



Zambia and FAO

Partnering for improved livelihoods and climate change mitigation

Since Zambia joined FAO in 1965, cooperation has focused on the provision of technical assistance across the country's agriculture sector, including rural development. Cooperation has been in line with the country's successive national frameworks, including most recently the 7th National Development Plan, aimed at achieving the Vision 2030 objective of transforming Zambia into a middle-income country by 2030.



Established in 1978, the FAO Representation in Zambia is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Capacity building for sustainable forest use

The Forest Farm Facility (FFF) programme was piloted in Zambia in 2015, with field operations carried out in two districts and some activities implemented at a national scale.

During its implementation, the programme supported the Government in developing a charcoal regulation that recognizes the roles of producer groups in the management of the charcoal value chain. To ensure dialogue among smallholder forest producer groups, the FFF facilitated the formation of the National Forest Commodities Association.

With funding channelled to the Forest Department, the programme facilitated the establishment of ten producer organizations in hot spots of charcoal production in Choma district. This led to the formation of a District Charcoal Association for Sustainable Charcoal Production.

Matching FAO's expertise to Zambia's development priorities

FAO assistance in Zambia is shaped by the 2017-2021 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centred on four priority areas.

- Improve production and productivity of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry
- Sustainable management of the natural resource base and increasing resilience and Uptake of Climate Smart Agriculture
- Enhance food security and nutrition status
- Improved market access and sanitary measures

Jointly developed with the Government and other development partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the National Agriculture Investment Plan, the Second National Agriculture Policy and the national Policy on Climate Change. The CPF is fully aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework for Zambia.

To give honey producers a voice in matters concerning the honey value chain, a specific platform was set up in Mwinilunga district. Over 30 smallholder producer groups received training in Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) for improved smallholder business development and livelihoods improvement. Seven small grants were allocated to smallholder producers for improving their business following the MA&D training.

The Forest Farm Facility (FFF) is a multi-donor funded partnership between, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and (FAO). It is guided by a steering committee whose members are affiliated to indigenous peoples, community and smallholder producer organizations, the financial sector, research, government and civil society.

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Scaling up conservation agriculture

Introducing a successful e-voucher and monitoring system

A project known as Conservation Agriculture Scaling-Up (CASU) was implemented from 2013 to 2017 in nine provinces of Zambia. A total of 48 districts benefited from the project, the ultimate purpose of which was to reduce hunger and improve food security, nutrition and income, while promoting the sustainable use of natural resources.

Practices based on conservation agriculture (CA) were promoted among 300 000 farmers, corresponding to at least 16 percent of the all smallholder farmers in Zambia. CA technologies were cascaded from Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) staff down through a farmer-to-farmer training model. By 2017, areas under legume cultivation had increased by more than 40 percent (from 0.63 to 0.9 ha per farmer) and agro-forestry species had been planted by about 1 500 farmers raising *Faidherbia Albida* in nurseries to support at least 25 farmers each.

In addition, a partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) has helped increase private-sector engagement in providing market linkages for farmers. An important project development was the Farmer Input Management Voucher System (FIVMS), which was set up to facilitate farmers' access to quality inputs and services using electronic vouchers. The system furthermore enables the real-time monitoring of farmers' activities and collection of inputs. It also facilitates reconciliations and payments to agro-dealers and suppliers.

Designed with multiple interfaces for extension officers, suppliers and agro-dealers, FIVMS has the capacity to store data and generate a wide range of reports. Over the three years of implementation of the CASU e-voucher model, the system proved successful 90 percent of the time. An online catalogue of agricultural inputs has enabled farmers to make informed choices and select quality inputs, including seeds, legumes, fertilizers, herbicides, equipment, credit, weather index insurance, transport and mechanization services.

The FIVMS and the CASU e-voucher model have successfully addressed many of the challenges usually encountered in distributing inputs to smallholders, thus leading the Government of Zambia to leverage the system as the backbone for the implementation of its subsidy programme, i.e. the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). The system has now been migrated to the Ministry of Agriculture as the "Zambia Integrated Agriculture Management Information System" (ZIAMIS) and the project has built capacity of Government staff and the private sector to facilitate its smooth adoption.

Project implemented by FAO in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Funded by the European Union (EU).

Building resilience through climate-smart agriculture

In 2012, with technical support from the FAO team in Zambia and the Economics and Policy Innovations for Climate-Smart Agriculture (EPIC) Programme, the Government developed a project to support its national priority of building the agriculture sector's resilience to climate change. One of the key achievements to date is the harmonization of the National Agricultural Policy and the Climate Change Policy.

In addition, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) components have acquired a prominent role in key policy documents related to climate change, such as the Zambia REDD+ Strategy (2015), Zambia's Nationally Intended Contribution (2016) plan, and the draft Implementation Plan for Seventh National Development Plan.

A strategic framework and a set of proposals for actions to upscale CSA in the country is nearing completion, and the accompanying investment plan has been initiated. Support has been provided to the NGO-led Zambia

Climate Smart Alliance in developing its capacity to plan and implement CSA practices, with CSA adaptation measures increasingly being tested at field level. In addition, the capacity of Zambian experts and institutions in Climate Downscaling and Crop Simulation Models is being developed. Using the historical climate data for Zambia, the Modelling System for Agricultural Impacts of Climate Change (MOSAIC) allows assessing the impact of climate change on agriculture. The crop simulations of the phenomenological behaviour of existing key food and cash crops in Zambia is then subjected to future climate scenarios to assess the potential effects of a changing climate on their growth and production potential.

"Agricultural practices must be adapted to preserve the environment and mitigate climate change."

FAO Director-General

