

BREAKOUT SESSION

MALAWI GROUP

Communities/different sectors preparation for agriculture production

- ▶ Selection of crops and varieties
- ▶ Land preparation
- ▶ Mobilisation of inputs (recycle, procurement and sourcing from friends and relatives)
- ▶ They use the seasonal forecast to set dates on when to plant crops
- ▶ The ministry of Agriculture align its programme based on the National and downscaled seasonal forecast
- ▶ Met Department disseminate national and downscaled seasonal forecast to different sectors at district level

Climate information services factored in crop yield projection

- ▶ Met Department uses climate information for their Agrometshell model
- ▶ Ministry of Agriculture uses climate information in the Agriculture Production Estimate Survey (APES) when projecting production of the country. The first and second round of projection.
- ▶ Farmers use climate information (historical and forecast) to project crop yield

Models used in crop yield projection

- ▶ Agrometshell model:

Challenges

- The model is labour intensive. Everything is done manually. Is a water balance model.
- It takes other factors constant. Water is the determinant factor. It does not take into attention, soil type, pests and disease.

- ▶ Agriculture Production Estimate Survey (APES):

Challenges

- It is labour intensive since it requires an extension worker need to visit crop fields.
- -It is costly since those involved need resources to undertake the exercise.

The expectations in new technologies



- ▶ The new model should factor in almost all factors that contribute to the crop production. Pest and disease, soil type.
- ▶ The model should not be labour intensive especially when it comes to the data section.
- ▶ User friendly. A person with basic programming skills should be able to navigate the model.