



Africa's Changing Farmland Ownership and Use: Considering the Implications

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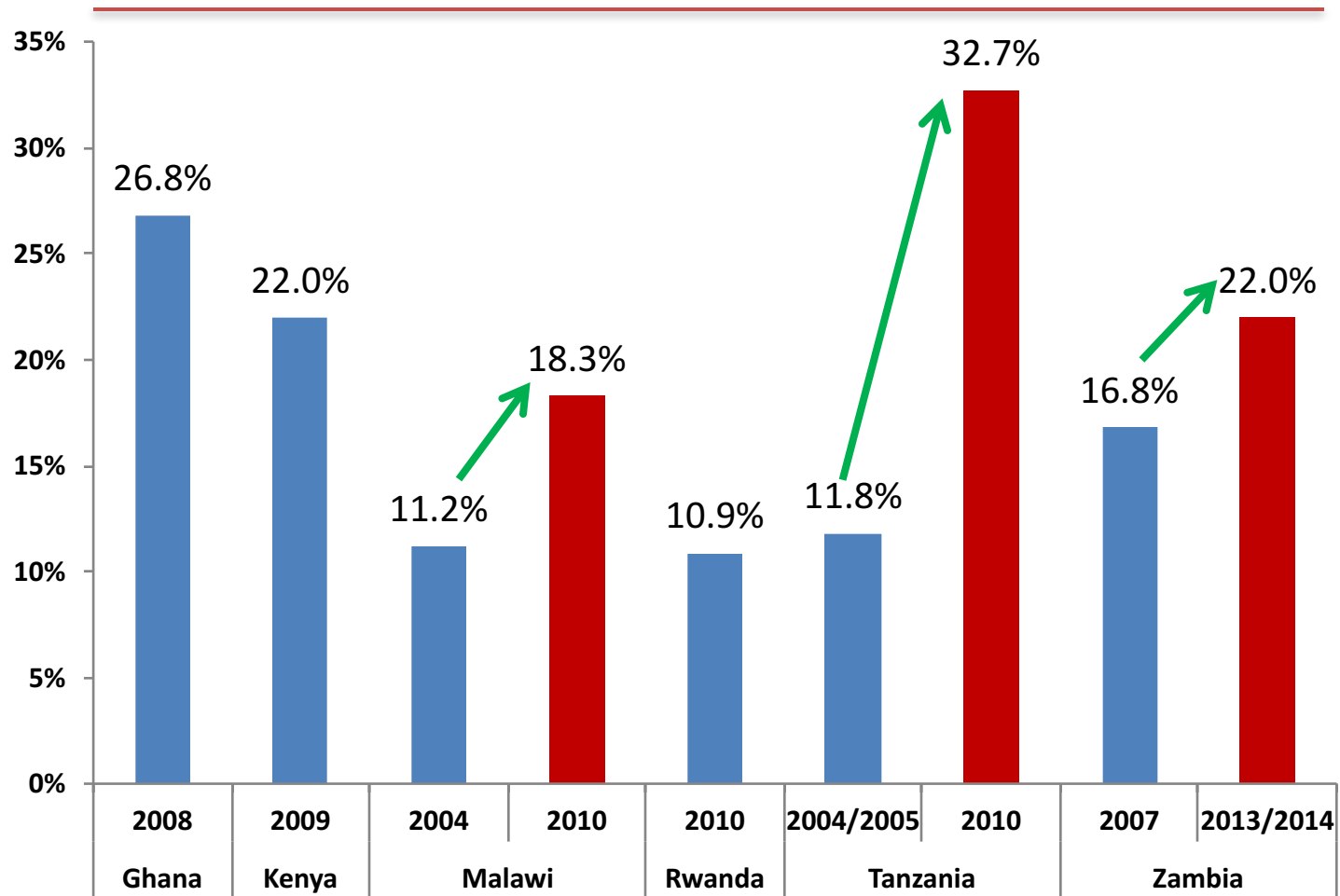
Presented by Flora Nankhuni, COP NAPAS: Malawi Project
at the 2017 Malawi Land Symposium, May 10, 2017
for the sake of those who were not present at the 2016 Symposium

Trend

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are terraced agricultural fields with various green crops. A small cluster of buildings, including a prominent one with a red roof, is situated in the middle ground. The background consists of rolling hills covered in dense green forest under a cloudy sky.

