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FEED THE FUTURE

INTEGRATING NUTRITION IN VALUE CHAINS PROJECT, MALAWI
COVERING PERIOD: 1ST OCTOBER – 31ST DECEMBER 2014

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AUTHORITY/DISCLAIMER

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FIRST QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT FY2015

COVERING PERIOD: OCTOBER 1ST – DECEMBER 31ST **2014**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa
ADC	Area Development Committee
ADMARC	Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
AEDC	Agriculture Extension Development Coordinator
AEDO	Agriculture Extension Development Officer
AFO	Association Field Officer
AGRA	Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa
AHCX	Auction Holdings Commodity Exchange
AI	Artificial Insemination
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMC	Association Management Center
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BDS	Business Development Services
BSP	Business Service Provider
BVO	Bid Volume Only
CADECOM	Catholic Development Commission of Malawi
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCAP	Church of Central Africa – Presbyterian
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy (USAID)
CISANET	Civil Society Agriculture Network
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer’s Representative
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DARS	Department of Agriculture Research Services
DfID	Department for International Development (UK)
DID	Differences-in-differences
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
EPA	Extension Planning Area
ESCOM	Electricity Supply Company of Malawi
FBO	Farmer Based Organization
FISP	Fertilizer Input Subsidy Program
FMB	First Bank of Malawi
FtF (FtF)	Feed the Future
FTFMS	Feed the Future Monitoring System
FUM	Farmers Union of Malawi
FY	Fiscal Year
GAC	Group Action Committee
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GMP	Monthly Growth Monitoring
GoM	Government of Malawi
GP	Groundnut platform
GVH	Group Village Head
Ha	Hectare
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
INVC	Integrating Nutrition in Value Chains
IFRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IIF	Investing in Innovation Fund

IP	Implementing Partner
IPC	Innovation and Productivity Centre
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IR	Intermediate Results
ISF	Implementation Support Fund
IT	Information Technology
IYCF	Infant and Young Children Feeding
LUANAR	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
LPO	Local Purchase Order
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAC	Marketing Action Center
MAPAC	Malawi Program on Aflatoxin Control
MBC	Malawi Broadcasting Company
MBG	Milk Bulking Group
MDI	Malawi Dairy Industries
MIM	Malawi Institute of Management
MIP	Market Information Point
MKW	Malawi Kwacha (symbol for)
MMPA	Malawi Milk Producers Association
MoA&FS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSU	Michigan State University
mt	Metric ton
MZ	Malawi Zebu (cows)
NASFAM	National Association of Smallholder Farmers of Malawi
NFRA	National Food Reserve Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OBM	Opportunity Bank of Malawi (Also referred to as OIBM)
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
OPC	Office of President and Cabinet
OVO	Offer Volume Only
PCI	Project concern International
PSA	Public Service Announcement
QR	Quick Response
RLEEP	Rural Livelihoods Enhancement program
SCU	University of South Carolina
SOYAMA	Soy Bean Association of Malawi
SSDI	Support for Service Delivery Integration
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
Sub-IR	Sub Intermediate Results
TA [T/A]	Traditional Authority
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNC	University of North Carolina
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VAC	Village Aggregation Center
VC	Value Chain
VCC	Value Chain Competitiveness
WRS	Warehouse Receipt System
ZBS	Zodiac Broadcasting Station
ZOI	Zone of Influence

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first quarter of FY15 was transitional for FtF-INVC. In October DAI was informed of the USAID Mission's intention to extend INVC to 31 October 2016, but with a required management change and re-focusing activity to be undertaken. An initial proposal submission for the extension was found to be non-responsive and a second revised proposal, submitted late November, resulted in a contract modification being signed on 5 January 2015. FtF-INVC's initial COP Bagie Scherand demobilized at the end of December and incoming COP Ben Lentz received Mission concurrence in December and began mobilization in early January 2015. The period of performance for all active grants with implementing partners were extended until 28 February 2015. The workplan submitted late last fiscal year received Mission comments in October 2014, but a revision was withheld pending clarification on the program extension. The new extension raises the importance of gender and local institutional capacity building as well as collaboration and coordination with other USG implementing partners and bi/multi-lateral donor funded initiatives within the project's ZOI. Further, emphasis has been placed on integration of all project components within the value chain approach and on the empowerment of Malawians to contribute to the sustainable development of their Malawi. While the extension of FtF-INVC speaks highly of the results obtained during the first two and a half project years, the extended transition period was unsettling for partners and staff.

During this reporting period however, the project continued to make significant progress in expanding the reach and coverage of collective marketing in the designated value chains. The annual targets for deposits under the Warehouse Receipt System were exceeded and small-scale farmers are recognizing the benefits of this method of storing and marketing their crops. Total deposits to the ACE WRS network increased by 4,534mt bringing the marketing season total to 19,200mt, 128% of the annual target of 15,000mt. The value of WRS for soybeans was demonstrated by a full-marketing season's deposit of 7,794mt - 156% of the annual target of 5,000.

The message from FtF-INVC continues to be that crops are most effectively stored and marketed from large-scale central warehouses, but this quarter also saw a significant increase in the storage capacity available in smaller INVC-supported warehouses that are located closer to the farmers themselves. 742mt were deposited in INVC-supported rural warehouse sites to bring the season's total to 2,967mt - 119% of the annual target. New certified storage space 7,000mt was added in Q1, which brought the total newly certified space for the marketing year to 188,541mt, 189% of the annual target.

Availability of suitable financing mechanisms for small scale farmers continues to be a challenge, but this quarter the project was able to facilitate initiatives in the area of mobile money and increased bank financing facilities. Total financing facilitated by the warehouse receipt system by the end of this quarter was over \$6m, in fact 204% of the annual marketing target of \$3 million.

This reporting period, Phase I crop management training was successfully rolled out well in advance of the start of the cropping season, allowing lead farmers to cascade the training messages down to the farmer level. Close to 67,000 farmers (including over 10,000 lead farmers and assistant lead farmers) were trained in planting and gap filling; doubled up legume technology; weed management; soil fertility management; and integrated pest management. The goal was to increase plant populations by planting double rows of legumes on ridges 75 cm apart: improved crop management like this will lead to significantly higher production levels of groundnut and soybean.

Another key achievement was the procurement, distribution and application by NASFAM of 2,020kg of soybean inoculum (containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria) from a reputable international company in South Africa through a Malawi-based agricultural crop protection firm. The inoculum was distributed to 38,998 NASFAM farmers who planted soybean with certified or recycled seed. An estimated total 468mt of seed was treated before planting. Application of inoculum is expected to provide a strong boost to soybean production this season. The seed used for the inoculum application included 100mt of certified *Serenade* seed procured by NASFAM from a Malawian seed company that was

successfully distributed to NASFAM soybean farmers in areas where the potential is greatest: Namwera (30mt), Lilongwe South (35mt) and Mchinji (35mt).

Substantial progress was made in the quarter by the Nutrition component to expand and deepen the impact of the project and efforts continued to ensure closer integration of nutrition and agriculture messaging at the community level. Health and nutrition interventions continued with over 80,000 previously registered households and registration of new beneficiary households showed further significant progress: over 10,600 this quarter. The dissemination of key messages, primarily through the care group model was reinforced with the recruitment of more than 4,800 care group volunteers – lead mothers *and* lead fathers. Community members were reached through formal training, drama performances and messages broadcasted via radio and TV. Of particular note was the introduction of a radio program developed with the support of FtF-INVC called Tidyenji (*translation: “what nutritious foods should we eat”*) aimed at educating care group members and the community at large on nutrition.

We further refined the capacity building action plans that had been developed from the OCA results and worked with partner organizations on the identified capacity gaps. The OCA results appeared to show generally good progress in achieving capacity improvements for the seven partners across the eight capacity dimensions, but evidence from other aspects of the project suggest that some data may need to be more rigorously reviewed. Consultations started with CISANET and Nkhoma Hospital regarding supporting the process of reviewing their Strategic Plans and the transformational change process of NASFAM continued. This quarter NASFAM identified “Guiding Coalition Sub-Task Teams” composed of volunteer staff. The role of these teams is to cascade the change process down to NASFAM members at grassroots (AMC) level. This transformation will require a long-term engagement and INVC anticipates continuing support for the process in the foreseeable future. Through Business Service Providers (BSPs), we continued to strengthen farmer associations & cooperatives under NASFAM, CADECOM and FUM with the aim of assisting them to become more business focused and able to plan for sustainability. Strengthening took place through facilitating the development of business plans, mentoring and coaching on the implementation of these plans as well as training farmer association executive committee members in good governance and business management skills.

Although some significant challenges and problems remain as a result of sub-optimal performance by IPs in terms of financial management, some improvement was registered.

The M&E team conducted DQAs with NASFAM and FUM and also conducted field monitoring to assess progress on seed preparation, germination and land preparation. Nutrition staff in the scale up districts and the new staff at Nkhoma including promoters were given training on data collection and reporting. The nutrition M&E team also provided data collection training to field staff to gather gendered data for Child Health Days

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

In this quarter’s report we introduce a new section that specifically highlight the work done in the cross-cutting themes (gender and VSL) and progress made by the project to integrate and collaborate our work with the work of other FtF/USAID programs, Government of Malawi departments and other NGOs.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS MADE THIS QUARTER

Table 1: Progress on Performance Indicators - This Quarter (FY15 Q1)

	Output Performance Indicator	Quarter Oct 1 –Dec FY14		Results to Date
		Target	Achieved	
1	Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions		25,700	267,313
	<i>Gendered Household Type</i>			
	<i>Adult female no adult male</i>		1,422	
	<i>Adult male no adult female</i>		1,072	
	<i>Male and female</i>		23,196	
	<i>Child no adults</i>		10	
	<i>New/Continuing</i>			
	<i>New</i>		4,274	
	<i>Continuing</i>		21,426	
	<i>Disaggregates not available</i>		-	
2	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training		-	176,931
	Sex			
	<i>Male</i>		-	
	<i>Female</i>		-	
	<i>Disaggregates not available</i>		-	
	Type of individual			
	<i>Producers (Farmers)</i>		-	
	<i>Government staff (Extension, EPA etc.)</i>		-	
	<i>Private Sector (Processors, service providers)</i>		-	
<i>Civil Society (NGO' CBO, FBO, research etc.)</i>		-		
	<i>Disaggregates not available</i>		-	
3	Number of private enterprises (for profit), producer organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community based Organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance.		4,064	10,759
	Organization Type			
	<i>Private enterprises for profit</i>		-	
	<i>Producer organizations</i>		4,064	
	<i>Women's groups</i>		-	
	<i>Trade and business Associations</i>		-	
	<i>CBOs</i>		-	
	Duration			

Output Performance Indicator		Quarter Oct 1 –Dec FY14		Results to Date
		Target	Achieved	
	<i>New</i>		1,531	
	<i>Continuing</i>		2,533	
	<i>Disaggregates not available</i>		-	
4	Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation		-	\$ 673,500
5	Value of agricultural and rural loans		-	\$ 6,593,897
	<i>Type of loan recipient</i>			
	<i>Producers</i>		-	
	<i>Local Traders/assemblers</i>		-	
	<i>Wholesalers/processors</i>		-	
	<i>Others</i>		-	
	<i>Disaggregates not available</i>		-	
	<i>Sex of recipient</i>			
	<i>Male</i>		-	
	<i>Female</i>		-	
	<i>Joint</i>		-	
	<i>Companies</i>		-	
	<i>Disaggregates not available</i>		-	
	<i>Size of Loan Recipient</i>			
	<i>Micro</i>		-	
	<i>Small</i>		-	
	<i>Medium</i>		-	
	<i>Other</i>		-	
6	Number of children under five reached by USG-supported assistance (through care group model)		10,923	113,123
	<i>Male</i>		5,307	
	<i>Female</i>		5,616	
	<i>Disaggregates not available</i>		-	
7	Number of children under five reached by USG-supported assistance (through Child Health Days)		455,193	455,193
	<i>Male</i>		215,272	
	<i>Female</i>		239,921	
	<i>Disaggregates not available</i>		-	
8	Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs		27,093	228,952
	<i>Male</i>		9,659	
	<i>Female</i>		17,434	
	<i>Disaggregates not available</i>		-	

Output Performance Indicator		Quarter Oct 1 –Dec FY14		Results to Date
		Target	Achieved	
9	Number of MSMEs, including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources		-	621
	<i>Size of Enterprise</i>			
	<i>Small</i>		-	
	<i>Medium</i>		-	
	<i>Large</i>		-	
	<i>Sex of Enterprise Owner</i>			
	<i>Male</i>		-	
	<i>Female</i>		-	
	<i>Joint</i>		-	
	<i>Type of Enterprise</i>			
	<i>Ag. Producer</i>		-	
	<i>Input trader</i>		-	
	<i>Trader</i>		-	
	<i>Output processors</i>		-	
	<i>Non- Ag.</i>		-	
	<i>Other</i>		-	
Comments and Deviations				
<i>Index / reference numbers correspond with the indicators above</i>				
1	Of the 151,654 reported by partners this quarter, only 25,700 (after overlap adjustments) could be verified and reported. The legacy number has been adjusted to account for overlap between Nkhoma and both NASFAM and FUM. INVC will examine this number more closely next quarter to determine if more adjustments are necessary to legacy data.			
2	Of the 81,131 reported for this quarter, none are counting toward this indicator until the numbers are also in electronic format and have been verified by the INVC M&E team.			
3	An internal DQA is scheduled for this indicator for all partners next quarter to verify legacy data.			
4	There were no numbers reported under this indicator this quarter. INVC intends to perform an internal DQA on the legacy numbers next quarter and will adjust this number accordingly.			
5	There were no numbers reported under this indicator this quarter. INVC intends to perform an internal DQA on the legacy numbers next quarter and will adjust this number accordingly.			
6	The number reported last quarter for Nkhoma has been reduced by 10,360 after verification in the project database. Of 72,102 reported this quarter only 10,923 can be verified. Therefore this is what is reported for this indicator this quarter, but it is scheduled for a DQA next quarter.			
7	CHDs occur twice yearly, and INVC only reports on the highest number at year end, of children reached of the two. In the same fashion, many of the same children are served from year to year (with the exception of children 0-12 mos). In an effort to simplify, we are reporting only the number of children served at the most recent CHDs, as it is the largest number of children we have reached to date. Note that the gendered data was extrapolated from a sample of 876 children in the scale up districts and the Mchinji gendered data was obtained from a sample of 1,300 children. Balaka data is not complete due to reporting challenges with the HSAs.			
8	Pakachere conducted a large number of trainings and reported large numbers this quarter. The Nkhoma training numbers could not be verified so are not reported and the Nutrition scale up districts had very few numbers to report this quarter.			
9	There were no numbers reported under this indicator this quarter. INVC intends to perform an internal DQA on the legacy numbers next quarter and will adjust this number accordingly.			
*	Targets will be filled in once the project finalizes its workplan and sets new targets which will occur next quarter.			

COMPONENT 1: ADVANCING VALUE CHAIN COMPETITIVENESS

INTRODUCTION

The first quarter of FY2015 (October-December) follows the end of the main crop marketing season in Malawi and starts the new production year. Component 1 activities focused on late-season marketing of legumes, e.g. pigeon peas, sugar beans; execution of forward purchase contracts; assessment of the season's marketing efforts and financing operations; and preparation for the 2015 marketing season.

Overview of Quarter 1

In this quarter additional progress was made in deepening the impact of structured trade on smallholder farmers through building total deposits in central and remote facilities and increasing the impact and uptake of the Warehouse Receipts System (WRS). The warehouse receipt interventions over the past two seasons, combined with collective marketing efforts on the part of implementing partners FUM, CADECOM, and NASFAM reported last quarter, have increased the demand for improved storage space that can be certified to permit the safe storage and collateralization of crops aggregated by farmer groups, rural traders, farmer organizations, processors, and import/export traders. A contributing factor to the growth in demand for certified storage space has been INVCs support to ACE, helping them expand and diversify bank commitments of debt funding for forward contract financing, bridging trade finance, and warehouse receipt financing. This financing has improved credit availability and cash flow management for import/export traders, processors, national farmer organizations, cooperatives, and rural traders. This result provides a firm base for ACE to obtain 2015 financing commitments from its banking partners for ACEs facilitation with a broader set of market actors, including rural trade agents, farmer cooperatives, and farmer groups.

TASK 1: INCREASE ACCESS TO MARKETS

SUB-TASK 1: CONDUCT UPGRADING STRATEGIES, COMPETITIVE / MARKET ANALYSES AND DEMAND ASSESSMENTS

Trade Facilitation

The Table below shows that this quarter ACE facilitated a total of 38 contracts for 2,057 mt and a dollar value of above \$1 million. This quarter represents a normal tailing off of primary producer and trader sales at this time in the marketing season. These trades included soybean, maize grain, groundnuts, cowpeas, pigeon peas, and rice.

Table 2: Contracts Facilitated Q1 2015

Type of Contract	Facilitator	Number of Contracts	Volume (mt)	Value (MWK)
Any	Rural Trade Agent	3	6.80	1,300,000
Normal Trade	Trade Office	31	747.13	97,601,835
Forward Contracts	Trade Officer	0	0	0
BVO	Trade Office	4	1,303.10	332,215,550
Total		38	2,057.30	431,127,385

Warehouse Receipts System

An increase was seen in warehouse receipt activity in both legumes and maize. This quarter there were 288 deposits, of which 138 were in INVC rural sites. Deposits were smaller, 4,534mt compared to last quarter's 11,910mt, as processors called on stored stocks to produce vegetable oil, soybean meal for poultry feed, and extruded vegetable protein as soy pieces.

INVC support to ACE and implementing partners resulted in 288 depositors into the warehouse receipt systems this last quarter of the marketing season against a quarter 4 target of 200, while the overall marketing year achievement of 472 warehouse depositors is 94% of the 500 depositor target. The increase in the number of depositors is a result of:

- ACE's decision to reduce the minimum size of a warehouse receipt for FtF-INVC activities,
- the increase in secured and certified warehouse space, the availability of a larger pool of structured trade financing this marketing season,
- the market pull generated by the introduction and uptake of the forward purchase contract that reduces market and price risk, and
- the efforts made with implementing partners to promote and train farmers and small traders in collective marketing.

As discussed in the last quarterly report, the stage therefore is set for further deepening of the WRS that will generate more local farmer organization participation in the aggregation and deposit of harvested crop in the 2015 marketing season scheduled to start in April 2015.

Table 3: Legume Volumes on Warehouse Receipt

Warehouse	Commodity	Volume (mt)
Rab Kanengo	Soya	600.00
Nathenje	Soya	0
Zomba (Mwandama Grain Bank)	Soya	0
SunSeed Oil	Soya	0
SSV Oil	Soya	0
S&P	Soya	436.86
Complex de Silo de Sichinga	Soya	1,500.00
	<i>All Soya</i>	2,536.80
Balaka	Pigeon Pea	24.98
Zomba (Mwandama Grain Bank)	Pigeon Pea	10.10
Mgodi Warehouse	Pigeon Pea	0
	<i>All Pigeon Pea</i>	35.08
	Grand Total Grain Legumes	2,571.88

Note: These figures are net of forward contract sales but include some receipt carryover from FY14Q4

Cereals market prices remained weak far into the first quarter of FY15. While processors called some stocks for use in feeds, many sites held their warehouse receipts waiting for prices to improve in the first part of the 2015 calendar year. The biggest new warehouse receipt was for rice stored at the Nkhotakhota Milling Company.

Table 4: Maize, Sorghum and Rice Volumes on Warehouse Receipt

Warehouse	Commodity	Volume (mt)
Rab Kanengo	Maize	690.20
Nathenje	Maize	339.50
Dedza	Maize	303.50
Balaka	Maize	314.75
Kafulu	Maize	694.90
Zomba (Mwandamba Grain Bank)	Maize	237.15
Zomba (Mwandamba Grain Bank)	Sorghum	3.85
CPFeeds/CAPS Limited	Maize	0
Grain Securities (Farmers World)	Maize	1030.31
Export Warehouse (Mchinji)	Maize	638.00
National Food Reserve Agency	Maize	298.98
Nkhotakhota Milling Company	Rice	528.00
All Cereals		5,079.14

Sensitization and training on structured trade and marketing arrangements

During the quarter, sensitization, awareness building and training on structured trade, marketing arrangements were carried out by ACE rural trade agents and warehouse staff, head office staff, the trade facilitation office, and through Market Information Points. A total of 7,561 farmers and key stakeholders (4,400 male and 3,161 female) were reached during this quarter.

Collateral Financing and Bridge Finance

No new partnering agreements were needed during the quarter and so the table below reflects the same financing lines in place at the end of FY14. Because most storage space was full, a small additional amount of warehouse receipt financing (appx. \$70,000) was used, bringing the marketing season utilization rate of WRS storage facilities to 93.2% compared to 80% utilization in the last quarter. Additional recycling of bridging financing and commissions on the forward purchase transactions enabled the use of an additional \$55,690 and \$7,206 respectively, resulting in utilization rates well over 100% over the calendar year.

Table 5: Bank Financing Facilities

Amount in MWK	Amount in USD	Purpose
150,000,000	412,600	Bridging Finance
300,000,000	528,513	Warehouse Receipt Financing
1,900,000,000	4,907,461	Forward Contracts
2,350,000,000	5,902,574	Total

Developing a systematic bridge financing model

INVC provided STTA in June 2014 to design and test mobile money payments to warehouse receipt holders, and individuals fulfilling sales contracts through other structured trades using test accounts. These tests were successful using TNM and Airtel mobile money agent systems and the FMB and its Makwacha card. ACE and INVC worked with FHI 360s Mobile Money Accelerator Program to link to FtF-INVCs implementing partners CADECOM, FUM, and NASFAM to farmer financial literacy training and to develop working relations with mobile money payment providers.

