



International Water
Management Institute

Water and Soil Accelerator Co-Creation Workshop

Summary Report

8-9 October 2024, Lusaka, Zambia





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Cover photo

Stakeholders and partners at the Water and Soil Accelerator Co-creation Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia.

Photo: Stephen K Photography

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Executive Summary

The Water and Soil Accelerator Co-Creation Workshop, held from October 8-9, 2024, in Lusaka, Zambia, was a pivotal gathering aimed at fostering collaboration among stakeholders to address sustainable water and soil management challenges in Malawi and Zambia. Organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in partnership with USAID, this workshop is a cornerstone of the \$10 million USAID-funded initiative to strengthen climate-resilient agricultural practices in rainfed systems.

The workshop brought together a diverse group of participants, including government representatives, NGOs, research organizations, private sector partners, and farmer associations. Over two days of intensive discussions, stakeholders explored priority interventions, established roles for potential partners, and outlined a preliminary action plan for the Accelerator. This initiative focuses on delivering scalable, impactful solutions to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability while supporting food security and economic stability in regions highly vulnerable to climate change.

Key Highlights and Outcomes:

1. Priority Interventions Identified:

- Participants identified thematic focus areas, including sustainable water management, implementation of green infrastructure, climate information services, and gender and social inclusion (GESI).
- Discussions emphasized scalable interventions such as agroforestry, improved water management at the watershed level, and enhanced soil health practices.



2. Collaborative Frameworks Established:

- Multi-stakeholder engagement platforms were proposed to strengthen coordination and alignment of activities across the Feed the Future Zones of Influence (ZOIs) in Zambia and Malawi.
- Key roles and responsibilities for government, private sector, NGOs, and community organizations were defined to ensure effective implementation.

3. Field Insights and Practical Solutions:

- Site visits highlighted innovative practices such as conservation agriculture and off-season cropping, demonstrating tangible benefits for smallholder farmers.
- Interactive sessions allowed stakeholders to exchange best practices and lessons learned from ongoing projects.

4. Geographic and Thematic Synergies:

- Multi-stakeholder engagement platforms were proposed to strengthen coordination and alignment of activities across the Feed the Future Zones of Influence (ZOIs) in Zambia and Malawi.
- Key roles and responsibilities for government, private sector, NGOs, and community organizations were defined to ensure effective implementation.

5. Commitment to Inclusion and Resilience:

- Site visits highlighted innovative practices such as conservation agriculture and off-season cropping, demonstrating tangible benefits for smallholder farmers.
- Interactive sessions allowed stakeholders to exchange best practices and lessons learned from ongoing projects.

Next Steps:

- **Finalizing the Call for Proposals:** A competitive process will be launched to select partners capable of implementing the workshop's priorities.
- **Implementation of Coordination Mechanisms:** Regional and national platforms will be explored as a mechanism to facilitate continuous partner engagement and synergy.
- **Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:** A robust M&E system will measure progress, document outcomes, and enable adaptive management.
- **Focus on Quick Wins:** Short-term, high-impact projects will be prioritized to demonstrate the Accelerator's value and build momentum for broader scaling efforts.

The workshop concluded with a shared vision for the future, underscoring the importance of collective action and innovation in addressing the complex challenges of sustainable water and soil management. By leveraging the knowledge and commitment of diverse stakeholders, the Water and Soil Accelerator initiative is well-positioned to drive meaningful change and foster resilience in Southern Africa's agricultural systems.

1. Background

In Zambia and Malawi, most rural populations—about 90% and 80%, respectively—depend on rainfed agriculture, leaving them highly vulnerable to climate variability and extreme weather. Erratic weather patterns have severely impacted agriculture and livelihoods in both countries, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable water management and climate-resilient farming to ensure food security and economic stability. Poor water and soil management practices further exacerbate low yields and ecosystem degradation, while climate variability worsens these challenges, particularly in water-scarce areas.

Effective agricultural water management can enhance productivity by improving soil moisture through techniques like soil ripping and tied ridges, which boost water infiltration and reduce runoff. On sloping landscapes, managing water flow is critical to preventing crop loss, soil erosion, and downstream impacts. Integrating perennial vegetation, agroforestry, green infrastructure, and other sustainable practices can stabilize water flow, conserve biodiversity, sequester carbon, and diversify crops. These approaches, combined with climate-resilient crops, crop diversification, and climate information services, maximize water efficiency and improve profitability, particularly with high-value crops. Financial and climate information services further expand access to innovations, enhancing resilience.

Rainfed agricultural systems depend heavily on consistent rainfall and sufficient soil moisture retention, but climate change is disrupting these patterns. Prolonged droughts, shorter and more intense rainy seasons, and reduced precipitation threaten crop yields, which are projected to decline by 15-50%. Shifts in rainfall timing can also misalign with crop cycles, further compromising productivity.

To address these challenges, an integrated approach to water, soil, crop, and landscape management is essential. This requires coordinated efforts among delivery and technical support partners to implement effective interventions on the ground.

The Soil and Water Accelerator was co-designed through a consultative, collaborative co-creation process involving virtual meetings, an in-person workshop and field visits held in Zambia from 6-9 October 2024. The workshop leveraged collective expertise in sustainable water and land management to identify target geographies, partners, and best-practice interventions. Field visits and interactive discussions focused on identifying viable solutions such as on-farm water storage, sustainable crop choices, green infrastructure, and climate information dissemination. The Accelerator builds on ongoing initiatives, aiming to strengthen rainfed farming systems and foster resilience against climate variability.



About the Water and Soil Accelerator

The Water and Soil Accelerator is a cooperative agreement sponsored by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and led by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (2024-2027). The Water and Soil Accelerator aims to accelerate the delivery of sustainable water and soil management practices from farm-to-landscape in rainfed systems, develop strong institutions and local capacity for sustainability, and foster opportunities for equitable access, especially for poor and women smallholder farmers. Through collaborative scaling efforts, we contribute to the U.S Government Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) and Global Water Strategy (GWS), responding to the needs of smallholder farmers amid the complexities of a changing climate and agricultural, market, food, water and energy, and social systems, in Feed the Future Zones of Influence in Zambia and Malawi.

The Water and Soil Accelerator will run as a three-year rapid response effort over three growing seasons, beginning with the October-November 2024 planting season. In collaboration with a network of selected technical and delivery partners providing targeted assistance, it will connect millions of farmers and value chain actors to innovative tools and information they need to manage water and soils more sustainably.

The theory of change for this Accelerator is that increased infiltration or storage of rainwater through a series of

interventions on- (e.g. soil enhancement practices) and off- field (e.g. green infrastructure) will lead to sustainable improvements in climate-resilient agricultural productivity and hydrology, enabling crop diversification, gains in income and nutrition, and enhanced availability of water for multiple uses. The program will therefore boost farmers' yields through improved agricultural water management (e.g., soil health and regeneration, reforestation, revegetation to improve water availability and other interventions) to get more "crop and profit per drop." Potential interventions include: 1) altering agronomy, crop type and coverage to enhance soil health and water infiltration (climate resilient crops and increased cover cropping), 2) implementation of green infrastructure, 3) capacity building and technical support on soil, land, and water management, and 4) improved community management of natural resources (land, vegetation, water) farmer cooperatives, and other local institutions.

Resources will not be used to test new technologies and will focus on integrating and delivering well-validated, scalable interventions and improving enabling conditions. This funding is not intended to support research, but instead to use established networks and partner presence on the ground to rapidly scale and enhance uptake of improved methods, approaches and innovations. Resources should be used here to address identified needs/ gaps. Approaches should be demand driven and inclusive.



Building on previous/current investments in priority geographies

The Water and Soil Accelerator resources are intended to enhance agricultural water management and water use efficiency in the regions where USAID's previous and ongoing investments have been targeted within the Zambezi catchment in Zambia and Malawi. Supported activities will be integrated into relevant ongoing USAID funded activities, such as Mission-funded Feed the Future, Water for the World, Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative (AID-I), and CGIAR activities such as Ukama Ustawi and Scaling for Impact, and possibly other relevant activities supported by the national partners, implementing partners, and other donors.

In Zambia, the focus is on the Eastern and Central Provinces, aiming to increase smallholder productivity, enhance nutrition, and boost market access. Similarly, the initiative targets areas with high agricultural growth potential and significant nutritional needs in the Southern and Central Regions in Malawi. These strategically selected zones are designed to maximize impact by addressing each region's unique challenges and opportunities (see [Figure 1](#)).

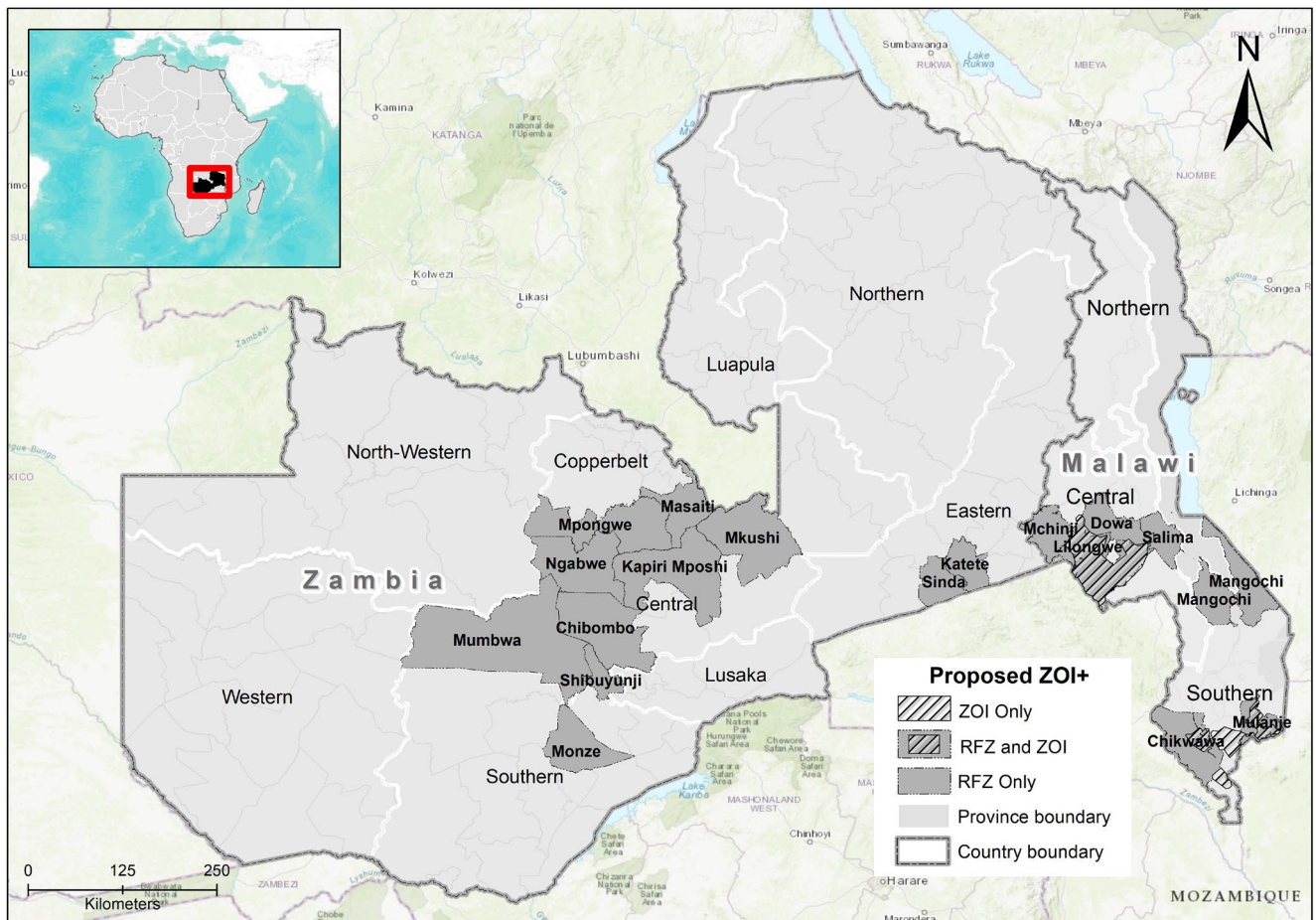


Figure 1. Geographical locations of implementation of the Water and Soil Accelerator.