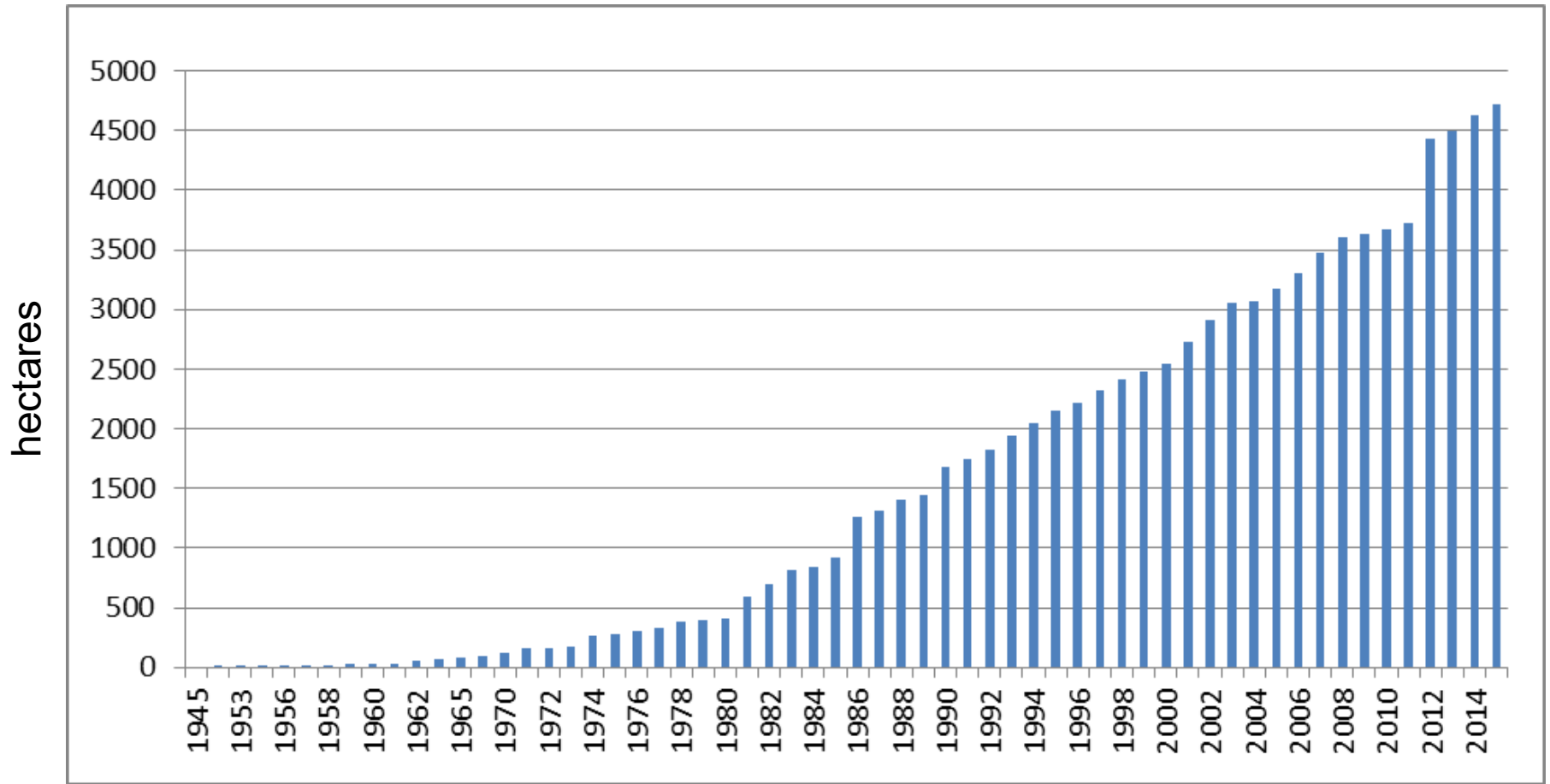
**Rising share of agricultural land
owned by urban households**