ACE signed two memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with TNM and Airtel that will pilot the integration of mobile money payment into the warehouse receipt system using the INVC STTA designed and tested system. TNM and Airtel will manage the money transfers and build out the agent network to extend transfer and payment services to 9,500 farmers (7,476 from INVC) currently in the ACE database. These payment services, combined with the existing FMB Makwacha card system, will reduce transaction costs and improve farmer confidence and payment security from partial or full liquidation of warehouse receipts or other purchase contracts. Getting higher direct farmer participation in aggregation and depositing of crop production, especially soybeans, that are the first crop available for cash sale each marketing year, requires an additional bridging financial tool to incite farmers to participate in aggregating crop harvests to the 6 mt minimum lot size for a warehouse receipt or to the 20 mt lot size needed to negotiate grouped spot sales or participate in an Offer Volume Only (OVO) auction. The additional bridge financing is needed to provide enough cash to farmers to reduce their propensity to immediately sell their harvested or even their standing crop to local vendors to fill urgent cash needs. Availability of bridge financing in a timely fashion will enable farmers to jointly aggregate crops to qualify for a warehouse receipt where 70% financing is available. CADECOM used this approach to provide cash through a microfinance loan to INVC farmers who engaged in collective marketing in the last quarter.

INVC identified the need for a more systematic design of a bridge financing product to be put in place for the 2015 marketing season. In the last quarter, an INVC STTA assessed options to structure short-term bridge financing that would maintain farmer ownership of the crop while transferring custody of the crop to a common, secure storage site, paying the farmer some cash until she and her group members could aggregate enough to qualify for a warehouse receipt or conclude another

structured trade over a period not to exceed two weeks. The consultant developed a proposal for submission to Opportunity Bank (formerly OIBM), but OIBM has not sought to further develop the product. In September, the interim VCC Specialist discussed the proposal with ACE and received an agreement, in principle, that some portion of the bridging trade finance that ACE has secured could be diverted to support collective marketing efforts linked to structured trades (e.g. WRS, forward contracts, OVO lots) for the 2015 marketing season. Cash payments to farmers for the very short bridge loans could be made using the mobile money pilot systems, but these require additional design and testing to determine transaction costs, physical costs, volume, profitability and risks of the bridge loans. The bridging finance product design, testing, and launch needs to be a high priority effort in Quarter 2 of FY2015.

SUB-TASK 2: SUPPORT INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS IN MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

Offer Volume Only Auction

No OVO's were conducted this quarter because all marketable soybean stocks from primary producers cleared the market last quarter.

Bid Volume Only Auctions

The World Food Program tendered four Bid Volume Only (BOV's) sessions in this quarter. They were conducted at the ACE trading platform at headquarters and simultaneously at Market Information Points at certified storage locations in rural areas. Grain legumes made up the bulk of these BVOs, accounting for 92% of the traded volume.

Dairy Value Chain

Quarter 4 of FY2014 marked the end of INVCs grant to MMPA. INVC performed an outcome survey which was analyzed and reported in the Annual Progress Report submitted to USAID earlier this quarter.

SUB-TASK 3: STRENGTHEN PRODUCER, PROCESSOR AND VALUE CHAIN BASED TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

Most institutional strengthening activities are reported under the Capacity Building Component, with the exception of technical policy initiatives.

Strengthening the National Trade Associations

During this quarter INVC continued its technical collaboration with CISANET on a range of policy initiatives. These included our final inputs on the revision to the Dairy Act and substantial input and coordination with stakeholders on the draft Seed Act.

SUB-TASK 4: ENHANCE CAPACITY TO COMPLY WITH STANDARDS, QUALITY CONTROL AND FOOD SAFETY PROCEDURES

The implementing partner Technical Working Group (TWG) reviewed a range of jingles and Public Service Announcements (PSA) on a series of production and postharvest management topics. Revised jingles and PSAs on aflatoxin risk management and exposure reduction were prepared and aired in the first quarter of FY2015, as groundnuts began their extended marketing period.

FtF-INVC continued its collaboration with MAPAC this quarter. The project participated in meetings on the agenda agreed to in Q4FY14. The scoping and scheduling for MAPAC Activity 3: Conducting a cost/benefit analysis of post-harvest interventions and validating best bet technology for drying, shelling, and storage for improved aflatoxin control in groundnuts and maize will be done during Q2FY15.

SUB-TASK 5: DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS AND STRENGTHEN INDUSTRY / BUSINESS LINKAGES

This quarter focused on continuing efforts to secure, through leasing, or stimulating the investment in additional rural storage space that could qualify for warehouse receipting. To this end FUM continued to pursue an investment strategy to build new warehouse space for selected cooperatives. CADECOM has completed the construction of a new warehouse facility to extend its storage range and concluded agreements with ADMARC for some leased space. NASFAM, however, is still faced with challenges in accessing appropriate storage space.

During this quarter ACE was able to leverage its experience with FtF-INVC to obtain USAID funding from the Southern African Trade Hub to support the development of cost-shared commercial storage space in trading centers that incorporates European Investment Bank lines of credit for some structures and equipment. The timeline on rehabilitation and construction means that some of this space should come on-line in late 2015 and through 2016.

TASK 2: INCREASE VALUE CHAIN EFFICIENCY AND VALUE ADDING OPTIONS

SUB-TASK 1: CONDUCT ASSESSMENTS OF VALUE ADDED SECTOR

No new assessments were undertaken this quarter

SUB-TASK 2: FACILITATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER THROUGH FIRM-LEVEL AND ASSOCIATION ASSISTANCE

Reporting on the *Bradyrhizobium japonica* inoculum for soybeans is now done under the Agricultural Productivity Component.

SUB-TASK 3: IMPROVE ACCESS TO POST-HARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE OPTIONS

Strengthening Centralized Storage Capacity

This quarter INVC staff reviewed post-harvest handling and storage training materials, jingles, and public service announcements with Pakachere. These were reviewed in October for release and dissemination via radio programs.

TASK 3: INCREASE ACCESS TO CREDIT AND FINANCE

SUB-TASK 1: SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE STRUCTURED TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

This quarter, FtF-INVC and partners assessed its marketing season activities in the commercial integration of smallholders into Malawi's grain markets and structured trade systems. Collective marketing results were good except for maize, where low market prices have not provided a price signal for liquidation of stocks that moved into warehouse receipts. This is a general problem as the calendar year draws to a close, except with processors who are able to capture additional value from the use of stored product as raw material for feed, flour, and food products.

SUB-TASK 2: FACILITATE LINKAGES BETWEEN LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND SMALL-HOLDERS

As reported earlier in this chapter, ACE continues to play a vital role in facilitating the linkages between lending institutions and smallholders. It has and will continue to provide the bulk of the

structured trade financing that can be accessed on commercial terms for the grain legume and cereal trade.

The primary focus of this quarter's activity has remained improving access to structured trading financing by smallholder groups who collectively market produce. In this quarter agreement was obtained with ACE to use some of its bridging finance line of credit to design and test the smallholder cash bridging instrument in Q2FY15.

TASK 4: FOSTER BUSINESS ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

SUB-TASK 1: STRENGTHEN VERTICAL COORDINATION AND TRUST

CISANET continued its work as a member of the TWG on marketing to ensure that marketing policies are developed and released early enough in the production year for producers, marketers, traders, and processors to anticipate and adapt. Challenges are still high in the crucial cereals market given NFRA procurement policies.

SUB-TASK 2: BUILD AGRICULTURAL POLICY ADVOCACY & DIALOGUE CAPACITY

INVC staff continued to work with stakeholders to disentangle and interpret on the conflicting and confusing reporting in the print media about key agricultural policy and policy implementation issues.

SUB-TASK 3: FACILITATE POLICY REVIEW AND ADVOCACY SUPPORT

This quarter, FtF-INVC supported development and release by CISANET of six policy briefs based upon its soybean, groundnut, and dairy industry studies completed last quarter. Video and radio documentaries were disseminated on three thematic issues: Warehouse Receipt System; capacity gaps in aflatoxin control in Malawi; and climate change adaptation for Dairy farmers.

PRINCIPLE ACTIVITIES FOR Q2

- On-boarding of the Component 1 Technical Lead
- Meetings with partners to determine priority constraints to interventions through the targeted value chains limiting quality, value addition, competitiveness and exportability in order to identify priority intervention areas with maximum positive competitiveness flow down effect
- Training of FtF-INVC staff, partners and beneficiaries to the Value Chain approach
- Conduct a cost/benefit analysis of post-harvest interventions and best bet technologies with MAPAC
- Test smallholder cash bridging with ACE

COMPONENT 2: IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY

INTRODUCTION

Much of the activity under Component 2 in this quarter was focused the training of extension staff and lead farmers in improved crop management practices, building upon training on land preparation, seed conditioning and seed germination testing done during the previous quarter. Emphasis was on increasing plant populations by planting double rows of legumes on ridges 75 cm apart. With improved crop management (including provision of inoculum, nitrogen fixing bacteria for soybean, timely weeding, control of pests and diseases and proper harvesting and drying techniques) this will lead to significantly higher production levels. Improved productivity will require a change in the farmer's mind set from growing these legumes as a secondary crop to growing them as a primary cash crop, which demands a greater amount of field operational attention and inputs.

PRINCIPLE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN THIS REPORTING PERIOD

A total of 278 AFOs and AEDOs and 10,645 lead farmers (LF) and assistant lead farmers (ALF) were trained (who subsequently trained 56,121 'follower' farmers) across the seven Districts by five teams of consultants hired independently by CADECOM, FUM and NASFAM. A total of 770 handouts in English and 14,170 in Chichewa were distributed. The training sessions were completed during the month of October, well before the start of planting, giving LF and ALFs time to cascade the training down to farmers in their clubs. Topics covered included planting and gap filling; doubled-up legume technology; weed management; soil fertility management; integrated pest management. Training on groundnut and soybean harvesting and post-harvest management will be conducted in early March 2015.

Another key achievement was the procurement by NASFAM of 2,020 kg of soybean inoculum (containing nitrogen fixing bacteria) from a reputable, international company in South Africa through a Malawi-based agricultural crop protection firm, Farmer Organization Limited (FOL). This procurement had been reported previously. This quarter the inoculum, *Glycimax*, was distributed to 38,998 NASFAM farmers who planted an estimated total 468mt soybean with certified or recycled seed during the last week of December and into the first half of January. Training of NASFAM extension staff on the appropriate application technique for inoculum was provided through Farmer Organization Limited and 6,250 handouts in English and Chichewa were distributed. It is expected that this inoculum will provide a significant boost to soybean production. The seed used for the inoculum application included 100mt of certified *Serenade* seed procured by NASFAM from a Malawian seed company following a rigorous bidding and selection process intended to elevate the standard of doing business in the seed sector in Malawi.

TASK 1: IMPROVE ACCESS TO QUALITY SEED AND OTHER AGRO-INPUTS

SUB-TASK 1: INCREASE/STRENGTHEN SEED SUPPLY

Achieving the strategic goal of increasing seed quality and supply levels has been addressed under a number of the sub-tasks within this component: see especially Task 1, Sub-task 2; Task 2, Sub-task 1.

High-quality certified soya seed successfully procured

With guidance and support from INVC, NASFAM procured a total of 100 MT of certified *Serenade* soybean seed from a reputable seed company in Malawi (SeedCo) selected through a rigorous bidding process aimed at elevating the standards of the seed sector (reported on in the 4th Quarter FY2014 report). To ensure that seed germination was not compromised, seed tests were conducted at three levels:

1. Just before purchase of the proposed seed stocks. This was done in collaboration with the Seed Services Unit (SSU) at Chitedze.
2. Upon loading the seed stocks into trucks destined to various NASFAM warehouses.
3. Soon after delivery of the stocks to the intended destinations.

This three step control process was followed to avoid distribution of poor quality seed and also to detect any tampering with the purchased seed consignment while in transit. To facilitate distribution to farmers, seed was packed by SeedCo in small bags of 3kg, four of which were packed in a larger, 12-kg bag. All bags were properly labeled.

Leverage of soya seed purchase by other donors.

In addition to the 100MT funded through INVC, NASFAM purchased 200mt of certified *Serenade* seed from the same seed company with funding from Solidaridad, a European NGO. This seed was distributed to new NASFAM members and filled, for the most part, the gap in available seed stocks caused by the poor recovery of soybean seed from prior seasons though NASFAM's seed recovery system. This was done independently by NASFAM, without assistance or guidance from INVC, demonstrating NASFAM's resourcefulness in sourcing seed through various, alternative, mechanisms.

SUB-TASK 2: STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND SEED/INPUTS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

Seed recovery efforts under partners' seed revolving schemes

Under the seed recovery system utilized by CADECOM and NASFAM, farmers receive 12 kg of soybean or 15 kg of groundnut seed and are expected to 'repay' this 'loan' with 2 kg for every kg they received, after harvest. This 'recovered' seed will then be redistributed to new members before the next growing season. FUM does not do any seed recovery but encourages its farmers to buy certified seed from the private sector. The seed recovery system does not work well as reported in FtF-INVC's previous quarterly report. Not only were the rates of return low (28 and 37% for soybean and groundnut, respectively for NASFAM and 29% for groundnut for CADECOM), the purity and cleanliness of the seed was also poor, as reported by NASFAM. NASFAM had to embark on a massive cleaning exercise to sort and discard impurities, broken and discolored seed. Grade out ranged from 2-21% for groundnut and 1 to 41% for soybean in different Districts with an average of 10 and 15% for ground nut and soybean. Surprisingly, subsequent germination tests (of the cleaned seed) revealed rates of 81-91% for soybean and 81-84% for groundnut, depending on the District. Low recovery and quality rates are most likely the result of unwillingness of the farmer to return seed to the association as they would rather sell as much quality seed as they can. Whatever farmers actually do return is often of poor quality and cannot be regarded as seed suitable for planting but merely as grain which could even be a mix of different varieties. NASFAM for instance spent considerable resources cleaning and sorting seed returned to them.

Table 6: Volumes of seed recovered before and after cleaning and percentage grade outs (NASFAM)

IPC/AMC	Seed before cleaning		Seed after cleaning		Grade outs quantities		Grade outs quantities	
	Soy bean	groundnut	Soybean	groundnut	Soybean	Groundnuts	Soybean	Groundnuts
Balaka	*	*	28751	5183	*	*	*	*
LL North	7581	21587	4450	17061	3131	4526	41%	21%
LL South	38540	40918	38200	39987	340	931	1%	2%
Mchinji	92843	-	80000	-	12843	-	14%	-
Namwera	51829	-	41131	-	10698	-	21%	-
Ntcheu	30518	10514	29330	9014	1188	1500	4%	14%
TOTAL	260817	78855	221862	71245	38955	7610	15%	10%

Note: There is no data available for Balaka recovered seed.

Figure 1: Grading of recovered groundnut seed at the NASFAM warehouse in Mchinji, November 7, 2014. It takes one woman about a day to sort through one 50 kg bag.



Figure 2: Close-up of the graded out groundnut seed in the previous picture. On the left is cleaned seed, on the right is discarded seed. NASFAM refers to the cleaned and graded seed from its recovery program as Quality Assured Seed.



Because of the poor results and the lack of quality control of seed recovery through farmers, INVC is working with NASFAM and CADECOM develop alternatives, for instance the production of high-quality seed by designated farmers with technical support from, for instance, the ReSeed project. This will be set in motion during the next quarter.

Seed distribution

Seed donations or ‘soft’ loans of seeds are used to attract new members by both NASFAM and CADECOM. NASFAM members pay a small annual membership fee of Kw 500; there is no fee for CADECOM until farmers become united in an association. By requesting farmers to repay the loan with two kg of seed for every one kg they received, these organizations can then use the recovered seed to sign up additional members the following season. But both NASFAM and CADECOM were unable to fulfill the seed demand from its new members this season due to poor repayment of seed loans from its members during the previous season. There is no penalty if farmers do not repay the loan. There can be various reasons for the poor repayment rates, e.g. poor yields but most likely it is the availability of free seed through other programs that deter farmers of fulfilling their obligations to the seed recovery program. As seed donation is used to attract new members, this dynamic of limited recovery of poorer quality seed will undoubtedly affect NASFAMs and CADECOM’s future expansion efforts. FUM does not subsidize the provision of seed to its prospective members but instead directs them to agro-dealers where they can buy certified seed. With purchase of additional seed with funds from INVC and other donors, NASFAM was able to reach 62% of its targeted beneficiaries while CADECOM (which did not have the funds to purchase additional seed for distribution) disseminated seed to only 29% of its new members.

Table 7: Summary of seed distribution by NASFAM, 2014-15 season

Membership expressing interest to receive seed		78,723
Volume of Seed Stock at IPC levels(Kgs)	Soybean	221,875
	Groundnut	71,155
Volume of Seed Purchased by INVC-fresh seed (Kgs)	Soybean	100,000
	Groundnut	0
Volume of Seed Purchased by NASFAM through other initiatives(Kgs)	Soybean	146,103
	Groundnut	134,004
Total Volume of Seed Mobilized(Kgs)	Soybean	467,978
	Groundnut	142,023
Actual Beneficiaries who received seed as of 31 December 2014	Soybean	38,998
	Groundnut	9,468
Total Beneficiaries who Accessed Legume Seed of 31 December 2014		48,466
Achieved (%)		62%

Distribution of soybean inoculum to NASFAM farmers.

The 2,020 kg of soybean inoculum (containing Nitrogen fixing bacteria, *Bradyrhizobium japonicum*) procured by NASFAM from South Africa through a Malawi-based agricultural crop protection firm, Farmer Organization Limited (FOL), was reported in the previous quarterly report. The inoculum, *GlyciMax*, was stored at the INV office under air-conditioned room temperature and when rains started it was distributed in batches to the different IPCs where it was further disseminated to an estimated 38,998 farmers (all those who received soybean seed) and applied to an estimated 673 MT soybean seed that was planted during the last week of December and into the first half of January. Note that exact numbers will be reported in the next Quarterly report because signed receipts are still being collected from the field. Because IPCs do not have air-conditioning, NASFAM found cool storage space with air-conditioned rooms in local banks where the inoculum was kept for some days before final distribution to the field.

Figure 3: Soybean seed treated with GlyciMax. Inset shows the GlyciMax label.



Table 8: Distribution of GlyciMax to NASFAM IPCs.

IPC	total GlyciMax packets	soybean seed to be treated (MT) ¹
Ntcheu	390	78
Balaka	480	96
Namwera	510	102
Mchinji	930	186
Lilongwe North	545	109
Lilongwe South	510	102
TOTAL (excl. 2 packets for demos)	3,365	673

It is expected that this inoculum will provide a significant boost (approximately 20%) to soybean production in the areas where it was applied, depending on how well the crop was managed and distribution of rainfall throughout the season.

TASK 2: INCREASE ACCESS TO NEW TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

SUB-TASK 1: IMPROVE ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE BEST BET TECHNOLOGIES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Training in crop management

Training in crop management (Phase I) took place during the month of October and the first week of November, allowing LFs to cascade down the messages to their constituent farmers. A total of 278 extension staff and 10,645 lead farmers and assistant lead farmers were trained in Planting and Gap Filling; Doubled Up Legume Technology; Weed Management; Soil Fertility Management; Integrated Pest Management. The training was subsequently disseminated by the LFs and ALFs to 56,121 ‘follower’ farmers, based on numbers recorded in the Lead Farmer training booklets. CADECOM lead farmers (and assistant lead farmers) trained on average 26 follower farmers. With FUM, this ratio was 10 and with NASFAM only 3. It is possible that not all lead farmer training booklets have been collected and verified so these ratios will be updated in the next quarterly report. CADECOM’s higher ratio of 1 to 25 is in partially explained by the limited number of Assistant Lead Farmers recruited so far (about 400 out of a target of 1,400) – therefore, the lead farmers have to cover a large number of farmers by themselves. One to 15 is regarded as a more manageable ratio. A second phase of the Crop Management training, on Groundnut and Soybean Harvesting and post-harvest

Management will be conducted in early March 2015. We will work closely with our IPs to ensure that the cascading of training is effectively conducted (e.g. by incorporating detailed guidance on training farmers) and recorded in time. Emphasis during Phase I training was on teaching farmers to plant soybean and groundnut at higher densities in order to increase plant populations and production levels. There are basically two factors that determine plant populations, row spacing and distance between plants within rows. Rows are located on ridges (30 cm high) to allow rain water to infiltrate the soil and minimize erosion. In our system we promote double rows on ridges 75 cm apart (rows are 20-30 cm apart on the ridges). Groundnut should be planted at 15 cm between planting stations (one seed per station) and soybean at 5 cm between stations (also one seed per station). Planting in double rows will double plant population compared to the conventional single row farmers' practice. Further increase is brought about by reducing ridge spacing (on which the rows are located) from the conventional 90 cm to 75 cm. Crops such as tobacco and maize are typically planted at 90 cm ridges spacing although, through the Sasakawa 2000 initiative, farmers have been planting improved maize varieties at 75 cm.

Table 9: Summary of people trained in crop management

IP	AFOs and AEDOs male	AFOs and AEDOs female	Total extension staff trained (% of target)	LFs and ALFs male	LFs and ALFs female	Total LFs and ALFs trained (% of target)	Follower farmers male	Follower farmers female	Total follower farmer trained (% of target)	Ratio
CADECOM	28	8	36 (80%)	495	460	955 (91%)	10,749	13,742	(24,491) 90%	1 : 26
FUM	74	47	121 (99%)	1,263	874	2,137 (126%)	9,297	11,620	20,917 (63%)	1 : 10
NASFAM	95	26	121 ^c (95%)	3,512	4,041	7,553 (93%)	7,919	12,277	20,196 ^d	1:3 ^e
TOTAL	197	81	278	5,270	5,375	10,645	20,805	35,316	56,121	

Notes:

^a CADECOM: 6 FOs and 30 AEDOs

^b FUM: 10 FOs and 111 AEDOs

^c 69 NASFAM AFOs, 5 NASFAM IPC Program Coordinators, 4 NASFAM ABMs, 37 Government AEDOs and 16 Government AEDCs.

