

**GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI**  
**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND MINING**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND METEOROLOGICAL**  
**SERVICES**

**REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL**  
**BULLETIN TO INCLUDE HEALTH AND DRR**

**FUNDED BY THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES**  
**ADAPTATION PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA**

05 MARCH – 10 MARCH 2017

## **INTRODUCTION**

The department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services of Malawi has been issuing the Agro-Met weather bulletin for 18 years. The existing weather bulletin, the 10-day Agro-meteorological bulletin, was produced at the request by the Agriculture sector on the progression of rainfall from October to April each year to aid in planning of agricultural activities. The main parameter of concern has been rainfall and is related to the performance of crops, especially maize at different phenological stages in the course of the season. At SADC level the bulletin is also an important tool and the production involves Economists, Statisticians and Meteorologists.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The main objective of the workshop was to review the 10-day Agro-meteorological bulletin to enable inclusion of health and disaster risk reduction information for enhanced early warning and food security.

## **REVIEW OF BULLETIN**

The review called players from sectors such as agriculture, health, DRR and also some from economic planning and development division who are now in need of long term weather and climate information in government activities and programs planning.

## ***ELEMENTS OF THE BULLETIN***

The existing bulletin contains meteorological, agricultural and remote Sensing information. Meteorological information in the bulletin is in the form of the seasonal forecast and observed weather parameters for the past decade (10-days); agricultural information comprise (i) land preparation, (ii) crop water requirements, (iii) pests and diseases, and (iv) fertilizer application, weeding and other activities. For remote sensing the information is rainfall estimates extracted from satellite information.

The bulletin summarises what happened in the past 10 days, weather impacts during those days and the forecast of expected weather in the next 10 days. Since the bulletin was biased towards agriculture, information was classified according to agriculture development divisions (ADDs). There are 8 ADDs in the country.

## ***HEALTH AND DRR INCLUSION***

Due to growing demand for similar information, there is need for weather bulletin to include forecast and impact information for health and DRR sectors. The workshop agreed on having one bulletin containing information for all sectors of concern as compared to separate bulletin for each sector. The meeting also agreed to adopt the approach by SADC weather bulletin that contains information for all key sectors.

This meant the need to revise the existing bulletin, starting from its name to the general layout. The title changed from Agro-Meteorological 10-day Weather Bulletin to Malawi 10-day Weather Bulletin. Among key changes in the Weather Bulletin, are the following;

- i. Highlights were made to contain information for sectors significantly impacted by weather in the 10-days of consideration,
- ii. Extra weather parameters such as humidity and wind were to be discussed in addition to rainfall, and temperature. These were singled out as being important in the health sector.
- iii. The Agriculture sector requested the inclusion of Livestock and Fisheries issues in the bulletin. The meeting requested all sectors to share information with DCCMS in order to compile a useful bulletin.
- iv. Slots discussing sectors such as Health, DRR, Water and Energy were introduced in the bulletin to make it more inclusive. The health sector was requested to make their data available so that correlations can be made between weather parameters and different diseases and outbreaks to help make information and advice relevant.

The meeting requested to have a sample bulletin during the workshop so that comments can be made to facilitate further changes. This was done. A sample of Malawi Weather Bulletin is attached in the report in the Appendix.

## CONCLUSION

The workshop succeeded in reviewing the existing bulletin and in coming up with a more inclusive weather bulletin. This is considered to be an important step in the provision of climate services in Malawi now that for the first time, there is a tool to be developed by the department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services in coordination with more than one stakeholder. This is also important in strengthening the working relationship between health and climate sectors. Further work will be required in form of research in order to make the contents more relevant with time. This research is geared towards establishing relationship between weather or climate and occurrences of various events in the sectors that are impacted by climate.

## APPENDIX

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

APPENDIX B: SAMPLE MALAWI WEATHER BULLETIN

AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT NAMED **Draft\_Bulletin\_Reviewed\_Zomba\_March\_2017\_final.docx**

