



INITIATIVE ON  
Diversification in East  
and Southern Africa

## Zambia National Policy Dialogue Summary Report 18 August 2022 Lusaka, Zambia



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The [CGIAR Initiative on Diversification in East and Southern Africa](#) aims to help smallholders transition to sustainably intensified, diversified, and derisked agri-food systems based on maize in 12 ESA countries. Specifically, it seeks to enable 50,000 value chain actors, including farmers (at least 40% women, 40% youth), to adopt climate-smart maize-based intensification and diversification practices and one million to access digital agro-advisory services. Emphasizing the role of the private sector in driving such transformation, UU targets to support at least 30 start-ups and SMEs.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

ACF	Agricultural Consultative Forum
AFRICAP	Agricultural and Food Systems Resilience: Increasing Capacity & Advising Policy
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
FANRPAN	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network
iFEED	Integrated Future Estimator for Emissions and Diets
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NASFA	National Association for Small Scale Farmers
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SNAP	Second National Agricultural Policy
UU	Ukama Ustawi
YEFI	Young Emerging Farmers Initiative

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change is jeopardizing agricultural production and livelihoods in East and Southern Africa (ESA). Production worth more than US\$45 billion is at risk due to regional temperature rises and increasingly erratic rainfall, as well as frequent weather extremes. Maize production in Zambia is particularly affected, with serious implications for the economy and society considering maize feeds most of the Zambian population and employs more than 50 percent of Zambians classified as extremely poor, and over 90 percent of smallholders. The threat to food and income security is exacerbated by the widespread lack of access to stress-tolerant seed varieties, inputs, loans, technologies, and markets. Diversifying maize farming into maize-mixed systems and developing the private sector and the agricultural value chain in Zambia could potentially help address these problems. These paths could simultaneously improve the overall nutritional status and health of the population and unlock trade opportunities in the region.

To address the knowledge and coordination gaps related to these problems and foster an enabling policy and investment environment, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), together with the Agriculture Consultative Forum (ACF) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) hosted its first National Policy Dialogue at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia, on 18 August 2022. The Dialogue is part of the CGIAR initiative on Diversification in East and Southern Africa, launched by CGIAR (including IWMI, CIAT, CIMMYT, ILRI, IFPRI, IITA, and WorldFish) in March 2022. The initiative also called Ukama Ustawi (UU) seeks to address food and nutrition security challenges arising from intensive reliance on maize, in a climate-resilient, water-secure, and socially inclusive way. UU operates in 12 ESA countries: Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It seeks to enable 50,000 value chain actors, including farmers (40 percent women, 40 percent youth), to adopt climate-smart maize-based intensification and diversification and to benefit one million people through access to digital agro-advisory services. Emphasizing the role of the private sector in driving such transformation, UU aims to support at least 30 start-ups and SMEs. This initiative will run for three years until 2025, with a potential extension until 2030.

The Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Reuben Mtoro Phiri, opened the Dialogue and underlined the need for collaborative efforts for agricultural transformation taking into account climate change. He called on the Dialogue participants to embark on climate-smart agriculture innovations to attain food and nutrition security in Zambia. He welcomed the UU initiative as it would complement the government's efforts to promote smallholder agriculture in the country.

In his welcoming remarks, the ACF's board chairperson also emphasized the need for concerted efforts to address the effects of climate change. He informed the audience that ACF's policy deliberations provide evidence for key policy-making decisions in Zambia. The inaugural talks were followed by lightning presentations by CGIAR-affiliated researchers and a panel discussion that provided Zambian policy actors with an opportunity to give feedback on the presentations. The panel included representatives from the government, the private sector, and youth in agribusinesses. This was followed by a presentation of a report on a stakeholder and policy mapping of the status of Zambia's agricultural and food systems-related policies, which provided the basis and context for group discussions. These discussions were finally followed by local initiatives showcasing their sustainable

agribusinesses and closing remarks by Dialogue conveners. Overall, the Dialogue brought together 95 stakeholders (online and offline), including researchers, private sector representatives, civil society organisations, government agencies, donors, and the media to discuss how Zambia's agricultural and economic policies, strategies, and programmes could be better designed to enable diversification for resilient agri-food systems.

