



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



Overview and Application to Sustainable Intensification



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



INTERNATIONAL
FOOD POLICY
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

Challenges

Rapid growth in global food demand and new challenges arising from climate change require effective policies to ensure food security for all without degrading scarce natural resources.



Goal

To promote gender and youth inclusive agricultural productivity growth, improved nutritional outcomes, and enhanced livelihood resilience through improved policy environments.

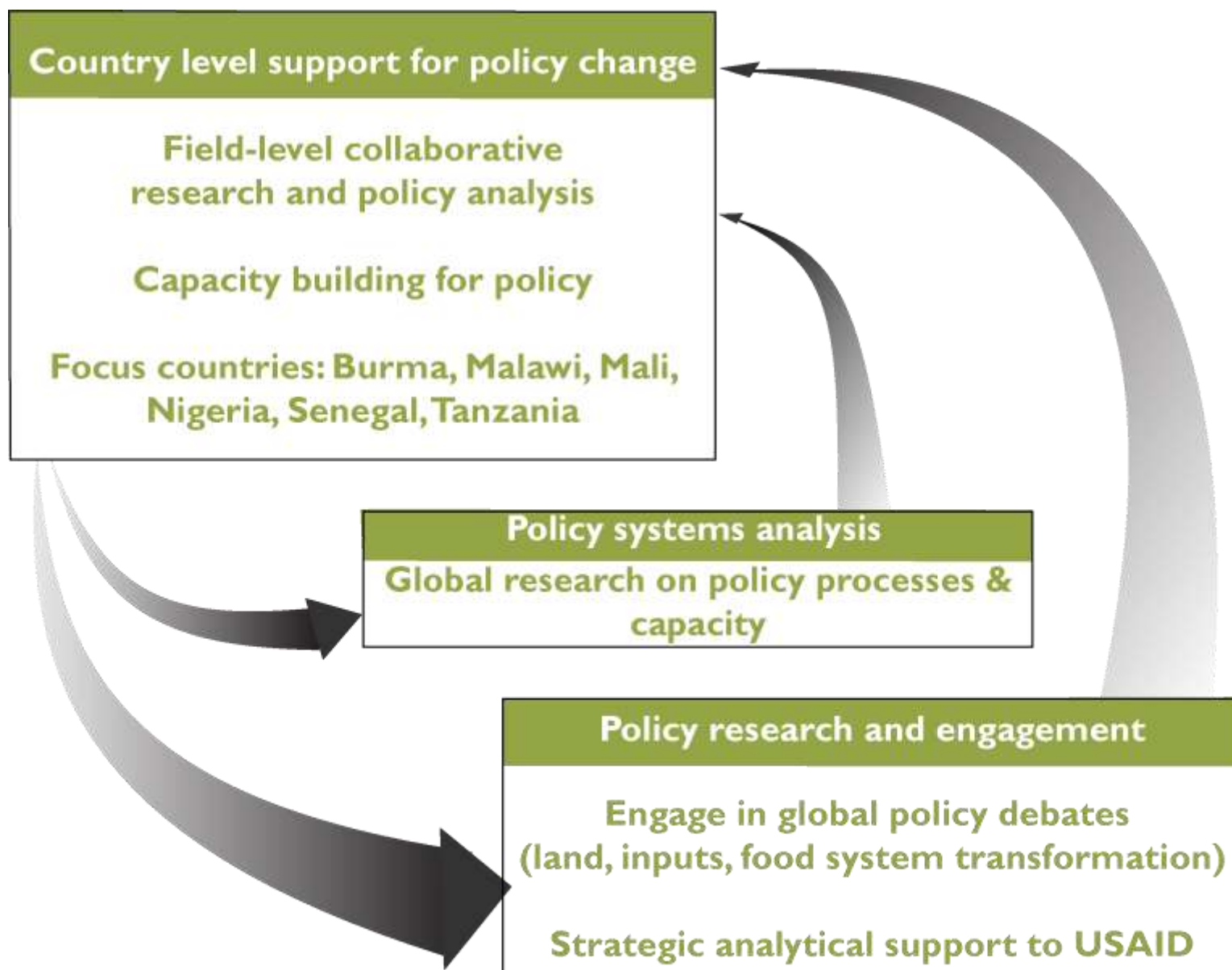


Objectives

1 Address critical evidence gaps for informed policy debate and formulation at country, regional and global levels.

2 Foster credible, inclusive, transparent and sustainable policy processes at country level.







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Toward a Holistic and Sustainable Strategy for Raising Agricultural Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa

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Presentation at the Feed The Future Innovative Lab Partners Meeting

Lilongwe, Malawi

April 21, 2015

Healthy soils are the foundation of food production



2015

International
Year of Soils

healthy soils for a healthy life

Low maize-fertilizer response rates on farmer-managed fields

Study	country	Agronomic response rate (kgs maize per kg N)
Morris et al (2007)	W/E/S Africa	10-14
Sheahan et al (2013)	Kenya	14-21
Marenja and Barrett (2009)	Kenya	17.6
Liverpool-Tasie (2015)	Nigeria	8.0
Burke (2012)	Zambia	9.6
Snapp et al (2013)	Malawi	7.1 to 11.0
Holden and Lunduka (2011)	Malawi	11.3
Pan and Christiaensen (2012)	Tanzania	8.5 to 25.5
Minten et al (2013)	Ethiopia	11.7

Factors depressing NUE of inorganic fertilizer use

1. Low soil organic matter

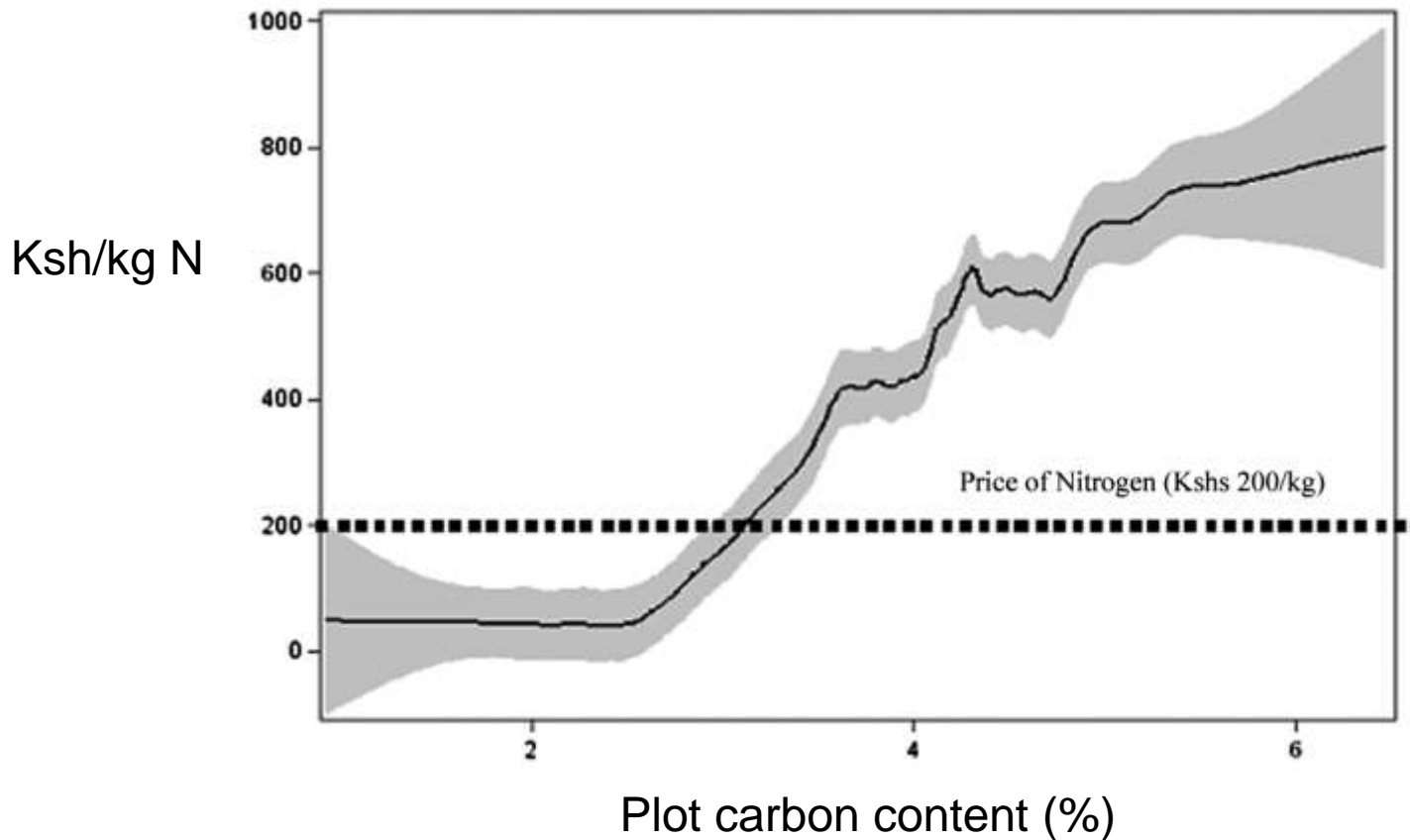
- Significant decline in SOM over past 20 years in Malawi (Mpeketula and Snapp)

