

Integrating sustainable phosphorus management into urban decision-making and planning

Blantyre workshop

Centre for Water, Sanitation, Health and Appropriate Technology Development (WASHTED)

University of Malawi – The Polytechnic

9th February 2015



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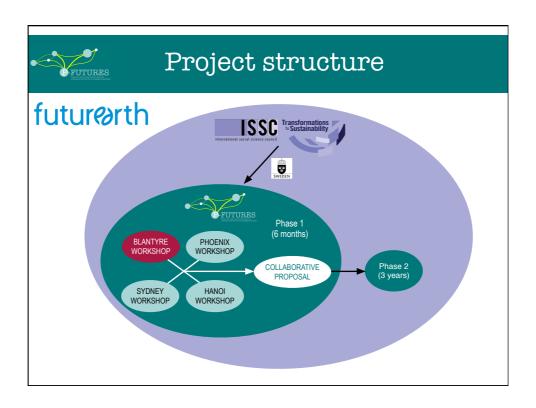




Overarching Project Goals

Together figure out what do we need to do to build sustainable cities in terms of food, water & waste in a rapidly change world

- Facilitate cities in transforming how they govern phosphorus, taking into consideration the unique local context, synergies with other local sustainability goals, and global phosphorus security goals.
- Co-develop a sustainable urban phosphorus framework with our partner cities (Blantyre, Phoenix, Hanoi and Sydney)
- Guide transformation towards phosphorus sustainability through building capacity and small-scale projects.





Workshop objectives

Specific objectives for this workshop are to:

- Explore risks and vulnerabilities for Blantyre to the global phosphorus challenge (such as fertilizer price spikes, algal blooms, growing food demand, inefficient sanitation infrastructure, etc.)
- Explore opportunities for Blantyre to effectively adapt to such challenges, taking into account Blantyre's future visions and existing plans.
- Contribute to shaping the research agenda for a larger three-year project in all four cities (Blantyre and other three cities) to develop tools to transform the way cities manage phosphorus





Activity

What would be your P-FUTURES slogan?

E.g.

P-FUTURES:

Solid waste management transforms lives Silver water, golden maize











Phosphorus

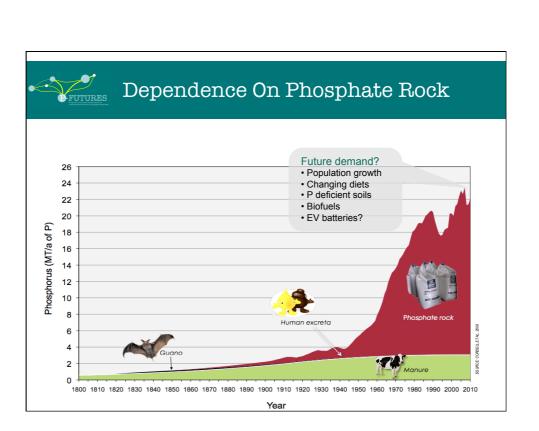
Essential to all living organisms (plants, animals, bacteria)

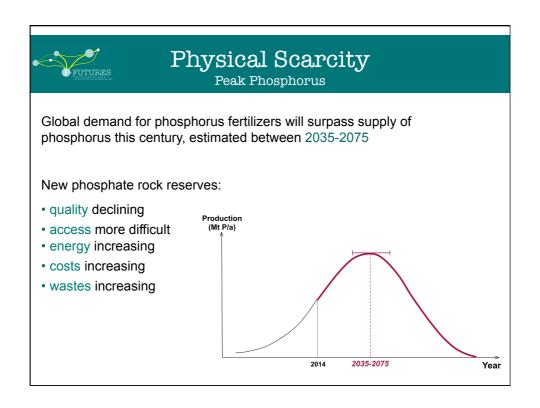
No substitute in food production, cannot be 'manufactured'

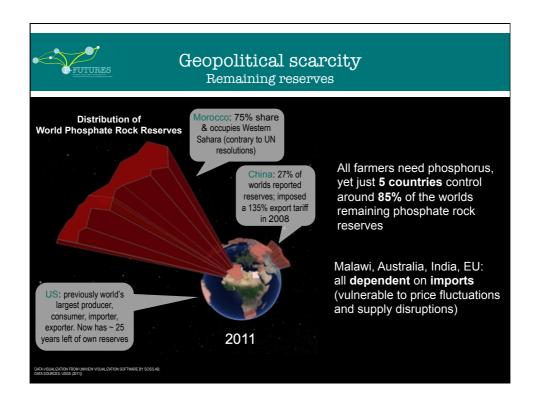
Chemical fertilizers (N,P,K) have contributed to feeding billions by boosting crop yields

