



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Terms of Reference for Interns

Name:	
Job Title: Intern	
Division/Office: FAO Malawi	
Duty Station: Lilongwe, Malawi	
Linkage to FAO's Four Betters: Better Production & Better Environment	
Start Date of Assignment: September 2023	Duration and End Date: February 2024
Report to, name of supervisor: George Phiri	Title: AFAOR-Programmes

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

Background:

The Government of Malawi and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to strengthen their collaboration to reduce food insecurity and improve resilience of households to climate change in Malawi. The main purpose of FAO's cooperation with the Government in Malawi is to ensure all people have access at all times to nutritious and safe food, contribute to economic and social progress through agriculture and rural development while enhancing climate change resilience.

Currently, FAO is collaborating with the Government of Malawi in an initiative aimed at scale up access to quality of organic fertilizers for smallholders across the country to improve fertility and overall soil health. To do so, different alternatives will be explored in close collaboration with various technical departments within the Ministry of Agriculture, such as Department of Agriculture Research Services (DARS), Department of Land Resources Conservation (DLRC), Department of Crops Development (DCD) and the Department of Agriculture Extension Services (DAES). As majority of soils in Malawi are highly weathered, have low soil pH and are deficient in soil nutrients and organic matter, it is of utmost relevance to systematically document experiences that can inform better decision-making process, design strategies to scale up quality production and use of organic fertilizers and analyse case studies to inform further policy action.

For this reason, FAO Malawi is looking for a junior researcher which could be able to facilitate systematic support to systematize the main lessons learned and analyse the data that will be generated from the different interventions envisaged for the scaling up process required to instil increased use of quality organic fertilizer in the country.

Under the overall supervision of the FAO Representative in Malawi and the direct close supervision of the Assistant FAOR Programmes and the Head of Technical Section, the incumbent for the position should be able to support the activities summarized below:

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist with designing a research protocol to systematize the impact of various soil fertility practices supported by FAO in Malawi;
- Facilitate data collection and analysis of different trials supported by FAO in close collaboration with DARS and DLRC in the different regions of the country (Central, Southern and Northern Region);
- Draft analytical reports and posters to illustrate results of trials of different organic products and practices to increase soil health and fertility;
- Support the soil data analysis and monitoring in the GIS system of the projects;
- Facilitate provision of basic training to extension workers and research assistants on soils, when this is required.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Expected Outputs:	Required Completion Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Analytical paper on the main results of Mbeya fertilizer trials for main and winter cropping in selected DARS research stations- At least 2 case studies documented showcasing lessons learned and results of compost making at scale in the Central Region of Malawi- An analysis of possible soil fertility practices in place in Malawi	

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES**Minimum requirements:**

- Master's studies or first year of a PhD in Soil Science, Agronomy and/or Natural Resources Management;
- Good communication skills in English and good writing skills;
- Demonstrated good understanding of agriculture systems set up in sub-Saharan contexts;
- Proven skills in training different categories of people including technical person and farmers.

Competencies

Excellent team work skills; Ability to work independently; and excellent communication skills; computer skills in Word and data processing and presentation.