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THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT – FY 2013

FEED THE FUTURE

INTEGRATING NUTRITION IN VALUE CHAINS PROJECT, MALAWI

COVERING PERIOD: 1ST APRIL – 30TH JUNE, 2013

FINAL

JULY 2013

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AUTHORITY/DISCLAIMER

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THIRD QUATERLY PROGRESS REPORT FY2013

COVERING THE PERIOD APRIL 1ST THROUGH JUNE 30 2013

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Acronyms

ABM	Association Business Manager
ADMARC	Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
AEDC	Agriculture Extension Development Coordinator
AEDO	Agriculture Extension Development Officer
AFO	Association Field Officer
AHCX	Auction Holdings Commodity Exchange
AI	Artificial Insemination
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMC	Association Management Centre
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection
ASWAp	Agriculture Sector Wide Approach
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CISANET	Civil Society Agriculture Network
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CGV	Care Group Volunteers
CHD	Child Health Days
COP	Chief of Party
CSB	Corn Soy Blend
DAECC	Department of Agricultural Extension Coordinating Committee
DAES	Department of Agricultural Extension Services
DARS	Department of Agricultural Research Services
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DEC	District Executive Committee
DHMT	District Health Management Team
DIDP	Dairy Industry Development Platform
DNHA	Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
DTWG	Dairy Technical Working Group
ELISA	Enzyme-Linked Immune-Sorbent Assay
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
ENA	Essential Nutrition Actions
EPA	Extension Planning Area
ERF	Environmental Review Form
FAS	Field Accounting Systems
FISP	Fertilizer Input Subsidy Program
FTF	Feed the Future
FUM	Farmers Union of Malawi
FY	Fiscal Year
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GBC	Grain Bulking Center
GDA	Global Development Alliance
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GIS	Geographic Information System
GM	Growth Monitoring
GOM	Government of Malawi
HICD	Human and Institutional Capacity Development
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSA	Health Surveillance Assistant
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

ICT	Information Communication Technology
IFPRI	International Food Policy and Research Institute
IIF	Investing in Innovation Fund
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
INVC	Integrating Nutrition in Value Chains
IR	Intermediate Results
ISF	Implementation Support Fund
LCD	Local Capacity Development
MASA	Malawi Seed Association
MBG	Milk Bulking Group
MCHN	Maternal Child Health and Nutrition
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MGDS	Malawi Government Development Strategy
MIM	Malawi Institute of Management
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
NASFAM	National Association of Smallholder Farmers of Malawi
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCAT	Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool
OIBM	Opportunity International Bank of Malawi
PDI	Positive Deviance Inquiry
PHH	Post-Harvest Handling
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
PMEP	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SMS	Short Messaging System
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary
SSDI	Support for Service Delivery Integration
Sub-IR	Sub Intermediate Results
TAMIS	Technical and Administrative Management Information System
ToT	Trainer of Trainers
UNC	University of North Carolina
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
ZOI	Zone of Influence

FEED THE FUTURE – INVC ACTIVITY OVERVIEW AND RESULTS

This document presents the Feed the Future Integrating Nutrition in Value Chains (FtF-INVC) project's third quarterly progress report for fiscal year (FY) 2013. This quarterly report covers the period from 1st April to 30th June 2013.

Awarded on April 25, 2012, Malawi FtF-INVC runs for three years from April 2012 to 2015. Designed to help advance the vision of Feed the Future and Global Health Initiative in Malawi, the FtF-INVC project will focus its activities to deliver the Initiatives' two overarching goals:

1. Sustainably reducing rural poverty; and
2. Improving nutrition.

These goals reinforce Malawi's Poverty Reduction Strategy and USAID/Malawi's Strategic objective of promoting economic growth and food security. The INVC activity components are essentially contributing to these goals directly and indirectly.

This report presents an overview of the project as well as some of the main achievements and challenges experienced during the reporting period. It is intended to provide a brief background and set the context for those unfamiliar with the activity.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Malawi "Integrating Nutrition in Value Chains (INVC)" project, a three year effort under the Task Order/Contract No: AID-612-TO-12-00001 is funded under the SFSA IQC No: AID-623-I-10-00003. To achieve the overall goals of the project, FtF-INVC will promote, support, and facilitate gender equitable market-driven, agriculture-led, and integrated economic growth approaches. The delivery of targeted technical assistance will assist not only civil society, but also the private sector and government throughout the seven target districts, to realize the advantages of greater collaboration, commercialization, and competitiveness across three targeted value chains: Soy bean, groundnuts, and dairy.

FtF-INVC support over the life of the activity is expected to lead to agricultural transformation across the three value chains resulting in the achievement of the following objectives:

1. Improved productivity (land, water, labor) through soil and water management practices;
2. Increased competitiveness of the legumes and dairy value chains to mitigate food insecurity and increase incomes of the rural poor;
3. Reduced chronic under-nutrition;
4. Improved value chain competitiveness and nutrition outcomes through the fostering of innovation in adaptive technologies and techniques that will increase participation of the poor in agriculture-led growth; and
5. Enhanced capacity of local organizations and institutions developed to promote sustainability and climate change resilience.

To achieve the above objectives, FtF-INVC will:

1. Invest in the competitiveness of legumes (soy bean and groundnut) and dairy value chains to develop domestic and export markets and improve nutrition options;
2. Link increased market-oriented production of legumes and dairy to household consumption and improved nutritional status;
3. Support community based programs focused on behavior change, food fortification, and capacity building to impact nutritional outcomes; and
4. Strengthen Malawian agriculture-related organizations (both government and non-governmental) to improve institutional capacity to capture and scale up existing models and practices in order to implement one or more components of FtF-INVC.

To realize the above results, the FtF-INVC project will fully integrate USAID FtF goals of poverty reduction and malnutrition. FtF-INVC will focus its activities along the following five inter-related components to harness the production and commercial potential of smallholders so that they are better enabled to accelerate their march toward prosperity and healthful living. These five inter-related components form the core of the project, which provide the means to deliver long-term, systemic changes in Malawi's market and health systems:

- a. Advancing Value Chain Competitiveness.
- b. Improving Productivity.
- c. Improving Community Capacity to Prevent Under-Nutrition.
- d. Promoting Innovation.
- e. Developing Local Capacity.

In addition to these components, a number of systemic and cross-sectoral issues critical to FtF-INVC success including gender, information and communication technology, HIV and AIDS, access to financial services, policy advocacy and climate change will be addressed.

Over the life of the project, FTF-INVC will also tackle market and firm-level efficiency issues for Malawi's smallholders, increase farm-level value capture, and promote more mainstream consumption of nutritious foods through behavior change strategies.

FtF-INVC Target Beneficiaries

Malawi smallholders that are eligible for participation in FtF-INVC activities are described as "the poor with assets." These are smallholders who, while they do not belong to the "ultrapoor" group that fall well below the poverty line, nevertheless lack sufficient resilience to completely escape from the possibility of falling under the line in the future. External shocks beyond their control could easily plunge them into poverty.

This population representing the target beneficiaries shares the following characteristics:

- Cultivate between 1.25 to 3 acres (0.5 to 1.2 Ha) of land,
- Produce sufficient maize for home consumption,
- Have the potential to increase maize productivity and to free up land for crop diversification to legume production,
- Access extension services and inputs (seeds and inorganic fertilizers), and
- Have the potential for linking to markets.

FTF-INVC target districts

The focus on diversification into legume production (groundnut and soy bean) and dairy for their income generation, soil fertility and moisture enhancement and nutritional benefits

determine FtF-INVC’s geographic scope as those areas of Malawi suitable for these agricultural activities. The seven districts, spanning two regions (Central and South) and affecting 275,000 households, with highest potential for increasing legume and dairy production are: Mchinji, Lilongwe, Dedza, Ntcheu, Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi (See Figure 1).

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

FtF-INVC activities fall under six intermediate results (IRs). These IRs highlight the close linkage between agriculture and nutrition, and the leveraging of resources from across both the FtF and the Global Health Initiative (GHI) portfolios further underscore the centrality of the two domains to the success of FtF-INVC (Figure 2).

Both domains support the overall USAID FtF and GHI goals, which are:

- a. Sustainably reduce poverty and hunger in Malawi
- b. Foster a healthier populace able to participate in the nation’s economic development

The six IRs and their subsequent sub-IRs are clustered around a framework that supports the achievement of a strategy to deliver the achievement of the Mission-level objectives of:

1. Inclusive agriculture sector growth
2. Improved nutritional status

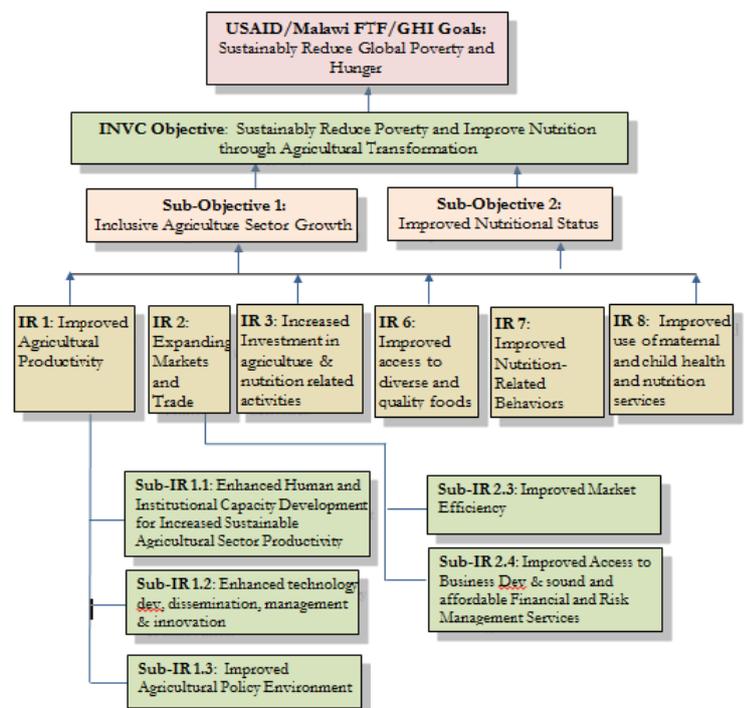
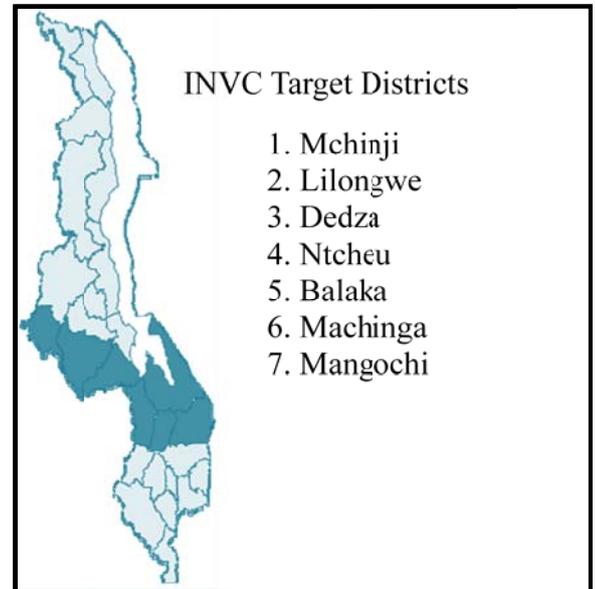
The five FtF-INVC components contain activities that are prioritized to achieve results in each IRs and Sub-IRs and maximize FtF-INVC contribution to the Mission objectives.

Together the IRs and sub-IRs provide the pathway for FtF-INVC to achieve its development goals, strategic objectives, and required results. The IRs and Sub-IRs under the two objectives are presented below:

Sub-Objective 1: Inclusive Agriculture Sector Growth

IR 1: Improved Agricultural Productivity

- Sub-IR1.1: Enhanced Human and Institutional Capacity Development for Increased Sustainable Agricultural Sector Productivity
- Sub-IR1.2: Enhanced Technology Development, Dissemination, Management, and Innovation
- Sub-IR1.3: Improved Agricultural Policy Environment



- Innovation
 - Sub-IR1.3: Improved Agricultural Policy Environment
- IR 2: Expanding Markets and Trade
- Sub-IR2.3: Improved Market Efficiency
 - Sub-IR2.4: Improved Access to Business Development and Sound and Affordable Financial and Risk Management Services
- IR 3: Increased Investment in agriculture and Nutrition-related Activities

Sub-Objective 2: Improved Nutritional Status

- IR 6: Improved Access to Diverse and Quality Foods
- IR 7: Improved Nutrition Related Behaviors
- IR 8: Improved Use of Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Services
- IR 3: Increased Investment in Agriculture and Nutrition-related Activities

To successfully deliver the results outlined above, Malawi FtF-INVC must manage and monitor its activities under the five inter-related components and cross-cutting areas over the life of the project. Table 1 below illustrates how each component and IRs and Sub-IRs are linked to generate the outputs and outcomes leading to achievement of the objectives.

Table 1: FtF-INVC Project Components and IRs

Sub-Objective 1: Inclusive Agricultural Sector Growth	Sub-Objective 2: Improved Nutritional Status
<i>Component 1: Advancing Value Chain Competitiveness (IR-2;IR-2.3; IR-2.4)</i>	<i>Component 3: Improving Community Capacity to prevent Under-Nutrition (IR-6;IR-7;IR-8)</i>
<i>Component 2: Improving Ag. Productivity (IR-1;IR-1.2;IR-1.3)</i>	
<i>Component 4: Investing in Innovations (IR-3)</i>	
<i>Component 5: Developing Local Capacity (IR-1.1)</i>	

All FtF-INVC activities will contribute toward achieving the following performance targets (Table 3), as measured by the above intermediate result (IR) indicators.

Table 2: Performance Indicators

Project Wide Performance Indicators	Life of Project Targets (25 Apr, 2015)
Households benefiting from FtF-INVC facilitation	275,000
Children under 5 years with reduced malnutrition	100,000
Yield/hectare for legumes increased	15%
Yield/cow for milk increased	50%
Land area under legumes production increased	15%
No. of agriculture-related Malawian NGOs and/or governmental organizations with operational capacity and effectiveness increased	5
No. of local partners with effective management practices and financial systems with potential to receive future USG awards	3
Value of new investments by private sector actors increased as a result of innovation fund co-investments	\$500,000

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS THIS QUARTER

This subsection of the quarterly report briefly summarizes progress made by the Malawi FtF-INVC project team toward completing the tasks under the five components listed in Table 1. Highlights from the quarter include:

PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

Twelve tasks guide efforts in achieving results under Project Management. Noteworthy progress, under these tasks attained this quarter, are as follows:

1. FtF-INVC continued with preparations for the baseline study which will provide data as benchmark for comparison in future evaluations.
2. Two (2) proposals were signed this quarter; one was for Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication and the other one was for Nkhoma Hospital. The signing of the two proposals is a milestone in the implementation of FtF-INVC project as this will help to kick start the nutrition component of the project
3. Two (2) FtF-INVC officers participated in the international conference on Maximizing Feed the Future Outcomes by Reducing Gender Gaps: Gender Global Learning and Evidence Exchange in Washington, USA. The officers were Deputy Chief of Party and Nutrition Specialist. The trip was facilitated by USAID-Malawi Mission.
4. The Bridging Workplan for the period April to September 213 was developed. This plan synchronizes FtF-INVC frame of activities in line with USAID calendar that starts in October each year.
5. Local Capacity Development Specialist was recruited who will facilitate implementation of capacity building related activities.
6. FtF-INVC in collaboration with players in legume production facilitated a Legume Platform which took place at the Presidential Hotel in Lilongwe
7. One (1) STTA on nutrition and BCC was provided by Save the Children International (SCI) through Paige Harrigan (Consultant) from USA.
8. One (1) interactive radio workshop for agricultural development practitioners, nutritionists and those involved in BCC was done in Lilongwe. A total of 28 participants participated (25% were females).
9. Two (2) District Executive Committee (DEC) meetings held. The DEC meetings aimed at briefing the district officials in Lilongwe and Mchinji on the roll out of nutrition and BCC interventions (Component).
10. One (1) consultative meeting with partners conducted where technical (programme) issues including challenges were shared between FtF-INVC and its partners.

COMPONENT 1: ADVANCING VALUE CHAIN COMPETITIVENESS

Nine (9) tasks guide efforts to achieve results under Component 1. During the quarter, Malawi FtF-INVC program achieved the following:

1. Held consultative meetings with implementing partners namely: ACE, NASFAM, CADECOM and FUM
2. Participated in coordination and collaboration meetings with various stakeholders through the framework of ASWAp, such as MAPAC, OSP TWG, technological innovations, and ESOKO. During these meetings FtF-INVC made series of presentations.
3. Facilitated capacity building activities (training) in post-harvest management, marketing, processing and grant management.

4. Produced print media products–leaflets, flyers, bulletins, on post-harvest management.
5. Facilitated field staff training for both project technicians and AEDOs.
6. Facilitated lead farmer and farmer training that was implemented by partners.
7. Facilitated farmer sensitizations sessions conducted by implementing partners.
8. Supervised/monitored, through implementing partners, harvesting, drying, storing and selling of soy beans and groundnuts by farmers.
9. Facilitated soy bean and groundnut seed/grain recovery for the revolving fund with recovery achievement of 85% and 60% on soy beans and groundnuts respectively.

COMPONENT 2: IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY

Four (4) tasks guide efforts to achieve results under Component 2. Noteworthy progress, under these tasks attained this quarter, are as follows:

1. Training of trainers (TOT) for lead farmers, AEDOs and FOs from the implementing partners (IPs) done.
2. Construction of breeder and basic soy bean storage facilities at Chitedze Research Station for DARS and IITA facilitated.

COMPONENT 3: IMPROVING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO PREVENT UNDER-NUTRITION

Eight (8) tasks guide efforts to achieve results under Component 3. Noteworthy progress, under these tasks attained this quarter, are as follows:

1. Stakeholder mapping for identification of leverage and synergies in impact areas of FtF-INVC continued during the quarter.
2. Joint technical meeting between nutrition partners to define key nutrition behaviors to be tracked during the formative research and implementation of the nutrition behavior change interventions conducted.
3. Child Health Days (CHD) campaign to improve Vitamin A supplementation, deworming, nutrition screening and promotion of infant and young child feeding, sanitation and hygiene, use of insecticide treated bed nets and consumption of iodized salt was supported in Lilongwe and Mchinji districts This involved provision of technical support in the planning, field monitoring, data quality assurance and funding.
4. FtF-INVC Project and its partners were formally introduced to Lilongwe and Mchinji District Technical Committees (District Agriculture Extension Coordinating Committee (DAECC) and District Health Management Team (DHMT) to foster buy-in and sustainability of activities.
5. Two (2) FtF-INVC officers (Deputy Chief of Party and Nutrition Specialist) held briefing meetings at DAI and SCI Headquarters in Washington, USA on the progress and rollout plan for nutrition/BCC component-of the project.
6. Draft Chichewa version of the motivational interview guide developed.
7. Concepts for radio jingles on nutrition (exclusive feeding) identified. The actual storylines and jingles to be developed during the next quarter.