^d No target set by NASFAM

^e some Lead Farmer booklet are still being collected from the field so this ration may improve and will be confirmed in the next Quarterly report

Table 10: Plant populations in soybean and groundnut planted in single and double rows on ridges at 90 and 75 cm spacing.

Soybean (5 cm within rows) plant population		
Plants/ha	Ridges at	
	90 cm	75 cm
Single row	224,334	268,801
Double row	448,669	537,602
Groundnut (15 cm within rows) plant population		
	Ridges at	
	90 cm	75 cm
Single row	74,853	89,690
Double row	149,706	179,380

Training in soybean inoculum application, pesticide safety and IPM

Soybean Inoculum training was conducted by Farmer Organization Limited during the month of November for NASFAM AFO staff to provide them with hands-on experience in the correct application technique of GlyciMax soybean inoculum. FOL developed a training manual in English and Chichewa (see Annex) for this purpose after experimenting to find the appropriate amount of water to be used in the mixing process, which had to be done manually. A larger amount of water had to be used (5 L water to mix 600 gr with 200 kg seed) as compared to the recommended amount stated on the label (0.8 L water to mix 600 gr with 200 kg seed) which was tailored to mechanical mixing. Mixing and drying procedures were clearly explained in the handout and were demonstrated during a series of workshop by FOL staff in all the NASFAM districts. The amounts of inoculum applied were based on 12 kg seed which is the standard amount of seed distributed to farmers. This had to be mixed with 36 gr of GlyciMax (four 30-ml scoops) and 300 ml of water (the amount in a standard soft drink bottle). Bulk applications are possible but feedback from the field indicated that most farmers applied the inoculum, individually using the hand out with instructions or in some cases with guidance from trained LFs or ALFs who were trained by their AFOs.

A total of 77 NASFAM AFOs and Governments extension staff (AEDOs and AEDCs) were trained in inoculant application. NASFAM had a total of 61 AFOs, 6 ABMs and 4 IPC Program Coordinators. While the expected target from Government was 61 Field Staff, as each AFO was supposed to bring along his/her counterpart from the Government, thus, a total target of 132 Staff trained, only 58% of this target was attained. This training was added in November to the previously approved original work plan, thus a number of extension officers were not available due to conflicting activities elsewhere, resulting in low overall attendance.

Table 11: Number of Field Staff Trained

IPC	Date (Nov. 2014)	Target				Achieved				Achieved (%)
		AFOs	AEDOs	IPC Programme Coordinators	ABMs	AFOs	AEDOs	IPC Programme Coordinators	ABMs	
Balaka	10	11	11	1	1	11	7	1	0	79%
LL North	10	12	12	1	1	9	0	1	0	39%
LL South	6	11	11	0	1	9	8	0	0	74%
Mchinji	7	8	8	0	1	7	3	0	1	59%
Namwera	7	9	9	1	1	7	0	1	0	40%
Ntcheu	7	10	10	1	1	10	0	1	1	55%
TOTAL		61	61	4	6	53	18	4	2	65%
Summary		Total Target=132 Participants				Actual Achieved=77 Participants (58%)				

Later on, during the remainder of November and into December, NASFAM AFOs cascaded similar trainings to FTs in all their areas of work (reports not yet available). Some LFs and ALFs did the inoculant application together with AFOs on demonstration plots that are managed by LFs. While the training could have covered more beneficiaries, we believe that the hand-outs developed by FOL are of excellent quality and explain the process clearly so that those who have not received the training would still be able to apply the inoculum properly.

Figure 4: Training in Mchinji EPA on soybean inoculum application



Key

Top left: spreading the 12 kg seed on a plastic sheet;

Top right, bottom left: applying the GlyciMax slurry;

Bottom right soybean seed with GlyciMax coating after 30 minutes of drying

IPM training

Weeds, pests and diseases can suppress yields significantly. Judicious use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides and fungicides) in an Integrated Pest Management context can protect crops from economic damage. Combined with the soybean inoculum training, a short session on IPM and pesticide safety was presented to the NASFAM AFOs in order to lay the foundation for a better appreciation of the relevance of the use of pesticides in an Integrated Pesticide Management context and the measures required to use pesticides safely.

A total of seven IPM demo sites, each with four measuring 500 m², planted with soybean and groundnut in either the ‘farmer standard’ practice (conventional plant density, no inoculum, no pesticides) or the package of improved practices (higher plant density recommend by INVC, soy inoculum, seed dressing, other pesticides as needed) were established in the seven INVC districts (one per district) by FOL in collaboration with NASFAM and FUM. A first field day was held in mid-December for AFOs and selected Lead Farmers (one of which, in Lilongwe South, Nyanja EPA (NASFAM), was attended by the USAID COR Lynn Schneider) to demonstrate soy inoculum application and seed dressing techniques. A total of 107 Lead farmers (and their associates) and 26 extension staff (numbers from one site not yet available) attended this first field day at seven sites. Two additional field days are planned for the 2nd quarter to demonstrate field scouting and identification of pests and diseases and safe pesticide application techniques. Better record keeping will be accomplished in order to count the number of other farmers (‘follower’ farmers) who show up at these events and agro-dealers will be encouraged to participate as well. INVC has developed a list of allowable pesticides (per the USAID Malawi 2013 PERSUAP) that are available in Malawi.

Figure 5: IPM training in Nyanja EPA (NASFAM) on December 19, 2014. Trainer in the blue overall is Ronald Chilumpha of Farmer Organization, Limited.



Table 12: FtF-INVC Recommended Pesticides for Soybean and Groundnut

Trade name	Approx. time of application	Pests controlled	Active Ingredient	Type of product	Acute Toxicity		Remarks
					EPA	WHO	
Prowl	Pre-emergence	Grasses and broadleaf weeds	Pendimethalin	Herbicide	III	III Blue	Need some moisture before applying
Fusilade Forte	Post-emergence	Grasses	Fluazifop-P-butyl	Herbicide	II, III	III Blue	
Round-Up	Post-emergence	Grasses and broadleaf weeds	Glyphosate	Herbicide	II, III	U Green	
Basagran	Post-emergence	broadleaf weeds	Sodium salt of Bentazon	Herbicide	III	III Blue	
Seedmate CT 470FS	Seed dressing; before planting	Seedlings pests and diseases	Carboxim, Thiram (TMTD), Imidacloprid	Fungicide Fungicide Insecticide	III III II, III	U III II Blue/Yellow	Imidacloprid not to be used during flowering due to bee toxicity
Sevin 85WP	During cropping season	Aphids, Leaf-feeding insects, e.g. soybean looper	Carbaryl	Insecticide	II	III Blue	
Decis Forte	During cropping season	Aphids, Leaf-feeding insects	Deltamethrin 100 gr/L	Insecticide	II, III	II Yellow	RUP only on cotton
Karate 5 EC	During cropping season	Aphids, Leaf-feeding insects	Lambda Cyhalothrin	Insecticide	II, III	II Yellow	Use only if < 10%
Deltamethrin 2.5EC	During cropping season	Aphids, Leaf-feeding insects	Deltamethrin	Insecticide	II, III	II Yellow	
Acetamiprid 222SL	During cropping season	Aphids, Leaf-feeding insects	Acetamiprid	Insecticide	III	NL	Do not use when crop is flowering due to bee toxicity
Bayleton Baytan, Bayfidan, Shavit	During cropping season	Soy and GN Rust	Triadimenol	Fungicide	II, III	III Blue	
Folicur 250EC	During cropping season	Soy and GN Rust	Tebuconazole	Fungicide	II, III	III Blue	
Dithane M45	During cropping season	GN ELS and LLS	Mancozeb	Fungicide	III	U Green	
Bravo	During cropping season	GN ELS and LLS	Chlorothalonil	Fungicide	I, II, III	NL	
Actellic Super Dust	storage	Storage insect pests	Pirimiphos-methyl +Permethrin	Insecticide Insecticide	I, II, III III	II, III II Blue/Yellow	

Note: Data prepared by Harry Bottenberg, FtF-INVC, with input from Ronald Chilumpha, Farmers Organization, Limited, Llongwe, Malawi, October 20, 2014.

Table 13: IPM demo sites and participation on the 1st demo field day.

IP	District	EPA or GAC	Date (Dec 2014)	People attended	
				Extension staff (m/f)	Lead Farmers and Assistant Lead Farmers (m/f) ^a
NASFAM	Mchinji	Chiphala GAC/Chiosya EPA	13	1(m);3(f)	7(m);2(f)
NASFAM	Lilongwe North	Chitedze GAC / Chigonthe EPA	11	1(m)	9(m);8(f)
NASFAM	Lilongwe South	Nyanja EPA	19	To be completed ^b	To be completed ^b
NASFAM	Ntcheu	Chiole GAC	17	0(m);2(f)	4(m);5(f)
NASFAM	Balaka	Chikowa GAC	18	0(m);0(f)	14(m);20(f)
NASFAM	Namwera-Mangochi	Nsanga GAC/Ntiya Association	19	3(m);0(f)	6(m);11(f)
FUM and CADECOM	Dedza	Kanama Cluster/Linthipe EPA	12	10(m);6(f)	4(m);17(f)
TOTAL				26 (15m/11w) ^c	107 (44m/63w) ^c

Notes:

^a Other farmers not recorded; ^b Report not yet received; ^c Excluding Nyanja EPA in Lilongwe South

The widespread distribution of handouts to reinforce learning

A total of 74,700 handouts on crop management in English and Chichewa were distributed during this quarter. These handouts were developed with input from a wide variety of published and unpublished reports and manuals by a team of INVC and IP experts (Don Humpal (DAI/HQ, Harry Bottenberg, DAI/INVC, Francis Banda, DAI/INVC, Office Mulekano (IITA) and Wilson Nkhata (NASFAM). Subsequently, these handouts were translated by INVC staff (Francis Banda, Michael Makina, Dickson Kazembe with final verification by Robert Chizimba) into Chichewa, with some reduction of text and more emphasis on graphical information. English version handouts were targeted at extension staff while the Chichewa version were meant for lead farmers and

Figure 6: Sample of English language handouts developed for extension staff



assistant lead farmers. Copies of the English version are available in the Appendices.

Table 14: Crop management handouts distributed

IP	Chichewa	English	Total
CADECOM	5,000	500	5,500
FUM	8,500	600	9,100
NASFAM	57,350	2,750	60,100
TOTAL	70,850	3,850	74,700

In addition, a total of 6,250 Soybean inoculum handouts and 3,307 application kits (one set for each farmer who received soybean seed and inoculum) were distributed by NASFAM.

Table 15: Inoculum hand-outs and application kits distributed by NASFAM.

Item	Number distributed
Inoculum handout in English	250
Inoculum handout in Chichewa	6,000
Application kit (gloves, mask, measuring cup)	3,307

TASK 3: IMPROVED ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE ADVISORY EXTENSION SERVICES AND INFORMATION

SUB-TASK 1: SUPPORT LINKAGES OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS WITH EXTENSION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Agriculture Production Technical Working Group

The goal of the Agriculture TWG meetings is to harmonize technical approaches in crop production among implementing partners. The 5th meeting was held on December 2, 2014 at the INVC office. Participants were INVC, FUM and CADECOM and two consulting companies, AECG and AJ Associates, who provided crop management training services during the first Quarter of FY2015. NASFAM was unfortunately unable to attend. Discussions focused on lessons learned from the crop management training, an overview of the Pesticides and IPM demos being planned in the seven Districts, the booklet of training materials to be developed and disseminated during the next quarter, and a discussion on the M&E field survey on adoption of land preparation practices planned for mid-December. The decision of which IP would take over the Chairmanship of the TWG was deferred to the next meeting, scheduled tentatively for mid-January 2015.

The lessons learned are:

- Conduct trainings on time to ensure that Lead Farmers and Assistant Lead Farmers have sufficient time to cascade the training down to their constituent farmers (they would need about a month to cover ca. 15 farmers).
- NASFAM tried doing the entire Crop management module (Phase I and II) for its extension staff in one training (for logistical reasons). This didn't work well. It is best to split them up in Phase I and II as the other IPs did.

SUB-TASK 2: USE ICT IN STIMULATING PRODUCTIVITY AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

No new activities were completed under this sub-task in Q1.

TASK 4: PROMOTE RISK MITIGATION EFFORTS

SUB-TASK 1: PROMOTE CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE AND OTHER RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Doubled up cropping with pigeon pea

No further work was conducted on doubled-up cropping with pigeon peas this quarter. Doubled-up cropping was included in the crop management training held in October. NASFAM also included doubled-up cropping in their demo trials that were planted in the second half of December 2014 and into the first week of January 2015.

Other Conservation Agriculture (CA) practices

CA practices such as planting Vetiver grass along field borders to reduce erosion and planting leguminous trees such as *Tephrosia* for adding organic matter to the soil, have been addressed in the crop management training. However, no targeted activities with CA have been undertaken yet. INVC intends to collaborate with new USAID project such as PERFORM and Njira and other initiatives in Malawi that deal with CA, to help roll out proven CA technologies to INVC farmers through its extension networks

SUB-TASK 2: DEVELOP THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN (EMMP)

The final EMMP for FY2015 was developed by INVC and reviewed and approved by USAID Malawi on December 12, 2014. INVC has also prepared Environmental Review Forms and Environmental Review Reports (ERFs/ERRs), per USAID environmental procedures, to be submitted for review to USAID for those IPs that INVC will continue to work with during the extension period.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Radio messages on land preparation and crop management

Radio messages on land preparation and crop management, collectively developed with the Component 2 team and Pakachere, have been aired through Zodiak Radio and rural radio services.

Eight new messages on agriculture value chains were developed during the quarter which will be included in the Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Strategy. The messages were:

- Importance of early planting and gap filling in soybean and groundnut production to maximize yield.
- Crop rotation.
- Weed management in soy bean and groundnut fields.
- Integrated pest management, as prevalence of pests and diseases result in significant reduction in crop yield.
- Early land preparation (advantages of proper ridging, 75 cm apart and 50 cm wide that could accommodate double rows of groundnut at 30 cm and soybean at 20 to 30 cm apart).
- Need to always to plant good quality certified seed as it easily germinates, grows and matures fast, resilient to drought and resistant to diseases.
- Pesticide safety by always following the instruction on the label on the pesticide container.
- Marketing i.e. to influence farmers to grow soy and groundnuts because they have nutrition and economic value due to the availability of local and international markets.

Based on these messages, 2 jingles on groundnut and soybean marketing were produced and aired 56 times on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC Radio 1).

Field Monitoring on Seed Conditioning, Seed Germination Testing and Land Preparation

During the first two weeks of December, a team from INVC M&E surveyed a total of 40 randomly selected fields in Mchinji, Lilongwe and Dedza and assessed the adoption of seed conditioning, seed germination testing and land preparation recommendations (topics that were covered during farmer training in September 2014, see Q4 FY 2014 report) by farmers. A total of 120 beneficiaries were randomly sampled¹ with each district having an equal number of samples. By the end of the study, 117 sampled beneficiaries were interviewed as indicated in the tables below.

Seed Conditioning

It was noted that overall the majority of the farmers had done seed conditioning for groundnuts (80%) but for soybean, it was much less (52%).

Table 16: Seed conditioning by farmers

IP	Seed Conditioning	Groundnuts	Soybean
FUM	Yes	76	44
	No	24	56
NASFAM	Yes	84	48
	No	16	52
CADECOM	Yes	79	58
	No	21	42
Overall	Yes	80	48
	No	20	52

Seed Germination Test

The majority of the sampled farmers (60% and 78% for groundnuts and soybean respectively) did not carry out the seed germination test.

Table 17: Seed Germination Test

IP	Seed Germination Test	Groundnuts	Soybean
FUM	Yes	50	38
	No	50	62
NASFAM	Yes	33	15
	No	67	85
CADECOM	Yes	38	0
	No	62	100
OVERALL	Yes	40	22
	No	60	78

¹ The sample size was determined using the formula: $Z^2 * (p) * (1-p) / c^2$. Where: Z = Z value (e.g. 1.96 for 95% confidence level), p = percentage picking a choice, expressed as decimal, (.5 used for sample size needed), c = confidence interval, expressed as decimal (e.g., .04 = ±4). Raosoft software was used in this calculation

For those that carried out the seed germination test, the majority indicated that more than 90 seeds germinated in both groundnuts and soybean (64% and 77% respectively). This means that most of the seed that the farmers are going to plant this season is good as indicated in the figures below. But these results are mixed if we compared it at partner level. It was observed that 75% of CADECOM sampled farmers had good groundnuts seed whilst for NASFAM, only 33% of the farmers indicated that more than 90 germinated.

Table 18: Germination Test Results

IP	Proportion of Germination	Groundnuts	Soybean
FUM	more than 90 germinated well	70	80
	less than 90 germinated well	30	20
NASFAM	more than 90 germinated well	33	67
	less than 90 germinated well	67	33
CADECOM	more than 90 germinated well	75	0
	less than 90 germinated well	25	0
OVERALL	more than 90 germinated well	64	77
	less than 90 germinated well	36	23

The majority of those that the tested their germination demonstrated less than 90 germinated (75% for groundnuts and 50% for soybean) indicating that they will still plant that seed as they had no alternative source of seed. This will definitely affect the plant population on the plots of the smallholder farmers who have bad results on their seed germination test thereby negatively affecting the overall yield.

Land Preparation

For those that have prepared their land at the time of the survey, it was found out that 77% of those that intend to grow groundnuts have at least implemented one of the recommended practices (ridges at 75 cm, ridges 50 cm wide, ridges 30 cm high) with 33% implementing all the recommended practices on land preparation. For soybean growers, 83% had adopted at least one of the recommended land preparation management practices. By comparing partners, FUM farmers were highest (84% and 87% for groundnuts and soybean respectively) in adopting the land preparation techniques followed by NASFAM (82% and 87%) and then CADECOM. (69% and 64%). Further analysis will be conducted to determine which of the three recommend practices or combinations thereof, were adopted at the time of the survey. The most important practice is the ridge spacing of 75 cm as this will directly impact on plant population.

Table 19: Adoption of Land Preparation management Practices

IP	Land Preparation	Groundnuts		Soybean	
		Percent	Cumulative	Percent	Cumulative
FUM	All of them	32	32	35	35
	some of them	52	84	51	87
	None	16		14	
NASFAM	All of them	32	32	27	27
	some of them	50	82	60	87
	None	18		14	
CADECOM	All of them	33	33	29	29
	some of them	36	69	36	64
	None	31		36	
OVERALL	All of them	33	33	31	31
	some of them	45	77	52	83
	None	23		17	

Ridge spacing between 70 and 80 cm was assumed to be at the recommended 75 cm distance.

Conclusions

The recommended ridge spacing of 75 cm has not yet been universally adopted. However, preliminary observations in January suggest that the practiced of double rows on ridges is much more common. It is therefore likely the higher plant populations compared to the conventional single row system will still be attained, however to a lesser extent as when double rows are combined with the 75 cm ridge spacing. We will report on this in the next quarterly report.

PRINCIPLE ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR Q2:

- Crop management training Phase II on harvest and post-harvest IPM and pesticide safety field days
- Development and publication of the farmer training booklet on land preparation, crop management and harvest/post-harvest techniques
- Development of a compendium of images of soybean and groundnut pests and diseases for use in future training material
- Joint field monitoring mission with M&E team on crop establishment and adoption of plant spacing technologies and crop management practices
- Explore a mechanism for agro-dealer technical capacity development (e.g. through RUMARK)
- Technical working Group meeting end of February to be led by CADECOM

COMPONENT 3: IMPROVING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO PREVENT UNDER NUTRITION

Overview of Quarter 1

During the quarter the project reached a significant number of new households and individuals, including the following major achievements:

- **82,300** households were supported with various child health and nutrition interventions through the care groups in Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi, Lilongwe and Mchinji districts. The interventions include complementary feeding, backyard gardens, exclusive breast feeding, water and sanitation among others. The food processing and utilization interventions have not yet fully scaled up in Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi as promoters and nutrition assistants have not been trained.
- **9,705 people** were trained in child health and nutrition interventions such as exclusive breast feeding, dietary diversity and the six food groups and use of data collection tools for capturing nutrition behavior at household level when conducting care group sessions.
- **10,605** new beneficiary households were registered in the expanded districts of Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi; while Nkhoma Hospital continued to work with existing households in Lilongwe and Mchinji.
- **72,102** under 3 children (34,640 male, 37,462 female) were reached through care groups²
- **455,193** under 5 children (215,272 male and 239,921 female) were reached through Child Health Days Campaign with Vitamin A supplementation and deworming.
- **99** care groups were added in the scale-up districts, bringing the total number of care groups to 409
- **4,844** Lead parents (165 male and 4,679 female) were recruited into the 409 Care Groups
- All 153 promoters and 16 project staff attended the SUN and ENA training facilitated by the Ministry of Health.

In order to address capacity gaps, 13 project technical staff under Nkhoma Hospital were recruited and trained in the Care Group Model, SUN and ENA, food processing, utilization and preservation, and monitoring and evaluation. These included 3 District Nutrition Coordinators and 10 Nutrition Assistants.

As a way of supporting care group activities at community level, **123** drama performances were conducted reaching an estimated **26,924** community members in Lilongwe and Mchinji. Four, 30 minute-Tidyenji programs were introduced during the quarter and aired on three radio stations. The theatre performances and radio programs enhance awareness and understanding of nutrition issues among community members. They are also done to remove entrenched myths and misconceptions about certain foods which are not consumed by pregnant women, lactating mothers and under five children due to cultural beliefs or lack of knowledge.

