## CIAT Mid-Year Report for the Ntcheu action site, Malawi

### JULY 2015

## Food security and better livelihoods

## for rural dryland communities

**Summary**

CIAT undertakes many activities in Malawi. Some of them are directly funded by the DS program while others are bilateral. This summary highlights major activities conducted in the first six months of the year.

**1. ISFM options tested on over 50 farmers (>50% women) (report)**

One of the aims of this activity was to out-scale best-fit ISFM management practices under bean-maize cropping system. Accordingly, we have increased the number of participating farmers from 46 to 209 between 2013/4-2014/15. Among the participants, 173 were women and 36 were men. Eight treatments were designed to showcase different ISFM technologies and demonstrate their effects on yield. Field days and participatory technology selection were conducted to evaluate and rank performances of technologies by local farmers and other stakeholders. Initial observations show that technologies, especially, s combination of manure and early maturing varieties showed drought tolerance. For details, see attached document named

*“CIAT-AR intensification progress report\_July2015\_Act1”*

*“CIAT-Participatory yield assessment of comon beas in Malawi\_1”*

*“CIAT-Drought tolerant bean varieties offer hope to smallholder farmers in Malawi\_2”*

**2. Data collected and ready for systems analysis (data set); - Database**

Analysis of complex and dynamic agricultural and rural livelihood systems is becoming more eminent for better diagnosis, improved identification of gaps and entry/leverage points for intervention. In order to demonstrate model set-up and parameterization, household data collected for Ntcheu action site is being analysed to generate farm typology. In addition, biophysical data has been extracted/processed for integrated socio-ecological analysis. To complement what was being done in the action site, the DS Systems Analyst has visited the site and provided guidance on model data processing approaches and parameterization. For details, see attached documents named:

*“CIAT-Session on model parameterisation for integrated systems analysis\_1”*

*“CIAT-Household typology and type specific SLM adoptive behaviour\_2”*