COMPONENT 4: INVESTING IN INNOVATIONS

Four (4) tasks guide efforts to achieve results under Component 4. Noteworthy progress, under these tasks attained this quarter, are as follows:

1. FtF-INVC vetted grantee expenses and cleared cost recovery of 59% of advanced funds.
2. FtF-INVC began making preliminary audit visits to grantees.

3. The CISANET proposal which champions the 'incubation' of trade associations until they are sustainable was concurred with by USAID.
- 4.

COMPONENT 5: DEVELOPING LOCAL CAPACITY

Six (6) tasks guide efforts to achieve results under Component 5. Noteworthy progress, under these tasks attained this quarter, are as follows:

1. FtF-INVC finalized the review of the Malawi Institute of Management (MIM) proposal on organizational capacity training for FtF-INVC partners. Within the proposal, MIM will conduct 3 courses in the next quarter namely Corporate Governance; Project Management; and Leadership. FtF-INVC has also engaged a trainer in USAID Regulations and Policies who will work with MIM when training partners as a way of transferring skills to MIM to continue offering similar services in Malawi and the African region as a whole.
2. FtF-INVC organized a programme implementation consultative workshop involving its partners and technical staff. The main objective was to discuss approaches and modalities in communication and feedback with the view of fostering greater understanding and effective interaction between FtF-INVC and partners. The workshop came up with recommendations for creating mutual trust.
3. FtF-INVC conducted grants management training for partners. The training, among others covered issues related to grant agreements and objectives; disbursement process of grant funds, technical reporting; funds management and record keeping.
4. A draft report on the Organizational Capacity Assessment of FtF-INVC partners which was done in February/March, 2013 was produced.
5. FtF-INVC facilitated the development of technical/extension materials such as leaflets, local cost videos and manuals for use in the three value chains of groundnuts, soy beans and dairy.
6. FtF-INVC continued mentoring its partners in grants management and financial reporting.

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED THIS QUARTER

The following are challenges experienced during the quarter:

1. Late liquidation of funds for the activities implemented which led to delays in disbursing subsequent funds to partners for other activities. This challenge is being addressed through frequent technical and backstopping meetings and conducting technical workshops with finance staffs from partner organizations. FtF-INVC finance and grants management team is also conducting audit visits to partners.
2. Implementing partners do not have budgetline for agricultural inputs such as pigeon pea seed for the doubled-up legume.
3. Limited capacity of partners especially on financial reporting especially relating activities to expenditures etc.
4. Delayed response from partners in providing information, both technical and financial to FtF-INVC which leads to delayed implementation of planned activities.
5. Limited commitment of technical service centres such as IITA, ICRISAT, DAES and DARS to give timely feedback on the contents of the technical materials submitted to them for review e.g. leaflets.
6. Delays in finalizing grant agreement between FtF-INVC and Nkhoma Hospital and Pakachere. Much time was spent in refining the monitoring indicators that will be used in the projects. Due to delays in signing the grant agreements, implementation of

time sensitive activities such as biannual child health days campaign had to be expedited.

7. There was a staffing gap between the time the former LCD Specialist left and hiring of a replacement.
8. Delays in aggregation and reporting of Child Health Days (CHDs) campaign data by District Health Offices (DHOs) in Lilongwe and Mchinji. Clear working plan for child health days campaign data aggregation and reporting plan is that data be aggregated and reported within one week for zones and two weeks for the district following Ministry of Health structures. District Health Offices are expected to compile report of the CHD activity and share with stakeholders/partners at district level within two weeks of completion of the activity. However, Mchinji District Health Office has not yet received data from some of its health facilities even after two weeks of completion of the activity. Feed the Future, through Nkhoma Hospital will work towards strengthening timely data reporting in the next round of CHD campaign.

KEY RESULTS THIS QUARTER

The combined effect of all of the activities mentioned in the next sections is expected to contribute to the achievement of the overall impact objectives pertaining to this activity.

FtF-INVC estimates that during this quarter, it contributed the following toward the achievement of the targets. As FtF-INVC further establishes itself in the communities across the zone of influence (ZOI), it expects its contribution toward the impact indicators to increase as well.

Table 3: Key Results this Quarter

Applicable Performance Indicator	Output up to 31 Mar,2013	Outputs for this Quarter	Total Cumulative
Number of members of producer organizations and community based organizations receiving USG assistance	36,412	427	36,839
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	39	5	44
Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of FTF assistance	1	0	1
Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	522	258	813
Total increase in in installed(certified) storage capacity(cubic m)	111,033	1.5	11,034.5
Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions	36,412	13, 540	49,952
Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation	140,500	0	140,500
Number of new technologies or management practices made available for transfer as a result of USG assistance	3	6	9
Number of MSMEs, including farmers, receiving USG assistance to access loans	0	0	0
Number of MSMEs, including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources	0	0	0
Number of FtF-INVC partner organizations that have received grants.	6	2	8
Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs	20	63	83
Number of children under five reached by USG-supported nutrition programs	0	0	0
Number of malnourished children under 5 referred to higher level services	0	3603	3,603
Number of children under 5 screened for malnutrition	0	127, 422	127,422

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

This section of the report provides a concise overview of project management and monitoring efforts undertaken by the project team to contribute toward achieving the overall project objectives. The primary focus of the project team during the quarter was (1) to facilitate the process to complete the project staff hiring process, and (2) assist local partners in their effort to submit grant proposals and get programs started in a timely manner. These activities are discussed under the two tasks detailed below:

TASK 1: KEY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SUB-TASK 1: PROJECT START-UP

Activities under this sub-task were successfully accomplished. No additional activities are envisaged under this sub-task.

SUB-TASK 2: PROJECT LAUNCH

Activities under this sub-task were successfully accomplished. No additional activities are envisaged under this sub-task.

SUB-TASK 3: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION/MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

FY 2012 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP)

FtF-INVC completed the revision of the PMEP document so that it is coherent with the indicators which are being tracked. The PMEP document has a revised performance indicator reference sheet (PIRS) which is a reference document for the definitions of all the 36 indicators. Precise definitions were reviewed and where possible revised, the level of disaggregation was incorporated and also the unit of measure explored for each indicator. Furthermore, the performance indicator tracking table (PITT) was updated so that it is consistent with the 36 indicators and reference codes were inserted for easy tracking of indicators.

Environmental Mitigation and Management Plan (EMMP)

FtF-INVC developed Environmental Mitigation and Management Plan (EMMP) and has been submitted to USAID. Currently there are discussions between FtF-INVC and USAID towards the briefing of implementing partners. The final EMMP will be shared with IPs during the next quarter.

Project Staffing

FtF-INVC filled the position of a Capacity Development Specialist which is one of the critical positions for the project and it is a long term technical position. Within the same quarter, the soy bean value chain coordinator was also recruited.

SUB-TASK 4: PROJECT SITE VISITS AND FIELD TRIPS

As FtF/USAID's flagship project in Malawi, FtF-INVC is mindful of its role in sharing project performance information and showcasing project activities. During quarter, FtF-INVC arranged field visits and days to some of partner establishments so that others can appreciate and learn the impact of the project in selected areas. For example, one field visit was conducted in Dedza where Bono visited CADECOM establishments. The aim of the visit was to preside over the launching of the CADECOM Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) which is spearheaded by Agriculture Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE). The launch was conducted on 13th May, 2013.

SUB-TASK 5: DONOR COORDINATION

To foster synergy, reduce duplication, increase coordination, and contribute to development, FtF-INVC participated in several workshops and meetings organized by donors, NGOs, partner projects, and government ministries such as the Legume Platform which brought together players in legume industry. The meeting took place on 25th June, 2013. FtF-INVC also attended District Executive Committee (DEC) briefing meetings in Mchinji and Lilongwe districts on 12th and 20th June, 2013 respectively. The purpose of these meetings was to sensitize the district executive committees on the nutrition/BCC activities which will be implemented by Nkhoma Hospital and Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication in the districts.

TASK 2: KEY MONITORING AND REPORTING ACTIVITIES

SUB-TASK 1: MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM

Project Documents and Report Submission

As per contract progress reporting requirements to USAID, FtF-INVC has so far produced two Quarterly Reports for FY13 with the latest being that which covered the period between 1st January to 31st March, 2013. The last Quarterly report was slightly revised in order to include reports from partners. The inclusion of these partners' reports has enhanced quality to the quarterly reporting because USAID is able to appreciate partner.

Data Collection Tool Development

The FtF-INVC M&E team started developing comprehensive reporting templates which are partner specific and will be used for both monthly and quarterly reports. The reporting templates were revised following contribution from the short term technical assistance (STTA) in M&E which the project engaged to beef up skills among M&E team. The M&E team has also started working on the M&E operational manual which will also be partner specific and help in collecting quality data. The operational manual will be used as a reference guide so that the grantees know what data is required to be collected and at what level of disaggregation for each indicator to collect data on. Additionally, the operational manual will be used to collect data in cases where there is staff turnover, and the remaining staff will be able to continue with the job with minimum disruption.

SUB-TASK 2: STRENGTHENING GRANTEE M&E SYSTEMS

FtF-INVC M&E team has this quarter included in its work plan some activities to help the grantees trained on the importance of including success stories in their quarterly reports submissions and how such success stories need to be documented. The exercise will involve spending some time with partners in the fourth quarter and train them the skill of success story documentation. After this short training the FtF-INVC will take part in field exercise in order to coordinate the documentation of such success stories. It will also be made clear to the partners that not all success stories will be published in the quarterly reports but only those which expose a skill of both creativity and originality.

Furthermore, FtF-INVC has started identification of potential participants from partner organizations to attend this very important training in the usage of USAID Data Quality Assessment (DQA) in order to make them understand. Data assessment helps to enhance data

quality for effective reporting. It is for this reason that partners will later be trained to use this tool for checking quality of their field data.

Designing Performance Indicators for Tracking by Partners

To enhance the tracking of each performance indicator, the M&E team led the process of producing a dashboard. A dashboard is a collection of output indicators per each outcome indicator. The process of creating a dashboard will help FtF-INVC in tracking progress for each outcome indicator through the proxy output indicators. The dashboard will, therefore, provide FtF-INVC with some cues about progress made on the set outcome indicators.

Organizing the 2013 First Quarter Training Workshop

One M&E training workshop to orient partners on the draft M&E operational manuals will be done in the next quarter. Currently, M&E team is finalizing the draft operational manual.

SUB-TASK 3: PROJECT BASELINE AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE

FtF-INVC plans to conduct a baseline study which will provide data to form a benchmark for comparison purposes. During the quarter, consultative meeting with partners was done; the draft questionnaire was reviewed and comments forwarded to the consultants, and enumerators were trained. The study will be conducted by International Food Policy and research Institute (IFPRI) in partnership with Bunda College of Agriculture. FtF-INVC will use the results from the study to populate its database and consequently the PITT, and series of dissemination sessions will be done to share the results with partners.

SUB-TASK 4: DATA COLLECTION, REVIEW, AND SUBMISSION TO VARIOUS USG EFFORTS

Feed the Future Monitoring System (FTFMS)

Another notable activity done during the period was the reporting of data through Feed the Future Monitoring System (FTFMS). Beginning end May, FtF-INVC revised the FTFMS indicator targets. The targets were successfully revised in the FTFMS database and the results were submitted to USAID.

Ministry of Health/Clinton Health Access Initiative (MOH/CHAI), Resource Mapping

There were no activities reported under this Sub-Task.

USAID Microenterprise Results Reporting (MRR)

There were no activities reported under this Sub-Task.

COMPONENT 1 – ADVANCING VALUE CHAIN COMPETITIVENESS

The competitiveness of most agricultural value chains in Malawi continue to be negatively affected by the lack of knowledge, capacity, finance, institutional deficiencies and policy/regulatory interventions that impact on business environment. For example, the continued depreciation of the Malawi Kwacha has increased the costs of key production inputs (fertilizer, plant protection products, tools, agricultural equipment, livestock inputs) and processing materials (ingredients and packaging). There has also been an increase in the cost of transport, tractors as well as factory operations. The foreign exchange component of these costs is important. In addition, foreign exchange controls by industry actors also contribute to substantial delays in procurement, tie-up cash flow, and increase transaction risks. FTF-INVC analysis of the trends in the use of products from its three value chains shows an increasing trend towards exports over the past three to four years. It is expected that this trend will continue. It is not known until probably late this year's main marketing season, what will be the impacts of the macroeconomic policy change on smallholder revenues.

TASK 1: INCREASE ACCESS TO MARKETS

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

1.1 Groundnut Value Chain

Groundnut balance sheet which FtF-INVC produced in the previous quarters was reviewed by various partners. The review assisted partners to have a full understanding of the contents and use of the balance sheet. FtF-INVC will incorporate all comments made by partners and present it to the government highlighting issues which government should take action as some of the issues highlighted have potential to adversely impact the groundnuts industry.

1.2 Soy Bean Value Chain

Soy bean production trends have shown an increase in the production levels in the past few years. This is as a result of its nutritive as well as economic importance and diverse domestic usage apart from being a prime source of vegetable oil in the international market. Soy bean has an average protein content of 40% and is more protein-rich than any of the common vegetable or animal food sources. Soy bean seeds also contain about 20% oil on a dry matter basis, and this is 85% unsaturated and cholesterol-free.

The rapid growth in the poultry sector in the past five years has also increased demand for soy bean meal and related products. It is believed that soy bean production will increase as more farmers become aware of the potential of the crop, not only for cash or food but also for soil fertility improvement and striga control. The market for soy bean in Malawi is growing very fast with opportunities for improving the income of farmers.

Therefore in the 2013/14 season the project will focus on expanding soya production for the following reasons:

- Soy bean value chains are currently less well developed in general, giving more opportunity for improvement.
- Soy bean is a suitable crop for all the target locations, whereas groundnuts are not well suited to lower-lying locations in the Southern Region.

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

In the quarter, FtF-INVC staff supported efforts to identify potential markets to increase marketing options for groundnuts. One of such initiatives was the establishment of an additional certified warehouse facility at Dedza for WRS by ACE. Attached to this facility is the establishment of a market information point (MIP). Implementing partners were also involved in various activities that ensured smallholder preparedness for other marketing options. Such activities included training of 1,621 lead farmers in groundnuts postharvest handling activities such as grading, quality standards, use of secure and safe storage, collective marketing, governance for smallholder associations, and linking market associations to alternative markets. In turn lead farmers sensitized 54,000 farmers in the above activities.

Efforts were intensified to expand the WRS covering soy beans and other commodities. It is highly unlikely that groundnuts will become part of the warehouse receipt system yet due to the prevalence of aflatoxin in the groundnut crop in Malawi. FtF-INVC however with its partners, investigate the possibility of crushing the nuts for oil, which if done correctly can significantly reduce the level of aflatoxin. If successful, this opens up opportunities to sell this oil not only into the local market, but into niche markets in the region as well. Whilst it is unlikely that results will be known in the coming quarter, nevertheless, efforts will be made to identify suitable equipment for this purpose. To this end groundnut shellers, moisture meters and other processing equipment have been procured by NASFAM while other implementing partners' procurement process was underway. Oil expellers are yet to be procured by CADECOM in the next quarter.

Over recent years, NASCOMEX's ability to buy both groundnut and soya from association members has been primarily limited by the availability of produce. NASCOMEX therefore has interest and capacity to expand its direct trading opportunities to take up available crop within the limitations of its own financial and management capacity.

Although not the preferred arrangement, NASCOMEX currently buys significant amounts from non-members through intermediate buyers delivering to NASCOMEX in Lilongwe, in order to top-up member purchases to meet sales orders. However, it is not NASFAM's intention to monopolize trading and it does not, in anyway, have the financial capacity to underwrite buying in the latter years of the project, nor would that be desirable. NASFAM's mission is to provide members with the best options, which also include negotiating arrangements with other buyers or allowing structured and transparent links with other service providers. It does so to cater for farmers and traders who need immediate cash and cannot use the WRS yet due to time and storage costs. NASFAM will therefore promote and facilitate connections with other buyers, with many of whom they already have trading relationships, develop arrangements with WRS where available and promote use of commodity exchanges (ACE). In certain areas, local processing capacity will be enhanced and this will also present a market for some of the local production.

Through FtF-INVC support Malawi Milk Producers Association (MMPA) linked two Milk Bulking Groups (MBG), Nathenje and Machite to a processor, Malawi Dairy Industries (MDI), to provide an alternative market for milk. Machite MBG was not operating following a breakdown of its milk cooling tank whilst Nathenje MBG disbanded when the group failed

to pay electricity bills due to poor leadership and organization. When MMPA reorganized the groups and strengthened its leadership MDI invested in the groups by installing a new power generator and repaired the milk cooling tank at Machite MBG and it further paid up the electricity bill for Nathenje MBG. MDI started collecting milk from Machite following the repairs. Milk collection at Nathenje MBG will start once Escom re-connects electricity power to the centre. The MDI Company is providing a stable market to members of both MBGs.

MMPA with FtF-INVC facilitated milk supply contract between Machite and Lumbadzi MBGs and MDI. The signed contracts stipulate the frequency for processor milk collection from the MBG milk cooling centres and monthly producer payment dates. Failure by milk processors to consistently collect milk from MBG milk cooling centres and payment of producers on time leads to significant farmer enterprise loss due to milk spoilage and failure to procure farm inputs contributed by limited cash. The remaining three MBGs (Nathenje, Magomero and Nkhweza) will sign milk supply contracts with processors in the fourth quarter.

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

Assessing Partners' Institutional Needs and Developing Tools for Planning and Management

FtF-INVC continued to provide technical assistance to its implementing partners. Grant management workshop was conducted during the quarter for CADECOM, FUM and NASFAM. Managers provided technical and backstopping assistance wherever partners experienced challenges in the management of the projects.

FtF-INVC continues to provide technical assistance to all implementing partners. In just ended quarter, capacity shortfalls were identified in most of them especially in financial management and reporting. To this effect, therefore, FtF-INVC has organized series of training sessions targeting various professionals in partners organizations.

