

Resilient and Nutrition Friendly Agriculture

Under this theme, CISANET is promoting climate smart agriculture related policies and their Implementation; and promoting nutrition friendly agriculture related policies and their implementation.

See the graphic presentation below:



Hon Lobin Lowe (centre), Minister of Agriculture interaction with Ms Erica Maganga (left), Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Ms Pamela Kuwali (right), CISANET National Director during the 2020 CISANET Open Day in Lilongwe. Photo: Mike Kambalame

The Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) is a grouping of civil society organizations established in 2001 to facilitate the engagement of CSOs working in the agriculture with Government over policy issues affecting the agriculture sector. CISANET's membership comprises local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), farmer organizations and interested individuals.

CISANET Membership



The National Director | Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET)
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Our Mandate: To provide leadership in policy advocacy among non-state actors in agriculture sector.



To be a leading Network that effectively coordinates and fosters collaboration among non-state actors towards Malawi's agricultural transformation.

Promote agricultural development and sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor by influencing desired change in policies, practices and attitudes of Government, donors, civil society and other stakeholders through effective and results focused advocacy, research and Networking.



MISSION

VALUES



- ***Inclusiveness***
- ***Transparency***
- ***Accountability***
- ***Integrity***
- ***Independence***
- ***Sustainability***
- ***Pro-poor***

"Together for vibrant agriculture"

Why Cisanet was formed

CISANET was formed to respond to a need that became apparent after the onset of the multiparty democracy and also the development of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper in 2000. These recognized the civil society as a partner of Government to support successful implementation of its programs by providing necessary independent checks and balances and also supporting Government in the agriculture sector.



CISANET members discussing agriculture policy during members quarterly meeting Photo: Tendai Saidi

Our core mandate

The core mandate of CISANET is to provide leadership in policy advocacy among non-state actors in agriculture sector. We provide space for non-state actors (NSAs) working or interested in the agriculture sector to constructively engage Government to policy influence that positively impact agricultural production and productivity, marketing as well as food and nutrition security.

What we aim to do

CISANET aims to ensure that non-state actors in the agriculture sector have a voice and can contribute towards agriculture policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the network provides alternative views as well as checks and balances to Government for increased mutual transparency and accountability in the agriculture sector. From the onset, CISANET has been instrumental in the creation of space for non-state actors in policy processes both at local and national level.

Our strategic focus

The new Strategic Plan is transforming CISANET towards an evidence based, results focused, accountable, and impactful Network that is fit for purpose. The key strategic focus for CISANET will be to enhance the collaboration of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) towards their contribution to the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP).

Members of the Malawi Police Service and the Judiciary being oriented on how they can identify certified seed from counterfeits Photo: Thoko Guta



Smallholder farmers buying seed during a seed fair in Lilongwe

How we operate

CISANET operates both at the national and local levels and contributes to Southern Africa policy advocacy as the Malawi node host for Food and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANPARN) and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Coalition for Non-State Actors (CNC). At the national level, CISANET operates through thematic groups, while at the local level, CISANET operates through district Networks. While our advocacy work is done at national level, below are our impact districts across the country:

- *It has actively participated in formulation of agriculture related policies in the country.*
- *Was instrumental in lobbying for the increase of budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector and...*
- *Is currently focusing on playing an active role in reinforcing mutual accountability in the agriculture sector.*

Our value addition

To effectively coordinate the Network, the secretariat focuses on five key strategic priorities:

1

POLICY RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Developing research & supporting civil society to develop robust and credible research to inform policy and decision making at relevant levels in Agriculture sector.

Publishing credible evidence & robust policy-oriented research.

2

MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Strengthen policy dialogue and engagement with key policy & decision makers and informal power holders in the agriculture sector.

Brokering powerful alliances, civil society coalitions and supporting social movements to influence practical policies and practices in agriculture sector Networking.

3

CAPACITY BUILDING & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRANSPARENCY IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Strengthening CSOs capacity at national and local levels in policy research and advocacy in the agriculture sector.

Influencing dialogue and stakeholder engagement at local and national level.

Strengthening women's & young people's participation and leadership in agriculture sector

4

MONITORING, EVALUATION, LEARNING & SHARING DEVELOPMENT TRANSPARENCY IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Empowering network members through social accountability tools; Working with CSOs to implement and strengthen social accountability mechanisms.

5

COMMUNICATION, NETWORKING & MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Campaigning and advocacy for change at scale with local to national scope.

Raising public awareness and campaigning for change in policies and practices within the agriculture sector.

CISANET will have three thematic areas and these will guide grouping of the members into thematic groups and associated advocacy activities. The thematic areas are:

Access to profitable Markets

This will have two strategic goals; Creating a vibrant agricultural market that promotes value addition for agricultural produce in Malawi and promoting improvements in the quality and grading standards for all agricultural commodities.



A woman farm producer seller at Liwonde Market Photo: Daud Kayisi

Livestock, Aquaculture and Dairy Development

This theme will focus on creating a vibrant livestock sector with clear synergies among sub sector and other value chain players.