The Dialogue participants reached the following key conclusions:

- **Zambian agriculture, particularly maize production, is severely impacted by climate change.** There is consequently a need for diversification to identify crops that can succeed under these conditions and for stakeholder collaboration to tailor enabling agricultural policies and programmes.
- **Many policies, plans, and strategies look good on paper, but are often poorly implemented in practice.** One significant reason is inadequate financing and staffing. The lack of resources is also behind inadequate infrastructure and a shortage of essential resources such as housing for field staff, especially at the sub-district level and border points, office accommodation and equipment, laboratory equipment, motor vehicles, and motorcycles. Funding often comes sporadically. Another important reason is the limited collaboration between the line ministries and non-state actors in programme implementation.
- **The enabling environment is still weak.** There are rules, laws, and regulations in place to guide policy implementation. Where gaps exist, the government can enact specific laws and deploy statutory instruments to support implementation. Parliament has the power to legislate agriculture-specific laws. Through the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources, Parliament consults experts and stakeholders and gathers evidence to support any proposed legislation on agriculture. The Dialogue participants, however, noted that some laws are outdated and require repeal and replacement in line with relevant contemporary trends in the sector. These include the Plant Breeders' Act No. 18 of 2007, the Fertilizer and Feed Act No. 13 of 1994, and the Agricultural Land Act No. 12 of 1995. Furthermore, the participants identified a wide range of necessary policies, laws, regulations, and updates for the envisioned agricultural development.
- **Coordination between policy-implementing government bodies is weak.** The Zambian government has developed progressive policies, plans, and strategies to guide agricultural development in the country. It designed frameworks for inter-ministerial coordination through the cluster model introduced under the Seventh National Development Plan. However, there is a weak interface between complementary policies and government bodies, resulting in incoherent policy implementation. Also, policy implementation and coordination mechanisms among development partners, such as donors, and other players are fragmented. Finally, coordination at subnational levels has been constrained by underfunding, and this has led to a failure by public and private sector players to interact regularly.

## 2. The Dialogue Opening

The Dialogue was divided into five sessions (opening remarks, presentations, group discussions, showcasing local initiatives, and closing remarks). The host, Thembi Mwamakamba from FANRPAN, started proceedings, with opening remarks from various speakers.

### 2.1. Welcome Remarks by James Kasongo, ACF Zambia Board Chairperson

Mr. James Kasongo, the board chairperson of the ACF, informed participants that the ACF is an innovative public sector platform that provides an opportunity for dialogue and consultation on government agricultural policies in Zambia and the region. He said the purpose of the Policy Dialogue was to present the ESA policy hub to stakeholders in Zambia, disseminate and validate findings for stakeholder and policy mapping, and to discuss emerging issues related to the agri-food system and its diversification. He added that the Policy Dialogue would also serve as a validation platform for the policy study undertaken by FANRPAN to understand the status of Zambia's agriculture and food policies. He pointed out that the Dialogue brought together the government, research communities, civil society, private sector, farmers, youths and women's organisations, as well as the media to collaborate and jointly work towards a sustainable, intensified and diversified policy in Zambia. He also provided a brief background of the ACF and its work. Before he concluded, he thanked the corporate partners and sponsors, particularly CGIAR for providing funds for the event. Welcome remarks of Mr. James Kasongo can be downloaded [here](#).

### 2.2. Ukama Ustawi overview presentation by Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata, UU lead and country representative, IWMI Southern Africa

When introducing Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata, The host rightly said the UU lead and country representative for IWMI Southern Africa is "someone who lives, breathes, sleeps and dreams UU." She started her presentation with a short and informative video on the initiative. She then asked Dr. David Chikoye, Regional Director for IITA and CGIAR country convenor for Zambia to explain how all the new projects and initiatives are coming together at a regional level through One CGIAR. He concentrated on the need for a multi-sectoral approach to address current challenges such as climate adaptation and mitigation, poverty reduction, livelihoods, and job creation, nutrition health and food security, environmental health and biodiversity, gender, youth, and social inclusion. The presentation of Dr. David Chikoye can be downloaded [here](#) (Slide no. 5-14).



Dr. Jacobs-Mata started her address by presenting an overview of the initiative. She then emphasized that the next decade is critical to strengthen food, land, and water systems and for collaborating on climate change adaptation in the ESA region. In this context, the burgeoning agribusiness ecosystem in the region can serve as a critical engine. It can also foster gender and youth empowerment in agriculture. Therefore, catalyzing investments and innovations and tailoring an enabling environment can nurture agribusinesses and communities affected by climate impact, driving sustainable growth that benefits all.