In June 2013, NASFAM recruited FtF-INVC Program Manager. In order to remedy some financial challenges encountered in the past, NASFAM is currently in the process of recruiting program accounts who will help in improving management and accountability of financial resources more efficiently.

Strengthening the National Dairy Industry through a Unified Platform

In the quarter, 31 Zebu animal farmers were registered as MBG members. A total of 296 Malawi Zebu animals from 145 households which are not MBG members were identified for cross breeding in the 5 MBGs. The 145 farmers will be registered as MBG members. Promotion of the MBG services including affordable artificial insemination (AI) services will be done to attract Zebu animal farmers in an effort to expand MBG membership.

FtF-INVC assisted MMPA through Bunda College of Agriculture in the mapping of MBG members and non-members households with animals through GPS geo-referencing. The mapping included lead farmers, AI technicians and veterinary officer locations. The first mapping phase of the exercise was done for Nathenje MBG. Lumbadzi, Machite, Nkhweza and Magomero MBGs member and non-member households will be geo-referenced in the

fourth quarter. The mapping of the farmers and location of service providers will improve planning for effective service delivery and MBG membership and area of expansion. The farmer mapping exercise will also provide MBG cattle population by pure, crossbreed and Zebu breeds. Both government and MMPA records do not adequately provide cattle ownership by breed within specific areas. The MBG membership expansion efforts targets farmers with Zebu animals who are not yet members of any MBG.

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

Groundnut value chain

FtF-INVC in collaboration with partners helped in dissemination of the learning materials. For example, NASFAM produced and disseminated 12,000 pre and post handling bulletins for groundnuts in both English and vernacular (Chichewa) languages. Eight radio programs were produced and aired on Zodiac Broadcasting Station.

The radio programs are consistently aired on Zodiac radio station from 5:05pm and the messages cover the following topics:

- Groundnuts seed recovery process.
- Importance of loan repayment.
- Post-harvest handling of soy beans and groundnuts.
- Soya utilization including various recipes from groundnuts and soya for homestead consumption to improve nutrition of household members.

Also in collaboration with IITA, NASFAM developed manuals on best agronomic practices in pre and post-harvest handling. Currently, NASFAM is developing materials on GAP in quality certified seed, land preparing and planting that should be finalized and distributed to farmers before planting for the next season starts.

On training, FtF-INVC in collaboration with implementing partners like NASFAM conducted a series of training sessions. A total of 1,621 lead farmers were trained to ensure adequate farmer sensitization on postharvest handling processes of groundnuts to prevent aflatoxin infestation.

Training on Soy bean Seed drying and threshing

This activity was important as both improper drying and threshing may have huge impact on crop produce quality. About 97% (NASFAM April-May 2013 monthly report) of the farmers are following proper ways of drying and threshing though there are still some few who required more sensitization. They were drying soya whilst green and the reason given was that they planted late. These farmers were advised to leave the crop in the field until they get proper harvesting readiness indicators.

Training of Extension Workers in Post-harvest handling

A total of 117 extension workers and 1, 383 lead farmers were trained in post-harvest handling and aflatoxin management. The objective of the training was to improve the knowledge and skills of frontline technical staff in post-harvest handling of groundnuts and

soya in readiness of the harvesting season. The training was designed in such a way that after the training lead farmers should be able to train other farmers.

Four (4) milk testing apparatus (milk analyzers) were procured for use at MBGs. MMPA technical officers were oriented in the use of the apparatus. Milk quality control training for MBG and processor milk handling personnel will be conducted during the fourth quarter. One apparatus was installed at Machite MBG. The remaining two apparatus will be installed at Lumbadzi and Nkhweza MBGs and the other one at MDI milk processing plant. The processor was selected grounded on its commitment to implement a milk quality based payment scheme and number of farmers to benefit from the scheme. MDI collects milk from four MBGs out of the five being supported by FtF-INVC through a programme implemented by MMPA.

A demonstration by MMPA on milk testing using the recently procured milk analyzers was conducted at both Lilongwe Dairy and MDI companies to showcase the technology and promote the need for improving milk testing methods by using such apparatus. The testing of milk using the milk analyzers will improve milk acceptance screening when MBG milk cooling centres are receiving milk from members for bulking group and also provide valuable data on milk composition analysis (fat, protein, lactose, solids and added water) plus pH and temperature readings. Apart from the quality control purpose, the data generated through the milk analysis will be used to establish and maintain a milk quality based payment scheme and guide in the improvement of farmer animal feeding practices.

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

Activities under this sub-task were successfully accomplished. These activities involved identification of agro dealers and financial organizations for linking to the respective associations working with each partner. Following the successful FtF-INVC partnering with CISANET, in the next quarter, collaborative work will be conducted to strengthen existing associations to make them effective and sustainable.

Facilitation of Market Linkage/aggregation:

Four (4) aggregation centers have been identified by FUM in Mchinji district; three are in Kalulu EPA and one in Mkanda EPA. A total of two buyer-seller meetings were conducted at Mkanda and Kalulu EPAs. At both venues Auction Holdings Commodity Exchange (AHCX) officers explained to the farmers how the commodity exchange system works. This generated a lot of interest among the farmers.

Expansion of Trade Linkages

NASCOMEX already trades with other local agribusinesses, and both supplies and buys from Rab Processors, Farmers World and others when one party or the other finds itself short of particular commodity to fulfill orders. As NASFAM member production increases, these linkages will further be developed to ensure that all member production is procured.

Further, FtF-INVC continue to support ACE to further explore markets in the region by linking with other information hubs in South Africa and provide a market for the whole of Southern Africa.

Linking of Farmers to Financial Institutions:

In an effort to link the farmers to financial institutions, FUM had discussions with OIBM Officials. Following these discussions 7 meetings were organized and conducted in Mchinji (2), Dedza (2) and Lilongwe (3). OIBM and FMB are in partnership with ACE whereby the farmers can access financial support (loans) through WRS. In the next quarter the project will continue linking farmers to ACE and improving farmer organizational development so that they are able to aggregate produce.

MMPA collaborated with government officials at the Agriculture Development Division (ADD), district and Extension Planning Area (EPA) levels. EPA livestock extension officers provided technical expertise in farmers training, supervision of individual farmers and data collection. Following FtF-INVC support in re-organizing the Nathenje MBG which disbanded, the Presidential Initiative provided 15 dairy animals to 15 farmers through the Heifer International.

TASK 2: INCREASE VALUE CHAIN EFFICIENCY AND VALUE ADDING OPTIONS

SUB-TASK 1: CONDUCT ASSESSMENTS OF VALUE ADDED SECTOR

Activities under this sub-task were successfully accomplished. No additional activities were undertaken this quarter under this Sub-Task.

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

As part of FtF-INVC's effort to facilitate technology transfer through its implementing partners, processing apparatus and equipment procurement was underway. Different processing technologies were identified by respective partners that include groundnut oil expulsion, groundnut paste, roasting, groundnuts flour, packaging and labeling. As groundnut harvesting, drying and storage were the main activities, efforts focused on training farmers in harvesting and post-harvest operations utilizing well trained lead farmers who were trained in this same quarter. Selected farmers in each implementing partner will be trained in value adding in the next quarter and various processing activities such as machine shelling, grading and adding value will be conducted. These scalable technologies will be implemented at farmer association level. Consultations within the industry, particularly groundnut processors will continue on their search for industrial solutions to reduce aflatoxin levels in processed products.

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

During this quarter, the key activities centered on training of 1, 383 lead farmers and 29, 408 farmers in harvesting and post-harvesting groundnuts processes. FtF-INVC also produced 5 flyers on the same topics for implementing partners to reproduce copies and disseminate to farmers in the next quarter.

In the last quarter, NASFAM placed mechanical grinders on a pilot basis at two Association Management Centre (AMCs) for groundnut and soya flour production and the flour was sold back to the communities. A business that has proved successful in NASFAM South of Mzimba AMC, activities in which NASFAM is engaged with the Malawi Lake Basin Programme and at NASFAM's Kanengo factory is oil production. This is being done with

simple, electrically-powered machinery and it is planned to roll out and introduce similar equipment in Lilongwe North and Lilongwe South AMCs as with other NASFAM sites. Oil extraction is of particular interest as it can be done irrespective of the physical presentation of the crop. Other possible options include up-scaling production of animal feeds and soy milk (one soy cow), and briquette manufacture for AMCs other than those in Lilongwe.

Solar dryers represent a low cost technology (around \$75 each) which can assist in crop drying and quality improvement. The project placed such dryers at every AMC and they are available on a hire basis to local farmers (a hire charge being included to provide for maintenance and replacement).

Strengthening Centralized Processing Capacity

Within the NASFAM system design, activities are positioned to take place at the most efficient point. Following this principle, more complicated processing, processing which is fed by or serves several AMCs, and processing which requires special management, is performed centrally by NASCOMEX in Lilongwe. NASCOMEX's business plan follows a strategy of steady improvement and investment in processing capacity in order to access points higher up the value-chain and secure better or more reliable returns, to diversify its income base to mitigate risk, and ultimately to improve its ability to provide better and more stable returns to the farmer. NASCOMEX sees its long term future more as an agro-processor than an agro-dealer, although it will always do both. Investment in processing does not always mean doing things entirely in-house, and may involve joint ventures, linkages with other entities or contracting out.

Based on anticipated increases in production from the project, during 2012/13 and beyond, NASCOMEX continues to strengthen its central processing capacity by scaling up existing product lines for soya and groundnuts. In the case of soy beans, products include oil, meat, cake and flour – all of which are currently produced in smaller but growing quantities. In the case of groundnuts, these will include graded nuts for bulk trading, and raw and roasted nuts for sale under retail brands.

Progress has been made in terms of preparation for construction of two specialized breeder and based soy bean seed storage facilities at Chitedze Research Station under DARS and IITA. So far, the architectural designs have been finalized for the IITA storage facility and that for DARS will be done in the next quarter. The Quantity Surveyor has been engaged to do the cost estimation to ensure that the structure will be within the budget frame, and also to prepare the bill of quantities which shall form part of the bidding documents. (Refer to attached file for details of the designs).



TASK 3: INCREASE ACCESS TO CREDIT AND FINANCE

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

FtF-INVC continued its efforts to find solutions for addressing a number of stresses prevailing in the industry which included ACE's rural warehouse security, government minimum price fixing, and export bans. FtF-INVC also supported efforts to deal with inadequacies in the task of transferring practical, available hands-on skills in postharvest training and storage. In the next quarter, FtF-INVC will train lead farmers and farmers

through implementing partners in post-harvest and handling techniques, and disseminate flyers on post-harvest handling and use of WRS. Farmers associations will be sensitized and trained in market entry strategies besides sensitizing them on the use of ESOKO by their farmers.

With the establishment of Dedza certified warehouse for WRS and marketing information point (MIP), through ACE efforts, will be intensified to increase the number of certified warehouses for WRS and further support establishment of additional MIP. ACE also geo mapped all its certified warehousing facilities across the country.

SUB-TASK 2: FACILITATE LINKAGES BETWEEN LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND SMALLHOLDERS

No facilitation was done during the quarter.

TASK 4: FOSTER BUSINESS ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

SUB-TASK 1: STRENGTHEN VERTICAL COORDINATION AND TRUST

No activity related to strengthening, coordination and trust was done during the quarter.

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

As discussed in the prior section

COMPONENT 2: IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY

During the period, Malawi's per unit productivity of soy beans, groundnuts and dairy remained well below world levels. The low productivity in Malawi is attributable to a number of factors such as poor crop and animal management. FtF-INVC anticipates that productivity and profitability will be improved in the subsequent quarters through increased availability of inputs, better crop management and expansion of extension support.

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

SUB-TASK 1: INCREASE/STRENGTHEN SEED SUPPLY

During this quarter the Clinton Development Initiatives harvested Tikolore (TGx 1740-2F) grown on 10 ha of Mpherero Farm in Mchinji. However, the quantity harvested was below expectation in that it was only 6.6 tons instead of the contracted projected 20 tons. To produce the required contracted tons, CDI needed to get a yield of 2.5 tons per hectare. However, the actual yield realized after harvesting was 0.8 tons per hectare. This drastic yield reduction was attributed to late planting, poor rainfall distribution and early tailing off, and disease and pest pressure.

This resulted in a big shortfall in the targeted quantity of Tikolore soy bean seed for 2014/15 and to address the gap a major effort is being taken by IITA and DARS involving revising the soy bean seed road map. The plan is to use breeder seed of about 400 kg that is being currently produced by DARS under irrigation as part of the seed system project, IITA plans to undertake the production of basic seed of about 16 tons in the 2013/14 main season under rain fed conditions. During the same 2013/14 cropping season, the 6 tons of basic seed just produced and supplied by CDI will be used for the production of about 250 tons of certified seed by reputable seed producers. Subject to availability of sufficient land of over 300 ha under irrigation that can be used by seed producers for multiplying the 16 tons of basic seed to certified seed, a total of over 650 tons of certified seed will be produced and made available to farmers for grain production in the 2014/15 main season. This means that a total of about 900 tons of certified seed is expected to be available for grain production in the 2014/15 main season. Assuming every household would plant half a hectare of land to improved soy bean, the 900 tons of certified seed will be sufficient to reach out to some 20,000 households. It is worth noting, though, that the extent to which these targets will be achieved will depend largely on the offseason seed production capacity of partners (with irrigation, etc.) as well as the seed certification capacity of DARS. The revised plans are presented in Tables 4 and 5 below:

Table 4: Revised seed production plan for 2013/14

2013 (Irrigation/offseason)	2013/14 (Rain-fed/main season)			
	Breeder to basic		Basic to certified	
	Breeder seed	Basic seed	Basic seed	Certified seed
400 Kg (DARS)	400 Kg (DARS)	16 Tons (IITA)	6 Tons (CDI)	250 Tons

Table 5: Revised seed production plan for 2014/15

2014 (Irrigation/offseason)		2014/15 (Rain-fed/main season)	
Basic to Certified		Certified to grain	
Basic seed	Certified seed	Certified seed	Grain
16 tons (IITA)	650 Tons	250+650 = 900 Tons	15,000 Tons

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

Dairy

MMPA held meeting with Maldeco Company, Ndatani Premier Feeds and ASUMI Livestock Feed Manufacturers and Suppliers to establish a linkage with MBGs to strengthen feed distribution system. Production capacity, distribution system, cost and feed quality were assessed for each supplier. MMPA intends to partner feed suppliers with MBGs where feed will be supplied to the MBGs on loan and payment made through milk processors collecting milk from specific MBG. An input revolving fund was established to support farmers' access to inputs through loan. The fund will be managed by MMPA and targeting to benefit 300 farmers in the fourth quarter.

TASK 2: INCREASE ACCESS TO NEW TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

SUB TASK 1: IMPROVE ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE BEST BET (PRODUCTION) TECHNOLOGIES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The FtF-INVC facilitated the establishment of a Circle of Practice that links up DARS and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) institutions of IITA and ICRISAT, and DAES (with its structures at district level). The objective is to establish a sustainable, functional and effective system aimed at enhanced delivery of demand driven extension services, and able to provide accurate messages that are appropriately packaged and targeted. A task team comprising experts from DARS, DAES and IITA was put in place led by Dr. Geoffrey Kananji to produce training manuals for groundnut and soy bean. The products of the effort will be reported in the next quarter.

During the quarter under review, a number of training sessions were conducted to improve smallholder farmer access to best bet technologies and practices by all implementing partners of CADECOM, FUM, NASFAM and MMPA in their respective areas of operation. The number of farmers benefited from the training session in harvest and postharvest handling are presented in the Tables 6, 7 and 8 below:

Table 6: CADECOM summary of lead farmer and farmer training in post-harvest and aflatoxin management

Name of Association (EPA)	Name of Extension Worker / Field Officer	Number of Lead Farmers Trained			Total Targeted Farmers	Number of Farmers Trained			Per cent farmers trained		
		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total	Total	Males	Females
Mtakataka	Enock Issah- CADECOM	29	14	43	3,000	620	1256	1876	63%	21%	42%
Chafumbwa	B. Kanyumbu- CADECOM	11	6	17	3,000	743	1670	2413	80%	25%	56%
Kanyama	H. Maliasi- Government	23	15	38	3,000	450	1500	1950	65%	15%	50%
Golomoti	J.B. Pierre- CADECOM	60	20	80	3,000	356	1890	2246	75%	12%	63%
Bembeke	Limbani- Government	33	23	56	3,000	420	341	761	25%	14%	11%
	Total	156	78	234	15,000	2589	6657	9,246	62%	17%	44%

Table 7: FUM Summary of lead farmer and farmer training in postharvest and aflatoxin management

	EPA	Number of farmers		
		Male	Female	Total
Lilongwe	Chitsime	480	340	820
	Thawale	390	260	650
	Chileka	740	620	1,360
	Mngwangwa	820	680	1,500
Dedza	Lobi	759	592	1,351
	Mayani	338	697	1,035
	Linthipe	549	450	999
	Kabwazi	950	850	1,800
Mchinji	Mkanda	984	781	1,765
	Kalulu	323	301	624
	TOTAL	6,333	5,571	3,093

Table 8: NASFAM Summary of lead farmers and farmer training in post-harvest and aflatoxin management

District	EPA	Lead Farmers Trained		Total	Target	Number of S/holder Farmers Trained by Lead Farmers			Target
		M	F			M	F	Total	
BalakNtcheu	Kandeu	33	15	48	45	366	248	614	600
	Nsipe/Manja wira	28	9	37	35	272	137	409	400
	Sharpevalley	15	4	19	20	403	329	732	1000
BalakNtcheu a/ Mach inera	Ulongwe	12	2	14	14	174	191	365	300
	Ntubwi	17	3	20	20	84	46	130	130

	Nankumba /Chilipa2	7	5	12	10	123	177	265	300
	Utale	6	3	9	10	109	98	207	200
	Rivirivi	13	1	14	14	62	157	219	300
	Mpilisi	11	4	15	15	178	243	421	400
	Bazare	10	6	16	15	219	198	417	400
	Phalula	4	1	5	5	115	117	232	200
	Chilipa	7	5	12	12	225	175	400	400
Machinga	Msanama	2	4	6	6	148	99	247	220
	Mbonechera	3	4	7	6	93	92	185	220
Mchinji	Chiosya	19	11	30	35	360	220	580	600
	Mlonyeni	10	5	15	15	142	67	209	200
	Msitu	15	6	21	20	195	84	279	300
Lilongwe South	Nyanja and part of Chitekwere	22	2	24	25	208	98	306	300
	Mpenu and part of Chitekwere	26	2	28	25	337	511	848	800
	Mlomba and Mitundu	23	3	26	23	325	106	431	450
Lilongwe North	Mpingu	24	8	32	30	431	223	654	600
	Chiwamba	26	12	38	35	345	207	552	550
	Ukwe	15	11	26	30	396	238	534	600
	Chigonthi	21	7	28	28	132	397	529	550
Mangochi/ Namwera	Mtiya	29	1	30	30				600
	Nyambi	29	8	37	35	657	325	982	1000
	Masuku	28	4	32	30	452	382	834	900
	Katuli	25	6	31	30	317	294	611	600
TOTAL		480	152	632	618	6868	5459	12192	13120

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

No activity was conducted during the quarter

TASK 2: INCREASE ACCESS TO NEW TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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

In this quarter FtF-INVC supported the training of partner lead farmers and farmers in harvesting and post-harvest handling by the trained AEDOs/FOs in the FtF-INVC zone of

influence districts of Mchinji, Lilongwe, Dedza, Ntcheu, Balaka, Mangochi and Machinga. The trained 117 extension workers have trained a total of 1, 383 lead farmers and 29, 409 farmers. Of this total, NASFAM trained 632 lead farmers and 12, 192 farmers, CADECOM trained 234 lead farmers and 9, 246 farmers while FUM trained 517 lead farmers and 7, 970 farmers.

