

Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (**DERPIn**)

Harnessing Data and Evidence for Decision-making



Learning Event

📅 April 2–3, 2025 ⌚ 9:00 AM–4:30 PM CAT

📍 **Ufulu Gardens Hotel – Lilongwe, Malawi**

Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (DERPIn)

Harnessing Data and Evidence for Decision-making

Introduction and Background

The Digitally Enabled Resilience and Nutrition Policy Innovations (DERPIn) project seeks to strengthen the resilience of African agrifood systems by leveraging digital technologies and data-driven solutions to empower policymakers, farmers, private sector enterprises, and other stakeholders with the tools and information they need to make informed decisions and implement effective gender-sensitive and inclusive policies. DERPIn is implemented by AKADEMIYA2063 on behalf of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in collaboration with the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) and national research partners in Benin, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal, and Uganda.

In Malawi, AKADEMIYA2063, the Malawi University of Science and Technology, and the Farmers Union of Malawi, a member of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions, are collaborating to carry out analyses and develop digital platforms and tools to generate and share knowledge and evidence for use by Malawi's agrifood systems actors. The project will contribute to the availability and accessibility of agricultural, environmental, and nutrition data to help policymakers, planners, farmers and their organizations, researchers, and the private sector make informed decisions, foster evidence-based planning, and drive innovation within Malawi's agrifood systems.

The DERPIn Malawi team is organizing a two-day in-person learning event on April 2–3 to share findings from the project with stakeholders and foster discussion on implications for agrifood systems policies and potential uses to inform decision-making. The event will highlight the project's findings on patterns of nutrient consumption adequacy and vulnerability across the country, as well as ongoing work to use satellite data to produce accurate crop maps and enhance the precision of production and yield forecasts. Participants will learn about the methodologies and approaches employed, review country-specific findings, and consider potential applications of the analytical work. The project team will also provide training on how decision-makers from multiple sectors can take the needs of different genders into account to craft more effective gender-sensitive strategies. Event participants from multiple sectors will engage in discussions on how the project findings and tools can meet their specific information needs, support evidence-based decisions, and inform strategies to strengthen Malawi's agrifood system.

Objectives

The learning event aims to:

- Raise awareness among Malawian agrifood system actors of the DERPIn project
- Present results of the DERPIn project, including findings on nutrient adequacy, vulnerability, crop mapping, and yield and harvest forecasting
- Provide an overview of analytical work in progress and expected future outputs
- Elicit feedback from stakeholders on the potential for strengthening the analysis
- Facilitate discussions on how the evidence generated by the project can be leveraged to inform agrifood systems policies, strategies, and decisions by multiple stakeholder groups
- Develop linkages between the DERPIn project and key national institutions and stakeholders; identify opportunities to integrate DERPIn results with ongoing information provision efforts

Participants

The learning event targets a broad group of stakeholders from Malawi's agrifood system, including policymakers, policy analysts, advisors, planners, farmers, farmer organizations, private sector enterprises active in agrifood systems, NGOs, civil society organizations, and research organizations. A key focus of the event is to ensure inclusive participation, with a target of at least 50% representation of women across all stakeholder categories.

Tentative Agenda

Day 1: Overview: nutrient adequacy and vulnerability; gender analysis

- I. Opening session and DERPin project overview
- II. Nutrient adequacy analysis
- III. Vulnerability analysis
- IV. Gender analyses and design of gender-responsive policies

Day 2: Crop maps and other agricultural statistics

- I. Stakeholder-focused benefits of crop mapping
- II. Map literacy for clear decision-making
- III. Next steps and closing