TASK 1: IMPROVE KEY NUTRITION-RELATED BEHAVIORS (ESSENTIAL NUTRITION ACTIONS) WITHIN HOUSEHOLDS

SUB-TASK 1: DETERMINE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE NUTRITION AND FEEDING PRACTICES

Six positive deviance inquiries (PDIs) were conducted in Lilongwe district at Mpenu and Chiwamba EPAs and in Mchinji district at Mlonyeni EPA. The objective of the PDIs was to explore positive behaviors which are being exhibited by the target audiences in the zone of influence. The four behaviors tracked during the PDIs were:

- Caregivers prepare and feed their 6-9 months old children soft and thick meals.
- Mothers give only breast milk for the first 6 months.
- Women seek ante-natal services as soon as they suspect that they may be pregnant.

² Data given in this section is summarized by District and dis-aggregated by gender in Appendix 2.4

- Pregnant women eat more nutritious foods (animal foods, legumes, fruits and vegetables especially those rich in Vitamin A and iron) throughout pregnancy.

These are among the 15-key behaviors FtF-INVC promotes through care group activities, training sessions, theatre performances, radio programs and jingles. The PDIs were conducted in the form of focus group discussions (FGDs) as well as in-depth interviews (KII). In total 6 FGDs and 18 KIIs were conducted and promoters helped to identify about 10-12 women as discussants on each topic. A total of 88 people (pregnant women, lactating mothers and other care givers) participated in the activity. The results of the PDIs will be shared with FtF-INVC and its implementing partners next quarter through a partner dissemination workshop to be held in Lilongwe.

SUB-TASK 2: DEVELOP BCC STRATEGY

The BCC strategy will be revised according to the results from the baseline outcome survey (conducted in Balaka, Machinga, and Mangochi) and the outcomes of the PDIs (conducted in Lilongwe and Mchinji). The revision of the BCC strategy will be done in the next quarter.

SUB-TASK 3: FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF BCC STRATEGY

Drama performances

In the quarter, 123 drama performances were conducted reaching an estimated 26,924 people in Lilongwe and Mchinji.

- 21 Performances were done by Pakachere Travelling Theatre (PTT) where 7,508 people attended (3,089 male; 4,419 female)
- 102 Performances were given by 17 community based drama groups, (6 plays per group)
- The total number of attendees for the community-based format was 19,416 (6,469 male, 12, 947 female) thus ensuring that more individuals were reached this way than through PTT.

Figure 7: Theatre group performing at Chitekwere, Lilongwe



In Lilongwe, two theatre performances were conducted in Chitekwere EPA during two USAID visits where an estimated 225 people attended. In Mchinji, a Member of Parliament for the area, Honorable

Figure 8: Lead mothers and community members attending theatre performance in Mchinji



Deus Gumba Banda who is also the Chairperson for HIV and AIDS and Nutrition Parliamentary Committee in the National Assembly, attended one of the performances on 12th October 2014 at Nkangeni village, Mlonyeni Extension Planning area (EPA). This shows Government of Malawi commitment in support of the project activities as well an encouragement to the members of the community on nutrition issues. During the quarter, most performances were conducted with participation from the Care Group

structure meaning that promoters, lead parents (mothers and fathers), and cluster members were present, highlighting elements of integration of the project activities.

Production and airing of the radio program

With support from FtF-INVC, Pakachere developed four 30 minute radio programs called Tidyenji. (In this context, the word *tidyenji* means, “*what nutritious foods should we eat?*”) The program creates awareness and understanding of nutrition issues among community members and assists in educating people on the effects of prevalent traditional beliefs, myths, misconceptions and knowledge gaps about certain foods which are not consumed by pregnant women, lactating mothers and under five children. Pakachere developed and produced four Tidyenji programs that were aired on MBC Radio1 (nationally), Mudziwathu Community Radio Station in Mchinji district and on Radio Maria in Mangochi. Prior to airing these radio programs, MBC Radio 1 aired 39 promotional advertisements while Radio Maria aired 3. All the radio programs including PSAs and jingles are being monitored by Footprints Research and Monitoring Consultants except for Mudziwathu radio station which is being monitored by the community based drama groups in conjunction with FtF-INVC Nkhoma Hospital staff.

Supervision and mentorship

Pakachere conducted 17 mentorship sessions with 85 members of the community-based drama groups (39 female and 46 male). The mentorship is done with each theatre group that comprises 5 members. The sessions focus on getting a report on the achievements for the period by the dramatists, challenges encountered and thereafter engaging dramatists to come up with solutions and draw the way forward. Dramatists are mentored on how to develop a storyline for a play, how to stage a play so that it is participatory (involving community members to act some scene), quality messaging to avoid contradictions and reporting using FtF-INVC forms.

Pakachere also conducted one three-day “Social and Behavior Change Communication” (SBCC) training workshop from 24-26 November 2014 where 20 technical members of staff (13 female; 7 male) from Nkhoma Hospital (13), FtF-INVC Secretariat (6) and one person from Agriculture Commodity Exchange (ACE) participated. The training was jointly facilitated by Simon Sikwese, Pakachere Executive Director and Robert Chizimba, FtF-INVC Deputy Chief of Party. The training focused on the following issues:

- understanding SBCC;
- theoretical base for SBCC;
- models in SBCC;
- understanding the situation;
- formative research;
- desired change, barriers and communication objectives;
- message design, creative writing and channel and material mix; and
- monitoring and evaluation of SBCC programs.

TASK 2: INCREASE ACCESS TO DIVERSE AND QUALITY FOODS AMONG TARGET POPULATIONS

SUB-TASK 1: FACILITATE AND PROMOTE CULTIVATION OF HIGH NUTRITIVE-VALUE CROPS

The main focus under this task continued to be promotion of the cultivation of highly nutritive indigenous green leafy vegetables e.g. bonongwe (amarathus), nkhwani (pumpkin leaves), bean leaves (khwanya) and kholowa (sweet potato leaves). During the period, 342 lead mothers and farmers were sensitized on the importance of establishing kitchen gardens. A total of 14,752 backyard gardens were established (8,394 in Mchinji and 6,558 in Lilongwe). The kitchen gardens are promoted in order to ensure that there is increased consumption of these green leafy nutritive vegetables among pregnant women, lactating mothers and under five children. It was noted in the quarter that the majority of the vegetables grown in these gardens were bonongwe (amarathus), nkhwani (pumpkin leaves), bean leaves (khwanya) and kholowa (sweet potato leaves). In addition to educating community members on kitchen gardens, promoters and lead mothers also sensitized community members on water, sanitation and hygiene, and the advantages of using energy efficient stoves when cooking foods. As a result of these sensitization sessions, 5, 706 energy saving stoves and 4, 619 sanitary facilities (toilets) were established in Lilongwe alone.

Figure 9: Lead mother, Violet Baziwelo, watering her garden



Figure 10: Mother in Chitekwere shows the stove she made to new design promoted by FtF-INVC



Through repeated messages from radio programs, jingles and care group sessions, it has been noted that most care group members and the community are understating the need of having individual backyard gardens so that they consume locally available vegetables. It has also been noted that almost all households that established home gardens in the previous quarters continued to maintain them in the quarter. Some of the gardens are outstanding in terms of size and quality management and increasingly becoming as models for other community members to learn from them. The field extension workers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (AEDOs and AEDCs) continued to provide technical guidance in the preparation and management of these home gardens.

SUB-TASK 2: FACILITATE FOOD PROCESSING

In the quarter, 240 food processing, utilization and preservation sessions were accomplished by the promoters who were trained in the last quarter. Each conducted at least two food processing sessions. The 13 newly recruited technical Nkhoma Hospital staff were trained on food processing, utilization and preservation for 3 days only. This three-day workshop was mainly theory-based and there were no practicals. Those trained were 3 District Nutrition Coordinators and nine (9) Nutrition Assistants under Nkhoma. In addition, the orientation did not include the 16 FtF-INVC field staff in the expanded districts of Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi (3 District Nutrition Coordinators and 13 Nutrition Assistants).

SUB-TASK 3: FACILITATE FOOD FORTIFICATION

As in the previous quarter, this task was not conducted in the quarter. FtF-INVC plans to liaise with the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS in the Office of the President and Cabinet on policy issues related to food fortification.

TASK 3: ENHANCE CONSUMPTION OF A NUTRITIOUS AND SUFFICIENTLY DIVERSIFIED DIET

SUB-TASK 1: FACILITATE PROMOTION OF DIETARY DIVERSIFICATION

In the quarter, 394 cooking demonstrations were conducted by promoters in all 17 extension planning areas (EPAs) in Lilongwe and Mchinji. A total of 154 were done in Lilongwe and 240 in Mchinji. The demonstrations were on six different food groups. Specifically, lead mothers were trained on how to prepare Likuni porridge using soy and groundnuts, home production of soya milk, enriching green leafy vegetables with oil and groundnut powder and preparation of rich snacks for under-five children i.e. adding groundnut flour to pawpaws. A total of 1,240 people attended in all the sessions (980 in Lilongwe and 280 in Mchinji).

Table 20: Number of lead mothers trained in cooking demonstration by product and district

District	Products made	Participants	Number of demonstrations done
Lilongwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preparation of rich snacks for under- five children (addition of groundnut flour to pawpaws)Likuni porridge using soy and groundnuts	960	154
Mchinji	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Soft porridge, home production of soya milk, enriching green leafy vegetables with oil and groundnut flour	280	240

SUB-TASK 2: PROMOTE MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION

Through SUN and ENA training, 153 promoters (in the three expansion districts) that had been recruited by FtF-INVC received orientation on:

- causes and effects of malnutrition,
- assessment of malnourished children,
- admission criteria,
- different programs that manage and treat malnourished children as well as growth monitoring.

These training sessions provided promoters with knowledge and skills to identify and refer malnourished children into different feeding programs. They were also provided with skills on how to promote management of acute malnourished children in the communities. With proper supervision

and equipment to be used in the process, the promoters should be able to refer children with different conditions to the nearest health facility through their respective health surveillance assistants (HSAs).

SUB-TASK 3: PROMOTE HYGIENE AND SANITATION

Promotion of sanitation and hygiene continued this quarter through construction of sanitation facilities (e.g. pit latrines) by community members themselves using locally found materials. Promoters, lead mothers/fathers and care group members are educated on personal and household hygiene as an important aspect of SUN-1000 Special Days initiative. This is because of the very strong relationship between hygiene and nutritional status of an individual.

Members are taught that personal hygiene i.e. washing hands properly after using the latrine, after changing baby nappies and before preparing food or drinking water is crucial.

During the quarter, 4,619 sanitary facilities (pit latrines) were constructed or maintained properly by the individual household members using locally found materials such as poles, stones or brick they make etc. Promotion of sanitation and hygiene also continued through airing of radio programs, jingles and theatre performances. In the quarter, 123 drama performances were conducted reaching an estimated 23,835 people where messages on sanitation and hygiene were also emphasized.

TASK 4: INCREASE ACCESS TO, AND UTILIZATION OF, KEY NUTRITION-RELATED SERVICES AMONG TARGETED POPULATIONS INCLUDING COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE AND REFERRALS

SUB-TASK 1: CONDUCT COMMUNITY-BASED GROWTH MONITORING AND PROMOTION

Growth monitoring was conducted twice in Chigothi EPA at Chikanda and Mlezi Group Action Committees (GACs) and 311 under-fives children were screened for malnutrition. During this first session, of the 311 children screened, only one (1) female child was found to be underweight and the household (mother) was assisted by an HSA and the promoter on dietary diversity (preparation and feeding of the child nutritious meals in right amount and frequency). Pieces of advice on the consumption of groundnut products were provided and also referred to the nearest health facility for ready to use therapeutic foods (RUTF). In the second round of growth monitoring session in the same district, 138 children were weighed (36 females, 102 males). It was observed that 4 children were underweight and 13 were moderately underweight and were referred to the Dzenza Health Centre for appropriate care. Both promoters and HSAs noted that morbidity as a result of poor hygiene is one of the main causes of under nutrition in the area. Care group session and theatre performances have, therefore, been intensified in the area.

SUB-TASK 2: PROMOTE VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENTATION AND DE-WORMING

In the quarter, four Child Health Days Campaigns were supported in Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi and Mchinji. In preparation for this activity, FtF-INVC field staff and Nkhoma team participated in over 12 planning meetings (at least 3 meetings per district) organized District Assemblies. The District Assemblies take these meetings as platforms to plan for child health days, lobby partners for financial resources and supplies as well as agreeing on modalities for data collection and reporting. A total of 455,173 under-five children were reached with Vitamin A supplements and deworming tablets (331,918 adjusted) of which 215,552 were male and 239,366 female. Lilongwe district failed to conduct child health day campaign in the quarter.

Table 21: Number of children under 5 reached through Child Health Days campaign

	Number of Children Under 5 immunized (Vitamin A and deworming)		
	Male	Female	Total
Mchinji	42,419	53,987	96,406
Balaka	24,081	27,092	51,173
Machinga	67,196	74,731	141,927
Mangochi	81,577	84,110	165,687
TOTAL	215, 272	239, 921	455, 173
Total Adjusted for CGM (CHD kids - CGM kids)	156,552	175,366	331,918

TASK 5: CREATE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR EXECUTION OF NUTRITION ACTIVITIES

SUB-TASK 1: CONDUCT MEETINGS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

FtF-INVC held various meetings with the 5 different District Assembly officials in Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi, Lilongwe and Mchinji Child Health Day campaigns, project interventions planning, implementation and monitoring especially in the expanded districts. Seventeen quarterly review meetings were facilitated one in each of the 17 EPAs in Lilongwe and Mchinji. The quarterly meetings aim at reviewing the progress made against the planned activities. They also review working partnerships with government (HSAs and AEDOs) and the existing community e.g. Area Development Committee and Village Development Committee members for effective and sustainable delivery of FtF-INVC inter interventions.

SUB-TASK 2: CONDUCT MENTORING AND COACHING AND EXPANSION INTO THREE NEW DISTRICTS

Mentoring, Coaching and Monitoring

In the quarter, 286 mentoring and coaching sessions with promoters and lead mothers were accomplished by the Nkhoma Hospital team. The session focused on how to facilitate and conduct care group sessions, how to monitor behaviour outcomes at handhold level and how to monitor and report theatre performances conducted by Pakachere Travelling Theatre and the 17 Community-based Theatre Groups. A total of 2, 237 lead mothers/fathers were mentored and/or coached. As in the previous quarter, the mentoring, coaching and monitoring sessions also addressed challenges care group volunteers and dramatists face in the implementation of nutrition, social and behaviour change communication related activities. Some of the topical issues addressed in this quarter were that: Some registered NSAFAM club members are not accessing soy or groundnut seed thereby affecting consumption as promoted under nutrition component; mobility of promoters as about 36 bicycles are worn out especially in Mchinji district; rapid expansion of NSAFAM GACs and FUM clusters necessitating establishment of more care groups as demanded by local leaders e.g. in Nyanja EPA, at Kambirimbiri area. FtF-INVC (on its own and through Nkhoma and Pakachere) continued to monitor all planned activities through the field staff in all its impact districts.

Distribution of equipment and materials

In this reporting period, various project materials were distributed in the expanded districts of Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi. A total of 4, 939 counseling cards, 10, 050 meters of branded cloth, 4,781 T-shirts, 158 golf shirts, 158 hard covers, 158 pens, 158 bicycles and 16 protective gear (gloves, windbreaker, rain suit) were distributed.

Table 22: Project materials distributed for by district and type

District	Number of care group materials distributed							
	Branded cloth	T/shirts	Golf shirts	Counseling cards	Hard covers	Pens	Bicycles	Protective gears (gloves, windbreaker, rain suit)
Balaka	2560	1191	57	1248	57	57	57	4
Machinga	2185	1039	29	1068	29	29	29	4
Mangochi	5305	2551	72	2623	72	72	72	8
TOTAL	10050	4781	158	4939	158	158	158	16

Impact evaluation

FtF-INVC carried out verification exercise for areas which have been identified by University of North Carolina (UNC) as “Treatment” and “Control” areas in Lilongwe and Mchinji. A total of 53 areas (27 Treatment and 26 Control) were verified. After this exercise it has been noted that there is some degree of contamination in the Control areas were active for at least one year in 17 GACs identified as control areas. FtF-INVC through Nkhoma collected some project materials (counseling cards) from the areas which have been identified as Control.

This table is included as Appendix 2.3.

Project personnel under Nkhoma Hospital

In the quarter, Nkhoma Hospital managed to fill in 14 positions that had been vacant for quite some time. The positions included both technical and support services and were one Program Manager (male); Three District Nutrition Coordinators (1 male and 2 female); 10 Nutrition Assistants (7 female and 3 male); and 1 driver (male). The newly recruited staff were oriented on FtF-INVC project, care group model, SUN and ENA, food processing, utilization and preservation for about 4 days in Lilongwe Nkhoma is yet to fill in the positions of Accountant and M&E manager in the next quarter.

EXPANSION OF NUTRITION AND BCC INTERVENTIONS IN BALAKA, MACHINGA AND MANGOCHI***Care group activities***

FtF-INVC interventions continued to be rolled out in the 3 expanded districts of Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi. In the quarter, 4,844 clusters were registered 409 care groups formed and 10,605 households new households reached. Cumulatively, 58,128 households were reached in the quarter in the expanded districts

Table 23: Number of clusters, care groups and households reach in the quarter by district

District	Number of clusters registered	Number of care groups formed	Number of households reached	
			New	Cumulative
Balaka	1,493	131	4,874	17,916
Machinga	1,041	87	3,450	12,492
Mangochi	2,310	191	2,281	27,720
TOTAL	4,844	409	10,605	58,128

Training of Promoters

A total of 153 promoters were trained in SUN/ENA using the SUN Community Training Manual from the government that has just been revised (August 2014). Waiting for the manual to be finalized delayed the training of the promoters in SUN/ENA and also the roll out of nutrition education sessions in the expansion districts. The promoters were finally trained from November 17 to 21, 2014.

USAID Project visits

In the quarter, USAID conducted four visits. The first visit was conducted on 8th October 2014 at Group Village Headman Kulima, Chitekwe GAC, Chitekwe EPA, Mpenu Association in Lilongwe district where USAID Chief of Bureau of Food Security for Africa Region from Washington DC, Meredith Soule and Erin Shetty were the guests.

The second visit took place from 20th to 21st October 2014 at Maiwa EPA in Mangochi and Bazale EPA in Balaka during which Sustainable Economic Growth Office Chief, John Edgar, and some technical members of staff from the Mission visited.

The third visit took place from 17th to 19th November 2014 in Dedza, Ntcheu, Balaka and Machinga districts by the USAID Food Security Monitoring Specialist, Steve Sibande. The official visited a number of care groups in Balaka and Machinga and monitored 2 training sessions for promoters which were running concurrently in Balaka. The fourth visit was conducted on 4th December 2014 by the Acting American Ambassador, Mike Gonzales. The ambassador visited Nakadolo Care Group, Group Village Headman Chitekwe, Chitekwe EPA in Lilongwe district.

Figure 11: Erin Shetty (l), Lynn Schneider (center) and Meredith Soule (r) view cooking



Figure 12: The Acting American Ambassador poses for a photo with care group volunteers



Activities marking the event included a visit to agriculture demonstration plot; viewing of a backyard garden, energy saving stoves and various food products made from soy and groundnuts. There were also speeches and theatre performances by the community-based drama groups. NASFAM took lead on demonstration plot where new agriculture technologies were demonstrated. Nkhoma Hospital team

facilitated all care group activities and Pakachere conducted the drama. A number of products made from soy and groundnuts were presented to the ambassador.

Figure 13: Lead mothers demonstrating soy product



PRINCIPLE ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN Q2

- Comprehensive food processing, utilization and preservation training for field nutrition staff of Nkhoma and the expansion districts
- Consult with DNHA-OPC concerning policy constraints and initiatives to be undertaken in Food Fortification
- Participation in Child Health Day Activities in Lilongwe District
- Community mobilization for the recruitment of promoters in Impact areas of Lilongwe and Mchinji Districts
- Continuation of training and mobilization of Care Groups in the expansion districts
- Finalization, printing and dissemination of a recipe book with nutritious alternatives and food preparation techniques using locally available and indigenous ingredients

COMPONENT 4: INVESTING IN INNOVATION

Overview of Quarter 1

This quarter, funds amounting to US\$ 398,052 were distributed to three grantees. Grantee expenses amounting to US\$ 420,404 were liquidated during the same period. Cumulative grantee expenses cleared by FtF-INVC are now 88.1% of total funds disbursed to grantees. Cleared expenses in this quarter were only 43% of the corresponding figure in the previous quarter.

Nkhoma has now cleared all its outstanding advances. NASFAM on the other hand, has been slow in liquidating its advances.

Three grant modifications were formalized during this quarter of which only one, CISANET, resulted in an increase in the grant value (US\$7,287). FtF-INVC was engaged hands-on with NASFAM's Internal Procurement Committee in the process of procuring certified soya bean seed for its farmer members. Despite all our efforts the final delivery was only made on 21 November to NASFAM's Mchinji IPC, 6 days later than we had planned. Final checking is taking place, prior to signing the grant completion certificate of MMPA.

TASK 1: FUND DESIGN

The \$11 million "Investing in Innovation Fund" (IIF) is an integral element of FTF-INVC's programming across Components 1, 2, and 3. The fund is open to private and non-governmental entities, and public-private partnerships that are able to demonstrate that proof-of-concept interventions can be tested in one growing or marketing season or less. Proposals must demonstrate a clear business case for scaling that is built upon end-market analysis and a financing plan. The \$9 million "Implementation Support Fund" (ISF) cuts across Components 1, 2, 3 and 4. It is intended primarily to support the refinement and scaling of partner programs that align very closely with FTF-INVC objectives in value chain competitiveness, productivity, and community nutrition activities. ISF grants will also enable FTF-INVC to build partner capacity to meet the objectives of USAID's FORWARD Policy.