Modern agriculture dependent on phosphate rock – non-renewable, high quality reserves becoming scarce

2008 phosphate price spike: US\$50/tonne to US\$430/tonne









Economic scarcity Lack of access to phosphorus

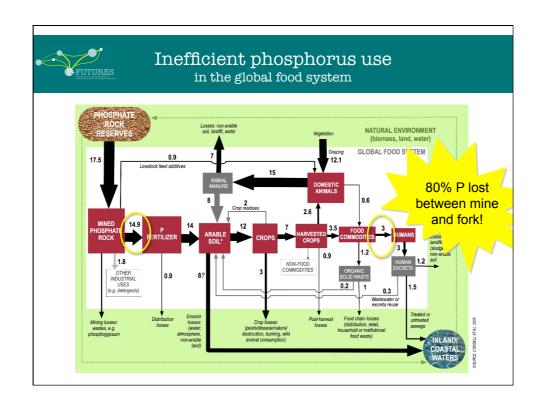
Farmers need both short- and long-term access to fertilizers

Almost a billion farmers lack purchasing power to access fertilizer markets

'Silent' demand from farmers with low purchasing power in sub-Saharan Africa, where soil fertility is low & food insecurity









The Global Challenge Too much

- Losses can cause aquatic pollution in lakes and coastal areas
- Algal blooms caused by too much P can pollute drinking water and be toxic to humans
- Loss of oxygen from algal blooms can destroy fisheries and negative affect recreation and amenities





Losses from many sources Concentrated and diffuse

Losses of phosphorus that cause problems can come from:

- · Runoff and erosion from fields, gardens, and lawns
- Sewage that is not properly treated
- · Animal manure if it is not properly contained
- Detergents and other products that are in urban water





Lack of effective P governance

There are currently no international or national policies, guidelines or organisations responsible for ensuring long-term availability and accessibility of phosphorus for food production







Phosphorus Vulnerability

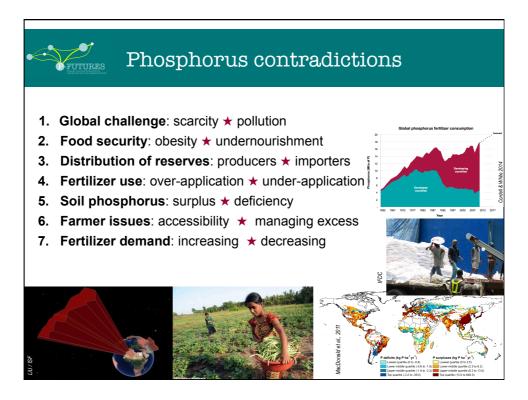
All counties are exposed to the same global phosphorus drivers (e.g. fertilizer price spikes)

But how we cope or respond depends on our capacity to adapt and transform and local conditions (e.g. access to resources like fertilizer subsidies or information, soil fertility, state of infrastructure)

What works in one region may be **inappropriate** and **ineffective** in another region.

In what ways is Blantyre, Hanoi, USA or Australia most vulnerable to P scarcity?







The Future

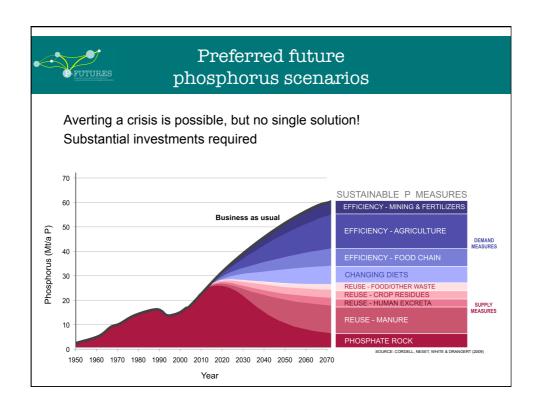
Hard landing vs soft landing

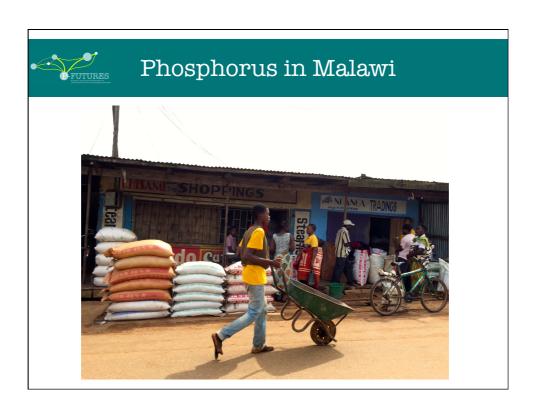
Business-as-usual future:

If we don't change current phosphorus use trajectory, we are heading for a hard landing: increasing energy, costs and waste, volatile prices, geopolitical tensions, reduced farmer access to fertilizers and reduced crop yields, food insecurity and pollution

Sustainable future (a soft landing):

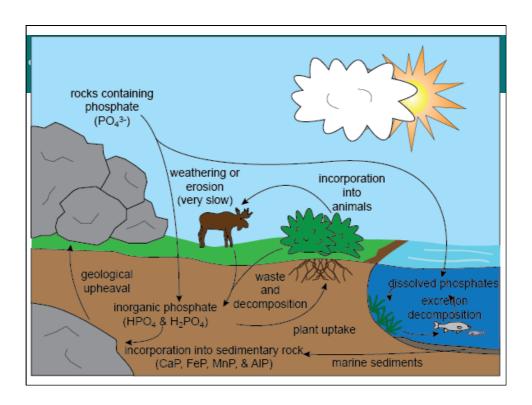
Phosphorus security ensures all farmers have short- and longterm access to sufficient phosphorus to grow enough crops to feed to world, while ensuring waters are clean and societal functioning





Typical phosphorus sources in Malawi

- Phosphate inorganic fertilizers,
- · Organic fertilizers _ animal waste,
- Organic fertilizers _ vegetative waste,
- · Apatite rock in Tundulu hill,
- Phosphatic soil environments,
- Faecal sludge {human waste},

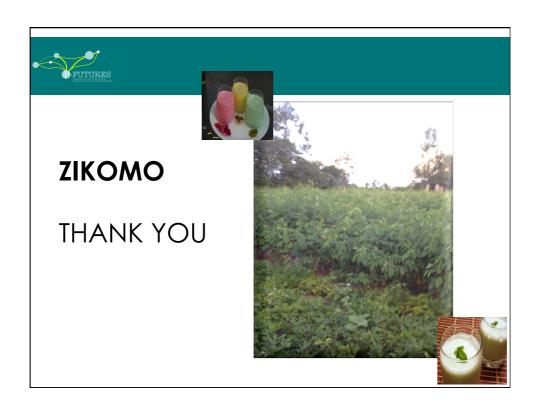


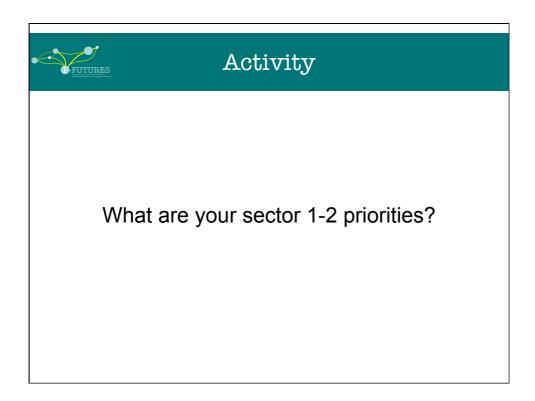


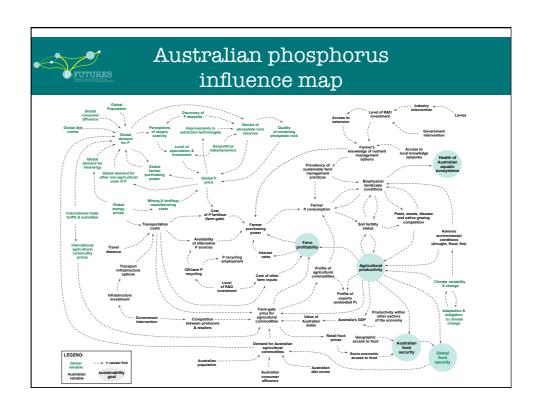
- Waterborne sanitation systems _ P in fs,
- Onsite sanitation _ P in fs: leaching,
- · Livestock droppings: leaching, burning,
- Vegetative waste: P losses on burning,
- Inorganic fert.,: Overdose _ leaching,
- Animal feed _ e.g. P losses in fish feed.