Source: Author's creation

Characteristics of proposed partnerships and activity packages

Proposed activity packages should adopt a consortia-based approach, aligned with relevant geographies and strategic and technical themes. The design process should connect partners to leverage their existing skills and capacities, addressing challenges in innovative ways for unique and impactful outcomes.

In addition, activities must be demand-driven, with last-mile delivery partners engaging farmers, rural communities, and other food system or water management actors. They should deliver significant impacts within 2-3 years, with potential for scalability and long-term sustainability. Proposed activities must also be market-led, leveraging existing market channels and actors without distorting or weakening markets.

Key priorities include:



Farm diversification, profitability, and environmental sustainability through high-value enterprises such as horticulture, pulses, and animal-sourced foods, creating opportunities for women and youth.

Incorporating digital agricultural advisories to support bundled innovations and strategic investments in inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and post-harvest technologies.

Using inclusive and locally-led approaches, prioritizing small and medium-sized enterprises while intentionally building capacity and leadership opportunities for youth, women, and local actors.

Proposals should demonstrate coordinated, multi-partner collaborations between water and agriculture stakeholders, clearly linking interventions to improved water resource management at both farm and landscape levels. Funding must act as a catalyst for

water and agricultural outcomes, enhancing existing partner efforts in innovative ways. Resources should not be allocated to research or individual partner activities but focused on delivering practical, scalable solutions in new ways.



Thematic focus areas

Potential implementation actions are varied and will include:



1. Sustainable Water Management

Implement strategies for effective water management from the farm level to the broader landscape.



2. Implementation of Green Infrastructure

Explore the adoption and benefits of green infrastructure solutions.



3. Altering Agronomy, Crop Type, and Coverage

Focus on enhancing soil health and water infiltration through climate-resilient crops and increased cover cropping.



4. Capacity Building and Technical Support:

Provide support and build capacity for soil, land, and water management to local partners.



5. Collective Action on Natural Resources Management:

Strengthen the management of land, vegetation, and water resources through farmer cooperatives and other local institutions.



6. Climate Information Services and Risk Management:

Supporting the dissemination of climate information services to support farmers in making informed decisions. This includes weather forecasts, climate risk assessments, and early warning systems to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity.



7. Enabling environment, Financing, and stewardship:

Accelerating water and soil management practices, green infrastructure, and climate services at scale requires a robust enabling environment and aligned financing mechanisms involving agricultural water stewardship approaches within local value chains and with local SMEs that connect farm and watershed scales.



8. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Land Tenure and Rights:

Promote equitable access to land and resources by addressing gender disparities and ensuring secure land tenure. This includes advocating for policies protecting marginalised groups' rights and supporting initiatives that empower women and vulnerable communities in land management and decision-making processes.

Source: Author's creation

All of the above thematic focus areas are key and should be implemented in an integrated way.

About the co-creation process and workshop

The co-creation process involved several preparatory meetings and consultations with USAID REFS and Mission staff, national government partners, potential private sector, technical and delivery partners, and relevant interested donors to assess stakeholder demand and priorities; compile lessons learned on barriers and constraints to achieving impact at scale; brief stakeholders on expectations of the program. An expanded registration survey sought to collect preliminary information that was collated and presented at the in-person co-creation workshop. The latter aimed to leverage various partners' collective knowledge and experiences in sustainable water and land management in the rainfed systems of Zambia and Malawi to identify a) target geographies,

b) key partners, c) best bet water management and other related interventions on rural rainfed smallholder farms and d) produce a preliminary program of work that will be finalized upon selection of partners following a competitive Call for Proposals process.

Participants

The co-creation workshop included diverse participants, including stakeholders and potential partners. [Table 1](#) below categorizes the types of participating stakeholders with the complete list provided in [Annex 1](#).

Table 1: Categories of participants for the co-creation workshop

Category	Description
Agricultural Development and Research	These are critical agricultural development and research players. These organisations focus on improving agricultural practices, enhancing crop yields, and promoting sustainable farming techniques. They work on various projects to address food security, improve soil health, and develop resilient African agricultural systems.
Government and Regional bodies	These organisations play pivotal roles in managing and conserving natural resources, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing regional cooperation. They focus on regional food security, agricultural productivity, and natural resource management. Collectively, these bodies address critical issues such as water management, conservation, agricultural innovation, and regional integration, thereby contributing to the sustainable development and resilience of Southern Africa.
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Relief Agencies	They play a crucial role in providing support and relief to communities. These NGOs and relief agencies focus on various aspects of agricultural development, including food security, community development, and capacity building. They work closely with local communities to implement sustainable farming practices and improve livelihoods.
Technology and Solutions Providers	These organisations are at the forefront of providing innovative technology and solutions for agricultural water management. They include various value chain actors that leverage technology to offer predictive analytics, seeds, fertilizer, irrigation solutions, and digital platforms that enhance agricultural productivity and efficiency. Their solutions help farmers make informed decisions, optimise resource use, and improve farm management.
Financial Services and Microfinance	These organisations provide financial services and microfinance options to farmers and agricultural enterprises at the farm and landscape level. These financial institutions offer loans, savings, and insurance products meeting farmers' needs, but also include landscape-level financing e.g. climate finance, carbon credits, de-risking mechanisms, water stewardship interventions.

Category	Description
Consultancies and Advisory Services	offer consultancy and advisory services to support agricultural development. These organisations provide market analysis, business development, and project management expertise. They work with various stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and private sector entities, to design and implement effective agricultural programs and strategies.
Farmer Associations and Cooperatives	These are examples of farmer associations and cooperatives that support smallholder farmers. These organisations provide a platform for farmers to collaborate, share knowledge, and access resources. They advocate for the interests of smallholder farmers and work towards improving their livelihoods through collective action and support.
Community organizations and Social enterprises	These organisations focus on empowering local communities, promoting entrepreneurship, and implementing sustainable agricultural practices. They work on various projects to improve food security, enhance community resilience, and support regional economic development.
Representatives from USAID and Related Programs	USAID funds these initiatives to promote agricultural development, address climate risks, and enhance food security. They collaborate with local partners to implement projects that improve agricultural productivity, build resilience, and support sustainable development.

Source: Author's creation



Preparatory meetings

Several preparatory online meetings were held to leverage various partners' collective knowledge and experiences in sustainable water and land management in the rainfed systems of Zambia and Malawi to identify:

- **Target geographies**
- **Key partners**
- **Best bet water management, soil and other related interventions**
- **Produce a preliminary program of work that will be finalized upon selection of partners following a competitive Call for Proposals process.**

Key meetings:

- **Technical and Delivery Partners Meeting (26 September 2024):**
Focused on technical feasibility and delivery strategies.
- **Strategic Partners Meeting (1 October 2024):**
Engaged government, development, and regional stakeholders.
- **Consultative Sessions with USAID Mission Staff in Zambia and Malawi:**
Addressed local challenges and priorities.



Key challenges identified by stakeholders in the preparatory meetings:

Stakeholders highlighted several critical barriers to sustainable water and soil management in the region, including (see [Figure 2](#) and [Figure 3](#)):

- Climate-related issues: Erratic rainfall, water scarcity, and a lack of drought contingency plans.
- Agricultural constraints: Soil degradation, insufficient soil testing, limited water harvesting capacity, and poor irrigation access.
- Market and finance challenges: Weak market structures, limited access to finance, and lack of sustainable business models for rainfed farmers.
- Infrastructure and services gaps: Poorly designed impoundments, inadequate bulk water infrastructure, and unreliable climate services (e.g., seasonal forecasts and early warnings).
- Unsustainable practices: Deforestation, seasonal burning, and a lack of climate-resilient watershed management practices.
- Knowledge and communication gaps: Ineffective delivery channels and a lack of unified communication tailored to smallholder farmers' needs.

Stakeholder expectations for the co-creation workshop:

Participants expressed clear goals for the co-creation workshop, including (see [Figure 5](#)):

- Developing a shared understanding of soil and water conservation challenges and opportunities.
- Establishing a common vision and a roadmap with clear deliverables and targets.
- Sharing and integrating best practices from ongoing interventions in Zambia and Malawi.

- Building a locally-led network of networks capable of achieving impact over the next few growing seasons and sustaining efforts into the future.
- Designing impactful software intervention packages to drive sustainable change.
- Delivering unified, entertaining, and educational communication to farmers at scale.
- Applying an integrated systems approach that leverages the collective strengths of all partners.

Highlights from online preparatory meetings:

Key insights from the preparatory discussions provided a strong foundation for the co-creation workshop (see [Figure 4](#)):

- Integrated approaches are essential to address challenges like soil degradation, water scarcity, and limited access to climate services.
- Stakeholders emphasized the need for locally-led and demand-driven interventions tailored to smallholder farmers.
- Collaboration across technical, strategic, and delivery partners was identified as a critical enabler of scalability and long-term impact.
- Innovative communication methods, including educational formats for farmers, were highlighted as vital for widespread adoption of best practices.

These preparatory efforts laid the groundwork for a collaborative and solutions-oriented co-creation workshop, fostering partnerships that will deliver impactful and sustainable outcomes for rainfed systems in the region.



Figure 2: Highlights of stakeholder inputs during prep calls - Priorities.