2. Acidification

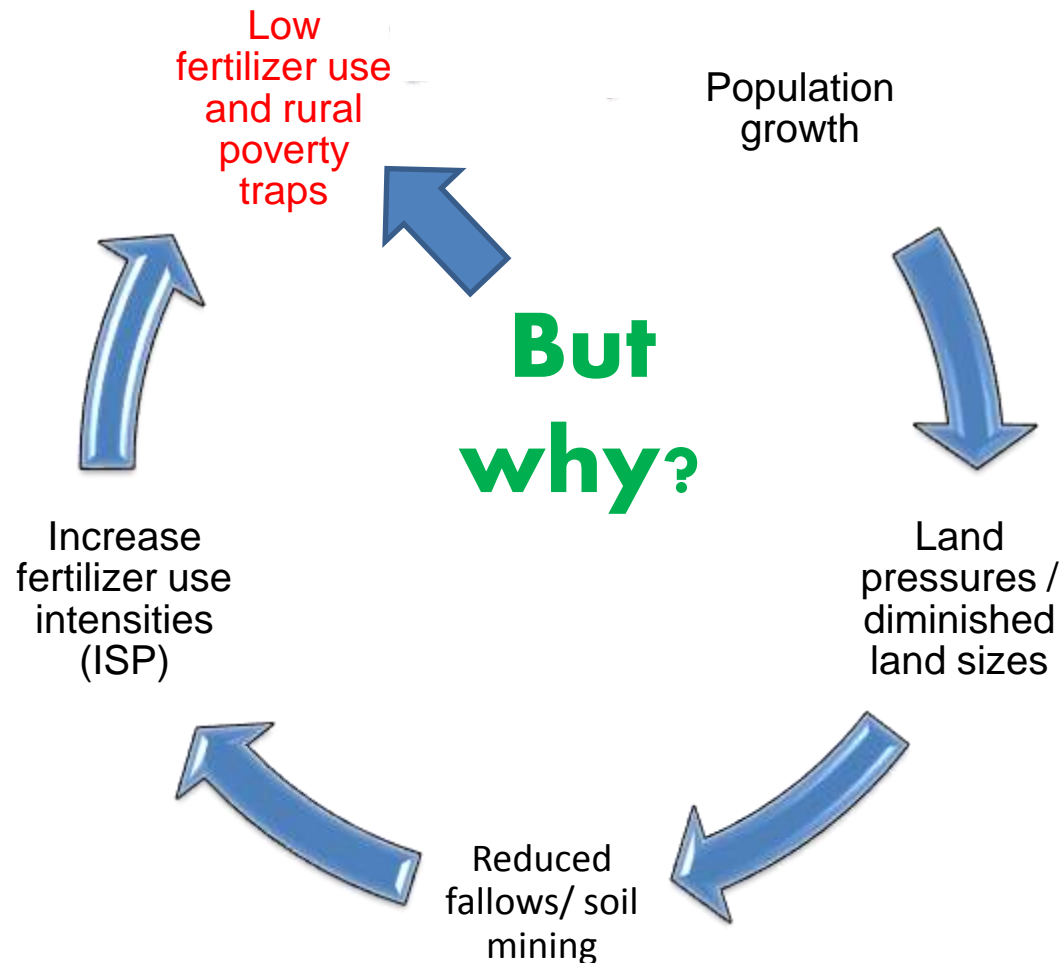
3. Micro-nutrient deficiencies

Fertilizer response rates in degraded areas

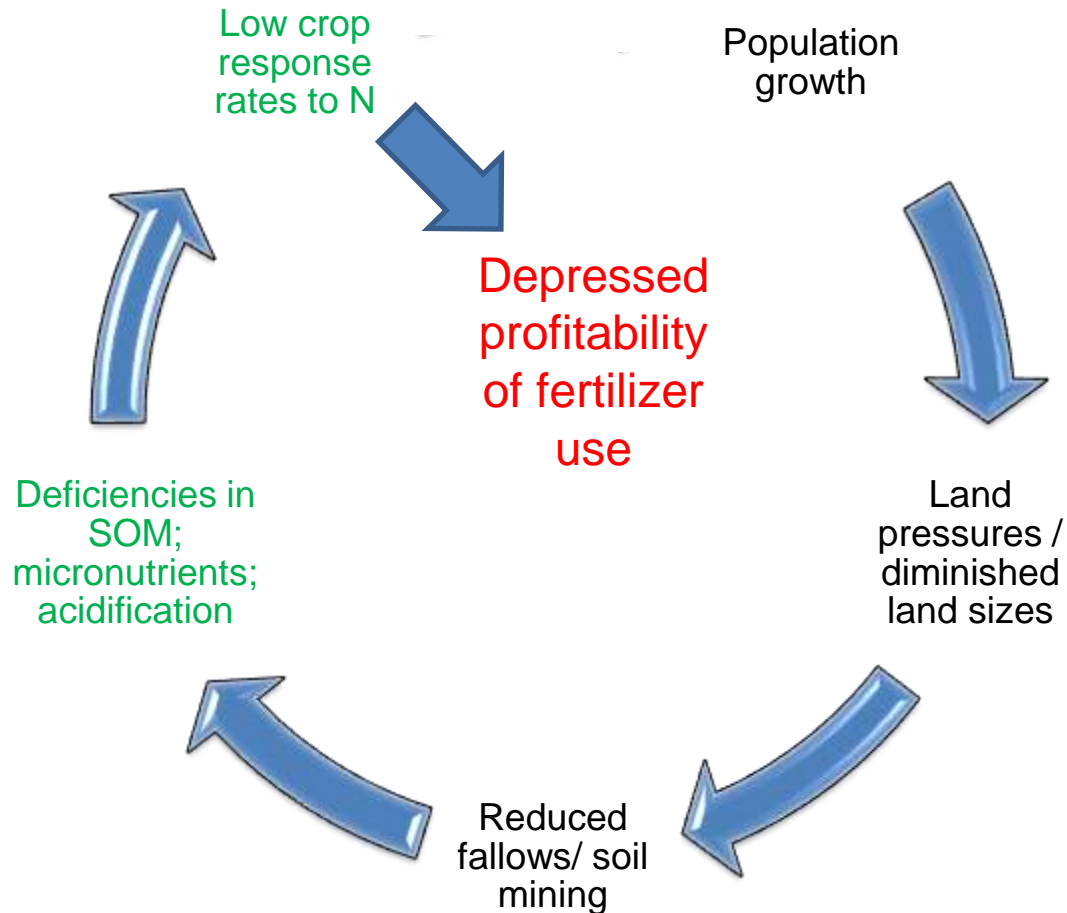
Estimated marginal value product of nitrogen fertilizer conditional on plot soil carbon content



Conceptual framework



Conceptual framework





Policy questions relevant to Feed the Future

1. How to move from a situation where ISPs are the cornerstone of agricultural development to a holistic program of sustainable productivity growth?
2. What would such a holistic program look like?
3. How to achieve it?

