Ireland and Irish Aid is one of the major funders through the support to the Malawi Seed Industry Development Project (MSIDP). Recently, ICRISAT signed an agreement with the Embassy of Ireland in Mozambique to strengthening agri-food systems in Niassa to unlock livelihoods and economic opportunity. In Tanzania, the Embassy of Ireland partnered with the World Food Program (WFP) to promote Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices in collaboration with ICRISAT. Among the many activities carried out under this project, expanding sorghum production, promoting sustainable farming systems, natural resource management and nutrition sensitive agriculture constitute the key activity.

**Background**

Support for Malawi seed industry development enabled the expansion of groundnut and pigeonpea cultivation through easy access to high-yielding varieties. The supply of certified seeds rose from 250 metric tons in 2009 to 2,000 metric tons in 2015 for groundnut and from none in 2009 to 216 metric tons for pigeonpea.

Ten local seed companies were incubated through training and capacity building and increased opportunities were created for women farmers through inclusion of women in seed chain activities.

**Achievements**

**Areas of Collaboration**

- Climate Change
- Agriculture for Food and Nutritional Security
- Livelihoods
- Sustainable Farming
2008 – 2021: Malawi Seed Industry Development Project (Phase I and Phase II) funded by Irish Aid, Malawi. The project was designed to support the work of the Eastern and Southern Africa Seed Alliance (ESASA) in Malawi to increase crop yields and incomes by providing high quality and affordable seeds to smallholder farmers.

2022: Strengthening agri-food systems in Niassa to unlock livelihoods and economic opportunity funded by Irish Aid, Mozambique is aimed at reforming Niassa’s agricultural sector, improving livelihoods and local economic growth.