Source: Mentimeter results

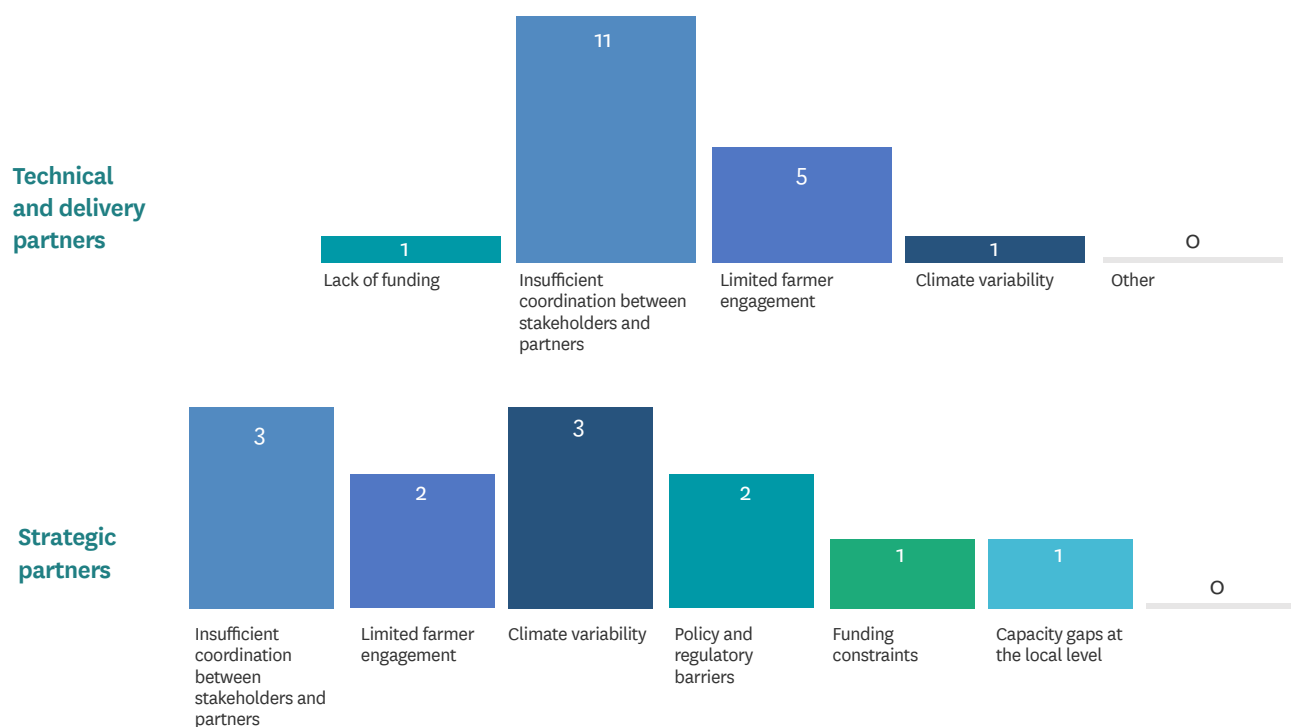


Figure 3: Highlights of stakeholder inputs during prep calls - Biggest barriers to our collective success of Accelerator.

Source: Mentimeter results

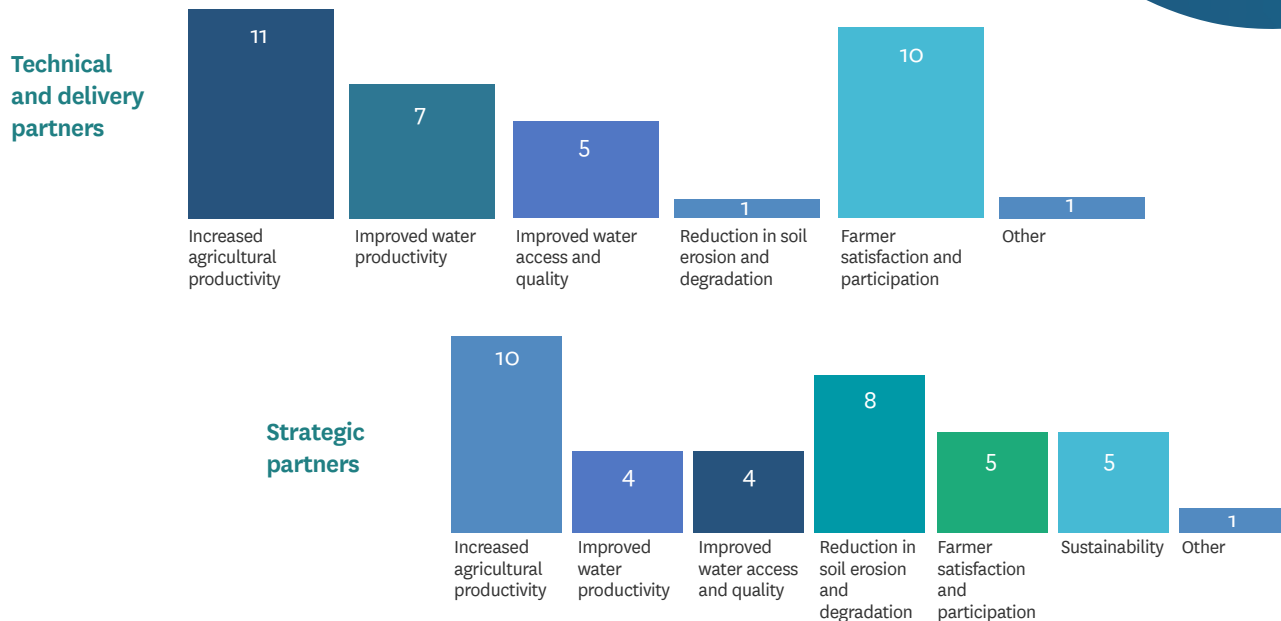


Figure 4: Highlights of stakeholder inputs during prep calls - Measuring success.

Source: Mentimeter results



Figure 5: Participants "one-word" descriptors of the Water and Soil Accelerator.

Source: Mentimeter results

2. Workshop Agenda and Structure

The workshop began with pre-event activities on October 6, 2024, featuring site visits and planning sessions. Hosted by the Conservation Farming Unit, these site visits showcased off-season cropping, solar water pumping, and conservation tillage techniques in Shibuyunji and Situmbeko, providing practical illustrations of sustainable farming methods.

Day 1 of the workshop, October 8, 2024, focused on listening to government, partner and stakeholder priorities and interventions, with scene-setting remarks by IWMI and USAID representatives. Sessions included an inter-ministerial dialogue and partner panel discussions that highlighted national water

and soil management strategies, particularly around catchment management and water storage needs. The day's discussions underscored the importance of policy alignment and sustainable water resource planning for both countries.

Day 2 centered on identifying and prioritizing specific interventions across thematic areas and geographies. Breakout groups engaged in detailed discussions on sustainable water management, green infrastructure, agronomy, capacity building, collective action on natural resource management, and climate information services. These sessions also defined roles and responsibilities, culminating in a shared vision for next steps.



Day 1 - Listening Sessions

Session 1: Introductory Session and Scene-Setting

Time: 0900 - 1030

Speakers:

Dr Sarah Alexander (Water), USAID Washington DC, Dr Jerry Glover (Agriculture), USAID Washington DC, Meredith Jackson-deGraffenried, USAID Malawi, David Howlett and Mlotha Dameseki, USAID Zambia

Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata of IWMI opened the workshop by welcoming participants from diverse sectors, setting the stage for a collaborative effort toward sustainable water and soil management. The introductory remarks emphasized the critical role of climate resilience in agriculture for Malawi and Zambia, with a focus on improving smallholder farmers' capacity to withstand unpredictable climate impacts. Each participant briefly introduced themselves, marking the start of an inclusive environment encouraging multi-sectoral collaboration.

Drs Sarah Alexander and Jerry Glover from USAID, Washington DC followed with a scene-setting session, outlining USAID's commitment to supporting climate resilience through the Water and Soil Accelerator. Alexander highlighted the importance of water resource management and how the theory of change is demand-driven all the way to last-mile partners, while Glover underscored the need for sustainable agricultural practices and highlighted the need to improve and enhance nutritious, high-income food systems.

USAID Country Mission Overviews:

Meredith Jackson-de Graffenried, Mlotha Damaseke and David Howlett presented the USAID Missions' focus areas in Malawi and Zambia, respectively. Key points included Malawi's priority on creating a resilience zone in the Southern Region and Zambia's focus on private sector growth and soil health initiatives. In Zambia, Howlett emphasized the need to align with existing mission programs such as the Enterprise Development Growth Enhance (EDGE), Zambia Agric Diversification Support (ZADS) & the Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN-TA). These overviews contextualized the workshop, establishing a framework for integrating water and soil management into broader economic development goals.

Inter-Ministerial Roundtable: Government priorities and vision for the Accelerator

Panelists:

Mr. Boyd Hamela, Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi; Mr. Frank Nyoni, Zambia Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA); Mr. Mavuto Chintengo, Blantyre Water Board, Malawi

Following the opening session, representatives from various government ministries and agencies participated in an inter-ministerial roundtable to discuss national priorities and country-specific needs that the Accelerator should address. The discussion featured:

Malawi – Boyd Hamela

Mr. Hamela emphasized the importance of soil moisture retention and sustainable catchment management strategies to ensure water security. He highlighted:

1. Existing national government programs promoting irrigation.
2. The Mega Funding Project aimed at accelerating irrigation development and optimizing value chains for market linkages.
3. Leveraging the World Bank-funded Shire Valley Transformation Project for integrated catchment and watershed management.
4. Priority areas for partnership, including:
 - Achieving net-zero land degradation across the country.
 - Promoting smallholder-appropriate mechanization to address soil compaction and hardpan layers.
 - Strengthening groundwater monitoring to prevent over-abstraction and pollution.

Zambia – Frank Nyoni

Mr. Nyoni outlined Zambia's vision for expanding water storage and integrating water and agriculture under a revised National Water Policy. Key points included:

1. The Zambia Water Investment Programme, focusing on resource mobilization for WASH activities, early warning systems, and sustainable water management.
2. Prioritizing irrigation in agriculture to balance competing demands for water and maximize its multi-use potential.
3. Commending the co-creation process for fostering collaboration and integrated solutions.

Blantyre Water Board – Mavuto Chintengo:

Mr. Mafuto emphasized the challenges of water variability, citing issues of either too much or too little water. He also pointed to sedimentation in water sources, particularly in cultivated areas, as a pressing concern. Solutions include:

1. Improved catchment management to address sedimentation and protect water sources.
2. Partnerships to enhance resilience and promote sustainable practices.

Key takeaways from the roundtable:

- **Integration Across Sectors:** All stakeholders have a role in ensuring sustainable solutions.
- **Breaking Silos:** Co-designed interventions must address the diverse and interconnected needs of all stakeholders.
- **Ending the Lean Season:** Solutions should focus on water storage and management strategies that mitigate dry-season challenges and improve year-round water availability.

Session 2: Partner Panel 1 - Responding to Government Priorities and Stakeholder Demand

Time: 1130 - 1230

Panelists:

Mr Gerald Mundondwa (ZAMCOM); Mr Peter Setimela (CIMMYT); Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata (IWMI); Mr Baitsi Podisi (CCARDESA)

This session began with a panel discussion on building from ongoing national and regional programs, featuring representatives from ZAMCOM, CCARDESA, CIMMYT, and IWMI. The panelists shared insights into aligning the Accelerator with existing programs, such as the Ukama Ustawi and Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative (AID-I). They stressed the importance of leveraging regional expertise, ensuring that Accelerator interventions align with national and local priorities.

ZAMCOM (Gerald Mundondwa)

Highlighted the role of integrated water resources management to foster cross-border collaboration and improve data sharing for regional water security.