SUB-TASK 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO PROVEN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN THE DAIRY SECTOR

TOT on animal feeds and feeding was conducted on 25th and 26th April 2013 at Nathenje Rural Training Centre and was organized by MMPA and facilitated by Lilongwe Agriculture Development Division and Lilongwe Rural Development Programme (District Agriculture Office). Ten (10) Government livestock extension officers and 4 MMPA technical officers were trained in pasture establishment, forage conservation and crop residue utilization with a focus on the preservation of crop residues for dry season feeding. The training was done with an objective to impart knowledge and improve practical skills of the extension officers tasked to train dairy lead farmers. Lead farmers trained by the extension farmers started applying the acquired feed and feeding practices on their farms and demonstration to other farmers within their communities. 231 Farmers (67 female farmers) were trained by both livestock extension officers and MMPA technical officers. The training focused on animal housing, farm recording, feeding and preservation of crop residues for dry season feeding. Tables 2.1 below shows number of farmers trained in improved dairy management practices and have effectively implemented the learned practices.

Table 9: Number of farmers implementing management practices

<i>Trained Practice</i>	<i>Farmers implementing trained practice</i>		
	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fodder conservation			450
On-farm feed compounding	17	32	49
Farm records	54	150	204

SUB TASK 3: ESTABLISHING DEMONSTRATION FARMS FOR HANDS-ON TRAINING

50 Lead farmers (34 male and 16 female) against a target of 35 farmers from 5 MBGs were trained in improved dairy management practices. The training covered animal housing, farm recording, feeding and preservation of crop residues. Involvement of Zebu animal farmers who are not MBG members in the MMPA crossbreeding programme necessitated the need to have more lead farmers. Farms of the trained lead farmers have been improved to meet required standards and are being used as demonstration farms. Lead farmers will be provided with bicycles to easy mobility for farmer training and supervision. Table 10 lists number of lead farmers trained per MBG.

Table 10: Number of lead farmers trained per MBG

MBG	Lead farmers trained		
	Male	Female	Total
Lumbadzi	10	0	10
Nathenje	6	2	8
Machite	5	3	8
Nkhweza	4	6	10
Magomero	9	5	14
Total	34	16	50

A total of 25 lead farmers (18 male and 7 female) were assisted to improve their animal housing structures which are being used as demonstration farms. It is expected that 600 farmers will be reached by the trained lead farmers by September, 2013.

SUB TASK 4: IMPROVE HERD GENETIC CHARACTERISTICS AND INCREASE NUMBER OF DAIRY ANIMALS TO INCREASE MILK AVAILABILITY

Refresher training for AI technicians was conducted from 7th to 10th May 2013 and was facilitated by the MMPA Veterinary Advisor and CREMPA AI Coordinator. Eight (8) Farmer AI technicians, 2 government Senior Assistant Veterinary Officers from Chiwamba and Nyanja extension planning areas (EPA) and 3 MMPA Technical Officers were refreshed on AI techniques. The participants were trained in the following:

- (1) AI basics
- (2) Reproductive anatomy and physiology of a female bovine
- (3) Estrous cycle, heat synchronization and detection
- (4) Body condition scoring
- (5) Pregnancy and pregnancy diagnosis
- (6) Common reproductive disorders
- (7) Bull selection and semen evaluation

It is expected that the refresher course conducted will improve AI success rate and hence reduce the current calving interval. Additional 10 new AI technicians will be trained during the fourth quarter to improve AI service delivery in the 5 MBGs. A promotion on the use of AI will be conducted through reducing cost of the service and conducting heat synchronization. Heat synchronization allows an organized and efficient approach for AI and it reduces time required for estrus detection and also facilitates adoption of AI by reducing calving intervals.

SUB TASK 5: DISSEMINATE SCALABLE TECHNOLOGIES FOR GREATER FARM AND MARKETING EFFICIENCY

Promotion of dry season feeding preparations was conducted through dairy farmer training and demonstration of crop residue conservation and utilization. A total of 231 farmers were trained on how to utilize crop residues as alternative feed. Conservation of groundnut, soy bean and maize crop residues as hay was scaled up. It was also encouraging that 405 farmers were able to conserve available crop residues and also feed their animals.

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

SUB-TASK 1: SUPPORT LINKAGES OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS WITH EXTENSION SERVICE PROVIDERS (BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR BASED)

The FtF-INVC Project's efforts this quarter focused on strengthening the circle of practice among DARS-CGIAR, IITA, ICRISAT, DAES and farmers who are the ultimate users of extension services, as a continuation of the recommendations of the April 10 Kalikuti Hotel workshop. The aim is to establish a functional and sustainable system for extension message flow from message generation through appropriate and targeted adaptation and packaging for the smallholder farmers.

Through FtF-INVC support and guidance MMPA enforced the involvement of government officers in the implementation of its programme activities. MMPA intends to partner with a private service provider in the promotion of AI service where heat synchronization will be done.

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

During the quarter, 236 farmers were registered on the MMPA Esoko communication platform for easy access to technical messages and market information. 5 Technical messages were disseminated to farmers during the quarter. MMPA will explore other cheaper alternatives for the use of short message system (SMS) in disseminating technical messages and market information.

TASK 4: PROMOTE RISK MITIGATION EFFORTS

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

During the quarter under review, there were no activities under this Sub-Task.

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

FtF-INVC initiated the design of a detailed Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan which is now finalized and has since been submitted to USAID. Currently there are discussions between the FtF-INVC Chief of Party (CoP) and USAID towards the briefing of implementing partners. The final EMMP will be shared with IPs during the next quarter.

COMPONENT 3: IMPROVING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO PREVENT UNDER-NUTRITION

The key challenges and constraints to improving community capacity to prevent under-nutrition, specifically chronic malnutrition in children leading to stunting, and anemia in women, will be addressed through FtF-INVC interventions resulting in:

- Improved key nutrition-related behaviors (essential nutrition actions) within households.
- Increased access to diverse and quality foods among target populations through improved production, purchase, storage, and preparation of nutritious foods.
- Enhanced consumption of a nutritious and sufficiently diversified diet.
- Increased access to and utilization of key nutrition-related services among target populations, including community nutrition assessment/surveillance, bi-directional referral with clinic services, and support for vulnerable populations to access appropriate care at the community or clinic level.

FtF-INVC interventions are aligned to the national programs i.e. the special 1000 days and scaling up Nutrition (SUN) policies and programs.

In keeping with the overall FtF-INVC implementation framework, all interventions in the target districts focusing on improving community capacity to prevent under-nutrition are channeled through FtF-INVC partners. These partners are NASFAM, FUM, Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication and Nkhoma Hospital. Below, we present FtF-INVC nutrition program elements, which will be introduced. FtF-INVC ensures that all implementing partners understand that FtF-INVC ' nutrition programs are to be delivered to all members of a community in each target district.

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

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

Preparatory work has been done by Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication and Nkhoma Hospital to determine actors that influence nutrition and feeding behaviors. FtF-INVC project staff conducted joint technical planning meeting between Pakachere and Nkhoma Hospital to come up with key nutrition behaviors that are associated with improved nutritional status of children. The identified behaviors are optimal breastfeeding practices (early breastfeeding initiation, exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of the baby's life, sustained breastfeeding to two years and beyond), optimal complementary feeding practices (starting of complementary foods at six months, age appropriate feeding frequency, amounts of food given, food density, utilization and active/responsive feeding), attendance to growth monitoring and promotion sessions/clinics, paying attention to infant and young child feeding related sanitation and hygiene. Pakachere has drafted tools to conduct positive deviance inquiries (PDI) to track these behaviors in the communities. In this quarter PDIs and other forms of formative research to determine feeding behaviors did not commence pending the approval and signing of Pakachere and Nkhoma Hospital grants. Scope of work for short term technical assistance was developed to hire a consultant that would support and mentor Pakachere to conduct short cycle formative research to understand key behaviors in the communities. This activity is expected to be rolled out in fourth quarter.

FtF-INVC also held consultative meeting with UNC-FEEDBACK and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) Bunda College, Nkhoma Hospital and Pakachere to better understand the nutrition component implementation approach and mechanisms in order to determine sampling framework. UNC-FEEDBACK and LUANAR were represented by Martha Skiles and Numeri Geresomo respectively, while Grace Chikowi and Simon Sikwese represented Nkhoma Hospital and Pakachere respectively.

SUB-TASK 2: DEVELOP BCC STRATEGY

Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Strategy has been developed and finalized. There is no anticipated activity for BCC strategy development apart from refining it based on roll out experiences.

SUB-TASK 3: FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF BCC STRATEGY

Implementation of the BCC strategy largely depended on Pakachere grant becoming approved by USAID. While waiting for grant finalization, draft motivational interviewing guide for BCC was developed and translated into Chichewa. Interpersonal communication guide was also finalized and translated into Chichewa. These guides have been translated to suit care group structure. Pakachere identified and produced two (2) concepts for radio jingles on nutrition (exclusive feeding). The actual storylines for the jingles will be fully developed during the next quarter including the airing. One (1) Interactive Low Cost Radio Production Workshop was conducted from 15th to 19th April 2013 in Lilongwe. A total of 26 participants (8 females and 18 males) attended from 18 different organizations. Two (2) of the participants were from Liberia. The workshop was jointly organized by FHI360, Farm Radio and FtF-INVC with financial support from USAID. It was facilitated by two (2) experts from Farm Radio, USA.

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

SUB-TASK 2: FACILITATE AND PROMOTE CULTIVATION OF HIGH NUTRITIVE VALUE CROPS

Promotion of cultivation of high nutritive value crops especially groundnuts and soy beans to enhance increased access to diversified and quality foods continued in this quarter through CADECOM, FUM, IITA and NASFAM. Cultivation of other high nutritive value indigenous crops by target households in backyard/kitchen gardens did not start in this quarter. This activity was contingent on Nkhoma Hospital becoming approved and funded. Since this activity will involve procurement and distribution of indigenous seeds, Nkhoma Hospital is expected to obtain clearance from USAID regarding approval of restricted commodities. This activity will start in the fourth quarter.

SUB-TASK 3: FACILITATE FOOD PROCESSING

Community based food processing activities did not commence in this quarter. These will be promoted by Nkhoma Hospital through care group volunteers once Nkhoma grant is approved. Nkhoma Hospital will be expected to use the FtF-INVC compiled seasonally adjusted recipe book for training care group volunteers and communities in food processing of the value chain commodities.

SUB-TASK 4: FACILITATE FOOD FORTIFICATION

The scope of work for short term technical assistance to establish policy and supply chain gaps to enhance home food fortification using multiple micronutrient powders/sprinkles in Malawi was discussed with USAID Malawi Mission. USAID recommended considering home fortification in wider context such as use of fortified peanut paste than use of micronutrient powders (MNP) only. FtF-INVC project refined the scope of work to include a value chain analysis of the supply and demand for processed fortified complementary food products, including MNP. Operationalization of this scope of work is expected to start in fourth quarter.

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

SUB-TASK 1: FACILITATE PROMOTION OF DIETARY DIVERSIFICATION

Promotion of dietary diversification through use of care groups, conducting cooking demonstrations, district annual nutrition events, drama performances, airing of radio programmes and jingles in order to increase consumption of value chain commodities did not commence in this quarter. These activities depended on Nkhoma Hospital and Pakachere grant proposal approval by USAID. Since the grants have been approved, main efforts have been on respective project start up activities by Pakachere and Nkhoma Hospital. Care group volunteers are yet to be recruited to carry out these activities. This activity will be rolled out in fourth quarter once care group structures have been put in place. Nkhoma Hospital and Pakachere will be expected to use the FtF-INVC project compiled food availability calendar to guide messaging for dietary diversity.

SUB-TASK 2: PROMOTE MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION

Nkhoma Hospital was funded to promote management of acute malnutrition through strengthening nutrition screening during Child Health Days (CHDs) in Lilongwe and Mchinji districts from 17th to 21st June and 24th to 28th June, respectively.

Under technical supervision of FtF-INVC nutrition team, Nkhoma Hospital directly supported 124 Ministry of Health staff from District Health Office (DHO) and three health facilities. Nkhoma also supervised seven (7) other facilities to implement CHD campaign to reach under five children and pregnant and lactating women in communities where FtF-INVC project is being implemented in Lilongwe district. These health facilities are Nathenje, Lumbadzi, Chitedze, M'bang'ombe, Ukwe, Chadza, Mlare, Chiwamba, Chileka and Mitundu. In Mchinji, Nkhoma Hospital supported 391 Ministry of Health staff from sixteen (16) health facilities. These are Kaigwazanga, Kazyozyo, Chipumi, Mkanda, Gumba, Chimwamkango, Kapanga, Nkhwazi, Chioshya, Kochilira, Ludzi, Guilleme, Tembwe, Kapiri, Mikundi and Mchinji District Hospital. Data are available for Kaigwazanga, Kazyozyo, Chimwamkango, Gumba, Mkanda, Kochilira, Chioshya, Tembwe, Ludzi, Kapiri, Chipumi, Kapanga, Guilleme and Mikundi while data for Mchinji district hospital and are still being compiled. In Lilongwe, 75945 children were screened for acute malnutrition, 1438 were identified as severely acutely malnourished and referred to the community management of acute malnutrition program. In Mchinji 51477 children were screened for acute malnutrition, 2165 were identified as acutely malnourished and referred for admission to community management of acute malnutrition program; 21332 pregnant and lactating women were screened, 29 were identified as wasted. Nutrition screening was based on presence of bilateral

oedema and mid upper arm circumference (MUAC) with MUAC of 12.5cm and <23cm being cut-off point for acute malnutrition in children and women respectively.

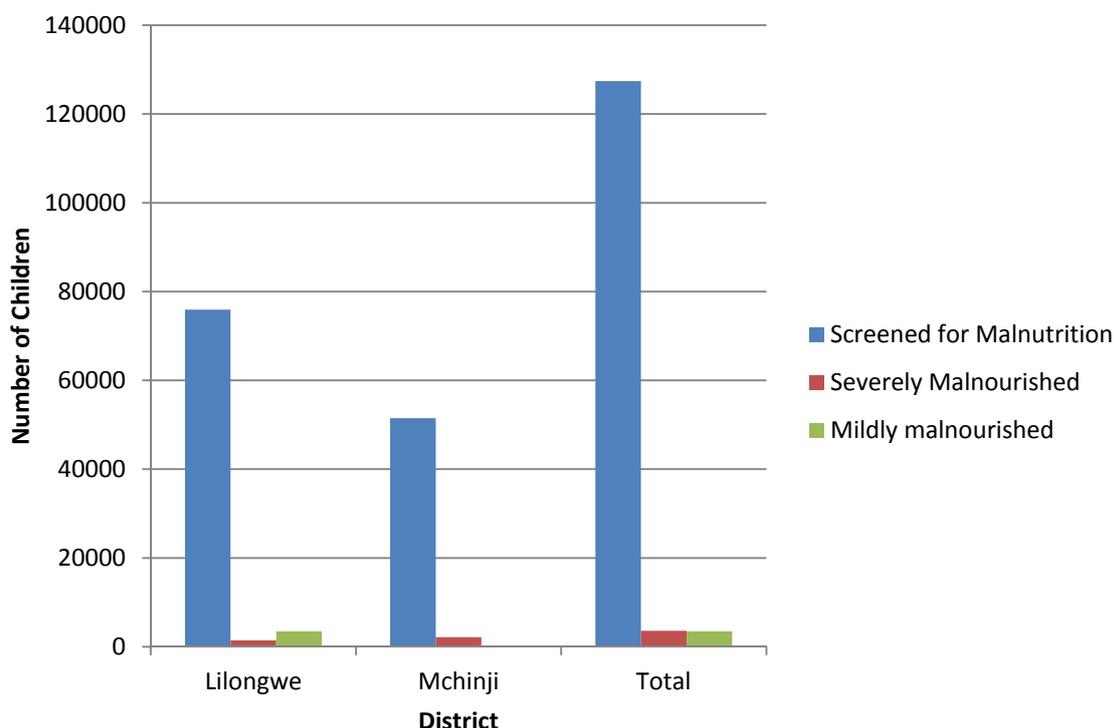


Figure 3: Number of children screened for acute malnutrition and identified as malnourished in Lilongwe and Mchinji districts

SUB-TASK 3: PROMOTE HYGIENE AND SANITATION

Promotion of hygiene and sanitation through care group volunteers did not commence in this quarter despite Nkhoma Hospital and Pakachere grants being approved. Nkhoma Hospital had not recruited care group volunteers. However, Nkhoma Hospital worked with Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) to promote hygiene and sanitation during CHDs campaign. In total, 95379 households were reached with hygiene and sanitation message, 51182 in Lilongwe and 44197 in Mchinji targeting areas where FtF-INVC activities are currently being implemented. Promotion of hygiene and sanitation will continue in the next round of CHDs campaign and subsequent quarters. Messages will be channeled through care group volunteers as part of their routine volunteer work. All care group volunteers will receive training in sanitation and hygiene with emphasis on infant and young child feeding hygiene.

