

## Country Status Report on JSR Best Practices

### Malawi

JSR BUILDING BLOCKS/BEST PRACTICES	BEST PRACTICES	PRACTICE IN PLACE? (Yes/No)	WHAT IS THE CURRENT PRACTICE IN THE COUNTRY?
Existence of a JSR Steering Committee (SC)	SC provides strategic direction for the establishment and operation of the JSR. It is usually chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture and includes as members leading donors and 3-4 other representatives of key stakeholder groups	Yes	<p>Malawi has a JSR Task Force functions as a Steering Committee. It is made up of the Ministry of Agriculture, IFPRI, donors, and other stakeholders, and is expected to meet at least once every two months. Its objectives are to i) facilitate the timely and quality organization of JSR meetings, ii) identify necessary prerequisite millstones for JSR meetings, and iii) ensure that actions and recommendations agreed at JSR meetings are followed up on in a timely manner.</p> <p>There is need to appoint co-chairs because currently only the Ministry of Agriculture chairs JSR meetings. The JSR Task Force needs to include other donors who are active in the sector.</p>
Existence of a JSR Secretariat	Secretariat coordinates activities and operations of the JSR and JSR SC. It can be made up of core staff from the Planning & M&E Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture	Yes	Malawi has a JSR Secretariat which is within the Agriculture Sector-Wide Approach Program (ASWAP) secretariat and coordinates activities of the JSR and JSR Taskforce. It is made up of the Planning and M&E Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and IFPRI. It is responsible for organizing meetings and following up with technical working groups.
Existence of JSR Terms of Reference (TOR) for the JSR	TOR to lay out JSR objectives, state and non-state stakeholders and their roles,	Yes	Malawi's JSR started in 2012 but it has operated without well-established TORs. JSR TORs

	<p>roles of the SC and Secretariat, operating principles, structure and frequency of JSR meetings and follow up and implementation of actions, etc.</p> <p>TOR may also need to be developed consultants hired to conduct JSR studies.</p>		<p>need to be developed to outline roles for all stakeholders and operating principles.</p>
Resources are mobilized	Mobilize resources (human and financial) to support operations of the JSR.	Yes	<p>Malawi has a line item in its agriculture investment plan for financing the JSR. However, delays in disbursement and poor prioritization of the JSR makes resources unavailable for JSR.</p> <p>There is need for better prioritization of funds for JSR operations.</p>
Steering Committee/Secretariat invites a broad and inclusive group of state and non-state actors/stakeholders to participate in JSR	A key aspect of the JSR is that it allows broad group of state and non-state stakeholders to influence overall policies and priorities of the sector by assessing how well they have implemented their commitments stipulated in the CAADP compact, NAFSIP, and related cooperation agreements such as under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.	Yes	<p>Malawi has a lot of stakeholders involved in the JSR process ranging from public sector, the private sector, academia, civil society, farmers' organizations, and donors. However, there is no clear understanding of roles of stakeholders.</p> <p>All stakeholders need to have a clear understanding of their roles and expected outcomes and outputs for JSR.</p>
Existing agricultural policy dialogue and review processes; data quality and analytical capacities are assessed	An assessment of any existing agricultural policy dialogue and review processes, data quality, and analytical capacities and tools and networks and any existing knowledge systems is key to identifying any gaps and coming up with ways to fill gaps and enhance capacities, tools, and processes through the JSR	Yes	<p>Malawi also has an Agriculture Sector Working Group made up of all stakeholder groups; chaired by the Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Agriculture and leading donor representatives; and meets quarterly.</p> <p>Malawi also has 7 Technical Working Groups which promote agricultural policy dialogue in the following technical areas:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Food Security and Risk Management</li> <li>ii. Commercial Agriculture Agro processing and value addition</li> <li>iii. Sustainable Land and Water Management</li> <li>iv. Technology Generation and Dissemination</li> <li>v. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building</li> <li>vi. Gender Empowerment, HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation</li> <li>vii. Monitoring and Evaluation</li> </ul> <p>The Technical Working groups need to be supported financially to improve their capacity in data management and analysis. Participation from academia needs strengthening.</p>
JSR Studies/Analysis Conducted	Consultants may need to be hired and supervised by the SC to conduct JSR studies. Consultants can come from think tanks, universities, or private companies and should work closely with staff from the Planning Unit, and the JSR SC and Secretariat.	Yes	<p>JSR studies are conducted including studies specific to the Technical Working Groups.</p> <p>There is need to come up with more studies on the issues raised during the JSR.</p>
JSR Review Team Established	Team made up of a multi-stakeholder group (state and non-state actors) with technical expertise to review and comment on various JSR studies and reports and ensures outputs of reviews are implemented.	Yes	There is no JSR review team in Malawi. However, the JSR Taskforce can play the role of the review team.
JSR Report Prepared	Preparing evidence based on relevant high-quality studies and reports on the JSR content areas. To be an effective mutual accountability process, the JSR Report will need to be grounded in high quality data	Yes	The JSR Task Force facilitates the drafting of the JSR Report. There is need for proper planning so that universities and researchers can be involved in carrying out studies. The ASWAP

	and analysis as well as transparency and inclusive stakeholder participation.		secretariat should be involved in preparing the JSR report.
JSR Meeting Conducted	Organize meeting over 1-3 days, using various formats (plenary, small groups, field visit, etc.) to allow stakeholders discuss/verify the evidence and recommendations presented in the JSR Report. This can be done at different levels (national and sub-national). The process should assist in identifying sector priorities and policies and specific actions for the different stakeholders to put in place. These would be captured in a JSR Aide Memoir.	Yes	<p>Malawi generally holds two JSR meetings a year. The 1st JSR involves review of the first six months of ASWAp implementation and the 2nd JSR reviews the entire year. Each meeting takes 1 full day. Presentations and discussion on the agriculture sector performance report; Public Expenditure Review; Presidential initiatives, other programs (e.g. farm input subsidy program); outcomes of the Agriculture Sector Working Group.</p> <p>A JSR proceedings report is produced but often it is not shared with all participants. The two JSR meetings need to clearly spell out what topics should be included in each meeting. The JSR Taskforce needs to ensure that the proceedings report is shared with all participants in a timely manner.</p>
There is follow up on JSR Meeting Actions	Closely monitor and ensure implementation of recommendations and decisions of the JSR meeting (embodied in the JSR Aide Memoir). Groups that meet more regularly such as the Agriculture Sector Working Group can help with follow up and monitoring. The monitoring forms the basis of the next JSR cycle.	Yes	Some action points are followed up on while others are not. There is need for improvement in following up on JSR actions
JSR experiences are shared with other countries	As many countries are still setting up JSR, it is essential to share lessons learned, best practices, and experiences to	Yes	The country's JSR experience has been shared during the ReSAKSS Annual Conferences which bring countries to

	<p>further strengthen country JSRs. Forums such as the CAADP PP and ReSAKSS Annual Conference provide an opportunity to do this.</p>		<p>deliberate on progress made in strengthening mutual accountability processes.</p> <p>There is need to conduct study tours to share experiences with other countries, mobilize funds to participate in study tours and compile a document of lessons learned from Malawi to share with other countries.</p>
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