CIMMYT (Peter Setimela)

Emphasized agronomic practices that could be adapted to local farming systems for increased soil health and crop resilience.

IWMI (Inga Jacobs-Mata)

Discussed CGIAR's impact under Ukama Ustawi in promoting conservation agriculture and IWMI's work on community-based water management, as well as how this experience can enhance the Water and Soil Accelerator's impact on sustainable farming practices.

CCARDESA (Baitsi Podisi)

Highlighted the importance of cooperative networks in strengthening agricultural resilience and enhancing local knowledge.



Session 2: Partner Panel 2- Listening to delivery partner experiences across the seven themes in Malawi and Zambia

Panelists:

Zwide Jere (TLC); Geoff Heinrich (CRS); Dr. Oliver Bulaya (CFU); Chileya Kasuba (Mediae); Esther Zulu (Chitetezo Farmers Association); Cassandra Mtine (AgriPredict)

The session provided a platform for delivery partners to share their on-the-ground realities and innovative approaches. Discussions revolved around critical issues such as governance, cultural barriers, resource constraints, and climate change impacts.

TLC

- Built infrastructure encroaching on riparian zones.
- Poor soil and water governance at micro, meso, and macro scales.
- Limited funds for scaling up soil and water conservation (SWC) strategies.
- Leveraging existing projects to layer SWC interventions for quick wins.
- Emphasized rainfed agriculture as supplementary, with irrigation as the mainstay.

CFU

- Cultural barriers inhibiting adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices.
- Information and knowledge gaps in watershed and catchment management.
- Promoting agroforestry as a sustainable practice.
- Fostering community-driven approaches to watershed management.

Chitetezo Farmers Association

- Commercial tobacco farming leading to deforestation due to high energy demands.
- Overpopulation driving infrastructure development into agricultural and protected lands.
- Limited mechanization, including irrigation equipment.
- Advocating for diversified land use and mechanization improvements.

Agripredict

- Climate change drying up wells, reducing demand for pumps.
- Lack of tailored credit scoring tools for heterogeneous smallholder farmers.
- Informalized farming practices resulting in limited data to guide decision-making.
- Exploring bespoke solutions to meet the unique needs of smallholder farmers.

CRS

- Fragmented programs across scales leading to poor coordination.
- Limited involvement of communities in watershed planning.
- Advocating for integrated programming and community-centric planning approaches.

Summary of takeaways

- **Integration across scales and thematic focus areas:** Addressing siloed programs and promoting cross-scale coordination is critical.
- **Community engagement:** Actively involving local communities in watershed planning and management ensures sustainability.
- **Targeted solutions:** Tailored credit and mechanization solutions are needed for smallholder farmers, considering their diverse needs.
- **Scalable interventions:** Layering interventions onto existing projects accelerates adoption and enhances impact.
- **Adaptation to climate challenges:** Irrigation must complement rainfed agriculture, particularly in regions affected by extreme weather.

This panel highlighted the value of collaboration, localized approaches, and innovative solutions in overcoming barriers to sustainable water and soil management in Malawi and Zambia.



Session 3: Breakout Group Discussions on Thematic Opportunities and Challenges

Time: 1430 - 1515

This session aimed to dive deeper into the eight thematic focus areas, exploring opportunities, challenges, and best practices across projects. Each breakout group addressed questions on shared outcomes, alignment with Accelerator goals, and common constraints.

Sustainable Water Management:

- **Common Outcomes:** Increased water storage capacity and improved soil moisture retention.
- **Challenges:** Limited infrastructure and fragmented policy implementation. Participants discussed ways to align local infrastructure projects, such as small dam construction, with national goals.
- **Opportunities:** Leveraging local expertise in water storage techniques for farm-level and community-scale implementation.

Implementation of Green Infrastructure:

- **Common Outcomes:** Increased ecosystem resilience and reduced soil erosion.
- **Challenges:** Limited farmer demand and government support for agroforestry, which is often pushed at the landscape level but lacks farm-level uptake.
- **Opportunities:** Agroforestry projects that include a stewardship model, where communities actively participate in managing green infrastructure, can enhance local ownership and effectiveness.

Altering Agronomy, Crop Type, and Coverage:

- **Common Outcomes:** Improved soil health and crop diversification.
- **Challenges:** Adoption of resilient crop varieties is constrained by limited access to good quality, certified seeds and agro-advisory services.
- **Opportunities:** Collaboration with seed distribution networks to enhance access to resilient varieties suited to local climate conditions. Build on good impact achieved under AID-I.

Capacity Building and Technical Support:

- **Common Outcomes:** Strengthened knowledge base among local extension workers and improved farmer training.
- **Challenges:** Inconsistent extension services and lack of participatory training frameworks.
- **Opportunities:** Establishing a structured, participatory extension model that includes specialized organizations such as the Conservation Farming Unit (CFU) and One Acre Fund.



Collective Action on Natural Resources Management:

- **Common Outcomes:** Strengthened farmer cooperatives and enhanced natural resource management at the community level are key outcomes identified under this theme. The goal is to empower farmers and local stakeholders to collectively manage natural resources more effectively, thereby improving productivity and resilience in farming systems. Collaborative efforts are crucial in fostering trust, pooling resources, and creating long-term solutions for sustainable natural resource management.
- **Challenges:** Despite the potential, several challenges hinder the effectiveness of collective action in natural resource management:
 1. **Limited Coordination:** A lack of organization and communication between farmer groups often results in fragmented efforts, reducing the overall impact of initiatives.
 2. **Inadequate Incentives:** Farmers and community members lack sufficient motivation to engage in cooperative resource management due to limited short-term benefits or tangible rewards.
 3. **Diverse Information Needs:** Different technologies and approaches require tailored information, which can overwhelm farmers, particularly in areas with varying levels of literacy and technical expertise.
 4. **Resource Competition:** Conflicts over access to water, land, and other critical resources remain a significant barrier to cohesive action.
 5. **Understanding Governance and Customs:** Scaling efforts are complicated by the need to navigate local governance systems and traditional practices, which vary significantly across regions.
- **Opportunities:** To address these challenges, several opportunities for enhancing collective action have been identified:
 1. **Develop Cooperative Networks:** Strengthening farmer cooperatives through capacity-building programs and structured support from local NGOs can provide a platform for shared learning and resource management. Successful examples include partnerships with organizations like Tiyei in Malawi, which have trained over 35,000 farmers in watershed management, demonstrating the power of collective action.
 2. **Private Sector Engagement:** Encouraging partnerships with private entities can unlock new funding opportunities and introduce innovative solutions. For example, Feed the Future



initiatives have engaged the private sector to improve landscape management while supporting traditional governance systems.

3. **Agro-Ecological Platforms:** Multi-stakeholder platforms focusing on agro-ecology, such as those supported by CCARDESA and Pelum, offer a pathway to align diverse actors, reduce resource competition, and promote sustainable practices like reforestation and soil conservation.
4. **Incentivize Cooperation:** Establishing benefit-sharing mechanisms, such as carbon credits for farmer-managed natural regeneration projects (e.g., in Kalomo, Zambia), can motivate collective efforts while providing economic benefits to participants.
5. **Farmer-Centric Approaches:** Focusing on farmer-driven natural resource management models, such as agroforestry systems incorporating fast-growing species like *Faidherbia*, ensures practical, scalable solutions that meet the immediate needs of farmers while delivering long-term environmental benefits.

- **Case Studies and Regional Examples:**

1. **Chikangata and Kalomo (Zambia):** Successful carbon credit projects for natural resource regeneration have demonstrated how combining reforestation with economic incentives can yield both environmental and financial benefits.
2. **Southern and Central Provinces (Malawi):** Initiatives led by Total Land Care include irrigation schemes, tree planting along rivers and dam buffer zones, and community engagement to ensure sustainable resource management.
3. **CCARDESA (Botswana & Zambia):** A regional hub focusing on soil health and agro-ecology has shown how collaborative approaches can address human-wildlife conflicts while promoting sustainable land management practices.
4. **Pelum's Agro-Ecology Projects:** Efforts in rural areas to improve soil fertility and introduce small grains demonstrate the value of integrating traditional knowledge with innovative practices.

Climate Information Services and Risk Management:

- **Common Outcomes:** A key outcome under this theme is the enhancement of community and farmer resilience through improved access to early warning systems and actionable climate advisory services. By equipping farmers with timely, localized climate information, these systems enable better preparation for weather-related risks, reducing crop losses and improving livelihoods. Effective risk management builds trust in the systems and fosters broader adoption of sustainable practices.
- **Challenges:** Despite the potential of climate information services, several challenges limit their effectiveness:
 1. **Delayed Delivery:** Timely dissemination of climate forecasts and advisories remains a significant gap, particularly for remote farming communities that lack reliable communication infrastructure.
 2. **Lack of Localization:** Generalized climate information often fails to address the specific needs of different agro-ecological zones, making it less actionable for farmers.
 3. **Access Inequities:** Smallholder farmers, especially women and marginalized groups, often face barriers to accessing these services due to limited access to mobile devices, literacy challenges, or affordability issues.
 4. **Low Awareness and Trust:** Farmers are sometimes unaware of or skeptical about the relevance and reliability of climate information services, which hinders their use.

5. **Integration with Risk Management Practices:** A disconnect often exists between the provision of climate information and actionable strategies for managing risks, leaving farmers without a clear path for adaptation.
- **Opportunities:** Addressing these challenges provides a range of opportunities for scaling and improving climate information services:
 1. **Digital Solutions and Partnerships:** Collaborations with digital service providers can streamline the dissemination of localized climate information directly to farmers via SMS, mobile apps, and community radio. Successful examples include programs that provide mobile-based weather updates and agricultural advisories.
 2. **Community-Based Early Warning Systems:** Establishing systems tailored to specific local contexts, such as river basin flood warnings or seasonal drought forecasts, can empower communities to take proactive measures. This includes training local leaders to interpret and disseminate warnings effectively.
 3. **Gender-Responsive Approaches:** Incorporating GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) strategies ensures that women and marginalized groups can access and use climate information. For instance, organizing women-only training sessions or providing simplified content can address barriers.
 4. **Integration with Extension Services:** Linking climate advisory services with existing agricultural extension networks, such as One Acre Fund or Conservation Farming Unit, enhances their outreach and relevance. This can also include participatory training programs to help farmers interpret and apply the information effectively.
 5. **Multi-Stakeholder Platforms:** Building partnerships between governments, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities creates a more robust ecosystem for delivering and scaling climate services. Initiatives like Feed the Future's engagement with traditional authorities and private sector actors highlight the potential of this approach.
 6. **Promoting Risk-Averse Practices:** Climate information can be coupled with advisory services promoting low-risk, high-resilience farming practices, such as crop diversification, conservation agriculture, or soil moisture retention techniques.
 - **Case Studies and Regional Insights:**
 1. **Tiyeni Malawi:** Early warning systems paired with watershed management training have helped farmers adapt to drought and flooding risks in regions like Northern Mzimba and Mulanje.
 2. **CRS in Eastern Province:** Community-level programs promoting cover crops for soil moisture retention integrate climate advisories with actionable recommendations.
 3. **FRS (Early Warning Systems):** Promoting trade and policy engagement through regionally integrated risk management approaches.
 4. **Total Land Care (Malawi and Zambia):** Incorporating climate information into irrigation schemes and reforestation projects to improve adaptation outcomes.
 5. **Soil Initiative for Africa:** Regional hubs established by organizations like Cardesa facilitate knowledge-sharing on climate-smart practices.
 - **Alignment with Accelerator Goals:** Improving climate information services and risk management aligns with the Accelerator's objectives of scaling solutions through partnerships and leveraging technology. By ensuring these services are inclusive, localized, and actionable, they can contribute to broader resilience-building efforts at both the farm and community levels.
 - **Future Considerations:** For maximum impact, climate information services must be designed with inclusivity and flexibility in mind. Addressing gaps in delivery infrastructure, fostering trust



through community engagement, and providing actionable risk management strategies will be critical. Collaboration across sectors—particularly with digital innovators and local governance systems—will also play a pivotal role in ensuring these services reach the most vulnerable populations effectively.