The role of Ukama Ustawi (means “wellbeing”) in this context is to support 12 ESA countries in achieving climate-resilient agriculture and livelihoods. It seeks to help millions of smallholders intensify, diversify, and de-risk maize-mixed farming through improved input supply, farming and extension services, private sector development, and investment. Its work is divided into six interconnected work packages which focus on sustainably diversifying and intensifying maize production, assessing needs for introducing crops, livestock, mechanisation, and irrigation; applying innovations in farming, markets, and diets; and building capacity and scaling through training and research for development. Some packages seek de-risking and digitalising value chains through delivering innovative bundles of digital agro-advisory systems and information technologies, including mobile applications, TV programmes, and social media to connect farmers to markets and improve farming. The Dialogue is part of Work Package 4: Govern and enable shared vision, cascaded targets, coordination, and implementation to help achieve the broader initiative objectives in Zambia. UU will help countries transition agriculture by emphasising “science solutions for the region by the region.”

Additionally, UU relies on various partners and networks like FANRPAN, ASARECA, CCARDESA, PAN African, and GIZ Scaling Taskforce to develop a joint work plan to ensure the UU initiative has broad coverage. Dr. Jacobs-Mata concluded her presentation by highlighting that to allow diverse regional partners to collaborate, UU has designated four interconnected platforms: a scaling hub, a policy hub, an accelerator programme, and a monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) platform. These platforms are crosscutting and inclusive (through civil society participation) and strive to foster knowledge-sharing and collaboration among their participants. She further informed the Dialogue that the initiative aims to unlock access to funding, investment, and technical assistance: by opening doors to capital from financiers in support of innovative environmental and social enterprises and providing tailored technical assistance to agribusiness. The presentation of Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata can be downloaded [here](#) (slide no. 15-37).

### **2.3. Welcome Address by the Minister of Agriculture**

Honorable Reuben Mtolo Phiri, the Minister of Agriculture, welcomed the Ukama Ustawi initiative in



Zambia, highlighting that this initiative is well aligned with Zambia’s economic and sectoral policy interests. The minister noted that Zambia, like most countries in ESA, is highly vulnerable to climate change and that the country experiences weather variability and climate change-induced hazards, such as heat waves, intense droughts, and floods. He said, “some of these hazards have increased in frequency and intensity over the past few decades and have adversely impacted food security, water security, and quality, energy, and the livelihoods of people, especially in rural communities.” He emphasized smallholder farmers’ concerns that the extreme weather events pose a significant threat to food security as the shifting planting cycles (e.g., driven by delayed onset and early cessation of rains) make it difficult for farmers to plan for the cultivation season.

This shows that a transformative agricultural system is crucial in this sector. The Hon. Minister shared that the Ministry of Agriculture developed a framework for conservation agriculture, which is set to improve the implementation of the Second National Agriculture Policy (SNAP) to achieve sustainable agriculture while increasing incomes and improving food and nutritional status. He called upon all government ministers, departments and agencies, the private sector, civil society organisations, farmers’ organisations, and other stakeholders to promote climate-smart agriculture by deploying



stress-tolerant seed varieties, sustainable soil and irrigation management, mechanisation, and digitised advisory services and to contribute to improving the enabling policy environment in Zambia. He expressed his gratitude and joy in knowing that UU will support the Zambian government in this regard. The address of Honorable Reuben Mtolo Phiri can be downloaded [here](#).

### **3. Lightning Presentations and Q&A Plenary**

#### **3.1. Lightning Presentations**

Participants from the University of Leeds, IWMI, and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) presented diverse projects aligned with the objectives of Ukama Ustawi. Dr. Rebecca Sarku from the AFRICAP programme (Agricultural and Food System Resilience: Increasing Capacity and Advising Policy) at the University of Leeds, emphasized this alignment. One of the projects she is working on, ClimBer: Building Systematic Resilience against Climate Variability and Extremes, aims to sustainably transform food, water, and land systems in Asia and Africa and strengthen the adaptation responses of smallholder farmers to climate shocks and stresses. ClimBeR uses a new integrated assessment tool for climate-smart nutrition security called the Integrated Future Estimator for Emissions and Diets (iFEED). iFEED is a tool that examines climate risks and opportunities under different possible climate futures and guides agricultural policymaking in Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. She shared one of the underlying findings from her work that the maize yield is projected to decrease quicker than other crops due to climate impact. Dr. Sarku called for stakeholders to collaborate on an evidence-based groundwork for results-oriented real-life progress in Zambia. The presentation of Dr. Rebecca Sarku can be downloaded [here](#) (Slide no. 38-48).