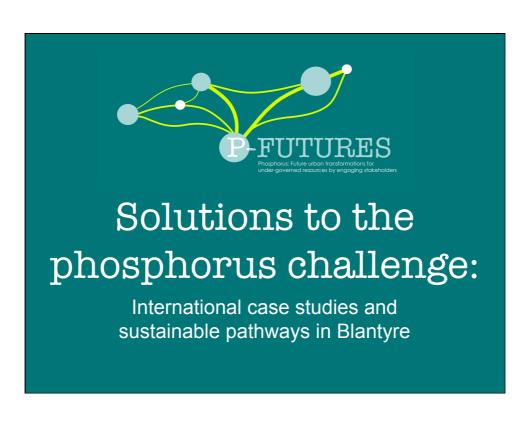
Some thoughts on *Phosphorus* in Malawi

- · Regulatory framework, KAP in Malawi,
- Horticultural practices management vis-à-vis the P natural balance,
- Livestock management practices vis-à-vis phosphorus balance,
- P balance, SD & social security,
- Sanitation management & P recovery,











Phosphorus use efficiency in agriculture $_{\mbox{\scriptsize Decreasing phosphorus losses}}$ to waterways







Preventing algal blooms - fertilizer application guidelines CHINA



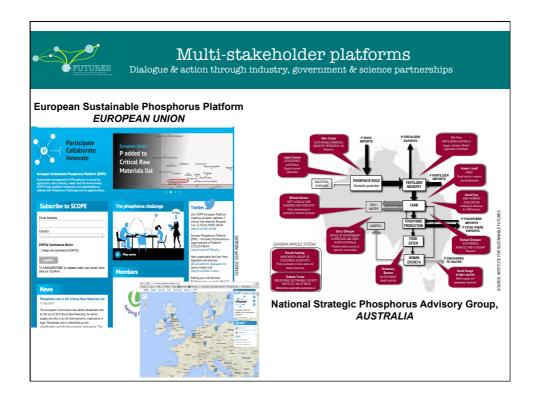
Phosphorus recovery from wastewater Increasing acceptance and use of urine-diversion toilets



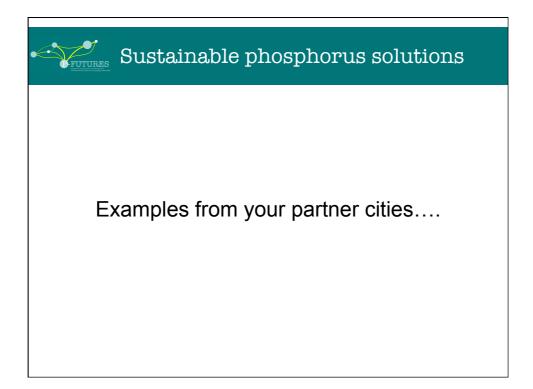


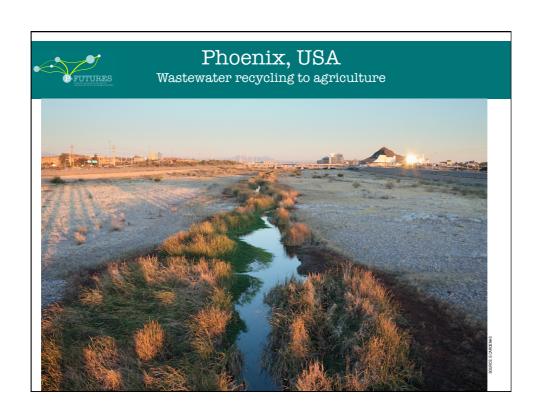
Household delivered urine and fertilizer production SOUTH AFRICA



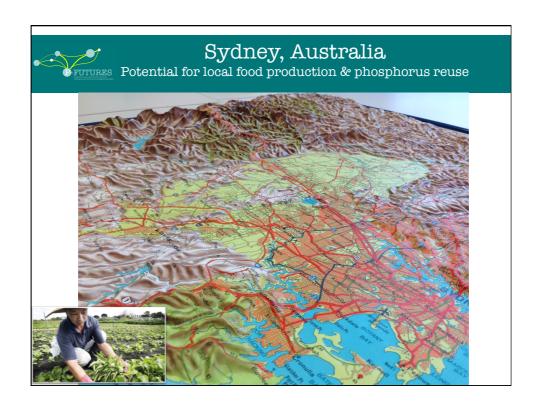














Transforming Blantyre

If there's one big sustainable P initiative you could see in Blantyre, what would it be?