% of National Landholdings held by Urban Households



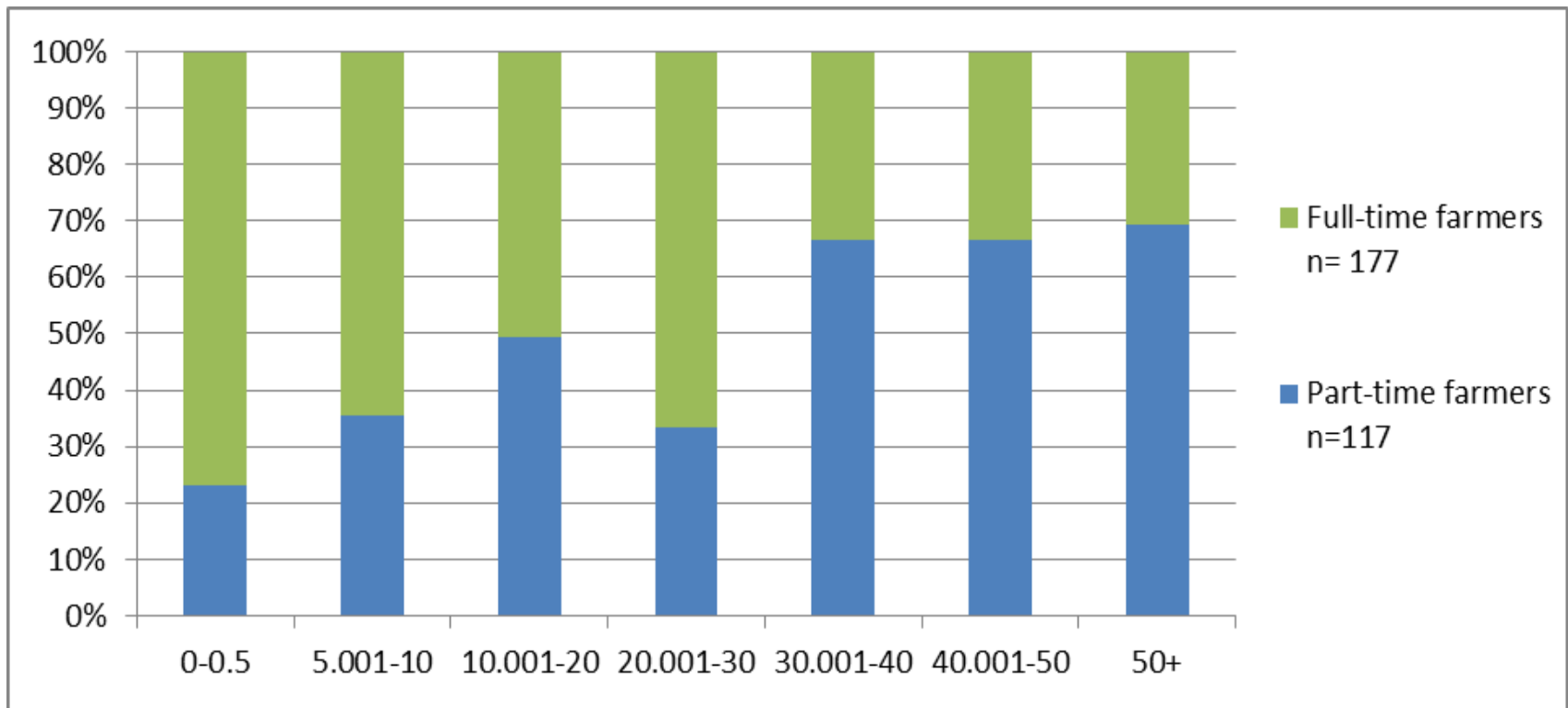
Source: Demographic and Health Surveys, various years between 2004-2014.

Cumulative land acquisitions by medium-scale holdings in Mchinji, Kasungu and Lilongwe Districts (ha per year)