Expenditures of Input Subsidy Programs

Country	Annual Program Cost (USD million)	% of Ag Budget
Malawi	152 to 275	47 to 71%
Tanzania	92 to 135	39 to 46%
Zambia	101 to 135	21 to 40%
Senegal	36 to 42	26 to 31%
Ghana	53 to 112	20 to 31%
Nigeria	108 to 190??	?? (officially 26%)
Kenya	22 to 81	9 to 26%

ZAMBIA: FISP fertiliser received (2010/11 crop season) by farm size category

Total area cultivated (maize + all other crops)	Number of farms	% of farms	% of farmers receiving FISP fertilizer	kg of FISP fertilizer received per farm household
	(A)	(B)		
0-0.99 ha	616,867	41.9%		
1-1.99 ha	489,937	33.3%		
2-4.99 ha	315,459	21.4%		
5-9.99 ha	42,332	2.9%		
10-20 ha	6,626	0.5%		
Total	1,471,221	100%		

FISP fertiliser received (2010/11 crop season) by farm size category

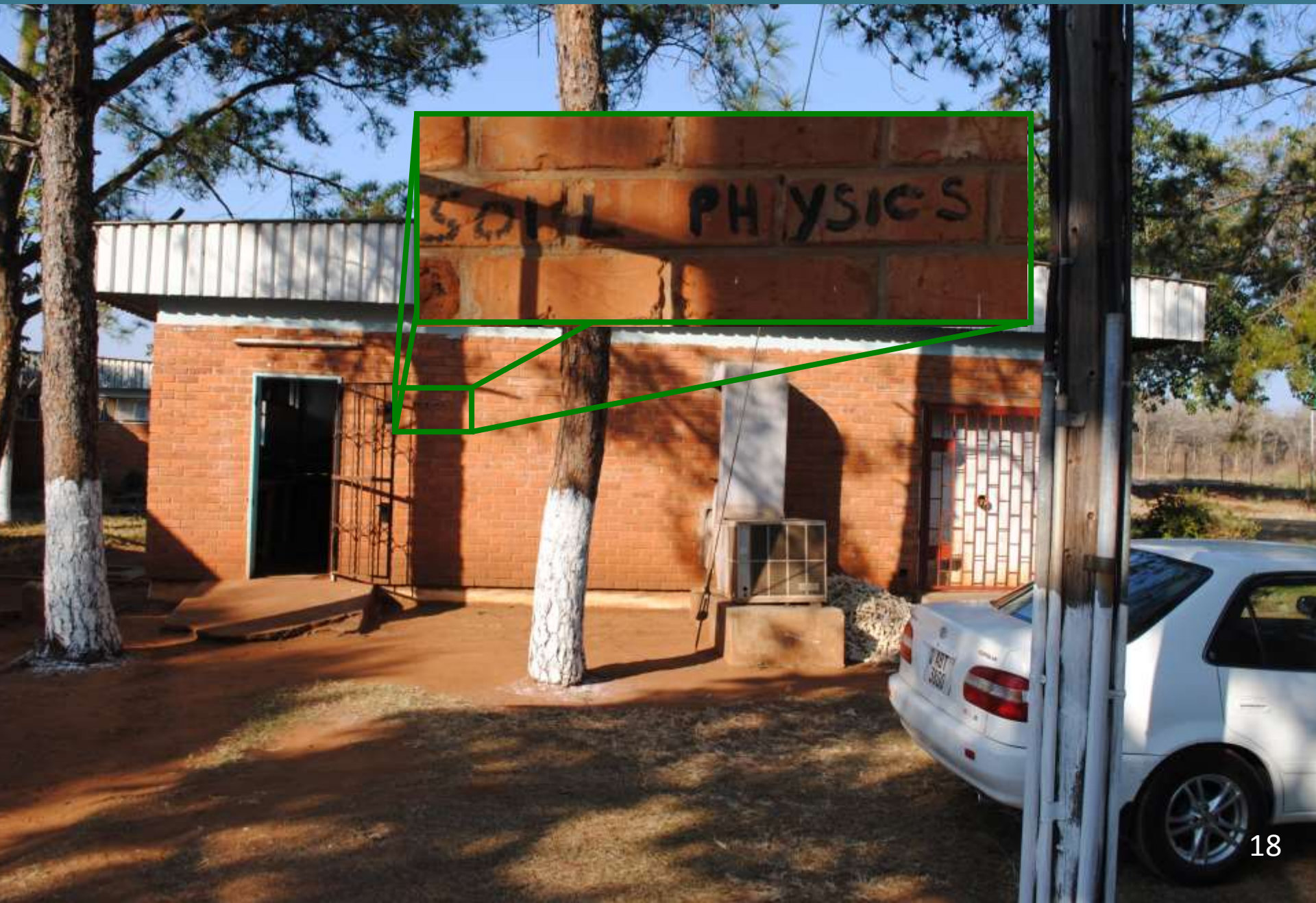
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	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
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1-1.99 ha	489,937	33.3%	30.6%	
2-4.99 ha	315,459	21.4%	45.1%	
5-9.99 ha	42,332	2.9%	58.5%	
10-20 ha	6,626	0.5%	52.6%	
Total	1,471,221	100%	28.6%	

