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Lessons and Successes in Farmer-Led Agricultural Research

Dyborn Charlie Chibonga Chief Executive Officer National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)

The National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) is a leading farmer organisations in Malawi with the vision to be the leading smallholder owned business and development organisation in Malawi. NASFAM realises that success of farming business depends on a number of factors including access to quality certified seed, access to scientific agricultural technologies, good agricultural practices, availability of markets etc. However, these factors mean nothing if farmers are only at the receiving end. NASFAM therefore invests in farmer centred services in the entire value chain and is a leading advocate for joint farmer-led research where the farmers are working along with the researchers, and extension practitioners.

This brief highlights the groundnut projects, and Conservation Agriculture which NASFAM members are highly engaged in partnership with ICRISAT and Chitedze Agricultural Research Station. The paper also discusses some of the lessons and successes learned in the farmer-led research but also shares some key challenges.

For more information please contact: Dyborn Chibonga, dchibonga@googlemail.com