# Project Summary

## Title
Development and Adoption of Technologies for Improving Dairy Productivity and Nutrition among Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Malawi

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## Purpose
The overall objective is to enhance the productivity of dairy cattle in order to contribute to the improvement of income, food and nutrition security and livelihoods of dairy farmers.
**Project Summary**

The action research project which will get students and staff engage with the farming communities in Majiga and Chitsanzo Milk Bulking Groups in central Malawi will assess and develop improved feed technologies for improving dairy productivity; analyse adoption process and the associated costs of the improved feed technologies; evaluate the feed technologies and other improved technologies such as breeding, housing and disease control in relation to dairy productivity and nutritional indicators at the household level; plan for up-scaling of the feed technologies with farmers and the feed businesses or industry; analyse the link of the feed selected technological interventions, improved dairy productivity with nutritional impacts of the smallholder dairy farming communities; and disseminate the results widely to the dairy farming communities, other beneficiaries, and stakeholders. On identification and development of feed technologies, the project will focus on locally available crop technologies that can supplement livestock production through improved protein feed supplements for dairy cow rations. The project will employ a concurrent research, training and outreach approach (action research) that will involve farmer-private-public-NGO partnership in the Central Region Milkshed Areas of Malawi. A value chain analysis will be done by the research team for both the feed manufacturing and milk marketing/processing for purposes of linkage and market access by farmers. The project builds ongoing efforts by ARDEP and the collaborating institutions and partners working on improving dairy production in the country. The study will involve 2 MSc students that will directly be supported by this project.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country and Specific Location(s)</th>
<th>Majiga and Chimbiiya Milk Bulking Groups, Central Region Milkshed Area, Central Malawi.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participating Institutions</td>
<td>Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Bunda College, University of Malawi</td>
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<td>Trustees of Agric. Promotion Prog. (TAPP)</td>
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<td>Start Date</td>
<td>September, 2011</td>
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<td>End date</td>
<td>August, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of Funding</td>
<td>US$59,555</td>
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