Dr. Chris Dickens from IWMI Sri Lanka, presented his work as part of Ukama Ustawi on target-setting in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Because SDGs themselves generally do not set targets, especially for natural resources, he stressed that it is crucial for each country to set its own national targets guided by the global level ambitions, but considering the national circumstances. He then suggested a clear path by firstly describing the vision for the country, being clear on management objectives for the natural resources, choosing indicators that best describe these objectives, and then setting benchmarks to manage the system. The presentation of Dr. Chris Dickens can be downloaded [here](#) (Slide no. 49-58).

Mr. Sherwin Gabriel from IFPRI presented part of his work assessing climate and extreme weather risks to agriculture in Zambia. The country is already experiencing adverse effects of climate change such as shifting planting seasons, lower yields, and higher food insecurity. He stressed that the vulnerability in the agricultural sector and economy will increase over time, with southern and western Zambia especially experiencing significantly declining rainfall and increasing temperature by 2050. This vulnerability may lead to food insecurity, shock the economy and lead to unemployment as well as social unrest. Climate change affects roads and other infrastructure that agriculture may, directly and indirectly, depend on. It is not just the direct impact on the agriculture sector that should be considered, but also the spillover effects from other sectors: climate impact on hydropower generation also affects agriculture. He concluded his presentation noting that the National Policy Dialogue helps to engage different stakeholders to share their research and improve understanding policy implementation and the landscape on the ground. The presentation of Mr. Sherwin Gabriel can be downloaded [here](#) (Slide no. 59-65).

### 3.2. Q&A Plenary

The host welcomed policy actors—government, youth, private sector, and farmer representatives—to the floor to respond to questions related to the challenges they experience in their line of work. These actors and their responses to the questions were as follows:

#### **Joy Sinyangwe, Chief Officer, Ministry of Agriculture (Government Representative)**

1. What are the policy priorities for strengthening climate adaptation and sustainable diversification in agriculture?

⇒ *Some of the policies that the government has developed and prioritised to address climate change and build resilience for farmers include the promotion of conservation agriculture, the Second National Agricultural Policy, the climate-smart agriculture investment plan, the climate-smart agriculture framework, and the national agricultural investment plan which addresses issues relating to climate change. The overarching policy that addresses all issues related to climate change is the nationally determined commitments in which sustainable climate-smart agriculture is embedded.*

2. What have been the underlying challenges in achieving/implementing these priorities? Where have the biggest gaps between policy and implementation appeared?

⇒ *Zambia has very good policies that could help the agricultural sector, however, the singular biggest challenge the government faces in implementing them is limited resources.*

3. What is the strategy of the ministry to address these challenges? How successful have these strategies been so far?

⇒ *Due to limited resources, the ministry has been calling on all stakeholders to partner with the government in the implementation of agricultural policies, plans, and strategies with one common goal, which is to see a food-secure nation.*

4. What specific engagement and support from donors, research organisations, the private sector, and other stakeholders, and on what levels, could the ministry benefit to achieve its policy objectives in practice?

⇒ *Initiatives such as the UU initiative complement governments' efforts. Therefore, we are calling on all cooperating partners to come on board and support the government. It may not always be financial aid but any resource such as extension services, development of new technologies that build farmers' resilience to climate change, as well as generating evidence through research for sound decision making.*

#### **Dr. Frank Kayula, CEO, National Association for Small Scale Farmers (Farmer Representative)**

1. What have been the biggest challenges farmers face in agricultural production, specifically for maize, from your perspective? Who are the most affected subgroups?

⇒ *Some of the problems that farmers face include poor access to water (high dependency on rainfed agriculture) even though we have under-utilised artesian water, the soils perform poorly which continuously reduces the levels of production resulting in food insecurity. This poor performance of soils leads to the overuse of inorganic fertilizers which are bad for the environment. Another challenge that farmers face is that they have an average of two hectares of land and the larger part is used for growing maize, it is difficult to diversify on small parcels of land. Farmers face challenges from extreme weather events such as floods and droughts which leave them food*

*insecure. The most affected are smallholder farmers (especially women and youths), especially in the rural areas.*

2. What is the role and approach of your organisation in supporting these affected groups and helping them overcome these challenges?