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

While Nkhoma Hospital and Pakachere grants have been approved and grant agreements signed, community based growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) activities did not commence because care group structures have not yet been put in place. GMP activities will largely rely on care group volunteers. Nkhoma Hospital, NASFAM and FUM have not yet established care group structures following the approval of Nkhoma Hospital's grant. GMP

activities are expected to commence in the fourth quarter once care group structures are put in place.

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

Through supporting biannual CHD campaign activities, in Lilongwe a total of 76868 children aged 6 to 59 months received Vitamin A supplements and 74774 children aged 12 to 59 months were dewormed in communities surrounding the ten (10) health facilities where FtF-INVC project is currently implementing activities. In Mchinji, 70404 children were supplemented with Vitamin A and 63482 children were dewormed (See Table 11 below).

Table 11: Children under 5 reached with Vitamin A supplementation and other interventions in FtF-INVC supported areas

Intervention	Target age group		Number of people reached in FtF-INVC supported areas		
			Lilongwe	Mchinji	Total reached
Vitamin A supplementation	Children 6 to 59 months		76868	70404	147272
	Post-partum women (within 8 weeks of delivery)		2501	3046	5547
Deworming	Children 12 to 59 months		74774	63482	138256
Nutrition Screening	Children 6 to 59 months	Severely acutely malnourished	1438	2165	3603
		Mildly acutely malnourished	3487	0	3487
		Total screened	75945	51477	127422
	Pregnant and lactating women (PLW)	Severely acutely malnourished	107	29	136
		Mildly acutely malnourished	1715	81	1796
		Total Screened	23244	21332	44576
Infant and young child feeding promotion	All households		51182	44197	95379
Hygiene and sanitation promotion	All households		51182	44197	95379
Use of ITNs	All households		51182	44197	95379
Use of iodized salt	All households		51182	44197	95379

Overall, the CHDs campaign was well conducted in the two districts. In addition to FtF-INVC, the two districts were financially and technically supported by other organizations and projects such as Support for Service Delivery Integration (SSDI), Feed the Children, Plan Malawi, Interaide, Save the Children International and World Vision International. This resulted in strengthened supervision. However, planning hiccups were observed in the distribution of supplies in Lilongwe district in FtF-INVC impact areas. Some sites had fewer amounts of supplies than the projected number of children resulting in stock outs. Similarly, data collection forms, such as tally sheets and summary sheets were inadequate in some sites as a result some HSAs improvised hand written templates of the forms in order to report data. In the next round of CHD campaign, FtF-INVC will work towards strengthening planning for adequate supplies as well as data collection and timely reporting. Further details of coverage of CHD interventions in Lilongwe and Mchinji are available in Table 11 above.

SUB-TASK 3: SUPPORT/STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY SYSTEM/STRATEGY FOR REFERRAL OF CHILDREN

This activity did not start in this quarter as it is contingent on Nkhoma Hospital becoming granted. Development and testing of the community - health facility referral system will be conducted in the fourth quarter. Referral of children from communities to health facilities will be ongoing in all the remaining quarters.

TASK 5: CREATE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR EXECUTION OF NUTRITION ACTIVITIES

SUB-TASK 1: CONDUCT MEETINGS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Improving stakeholder collaboration and coordination enhances leverage and prevents duplication of efforts. District councils recognize the importance of coordination of development stakeholders at district level and have therefore made it mandatory for all new projects coming into the districts to be presented first to committees within the district councils and then district executive committee (DEC) for cataloguing. FtF-INVC presented its program to Lilongwe and Mchinji District Agriculture Extension Coordinating Committee (DAECC) and District Health Management Team (DHMT) members on 12 June and 20th June respectively. Presentations and discussions centred on overall project overview and respective project partners' roles that are working in the district. The DAECC and DHMT provided some technical guidance and pledged support for the project while also emphasizing on the significance of continuous collaboration among partners throughout project implementation period for it to be a success. In Mchinji, 35 people attended the debriefing meeting while in Lilongwe 28 people participated in the debriefing meeting. The major areas of collaboration and leverage between district government structures are technical support from district agriculture extension development officers for backyard gardens and other agriculture production related activities, publicizing the WRS to improve lucrative marketing opportunities for smallholder farmers, CHDs campaign with district health offices. Some collaboration has already been demonstrated in the implementation of CHDs campaign where FtF-INVC project and Nkhoma Hospital supported district health offices to supervise HSAs.



Figure 4: Participants to DAECC and DHMT meeting



Figure 5: Nkhoma Hospital Official making a presentation

Mapping of health facilities

Mapping of health facilities in Lilongwe rural was completed in this quarter. Information on staffing level and total population of different age groups are presented in Table 12 below.

Table 12: Health Facilities, staffing and total population for Lilongwe rural health facilities

Health Centre	Contact person	Cell no.	Total number of HSAs			Total pop.	Under 1	Under 5	Pop. of WCBA (15 - 49)
			Male	Female	Total				
Nathenje	Mlotha	0999356536	19	23	42	62971	3149	10705	14483
Mtentera	Phiri	0994437127	18	20	38	54557	2728	9275	12548
Matapila	J. Chisale	0995606000	3	12	15	26401	1302	4488	6072
Nkhoma	Chimwano	0993711571	24	7	31	49552	2478	8424	11397

Health Centre	Contact person	Cell no.	Total number of HSAs			Total pop.	Under 1	Under 5	Pop. of WCBA (15 - 49)
Diamphwe	Peze	0999394854	3	9	12	16755	838	2848	3854
Chimbalanga	J Kachisa	0992220124	3	12	15	24824	1241	4220	5710
Chimwala	Kalindiza	0991544354	7	25	32	39949		8130	
Kang'oma	Kazembe	0884948085	9	13	21	38387	1880	6137	8315
Mitundu	JKC Banda	0888671895	32	18	50	112399	19108	53925	25852
Chadza	Kachisi	0888790709	20	3	23	52894	2645	8992	21166
Mlale	January	0999682770	21	9	30	17631	882	2997	4055
Malingunde	James Chadza	0999060322	21	13	34	74933	3747	12739	17235
Dickson	Mtsotsolo	099189417	12	4	16	39670	1984	6744	9124
Maluwa	Kankolowola		4	4	8	22039	1102	3747	5059
Katchale	W.E. Nkhosa		5	2	7	19835	992	3372	4562
Chiunjiza	M.Morgan	0999266145	9	2	11	35263	1763	5993	8110
Mseche	W. Kwembe	0999414340	5	0	5	12000	600	2004	2060
M'bangombe 1	M.Chadewa	0999450110	9	1	10	15427	771	2622	3548
Ngoni	D.G. Mnjale	0999604988	17	2	19	32150			
Mbavi	F.S.Mwendo	0999179218			24				
Lumbadzi	F.S. Banda	0999604204	7	14	21	77878	3894	13239	17912
Chiwamba	Chancy Banda	0995468475	13	8	21	43604	2180	7413	10029
Chileka	Seven	0999172045	15	10	25	33018	1651	5613	7594
St. Gabriel			4	3	7	15427	771	2623	3548
Kabudula	H.C. Mwale	0999295400	17	5	22	35602	1780	6052	810
Ukwe	H. Alfonso		16	1	17	37826	1891	6430	8617
Nsaru	Mr. Tenthani		-	-	29	48952	2448	8322	11152

Bridging work plan development

Considerable amount of time was spent on development of the FtF-INVC Project bridging work plan for the period April to September 2013. The main focus of the bridging work plan is to build technical capacity of partners to implement nutrition interventions using the care group model.

Short term technical assistance

During the quarter, the project received short term technical assistance (STTA) in nutrition provided by Paige Harrigan, Nutrition Advisor at Save the Children US. The STTA focused on reviewing the nutrition component and areas requiring technical assistance to the end of the project, provide input into the bridging work plan and assisting with rolling out of the BCC strategy. Major recommendations (as outcomes of the STTA) are: Areas for the immediate STTA relating to capacity building on the BCC Strategy and in country and remote technical assistance; scopes of work to support BCC and Nutrition rollout; high quality documentation for the nutrition component; and participation in FY13-14 Work planning (August 2013) with remote and in country technical backstopping to nutrition team.

Participation in Gender Global Learning and Evidence Exchange (Gender GLEE)

During this quarter, Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) and Nutrition Specialist who also serve as gender officers participated in Gender GLEE from 22 to 24 May 2013 in Washington, DC, United States. The main purpose of the three-day conference was to maximize the Feed the Future (FtF) outcomes through strengthening on how to address gender equality and female empowerment in FtF programs. The specific objectives were to: (a) create an understanding

among participants on how gender constraints can hold back agriculture and food security results and; (b) share what can be gained by addressing gender effectively in Feed the Future programming globally. Major lessons learnt include:

- a) Integration of gender in agriculture forms part of fundamental principles of inclusive development. Therefore gender integration in agriculture and food security is mandatory for all Feed the Future programs. All new USAID personnel will be required to mainstream gender in their programs. The seriousness of USAID Missions and implementing partners in integrating gender issues is seen in the following areas: (i) gender financing that there must be budgetline for gender activities in every development program including agriculture and food security; (ii) accountability on gender issues as seen in program implementation and reporting; and (iii) gender monitoring, evaluation and learning. Program must demonstrate and document what works in reducing gender gaps including programs that have failed to reduce gender gaps in agriculture.
- b) Women have key roles as farmers and caregivers. When conceptualizing/designing or actually implementing any integrated nutrition in value chain project this concept should be considered and ensure that women are engaged as farmers to produce nutritive food crops and at the same time use them as care givers so that they use such foods to feed their children and other members of their household to reduce malnutrition. It was learnt that in some countries projects engage women as either farmers or as caregivers only and not both.
- c) Studies in many parts of the world have shown that women's discretionary income has greater impact in reducing child malnutrition and ensure household food security than that of men. Project interventions that address women's individual income are, therefore, more likely to contribute to positive outcomes on child nutrition. In order to improve nutrition, women's active involvement in the project is critical.
- d) Even in the Feed the Future projects currently being implemented, it has been noted that there are still significant gaps in access to assets and information among women, an element that affects full realization of set goals and objectives of some projects.

In order to achieve meaningful impact, integrating nutrition in value chains (agriculture and nutrition) projects should target the nutritionally vulnerable, increase market access and opportunities for nutritious foods, increase production of diverse and nutrient-dense foods, coordinate multi-sectorally, and fully incorporate nutrition behavior change communication.

Gender equality and women empowerment or diagnostics in agriculture (and nutrition) is being measured by using the women empowerment in agriculture index (WEAI). The tool which was launched in February 2012 measures the greater inclusion of women in agricultural sector growth that has occurred as a result of US Government intervention under the FtF Initiative. WEAI can be used as a monitoring as well as a diagnostic tool for women empowerment in agriculture.

In order to meaningfully integrate gender, FtF-INVC will in the next quarter conduct gender assessment of the project and its partners and create awareness among its partners. Also

ensure that sub-grantees/partners commit to ensuring gender equality and women empowerment in their projects.

Visit to DAI and Save the Children US headquarters

Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) and Nutrition Specialist also visited DAI and Save the Children Headquarters in Washington to present FtF-INVC project implementation mechanisms and share project progress and plans. The major focus at DAI was on how nutrition integration was planned that care group structures will be embedded in predominantly agriculture based partner organizations.

Partners and other stakeholders meetings

As part of enabling environment, FtF-INVC team has been facilitating and attending meetings with various stakeholders to encourage synergy, as well as provide technical assistance. These meetings are those for project introduction to Lilongwe and Mchinji District Technical Committees and providing technical assistance in planning and execution of CHD campaigns in the districts. A list of meetings facilitated and attended during the quarter is presented in Table 13 below:

Table 13: List of meetings attended during third quarter, April-June 2013

Date	Meeting attended	Organizer	Purpose/issues discussed (brief bullets)	Partner/stakeholder
April 5	Launch of GLUCO Phala fortified with vitamin A and iron	Universal Industries Limited	Brief members especially nutrition key partners in Malawi of new product on the market	Universal Milling Company. A subsidiary of Universal industries Ltd
April 12	DEC meeting	Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM), JICA and CRECCOM	WESM and JICA are implementing a project on forestry management while CRECCOM is implementing a project on gender equality and women empowerment. DEC members welcomed the projects in the district DEC provided some technical guidance especially on target areas and beneficiaries	Organized by Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM), JICA and CRECCOM. Mchinji DEC members
April 16	Consultative meeting	Concern Worldwide	Concern Worldwide consulted District Nutrition Stakeholders as part of SUN nutrition project proposal development process	Mchinji District Nutrition Stakeholders Concern Worldwide
April 26	Nutrition baseline	Bunda College and UNC	Share nutrition component information to the consultants. Clarify observations made by	Pakachere, Nkhoma hospital, SC –US , Bunda and UNC

Date	Meeting attended	Organizer	Purpose/issues discussed (brief bullets)	Partner/stakeholder
			consultants as they prepare to develop design and tools for the baselines study	
April 29	Courtesy call at Lilongwe District Agriculture Development Office (DADO)	FtF-INVC	Brief Lilongwe agriculture district team of the FtF-INVC project with emphasis on nutrition component, selected EPAs and partners in Lilongwe	Lilongwe District Agriculture Office
April 29	Courtesy call at Lilongwe District Agriculture Development Office (DADO)	FtF-INVC	Brief Lilongwe agriculture district team of the FtF-INVC project with emphasis on nutrition component, selected EPAs and partners in Lilongwe	Lilongwe District Agriculture Office
April 30	Courtesy call at Lilongwe District Assembly	FtF-INVC	Brief the Director of Planning and Development for Lilongwe district council of the FtF-INVC project with emphasis on nutrition component, selected EPAs and partners in Lilongwe	Lilongwe District Agriculture Office
April, 30	DEC meeting	Mchinji District Assembly	Save the Children CLEAR Project presented a progress report The NGO Board of Malawi was sensitizing the members on the mandate, duties and functions of the board as well as the NGO Act. It was emphasized that each registered NGO must present a letter of authorization from the board to the District Council before rolling out activities in the District and that it has to report back to the Council on progress made periodically.	Mchinji CLEAR Project staff NGO board members Mchinji DEC members
May 2	Debriefing by Paige Harrigan	SCI	Share critical points, observations and	SCI

Date	Meeting attended	Organizer	Purpose/issues discussed (brief bullets)	Partner/stakeholder
			recommendations based on findings of her work with nutrition team of FtF- FTF- INVC	
May 2	Nutrition baseline and nutrition indicators	UNC	Share more critical information and indicators with Martha(UNC) in preparation for the nutrition baseline	UNC
May 7	Courtesy call at Lilongwe District Health Office (DHO)	FtF-INVC	Brief the DHO for Lilongwe district of the FtF-INVC project with emphasis on nutrition component, selected EPAs and partners in Lilongwe	Lilongwe District Health Office
May 15	SCI all staff meeting	SCI	Share updates from various departments and projects to Lilongwe SCI staff	SCI
May 26 to June 21	Taskforce preparation meeting	Mchinji DHO	Participated in CHDs preparation meetings The issues discussed included support from partners, main activities to be conducted, event logistics, reporting forms, supplies and allocation of responsibilities	Mchinji DHO CHDs Task Force members
May 30	Lilongwe DEC	Lilongwe District Council	Share new projects and progress made on activities by government departments and civil society organizations	Lilongwe District Council
June 4	DEC meeting	Mchinji District Assembly 1	NASFAM introduced a new project called 'Strengthening Extension Structures through Advocacy and Multi Stakeholders Engagement in Malawi'. DEC members welcomed the projects in the district DEC provided some technical guidance especially on target areas, outputs and beneficiaries	NASFAM Mchinji DEC members

Date	Meeting attended	Organizer	Purpose/issues discussed (brief bullets)	Partner/stakeholder
June 6	Ethics and compliance presentation	FtF-INVC and USAID	Orient FtF-INVC staff in USAID financial ethics and compliance issues	USAID
June 10	Child health days preparations	Lilongwe DHO	Share information on total budget, sponsors to different activities and logistics to NGOs and government	Lilongwe DHO
June 12	The launch of the 2013 state of the World's mothers report	SCI	The minister to launch the report	Government ministries, NGOs
June 12	Project Briefing meeting	FtF-INVC	Presentations were made by the DCOP and project partners that are working in Mchinji. The DAECC and DHMT unanimously felt that the project was important and should be implemented in the district.	Mchinji DAECC members Mchinji DHMT members FtF-INVC staff FtF-INVC project partners
June 20	Briefing of DAECC and DHMT technical sub committees for Lilongwe district executive committee (DEC)	FtF-INVC	Brief DAECC and DHMT members on FtF-INVC project overview globally, Malawi and globally and partners working in the district	DADO, DHO, district council and other civil society organizations
June 25	Review meeting	SCI	SCI's Program Quality Review meeting. The meeting aimed at reviewing SCI programs quality in terms of technical quality and how programs are built up with partners. There was also a field visit to CLEAR Project communities	SCI and CLEAR project staff District Labour and Social Welfare Officers
June 27	Lilongwe DEC	Lilongwe District Assembly	Share presentation of new projects and progress old of activities by government departments and civil society organization	Lilongwe District Assembly

COMPONENT 4: INVESTING IN INNOVATION

The US\$2 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 NGOs, and public-private partnerships who 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 up that is built upon end-market analysis and a financing plan. The US\$9 million “Implementation Support Fund” (ISF) cuts across Components 1, 2, 3 and 4. It is intended primarily to support the refinement and scaling up 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.

During this quarter, US\$419,744 of grantee expenses were cleared by FtF-INVC. This represents 59% of advances given. However this was not an easy exercise. Grantees have struggled to understand the quality of supporting documentation required. Project staff spent much time advising staff on the required documentation.

The Malawi Kwacha began appreciating against the US\$ from mid-April onwards. Vendors, especially car dealers, did not adjust their US\$ prices but made small reductions in Malawi Kwacha denominated prices, showing an appreciable increase in related US\$ prices. This resulted in FtF-INVC having to obtain USAID approval for higher US\$ prices for ‘restricted commodities’ such as vehicles and motor cycles, with respect to FUM’s vehicle purchases.

The Pakachere Institute for Health and Development Communication grant was signed late in June 2013 bringing the total number of grants signed to 7, while the Nkhoma Hospital grant is expected to be signed early next quarter.

TASK 1: FUND DESIGN

The basic DAI Grants Manual was adapted to FtF-INVC needs and submitted to USAID in the last quarter of FY 2012. As such this task has been accomplished and no design modifications were found to be necessary during the second quarter FY 2013.

