Malawi: Strategies for nuts, climate change and SME finance

As well as supporting individual businesses, the Business Innovation Facility in Malawi is sowing the seeds for more strategic pro-poor change. The projects below aim to influence the future of three very different industries and contribute to benefits in the long term for low income producers and consumers as well as the environment.

Macadamia Nut Industry Strategy

Two industry experts, Wayne Hancock and Nick Evans, have secured support from Irish Aid and the Business Innovation Facility to develop a strategy to “take the Malawian macadamia industry to the next level of productivity and ensure viability in 20 years time with smallholders as an integral part of that success”.

The Malawian industry is well established, driven by the estate sector, and has developed processing capacity and accessed high quality export markets. A structural shift in the industry is required to incorporate smallholders and to expand the industry further.

The team have consulted widely and run a stakeholder workshop. The resulting plan will lay out key constraints and risks faced by the industry, propose actions to address these constraints and identify priorities for the industry.

BIF Malawi has contributed to the economic aspects of the strategy and helped facilitate stakeholder dialogue and buy-in for implementation.

Climate Smart Agribusiness Workshops

Businesses need to become climate smart in response to the changing climate and in Malawi this is of particular relevance to the agricultural sector.

Experts from the PWC Sustainability & Climate Change team ran a workshop for representatives of 12 organisations in Malawi in February this year to advise on projections and impacts of climate change, reduction and adaptation strategies and to explain carbon finance. A tool was developed to help businesses to develop climate smart strategies and this was tested on three inclusive agri-businesses.

The outputs from this work can be found at:

Climate smart tool, Checklist: Developing a climate change strategy for business, Project Resource: Making agribusiness climate smart

For further information and to view other Snapshot documents, go to:
Practitioner Hub on Inclusive Business: www.businessinnovationfacility.org

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