



## Zambia Social protection week

### “Pro-poor agricultural development: agricultural interventions and the complementary role of social protection”

#### One-day seminar

Zambia’s agricultural sector is a major contributor to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) and plays an overwhelming role as the main provider of employment in the country. As of 2013 the sector contributed up to a fifth of the Zambia’s GDP and provided livelihoods for over 70 percent of the population, being the main source of income and employment for rural households (MoAL, 2013). It is for this reason that it is recognized in the country’s Revised Sixth National Development Plan (R-SNDP) as “a strategic area of focus in promoting economic growth, reducing poverty and creating employment” (MoF, 2013, p. 65).

However, despite substantive spending - an average of just over 9 percent of total government expenditure on the agricultural sector between 2000 and 2010 - as of 2010, poverty levels remain extremely high at around 61 percent, with poverty primarily located in rural areas where the poverty level was around 78 percent. Extreme poverty is concentrated among poor small family farmers at 83% (UN Joint Programme on Social Protection, 2015). The depth of poverty is also very high, with extreme poverty at 42 percent in 2010 (MoF, 2013, p. 12). In addition to high poverty levels there has also been a worrying trend of increasing income-related inequality since the early 2000s, the country now having one of the highest levels of inequality in the world, with a Gini Index of 57.5 in 2013 (World Bank).

A wide range of factors constrain livelihood improvements in rural Zambia. These include the overwhelming emphasis on low-profit maize production, poor access to markets, low access to finance and modern farm inputs, poor infrastructure, underfunded research and extension and a high dependence on rain-fed agriculture (MoAL, 2013; MoF, 2013). These agriculture-related challenges are further compounded by a range of other social challenges facing the country, including high levels of HIV/AIDS, high morbidity and mortality rates, poor access to water and sanitation and weak educational outcomes (MoF, 2013).

It is well accepted that supporting the development of small family farmers requires agricultural interventions. When adequately designed and targeted these can address structural constraints that limit access to land and water resources, inputs, financial services, advisory services and markets. Emerging evidences point to a somewhat innovative approach - complementing these agricultural interventions with social protection. Social protection interventions provide liquidity and certainty for poor small family farmers, thereby allowing them to exploit the opportunities offered by agricultural interventions by enabling them to invest more in agriculture, to re-allocate labour to on-farm activities, to foster human capital development, to increase participation in social networks - an important source of informal risk management - and to better manage risks, all which may contribute to their engagement in more profitable livelihoods and agricultural activities.

The objective of the one-day seminar is to explore options for supporting pro-poor agricultural development by establishing stronger complementarities between agriculture and social protection in Zambia. This will be based on an assessment of the current state of smallholder development and innovative practices for supporting this. The event will include participation by Government agencies, civil society organizations, research institutions and development partners involved in supporting smallholder agricultural development in Zambia.

## Agenda

Time	Session description	Presentation and presenters
8:30 to 9:00	Registration	
9:00 to 9:30	Welcome, background and objectives	Welcome statement and objectives of the day, George Okech, FAO Representative
9:30 to 11:00	<p><b>Session 1. Agriculture and smallholder development in Zambia: where do we stand?</b></p> <p>This session will provide an overview of the state of smallholder agriculture in Zambia and the main policy and programmes contributing or intended to contribute to smallholder development.</p> <p>Chair: Stephen Tembo, Ruralnet</p>	<p><i>The role of the National Agricultural Policy in supporting smallholder development</i> (20 mins), TBC Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p><i>What are agricultural subsidies (FISP, FSR and FSP) doing for smallholder agriculture?</i> (20 mins), Chewe Nkonde, University of Zambia</p> <p><i>An unexpected player in smallholder development: the social cash transfer programme and its impacts on agriculture</i> (20 mins), David Seidenfeld, American Institutes for Research</p> <p>Discussion: 30 mins</p>
11:00 to 11:30	Coffee break	
	<p><b>Session 2. Options for stimulating productive inclusion of smallholders</b></p> <p>This session will review experiences of smallholder agricultural interventions and the complementary support offered by social protection interventions.</p> <p>Chair: Gelson Tembo, University of Zambia</p>	<p><i>Complementing agricultural interventions with cash transfers: cases of Lesotho, Malawi, and Zambia</i> (20 mins) Ervin Prifti, FAO HQ</p> <p><i>Supporting smallholder market participation through Zambia's Home Grown School Feeding programme</i> (20 mins) Edna Kalaluka, WFP Zambia</p> <p><i>Insuring the uninsured: options for extending social insurance to agricultural labourers and expected productive impacts</i> (20 mins) Patrick Chabwe, National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA)</p> <p>Discussion: 30 mins</p>

13:00 to 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 to 15:00	<p><b>Session 3. How to move ahead in supporting smallholder development</b></p> <p>Based on the morning's discussions, in this session participants will identify options for supporting smallholder agricultural development.</p>	<p>Working Group A: <i>How to make existing agricultural interventions more supportive of smallholders?</i></p> <p>Working Group B: <i>What options are there for complementing agricultural interventions with social cash transfers?</i></p> <p>Working Group C: <i>How to extend social insurance to informal agricultural labourers?</i></p> <p>Parallel sessions of 1 hour</p>
15:00 to 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 to 17:00	<p>Session 3 (continued). <b>How to move ahead in supporting smallholder development</b></p> <p>Chair: Marco Knowles/Gregory Chilufya, FAO</p>	<p>Group presentations, each of 10 mins.</p> <p>Discussant comments: MoA/MoFL TBC (10 mins); MCDSW TBC (10 mins)</p> <p>Discussion: 30 mins</p>