TASK 2: OPERATIONALIZE FUNDING MECHANISM

SUB-TASK 1: ESTABLISH GRANT REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Table 14 below shows the cumulative progress to date in FtF-INVC grant review, USAID concurrence and signature.

Table 14: Summary of grant related activities

Components	Concept Notes	Proposals	Total Received	Grants concurred by USAID to date	Grants signed to date including current quarter
Advancing value chain competitiveness	13	6	19	1	1
Improving productivity	6	7	13	4	4

Improving community capacity to prevent under-nutrition	2	2	4	2	1
Investing in innovation	0	2	2	1	1
Developing local capacity	4	1	5	0	0
Grant Total	25	18	43	8	7

Grant preparation and signing

Two grant applications received our focus during this quarter, and these were Pakachere Institute for Health and Development Communication and Nkhoma Hospital. FtF-INVC received USAID concurrence for Pakachere Institute for Health and Development Communication and Nkhoma Hospital on 19th April and 15th May, 2013, respectively. The former was prepared for approval and signature by the Chief of Party in the month of June 2013. The latter was also prepared for the Chief of Party's approval in the same month. It is expected to be signed in the first week of July 2013.

A rigorous process was followed from the time the applications were received up to the time the grants were signed or prepared for signature. FtF-INVC obtained 3 references for each of the above grantees, during the proposal vetting stage. The contact details of the referees were obtained from the grantees and were independently contacted by the project to obtain their references. These references provide the project independent confirmation that the grantees are capable of handling a grant of the magnitude envisaged by the project and that there has not been any 'mishandling' of grants provided by other donors, previously. None of the references contained any negative comments on the grantees concerned.

Initially, pre-award surveys were carried out for each of the grantees prior to this quarter. These surveys obtained information from the grantees pertaining to their organization structure, staffing, financial systems, conflict of interest procedures and internal controls, among others. Of the information collected, conflict of interest procedures and/or their understanding was the least appreciated and understood. In the 2 grants that we focused on during this period, Nkhoma Hospital had very little understanding and appreciation of conflict of interest situations. This was particularly so with staff below director level and is a point of concern. However they appreciated their lack of knowledge and FtF-INVC will focus on that aspect in its capacity development work.

Financial capability questionnaires answering key questions on their financial systems were obtained from each of the grantees. Such questionnaires provide the project a clear understanding of the grantees' financial and accounting systems. The project was not unduly perturbed by what was contained in any of the questionnaires.

In both proposals, FtF-INVC spent a lot of time improving and bringing them to a state of a logically presented and factual document. Both applicants failed to fully grasp their role within the nutrition component and needed a lot of coaching and guidance from FtF-INVC staff. This resulted in our staff spending time in meetings with both applicants, particularly in the case of Nkhoma Hospital.

FtF-INVC also worked closely with the applicants on their final grant budgets. Such work consisted of discussing and aligning grantee cost share contributions, requesting quotations to

justify budgeted costs and alignment of budget line items with the time period available for the grant activity. Several meetings and communications took place with the 2 applicants to finalize the budget, particularly with Nkhoma Hospital. Obtaining vendor quotations to justify the budget was quite a time consuming exercise, as they did not fully appreciate the reasons for requesting the quotations. After coaching, the 2 applicants are now fully conversant with the principles of costs that are reasonable, allowable and allocable.

The above steps culminated into the compilation of a Negotiation Memorandum for each grant for the attention of the Chief of Party, as part of the grant preparation process. This document summarized, among others, the rationale for utilizing the selected grant instrument (in this case Standard Grants), basis of costs in the budget, their reasonableness including a comment on any overhead costs and how they had been arrived at. The grants were then submitted to DAI Headquarters for review by the DAI Contracts staff. In the case of Pakachere Institute for Health and Development Communication, the documents were printed and the grant was signed jointly by the grantee and FtF-INVC on 28th June 2013. The Nkhoma Hospital grant is expected to be signed in the fourth quarter.

Proposals submitted to USAID

One proposal was sent to USAID seeking its concurrence, during this quarter. This proposal was that of the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET). The proposal was sent on 17th June. USAID submitted its queries on 19th June. FtF-INVC communicated USAID's additional information requirements and queries to CISANET who made the required amendments and made available the additional information on 30th June.

SUB-TASK 2: MANAGEMENT OF POST-GRANT AWARD ACTIVITIES

Requests for advances

IITA submitted a request for advance during the quarter. The request was for US\$ 67,661 and was disbursed late in May 2013. This advance is for a period of 2 months and IITA is expected to submit expense reports along with supporting documentation to liquidate this advance and then obtain a fresh one. Advances are paid in to grantee accounts that are specifically for FtF-INVC funds.

Submission of grantee expense reports

Table 15: Expense Reports for Grantees

Grantee	Expense reports submitted and reconciled (US\$)
ACE	99,015
NASFAM	299,220
MMPA	-
IITA	1,478
FUM	13,986
CADECOM	5,633
Total	419,332

During the quarter, all the organizations submitted expense reports up to March/April 2013. MMPA's submission was returned as it was not submitted according to the required

standards. All the initial expense report submissions had major flaws in their documentation. Some of the more commonly observed flaws are listed below:

- a) The documents submitted did not provide a 'story' regarding the expenditure such as why was it incurred, who authorized it, where was the expenditure incurred and when it was incurred.
- b) Most of the documentation contained some of the above information but not all.
- c) In some cases, allowances incurred by grantees exceeded the levels authorized by FtF-INVC according to existing donor approved allowances. This was despite being informed in February about FtF-INVC approved allowances.
- d) Sign-up sheets for meetings were not always provided. Sometimes one person was noted to be signing for other attendees as well.
- e) Time sheet formats varied hugely. Some grantees only accounted for FtF-INVC time and did not provide us the information regarding the % time allocated to FtF-INVC.
- f) Most often, documentation provided did not include 3 quotations and a justification for the expense, when the value was greater than US\$ 500. One grantee, surprisingly, failed to provide 3 quotations for an expenditure item that was approximately 51% of its budgeted cost, when we knew that 3 quotations were easily obtainable.

In the case of one major grantee, the documents justifying a particular item of expenditure were not intelligently filed in a logical manner that would enable us utilize a calculator and total all the documents and agree them with the item of expenditure concerned. This was the case with several items in that grantee's files.

FtF-INVC staff, especially the Grants Manager and Finance and Administration Director had several meetings with all grantees in order to rectify such anomalies. In order to give the reader an idea of the size of the problems encountered, we can confirm that it was only in the last days of June that expenditure up to April 2013, was cleared for the 5 grantees listed in the above table. Mention must be made of NASFAM, an organization that has earned the plaudits of many a donor organization in Malawi. Their expenditure files, that covered a period from December 2012 to March 2013, were received by us on 18th April 2013 and were only cleared (not all items claimed) on 28th June 2013. In their case it is appreciated that not all their field staff in all 7 FtF-INVC districts were well briefed by their headquarters staff regarding reporting requirements. It must also be noted that they have only just recruited a project coordinator and it is hoped that he will be able to coordinate and smoothen out many of the issues that contributed to delay clearing of expenses by FtF-INVC and DAI.

Submission of Financial Reports

In general these reports were well presented although in a few isolated cases, grantees did not check that the cumulative expenditure column captured all the monthly expenditure items. However, grantees ensured that monthly expense reports agreed with the monthly expenditure column of the relevant Financial Report.

IITA has informed us that they will be able to submit reports only on a quarterly basis. While we received the technical report soon after the quarter ended, the financial and expense reports for the period January to March 2013, were received only in May 2013.

Grantee funds requests

ACE requested funding during the quarter. ACE was paid US\$25,595.09 in May 2013 on submission of its February-April, 2013, expense, financial and technical reports.

FUM received a payment of US\$76,563 for procuring a motor vehicle and motor cycles. These funding requests were paid only after obtaining approval for the respective technical reports from the Program Managers and checking of the expense and financial reports.

Grants Management Training Seminar

FtF-INVC conducted a Grants Management Training Seminar on 5th May 2013 at the FtF-INVC Conference Room. Twenty nine (29) persons attended this training. That number consisted of 16 grantee and potential grantee staff, 2 USAID staff, 8 senior staff from FtF-INVC, the 2 facilitators, Grants Manager and Finance and Administration Director of FtF-INVC, and the Chief of Party. The topics addressed during this day-long seminar were:

- USAID Forward Strategy, understanding the grant agreement and its objectives
- Activity reporting schedule
- Monitoring and reporting plan
- Budget
- Funding request and approval
- Disbursements process of grant funds
- Funds management
- Record keeping
- Supporting documentation
- Expense report
- Expenditure-reasonable, allocable, allowable
- Technical report
- Financial report
- Marking and branding guidelines
- Project close out

When preparing for the seminar 2 sets of guidelines were prepared and distributed to the attendees. The Marking & Branding guidelines were also prepared which contained clear guidance on relevant to grantee programs. The other set of guidelines were for financial management and reporting by grantees.

Grantee audit visits

FtF-INVC has begun making preliminary audit visits to grantees. The program commenced on 26th July when the Grants Manager and Finance and Administration Director visited MMPA.

The objective of these visits is to check on grantee financial systems and if they relate to information obtained during the pre-award survey. Checks will also be made on grantee documentation to ascertain if the systems purported to be in operation are indeed put into practice.

In addition to the above, checks are also made on grantee's cost share calculations included in the budget. It is planned to visit one grantee per week.

Interaction with Grantees

FtF-INVC project is a unique one in that project staff predominantly facilitate all activities of the project. This has its advantages as our IPs are able to carry out planned activities themselves. However, it has been noted that both IPs and technical service providers are not fully conversant with what is expected of them when receiving grant from USAID. This has resulted in many sessions with IP and technical service providers' staff which has taken much of the project's time and resources

Table 16 below presents series of meetings conducted since September 2012:

Table 9: Number of meetings arranged and topics covered

Date	Organization	Participants	Content	Type of guidance	No. of sessions	
					This qtr.	From start to last qtr.
Sept' 12	Pakachere IHDI	Executive Director Financial Controller	Conflict of interest, Streamlining systems	Coaching Advising		1
Sept' 12	Malawi Chambers of Commerce	Chief Executive	Conflict of Interest	Coaching		1
Sept' 12	CADECOM	National CADECOM Secretary National Programs Officer	Cost Share	Coaching		1
Sept' 12	MMPA	Programme Manager	Cost Share Streamlining systems Documenting procedures	Coaching Advising Advising		1
Oct' 12	Tradeline Consult	Director	How to improve their proposal	Coaching and advising		1
Oct' 12	FUM	Head of Programs	How to improve their proposal	Coaching and advising		1
Oct' 12	RUMARK	Managing Director	How to improve their proposal	Coaching and advising		1
Nov' 12	MMPA	Programme Manager	What to include as cost share in budget	Coaching		1
Nov' 12	ACE	Principal Advisor	Discuss cost realism issues in budget compilation	Coaching		1

Dec'12	CADECOM	National CADECOM Secretary	Need to provide quotations on time and managing CADECOM's work Project Management Timely submission of reports	Advising and Mentoring		1
Dec'12	Nkhoma Hospital	Project Accountant	Cost share – its meaning and how to include it in the budget format provided	Coaching and advising		1
Feb'13	Nkhoma Hospital	Nutritionist M&E Officer	Cost share – its meaning and relevance Also prepared cost share guidelines for Nkhoma Hospital	Coaching and advising guidance		1
Jan'13	MMPA	Programme Manager	Final budget preparation	Advising		1
Jan'13	Umodzi Consulting	Consultant	Conflict of interest examples	Guidance		1
Jan'13	Nkhoma Hospital	Nutritionist M&E Officer Project Accountant	Explained methods of cost share to Nkhoma Provided examples on how Nkhoma can include cost share in their budget Cost share guidelines were prepared and sent to Nkhoma	Coaching		1
Feb'13	Tradeline Consult	Consultant	Conflict of interest examples and documentation of systems	Guidance		1
Feb'13	ACE	Finance/Contract Manager	Cross referencing receipts to expense Report	Coaching		1
March'13	ACE	Principal Advisor	Expense reports for December and January – cost share documentation	Advising		1
March'13	MMPA	Accountant	Need to re-work MMPA budget, inclusion of assets as	Advising		1

			cost share			
March'13	Nkhoma Hospital	Nutritionist Project Accountant	Need to prepare budget by activity Cost share principles (repeated to new project accountant's benefit) USAID requirement for restricted commodities	Explaining		1
March'13	Pakachere	Executive Director Financial Controller	Budget preparation according to FtF-INVC format, cost share principles and need for up to date quotations	Advising and coaching		1
May'13	ACE NASFAM MMPA IITA FUM CADECOM Nkhoma Hospital Pakachere	2 Persons from each organization. 3 from NASFAM	Detailed explanation of grants management, including reporting, branding and marking, supporting documentation,	Coaching	1	
May'13	NASFAM	Senior Accountant	Shortfalls in documentation supporting NASFAM's December'12 to March '13 expense reports	Advising and coaching	1	
May'13	CISANET	Executive Secretary	Budget alignment with activities	Guidance	1	
May'13	CADECOM	Accountant	Grant reporting requirements	Advising	1	
May'13	Nkhoma Hospital	Public Health Coordinator Nutritionist	Need for quotations to justify budget, process up to grant signing	Advising and guiding	1	

		M&E Officer Project Accountant				
May' 13	ACE	Finance/Contract Manager	Shortfalls in ACE expense reports February-April' 13	Advising	1	
May' 13	NASFAM	Finance Director Program Manager Accountants	Shortfalls in documentation supporting NASFAM's December' 12 to March '13 expense reports	Advising and coaching	1	
June' 13	Nkhoma Hospital	Public Health Coordinator Nutritionist Project Accountant	Conflict of interest examples when carrying out another pre- award Survey	Coaching	1	
June' 13	FUM	Finance Manager	Importance of proper time sheet filling, obtaining signed attendance sheets	Advising	1	
June' 13	ACE	Accountant	Shortfalls in ACE expense reports February-April' 13	Advising and guiding	1	
June' 13	ACE	Finance/Contract Manager	Obtaining corrected time sheets, approved allowances	Guiding	1	
June' 13	MMPA	Accountant	The need to attach timesheets to pay slips when submitting expense report documentation The need to obtain 3 quotations and justification for selecting a vendor.	Guiding	1	

As shown above, a total of 33 meetings were held out of which 12 were in this quarter

Budget and/or program amendments

Two potential budget/program amendments have been identified. These pertain to MMPA and FUM. FtF-INVC has concluded that MMPA's modality of setting up community dairy animal breeding programs is not the most effective way forward and have requested them to review their modus operandi regarding the breeding program. The project has offered MMPA 2-pronged solutions:

- Vigorous expansion of MMPA's AI program to inseminate Malawi-Zebus with pure-bred semen.
- Provide support at the community level to generate, organically, their own community dairy animal breeding program through retention of bulls born under the pass-on program. This could be further enhanced by introducing pure bred bulls, one in each community, to serve as the breeding bull.

FUM has realized that it has not budgeted for some of the training activities planned by FtF-INVC. It has therefore adjusted its budget lines. The total grant budget is, however, not expected to change. The Grants Manager is checking both rehashed budgets, and the amendments are expected to be formalized early in the next quarter. These changes will not result in grant amendments.

Approval for Restricted Commodities

As reported during the last quarter, some of the advances requested included items that are denominated as 'restricted commodities' and were therefore reduced from the amount requested when disbursing funds. ADS 312, Section 312.3.3, specifies that motor vehicles are among the 7 items denominated as 'restricted commodities'. Section 312.3.3.2 details the procedures required to obtain USAID Contracts Officer's Representatives (COR) approval. The project accordingly obtained quotations from NASFAM for 2 field vehicles and 6 motor cycles; and 1 field vehicle and 3 motor cycles for FUM along with the relevant procurement decision matrices. These were sent to DAI's Senior Contracts Administrator to obtain USAID COR approval in the required format. Approval was requested on 17th April and received on 22nd April, 2013 from the Regional Contracting Officer.

During the quarter the Malawi Kwacha appreciated. The Malawi Kwacha/US\$ exchange rate that stood at 416.5062 on 2nd April 2013, became 355.6415 on 15th May 2013. FUM was ready to procure its vehicles but noted that vendors had maintained almost the same Malawi Kwacha prices, ostensibly increasing the US\$ price. As grantee budgets are denominated in US\$, it was decided to bring this to the attention of the Acting Contracts Administrator of DAI who in turn recommended that we needed to bring this matter to the attention of the Regional Contracting Officer. This approval was requested on 30th May 2013 and received on the same day.

Challenges experienced

During this quarter, FtF-INVC grants section focused on checking and approving grantee expense reports. It was found that grantees were slow in comprehending the necessity to submit supporting documentation that would stand up to an audit test. Some of the shortcomings of expense report submissions are mentioned under heading Submission of

Expense Reports, above. Such poor documentation and lack of attention to detail delayed FtF-INVC in approving grantee expense reports.

TASK 3: DEVELOP SUSTAINABILITY MECHANISMS FOR FUNDS

SUB-TASK 1: CONDUCT ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS

During this quarter, FtF-INVC carried out a pre-award survey of Nkhoma Hospital. The pre-award survey revealed that there was a lack of understanding regarding the need for conflict of interest policies.

Figure 6: The pre-award survey in progress



SUB-TASK 2: DEVELOP INDUSTRY BUSINESS PLANS

FtF-INVC has evaluated proposals from three (3) business service providers and these are: MIM, Umodzi Consulting and Tradeline Consult. The project has recognized the need to coach senior staff of its IPs and technical service providers in aspects such as proposal writing with particular attention to USAID projects, corporate governance, project management and leadership and management skills. With this in mind, DAI will enlist the assistance of one of its senior staff in engaging MIM and coaching them on current USAID requirements on proposal writing, ethics and compliance.

A meeting was held with MIM on 24th June when they were briefed on FtF-INVC plans. MIM expressed its keenness to conduct the required courses and have submitted a proposal accordingly. This proposal, once vetted, will be sent to USAID to obtain its concurrence.

FtF-INVC will contract Umodzi Consulting and Tradeline Consult to prepare business plans for IPs, technical service providers and other value chain actors and train their staff in business plans, after obtaining USAID concurrence of their proposals.

Specific activities pertaining to this sub-task will be carried out in the next quarter.