The basic DAI Grants Manual was adapted to FTF-INVC's needs and submitted to and approved by USAID in the last quarter of FY 2012. However, during the previous quarter, the need arose to increase the grant of NASFAM to an amount greater than the K1.5 million ceiling specified in the Grants Manual for Standard Grants. Furthermore, the specified maximum period for Standard Grants is 18 months. Almost all the grants barring CISANET have exceeded the 18 month maximum period specified in the Grants Manual. DAI therefore communicated in writing with USAID and is awaiting approval of the request to: Increase the Standard Grant amount ceiling from K1.5 m to K 4 m and Increase the maximum period for Standard Grants from 18 to 36 months.

TASK 2: OPERATIONALIZE FUNDING MECHANISM

SUB-TASK 1: ESTABLISH GRANT REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Table 24: Cumulative progress in USAID concurrence and signature

Components	Concept Notes	Proposals	Total Received	Grants concurred by USAID to date	Grants signed to date
Advancing value chain competitiveness	13	6	19	2	2
Improving productivity	6	7	13	4	4
Improving community capacity to prevent under –nutrition	2	2	4	2	2
Investing in innovation	0	2	2	1	1
Developing local capacity	4	1	5	1	1
Grant Total	25	18	43	10	10

Grant preparation and signing

FtF-INVC did not sign any new grants this quarter.

Grant Modifications

There were 3 grant modifications during this quarter for ACE, Pakachere and CISANET grants. The modifications for ACE and Pakachere were to re-align their budgets after taking a look at their proposed activities and available balances on budget line items. The one for CISANET resulted in an increase in the grant value of US\$ 7,287 and was within the value USAID concurred to at the outset. The reason for this grant modification was to reallocate resources between budget line items and also budget for the salary that was negotiated for the Program Coordinator, when he joined CISANET.

FUM also wished to amend their budget, once more, to include computers for their field staff. However we have yet to receive their formal request.

The Grants Manager and Chief of Party worked together to draft grant modifications for all grantees to extend their Grant Period of Performance from 31 December 2014 to 28 February 2015. This document was sent by the Chief of Party to DAI Washington for vetting by the Contracts Administrator. The required grant modifications will be effected in the next quarter, if the extension of the project is approved.

Grant Closeouts

The Malawi Milk Producers' Association (MMPA) grant closed on 30 September 2014 and grant closeout procedures were brought into action immediately. FtF-INVC has already received from MMPA the following Grant Closeout documentation: Grantee's Final Technical Report and Final Financial Report; Inventory List; Final Bank reconciliations. Final approval is awaited from the FtF-INVC Finance and Administration Director before the Grant Completion Certificate is signed by both MMPA and FtF-INVC.

Proposals submitted to USAID

During this quarter, no proposals were submitted to USAID.

SUB-TASK 2: MANAGEMENT OF POST-GRANT ACTIVITIES

Table 25: Analysis of the submission of expense reports

Grantee	Expense reports submitted and reconciled this quarter	Expense reports submitted and reconciled Cumulative to date
ACE	62,850	653,886
NASFAM	59,236	1,195,417
MMPA	24,071	297,944
IITA	14,905	107,296
FUM	124,335	459,309
CADECOM	8,749	414,129
PAKACHERE	34,091	203,713
NKHOMA	64,361	396,379
MIM	-	54,926
CISANET	27,806	74,588
TOTAL	420,404	3,857,587

Grantees continued to show consistency in submitting their expense reports by the 15th day of the next month. This can be attributed to a better understanding by grantees that it is their efforts that will improve their own capacity to qualify for direct receipt of USAID grants. Furthermore they also have a better understanding now that the sooner they clear their advances the faster they will be able to obtain more funds.

During this quarter, approximately US\$ 420,404, in expenses were ‘cleared’ by DAI, after we were satisfied that documents submitted were compliant with DAI and USAID requirements. However, a few grantees such as NASFAM and FUM were slow to clear their advances, resulting in ‘cleared’ expenses for this quarter being about 57% less than the previous quarter.

IITA had provided funds (from FtF-INVC grant funds) to Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) to assist it in propagating Tikolore foundation seed. The activity was completed but the documentation provided left a lot to be desired. DARS had used its own DSA rates in contravention of the requirement to use the rates recommended by IITA, which were the FtF-INVC DSA rates. They also failed to provide vehicle log books to justify fuel expenses incurred during travel. These anomalies were explained to IITA over a period of time and, during this quarter, they finally excluded the non-compliant items and submitted the relevant expense report.

Vigilance needs to be maintained when checking grantee expense documentation. Nkhoma submitted a claim to recoup staff acting allowances, the calculation of which was in conflict with what is stated in Nkhoma’s Human Resource policies. This was brought to their attention and we are awaiting the correctly calculated acting allowance claim.

The FtF-INVC secretariat staff, particularly the Operations Manager and Grants Manager continued to be proactively involved in the NASFAM Soya bean certified seed procurement exercise. We had to fully engage the NASFAM Coordinator and Internal Procurement Committee to ensure that the promises FtF-INVC made to USAID regarding timely procurement of seed would be adhered to. When all processes appeared to be on track, Seed Co, a private sector company and major player of the seed industry in Malawi that supplied the seed, delayed their own activities which resulted in the final seed delivery to NASFAM being completed on 21 November. It can be categorically stated that without FtF-INVC’s hands-on involvement, delivery of seed would have taken place much later.

The Chief of Party and the Grants Manager discussed with three grantees, namely ACE, NASFAM and FUM, the rationale for the proposed DSA rates. It was noted that the rates proposed were higher than what those grantees were currently utilizing in their own establishments. All three grantees mentioned that they will provide their feedback within the quarter. FUM is yet to send its feedback.

CISANET produced 3 DVDs whose Branding & Marking was not in accordance with USAID guidelines. The opening slide of the DVDs was not properly branded, with both the USAID and FtF-INVC logos missing. CISANET was informed of this and told to correct it before being sent to USAID for approval.

The Grants Manager has ascertained from IITA that they have to their credit US\$42,534 from the sale of basic Tikolore seed in 2014. This pertains to the sale of 20.85 mt of basic seed, sold to date to certified seed producers.

As part of FtF-INVC's proactive engagement on seed issues, the Chief of Party and Grants Manager attended a Seed Act review meeting. The meeting included all stakeholders in the seed industry.

The Grants Manager attended a Nitrofix Soyabean inoculant launch on 3 December. This was particularly relevant to FtF-INVC as NASFAM procured Glycimax for its certified Soyabean seed from Farmers Organization.

Submission of Financial Reports

Most grantees submit accurate Financial Reports which are adjusted, as required, once the expense reports have been accepted by FtF-INVC. Nkhoma has submitted financial reports upto 30 September 2014. Grantees also submit Financial Reports when they submit a funding request.

Grantee Funds Requests

The following grantees submitted funds requests and were paid during the quarter. A summary of such payments is shown in the table below:

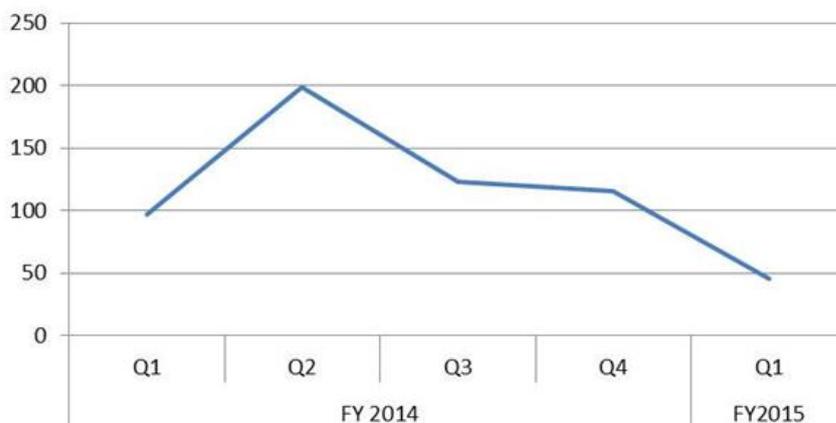
Table 26: Summary of funds disbursed and expenses cleared

Grantee	Funds disbursed by DAI this quarter (US\$)	Funds disbursed by DAI (US\$) – Cumulative to date	Cleared Advances (US\$)	Cleared Advances as a% of Funds Disbursed
ACE	-	625,327	598,336	96
NASFAM	329,932	1,502,105	1,133,189	75
MMPA	-	252,237	252,237	100
IITA	-	175,761	152,481	87
FUM	-	578,519	402,453	70
CADECOM	-	476,302	380,893	80
PAKACHERE	44,641	251,781	189,182	75
NKHOMA	23,479	358,818	349,053	97
MIM	-	54,926	54,926	100
CISANET	-	98,698	57,197	58
TOTAL	398,052	4,374,474	3,569,947	82

Funds made available to grantees during this quarter were 46% of the amount paid out in the last quarter. The main reason for this was the low liquidation of expenses by grantees during this quarter that resulted in larger outstanding balances this quarter.

This graph illustrates the trend of grants disbursed during the quarter as a percentage of the previous quarter. This quarter's low grant funds distribution is mainly due to non-liquidation of advances by grantees (particularly NASFAM and FUM). In the case of NASFAM it is mainly due to advances given by them to consultants (deliverables had not yet been received) and incomplete field expense documentation. In the case of FUM, they had not completed field staff procurements which were actually submitted to FtF-INVC in January 2015.

Figure 14: Grant disbursement as % of previous month



Grantee Training on Grants/Finance/Reporting Issues

The Grants Manager and Finance and the Administration Director visited NASFAM on 11 December to provide an hour-long training to 8 temporary staff, pertaining to the type of documentation and required quality to make IPC expense documentation compliant. The staff then went out to IPCs to obtain the missing documentation. Going by feedback received from NASFAM the initiative was not as successful as expected.

Interaction with Grantees

During the quarter, 26 meetings and 4 coaching sessions were held with a total of 80 staff (67 male and 13 female) from grantees and non-grantee technical and business service providers. The topics covered in such meetings and coaching sessions included issues pertaining to, among others, expense documentation, DSA rates, project closeout procedures, bank reconciliations, procurement, branding and marking, commodity tender issues, financial and expense reporting and budgetary issues.

The Grants Manager and Finance and Administration Director held the initial Technical Working Group (TWG) of Grants Accountants on 12 November 2014 at FtF-INVC offices. The mandate of this committee is to discuss and agree on better ways to document and account for grants related expenditure. The following areas will be looked at during the next meeting: a) Templates, b) Harmonisation of DSA rates, c) Presentation of Financial documents, d) Formulation of a guiding document on expenditure presentation, and e) Transport rates and receipts.

On 23 October FtF-INVC engaged with staff from Nkhoma to discuss a variety of operational issues including what needed to be done to immediately clear their outstanding advances. A further meeting was held at Nkhoma's Lilongwe offices on 27 November to bring to their attention various financial issues. The meeting was attended by Nkhoma's Medical Director and staff along with FtF-INVC's Chief of Party and staff. Nkhoma took the required corrective action before the end of the quarter and cleared all their outstanding advances.

A meeting was also held with the Chief Executive Officer, Director of NASFAM Development and Financial Advisor of NASFAM on 27 November regarding issues such as a) Need for better coordination, b) Need to speed up the seed distribution exercise, c) USAID monitoring staff's field visit report and d) US Ambassador's field visit to a Nkhoma/ NASFAM site.

The Grants Manager attended the opening sessions of the Annual General Meetings of FUM, NASFAM, and CISANET.

Grantee Engagement

While there were no grantee review meetings this quarter, the Grants Manager, Finance and Administration Director and Grants Accountants continue to proactively engage with grantee staff to clear their expense claims.

TASK 3: DEVELOP SUSTAINABILITY MECHANISMS FOR FUNDS

SUB-TASK 1: CONDUCT ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS

Grants operations did not carry out any Pre-Award Surveys or administer any Financial Capability Questionnaires during this quarter.

SUB-TASK 2: DEVELOP INDUSTRY BUSINESS PLANS

During this quarter, three Business Service Providers (BSP) Umodzi Consulting, Tradeline Consult and Target Consulting finalised their Business Plans for best performing milk bulking groups, associations and cooperatives identified by the Implementing Partners (IP).

Umodzi Consulting completed three-year business plans for three FUM co-operatives – Tithese Umphawi, Nambuma and Ntapo and two MMPA Milk Bulking Groups - Machite and Lumbazi

Tradeline Consult: Completed three three-year business plans for Lilongwe North, Mchinji and Namwera Association Management Centres (AMC) of NASFAM.

Target Consulting, was assigned the following assignments: Identify capacity gaps and conduct training activities that can strengthen performance of CADECOM's Lifidzi, Ulimi ndi Chuma, Dedza, Golomoti and Bembeke associations, Balaka, Ntcheu and Lilongwe South. Develop three, three-year business plans for NASFAM's Balaka, Ntcheu and Lilongwe South AMCs. Carry out training in entrepreneurship and business plan development at the 3 selected NASFAM AMCs

The final reports are yet to be received.

SUB-TASK 3: SURVEY AND ASSESS INVESTORS' INTEREST

There were no activities linked to Investors' interest in smallholder farmers' business potential during this quarter.

TASK 4: INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION-RELATED ACTIVITIES BY PRIVATE SECTOR ACTORS

SUB-TASK 1: FACILITATE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP RELATED TO AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION SECTORS

During this quarter, a total of 4,534 mt of commodities were deposited in the ACE warehouse receipt system. These commodities consisted of maize grain, pigeon peas and rice.

ACE facilitated a total of 38 contracts during this quarter, comprising of 2,057 mt (target – 10,000 mt) of mainly soya, maize grain, groundnuts, cow peas, pigeon peas and rice. The related value was US\$ 921,779. The Rural Trade Agents facilitated 3 such contracts, amounting to 4.57 mt with a value of US\$ 2,801.

ACE signed 2 Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Airtel and TNM to pilot mobile money payments into its warehouse receipts system.

ACE profiled and uploaded 746 farmers on its database. The uploaded farmers have access to market information and trading opportunities under the ACE trading platform. So far, ACE has uploaded a

total of 4,992 farmers in its data base and since the inception of INVC project 7,476 farmers have been uploaded on the ACE database.

PRINCIPLE ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN Q2

- Clearing of outstanding aged advances with Implementing Partner and Technical Service Provision Grantees
- Negotiation of Technical Services to be provided under re-negotiated or amended grant agreements with IP and TSP through the end of the Program
- Conception of Financial and Technical Reporting Templates with IP grantees
- TWG meetings with partners to reinforce financial reporting and procurement procedures
- Undertake revised work planning discussions with partners for FY 15

COMPONENT 5: DEVELOPING LOCAL CAPACITY

Overview of Quarter 1

Following the conclusion of the OCA conducted in September 2014, FtF-INVC consolidated and refined the developed capacity building action plans with respective partner organizations based on the identified capacity gaps. From the OCA results, there is generally good progress in achieving capacity improvements for the 7 partners in the eight capacity dimensions. INVC continued working with partners on the implementation of short-term actions to address key capacity gaps identified during the OCA. INVC started consultations with CISANET and Nkhoma regarding supporting the process of reviewing their Strategic Plans as per identified gap. The transformation change process of NASFAM continued with the identification of Guiding Coalition Sub-Task Teams composed of volunteer NASFAM Staff whose role is to cascade the change process down to NASFAM members at grassroots (AMC) level. The NASFAM transformation work is a long-term engagement and INVC will continue supporting the process for the foreseeable future.

FtF-INVC, through the services of Business Service Providers (BSPs), continued strengthening farmer associations/cooperatives under NASFAM, CADECOM and FUM with the aim of making them become more business focused so that they begin to plan for sustainability. This was done by facilitating the development of business plans, mentoring and coaching on business plans implementation as well as training farmer association executive members in good governance and business management skills.

Field level agronomic training events were supported under Component 2. The training focused on equipping lead farmers, assistant lead farmers, partner and government field staff with knowledge and skills in crop management of soya beans and groundnuts in readiness for the rainy season. In total, around 6500 lead farmers and extension staff were trained. As regards supporting component 3, 75 Promoters were trained in Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and 23 partner staff were trained in Social Behaviour Communication.

TASK 1: DEVELOP MALAWI'S CAPACITY GOING FORWARD

SUB-TASK 1: UPGRADE/ IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY TO MANAGE GRANTS

FtF-INVC worked with all the seven partners following the OCA exercise to refine and strategize on the capacity building action plans developed from the identified gaps. There is generally improved responsiveness from the partners in addressing the capacity gaps. However, partners continue to have challenges with USAID compliance which falls under the Finance and Administration capacity dimensions despite getting a higher score by all the seven partners in this capacity area.

Though the partners have financial systems and policies in place, adherence to those systems is still a challenge.

INVC continued to invest time in training, coaching and mentoring partner personnel on how to properly submit financial reports and documentation as well as the following of proper procurement procedures.

The FtF-INVC Grants Accountants regularly visited partners to supervise and give timely feedback and advice on expected financial documentation and reporting procedures.

In the next quarter, this approach will further be strengthened by providing stepwise capacity building of the partner Grants/Finance staff represented in the Technical Working Group by all the seven partners.

The TWG meeting scheduled in the next quarter will focus on training partners on presentation of

financial documents as well as discussing with partners the guiding financial reporting templates on selected key issues like travel allowances, time sheets and procurement. The Technical Working Group is scheduled to meet on a monthly basis so that key issues/gaps identified are effectively addressed in a timely manner.

The capacity section of Project Performance Management, especially related to monitoring and evaluation, including supervision is also still a challenge as most partners do not have dedicated M&E staff.

INVC continued working with partners to accelerate the filling of M&E positions. Nkhoma hospital, CISANET and Pakachere have yet to recruit M&E Officers and because the M&E officer from FUM left the organization, they too need to recruit a replacement.

During Q2, INVC will train partners on development of data management improvement plans and techniques for doing internal DQA's.

Table 27: Results of the Organizational Capacity Assessment of Partners: Sept/October 2014

ORGANIZATION	SCORES PER ORGANIZATION PER CAPACITY AREA									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Av	%
NASFAM	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.5	2.9	3.4	2.3	2.8	2.9	73
FUM	4	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.6	3	3.5	3.5	88
CADECOM	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.4	3	3	3	75
NKHOMA	3.4	2	2.7	2.9	3	3.3	2.8	3	2.9	73
ACE	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.5	3	3.3	3.1	78
PAKACHERE	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.8	3.3	3.5	2.8	3.5	3.4	85
CISANET	3.6	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.6	3.4	4	3.5	88
Av. Score/ dimension	3.4	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.5	2.9	3.3	3.2	80

Key to Capacity areas analyzed above

1	Governance	5	Organization Management
2	Administration	6	Program Management
3	HR Management	7	Project Performance Management
4	Financial management	8	Leadership and team dynamics

Commentary

The table shows improvement in capacity for all the INVC partners except for NASFAM and Nkhoma (73% overall capacity each) down from 75% and 80% respectively. The overall partners' current average score is **80%** from **75%** reported as part of the 1st assessment (February 2014).

Other progress following the OCA results

NASFAM is still grappling with the issue of reconstituting the Board (Governance) that can provide the required strategic guidance and oversight to the organization. The current statutes stipulate that the Board composition should be membership-based. There are still challenges at field level in terms of recruiting AFOs with relevant skills and qualities as their pay comes from Associations that are not making a lot of money at the moment.

INVC is supporting NASFAM during its Transformational Organization Change process; looking holistically at three pillars of the organization: Foundational, Directional and Operational. Through this process, NASFAM has redefined its "core identity" which is more business oriented than donor funded/development projects; hence, it needs to revisit its Vision and Mission to reflect this new thinking.

The transformation change process of NASFAM is also tackling operational capacity gaps identified during the OCA such as board capacity, staffing levels in the associations, refining job descriptions as well as improving communication amongst staff in the organization.

The M&E coordinator for NASFAM, Penjani Banda, has only been in place for around 5-6 months and is just starting to have a positive impact on field oversight, M&E and quality assurance.

INVC also worked with Nkhoma in filling the vacant positions for District Nutrition Coordinators and Nutrition Assistants. However, as part of the action plan to address the high staff turn-over and attrition rate, Nkhoma will, next quarter, carry out a survey of service conditions with organizations similar in nature that would possibly assist in devising strategies for addressing the turn-over problem.

INVC has organized stepwise training and a coaching plan to address financial management and project management challenges that partners are still facing. INVC is making regular follow-ups with respective partners based on the action plans developed after the OCA (see table below). All the INVC partners do not have their organizations' cost-sharing policies of their own. They do however respond to respective donor requirements/demands. INVC will develop guidelines on how to develop a cost-share policy which will be discussed with partners as a guide for their developing their own institutional cost-share and branding policies.

SUB-TASK 2: BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

During the quarter, FtF- INVC provided technical and financial support to CISANET to start the process of developing its Business Plan as well as conducting a mid-term strategic review for its 2012-2017 Strategic Plan. This activity was deemed necessary by CISANET following the recommendation made by its members during the CISANET Annual General Meeting held in July 2014 (which was also reflected in the OCA). The Strategic Plan is expected to include the Business Plan for CISANET's sustainability. FtF-INVC also initiated consultations with Nkhoma to develop its Strategic Plan following the expiration of the existing one. The new Strategic Plan for Nkhoma is expected to be ready by the end of March 2015..

The transformation change process of NASFAM continued with the identification of Guiding Coalition Sub-Task Teams composed of volunteer NASFAM Staff whose role is to cascade the change process down to NASFAM members at grassroots (AMC) level. The NASFAM transformation work is a long-term project and INVC anticipates continuing support to the process. INVC continued monitoring and following up with partners on implementation of short-term actions to address key capacity gaps identified during the OCA as shown in the Table below.