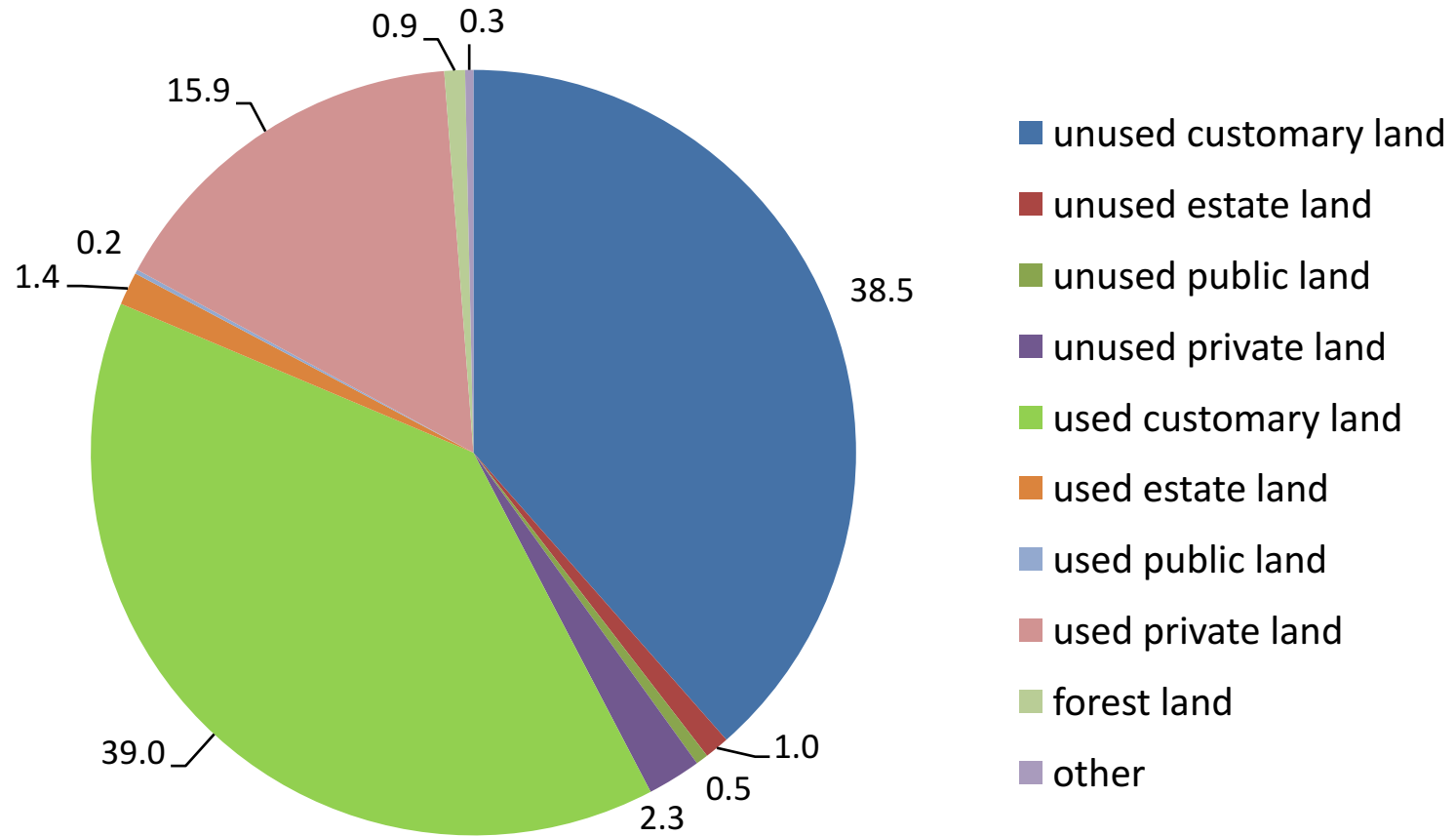
Source: Anseeuw et al (2015), medium-scale farm survey in Mchinji, Kasungu and Lilongwe Districts undertaken by LUANAR, UP, and MSU.

Percentage of full-time and part-time farmers, by farm size, in Mchinji, Lilongwe and Kasungu