SUB-TASK 3: SURVEY AND ASSESS INVESTORS' INTEREST

As mentioned in Sub-Task 2, business service providers are expected to produce business plans for selected FtF-INVC stakeholders during the next quarter. These will then be utilized by them to explore investor interest. The project aims to engage the interest of investors to make value chains more competitive. Due to non-completion of the industry business plans (see Sub-Task 2 above), this task, once more, was pushed into the next 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

One of the grantees whose activities fit in with the objectives of the Innovation Fund, namely ACE, has continued to engage the private sector in disseminating the message of the advantages of obtaining warehouse receipts. During this quarter, ACE continued to engage the private sector in briefing them of the advantages of obtaining warehouse receipts. With support from the project, ACE has met and briefed several banks in Lilongwe on the importance of understanding the values of warehouse receipts and financing them. As mentioned in the previous quarter, Charles Stewart, a company engaged in feed manufacture and the production of day-old chicks has utilized warehouse receipts for its maize requirement between April and September 2013. They will procure 250 MT of maize per month during this period utilizing warehouse receipts. A consultant engaged by ACE is also in the process of carrying out a feasibility study to attract external investment into ACE, in particular its warehouse receipts program. Initial indications show that the private sector in Malawi is keen on expanding warehouse receipts.

SUB-TASK 2: INVESTMENT PROMOTION TARGETING FTF-INVC VALUE CHAINS

Business service providers will also be requested to produce business plans for key value chain processes or activities. FtF-INVC will then attempt to attract investor interest in the more valuable business propositions. This task is expected to begin in the next quarter.

SUB-TASK 3: FTF-INVC INNOVATIONS

During this quarter FtF-INVC was able to record the following innovations:

a) GPS of the Milk Bulking Group (MBG) Eco- System

FtF-INVC contracted a team from Bunda College of Agriculture to GPS the MBG eco-system. This was done for 4 zones. The team managed to capture information pertaining to the concentration of zebu cows, bulls, paravets and dairy farmers.

b) GPS of warehouses certified for warehouse receipt operations

ACE certified warehouses have been mapped. ACE has mapped 18 of its client warehouses, 4 Kulima Gold warehouses and 4 others. This will be an important source of information as FtF-INVC grantees attempt to engage the private sector, especially commodity traders and financiers, in warehouse receipt operations.

c) Market Information Points (MIPs)

FtF-INVC continues to provide cutting edge technology in order to enable smallholder farmers have access to market information at minimum cost. The project has been providing this technology at 2 locations, one at the Mchinji Boma and the other at the Lumbadzi MBG. During this quarter, the project added a MIP in Dedza at a CADECOM warehouse. The equipment and facilities available enable smallholder farmers download and watch programs of interest and more importantly connect with ACE in obtaining the latest prices available on their exchange. FtF-INVC will continue to experiment in order to provide smallholder farmers an optimum solution in obtaining current market information.

d) CISANET

CISANET has almost from its inception been an entity that involves itself on agriculture and trade policy issues. However FtF-INVC noted another potential business opportunity for CISANET. In its discussions with the private sector, FtF-INVC noted that some sectors had a dearth of trade associations that enabled its members to further their commercial interests. We noted that CISANET may be able to offer itself as a secretariat for trade associations that needed incubation, prior to being able to sustainably manage their own affairs. FtF-INVC has submitted a proposal from CISANET to USAID seeking its concurrence.

COMPONENT 5: DEVELOPING LOCAL CAPACITY

FtF-INVC's approach to capacity building follows a three-stage course of action consisting of:

- Assessments, to determine status and needs
- Alliances, to maximize performance and benefits accrual within the value chain, and
- Capacity building of all the associated actors.

TASK 1: DEVELOP MALAWI'S CAPACITY GOING FORWARD

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

During the quarter FtF-INVC has reviewed and finalized agreements with four organizations namely; Nkhoma, Pakachere, CISANET and MIM. Preliminary activities by these organizations have been refined and implementation started.

SUB-TASK 2: BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

During the reporting period, FtF-INVC has compiled the draft report on the organizational capacity assessment that was done in February/March 2013 of nine institutions namely: FUM, NASFAM, MMPA, Pakachere, Tradeline, CADECOM, Malawi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Nkhoma Hospital and ACE. Following the results of the organizational capacity assessment, a capacity building plan has been developed that will address the identified gaps.

FtF-INVC organized a project implementation consultative workshop involving FtF-INVC technical staff and partners. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss modalities for improving communication and feedback between FTF-INVC and partners. The workshop was participatory in which experiences in terms of what is working well and what is not working were shared and action points agreed upon. Some of the key recommendations agreed upon were:

- Reports should be demanded through designated partner desk officers.
- Timing of the invitation to meetings should be well in time and be regularized, for example, convening them fortnightly, especially now that the rainy season is approaching. It was agreed that there should be timely submission of reports from partners.
- Proceedings and presentations made during any meeting should always be shared one (1) week after the meeting.
- Consistently update each other of agreed deliverables.
- Improve communication between FTF-INVC and partners through acknowledgements, enquires, etc.
- To enhance communication, field visits to partner project sites and offices be done by FtF-INVC and not just relying on phone calls.
- There should be orientation sessions on M&E procedures and indicator tracking as some partners are still unfamiliar with the M&E manual.

During the period, FtF-INVC organized a day-long training on grant management and monitoring which was held at FtF-INVC Conference Room on May 3, 2013. Participants

included technical staff from FtF-INVC and partners (ACE, NASFAM, Pakachere and MMPA).

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

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

FtF-INVC carried out the GPS mapping of MBGs under MMPA in Lilongwe district.

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

In the quarter, FtF-INVC facilitated a number of TOT sessions, production of bulletins, production and airing of radio programs, and also conducted demonstrations and field days. On TOT, 92 AEDOs, 25 field coordinators and 162 lead farmers were trained who in turn trained a total of 27, 386 farmers. A total of 12, 000 bulletins were produced and disseminated, 8 radio programs were also produced and aired on Zodiac Broadcasting Station. In addition, 4, 404 demonstrations and 27 field days were held where a total of 1, 702 farmers participated of which 68% were females (See Tables 17, 18 and 19 below).

Table 17: Training on best bet technologies

Training of Trainers	AEDOs from MoAFS	Field Officers from INVC Partners	Lead farmers trained	Farmers trained
NASFAM	28	13	870	12325
CADECOM	34	7	234	9246
FUM	30	5	517	5815
Total	92	25	1621	27386

Table 18: Mass media production and Dissemination

Implementing Partner	Bulletin, leaflets, flyers	Radio Programs	Comments
NASFAM	12,000	8	Aired on Zodiac Radio Broadcasting
CADECOM	-	-	-
FUM	-	-	-
Total	12,000	8	

Table 19: Demonstrations and Field Days

Training of Trainers(ToT)	Demos	Field Days	Number of farmers participants	Gender participation
NASFAM	4,324	12	2,456	64% female
CADECOM	80	15	9,246	72% female

FUM	-	-	-	-
Total	4,404	27	11,702	68% female

SUB-TASK 3: FACILITATE POLICY REVIEW AND ADVOCACY SUPPORT

This quarter, FtF-INVC signed an agreement with Nkhoma Hospital and Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication to provide nutrition and BCC services to implementing partners respectively. Discussions with CISANET to provide facilitation support to SOYAMA and Dairy Industry Development Platform (DIDP) are in progress.

FtF-INVC attended the Legume Platform Annual Stakeholders meeting whose theme was “Towards a Vibrant Legumes Industry in Malawi” The Legume Platform Annual Stakeholders meeting was officially opened by Dr. Peter Lipita of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS). Among agenda items were review of the draft constitution, passing of resolutions on a ratification of the constitution, name of the platform, membership fee, ratification of key objectives, and election of board of trustees. FtF-INVC is observing closely on the activities of the legumes platform and will participate whenever deemed necessary.

FtF-INVC organized a meeting on harmonization of agricultural extension messages and approaches. The meeting had representation from FtF-INVC, DARS, IITA and DAES. The major output of the meeting was the establishment of a task team of technical experts to develop training manuals, flyers, leaflets and charts on groundnuts and soy beans. Terms of reference were drawn to guide the work of the task team.

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

FtF-INVC organized two district based workshops for Mchinji and Lilongwe District Assemblies involving technical committees on agriculture and health. The objective of the workshops was to enable FtF-INVC implementing partners present their programs to the assemblies for support. Presentations were made by NASFAM, FUM, Nkhoma Hospital, Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication and ACE. DAECC and DHMT of the two assemblies welcomed the projects and pledged support.

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

FtF-INVC had discussions with MIM on the proposal for organizational capacity building to FtF-INVC partners. Out of the proposed activities, a plan for four courses that will be conducted by MIM in the next quarter has been concluded. FtF-INVC has engaged a trainer from DAI who will work with MIM in facilitating a course on "Doing Business with USAID". The arrangement is that MIM will act as a co-facilitator of the course whilst learning on the job from the main facilitator with the objective that MIM assumes this responsibility to offer similar type of training to other organizations in Malawi as well as in Africa region.

SUB-TASK 6: M&E WORKSHOP

M&E workshop planned for the next quarter.

PARTNER ACTIVITY REPORTS

Below are some of the activity highlights done by partners namely: NASFAM, FUM, CADECOM, MMPA, Nkhoma Hospital, Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication and IITA.

1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS OF MALAWI (NASFAM)

1.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

Soy bean Seed Revolving Fund: Seed recoveries

In the period under report the major activities under seed recoveries were monitoring the drying and threshing systems, briefing the seed recovery committees about how to do the exercise, farmer reminder meetings about loan repayments, empty sacks procurement and distribution, seed recovering, purchase of soya surpluses, identification of storage facilities and monitoring of the recovery process. This was to ensure that maximum yields are achieved and that farmers are able to pay back and have a surplus to sale.

Sensitizing the seed recovery committees

In a quest to ensure that the anticipated quantities of both soya and groundnut seed are recovered, seed recovery committees were established and sensitized. The sensitization sessions covered: moisture requirement, storage requirement including-dry and cool seed storage area; effective storage pest control; and proper sanitation in seed stores.

Farmer beneficiaries loan repayments sensitization

Distribution of seed was at club level. Farmers were therefore being visited by AFOs, Farmer Trainers and seed recovery committees to be reminded on seed repayments. Farmers were reminded about the quantities they took and how much they were supposed to pay back (twice what they took). Additionally, farmers were reminded that loan recovery process was not dependent on crop marketing therefore they were encouraged to repay the loan even before they sell the surplus.

Seed recoveries (Loan repayment)

Loan recoveries are being facilitated by the AFOs who are directly supervised by their Association Business Managers (ABM). Farm Services Officers (FSOs) also conducted some spot checks to crosscheck on progress in terms of quality and quantity. As indicated above, seed recoveries are at around 85% for soy beans and 60% groundnuts. FSOs have been deployed to assist in slackening associations. Scalability and second year beneficiary inclusion in the program is largely dependent on the quantities of seed recovered from the initial beneficiaries.

IITA Tikolore Soy bean Seed Multiplication

FtF-INVC is supporting Tikolore soy bean seed multiplication through IITA. Tikolore has proved to be one of the best soy bean seed varieties because it is high yielding and resilient to unfavorable climatic conditions. Through the same IITA, the project is constructing basic and breeder seed storage facilities at IITA and DARS respectively.

Certified Soy bean seed for 2013/14Season

It is noted that soy bean seed for the 2013/14 may not be adequate as the only available stocks are the carryover stocks from the 285 MT of certified soy bean seed that was procured through NASFAM in the last growing season. 122.4 MT was left over that was fumigated and stored for use in the 2013/14 season. Additionally, IITA intends to do soy bean seed multiplication through irrigation so that by the start of the growing season there should be enough seed for the season.

Table 20: Crop production estimates for FtF-INVC Project

Crop Production Estimates for INVC Project														
ID	AMC/IPC	Crop Type	Quantity of seed Planted (Kg)	Area Planted (Ha)	yield (Kg/Ha)	Production (Kg)	Quantities to pay back loan (Kg)	quantities for seed keeping (Kg)	quantities for food (Kg)	quantities for sale (Kg)	No of empty sacks distributed for sold seed	No of empty sacks for recovered seed	Price per	Total cost(MK)
1	LLN	Soybeans	8,940	112	1,000	111,750	17,880	8,940	11,175	73,755	1,475	358	128	9,440,640
		G/nuts	47,475	593	1,200	712,125	94,950	47,475	71,213	498,488	9,970	1,899	128	63,806,400
2	LLS	Soybeans	16,425	205	1,000	205,313	32,850	16,425	20,531	135,506	2,710	657	128	17,344,800
		G/nuts	51,970	650	1,200	779,550	103,940	51,970	77,955	545,685	10,914	2,079	128	69,847,680
3	Nu	Soybeans	16,800	210	1,000	210,000	33,600	16,800	21,000	138,600	2,772	672	128	17,740,800
		G/nuts	19,888	249	1,200	298,320	39,776	19,888	29,832	208,824	4,176	796	128	26,729,472
4	Mch	Soybeans	40,000	500	1,000	500,000	80,000	40,000	50,000	330,000	6,600	1,600	128	42,240,000
5	Blk	Soybeans	22,817	285	1,200	342,255	45,634	22,817	34,226	239,579	4,792	913	128	30,666,048
6	Nam	soybeans	41,583	520	1,000	519,788	83,166	41,583	51,979	343,060	6,861	1,663	128	43,911,648
All AMC/PCs		soya	146,565	1,832	1,000	1,889,105	293,130	146,565	188,911	1,260,500	25,210	5,863		
		G/nuts	119,333	1,492	1,200	1,789,995	238,666	119,333	179,000	1,252,997	25,060	4,773		

1.2 CHALLENGES

- Inadequate staff to cater for the increased number of farmers that have joined the partner projects. The current field officer to farmer ratio is 1 to 1500.
- Weather challenges—irregular rainfall onset, abrupt stoppage and some rains after groundnuts maturity—these stressful weather conditions create favorable conditions for aflatoxin development
- Partners facing documentation and compliance issues hence creating delays in effective delivery and implementation of some activities such as cash requests and subsequent activities
- Marketing challenges occasioned by government regulated minimum price regimes of groundnuts and other related crops.

2. FARMERS' UNION OF MALAWI (FUM)

2.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

SENSITIZATION MEETINGS

This activity started at the end of the first quarter.

2.1.1 Mchinji district

As reported in the first quarter report, FUM conducted two sensitization meetings at Mkanda and Kalulu EPAs where a total of 248 farmers attended. Of the 248 people, 180 were male and 68 female. The meetings created awareness of FtF-INVC project. The message focused on project objectives, expected activities and requirements for participation. This raised interest among farmers especially on support for marketing, farm inputs and farmer organizations.

2.1.2 Lilongwe district

FUM reached a total 4004 farmers with sensitization meetings in Lilongwe district. The farmers were briefed on the general background of FUM, FtF-INVC project, objectives, activities to be implemented, the targeted impact areas, expected outputs and criteria for participation. The farmers welcomed the project. As a way forward interested farmers were advised to start registering their respective clubs. The meetings were conducted at section level in all the four EPAs as detailed in Table 21 below.

Table 21: Attendance of farmers during Lilongwe awareness meeting sessions

EPA	Number of Meetings	Attendance		Total
		Men	Women	
Chitsime	15	651	505	1156
Ngwangwa	12	420	336	756
Thawale	14	427	551	978
Chileka	16	566	558	1114
Total	57	2064	1950	4004

2.1.3 Dedza district

FUM also held project sensitization meetings in Dedza district targeting AEDOs, AEDCs and lead farmers with the anticipation that these will further pass on the message to the farmers in various sections. The meetings were held in Mayani, Kabwazi, Linthipe and Lobi EPAs. A total of 63 people participated in the meetings (37% female). Just like in other districts, the farmers were briefed on the general background of FUM and FtF-INVC project, objectives, activities to be implemented, the targeted impact areas, expected outputs and criteria for participation (See Table 22).

Table 22: Attendance of farmers during Dedza meetings

EPA	Number of Meetings	Attendance		Total
		Men	Women	
Mayani	1	10	7	17
Kabwazi	1	11	4	15
Linthipe	1	10	6	16
Lobi	1	9	6	15
Total	4	40	23	63

2.1.4 Post-harvest handling (PHH) training

This activity was carried out in three phases namely with extension workers, lead farmers and farmers.

2.1.5 Training of extension workers in PHH.

The training took place from 2nd to 3rd April 2013 at Nathenje. The main objective for the training was to improve the knowledge and skills of frontline technical staff (FUM and Ministry of Agriculture - AEDOs) in post-PHH of groundnuts and soy beans in readiness for the harvesting season. A total of 33 participants attended the training 48% (female)

2.1.6 Training of lead farmers in PHH

The objective of the training was to build capacity of lead farmers in post-harvest and aflatoxin management so that they train their fellow farmers in their respective sections. The training sessions were held in all the 10 EPAs in the month of April and May targeting 240 lead farmers. Topics covered include the following: Signs of maturity in groundnuts, harvesting, drying using Mandela cork storage, marketing, aflatoxin management, aflatoxin on human health and in marketing, storage, pests and diseases, grading and practical's of Mandela. A total of 515 lead farmers were trained

2.1.7 Training of farmers in PHH by lead farmers:

The numbers are expected to grow since the training exercise is still in progress.

2.1.8 Dedza district:

A total of 5185 have been trained in PHH by the lead farmers in Dedza district as detailed in Table 23 below.

Table 23: Farmers trained by lead farmers in Dedza

EPA Names	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Total Farmers
Mayani	338	697	1035
Lobi	759	592	1351
Linthipe	549	450	999
Kabwazi	950	850	1800
Total	2596	2589	5185

2.1.9 Mchinji district

In Mchinji, a total of 2389 farmers have been trained by the lead farmers in PHH (See Table 24)

Table 24: Farmers trained by lead farmers in Mchinji

EPA Names	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Total Farmers
Mkanda	984	781	1765
Kalulu	323	301	624
Total	1307	1082	2389

2.1.10 Lilongwe district

A total of 396 farmers have been trained in Lilongwe (See Table 25 below).

Table 25: Farmers trained by lead farmers in Lilongwe (Mngwangwa EPA)

EPA Names	Male Farmers	Female Farmers	Total Farmers
Mgwangwa	230	166	396
Thawale	0	0	0
Chileka	0	0	0
Chitsime	0	0	0
Total	230	166	396

2.1.11 Acquisition of motor vehicle

FUM has now purchased a motor vehicle (Ford Ranger Double Cab) for the project. This vehicle will alleviate transport challenges FUM had been experiencing.