Enabling Environment, Financing, and Stewardship:

- **Common Outcomes:** Increased investment in sustainable practices and improved access to microfinance.
- **Challenges:** Misalignment between financial products and smallholder needs, especially for water stewardship and infrastructure.
- **Opportunities:** Collaborative financing mechanisms that integrate local SMEs to connect farm and watershed-level financing.

GESI and Land Tenure and Rights:

- **Common Outcomes:** One of the primary outcomes under this theme is the advancement of gender equality and improved access to land for marginalized groups, including women and vulnerable communities. Land tenure security is crucial for sustainable agricultural practices, crop diversification, and long-term economic resilience. Women, as primary producers of crops other than maize, require equitable access to land to enhance agricultural productivity and food security. However, achieving these outcomes requires systemic changes, particularly in regions where customary law governs land ownership and use.
- **Challenges:** Numerous barriers hinder progress toward equitable land tenure and rights:
 1. **Gender Disparities in Land Tenure:** In many contexts, land inheritance and ownership are predominantly male-dominated, leaving women dependent on male relatives for access.

2. **Customary Law Systems:** Land tenure in much of Africa is governed through customary law, which often excludes women and marginalized groups from secure ownership. Navigating these systems can be complex and bureaucratic.
 3. **Cost of Land Titles:** Obtaining formal land title deeds is prohibitively expensive for most smallholder farmers, particularly women, further entrenching inequalities.
 4. **Budget Constraints for GESI Integration:** Projects often underestimate the funding required for effective GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) integration or fail to allocate resources altogether.
 5. **Gender Washing:** Superficial efforts at gender mainstreaming, or “gender washing,” undermine genuine progress by creating the appearance of inclusivity without meaningful change.
 6. **Cultural Variability:** Cultural norms and land policies vary across regions, requiring context-specific approaches to address land tenure challenges effectively.
 7. **Generalization of Needs:** Treating groups such as “women” or “farmers” as homogenous overlooks the diverse needs, opportunities, and barriers within these categories.
- **Opportunities:** Despite these challenges, significant opportunities exist to improve GESI outcomes and land tenure security:
 1. **Engagement with Community Governance:** Gaining buy-in from traditional leaders, such as chiefs, can expedite land access reforms. While not a perfect solution, working through traditional systems can provide quick wins and open pathways for broader policy change.
 2. **Transformative Approaches:** Models like the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) enable communities to identify and address deeply rooted inequalities, fostering long-term change in gender dynamics and land tenure practices.
 3. **Intentional Project Design:** Embedding GESI considerations into project design from the outset ensures that interventions are inclusive and responsive to the unique needs of diverse groups.
 4. **Advocacy for Policy Reform:** Strengthening advocacy efforts to secure land tenure for women and marginalized groups can address systemic barriers. Incorporating GESI strategies across all interventions demonstrates intentionality and builds credibility.
 5. **Low-Hanging Fruit Strategies:** Circumventing bureaucratic obstacles by working with local governance systems, such as chiefs’ offices, can provide a starting point for broader systemic reforms.
 6. **Empowering Women Farmers:** Targeted initiatives to improve women's access to land for crop diversification can have far-reaching impacts, especially as women are central to the production of diverse, non-maize crops.
 7. **Community Engagement:** Raising awareness about harmful stereotypes and fostering understanding of community dynamics can create a more supportive environment for inclusive land policies.
 - **Case Studies and Examples:**
 1. **Chikangata and Kalomo (Zambia):** Farmer-managed natural resource regeneration projects that include carbon credit schemes have empowered local communities while incentivizing sustainable practices.
 2. **Pelum’s Agro-Ecology Initiatives:** Focused on soil fertility and small grains in rural areas, these projects integrate traditional knowledge with innovative approaches to land management.
 3. **Feed the Future (USAID):** Landscape management efforts highlight the role of private sector engagement in improving access to land and resources while respecting local governance structures.

- 4. Nasfarm (Malawi): Focused on helping farmers generate profits and access markets, Nasfarm integrates land conservation practices to enhance land tenure security.
- **Alignment with Accelerator Goals:** The integration of GESI and land tenure strategies aligns closely with the Accelerator's focus on achieving sustainable and inclusive development. By leveraging existing programs and partnerships, these interventions can address systemic barriers and scale impactful solutions. Applying a GESI lens ensures that proposals and projects reflect intentionality, inclusivity, and transformative change.
- **Key Considerations for Sustainability:**
 1. Quick Wins with Limitations: While approaches like engaging chiefs can yield immediate results, they should be seen as entry points rather than long-term solutions.
 2. Transformative Approaches: Sustained impact requires challenging deep-seated norms and addressing the root causes of inequality.
 3. Addressing Stereotypes: Breaking down harmful stereotypes through community engagement is essential to create an enabling environment for change.
 4. Context-Specific Strategies: Interventions must be flexible enough to adapt to the unique cultural and institutional dynamics of different communities.
- **Future Opportunities:**
 1. GESI Integration in Proposals: Calls for proposals should require GESI assessments and actionable solutions addressing land tenure and power imbalances.
 2. Budget for GESI: Ensuring adequate funding for GESI integration can significantly enhance the effectiveness of interventions.
 3. Innovative Solutions: Programs that incorporate affordable land title solutions or collective land ownership models could provide practical pathways for marginalized groups to gain secure land access.

Feedback in plenary: Each breakout group presented their findings, with participants agreeing on the need for coordinated approaches and sustainable funding. The session highlighted cross-cutting issues like the need for policy support and more comprehensive data on water and land use at the community level.



Session 4: Geographic and ZOI-Specific Breakout Discussions

Time: 1600 - 1645

Facilitator:

Dr. Evan Girvetz, Alliance

This session explored specific interventions, challenges, and opportunities within the Feed the Future Zones of Influence (ZOIs) in Zambia and Malawi. The focus was on mapping existing work and identifying synergies across regions while addressing gaps in coordination, knowledge sharing, and sustainable practices.

EASTERN PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

- Focused on coordinated water and soil management within sub-catchments.
- Emphasis on leveraging existing infrastructure to enhance agricultural productivity.

CENTRAL PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Key Activities by Partners:

- **WARMA:** Targeted areas like the Mkushi farming block for project work.
- **CFU:** Operates in all districts, engaging 52,800 farmers.
- **One Acre Fund:** Supports 12,000 farmers across Chibombo, Chisamba, Kabwe, Luano, Serenje, Mkushi, and Mpongwe.
- **Agripredict:** Works with 20,000 farmers across the province.
- **People in Need:** EU-funded project (districts not yet specified).
- **NASFAZ:** Operates in Chongwe.
- **GIZ:** Focuses on Lusaka, Chongwe, and Mumbwa.
- **Greencare:** Active in Kabwe.
- **ZAMCOM:** Works in the Luangwa catchment area.

Challenges:

- **Environmental Issues:**
 1. High deforestation rates due to charcoal burning.
 2. Unsustainable agricultural practices and mining activities (e.g., manganese mining contaminating water sources).
- **Resource Pressure:**
 1. Migration from southern regions creating water scarcity.
 2. Excessive water use by commercial farmers, particularly in Mkushi farming block.
 3. Rapid land-use changes from farmland to domestic purposes.

Coordination Gaps:

- Limited linkage between village and catchment-level initiatives.
- Poor representation of traditional chiefs in partnerships.
- Fragmented sectoral coordination around watersheds.

Opportunities:

- Address deforestation with agroforestry practices.
- Develop water harvesting infrastructure.
- Strengthen market linkages to enhance economic sustainability.

SOUTHERN REGION, MALAWI

Key Interventions:

- Seed System Strengthening: Focused on nutritious crops (NUCs).
- Irrigation Access: Financing for small-scale irrigation hardware.
- Market Linkages: Supporting farmers with better market connections.

Partner Contributions:

- One Acre Fund: Supports ~100,000 farmers across eight districts with credit financing and agronomic practices.
- World Bank Shire Valley Transformation Project: Promotes irrigated water management and market linkages.
- Cyclone Freddy Support Project (BHA Funded): Focused on disaster recovery.
- Soil Health Initiatives: Promoting regenerative agriculture and climate-smart practices.

Challenges:

- Frequent droughts.
- High population density coupled with poverty, malnutrition, and child marriage rates.
- Weak business-enabling environments.
- Lack of district-level coordination among active players.

Opportunities:

- Leverage district coordination committees for streamlined efforts.
- Create a multi-stakeholder engagement platform for project alignment.

CENTRAL REGION, MALAWI

Key Characteristics:

- Divided into Extension Planning Authorities (EPAs).
- District Agriculture Coordination Committees oversee activities but require negotiation for project approvals.

Challenges:

- Overlapping efforts by multiple organizations without collaboration.
- Lack of clear communication and synergy among partners.

Opportunities:

- Develop a comprehensive database mapping who works where and on what.
- Build on existing government-prioritized irrigation sites.
- Adopt a unified approach by coordinating efforts along rivers in priority areas like Lilongwe.

Proposed Interventions:

- Enhance water access for smallholders through harvesting and retention infrastructure linked to irrigation technologies.
- Promote soil health through increased biomass, crop diversification, and sustainable practices.
- Integrate soil and water security to support agricultural productivity.

COMMONALITIES ACROSS REGIONS

- **Environmental Challenges:** Deforestation, overgrazing, and unsustainable practices.
- **Coordination Gaps:** Lack of connection between village and catchment-level efforts.

PARTNERSHIP ISSUES:

- Organizations working in silos with limited knowledge sharing.
- Need for a paradigm shift toward complementarity and open-minded approaches.
- Insufficient representation of traditional leaders in partnerships.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish formal platforms for knowledge sharing and coordination.
- Standardize knowledge products to ensure consistency in implementation.
- Foster multi-stakeholder partnerships to align strategies and monitor results effectively.
- Prioritize learning by explicitly identifying successes and failures.



Day 2 - Focus on Thematic Priorities and Partnership Models

Session 5: Thematic Breakout on Outcomes and Best-Bet Interventions

Time: 0930 - 1030

Facilitator:

Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata

Participants were tasked with identifying desired outcomes and “best-bet” interventions for each thematic area. This included discussing entry points for scaling interventions to the national level. Key interventions included:

1. Expanding water storage projects and promoting efficient water use.
2. Introducing high-value, climate-resilient crops to improve both resilience and profitability.
3. Strengthening local value chains to support sustainable financing and stewardship.