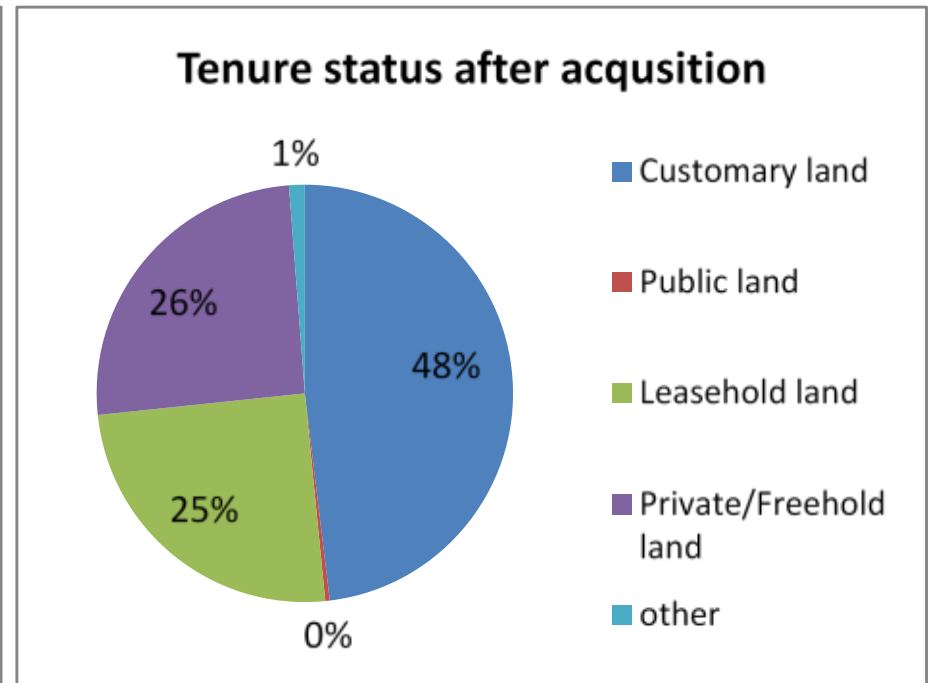
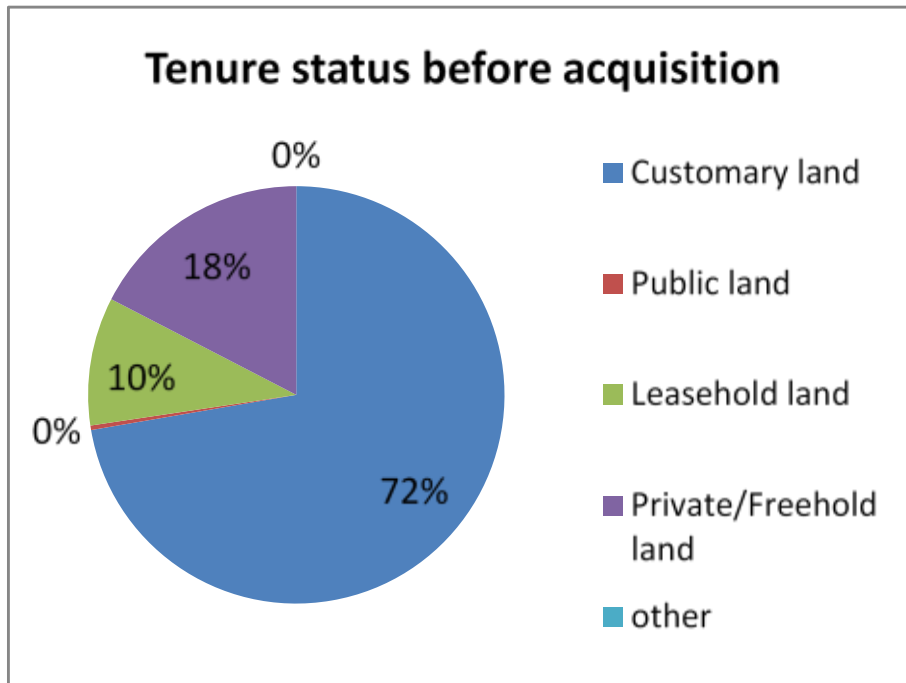
Source: Anseeuw et al (2015), medium-scale farm survey in Mchinji, Kasungu and Lilongwe Districts undertaken by LUANAR, UP, and MSU.

How was the land being used prior to acquisition by medium-scale farmers?



Source: Anseeuw et al (2015), medium-scale farm survey in Mchinji, Kasungu and Lilongwe Districts undertaken by LUANAR, UP, and MSU.

Tenure status of land before and after acquisition (% of cases)



Source: Anseeuw et al (2015), medium-scale farm survey in Mchinji, Kasungu and Lilongwe Districts undertaken by LUANAR, UP, and MSU.

