

PREFACE

This report presents the results of the first year of the research project, “Agricultural and Rural Development in Malawi: Past, Present and Future.” The research is to be conducted from 2004 to 2006 by the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan, in collaboration with scholars of the University of Malawi. A second report is expected to be published in 2006.

Six scholars contributed to this report. The first three chapters use macro and sectoral perspectives. In chapter 1, Wycliffe Chilowa examines food security issues by extensively assessing policies, strategies, and institutional arrangements adopted by the government of Malawi. In chapter 2, James Milner analyzes the agricultural intensification process in Malawi by looking at the preconditions, actors, and effects of the process. In chapter 3, Sera Gondwe examines the role of financial institutions in the economic development of Malawi.

The remaining three chapters are microlevel case studies. In chapter 4, Tsutomu Takane takes up the case of smallholder tobacco production, which has flourished in the past decade and a half. In chapter 5, Donald Makoka analyzes the effects of the expansion of supermarkets on agrifood systems and smallholders in Malawi. In chapter 6, Thabbie Chilongo assesses smallholders’ access to produce markets in the Kasungu Rural Development Project.

We express our gratitude to the many persons who helped us with our research project. Special thanks go to the Centre for Social Research, University of Malawi, for providing the editor an excellent research environment during his stay in Malawi. We sincerely hope that our collaboration continues in the future.

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