CENTRAL PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Key Interventions:

- Conservation agriculture, integrated soil fertility management, scale-appropriate mechanization, climate information services, quality seed.
- Landscape/community-level water interventions: green infrastructure, agroforestry, innovative ag income generation (e.g., bee-keeping).
- Community governance mechanisms: conservation plans, climate information services, working with traditional systems, gender and social inclusiveness.
- Innovative financing: blended mechanisms linking farm-to-landscape interventions for green infrastructure and soil health.
- Irrigation packages (with/without existing water sources): solar pumps, drip lines, water retention practices (mulching, organic matter).
- Deforestation mitigation: biogas, smart cook stoves, policy advocacy for subsidized gas.

Reach:

- Conservation agriculture & integrated soil fertility management: 200,000 farmers.
- Landscape/community-level water interventions: TBD based on geography.
- Community governance mechanisms: TBD.
- Innovative financing mechanisms: TBD.

- Irrigation: focus on areas with/without existing water sources; link watershed protection and groundwater recharge.
- Deforestation mitigation: rural/urban areas targeted with biogas and clean energy solutions.

Leverage existing partner scaling pathways:

- Farmer organizations for last-mile delivery.
- Engage lead farmers/traditional leaders.
- Use local communication channels (radio, community meetings, digital platforms).
- Work within existing government structures for post-project sustainability.
- Assess existing projects for lessons learned (e.g., WB/ZEMA).
- Strengthen traditional leaders' role in governance.
- Develop market linkages and localized action plans.

EASTERN PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Key Interventions:

- Conservation agriculture, soil fertility management, mechanization, climate services, quality seeds.
- Water interventions: green infrastructure, water harvesting, storage, agroforestry.
- Community governance: integrate traditional systems, promote inclusiveness, develop conservation plans.
- Innovative financing: blend financing for green infrastructure and soil health improvements.
- Address deforestation: promote biogas, smart stoves, and policy advocacy for alternative energy sources.

Reach:

- TBD based on geography and intervention focus.

Leveraging existing partner pathways and government support:

- Strengthen farmer organizations for delivery.
- Utilize traditional leaders and local channels for awareness.
- Develop action plans linked to existing government/donor-funded programs.

SOUTHERN REGION, MALAWI

Key Interventions:

- Complement existing activities: thematic areas and stakeholder engagement.
- Enabling environment, governance, and finance: collective action on NRM.
- Landscape-level management: community/catchment plans, WB Shire Valley work.
- Strengthen local capacity: coordination, planning, governance, monitoring of water/soil management.
- Develop/support community NRM plans.
- GESI-focused interventions: integrating gender and social inclusion.

Reach:

- Balaka: ~31k (20k via One Acre Fund, 7k via AFAP, 4k via TLC).
- Chikwawa: ~8k.
- Nsanje: ~6k.

Mapping partner activities for synergy

- Use food relief/cash transfer programs to promote SWC interventions.
- Develop localized drought/climate risk action plans.
- Identify communities implementing catchment management plans.
- Promote portable supplementary irrigation support.
- Bundle inputs and services (CIS, EWS, technologies, output markets) to accelerate adoption of SWC techniques.

CENTRAL REGION, MALAWI

Key Interventions:

- Sustainable land and water management practices.
- Irrigation support and drought resilience measures.
- Strengthen community-level governance and NRM plans.
- Promote agroforestry and soil conservation techniques.
- Encourage alternative energy sources (biogas, cook stoves).

Reach:

- TBD based on partner engagement and regional activities.

Developing partnerships and synergies with existing projects:

- Engage communities in localized planning and management.
- Promote adoption through bundled services and incentives.
- Scale successful practices through policy advocacy and government alignment.



Session 6: Partner Roles and Responsibilities

Time: 1130 - 1230

Facilitator:

Andre van Rooyen

In this session, participants discussed coordination and engagement mechanisms necessary for effective collaboration. Suggested models included structured regional and national platforms and responsive mechanisms to partner demand signals.

Key Questions	Summary of Roles and Responsibilities
Listening to demand signals	→ Government: Responds to critical issues like livelihoods, nutrition, and emergency needs (e.g., drought, floods). Facilitates environments for stakeholders to collaborate. → Research institutions: Develop technical insights and solutions for scaling. → Farmer-facing organizations: Address on-ground needs like access to water, mechanization, and climate-smart interventions.
Types of partners needed	→ Farmer organizations and lead farmers to bridge gaps in delivery and implementation. → Research institutions (e.g., ZARI, CGIAR) for technical support. → Development organizations for funding and programmatic support. → Conservation and market linkages for sustainable practices (e.g., COMACO, Solidaridad).
Who is in the room, and who is not?	In the Room: Ministry of Agriculture, conservation NGOs, seed companies, private-sector technology providers, farmer unions, and financial institutions. Not in the Room: Critical technical entities like ZARI and other national research institutions.
How should partners collaborate?	→ Establish multi-stakeholder platforms and MOUs for clear accountability. → Foster collaborations across value chains, with partners aligning on shared targets and avoiding duplication. → Employ participatory approaches like district coordination mechanisms and integrating community voices.
Coordination and engagement mechanisms	→ Regular multi-stakeholder dialogues (e.g., quarterly meetings) to align on activities and gaps. → Develop joint project programming to avoid overlap. → Empower district committees to streamline efforts locally. → Map partner activities to optimize synergy and complementarity.

Session 7: Co-Creating Preliminary Action Plans for Implementation

Time: 1400 - 1530

Facilitator:

Evans Chinembiri, IWMI

During this session, participants worked in breakout groups to co-create preliminary action plans focused on the Accelerator's priority themes, identifying three main objectives for each geographic focus area. The key goals included scaling sustainable practices, enhancing resilience, and improving stakeholder coordination.

Main Action Points by Geo-Location:

- **Eastern Province, Zambia:** Action plans highlighted the need to integrate agroforestry with community-driven water storage projects, supported by small dams and farm-level storage innovations. Additional priorities included training local cooperatives to manage these resources effectively.
- **Central Province, Zambia:** The focus was on expanding access to climate information services and risk management tools, alongside building market linkages for climate-resilient crops.
- **Southern Region, Malawi:** Participants prioritized improved watershed management and developed guidelines for establishing farmer-led water conservation groups in vulnerable areas.
- **Central Region, Malawi:** The group's action plan centered on enhancing soil health through conservation farming techniques and expanding access to financing for land tenure security.

The session emphasized the need to tailor interventions to specific geographic conditions, ensuring that strategies are both scalable and responsive to local needs.

Final Reflections and Closing Remarks

Time: 1700 - 1730

Session Leads:

USAID and IWMI

USAID and IWMI representatives provided closing remarks, recognizing the contributions and active engagement of all participants. Key takeaways included the importance of fostering a cohesive and responsive partnership model and the necessity of implementing multi-level collaboration platforms. Participants agreed on the importance of long-term commitments to the Accelerator's goals and outlined next steps to ensure the swift implementation of the proposed action plans.

3. Discussion Highlights and Takeaways

Plenary sessions underscored the critical need to overcome siloed operations and encourage an integrated, co-designed approach. Stakeholders discussed the importance of aligning inter-agency efforts within USAID 'Feed the Future Zones of Influence' and stressed the value of resilience-focused partnerships that promote coordinated water and soil management strategies.

Geographical Coordination and Gaps:

Zambia:

Feedback pointed to coordination challenges within Eastern Province, where partners often work in isolation without incentives to collaborate. Suggestions included developing hotspot catchment areas to centralize activities and foster collaborative solutions.

Malawi:

Discussions revealed similar coordination needs, particularly in EPAs and sub-catchments. Participants called for better district-level coordination and a multi-stakeholder platform to streamline project efforts and promote alignment.



4. Identified Roles and Partnership Needs

Government:

The role of government was emphasized in establishing an enabling policy environment and developing water infrastructure, including small dams and water storage facilities, to support resilience.

Private Sector and SMEs:

Local businesses are expected to play a pivotal role in financing scalable agricultural solutions, with a focus on technology transfer and climate-resilient practices.

NGOs and Relief Agencies:

Organizations like One Acre Fund and Total Land Care were highlighted for their roles in outreach, agroforestry, and last-mile delivery, essential for project scalability.

Coordination Mechanisms and Gaps:

The lack of coordination mechanisms across partner types was discussed, with a consensus on the need for structured engagement frameworks, such as Provincial Development Coordinating Committees (PDCCs) and District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs) to ensure collaboration beyond initial workshop stages.

5. Proposed Interventions and Scaling Pathways

Farm-Level Interventions:

Participants identified conservation tillage, irrigation, and on-farm water storage as key demand-driven solutions. Practical examples were drawn from demonstration sites where solar water pumps and conservation farming practices showed promising results.

Landscape-Level Interventions:

Agroforestry and green infrastructure practices were recognized as essential for controlling erosion and maintaining soil health on sloping landscapes. Government representatives discussed the need for alignment between landscape interventions and farm-level needs to avoid a mismatch between policy-driven programs and farmer priorities.

Scaling Pathways:

Effective scaling will rely on local adaptation and broader national support. Entry points for local partnerships, enhanced with targeted financing and robust policy frameworks, were discussed as necessary conditions for accelerating sustainable practices across Malawi and Zambia.

6. Coordination Mechanisms and Strategic Alignment

Coordination Challenges:

Participants noted the challenges in coordinating partner efforts within the ZOI areas, often resulting in siloed operations and misalignment. In Zambia, for example, partners working independently in the same geography often lack incentives to engage collaboratively. This siloed approach undermines impact potential and reduces resource efficiency.

Strategic Recommendations:

Participants advocated for structured regional and national platforms, utilizing PDCCs and DDCCs, to facilitate continuous collaboration. The establishment of multi-stakeholder engagement frameworks would be instrumental in coordinating efforts across water and soil management programs, enabling partners to work cohesively toward shared goals.



Coordination Mechanisms and Strategic Alignment



7. Workshop Reflections, Key Outcomes and Next Steps

Stakeholder Reflections:

Participants reflected on the successful integration of stakeholders and the value of structured partnership frameworks to ensure impactful outcomes. They emphasized the need for expertise in multi-stakeholder engagement and highlighted the critical role of coordination experts in fostering successful partnerships across various thematic areas.

Action Plan:

The workshop concluded with an outline of the next steps, including finalizing the Call for Proposals, establishing the selection committee, and clarifying timelines for key milestones. IWMI and USAID will take leading roles in finalizing the work plan, with partner selection to be completed through a competitive process.

SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES:

- **Defined Thematic Interventions:** The workshop successfully identified scalable interventions across the eight thematic areas, each tailored to address both immediate and long-term needs for water and soil management in Malawi and Zambia.
- **Established Preliminary Action Plans:** Each geographic focus area now has a targeted action plan that combines local insights with national strategies.
- **Strengthened Partner Roles:** Clear roles were established for various partner types, including government bodies, private sector participants, NGOs, and local farmer associations, enhancing the collaborative framework.
- **Coordination Mechanisms:** The workshop underscored the need for structured coordination through regional platforms like PDCCs and DDCCs, supporting ongoing collaboration and alignment.