Table 28: Some key partner capacity building plans

IP	Dimensions	Capacity Gaps	Planned Actions	Target Date	Progress in Q1
ACE	Governance	Inactive Board of Directors – irregular meetings	• CEO to present OCA findings to the Board for attention	Dec. 2014.	
	Financial Mgt	Financial procedures between ACE Ltd and ACE Trust	• Incorporate ACE Ltd & Trust in SAGE Guideline	March 2015	
	Administration	No guidelines/policy for Branding and fixed assets control	• Guidelines/policy drafted	Feb. 2015	

IP	Dimensions	Capacity Gaps	Planned Actions	Target Date	Progress in Q1
Dedza CADECOM	Project Performance Mgt	Project implementation and data quality control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire M&E Officer 	Dec. 2014	M&E Officer recruited
	Administration	No policies on cost-share, branding and Volunteers/Interns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop policies/guidelines and incorporate into HR/admin. Manual 	Feb. 2015	
FUM	Human Resource Mgt	Annual staff salary increments not based on annual appraisals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt a performance based systems for annual increments 	Jan. 2015	
	Project Performance Management	Weak M&E system	Develop and institutionalize feedback mechanisms for client satisfaction	Dec. 2014	Not yet done. M&E Officer for FUM resigned and INVC will facilitate development of M&E improvement plan for FUM
	Financial Mgt	No cost share policy	Develop cost-share policy	Jan. 2015	
NASFAM	Organizational Management & Governance;	Redirecting NASFAM towards its core identity – which is to be more business oriented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with the Transformation Change Process of NASFAM Identify guiding coalition sub-teams 	December 2015	Guiding Coalition Sub-teams for transformation change identified
NKHOMA	Organizational Management	Strategic plan expired in 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new Strategic Plan 	Feb. 2015	Consultations have started
	HR Mgt; Proj. Performance Mgt	Most nutrition Coordinators and Assistants positions vacation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit NAs and Coordinators 	Dec. 2014	3 Nutrition Coordinators & 7 Assistants recruited and assigned
	Project Performance Management	No M&E Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill the position 	Feb. 2015	
PAKACHERE	Project Performance Mgt	Project implementation and data quality control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire M&E Officer 	March 2015	
	Financial Mgt	Inconsistency in adherence to financial reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tighten compliance procedures 	March 2015	

Implementation of the above action plans is progressing well as shown above. Besides, INVC will in the next quarter run training sessions for partners on presentation of financial documents; how to develop cost-sharing and branding policy; field based procurement training; and assisting partners to develop the data improvement management plan.

TASK 2: ENHANCE HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN VALUE CHAINS

SUB-TASK 1: DELIVER NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO ORGANIZATIONS

INVC held district consultative meetings with Mangochi, Balaka, and Machinga District Councils to solicit views on the agriculture and health Programs in their respective districts. FtF-INVC used the meetings to gather from the districts, the stakeholder mapping and the Socio Economic Profiles to assist in the planning to foster collaboration and avoid service duplication in the respective districts. The consultative meetings were attended by a number of government departments and organizations at district level, such as Health, Agriculture, Education, Gender, Community Development, Social Welfare, Planning and Development.

In Q2 FtF-INVC will hold further consultative meetings with district councils of Mangochi, Balaka, Machinga, and Lilongwe to better understand their operating systems in agriculture and nutrition, the policy initiatives necessary and capacity needs related to integration of agriculture and nutrition in the districts. FtF-INVC will use the information to develop capacity building and policy advocacy plans to address the issues.

SUB-TASK 2: DELIVER NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO FARMERS

In collaboration with Component 2, FtF-INVC conducted a series of Crop Management training sessions for farmers, lead farmers, assistant lead farmers and field partner staff. The main objective of the Crop Management training was to impart knowledge and skills on the practices and benefits of proper crop management and adopting good agricultural practices: training primarily targeted at building the capacity of around 2,100 lead farmers and 10,000 assistant lead farmers to continuously improve their farming practices of legumes (soybeans and groundnuts). Training was delivered at CADECOM, FUM and NASFAM impact sites under INVC. The training approach was participatory. Field demonstrations of the technologies, including ridge and plant spacing were organized. Farmers were able to ask questions and make comments based on their personal experience. In terms of their participation in demonstrations, various local materials were used for illustrating measurements such as use of sticks, arms or fingers to depict plant spacing and depth. The trainers could allow the participants to take the lead during some demonstrations. Handouts on technical messages were also handed out to all participants.

SUB-TASK 3: FACILITATE POLICY REVIEW AND ADVOCACY SUPPORT

In order to strengthen the institutional capacity of SOYAMA and the Groundnut Platforms, CISANET, with INVC's support, facilitated a process of developing the Strategic Plans for both organizations for the period 2015-2020. This was done in consultation with all key members from respective platforms. The draft strategic plan documents are currently being reviewed by stakeholders for refinement. INVC also supported CISANET to conduct its Mid-term Strategic review of the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is expected also to include the Business Plan which will guide CISANET implementation and validate the Strategic Plan as well as include the Revised Conditions of Service to be in line with the Revisions made to their Strategic Plan.

INVC supported the production of two - 30 minute radio and TV documentaries on two critical issues in the agriculture sector, namely: *Aflatoxin control in Malawi*; and *the Warehouse Receipt System (WRS)*. The documentaries highlight challenges which need attention of stakeholders. Most farmers and field staff interviewed on the issue of aflatoxin, indicated inadequate knowledge on the effects of aflatoxin and how to prevent it. As regards, WRS, most farmers interviewed had less information on core operations of the system as well as that most warehouses are far from rural areas where farmers

are located. It is hoped that these documentaries will arouse discussions by various stakeholders on the way forward in addressing the identified challenges.

FtF-INVC, through CISANET, supported the translation of four policy briefs from English to Chichewa, covering the following topics:

- *Adoption of technologies in the groundnuts and soya beans value chains: understanding the policy gaps.*
- *Agriculture for Nutrition and Health: where we are and what can be done?*
- *Challenges and constraints to up scaling climate smart agriculture.*
- *Agriculture Development and Youth Involvement.*

The policy briefs will be distributed widely to stakeholders for information sharing.

As a way of institutional strengthening of trade associations, CISANET has been following up with Government (Registrar's Office) to hasten the approval of the registration of SOYAMA, the Groundnut Platform and DIDP. By 31 December 2014, the registration of Groundnuts Platform and DIDP was almost complete. SOYAMA's registration has been delayed as government requested further information if SOYAMA is to be granted a go ahead to use the name "Malawi". The process of consolidating the requested information is in progress. CISANET with assistance from Sikwese & Company which is the legal firm that was contracted to facilitate this process, are doing everything possible to finalize the registration process.

SUB-TASK 4: CONDUCT TRAINING IN VALUE CHAIN AND NUTRITION SPECIFIC TOPICS

Efforts undertaken in this sub-task are covered in the Chapter on Component III- Nutrition.

SUB-TASK 5: STRENGTHEN AND FACILITATE GROWTH OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

FtF-INVC partnered with three Business Service Providers (BSPs) namely Umodzi Consulting; Tradeline Corporation and Target Consulting to facilitate the development and mentorship of business plans for Lilongwe North AMC, Lilongwe South AMC, Ntcheu AMCs, Balaka AMC and Namwera AMC under NASFAM.

This initiative supports NASFAM's objective of transitioning these AMCs from productivity cost centers to become Innovation Productivity Centers (IPCs) which are self-sustaining as envisioned in the NASFAM Strategic Development Plan (SDP III).

Business Plan mentorship for five farmer cooperatives under FUM also continued during the quarter. Around 132 farmers, executive members of associations and cooperatives, were trained in governance and business management skills. The Business Management skills topics included:

- Entrepreneurship skills,
- Sales & Marketing,
- Business Communication,
- Financial Management, and
- Developing Business Plan

Governance training sessions were:

- Board roles & responsibilities,
- Effective leadership,
- Conflict Management,
- Organizational behavior and Change Management,
- Building a team and Managing effective meetings.

These trainings registered significant success as one of the trained executive members from Balaka AMC was elected President (Chairman) of NASFAM Board of Governors during the NASFAM General Assembly held end of 2014.

Figure 16: Business plan review and mentorship sessions with staff/executives in Mchinji



Figure 15: Business Plans implementation mentorship of NASFAM staff in Lilongwe North AMC



PRINCIPLE ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN Q2

- Stepwise training of partners in Grants Management
- Assist Nkhoma Hospital in finalizing their updated strategic plan
- Consultative meetings with District Council Members to understand operational systems for the integration and coordination of agriculture and nutrition interventions, to identify key policy initiatives and capacity development needs for integrating targeted agricultural value chain interventions with nutrition
- Undertake key capacity reinforcement actions with IP and TSP in accordance with the OCA analyses and strategic development plans already negotiated
- Coordinate with STEPS to ensure complementarity of interventions and messaging related to capacitation, advocacy, outreach, compliance and control checks and balances

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

KEY MONITORING AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES

SUB-TASK 1: MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM

Data Collection Tools

The bound booklet of lead farmer forms with carbonated copies has been distributed to partners and lead farmers with a total of 7,858 booklets distributed to lead farmers and assistant lead farmers at CADECOM, FUM and NASFAM. This next quarter the M&E team will monitor partner progress and lead farmer utilization of this booklet. So far it appears that the booklets are being utilized which is contributing to improved data flow from the field and lead farmer training numbers are showing up in the EPAs of FUM and CADECOM and IPCs for NASFAM.

The nutrition team is gathering final feedback from the field on suggested form modifications early next quarter with the goal of having the booklets printed for distribution commencing next quarter.

Project Database

Spreadsheet templates to track indicators from our various partners have been developed for data entry for partners and we have written distributed and trained partners on a data entry protocol to streamline the management of the electronic data. This is important for good data management and version control. A lot of time was spent last quarter cleaning and validating partner data. In the meantime we are exploring other database options and have written the exploration of digital data gathering, GIS and QR codes into our 2015 work plan. We will implement this as a test case next quarter and based on lessons learned we will roll it out to the rest of the districts accordingly.

SUB-TASK 2: STRENGTHENING GRANTEE M&E SYSTEMS

Frequent Partner Field Visits

Frequent contact has continued from the M&E team with a focus on improving data quality through monitoring of project activities and conducting DQAs. These visits have helped to sensitize partner staff that data quality is the responsibility of all staff and not just an M&E function.

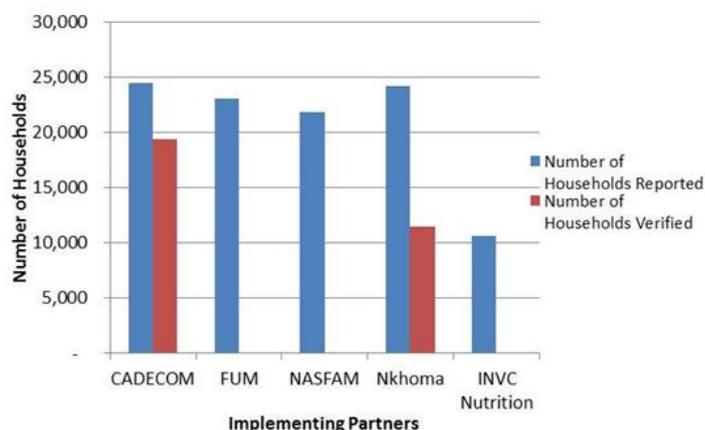
Table 29: Field Visits by INVC M&E staff to IPs

M&E Staff	Number trips	# days in field	Purpose of trips	Action Items for Follow up
Dickson Kazembe - FUM and Cadecom	4	19	DQAs, Spot surveys, staff training, Outcome survey	DQA action steps
Grace Mzumara - Nkhoma	6	17	Staff Training, spot survey, CHD supervision and training	Nkhoma data improvement plan
Mwiza Simkonda - NASFAM	8	22	DQAs, Outcome survey, data verification	DQA action steps, NASFAM Data Improvement plan
Shannon Lindsay - INVC Nutrition Scale Up	5	18	Staff and Promoter Training, CHD supervision & training, Form collection, field admin	Follow up DQAs for scale up

Electronic Data

Much of the partner data reported this quarter is not available in electronic format which prevents quality checks and verification. Farmer's sign-up sheets are available but the numbers have not been transferred into the spreadsheet database. This prevents the INVC M&E staff from verifying and validating what has been reported by our partners. INVC has chosen not to report this data until it is available and verifiable in an electronic format. This has drastically reduced the numbers reported for selected FTF output indicators by INVC this quarter. Below is a table for rural households comparing reported data (in blue) to verified/electronic data (in red) by partner:

Table 30: Comparison of Reported vs Verified Households within Partners



Partner Training Plans

The nutrition M&E team has conducted four trainings for nutrition field staff. One large training was conducted for all the new 153 promoters (91 male and 62 female) and 16 nutrition project staff (District Coordinators and Nutrition Assistants) for the expansion districts of Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi. Previously translated versions of forms were refined and instructions were edited in preparation for these trainings. Follow up training will take place in all of these areas throughout 2015. The rest of the training was for the collection of gendered data for Child Health Days for a total of 20 females and 14 males.

INVC staff has focused on training AFOs, registering new beneficiaries, data cleaning and surveys this past quarter. Next quarter data improvement and training plans will be developed in conjunction with partners and lead farmer training will be rolled out in all areas of the project.

Each INVC M&E coordinator is developing a data quality plan with their implementing partner coordinated with the capacity reinforcement component of INVC. The goal of these data quality plans are to significantly improve data quality by June of 2015. These plans along with the roll out of the unique ID should go a long way to get data into an electronic format thus improving INVC data quality.

Unique Beneficiary ID

Unique IDs are in the process of being distributed but the pace of distribution has slowed with certain partners due to the quality of their beneficiary lists, staff turnover and the shortened quarter with the holiday break. The IDs have been distributed to all 910 lead and assistant farmers of CADECOM and are currently being validated. Distribution is ongoing at NASFAM and in Namwera and Mchinji it is about a third finished and about a quarter of the way complete in Balaka. In Lilongwe and Ncheu it is planned for next quarter. IDs have not been rolled out yet with FUM primarily because they have lost their M&E manager. We hope to obtain an updated beneficiary list from FUM by the end of January and assign IDs in February and begin distributing the IDs by March. Nutrition IDs will be rolled out following the verification of the Ag indicators.

M&E Technical Working Group

There was no meeting of the technical working group this quarter but one will be scheduled in Q2. With no M&E person at FUM or Nkhoma and most of the staff busy with surveys and monitoring activities for year end it was decided to postpone this meeting until next quarter.

Internal DQAs and Quality Checks

The INVC M&E team conducted several DQAs throughout the quarter. Below is a table indicating the date, the indicators, the location and the partner for which the DQA was conducted. Copies of the summary DQA reports are attached in the Appendices and provide summary information instead of all the individual DQA checklists for each EPA or IPC. Commonalities for both FUM and NASFAM from the DQAs were that they:

- Need to better cascade the data gathering protocol to field staff
- Provide documented QC on the numbers reported to INVC
- Better check for double counting in the training indicator (The unique IDs will help to eliminate this issue).
- Check the arithmetic between the numbers reported and the numbers available in hard copy
- Enter data electronically to facilitate QC and improve data quality

Table 31: Quarterly DQAs conducted October-December 2014

Date	Partner	Location	Indicator	Comments
28-11-14	NASFAM	Mchinji IPC	4.5.2-7 Number of individuals receiving short term training	Data was not quite satisfactory. A consistent form was not utilized. QC was not documented. No electronic data. The numbers almost added up with some underreporting. Data was in a lockable cabinet.
10-12-14		Balaka IPC		Data was properly filed. All the numbers did not add up and the IPC also underreported. QC needs to be documented. Staff need keys for lockable cabinet. Data is improving.
17-12-14		Lilongwe North IPC		Similar issues as Mchinji plus forms were not properly filed. This IPC used a consistent form.
		Lilongwe South IPC		Similar issues as above in Lilongwe N
02-12-14	FUM	Lilongwe Secretariat	4.5.2-7 Number of individuals receiving short term training	Data was mostly satisfactory but there was no electronic data. Numbers were underreported for this indicator as numbers reported were smaller than what was found in the binders. All else was good.
			4.5.2-13 Number of rural households benefiting from INVC interventions	Number accuracy for this indicator was not checked due to the size of the numbers reported. Spot checks will be performed next quarter to check sources against numbers reported. QC needs to be documented
12/3-12/11/2014	FUM	All FUM EPAs: Mngwangwa, Thawale, Linthipi, Lobi, Kabwazi, Mayani, Mkanda, Kalulu, Chileka,	4.5.2-7 Number of individuals receiving short term training	Overall the data was satisfactory and number accuracy was mostly good. QC is performed by accounting due to the disbursement of lunch allowances during training which needs proper documentation.
12/3-12/11/2014		4.5.2-13 Number of rural households benefiting from INVC interventions	The data for this indicator was located at the FUM secretariat and not at the EPAs. It is suggested that FUM keep copies of the data in the EPAs to insure accuracy and for QC	

Nutrition Expansion: M&E Component

Promoter and Lead Mother/Lead Father (CGV) IDs were distributed in Balaka, Machinga, and Mangochi (format for promoter is District, EPA, and GAC, format for CGV is the Promoter ID plus 01-36).

Support to Balaka, Machinga, Mchinji and Mangochi districts was provided for the promotion and activities related to the National Child Health Days campaign. M&E was directly involved as a portion of the support went to the provision of tally sheets for the HSAs to collect data specifically in Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi districts. Additionally, INVC conducted its own data collection exercise (in each district) in an effort to gather gendered data as well as to eliminate double counting of children served through the care group model that also attended CHDs.

The M&E team performed analysis on promoter dropout rates and found that Nkhoma has a dropout rate of 10% over the course of FY14 and the nutrition scale up districts had a rate of 3.2% for a little over one quarter. The Nkhoma dropout rate seems to be a bit high perhaps because the project has started up and stopped multiple times. We will have to study the dropout rate in the expansion districts as a 3-4% attrition rate early in the project is not surprising however this rate should drop off.

These promoters are in the process of being replaced.

Pakachere

Last quarter Pakachere successfully submitted all data using the electronic reporting template (as introduced in last quarter's TWG). Pakachere has gone one step above and is also entering qualitative data into this template. It should also be noted that they have submitted high quality reports by the established due date.

Nkhoma Hospital

Nkhoma is in the process of developing the promoter IDs. This has been delayed considering the expansion of the activities in the Impact Evaluation areas as well as replacement of Promoters and lead mothers following some drop outs. Nkhoma is still struggling with M&E operations since the M&E person has yet to be hired. INVC is working closely with the Nkhoma team to carry out M&E activities as well as facilitating the hiring of M&E staff.

NASFAM

NASFAM's new M&E officer has worked closely with FTF INVC staff on beneficiary validation and data quality assessments. Data quality continues to improve at NASFAM to get to USAID standards. These are laid out in the DQA recommendations. One major activity happening in the quarter at NASFAM was data entry for beneficiaries registered in the backlog for 2013 and 2014/2015 seasons. See summary below of the cumulative total already in the MS Excel database. Currently, we are cleaning and generating the IDs from 2013/2014 and 2015 data with adjustments for overlap with the other partners.

Table 32: Cumulative number of beneficiaries entered into NASFAM database

AMC/IPC	# of beneficiaries entered into database undergoing verification	# of beneficiaries registered	Data entry progress %
Lilongwe South	10,096	19,343	52
Balaka	8,248	8,248	100
Mchinji	17,374	17,374	100
Lilongwe North	19,679	19,679	100
Ntcheu	5,579	8,120	69
Namwera	4,401	8,274	53
TOTAL	65,377	81,038	81

In the quarter October to December 6,003 new registered beneficiaries were added to the existing beneficiaries to reach 65,377 that have been entered electronically. We will be looking more closely at this number next quarter.

FUM

Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM) lost their M&E officer last quarter but expansion work continues. We are looking forward to the fast tracking of the hiring process for his replacement. Many field staff do not have offices where they can work. INVC is recommending that all EPAs have office locations where field data can be gathered, monitored, quality checked and reported.

CADECOM

CADECOM completed the hiring of their new M&E officer this quarter and she started working the first week of December. INVC staff in Dedza have spent time with her orienting her to the data gathering protocol and INVC filing system. We are excited that she is now on board and look forward to her positive contribution to the overall M&E effort at CADECOM. Data quality is steadily improving at CADECOM.

Implementing Partner Beneficiary Overlap

Rural Household numbers have been adjusted down this quarter to account for overlap between Nkhoma and FUM and Nkhoma and NASFAM. Currently our records show a 31% overlap between Nkhoma and NASFAM and a 14% overlap between Nkhoma and FUM. Project numbers in the southern expansion districts already account for this overlap which the project hopes to increase. This will demonstrate closer integration between nutrition and agriculture. Recent monitoring work by the M&E staff also discovered some overlap between FUM and NASFAM. It appears to be isolated to one EPA in Lilongwe but we plan to investigate this next quarter and adjust our results according to our findings.

SUB-TASK 3: PROJECT BASELINE AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Nutrition Outcome Survey

The annual nutrition outcome indicator survey for all nutrition districts is scheduled for next quarter. A total of 1,600 beneficiaries will be surveyed (300 per district plus some oversampling) in order for the project to track progress toward its goals and objectives. The survey solicitation went out this quarter with the selection to be made and the survey to begin next quarter. It will be too early to glean much information from the expansion districts but it is our hope that we will see progress in districts of Lilongwe and Mchinji implemented by Nkhoma. Our goal is to harmonize the timing of the surveys so that they are conducted at the same time for all project areas.

Agricultural Outcome survey

The agricultural outcomes survey was completed by the end of last reporting period with the final report delivered January 19th. The survey team surveyed a total of 1,400 beneficiaries. The INVC M&E team is in the process of adjusting and verifying numbers and will report revised numbers next quarter. Presently it looks that the only numbers that will change will be Yield, Gross Margins and Incremental Sales. The numbers for soybeans look like they will be pretty much the same as what was reported in the annual report. The groundnut gross margins will drop mostly due to the fact that, many farmers had not sold their groundnuts at the time of the survey so the revenue numbers were thin. Also those that did sell at harvest time obtained low prices thus dragging down the extrapolated gross margin for all of the farmers. This will be further explored in the next quarters report.

