

Soils are **RENEWABLE** yet little done to protect & enhance, IMPACTING **Farm Income**

Crop Harvest **Moisture Content**

\$395 Million US estimated spent to address food insecurity in 2016

SOIL LOSS

IMPACTS MWK GDP

10% ↑ **SOIL LOSS**
 0.3% ↓ **GDP**

Between 2016-2017 **99%** households experienced at least 1 SHOCK

Climate and Weather related shocks

Irregular rainfall 57.8%

Drought 45.6%

Floods 4.3%

WE NEED TO MAKE OUR LAND MORE RESILIENT

INTEGRATING RESILIENCE

AG DIVERSIFICATION

Nutritious Diet
 Varied Soil Nutrients
 Drought Tolerant Crops
 Income Diversity

SOIL & WATER MANAGEMENT

Swales On Contour
 Border Plants (Vetiver, Giant Bamboo)
 River Buffer Zones
 Check Dams

SOIL CONSERVATION

Composting
 Farm Buffer Zones
 Nitrogen Fixing Crops

TREE ON FARMS

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration
 Agroforestry/Nitrogen Fixing
 Fruit Trees

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CONTACT

Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
 P.O. Box 30134, Lilongwe 3