⇒ *Regarding access to water, we have been linking farmers to suppliers of solar irrigation systems at negotiated prices. We have also been linking farmers to off-takers to have a ready market for their produce. Additionally, we have been raising awareness on diversifying not only crops but also incorporating small livestock whose manure can be used as organic fertilizer for their crops.*

3. Which actors, partnerships, and policy interventions could best help farmers overcome these challenges and improve their production? What could the government do better from your perspective?

⇒ *We need policies that speak to Public-Private-People-Partnerships where the people are represented. The private sector can help build the resource base for the government to help in the implementation of policies. There is an urgent need for government, private institutions, civil society organisations, researchers, and academia to come together to package the new technologies, innovations, and policies that are easy for farmers to understand and adopt.*

#### **Rolf Shenton, Director, Grassroots Trust (Private Sector Representative)**

1. Could you please summarise the activities and goals of your organisation?

⇒ *Grassroots Trust was formed to help communities build the capacity to improve their lives, resources, and economy. This involves working with nature to produce more with less capital and seasonal input with the knowledge and resources people have at hand to become more profitable. One of the main aims is to create solidarity, collaboration, empowerment, and knowledge exchange between progressive movements and communities. Through this network, we aim to exchange knowledge, tools, and insights on how to translate decolonization into practice when transforming or changing institutions and policy. Secondly, to also deal with the question of how to create, sustain and strengthen grassroots and autonomous spaces and initiatives.*

2. Where do you think the strength of the private sector lies to support the achievement of the goals you listed?

⇒ *We see small-scale farmers as land and resource-rich and therefore are part of the private sector. Like successful commercial farm blocks like Mkushi, small-scale farmer's success depends much on their strength of cooperation and plans of collective action, especially in the areas of security, biosecurity, fire, grazing, water and forest management, knowledge sharing, communication, input, aggregation & marketing, value addition, health, roads, health infrastructure and leveraging finance. These are all areas a small-scale farmer cannot manage effectively or efficiently on his or her own. Together small-scale farmers can engage on better terms and develop win-win partnerships with big businesses, NGOs, and the government.*

3. How could the enabling environment (policy and institutional frameworks) be improved to allow you to expand your outreach?

⇒ *Many communities are weak, uncoordinated, and unable to respond to markets, self-governance, commons management, and other challenges. At Grassroots Trust, we see the need for an inclusive and participatory process to (1) imagine and define an ideal future that considers all the social,*

*economic, and environmental factors both short and long term (a holistic context), and then (2) to plan action to ensure that all decisions are heading towards this holistic context. The more external partners from banks, businesses, and government are part of this process, the better the chance of successful implementation. Furthermore, the solution lies in the soil, hence it is imperative to test every decision for policy implementation and concentrate on real issues in terms of maximising agricultural-related profits. There is a need for practical regeneration of policies that will be practical in nature.*

**Nawa Silishebo (Programme Director) and Richard Kachungwe (CEO),  
Young Emerging Farmers Initiative (Youth-in-agribusiness representative)**

1. Could you please summarise the activities and goals of your organisation?

⇒ *To contribute towards the reduction of poverty among 500 youths and women, conserve the environment through building capacity (technical and financial) of the youths in Muchinga, Eastern and Central provinces of Zambia, as Agents of Change in their community and promotion of climate-smart agriculture. Activities involve training youths in areas of sustainable agriculture techniques, livelihood and leadership by engaging relevant stakeholders, establishing and strengthening sustainable enterprise, undertaking panel discussions such as this one and radio shows, and identifying agriculture-suited planting areas, and taking part in the actual planting exercise.*

2. To what extent is the Zambian youth interested in agriculture? (As in many other countries, the youth is one of the biggest sub-populations migrating from rural to urban areas to seek higher education and non-agricultural employment). In what subsectors/fields lie the biggest interest?

⇒ *The youths in Zambia are very interested in agriculture, especially anything related to information and communication technology. Some youths are interested in agribusiness ventures such as the buying and selling of farm produce. Therefore, youths should be provided with resources, they have the capacity to develop information-sharing platforms that farmers can use to access information relating to agriculture, and they are able to do actual farming.*

3. What underlying challenges do the youth encounter in agribusiness and what groups are the most affected?

⇒ *The most affected are the women and youths, especially in rural areas. The challenges faced are the lack of markets that offer a premium price for agricultural produce, poor or no access to responsive financial services tailored towards smallholder farmers especially young people, and the ideas of the youth are not being taken seriously as farmers who can manage viable farming activities, lack of infrastructure development such as storage facilities and lack of information related to agriculture.*

4. How do you think their capacities could be strengthened? What policies and support could the government designate toward this end?