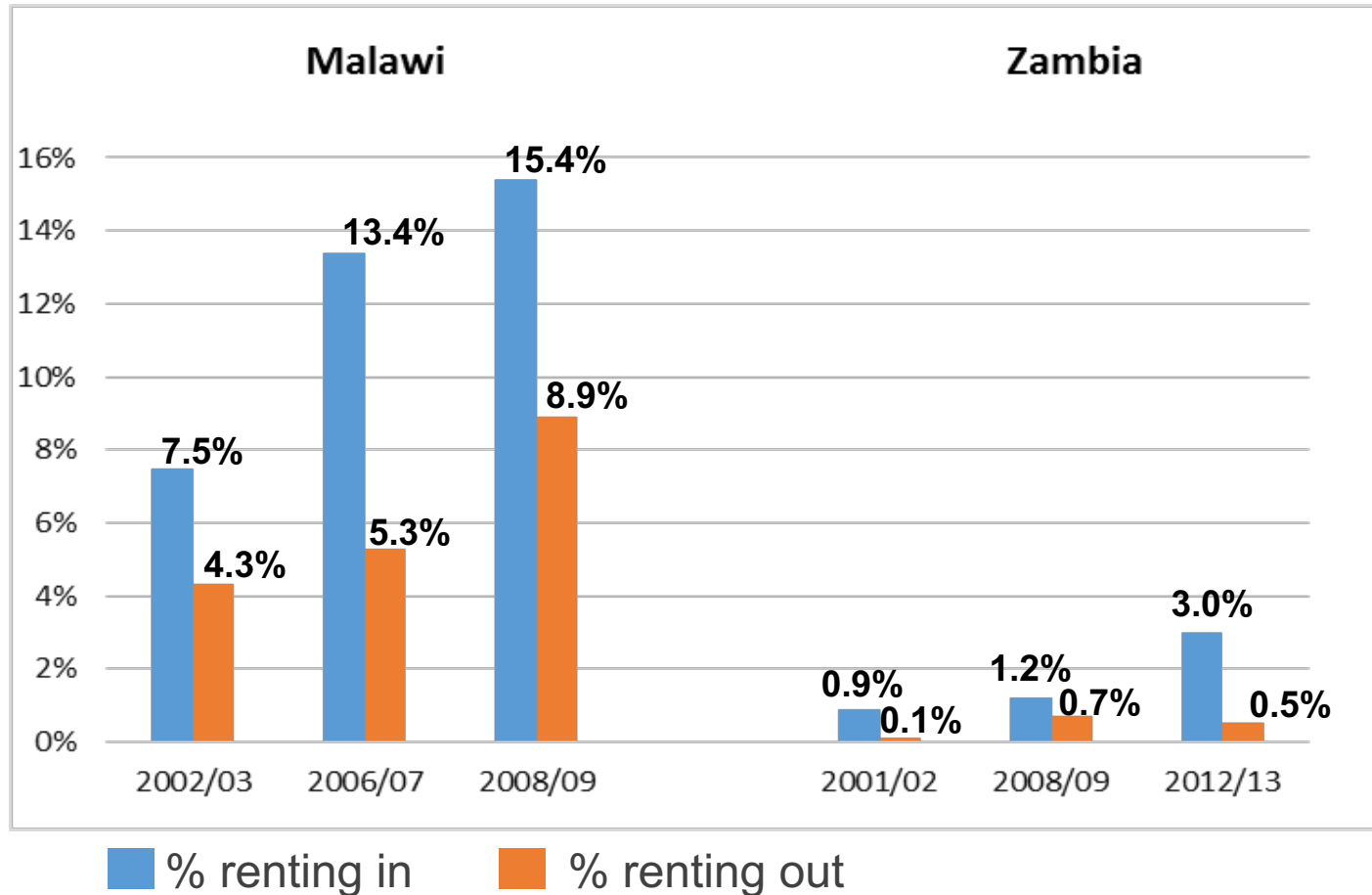
POLICY QUESTIONS RAISED BY EMERGENCE OF MS FARMS:

1. How is the rise of MS farms in Africa affecting
 - national food security
 - employment
2. How is changing farm structure affecting the potential for land expansion within the small-scale farm sector?
 - Does it matter?
 - If so, why

Malawi Farm Structure, (according to IHS-II, 2003/04)

	Landholding Size				Total
	0–2 ha	2.001–5 ha	5.001–10 ha	>10 ha	
# of farms	2,355,461	217,757	18,446	10,230	2,601,893
% of total # of farms	90.53%	8.37%	0.71%	0.39%	100%
Area cultivated (ha)	1,496,465	567,556	113,241.6	776,407.6	2,953,670
Total landholdings (ha)	1,693,828	619,700.7	116,838.7	897,553.8	3,327,921
Mean farm size (ha)	0.72	2.85	6.33	87.74	1.28
Mean ratio of land cultivated:land owned	0.86	0.92	0.97	0.87	0.89
% of total landholdings	50.9-0%	18.6%	3.5%	27.0%	100%
% of total cultivated land	50.7%	19.2%	3.8%	26.3%	100%

What we know: Rental status of the samples in Malawi and Zambia



Most arrangements are up front cash rentals.

FOUR EMERGING TRENDS

1. Rising rural populations in Africa till at least 2050 → increasing land scarcity
2. Rising land prices and “commodification” of land
 - May encourage intensification, consolidation, productivity growth depending on land tenure right and behaviors of govt and traditional authorities
3. Conversion of land from customary to statutory land
4. Important changes in farmland ownership
 - Rising share of agricultural land under medium-scale farms
 - Driven by “emergent investor” farmers
 - Urban-based households own a rising share of national arable land