NEXT STEPS:

1. **Call for Proposals:** The finalization and launch of a competitive Call for Proposals to select partners for the Accelerator, with a focus on delivering the workshop's identified priorities.
2. **Implementation of Coordination Platforms:** Establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms in priority geographies to promote aligned action and continuous partner engagement.
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:** Development of a robust M&E framework to measure the impact of interventions and enable adaptive management.

The Water and Soil Accelerator Co-Creation Workshop concluded with a shared commitment to advancing sustainable water and soil management practices in Malawi and Zambia, empowering smallholder farmers, and enhancing resilience against climate change. The collaborative spirit demonstrated throughout the workshop laid a solid foundation for achieving long-term goals and fostering sustainable development across the region.

Further Reading

Gyamerah, S., & Ikpe, D. (2021, January 1). A review of effects of climate change on Agriculture in Africa. Cornell University. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arxiv.2108.12267>

Nhemachena, C., Nhamo, L., Matchaya, G., Nhemachena, C R., Muchara, B., Karuaihe, S., & Mpandeli, S. (2020, September 24). Climate Change Impacts on Water and Agriculture Sectors in Southern Africa: Threats and Opportunities for Sustainable Development. Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, 12(10), 2673-2673. <https://doi.org/10.3390/W12102673>

Annexes

Agenda Details: The complete pre-workshop and workshop agendas provide an in-depth view of session flows, discussion topics, and session leaders.

Participant List: A comprehensive participant list categorizes attendees by their roles in agricultural development, government, NGOs, finance, and social enterprise.

Visuals and Figures: Maps and photos from site visits illustrate the program's geographic scope and intervention areas, demonstrating the real-world impact of sustainable water and soil management practices.

Annex 1: Co-creation process program

Co-creation preparation meetings

- 1. Technical and Delivery Partners Meeting (26 September 2024): Focused on technical feasibility and delivery strategies.
- 2. Strategic Partners Meeting (1 October 2024): Engaged government, development, and regional stakeholders.
- 3. Consultative Sessions with USAID Mission Staff in Zambia and Malawi: Addressed local challenges and priorities.

Pre-workshop and Site visit Agenda

Sunday, October 6, 2024 – Pre-Workshop Planning session (USAID – CG Core Partners Center)

Objective: This pre-planning session aims to prepare USAID and core CG centers led by IWMI for the upcoming co-creation workshop by clarifying goals, confirming key stakeholders and their roles, setting clear expectations and deliverables, developing a preliminary agenda, and planning logistics and resources. This preparation will ensure a smooth and productive co-creation workshop with the core organizers.

Time	Duration	Activity
1600 - 1610	10 Mins	Welcome and Introductions
1610 - 1630	20 Mins	Review and confirmation of Co-creation Workshop Goals
1630 - 1650	20 Mins	Review of program
1650 - 1700	20 Mins	Confirming expectations and deliverables
1710 - 1730	20 Mins	Finalizing workshop agenda
1730 - 1750	20 Mins	Site Visit Logistics confirmation
1750 - 1800	10 Mins	Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Monday, October 7, 2024 – Site visit (USAID – CG Core Partners Center)

On the first day of the workshop, CG Core Partner will also visit two demonstration sites near Lusaka, managed by Conservation Farming Unit visits in Shibuyunji and Situmbeo, which are about two hours away. These visits will provide practical illustrations of sustainable water and soil management practices and watershed management techniques, offering valuable insights and inspiration for collaborative efforts.

0800 - 1000	Departure to Site
1000 - 1200	Site Visit: Visit Shibuyunji
1230 - 1245	Drive to Situmbeko
1245 - 1500	Site Visit: Visit Situmbeko
1500 - 1600	Return to Hotel

Workshop Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 - Listening Sessions

Objective: To set the stage by actively listening to and understanding the priorities and activities of critical actors in Malawi and Zambia. This involves gaining insights into the experiences of both national and international water and agricultural development organizations and delivery partners. Additionally, it is crucial to understand the context of Malawi and Zambia's challenges in pursuing sustainable water and soil management practices, particularly within the USAID 'Feed the Future Zones of Influence' geolocations.

Time (CAT)	Duration	Activity details	Session Lead
0900 -1030	90 Mins	Session 1: Introductory session and scene-setting	Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, IWMI
0900 - 0920	20 Mins	Introductory remarks and self-introductions	Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, IWMI
0920 - 0935	15 Mins	Scene setting	Sarah Alexander (Water), USAID Washington DC Dr Jerry Glover (Agriculture), USAID Washington DC
0935 - 0945	10 Mins	Overview of USAID Malawi Mission-related work	Meredith Jackson-deGraffenried, USAID Malawi
0945 - 0955	10 Mins	Overview of USAID Zambia Mission-related work	David Howlett and Mlotha Dameseki, USAID Zambia
0955 -1025	30 Mins	Inter-ministerial roundtable: national priorities and vision for the Water and Soil Accelerator	Mr Boyd Hamela, Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi Mr Frank Nyoni, WARMA, Zambia Mr. Mavuto Chintengo, Blantyre Water Board, Malawi
1025 -1100	35 Mins	About the Water and Soil Accelerator Workshop goals and program vision Q&A	Evans Chinembiri, IWMI
1100 -1130	30 Mins	Health Break and Group Photo	
1130 -1230	60 Mins	Session 2: Responding to Government Priorities and Stakeholder Demand	Facilitator: Dr Christian Thierfelder, CIMMYT

Time (CAT)	Duration	Activity details	Session Lead
1130 -1200	30 Mins	Partner Panel 1: Building on from selected national and regional programs (including Ukama Ustawi, AID-I etc)	Panel Discussion with Representatives from ZAMCOM, CCARDESA, CIMMYT, GIZ and IWMI: Gerald Mundondwa, Programme Manager, Zambezi Water Information System (ZAMCOM) Peter Setimela (CIMMYT) Inga Jacobs-Mata (IWMI) Baitsi Podisi (CCARDESA)
1200 -1230	30 Mins	Validation of the stakeholder mapping in small groups – survey input	Evans Chinembiri, IWMI
1230-1315	45 Mins	Partner Panel 2: Listening to delivery partner experiences across the seven themes in Malawi and Zambia Two guiding questions: → What are the critical challenges in your respective theme supporting the acceleration of soil and water management practices and innovations from farm to watershed level? → What are some of your past experiences and lessons learned working on this topic?	Facilitator: Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata 1. Zwide Jere (TLC) 2. Geoff Heinrich (CRS) 3. Dr. Oliver Bulaya (CFU) 4. Chileya Kasuba (Mediae) 5. Esther Zulu (Chitetezo Farmers Association) 6. Jonah Banda (AgriPredict) 7. Evelyn Kaingu (Lupiya)
1315-1330	15 Mins	Discussion	Open Floor
1330 -1430	60 Mins	Lunch	
1430 -1515	45 Mins	Session 3: Breakout group discussion (opportunities and challenges) across the eight themes: 1. What are the shared/common outcomes or objectives your projects/ interventions have achieved in this thematic area? 2. How do these outcomes align with the broader goals of the Accelerator? 3. What are shared constraints and opportunities across projects/ interventions?	Session facilitator: IWMI Breakout groups: 1. Sustainable Water Management 2. Implementation of Green Infrastructure 3. Altering Agronomy, Crop Type, and Coverage 4. Capacity Building and Technical Support: Provide support and build capacity for soil, land, and water management to local partners. 5. Collective Action on Natural Resources Management: Strengthen the management of land, vegetation, and water resources through farmer cooperatives and other local institutions. 6. Climate Information Services and Risk Management: Supporting the dissemination of climate information services to support farmers in making informed decisions. This includes weather forecasts, climate risk assessments, and early warning systems to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity. 7. Enabling environment, Financing, and stewardship: accelerating water and soil management practices, green infrastructure, and climate services at scale requires a strong enabling environment and aligned financing mechanisms involving agricultural water stewardship approaches within local value chains and with local SME's that connect farm and watershed scales. 8. GESI and land tenure and rights

Time (CAT)	Duration	Activity details	Session Lead
1515 -1600	45 Mins	Feedback in plenary	Facilitators
1600 -1645	45 Mins	Session 4: Breakout group discussion across the FTF zones and geographies First breakout session: Identifying Co-located Work in Specific Geographies (30 mins) 1. Which specific geographies (province, district, sub-catchment, communities) are you currently working in or planning to work in? 2. What are the key characteristics and challenges of these geographies? Second breakout session: consolidation at national level (30 mins) 1. What are commonalities across geographies? 2. What are the gaps in partnerships/ interventions?	Dr Evan Girvetz, Alliance First breakout session: 1. Eastern Province, Zambia (Peter) 2. Central Province, Zambia (Mirriam) 3. Southern Region, Malawi (Tinashe) 4. Central Region, Malawi (Blessing/Karen) Second breakout session: 1. Zambia (Mirriam, Giriraj) 2. Malawi (Tinashe, Blessing)
1645-1715	30 Mins	Feedback in plenary	Facilitators
1715-1730	15 Mins	Reflections: What stood out/surprised you? What confirmed your views? What should be emphasized on Day 2 based on today's discussions?	Open Floor
1730		End of day	

Day 2: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 - Focus on Thematic Priorities

Objective: Identify and discuss interventions across seven thematic areas and propose interventions that can deliver the most significant sustainable impact across many smallholder farmers.

Time		Activity details	Session Lead
0830 - 0900	30 Mins	Morning coffee and networking	
0900 - 0930	30 Mins	Recap of Day 1 and plan for the day	
0930-1030	60 Mins	Session 5: Breakout group discussion on outcomes and best-bet interventions 1. Outcomes: What should the outcomes be for the Accelerator in the seven thematic areas and priority geographies? 2. What are the key/best bet interventions needed in each thematic area in each geography? Interventions to expand, deepen, accelerate. 3. What are the entry points/pathways for scaling of interventions up to the national level?	Facilitator: Inga Jacobs-Mata
1030-1100	30 Mins	Feedback in plenary	Facilitators
1100-1130	30 Mins	Health Break	

Time		Activity details	Session Lead
1130 -1230	60 Mins	Session 6: Breakout group discussion on roles and responsibilities of partner typologies 1. How should partners collaborate with each other and with other partner types in the Accelerator? 2. What coordination and engagement mechanisms are needed to optimize collaboration? 3. Listening to demand signals from the field – what demand signals do partner typologies respond and how?	Potential partner categories Facilitator: Andre van Rooyen
1230-1300	30 Mins	Feedback in plenary	Facilitators
1300 -1400	60 Mins	Lunch	
1400-1530	90 Mins	Session 7: Way forward Breakout groups: Co-Creating Preliminary Action Plans for implementation to catalyze delivery of accelerating sustainable water and soil management practices identifying at least three priorities in each geo-location and estimating its impact	Facilitator: Evans Chinembiri
1530 -1600	30 mins	Break	
1600 - 1700	60 Mins	Session 8: Consolidation presentations from group discussions	
1700 -1730	30 Mins	Final Reflections and Closing Remarks	USAID and IWMI

Workshop Reflections and Next Steps Agenda (USAID + CG Core partners)

Thursday, October 10, 2024 - Reflections and Site visit (USAID + CG Core partners)

Objective: This session will review the workshop's outcomes to ensure all parties are aligned on the key takeaways. It will engage in a discussion to highlight the most significant learnings and insights gained during the workshop. A feedback session will be conducted to gather participants' thoughts, suggestions, and areas for improvement. The session will also review the timelines for the call for proposals to ensure clarity and alignment among all participants. Responsibilities and deadlines will be assigned to ensure accountability and progress. Finally, the session will summarize the following steps to provide a clear path forward.

