Malawi and the Green Revolution History
1950-1980: Adequate rain, no serious shortages

- 1949: First famine since 1926
- 1953: Riots and protests bring an end to “thangata” (sharecropping)
- 1964: Malawi gained independence from Great Britain
- 1980: Decrease in rainfall
Malawi and the Green Revolution History Cont.
1980-present: Food shortages and Green Revolution programs

- 1992: Famine occurs, but information is suppressed by the government
- 1994: President-for-life Hastings Banda removed from office
- 2000: First drought-tolerant maize seeds planted in Malawi
- 2005: Massive drought leads to farm subsidy programs
- 2006: Malawi produces enough maize for national requirements
- 2007: Malawi exports maize
- 2011: Reduced rainfall, gov’t draws on reserves
Benefits

- Seed and fertilizer subsidies - from drought-stricken to net exporter of maize
- Less dependence on external food aid
- Legume seeds used to improve soil
- National production/economic increase
Malawi still Hungry, Negatives of Green Revolution

- Superficial data
- Does not target all farm owners
- Negative ecological effects
- Not sustainable environmentally
- Farmers in debt
- Widens the gap of the rich and the poor
- Ignoring the local regions
- Overspending
  - Misallocating spending

Lessons for the Future

- Malawi’s agricultural experiment is still a work in progress
- Governments must actively invest in their people (subsidies, maize reserves, etc)
- National success ≠ people eating at the domestic level
- Positive agricultural development requires diversified social investments
- Greater long-term harms of deforestation
Resources

- http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?sid=f7bc26b8-774c-4864-bc53-0e3bb1fefdd2%40sessionmgr4003&vid=1&hid=4105&bdata=JkF1dGhUeXBlPWNvb2tpZSzxc28saXAsdWlkJnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%3d#AN=36614364&db=bth
- http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=13&sid=070e5bc0-f2f9-4026-9a39-c2304d1c6f89%40sessionmgr110&hid=120