Or what are the existing solutions that are already happening on the ground?



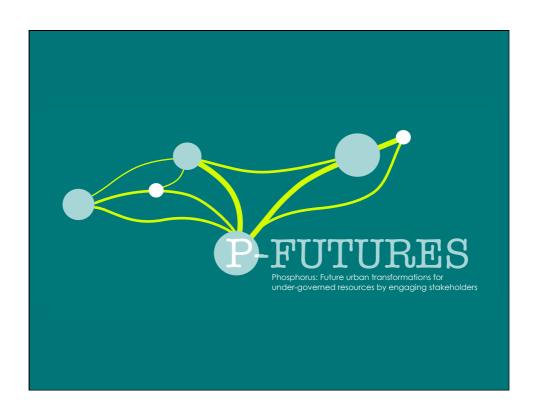


Transformative change

Principles for transformative change:

- Significant changes with big implications
- Real lasting change (persistent change)
- Affects multiple scales (household > global)
- Cross-sectorial
- Equitable (sustainable)

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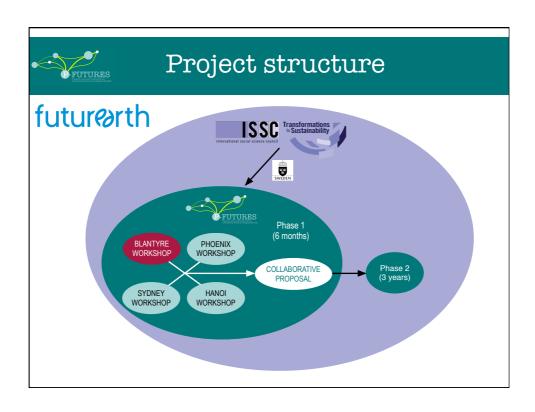


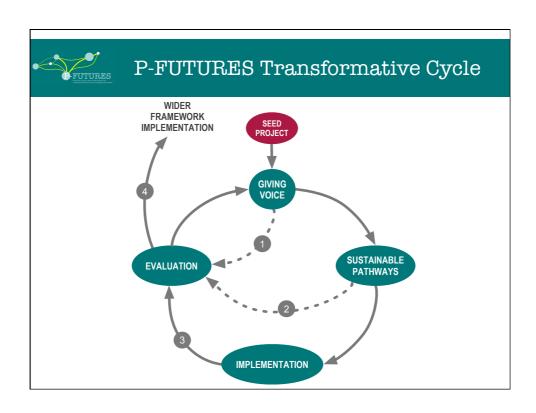


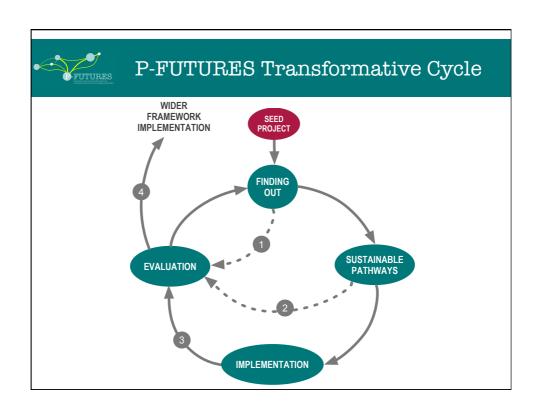


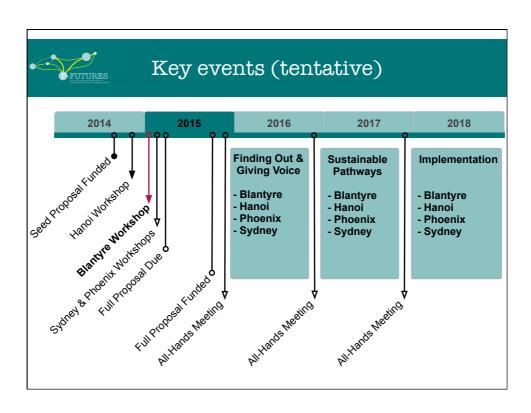
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P-FUTURES: Blantyre

How can this 3 year project help us reach our goals?

What are the types of activities, projects or tools?

Who else should be involved?

How do we want to interact with our partner cities?