FISP fertiliser received (2010/11 crop season) by farm size category

Total area cultivated (maize + all other crops)	Number of farms	% of farms	% of farmers receiving FISP fertilizer	kg of FISP fertilizer received per farm household
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1-1.99 ha	489,937	33.3%	30.6%	69.3
2-4.99 ha	315,459	21.4%	45.1%	139.7
5-9.99 ha	42,332	2.9%	58.5%	309.7
10-20 ha	6,626	0.5%	52.6%	345.6
Total	1,471,221	100%	28.6%	77.1

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Ranking with respect to ***agricultural growth:*** Evidence from Asia

	The Economist	IFPRI
Policies	1	
Infrastructure investment	3	1
Agricultural R&D	2	2
Agricultural extension services	5	
Credit subsidies	7	3
Fertilizer subsidies	6	4
Irrigation	4	5

Oft-asked policy question

- Given that ISPs will continue, what concrete guidance can be identified to improve their effectiveness?
- We identify 3 proposals:
 1. Raise public investment in agronomic research and extension programs to enable farmers to use fertilizer more efficiently
 2. Reconsider targeting guidelines to achieve more equitable development impacts
 3. Greater political will for ensuring that the subsidies go to the intended beneficiaries

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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Factors depressing NUE of inorganic fertilizer use

1. Low soil organic matter

- Significant decline in SOM over past 20 years in Malawi (Mpeketula and Snapp)

2. Acidification

3. Micro-nutrient deficiencies

From Larson and Oldham,
Mississippi State University Extension Service, 2008.

4.3

5.3

Source: Burke, 2012



Photo courtesy of Dingi Banda,
Lusaka Province, Zambia

Factors depressing NUE of inorganic fertilizer use

1. Low soil organic matter
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3. **Micro-nutrient deficiencies**

Elements of a holistic strategy

1. R&D (national ag research systems)
2. Extension programs / soil testing
3. Programs to help farmers restore soil quality
4. Conservation agricultural practices
5. Physical infrastructure
6. Reducing costs in input supply chains
7. More appropriate fertilizer use recommendations

Factors affecting N use efficiency

1. Soil organic carbon
 2. Acidification (pH) – mainly affects basal
 3. Micronutrients
 4. Soil moisture – N response on irrigated > rainfed fields
 5. Timing of fertilizer application
 6. Timely and sufficient weeding
 7. Rotation of crops on a given plot
 8. Contours / ridging to prevent erosion on sloped fields
- → Fixation with N
 - → ISPs need to be part of a more holistic approach so that N can get sufficiently high crop response

Ranking of Alternative Investments: Meta-Study Evidence from Asia and Africa

	The Economist	IFPRI study
Policies		
Infrastructure investment		
Agricultural R&D		
Agricultural extension services		
Credit subsidies		
Fertilizer subsidies		
Irrigation		

Ranking with respect to ***agricultural growth:*** Evidence from Asia

	The Economist	IFPRI
Policies	1	
Infrastructure investment	3	1
Agricultural R&D	2	2
Agricultural extension services	5	
Credit subsidies	7	3
Fertilizer subsidies	6	4
Irrigation	4	5

Ranking with respect to ***poverty reduction***:
Evidence from Asia

	The Economist	IFPRI
Policies	1	
Infrastructure investment	2	1
Agricultural R&D	3	2
Agricultural extension services	4	3
Credit subsidies	7	4
Fertilizer subsidies	5	6
Irrigation	5	5