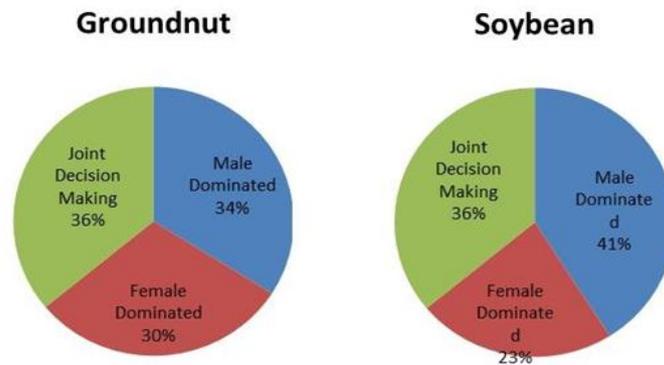
Agricultural Production Field Monitoring

The team conducted field monitoring (spot survey) last quarter for CADECOM, FUM and NASFAM to learn about seed availability and knowledge transfer with project farmers on land preparation, seed conditioning and seed germination. The survey was performed in December and 117 farmers were interviewed that were equally distributed between Dedza, Mchinji and Lilongwe. Most of the groundnut seed (80%) had undergone seed conditioning (cleaning, grading and drying) while only about half of the soybean farmers conditioned their seed. The primary reason for this was that the soy seed was delivered late but also that most of the soy seed had already undergone conditioning by the input supplier and farmers did not feel it was necessary.

The monitoring team also found that many farmers did not test the germination of their seed because they were informed by association/cooperative leadership that the germination rate had already been tested by either the supplier or by the GAC and was good. Germination testing at the farmer level in Malawi is a new concept with this being the first time seed germination has been tested by farmers. Of those that tested, 64% of the groundnut farmers reported a germination rate over 90% and 77% of the soybean farmers reported a germination rate of over 90%. About a third of the farmer's germination tests were verified to be correct by the monitoring team. This is a significant improvement over last year when some of the seed distributed had germination problems.

The team found that most farmers had started land preparation but many were still waiting for the rains (which were late this year) to begin land preparation. Follow up monitoring visits scheduled for February will look at both land preparation along with plant spacing, density and the utilization of double rows on the ridges which is very important for increasing plant density and therefore yield per hectare.

Figure 17: Decision-making power (Gender percentages)



The monitoring team also looked at Gendered Plot Decision Making to determine who makes the decisions in the household regarding where to cultivate and what to plant.

Commentary

Note that soybean decision making is dominated by males while groundnuts appear to be fairly evenly distributed between males and females. This may possibly be due to the fact that soybeans are considered more of a cash crop and groundnuts are kept more for home consumption but this needs to be investigated further by the gender team.

Child Health Days

INVC staff made a presentation at the National Child Health Days meeting on the importance of collecting (and using) gender disaggregated data. We also disseminated information on the use of the tool that was used to collect data last year (June) and proposed that all districts begin collecting gender disaggregated data. The issue is to be taken up by the ministry and we are hopeful that they will begin gathering data that is disaggregated by gender.

University of North Carolina (UNC) Impact Evaluation

UNC completed the baseline survey last quarter in November and the Nkhoma team has been working to clearly identify the control areas versus treatment areas in terms of villages and population. Once this exercise is complete the Nkhoma team will commence implementation in the treatments areas next quarter.

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

From this quarter’s report onwards, we are starting to report more explicitly on the major cross cutting themes that form an integral part of the project.

GENDER

Earlier in 2014, a Gender Assessment was conducted that has contributed to a sharper focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment for FtF-INVC in all aspects of programming in both Nutrition and Agriculture.

Key findings from the Gender Assessment exercise

This survey focused primarily on the agriculture component, and some key findings include the following:

- There is a lack of parity between men and women among lead farmers as well as women being less likely to move into leadership roles in the farmer associations.
 - The crop management training in October 2014, during which a total of over 55,000 farmers were trained, showed that there were actually slightly more female than male lead farmers (and assistant lead farmers) and farmers trained by this group even had a greater ratio of women to men.

- It is among the extension workers (AFOs and AEDOs) that there are distinctly more males than females
- While this observation was based on only one training conducted over a period of a couple of weeks across the seven Districts, the number is quite large so may indicate a trend.
- Women experience limited access to labor and cash: largely because about double the number of women are less able to command the labor of spouses and have less cash with which to hire labor.
 - The improved management skills promoted by FtF-INVC require some additional labor skills and supervision.
 - This is particularly concerning when production is expanded.
- There are serious constraints on women's access to markets, which reduce their ability to secure and improve their position in the soybean and groundnut value chains.
- Disparities exist between men and women who enter and operate as traders in the soybean and groundnut value chain.

These findings have helped the team to identify possible ways in which FtF-INVC programming will achieve its goals. In order to achieve gender parity and women's empowerment a primary question for the project and implementing partners is "Are we equalizing access to resources and opportunity?"

Prior successes

It is important to first note several positive findings of 2014, some of which came via the assessment by FtF-INVC of 2014 quarterly reports and others from the Gender Assessment. The findings indicate an opportunity for improving FtF-INVC's gender goals.

- Nutritional messages are being absorbed by both men and women farmers
 - Women are embracing nutritional messages which are being disseminated through radio jingles, theatre performances, public service announcements and in care group sessions.
 - There are also some indications of greater consumption of soy beans, groundnuts and dairy being promoted in the projects.
- The level of gender disaggregation from partners has been revised to assess gender equality at all levels of programming, including beneficiaries and the structures in which they are organized in order to perform their production duties.
 - This is also includes evaluating partner organization staffing, particularly leadership parity.
- Some efforts to collect gender data have resulted in gaining information on :
 - Broker training by gender
 - Community sensitization meetings
 - Trainings
 - Engagement of partner staff (i.e. Bunda graduates, gender disaggregated data given from their hiring)

It should be noted that FtF-INVC recognizes that gender equality and women's empowerment goals must be more than merely the gender disaggregation of data collection. Hence, we see several opportunities to advance program performance by introducing opportunities and activities that target women and men specifically. Some of these approaches will include recommendations that were made by the 2014 Gender Assessment.

INTEGRATION, ALIGNMENT AND COLLABORATION

Some of the team attended a meeting that took place in Blantyre on 3-5 December which had the aim of gathering several project personnel together including the new staff for the newly launched Njira and Ubale projects in order to share information and provide time for "guided reflection" before these projects move forth with their implementation.

- The meeting was facilitated by various staff from the TOPS project who facilitated several different sessions on topics like WALA evaluation results, Behavior Change, Gender, Agriculture and Nutrition.

- This meeting was an excellent opportunity for current projects to reflect as well as the new projects to develop their intervention plans utilizing ideas from projects that are already running. Opportunities for collaboration were discussed.

Preliminary discussions have been held with PERFORM (implemented by Tetrattech) and NJERA (implemented by PCI) regarding areas of geographic overlap, interventions and program management.

With the CIP-implemented OFSP project, FtF-INVC has started to disseminate, through its extension system composed of lead farmers and lead mothers, vines of different varieties of orange-fleshed sweet potato with the aim of exposing farming communities to this nutrient-rich crop and thereby improving nutrition at the household level

Meetings between FtF-INVC, its partners and other USAID supported partners continued in the quarter as partial fulfillment of USAID coordination, co-location and collaboration initiative. During the period, meetings were held with Project Concern International (District Coordinators only), International Potato Centre (CIP), National Democratic Institute (NDI). The Project Concern International and Support for Service Delivery Integration (SSDI). The main objectives of these meetings were to identify areas of collaboration and sharing of field experiences.

Table 33: Programmatic overlap with FtF-INVC

Partner name	Geographic overlap with FtF-INVC	Programmatic overlap with FtF-INVC
PCI-Njira	Balaka and Machinga districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition interventions • Using same care group approach • Targeting same pregnant women, lactating mothers and under five children
SSDI	Balaka and Mangochi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition interventions • Using same care group approach • Targeting same pregnant women, lactating mothers and under five children
CIP	Balaka and Lilongwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No overlap • CIP deals with OFSP • INVC plans to integrate OFSP in care group activities
NDI	Lilongwe, Mangochi, Balaka and Machinga districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No overlap (NDI deals with democracy consolidated related issues) • NDI plans to use some of the care group structures to promote rule of rule and individual rights as change agents to advocate for democratic

VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS (VS&L)

FtF-INVC is exploring the utilization of Village Savings and Loan (VS&L) clubs as a significant contributor to improving the income and nutrition standards of community members and from this quarter's report onwards, we will be reporting on the specific actions being taken in this area.

Background and rationale

Savings and Loan groups have proven to be an effective model in order to mitigate poverty and lack of financial services for the rural poor and FtF-INVC has taken action steps to incorporate this activity into its 2015 workplan. This effort is also to promote deeper integration by cross pollinating Agriculture Club members and Care Group members into VSL groups.

Prior research and investigations

To date, FtF-INVC has conducted research on other stakeholders in the VSL landscape and the CARE model, created in the 1990s, was found to be the most widely used methodology throughout Malawi.

Collaboration and alignment of activities with other stakeholders

Some actors in the field include Care, Save, Emmanuel International, Total Land Care, World Vision (who were part of the WALA Consortium), Hope International, and Progressio. Four meetings were held from September to October order to inform the work of FtF-INVC and for the project to learn more about the activities of other stakeholders and to help identify current best practices.

- **The Profit Project:** this meeting was conducted via extensive email conversations and helped to inform FtF-INVC decision-making when launching VS&Ls to align with the harvest season.
 - Farmers will be relatively flush with cash during harvest/marketing season and at their lowest right before.
 - The second outcome of this contact, advised that field agents should be paid a monthly stipend for the first 12 months after which the community would be expected to pay for their services upon realizing the value of the VSL model.
- **Hope International:** this meeting gave perspective on a possible structure that FtF-INVC should create in order to implement and monitor VSLs.
 - FtF-INVC was also informed that the facilitator – an individual who monitors VSL groups - is a volunteer post that is paid a stipend of 8,000 kwacha per month or given a bicycle and paid 4,000 kwacha per month.
- **CRS:** this meeting informed the FtF-INVC VSL officer of challenges implementing VSL activities.
 - Some of these include illiteracy, which created challenges during VSL share outs.
- **PCI-Njira:** this meeting took place in Balaka and the objectives included:
 - How did PCI/WALA determine target numbers for number of groups and group size
 - Future intention to cross cut gender, specifically by revising VSL training manual and materials and teaching methods
 - Possible collaboration on revising or devising VSL training materials and teacher training to incorporate USAID WALA and WEAI assessment and baseline assessment issues, respectively.
 - Best practice/lessons learned for creation and monitoring of VSL
 - Plan for Mapping ZOI to prevent duplication
 - Discuss common workplan goals for VSL implementation.
 - Some of these objectives proved to be a challenge as PCI had not yet to be awarded the Defab grant. Thus they were not able to provide their zone of influence or agree to collaborate on VSL activities. However, PCI did grant FtF permission for reviewing and using their adapted training manual. This is the manual that was used for the WALA project.

Lessons learned and recommendations

After meeting with various stakeholders that implement VSLs in Malawi, the INVC VSL Officer made a list of 'lessons learned' that could inform FtF-INVC decision making, including the following:

- More widespread use of the training manual
- Financial literacy training must be early and a primary goal (women's entrepreneurship, business skills, leadership building)
- Sensitization is key, particularly when members create their constitution.
- Repayments and penalties for late or nonpayment may cause attrition
- Nutrition messages must penetrate the VSL
- For WALA, the provision of EASPM (Economic Activity Selection, Planning, and Management) training to the VSLs appears to be an activity that was integral in ensuring club members made productive use of their loans by giving them advice on choosing appropriate income-earning activities and very basic business skills

- Per Hope International, VSL groups typically need a year of training and monitoring in order to “graduate” (introduce linkages e.g. Opportunity Bank, MFI) and be sustainable.
- The WALA Qualitative Study(QS) on Gender quoted survey respondents as able to buy and grow more food, eat more regularly, and have a more diversified and nutritious diet.
- Per WALA QS on Gender, VLS training modules need to be revised to “not reinforce gender norms about men and women’s work and women should be encourage to aspire to nontraditional sex segregated business.”
- Per WALA QS on Gender Incorporate a specific nonfinancial empowerment-capacity building component into VSL for the first one- to two-year cycles of VSL tailored to the specific disadvantages of more vulnerable women and some men. (Nutrition messaging?)
- Spoke with CRS contact. Suggested community members who were not in care groups should not be barred from VSL. In this way, nutrition messages may cascade on a wider scale.

Actions arising from these lessons

- VSL Officer began the process of identifying pilot areas in INVC’s zone of influence. NASFAM was asked to create a list of criteria for high performing GACs in Lilongwe, Machinji and Balaka.
- Nkhoma was requested to review the NASFAM list and define criteria for selecting high performing Care Groups in areas that coincide with NASFAM structures. These efforts were to facilitate integration of farmer club members and care group members.
- Working with a consultant to define criteria for VSL pilot and scale up. (i.e. How many groups should be piloted? Defining which areas and groups should be included.)
- A Scope of Work was drafted and submitted to bring in a VSL STTA to advise on the pilot and scale up of VSL.

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED THIS QUARTER

- The seed recovery program is showing poor rates of return and what is returned by farmers is of low quality: this will affect crop performance
- Farmers tend to adopt some of the plant spacing recommendations but few adopt all.
- Some registered NASFAM club members who are also the target for the nutrition interventions (pregnant women and lactating mothers) are not accessing soy or groundnuts seed and this is affecting integration element of the project. It has been noted that such households have no soy and groundnuts for consumption. In some cases, households sold off all soy and groundnuts during the marketing season and left with nothing for home consumption.
- Some HSAs and AEDOS have not yet been trained especially in all the expanded districts of Mangochi, Balaka and Machinga.
- The required supporting documentation from the District Assemblies for Child Health Day campaigns have been insufficient in most cases leading to delays by FtF-INVC to refund the District Assemblies. This has caused a certain degree of frustration on the part of the HSAs and District Assembly officials and affecting timely reporting to FtF-INVC
- Frequent staff turn-over, especially in the M&E function has delayed the mainstreaming of the M&E improvement plans within Partner organizations
- Most partners closed offices early for Christmas holidays leading to postponement of some of the planned activities for the quarter.
- It is up to DAI to ensure that grantees do their activities on time. However grantees themselves don't always appreciate this, neither are they able to carry out FtF-INVC activities on time.
- A case in point was the certified Soybean seed procurement for NASFAM: FtF-INVC Operations Manager and Grants Manager spent a lot of time on that procurement exercise and the Grants Manager observed that NASFAM staff are occupied with multiple donor tasks that precludes them from carrying out their FtF-INVC activities on time.

- While grantees have been advised, coached and trained on the type of evidence required by DAI to 'clear' their expenses, grantees constantly default when sending their expenditure documents for 'clearance' at FtF-INVC secretariat. This results in delayed liquidation of grantee advances.
- Much of the partner reported data including the INVC scale up district data is not available in an electronic format and the forms are accumulating in the field offices. This prevents the team from properly validating the data or analyzing results.
- Many partners are not rigorously counting beneficiaries since the DQAs point out that reported numbers often do not match with source documents. In fact the DQAs showed that several offices underreported results.
- Also there is some beneficiary overlap between various partners so the project is adjusting reported numbers to account for this overlap.
- Field staff informed us that they are checking data and performing quality checks but these checks are not properly documented.

CONCLUSION

A great many activities were undertaken during this reporting period. Many are continuations of initiatives previously identified, but the next steps entail a deepening of our assistance with partners and beneficiaries in our Zone of Influence. Further, FtF-INVC needs to continue its outreach to partners, beneficiaries and other implementing partners and donors in order to work complementarily, to enrich our approach and leverage resources in order to provide holistic, synergistic, prioritized development assistance of a sustainable nature in the integration of nutrition with our targeted value chains. We must reach across sectors to partner to improve revenues, add value, diversify income streams and economic choice while simultaneously augmenting the empowerment and access to resources of our target population so that they may continue to improve the quality of their lives.

FtF-INVC appreciates the confidence that USAID has exhibited in extending our period of performance and expanding our mandate. The challenges before us are many but we are confident of our ability to meet these challenges head-on and succeed in our Mission. AS we progress we will be filling empty positions, reinforcing our capacities, looking for internal articulation of actions and external synergies along with a consolidation of our approach, bringing our successes to scale and creating a safe, enabling environment in which to promote innovative technologies and proven best practices. We are poised to capitalize on our past successes and to enrich and intensify the performance of our Program moving forward.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: TRAINING MATERIALS AND HANDOUTS

APPENDIX 1.1: PLANTING AND DOUBLE UP OF LEGUMES

PLANTING AND GAP FILLING: SOYBEAN AND GROUNDNUT PRODUCTION (Trainer Handout)

INTRODUCTION

In Malawi, a typical groundnut farmer grows about one acre (0.4 hectares) of groundnuts. Soybeans are grown in lesser quantities. But in the last few years, farmers are devoting more land to groundnuts, specifically growing it as a cash crop. Groundnuts and soybean are rainfed in Malawi and less than 1% is irrigated.

Planting

Early planting improves yield and quality potential of groundnuts and soybeans. Early planting also reduces pests and diseases risk of drought. Date of planting (DOP) is therefore very critical and must be carefully noted as it will also determine time to harvest.

Planting must be done with the first effective planting rains (thus approximately 25- 30 mm).

Groundnuts must be planted on ridges that are spaced at 75 cm in double rows that are spaced at 30 cm apart. Rows must be grooved or holed at 5-6 cm deep on top of the ridge. During planting drop a single seed every 15 cm for Virginia varieties such as CG 7, Nsingiro and Chalimbana 2005, and 10 cm for Spanish (bunch) varieties such as Malimba, Baka and Chitala.

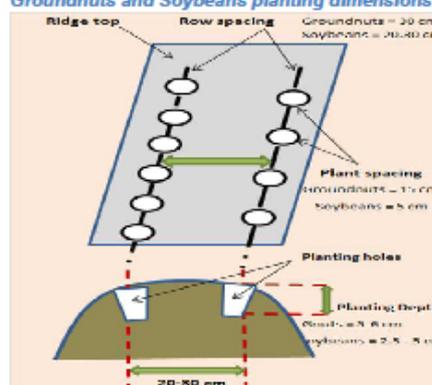
Soybean seeds must be planted on ridges that spaced at 75 cm in double rows that spaced at 20-30 cm apart. Planting holes within the rows must be 2.5 cm deep on and at a distance of 5 cm apart.

Planting on ridges that are spaced at 75 cm apart and double row spacing give higher plant population and higher crop yield

Soybean (5cm within rows) Plant Population		
Plants/ha	ridges at	
	90 cm	75 cm
single row	224,334	268,801
double row	448,669	537,602

Groundnut(15cm within rows) Plant Population		
Plants/ha	ridges at	
	90 cm	75 cm
single row	74,853	89,690
double row	149,706	179,380

Groundnuts and Soybeans planting dimensions



The groove or the planting holes must be firmly covered to ensure rapid and uniform germination and growth. Birds and other pests may also be prevented from picking the seeds that have been planted.

Farmers MUST observe germination of their planted groundnuts and soybeans. Soybeans should germinate within 5 days and groundnuts within 12 days. Ungerminated gaps must be supplied immediately

Cut off dates of planting

In the event of late rainfall onset, neither groundnuts nor soybeans must be planted after 15th January as planting may result in poor germination and growth as well as high incidence of pest and diseases; that can result in very poor yields.

Supplying / gap filling

In order to maintain the required plant population all planting hills that do not have plants germinated must be supplied with good quality seed of the same variety. Gaps tend to lower crop yields and resources supplied in the field are not put to the best usage. Weeds, pests and diseases thrive better in crop fields with gaps which will lower yields. Gaps in groundnuts are also known to increase the incidence of Groundnut Rosette Virus because it attracts the aphids that vector the disease. Gap filling must be done 1 to 2 weeks after the initial planting. Late supplying must be avoided as it results in inferior development of plants that are not effective in closing up the gaps and are prone to pests and diseases.

APPENDIX 1.2: WEED MANAGEMENT AND FERTILISER APPLICATION

WEED MANAGEMENT SOYBEAN AND GROUNDNUT PRODUCTION (Trainer Handout)

Weeding

Both soybean and groundnut do not compete with weeds especially in the early stages of growth. A proper weed management program can minimize the effects of weeds on growth, development and yield of groundnut and soybean. It is recommended that both groundnut and soybean field must be weed free all the time. Weeding can be done manually or chemically; manual weeding involves using simple farming tools like hoes and hands to remove weeds.

For groundnut hand hoeing weeding should be done before the crop has started pegging to avoid disturbing the pegs and thereafter hand pulling is recommended for minimal or zero soil disturbance. Avoid weeding immediately after rains because this would lead to transplanting the weeds.