⇒ *Some ways in which they can be capacitated are by having a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system to hold decision-makers accountable, having meaningful implementations of policies, with policies that are backed by resources and robust implementation plans, and the willingness of young people to take part in agriculture-related activities.*

### 3. Policy Scan Group Discussion

Mr. Christian Chomba from the ACF presented a policy scan document, providing an overview of the policy landscape in Zambia. Policies are generated every ten years and are reviewed every five years to identify gaps and changes. The laws and regulations are enacted for the implementation of the formulated policies. These are backed by legislation.

Zambia's National Policy on Climate Change aims to fully integrate climate change into the country's development plans to achieve SDGs and provide a framework for finance and investments. The second National Agricultural Policy is comprehensive, as it covers three sub-sectors: crops, fisheries, and livestock including cross-cutting issues. He reported that an updated National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) is underway, which will guide public and private investments from the 2022–23 cultivation season onward. NAIP goes beyond the traditional input supply approach by seeking to implement an online and mobile support system that includes extension service provisions and other services to support value addition, storage and transportation. Furthermore, it offers a more comprehensive scope, targeting equitable benefits for beneficiaries. In the meantime, Zambia's Eighth National Development Plan 2022–26, integrates the agricultural sector into a broader framework, with four pillars, namely, economic transformation and job creation, human and social development, environmental sustainability, and good governance. These policies, plans, and strategies align with Vision 2030, which seeks to make Zambia a prosperous middle-income nation by 2030. The presentation of Mr. Christian Chomba can be downloaded [here](#).

In the afternoon, participants formed sub-groups to discuss the gaps in Zambian policies. Sub-groups were provided with three questions, and the following answers were provided:

1. Are we missing any key policies we should target?

Missing policies:

- Meteorological Policy (under review) and Act (under development),
- Water Resources Management Policy Act: as water is integral to farming, water resources management policies and laws should be included in the agricultural sector.
- Rural Finance Strategy: Most smallholder farmers do not have access to financing.
- Cooperative Policy Act,
- Organic Agriculture,
- Regenerative traditional (migratory) grazing and agroecology,
- Fire Management Policy

Participants noted that the following policies are weak and/or have issues that are neglected in agricultural policies and should be taken into account:

- Economic/agricultural and wildlife conservation/tourism conflict,
- Harmonisation of extension policies (some are contradictory),
- Transportation/Logistics Act (matters for the transportation of fresh produce),
- Food Safety Act (not covered), Food Safety Policy (still in draft form),
- Fertilizer and Animal Feed Act (still under review for over 10 years),
- Seed Act,

- Fisheries Act,
- Livestock development.

2. Are there key stakeholders that we are missing?

The dialogue noted that the following key stakeholders were missing in the report, as well as the dialogue:

- Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (key to expanding the market for the diversified export base),
- Water Resources Management Authority,
- Pastoralists,
- Refugees and immigrants,
- Fishers,
- Civil society (e.g., universities and college students, as education plays a vital role)
- Commercial farmers,
- Agribusinesses (input suppliers, banks, agricultural product retailers/dealers, transporters)
- NGOs,
- Consumers and consumer groups,
- Women,
- Traditional, civic, and political leaders,
- Grassroots (local farmers, local processors), and
- Indigenous people with local knowledge.

### Group Discussions at the Ukama Ustawi National Policy Dialogue



3. Are there policy opportunities that UU should be aware of?

- Digitisation for Agriculture – ICT Act – Ministry of Agriculture/ Ministry of Technology
- Smallholder mechanisation policy – Mechanisation Act
- Diversification—must be implementation-oriented,
- A national holistic context (there is no proper structure responsible for policies and responsibilities to be clearly defined. A holistic system would ease the identification of a new actor or even create a new initiative given an emerging situation in the agricultural sector.)
- Harmonisation of policies (we need a structure at the local level to drive coordination)
- We need a decision-making testing framework (are these policies really going to take us in the right direction for social, economic, health, and environmental benefits?)
- An ecosystems approach to agriculture, agroecology
- Agrochemicals—their disposal, adherence to laws and regulations, unintended ecosystem consequences (eco-toxicities)
- Agroforestry
- Soil management
- Diversification of food systems
- Harnessing of sustainable NTFPs
- Research in regeneration models for NTFPs – mushrooms
- Integration of meteorological information in agricultural decision-making

The policy scan discussion was very insightful, and group representatives shared their ideas on policy gaps and the opportunities that call for intervention. Some of the recommendations for improving agricultural policy and planning in Zambia were: the need to periodically evaluate the enabling environment to phase out outdated and conflicting policies and bylaws; channel funding to subnational government offices that designate and take action; align with national and sectoral policy goals; determine priority investment needs and areas; assess the costs and benefits of various policy and investment interventions; avoid biased support to specific enterprises; strengthen organisations like the ACF that bring together diverse policy stakeholders; review and fortify the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at ministries for agriculture, fisheries, and livestock; and conduct regular and systematic sectoral policy reviews.