Time	Duration	Activity
08:00 - 08:20	20 Mins	Reflections of workshop: key learning, insights, areas of improvement/gaps
08:20 - 08:50	30 Mins	Review of Call for Proposal and timelines
08:50 - 09:10	30 Mins	Assigning Responsibilities and Deadlines (selection committee, proposal review process)
09:10 - 09:30	20 Mins	Contracting arrangements

Time	Duration	Activity
09:30 - 09:45	15 Mins	MELIA
09:45 - 10:00	15 Mins	Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Annex 2: Potential partners

Agricultural Development and Research

- African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP)
- Alliance / CIAT
- CIMMYT
- IWMI
- ICRAF Zambia
- Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
- UNDP
- WFP
- IITA

Government and Regional bodies

- Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA)
- Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
- The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM)
- Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CARDESA)
- Southern African Development Community’s Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (SADC FANR) Directorate

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Relief Agencies

- Catholic Relief Services
- Mercy Corps
- One Acre Fund
- Solidaridad Network
- Total Land Care
- SCOPE Malawi
- COMACO
- Conservation Farming Unit
- Eastern Province Legumes Seed Alliance
- Farmers Outgrowers Foundation (FoF)
- Nutri-Aid
- Vision Fund

Technology and Solutions Providers

- Agri-Predict Solutions
- Virtual Irrigation Academy
- Viamo
- Farmhut
- Greencare Care Eco Solutions
- Holland Greentech- VDS Acampo Ltd
- Meridian
- Global evergreening alliance

Financial Services and Microfinance

- AGORA Microfinance
- FINCA
- Lupiya
- Tivwane Money Solutions

Consultancies and Advisory Services

- MERAMO Consulting
- Open Capital Advisors
- Prospero
- Palladium

Farmer Associations and Cooperatives

- National Smallholder Association of Zambia (NUSFAZ)
- Chitetezo Farmer Federation

Community and Entrepreneurial Initiatives

- Entrepreneurs Community Solutions and Innovative Development (ECOSID)
- Tiyei
- Farm Service Unit Limited/ Meridian
- Machinga Agricultural Development Division
- Mandolo Plus
- SCOPE Zambia
- Zuteba Smart Climate and Water Aid

USAID and Related Programs

- ACDI-VOCA (USAID Edge)
- Agriculture and Climate Risk Enterprise
- Agricultural Consultative Forum

Annex 3: Site visit to Shibuyunji and Situmbeko (Monday October 6, 2024)

Background

The Conservation Farming Unit has distributed 2-3 irrigation kits in all the 12 AID-I. The initiative aims to create model districts for smallholder farmers, allowing them to farm all year round despite climate variability. It involves implementing off-season cropping systems and providing solar water pumps, drippers, and seeds for maize, cowpeas, and beans to farmer groups, particularly women and youth clubs, and individual model farmers. These efforts are intended to improve resilience, soil health, and nutritional levels and promote a business-oriented mindset. The targeted areas for these interventions are 70 km west of Lusaka. They are part of the Conservation Farming Unit's (CFU) efforts under the Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative (AID-I) to promote climate-smart agriculture and build farmers' capacity.



Figure 6: CFU-AID-I Feed the future solar water pump innovations.

Image credit: AID-I and CFU

Shibuyunji Site visit: Mr Harvey Mlambo's Farm

Mr Harvey Mlambo, our host farmer in Shibuyunji, located about 70 km west of Lusaka, is one of the beneficiaries of our initiative. With support from AIDI, he has received a solar panel, water pump, and irrigation kits. These resources have enabled Mr Mlambo to harvest two crops per season, including maize, cowpeas, and beans, showcasing the effectiveness of the provided support in improving his farming practices. Additionally, he has implemented conservation tillage systems, which we will have the opportunity to observe during our visit to his farm.



Figure 7: Photographs of the crops by (September 29, 2024).

Image credit: AID-I and CFU

Situmbeko Site Visit: Mr. Charles Nanga

Mr Charles Nanga, based in Situmbeko, approximately 60 km west of Lusaka and 10 km from our first farmer, Harvey, received 200 meters of fencing wire and drippers from AID-I. He recently organized a field day to showcase AID-I's

innovations, including an electricity-powered irrigation system. After his harvest, Charles planted maize, cowpeas, and beans, demonstrating the success of AID-I's promoted methods.



Figure 8: Charles Nanga second crop during off season field day on (July 13, 2024).

Image credit: AID-I and CFU



Figure 9: Charles Nanga Second crop during offseason field day on July 13,2024

Annex 4: Site visit to Kafue (Thursday, October 10, 2024)

Background

Chipwalu Irrigation Scheme is situated in Chipwalu village (-15.5766020, 28.3473190) of Shantumbu Agriculture camp, Kafue district. Chipwalu village is the oldest and largest village in Shantumbu, with over 1,500 households. Many of the households depend on farming as their main livelihood. They produce maize, beans, soybeans, and cassava as their primary crops during the rainy season. During the off-season, they engage in gardening and produce green maize, green beans, cabbage, rape, carrots, pumpkin leaves, okra, onion, and tomato. They primarily use perennial streams for irrigation, but these dry out

around September to November, posing a challenge to production. The target market for their produce includes local fellow farmers and organized markets such as Jack, Chawama, and Soweto. The Irrigation group consists of 25 members, 10 of whom are female. They have received training in crop management to increase production and productivity and in agribusiness to enable them to negotiate for better prices. The farmers of Chipwalu are dedicated to sustained output due to the availability of the local market and the surrounding areas that benefit from the scheme.

Chipwalu site Visit: Mr. Evens Mwachiyamba

Our host farmer, Mr Evens Mwachiyamba, has received training in conservation farming practices. He has

implemented conservation tillage systems, which we will have the opportunity to observe during our visit to his farm.



Figure 10: Mr Evens Mwachiyamba's maize and vegetable fields.

Image credit: AID-I and CFU

Annex 5: Co-creation Participant list

POC Name	POC Surname	Organisation	Country
Margaret	Mukwenha	African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP)	Malawi
Mazvita	Chiduwa	CIMMYT	Malawi
Peter	Setimela	CIMMYT	Zambia
Christian	Theifelder	CIMMYT	Zimbabwe
Petra	Schmitter	IWMI	Belgium
Evans	Chinembiri	IWMI	RSA
Inga	Jacobs-Mata,	IWMI	RSA
Karen	Nortje	IWMI	RSA
Giriraj	Armanth	IWMI	Sri Lanka
Henry	Roman	IWMI	RSA
Tinashe	Dirwai	IWMI	Zimbabwe
Amon	Chinyophiro	MERAMO Consulting	Malawi
Isaac	Monjo Chavula	Tiyeni	Malawi
Fredric	Kawalewale	Total Land Care - AISL	Malawi
Cassandra	Mtine	Agri-Predict Solutions	Zambia
Douglas	Mwasi	Catholic Relife Service (CRS)	Zambia
Stanley	Silwimba	Conservation Farming Unit	Zambia
Esther	Zulu	Chitetezo Farmer Federation	Zambia
Richard	Mumba	COMACO	Zambia
Oliver	Bulaya	Conservation Farming Unit	Zambia
Whytson	Sakala	Farmers Outgrowers Foundation (FoF)	Zambia
Ryan	Katayi	Farmhut Africa	Zambia
Wana	Ngalande	Greencare Care Eco Solutions	Zambia
Maimbo	Malesu	ICRAF-CIFOR Zambia	Zambia
Andre	Van Rooyen	ICRISAT	Zambia
Chileya	Kasuba Ndeke	Mediae	Zambia
Nozipho	Ndlovu	Solidaridad Network	Zimbabwe
Jere	Zwide	Total LandCare	Malawi
Frank	Nyoni	WARMA	Zambia
Geofrey	Heinrich	CRS	South Africa
Adjoa	Parker	GIZ Natures	USA
Tufa	Dinko	IRI Colombia University	Zimbabwe
Sarah	Alexander	USAID/Washington	USA
Julie	March	USAID/Washington	USA
Rob	Bertram	USAID/Washington	USA

POC Name	POC Surname	Organisation	Country
Jerry	Glover	USAID/Washington	USA
Jeff	Goldberg	USAID/Washington	USA
Ramzy	Kanaan	Tetra Tech	Malawi
Stanley	Mutale	NASF	Malawi and Zambia
Njunga	Kakusa	Greencare Care Eco Solutions	Zambia
Meredith	Jackson - deGraffenried	USAID	Malawi
Nozgenji	Bilima	Pelum Malawi	Malawi
Wilfred	Miga	Pelum Zambia	Zambia
Jonathan	Atkinson	MAADEN AFRICA-FARM SERVICES UNIT AFRICA	Malawi and Zambia
Kennedy	Osano	ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research)	Kenya
Paul	Malambo	Total LandCare	Malawi and Zambia
Mlotha	Damaseke	USAID Zambia	Zambia
Collins	Nkateko	Conservation Farming Unit	Malawi
Wuletawu	Abera	Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT	Malawi
Emmanuel	Sakeyo	WARMA	Zambia
Erin	Anders	ILIMS	
Chizya	Mvula	WARMA	Zambia
Boyd	Hamella	Ministry of Agriculture, Malawi	Malawi
Hastings Stan	Mwanjoka	Department of Disaster Management Affairs	Malawi
Mavuto	Chintengo	Blantyre Water Board	Malawi
Frank	Masankha	NASFAM	Malawi
Darwin	Mngoli	Ministry of Local Government Unity and Culture- Directorate of Chiefs administration	Malawi
Clement	Boyce	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services	Malawi
Wonderful	Yonamuh	Southern Region Waterboard	Malawi
Davis	Kalima	Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife	Malawi
Gerald	Mundondwa	Zambezi Watercourse Commission	Zimbabwe
David	Chikoye	IITA	Zambia
Noma	?	Meramo Consulting	Malawi
Mkhuzo	Chongo	Ministry of Water	Zambia
Milambo	Maambo	COMACO	Zambia
Jerome	Queste	CCARDESA	Zambia



The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is an international, research-for-development organization that works with governments, civil society and the private sector to solve water problems in developing countries and scale up solutions. Through partnership, IWMI combines research on the sustainable use of water and land resources, knowledge services and products with capacity strengthening, dialogue and policy analysis to support implementation of water management solutions for agriculture, ecosystems, climate change and inclusive economic growth. Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, IWMI is a CGIAR Research Center with offices in 17 countries and a global network of scientists operating in more than 55 countries.

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