Common weeds in Malawi

English/Scientific	Chichewa
Sedge	Dulu
Goose grass	Chinsangwi
Love grass	Katsichi
Witch weed or Striga	Kamfiti
Thistles Nicandra Amaranthus spp.	Chinguwo Chambwinja Bonongwe
Black jack (<i>Bidens pilosa</i>)	Chisoso/Kanzota
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Kapinga
Datura	Namasika
Galinsoga	Mwamunaaligone
Commelina	Khovani

Manual Weeding Schedule for Groundnut and Soybean

CROP	FIRST WEEDING	SECOND WEEDING	SUBSEQUENT WEEDING	REMARKS
Groundnut	At 3 weeks after planting	At 6 weeks after first weeding	When deemed necessary after second weeding	For first and second weeding hand hoeing is recommended but for subsequent weeding hand pulling is ideal to avoid disturbing pegs
Soybean	At 2 weeks after planting	When deemed necessary depending on weed infestation	When deemed necessary depending on weed infestation	Hand hoeing is ideal

Herbicide Schedule for Groundnut and Soybean

CROP	PRE-EMERGENCE	POST-EMERGENCE	SUBSEQUENT WEEDING	REMARKS
Groundnut	Prowl	Round Up or Basagran	When deemed necessary depending on weed infestation	Apply Prowl right after planting but before plants have germinated; some moisture needed
Soybean	Prowl	Round Up or Basagran	When deemed necessary depending on weed infestation	Apply Prowl right after planting but before plants have germinated; some moisture needed

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN SOYBEAN AND GROUNDNUT IN MALAWI (Trainer Handout)

Weeds, insect pests and diseases can cause significant yield loss to soybean and groundnut in Malawi. The first step to successfully controlling these constraints is correct identification of the pest so that the appropriate control method or combination of methods can be applied. Pesticides can be a useful tool but are costly and therefore should not be the sole method but rather should be combined with other methods (Integrated Pest Management or IPM). We will not have space to discuss every pest and control method in this hand out but will address the most important ones. There will be follow-up training in demo plots and field settings during the cropping season. For pesticides supported by this project, only the less toxic ones approved by the Malawian authorities (Pesticides Control Board – PCB, and the Agricultural Technology Clearing Committee - ATCC) and USAID, the donor of FIF-INVC, can be used.

Weeds

1. Wide variety of annual grasses, sedges and broadleaf weeds. All compete with the main crop and cause significant yield reduction.
2. Control:
 - a. **cultural practices:** manual weeding (2 times) as discussed previously planting at correct ridge and plant spacing leads to quicker canopy closure which competes better with weeds; *remove weeds before they set seed; crop rotation.*
 - b. **chemical control with herbicides** (Always read the label and follow safety measures).
 - i. **Prowl** (Pendimethalin) (pre-emergence): some soil moisture needed.
 - ii. **Roundup** (Glyphosate) (post-emergence).
 - iii. **Basagran** (Sodium salt of Bentazon) (post-emergence)
 - c. **Combination of manual weeding and herbicides** – e.g. pre-emergence treatment followed by one weeding later on, as required.

SEED DRESSING

- Treat the seed with a fungicide and insecticide mixture before planting to improve emergence and plant vigor
- Usually done with certified seed (usually maize & cotton): color dye is only added as a warning that the seed must not be consumed.
- Common seed dressing: **Seedmate CT 470FS** (mixture of two fungicides and one insecticide). Gives crop protection up to 6-8 weeks after planting. **Thiram** (a fungicide also present in Seedmate) can also be used but does not give protection against insects.
- Seed dressing should not be done at the individual farmer level but can be done at the IPC or EPA level under supervision by an extension worker who has been trained.

Insect pests

1. **Soybean:** **aphids** (suck plant sap), **caterpillars** (different kinds such as semi-loopers, feed on leaves, flowers and pods), **termites** (damage roots and stems) and **pod-sucking bugs** (damage pods).
2. **Groundnut:** **white grubs** (feed on roots), **aphids** (suck plant sap), **termites** (damage roots and stems) and **plant hoppers** (*Hilda patruelis*) (suck plant sap). Aphids transmit Rosette virus even at low populations.
3. Control:
 - a. **Cultural practices:** Correct plant spacing; - aphids are less of a problem with early canopy closure; *timely incorporation of crop residue* into the soil so that it has decomposed at time of planting reduces termites; *crop rotation* also reduces termite build-up; *physical removal* of heavily infected plants is a general practice but time consuming; weeding in and around the field also reduces build-up of pests; *Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)* – a strong healthy crop is less susceptible to insect attack than a weak crop that is not properly managed. This includes using high quality seed.
 - b. **Chemical control:** e.g. **Decis Forte** (Deltamethrin 100g/l), **Karate 5EC** (Lambda Cyhalothrin) or **Deltamethrin 2.5 EC** for leaf eaters; **Acetamiprid 222SL** for aphids and other sucking insect pests. Note that Acetamiprid (a neonicotinoid) should only be used when plants are in vegetative state, not when flowering due to risk to pollinators and honeybee colony collapse disorder.

GROUNDNUT HARVESTING AND POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT (Trainer Handout)

When Should I Harvest?

- If harvested too early (before maturity), the crop will have lower yield and oil content and more seed will shrivel.
- Late harvesting also reduces yield because higher proportions of pods are left in the ground due to the pegs being weakened and the pods breaking off.
- If harvested late, some non-dormant varieties such as Malimba and JL 24 will begin to sprout in the field resulting in yield losses.
- Late harvest increases aflatoxin risks

Indicators for Harvesting Time

- Leaf fall is not a good indicator because it is caused by disease (*Cercospora* late leaf spot), stress, or over maturity
- Harvest 5-7 plants at about 75% of estimated maturity, remove 100 pods and shell them (or scrape the shell with a sharp blade).
- The insides of the shells or scraped pods should be examined. If the majority of pods (70% upwards) have dark markings inside the shell and the seeds are plump and the correct color for that variety, then the groundnuts are mature and ready for harvest.
- If the crop is severely defoliated as a result of disease (only one or two leaves per branch) or if sprouting has begun, the crop should be harvested regardless of maturity.
- The estimated period of maturity for each variety can be used as a rough guide:

Malawi Groundnut Variety	Estimated Days to Maturity
Chalimbana	140-150
Nsinjiro	120-140
CG7	100-130
Mani Pinter	130-140
Mawanga	130-140
JL24	90-124
Malimba	100-120

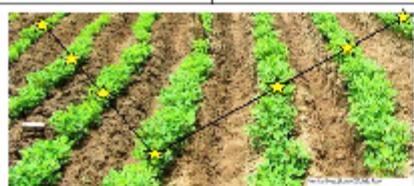


Figure 2. Sampling pattern to check plants for pod maturity.

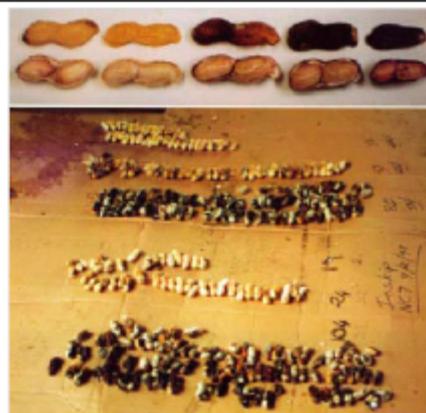


Fig. 1 Maturity stages. Top: After the outer layer of the shell is removed, brown and black indicates mature peanuts, orange intermediate, and yellow and white immature nuts. Bottom: Ideally, 60 to 70% should be brown or black before digging commences.

Groundnut Plant Curing, Drying and Pod Plucking: Freshly lifted plants are cured in the field for 3-5 days in windrows to harden shells, dry the pod, and to make plucking easier/faster. In high theft areas, plants with pods need to be cured/dried in the home compound. Dry the groundnuts to 10% -12% MC before plucking. Trainer should lead demo of "pod-shaking sound", "kernel-biting", and moisture tester methods.

Pluck by hand, thrashing cured/dried plants with a stick, or on a plucking frame. Trainer should lead a demonstration and compare time and quality of the three methods. Discuss baling and local prices for dried haulms. Windrows must be monitored to avoid sun and heat damage to the seed.

The Mandela Cork is a gradual drying method that takes 3-4 weeks in the field. Build a circle of groundnut plants 10-12 plants high with an open center for ventilation. Cap with banana leaves if rain threatens.



SOYBEAN HARVESTING AND POST-HARVEST MANAGEMENT (Trainer Handout)

When should I harvest?

To avoid shattering harvest 5 to 10 days after 95 percent of the pods have reached mature brown color. Or, the crop can be harvested when the seeds are at the hard-dough stage, when the seed moisture content is between 14 and 16%. Many indeterminate varieties of soybean grown in Malawi have been bred to have a long pod-shattering-free period of up to 26 days from the hard-dough stage. Complete harvest of as much of your crop as possible before the moisture level falls below 12 percent to reduce splits and cracked seed coats.

Around harvest time, the trainer, facilitator, or lead farmer shall do a step-by-step estimation of the percent maturity of two soybean fields of the same variety that were planted 2-4 weeks apart by walking a diagonal in the field and counting the number of tan/brown pods per plant on at least 20 plants recording the number of brown pods and green pods to arrive at 100 to 200 pods in each field. The trainer will then show farmers how to calculate the percentage that are tan or brown and compare this number to the harvest trigger of 95%. Enough mature pods should be harvested to test the moisture content using an electronic moisture tester and comparing tester readings to the biting test to show the relationship between 15-18% moisture content and the dough or late dough stage of soybeans – and the 10-13% moisture content of dried brown pods with seeds that rattle in the pod. The trainer, facilitator, or lead farmer should show the impact of seed shattering from a late harvest, calculating the yield loss if 5, 10, or 15 seeds per square meter shattered during harvest.

How should I harvest? Don't pull the plants out by the root. Cut the plants to make threshing and cleaning faster and easier. You can cut and thresh a small plot soybean by hand. Cut the stalks, stuff them in a burlap bag, then trample them, beat them or run them over with your *ox cart*. The resulting tangle can be winnowed by pouring the beans from one bucket to another outdoors in a brisk breeze.

Malawi Soybean Variety	Days to 95% Maturity
Magoye	140
Nasoko	120-130
Makwacha	120-130
Ocepara 4	120-130
SC (SeedCo) Saga	120-130
SC (SeedCo) Serenade	122-128
Tikolore (TGx1740-2)	100-110



Figure 1. Mature Soybean Pods

Postharvest Operations: If needed dry the soybeans on tarps or in burlap bags to a moisture content of 13% or less for threshing, winnowing, and sorting and grading.

Sorting and grading ensure that the soy beans are:

- (a) Free from musty, sour, or other undesired odour;
- (b) Free from glass, metal, coal or dung;
- (c) Containing no more weed seeds than permitted (less than 0.5% for grain sales)
- (d) Free from live insects irrespective of whether such insect occur in, on or among the soya beans, in or on bags containing soya beans or in or on a bulk container (however, a consignment which is rejected owing to insect infestation may be presented for inspection again after fumigation with prescribed remedies, and in accordance with acknowledged methods);
- (e) Free from a substance that renders it unfit for human or animal consumption or for processing into or utilization thereof as food or feed;
- (f) Contain no pesticide or hazardous chemical residues in excess of the limit set by the MBS.

Storage: Dry to 13% moisture for storage of 6–12 months and to 10–11% for longer storage. Open-air drying is the most practical way to protect soybean in storage. Place one to two layers of 50-kg or 100-kg bags of clean soybean on pallets or poles in shade to dry. Seeds kept for planting need to be dried to 10% MC. Soybean seed rapidly loses germination capacity if stored for more than one year.

Glycimax Users Guide



Instruction to treat 12kg of seed

Materials

1. Gloves and mask
2. Cup No. 30
3. Sealed bag of Glycimax
4. 25L bucket
5. Plastic sheet
6. 300ml bottle

Instructions

1. Find a clean ventilated area in the shade to mix the inoculant.
2. Lay out the plastic sheet
3. Measure out the seed. Fill a 25L bucket to the brim with soy seed. This will be equal to approximately 12 kg



4. Put on safety gloves and mask



5. Measure out x4 No.30 cups of inoculant.



6. Measure out 300ml of clean fresh water into a clean bottle. Do NOT use chlorinated municipal water.



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APPENDIX 2: DETAILED M&E REPORTS AND DISAGGREGATED DATA

APPENDIX 2.1: DQA REPORT FOR NASFAM

NASFAM DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT

December 2014, Mwiza Simkonda

DQAs were conducted at Mchinji IPC, Lilongwe South IPC, Lilongwe North IPC and Balaka IPC. The indicator that was assessed was on number of individuals who have received short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training in the July to September quarter, 2014. DQA involved counting number of farmers trained from the training attendance forms and comparing reported figures in the IPC July to September report. The DQA checklist was also filled out for each IPC. The table below shows data quality assessment findings.

The following recommendations for NASFAM on data quality

- Training data conducted by the lead farmers is not fully submitted by the lead farmers. Most of the reported numbers from hard copies did not add up what was presented in the quarterly report
- QC process by the IPC Coordinators on data at IPC level is not being conducted. There is need for IPC to be conducting the QC process.
- Balaka IPC should get the keys for the lockable cabinet that was procured and start using the cabinet
- Training data needs to be entered into electronic format to better allow for verification

No	AMC	Number of individuals trained			Reason for variance
		Reported	Actual	Variance	
1	Balaka	2947	2967	20	Overdue submission of lead farmer forms to the IPCs
2	Mchinji	2354	2388	34	
3	LL North	2518	2419	159	Counting trainers (e.g. AFOs) rather than trainees only on the attendance forms
4	LL South	2440	3408	968	Poor storage of lead farmer training forms (not kept in lockable cabinet in lever ark files as recommended)

Data quality assessment for Ntcheu and Namwera were not conducted for these AMCs were occupied with other activities during the time scheduled for the DQA. As such, DQAs for these AMCs will be conducted in quarter 2 (January, 2015)

APPENDIX 2.2: DQA REPORT FOR FUM

Field visit report: FUM DQA

Partner: FUM

Location: Lilongwe, Mchinji and Dedza

Visit Dates: 2nd-3rd, 5th and 11th December

Reporting date: 7th January 2015

Name(s) of Partner staff visited: Maggie Mzungu, Rudolf Binga, Doreen Kasanga, Leston Chapolongana, Mary Gondwe, James Nkhoma, Maxwell Msanyama, Sangayemwe Kausiwa, Donald Mlumbe, Florence Kambala, Alexander Khomera and Shynet

Program schedule for DQA activities

Dec 2, 2014: FUM Office, Chitsime EPA

Dec 3, 2014: Mngwangwa EPA and Thawale EPA

Dec 5, 2014: Linthipe, Lobi, Kabwazi and Mayani EPAs

Dec 11, 2014: Mkanda EPA, Kalulu EPA and Chileka EPA

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF WORK

Farmers Union of Malawi is one of the implementing partners advancing the feed the future integrating nutrition in value chains program in three districts namely Mchinji, Lilongwe and Dedza. The organization on a monthly and quarterly basis report on the activities that they have implemented to the secretariat which feed into the indicators that the project is tracking. This requires vigorous data collection, analysis and proper management. The M&E team from the secretariat developed tools and protocols to aid smooth data collection and management within the partners.

To validate the data that is reported, on a quarterly basis, the M&E team carries out DQA exercise on the data that has been reported in the previous quarter or month. To this end, a DQA exercise was carried out at FUM on 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 11th December 2014. Two indicators were covered during the exercise ie number of trainings and number of rural households benefiting. The exercise was done at FUM Secretariat and all the 10 EPAs in the three districts that the project is being implemented. The exercise focused on the following;

- Are the standard Lead farmer training forms utilized?
- Are they filled correctly?
- Is the filing system as proposed in the data collection protocol being observed?
- Are EPAs conversant with issues of data quality?
- Document the challenges and proposed solutions for the exercise

NOTES FROM THE VISIT

At the secretariat, it was noted that the documentation is in good shape and most of the requirements are met but at district level, it is the opposite: The following were the observations:

- The Farmer Organization Facilitators (FOF) does conduct quality check on the data submitted by lead farmers and assistant lead farmers but it is not documented.
- The FUM Secretariat did not share the data collection protocols with the FOF but were just mentored on

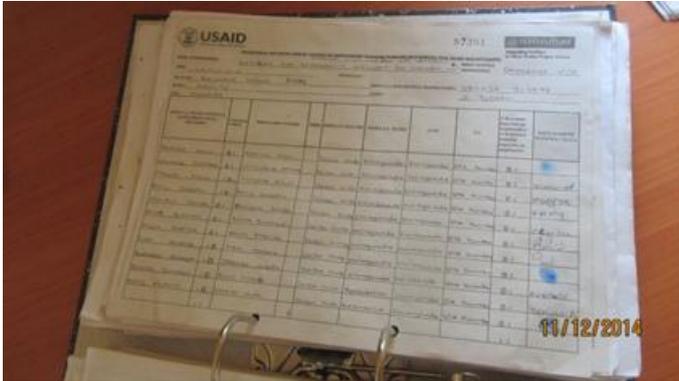
Figure 18: Current document storage arrangements



but still more they were supposed to be shared.

- The filing system is not closer to the requirement in the districts. This compromises data security and indeed integrity.

Figure 19: INVC approved M&E documentation



It was also noted that before the distribution of lead farmer booklets, the lead farmers were using forms different from the centrally produced data collection tool by INVC secretariat. The forms had a lot of deficiencies in terms of requirements by the project. But it was pleasing to note that from October 2014, they have started using the standard forms approved by INVC as shown here

It was also noted that a number of EPAs in a district are using the same binders. This again compromises data security

From the above observations, the following were the recommendations that were drawn:

- Adequate binders should be provided to the districts
- Secure filing cabinets should be provided to the districts
- Data collection protocol should be provided to the districts
- Data should be in an electronic format for verification and reporting
- Standard data collection tools approved by INVC should be used in the districts on the follower farmer training
- Quality Checks on the training data should be intensified and documented
- Each indicator data should be filed in separate binders per EPA

APPENDIX 2.3: RESULTS OF THE IMPACT EVALUATION SURVEY

Intervention	NASFAM	Llw_North	Chigonthi	Chigonthi
Control	NASFAM	Llw_North	Chigonthi	Lumbadzi
Intervention	NASFAM	Llw_North	Chigonthi	Nankhaka
Intervention	NASFAM	Llw_North	Chigonthi	Ndonda
Control	FUM	Llw_North	Chileka	Mapuyu
Control	NASFAM	Llw_North	Chiwamba	Chiwamba
Control	NASFAM			Mnkhupa
Control	NASFAM			Mpesa
Intervention	FUM	Llw_North	Mngwangwa	Chiputu
Control	FUM	Llw_North	Mngwangwa	Mpeleka
Intervention	FUM	Llw_North	Mngwangwa	Kambadzo
Intervention	FUM	Llw_North	Mngwangwa	Kapangalika
Intervention	FUM	Llw_North	Mngwangwa	Matseketa
Control	FUM	Llw_North	Mngwangwa	Mkwambula
Intervention	FUM	Llw_North	Mngwangwa	Mteza
	FUM	Llw_North		
	FUM	Llw_North		

Control	FUM	Llw_North	Mngwangwa	Kudoko
Control	FUM	Llw_North	Mngwangwa	Mngwangwa
Control	FUM	Llw_North		Nkhwiwale
Intervention	NASFAM	Llw_North	Mpingu	Kawanda
Intervention	NASFAM	Llw_North		Mchesi
	NASFAM	Llw_North		
	NASFAM	Llw_North		
Intervention	NASFAM	Llw_North	Mpingu	Mtsukathanga
Control	NASFAM	Llw_North	Ukwe	Chikungu
Intervention	FUM	Llw_North	Chileka	Mtali
Control	FUM	Llw_South	Chitsime	Ng'ozo
Intervention	FUM	Llw_South	Chitsime	Mtambila
Control	FUM	Llw_South	Chitsime	Mtika
Intervention	FUM	Llw_South	Chitsime	Mlinga
Intervention	FUM	Llw_South		Mvululo
Control	FUM	Llw_South	Chitsime	Mzuluwanda
Control	NASFAM	Llw_South	Mlomba	Mlodzenzi
Control	NASFAM	Llw_South	Mpenu	Matapila
				Kamwana
Control	NASFAM	Llw_South	Mpenu	Kang'oma
Intervention	NASFAM	Llw_South	Mpenu	Mazengela
Intervention	NASFAM	Llw_South	Nyanja	Chimango
Intervention	FUM	Llw_South	Thawale	Kanwandipenya
Intervention	NASFAM	Mchinji	Chioshya	Chikomoni
Intervention	NASFAM	Mchinji		Chioshya
Intervention	NASFAM	Mchinji		Mphanga
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
	NASFAM	Mchinji		

Control	NASFAM	Mchinji	Mikundi	Kalindawalo
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
Control	NASFAM	Mchinji	Mikundi	Mikundi South
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
	NASFAM	Mchinji	Mikundi	
Intervention	NASFAM	Mchinji	Mikundi	Takumana
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
Control	NASFAM	Mchinji	Mikundi	Ulongwe
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
Control	NASFAM	Mchinji		Zali
Intervention	FUM	Mchinji	Mkanda	Malungo
Intervention	NASFAM	Mchinji	Mlonyeni	Gumulira
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
Control	NASFAM	Mchinji	Mlonyeni	Navikale
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
Intervention	NASFAM	Mchinji	Msitu	Kalanje
Intervention	NASFAM	Mchinji	Msitu	Likase
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
Intervention	NASFAM	Mchinji	Msitu	Mavwere
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
Control	NASFAM	Mchinji	Msitu	Msitu
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
Control	NASFAM	Mchinji		Naving'anjo
Control	NASFAM	Mchinji	Msitu	Nsilombe/Nsirombe
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
	NASFAM	Mchinji		
	NASFAM	Mchinji		

APPENDIX 2.4: NUTRITION DATA BY DISTRICT

Category	District											
	Lilongwe		Mchinji		Balaka		Machinga		Mangochi		TOTALS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<i>District Nutrition Coordinators</i>	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	4
<i>Nutrition Assistants</i>	2	5	1	2	2	2	2	1	5	1	12	11
<i>Promoters</i>	46	34	25	15	26	26	19	10	46	26	162	111
<i>Lead Mothers/Fathers</i>	1	2460	2	1390	79	1414	3	1038	83	2227	168	8529
<i>Children Under 5 (Care Group Model)</i>	7438	8111	-	-	6284	6780	5168	5577	15750	16994	34640	37462
<i>Children Under 5 (CHDs)</i>	-	-	42419	53987	24081	27092	67196	74731	81577	84110	215272	239921
<i>Care Groups</i>	193		116		131		87		191		718	
<i>New beneficiary Households</i>	-		-		4874		3450		2281		10605	

Notes

All data is cumulative with the exception of Beneficiary Households