After the discussion session, Dr. Greenwall Matchaya, the coordinator of the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) programme showcased this initiative that supports evidence and outcome-based formulation, implementation, and review of agricultural sector policies and strategies. Founded in 2006 under CAADP, this programme supports the African Union's efforts to promote evidence-based policy planning and implementation. It provides data and relevant analytical and knowledge inputs to facilitate CAADP benchmarking, review, and mutual learning processes. A core programme activity is setting CAADP indicators across countries and regions and tracking progress toward the achievement of the goals outlined in the CAADP Malabo Declaration through the ReSAKSS website. The website enables easy access to online data. The presentation of Dr. Greenwall Matchaya can be downloaded [here](#) (Slide no. 66-72).

#### 4. Showcasing Local Initiatives

Sylvia Banda, the founder and managing director of Sylva Food Solutions, explained how her company serves smallholder farmers across Zambia. She argued that postharvest/slaughter losses are the most significant driver of income and livelihood losses among smallholders producing perishable horticultural and livestock products. They lack the knowledge and resources needed to store their products in conditions that often require cooling to extend the shelf life of food. As a result, many producers are abandoning these products, while only a small percentage have the capacity to invest in value addition. Sylva Foods offers a solution by teaching smallholders to preserve the quality and value of their products by drying them. Traditional drying is done by exposure to sunlight, a low-cost method that takes a long time and is often unhygienic. Her company provides farmers with solar dryers. The dryers enable smallholders to produce profitable yet highly nutritious products. Some examples include moringa soup, moringa cereal, moringa teabags, dried local vegetables and fruits, and free-range chicken and goat meat that comply with hygiene requirements and empower low-income populations.

#### 5. Closing Remarks

In closing the Dialogue, three speakers summarised the highlights of the day and the key takeaways from the event. Dr. Evan Girvetz from the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the co-lead of Ukama Ustawi, addressed the need for more scientific and interdisciplinary research to inform policies and empower small farmers and agribusinesses to make informed decisions; for public-private partnerships to better represent the people (e.g., beneficiaries and affected communities) and redefine them as “public-private-people partnerships”; special policies supporting digitisation (e.g., the use of solar-powered televisions to provide uninterrupted agricultural training, broadcast weather data as an early warning system, and inform about the latest agricultural technologies); develop agro-ecological approaches and identify practices for sustainable soil management to preserve soil health and fertility naturally and at low cost; and foster community participation in decision-making to encourage a sense of ownership for policy processes and outputs. Furthermore, some of the recommendations offered to the Ukama Ustawi organisers included the need to capture a broader audience, with more women, farmers, and businesspeople at the following Dialogue. Also, to help the Zambian government set priorities regarding the best course of action to benefit the people, especially the relevant low-income groups. The initiative should deliver clear recommendations for a sustainable intensification and diversification approach to simultaneously foster agricultural production, climate adaptation, and improved livelihoods.

Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata added that Zambia already has a progressive policy landscape, with a ministry dedicated to achieving a green economy that offers opportunities to explore and address tradeoffs. To help the government refine an enabling environment and achieve tangible results, Ukama Ustawi will continue to promote the exchange between diverse stakeholders and provide multidisciplinary research-based recommendations. Moreover, IWMI seeks to take the lessons learned at the national dialogues to the regional level to explore opportunities arising from regional trade and cooperation to help countries tackle widespread agricultural challenges in the ESA region.

Finally, **Mr. Mawiko Masiye**, the executive director of the ACF, closed the Zambia National Dialogue. Mr. Masiye pledged continued engagement with the Ukama Ustawi initiative and welcomed



partnerships with the ACF to discuss the Dialogue findings in detail and draw feasible recommendations for policy action.