2.1.12 Participating in DAECC and DEC Meetings

In June FUM participated in two DAEC workshops that were organized by the FtF-INVC project in Mchinji and Lilongwe whose main objective was to describe FtF-INVC project goal, objectives, implementation mechanisms and areas of collaboration with district assemblies. The first meeting was held in Mchinji at Compass Lodge on 12th June 2013 and the second one took place in Lilongwe at Kalikuti Hotel on 20th June 2013. FUM made a presentation on what it is doing in these districts.

Following Kalikuti Hotel workshop in Lilongwe, it was agreed that FtF-INVC Project implementing partners should also brief Lilongwe DEC on their respective projects. This DEC meeting was held on 27th June 2013 and FUM made a presentation.

2.1.13 Identifying Aggregation Centers: Mchinji District.

Five (5) aggregation centers have been identified in Mchinji district at: Mkanda EPA, Kalulu EPA, Chipumi, Kapiri and Mtchisi.

Lilongwe District

Seven (7) aggregation centers have been identified in Lilongwe district at: Kambanizithe, Chiunjiza, and Kamphoni (Thawale EPA), Buli and Mgwangwa (Mngwangwa EPA), Chileka EPA and Chitsime EPA.

Dedza District

Farmers aggregated farm produce are at Kabwazi and Mayani EPAs

2.1.14 Facilitation of market linkages:

FUM facilitated two buyer seller meetings. These were conducted at Mkanda and Kalulu EPAs. At both venues Auction Holdings Commodity Exchange (AHCX) officers explained to the farmers how the commodity exchange system works. The meeting targeted the lead farmers. At Kalulu a total of 27 lead farmers (5 females) attended the market linkage meetings and 25 leaders farmers (6 females) participated at Mkanda both in Mchinji.

2.1.15 Linking of farmers to financial institutions:

In an effort to link farmers to financial institutions, FUM had discussions with OIBM officials. Following these discussions 7 meetings were held (2 in Mchinji, 2 in Dedza and 2 in Lilongwe). OIBM is in partnership with ACE whereby the farmers can access financial support (loans) through the warehouse receipt system. A total of 33 clubs have opened accounts with OIBM in Mchinji during the quarter.

2.1.16 Mobilizing farmer organizations representatives

This activity has been carried out in Mchinji and Dedza. As farmer organizations under FUM are still in their formative stage (mobilization stage), a good number of the farmers who have been identified are the lead farmers except where there are already existing farmer organizations. So far a total of 73 and 74 farmer representatives have been identified in Mchinji and Dedza districts respectively.

2.1.17 Soya and Groundnuts Club Registration.

A total of 311 soya and 337 groundnuts clubs have been registered (See Table 26 below). The exercise is still going on and FUM expects to register more. Currently FUM is formalizing the recording process using the forms that have been provided by FtF-INVC as initially the recording was done in hard covers (quarterly report to show names of all the registered clubs and their respective members disaggregated by gender and household heads) See Table 26 below).

Table 26: Registered Clubs per District

Crop	Lilongwe district	Dedza district	Mchinji district	Total
Soya	133	101	77	311
Groundnuts	157	130	50	337

2.2 CHALLENGES

- Limited mobility especially among field staff as motorcycles have not been purchased. Only one (1) motor vehicle has just been purchased. This has contributed to delays in project implementation. There is need to hasten acquisition of motorcycles.
- The district farmer organization facilitators are not experienced with the implementation approach of FtF-INVC funded projects. This has resulted in problems in project beneficiary documentation as well as retirements of expensed funds. Close supervision will be done to ensure proper documentation and retirement of funds.
- Changes in project coordinating officers at FUM have also affected project implementation. FUM FtF-INVC Project Coordinator will have to closely liaise with FtF-INVC Project Managers to fully understand project requirements i.e. documentation.
- There is demand by farmers for soy bean and groundnuts seed. This has not been included in the project document.
- There were no funds for a larger part of the quarter because of the delays in reconciliations, and there are still some outstanding financial issues.
- Most farmers are not very willing to aggregate before knowing the prices and in addition other farmers don't want to aggregate their farm produce because of security reasons based on past experiences where their produce were stolen or sold without being paid.
- Most of the AEDOs demand allowances whenever they are asked to assist in implementing project activities; and they also feel that the lunch allowance that they get under this project is on the lower side compared to what they get when they work for other organizations.

3. CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF MALAWI (CADECOM)

3.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

The following deliverables were accomplished in the last quarter, 1st April to 30th June 2013:

- 12 Agro dealers were identified for support and linked to smallholder farmers
- 2 New and innovative groundnut technology were promoted (groundnut paste and packaging and labeling).
- Best performing associations were identified.
- 4 Workshops were held for 4 marketing committees on options for marketing the current groundnut crop.
- FtF-INVC and USAID Team, Phyllis and Vincent visited Dedza CADECOM, in preparations for One Campaign visit.
- 1 Groundnut coordinator was conducted.
- One (1) field day was conducted on value addition and nutrition.
- One Campaign of Bono the renowned American Artist visited Dedza CADECOM and he graced the official launch of Dedza certified warehouse for WRS on 13 May 2013
- Dedza CADECOM Secretary and the accountant attended grants management training at FtF-INVC on the 3rd of May 2013.

Summary of Program Activities Accomplished the Quarter under Review

Table 27: Achieved activities conducted during the quarter under review

Indicator target	Target by Sept, 13	Achieved	Comments
Households	15000	13604	87 % Achieved
Associations achieved (EPAs)	5	5	All associations involved
Project coordinator recruited	1	1	Undergoing orientation
Agro-dealers identified	20	12	Identification process continues
Number of field days conducted	1	1	Post- harvest and marketing
Lead farmers trained in pest management	400	234	To address with post-harvest pests
Value addition training lead farmers	300	300	Farmers sampled from each EPA
Establishment of certified warehouse	1	1	The first certified warehouse in CADECOM project area
Establishment of WRS and MIP	1	1	20 Farmers from 4 associations attended the launching ceremony
Groundnuts seed recovery	100	60	Activity just began and hence still underway
Consultative meetings with IP	3	3	Completed as planned

3.2 CHALLENGES

- Inadequate staff to cater for the increased number of farmers that have joined the projects. Currently, the field officer to farmer ratio is 1 to 1500.
- Weather challenges—irregular rainfall onset, abrupt stoppage and some rains after groundnuts maturity—these stressful weather conditions create favorable conditions for aflatoxin development
- Partners facing documentation and compliance issues hence creating delays in effective delivery and implementation of some activities such as cash requests and subsequent activities
- Marketing challenges occasioned by government regulated minimum price regimes of groundnuts and other related crops.

4.0 MALAWI MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI (MMPA)

4.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

The following deliverables were accomplished in the last quarter:

Increasing number of animals and improving genetics to increase milk volume

Awareness campaign meeting continued to mobilize both MBG members and non-members. Few Zebu farmers registered as MBG members but the majority registered to participate in the cross breeding programme.



Figure 7: AI technician practicing pregnancy diagnosis

Improving dairy management practices

- A total of 50 lead farmers were trained in all five MBGs and half of the animal housing structures for the trained lead farmers were improved and are used as demonstration farms.
- TOT course was conducted for government extension planning areas (EPA) livestock extension officers and MMPA technical officers in pasture establishment, forage conservation and crop residue utilization with a focus on the preservation of crop residues for dry season feeding.
- 231 Farmers (67 female farmers) were trained in animal housing, farm recording, feeding and preservation of fodder. The trained farmers are now utilizing crop residues for feed and conserving for dry season feeding.



Figure 8: Lead farmer demonstrating crop residues conservation

Enhancing capacity to comply with standards and quality control

Four (4) milk testing apparatus were procured for installation in three MBGs and one processor. A demonstration by MMPA on milk testing using the recently procured milk analyzers was conducted at both Lilongwe Dairy and MDI to showcase the technology and promote the need for improving milk testing methods by using such apparatus.

Building MMPA technical capacity and partnerships development

Two (2) technical officers were hired to assist in the delivery of extension services. One officer was recruited to provide the function of monitoring and evaluation to the project.

MMPA collaborated with government officials at ADD and EPA levels. EPA livestock extension officers provided technical expertise in farmers training, supervision of individual farmers and data collection. Following FtF-INVC support in re-organizing the Nathenje MBG which disbanded, the Presidential Initiative provided 15 dairy animals to 15 farmers through the Heifer International. Summary of achievement is presented in Table 28 below.

Table 28: Quarter 3 Activities Summary

Activity plan	Target	Achievement
Increase number of animals and improve genetics to increase milk volume		
Mobilize non-members MBG zebu farmers	200 Non- members identified 170 Malawi Zebu eligible for reproduction	145 Non-members identified and registered as interested to participate in the cross breeding programme 296 Zebu animals were identified for cross breeding.
Membership expansion campaign	160 Newly members recruited	31 Members recruited

Activity plan	Target	Achievement
Register members to Esoko information platform	75% of members with mobile phone registered	236 Farmers registered on Esoko
Establish cross breeding units in 5 MBGs	5 Breeding units to be constructed 5 Bulls procured 5 Lead farmers trained in bull management and breeding	Cross breeding approach changed from use of bulls to AI hence bulls will not be procured and breeding units will not be established.
Strengthen AI capacity of MBGs	10 AI Technicians trained	13 Technicians trained (8 farmer AI technicians, 2 government Senior Assistant Veterinary Officers from Chiwamba and Nyanja EPA and 3 MMPA Technical Officers)
Enhance capacity to comply with standards and quality control and upgrade MBG Milk testing capacity		
Procure and supply milk testing equipment to MBGs and processor	4 Milk testing machines procured and installed at 3 MBGs and 1 processor upgraded	4 Milk testing apparatus procured but not fully installed at MBGs and milk processing plant.
Milk quality and milk testing training.	15 People trained (MBG milk handling staff, MMPA technical officers, processor staff)	MMPA technical officers oriented on milk testing using the procured apparatus and usage demonstration conducted at Lilongwe Dairy and MDI companies.
Improve farmer management practices		
Train lead farmers	35 Farmers trained Lead farmers' demonstration farms improved	50 Lead farmers (34 male and 16 female) trained in animal housing, farm recording, feeding and preservation of crop residues 25 Lead farmers (18 male and 7 female) animal housing structures improved and used as demonstration farms
Conduct farmers awareness sessions in improved management practices	340 Farmers trained	231 Farmers (67 female) were trained in animal housing, farm recording, feeding and preservation of crop residues for dry season feeding
Link farmers to	5 Veterinary and input	

Activity plan	Target	Achievement
extension services and input providers	providers linked to MBGs	

4.2 CHALLENGES

The following challenges were experienced:

MMPA failed to reconcile expenses on time due to incomplete documentation which delayed grant funds draw down which in turn affected implementation of planned activities. Bua MBG was replaced by Machite as Heifer International will now be managing this MGB as its catchment areas. This resulted in late start-up of activities at Machite, Nathenje EPA.

5. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL AGRICULTURE (IITA)

5.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

Milestone 1: A basic seed storage facility constructed at IITA

IITA identified a site within the IITA-Malawi office compound to construct the basic seed storage. An architect was engaged to come up with designs for the seed storage facility based on the set requirements. After several revisions, final designs were completed in early May 2013. Upon completion of the architectural designs, a quantity surveyor was engaged to do the bill of quantities and estimates of cost for the planned storage facility. The storage facility is estimated to cost about MK15 million.

Bidding documents were produced and completed by early June 2013. An open tendering process has been used in sourcing contractors for this seed storage. An advert was placed in the press in early June 2013. So far, about 26 construction companies have managed to collect the bidding documents at a non-refundable fee of K10,000 each. Final submission time and opening of tender documents will be Thursday, 4 July 2013 at 3:00 pm, at IITA-Malawi offices. Upon completion of opening tenders, the Quantity Surveyor has been tasked to do an evaluation report of all bidders and recommend the best contractor(s) to be awarded the contract to construct the seed storage facility. The actual construction is expected to start by 20 July 2013.

The major challenge has been the volatility of the exchange rate of the local currency (Malawi Kwacha) to the US dollar. At the time of preparing the architectural designs and consequent cost estimates, the Kwacha had devalued a great deal against the US dollar and this made it possible for the budget to be met. However, at the moment the Malawi Kwacha has appreciated in value against the US dollar, greatly affecting the estimated budget for the seed structure. If this appreciation continues to the time of starting of construction works, the budget will be greatly affected and this may result in further revisions of the structure to ensure it is within the available budget.

Milestone 2: A breeder seed storage facility constructed at DARS

Progress has been made in terms of preparation for construction of the breeder seed storage facility at Chitedze Research Station under DARS. So far, the architectural designs have almost been finalized. The Quantity Surveyor has been engaged to do the cost estimation to ensure that the structure will be within the budget frame, and also to prepare the bill of quantities which shall form part of the bidding documents.

Milestone 3: Two small-plot threshers procured for IITA and DARS

The original efforts to source quotations for the threshers revealed that these were actually more expensive and would cost more than what was budgeted. The project is now exploring options for getting quotations from alternative but reputable suppliers of cheaper threshers.

Milestone 4: A training manual produced on seed production and PHH

A write-up of a guide to certified soy bean seed production is underway. The guide has topics related to seed production and postharvest handling as follows:

- Preparing to plant soy bean: Land preparation; choice of variety; seed cleaning and preparation; and soy bean germination test.

- Planting: Seed rate; plant spacing; sowing; and fertilizer (soil fertility enhancement).
- Pests and diseases: Weeds and their control; insects and their control; and diseases and their control.
- Harvesting soy bean/quality control: Postharvest operations (threshing, storage etc.); seed purity standards; and seed packaging and labeling.

The guide will also have sections describing the types of seed and type of treatment required for seed production such as site selection, field isolation, field inspection and roguing.

Milestone 5: Approximately 50 seed producers trained on seed production and post-harvest handling in project districts.

The preparation of the manual will be completed in the next quarter and the training will also be conducted in the next quarter. However, the training materials will be simplified versions of the manual, possibly in vernacular language to suit farmer understanding. Identification of seed producers is underway and this will be one of the major activities to be completed in the next quarter.

Milestone 6: 20 Tons of basic seed produced and sold to certified seed producers

IITA supplied 500 kg breeder seed of Tikolore (TGx 1740-2F) to CDI for production of basic seed under a contract agreement. The seed was supplied on 21st December 2012 and CDI planted it on 10 Ha of land on 27th December 2012. Harvesting, threshing and grading were completed by 17th May 2013. However, CDI reported very low yields of 0.7 tons/ha as opposed to about 2.5 tons/ha expected by CDI and IITA. This translated into only 6.6 tons of basic seed of Tikolore supplied by CDI to IITA, rather than 20 tons as per the agreement IITA had with CDI. This is despite the fact that the crop looked promising in the field as observed at different stages in the growth cycle. The various stakeholders who attended the field day on 19th March 2013 were very much impressed with the vegetative performance of Tikolore in the field. Given this observation in the field, the low yields of the highly promising variety came as a surprise to many.

In their official report to IITA and DAI explaining the low yields and total production of basic seed in the 2012/13 cropping season, CDI attributed low yields and low total harvest to late planting on 27th December 2012 as well as to erratic rainfall with early tail-off. When comparisons in yields were made on soy beans at the same farm, it was discovered that the same Tikolore variety (not under FtF-INVC project) that was planted only 10 days earlier (15 December) yielded over 2 tons/ha.

Another problem was that the basic seed was delivered to IITA on 18th June 2013 without any certification by the Seed Services Unit of DARS. IITA had no choice but to handle the certification process with SSU of DARS. Samples were collected on 19th June 2013 for germination and purity testing. Although SSU has yet to give results and to do the certification, SSU already brought seed mixture problems to IITA's attention. It was found that the Tikolore basic seed was mixed up with a seed company variety. IITA has since employed, trained, and deployed temporary staff to help with the rehandling of about 132 bags of seed to try and ensure its purity before selling to certified seed producers. Clearly,

this is a long process and will take over one month. This means that the basic seed cannot be ready for winter planting and should be kept for certified seed production in the 2013/14 main season.

As part of a major effort to achieve the basic seed production targets for IITA and DARS required for the FtF-INVC project to achieve the certified seed delivery targets by 2014/15, a revised seed road map has been drawn up and is presented below. Using the breeder seed of about 400 kg that is being currently produced by DARS under irrigation as part of the seed system project, IITA plans to undertake the production of basic seed of about 16 tons in the 2013/14 main season under rain-fed conditions. During the same 2013/14 cropping season, the 6 tons of basic seed just produced and supplied by CDI will be used for the production of about 250 tons of certified seed by reputable seed producers. Subject to availability of sufficient land of over 300 Ha under irrigation that can be used by seed producers for multiplying the 16 tons of basic seed to certified seed, a total of over 650 tons of certified seed will be produced and made available to farmers for grain production in the 2014/15 main season. This means that a total of about 900 tons of certified seed is expected to be available for grain production in the 2014/15 main season. Assuming every household would plant half a hectare of land to improved soy bean, the 900 tons of certified seed will be sufficient to reach out to some 20,000 households. It is worth noting, though, that the extent to which these targets will be achieved will depend largely on the off-season seed production capacity of partners (with irrigation, etc.) as well as the seed certification capacity of DARS.

Table 29: Revised Seed Production Plan for 2013/14

2013 (Irrigation/offseason)	2013/14 (Rain-fed/main season)			
Breeder seed production	Breeder to Basic		Basic to Certified	
	Breeder seed	Basic seed	Basic seed	Certified seed
400 kg (DARS)	400 kg (DARS)	16 tons (IITA)	6 tons (CDI)	250 tons

Table 30: Revised Seed Production Plan for 2014/15

2014 (Irrigation/offseason)		2014/15 (Rain-fed/main season)	
Basic to Certified		Certified to Grain	
Basic seed	Certified seed	Certified seed	Grain
16 Tons (IITA)	650 tons	250+650 = 900 Tons	15,000 Tons

Milestone 7: Initiate analysis of quality traits of available improved soya bean varieties

Average range of protein and oil for soy bean is 30-46% and 12-24% respectively. The protein and oil content of common varieties in Malawi have been analyzed in Belgium and the US under the TLII project. The results from the two analyses are presented below and can be used as the expected range. Another set of the same varieties will be shipped to the US for a second analysis to confirm results from the first.

Table 31: Soy bean varieties by protein and oil content

Variety	Protein (% average)	Oil (% average)
Makwacha	33.6	19.4
Nasoko	32.0	20.6
Tikolore	35.1	17.5

3.2 CHALLENGES

The only challenge is on the quantity of soy bean seed produced as outlined above.