## ANNEX

### The List of Dialogue Participants (Physical Participation Only)

No.	Name	Surname	Institution
1	Batiseba	Tembo	ZARI
2	Mercy	Namfukwe	NAIS
3	Haggai	Malambo	NAIS
4	Blessings	Chakwila	Camnet
5	Zippors	Mushala	-
6	Shiluva	Nkanyani	FANRPAN
7	Mwitwa	Mambwe	ACF
8	Christian	Thierfelder	CIMMYT
9	Blessings	Mhlanga	CIMMYT
10	Sithembile	Mwamakamba	FANRPAN
11	Jane	Nakasamu	Greenbelt
12	Alice	Theo	Ministry of Agriculture
13	Miriam	Makungwe	IWMI
14	Bhekiwi	Faludze	IWMI
15	Esau	Simutowe	CIMMYT
16	Inga	Jacobs-Mata	IWMI
17	Agness	Chileya	WFC
18	Nira	Ndali	IWMI
19	Mwemba	Habeemi	CIMMYT
20	Liang	You	IFPRI
21	Gilbert	Mushoke	ACF
22	Gabriel	Sngrwin	IFPRI
23	Frank	Kayula	NASFA
24	Noel	Simukonde	NASFA
25	Girray	Amarmaied	IWMI
26	Ani	Ghosh	ABC
27	Lewis	Chimfwembe	USAID BEP
28	Vemantious	M.Musonda	ADAZ-RSTI
29	Paul	Simfukwe	Mulungushi University
30	James	Kasongo	ACF
31	Christian	Chomba	ACF
32	Sabrina	Rose	Alliance/Climber
33	Joy	Sinyangwe	Ministry of agriculture
34	Pedro	Chilambe	Alliance/Climber
35	Greenwell	Matchaya	IWMI
36	Victor	Banda	Meteorology
37	Patricia	Mave	Phenix fm
38	Dauso	Male	AGRICOMM
39	Masiye	Nawiko	ACF
40	S	Ghosa	IWMI
41	Agness	Chimama	WWF
42	Jos	Hellis	IRRI
43	James	Kunda	Times of Zambia
44	Richard	Kachungu	YEFI
45	Sean	Mattson	CGIAR
46	C	Shamenda	RTV
47	Malwanda	Jabbin	JHPIEGO

48	Alice	Mutiti	RUFORUM
49	Munyanadzi	Mutenye	IWMI
50	Rolf	Shenton	Grassroot
51	Maggie	Chota	Muvi TV
52	Lim	Valenaa	Climber
53	Andrew	Mabo	MUVI TV
54	Evan	Girvelt	UU/ABC
55	David	Chikoye	IITA
56	Timothy	Thomas	IFPRI
57	George	Sinkala	GLOBE NEWSPAPER
58	Innocent	Chomba	SASSCAL
59	Ian	Mwiinga	EITI
60	Martin	Liywalii	AGRA-MOA
61	Malangi	Nzombola	Revelation TV
62	Benson	Chishala	UNZA-AGRIC
63	Darlington	Mwendabi	Zambia Dailly Mail
64	Rebecca	Sarku	University of Leeds
65	Silvia	Nanyangwe	CCCAA
66	Favourite	Kalando	QFM/TV
67	Enoch	Kikulwe	CIAT
68	Nawa JOE	Silishobo	YEFI
69	Mushiba	Mushiba	ACF
70	Wesley	Litaba	SIAFUZA
71	Henry	Mgomba	MA-HQ
72	Chiluba	Kawimba	MOA-NAIS
73	Naihela	Nkougu	WWF
74	Andela	Kangwa	FAO
75	Muketoi	Wamunyima	PELUM Zambia
76	Young	Vibetti	MOFL-DOL
77	Harad	LUNGU	ZNFU
78	Christopher	Chisa	SFU
79	Faith	CHIWAULA	CF
80	Idil	Ires	IWMI
81	Brian	Mulenga	IAPRI
82	Johanna	Debeer	

## **ABOUT THE ORGANISERS**

### **Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)**

FANRPAN was established in 1997 in response by ministers of agriculture and environment from Southern and Eastern Africa for an independent network to promote the dissemination of policy research results across Africa, and to act as a platform for policy engagement of all food, agriculture, and natural resources (FANR) stakeholders. It is an Africa-wide network of country-based policy nodes that are groups of existing policy institutions with technical expertise and FANR stakeholders collaborating to generate evidence for use in addressing policy bottlenecks. The national nodes are an inter-sectoral platform of different stakeholder groups, including farmers' organisations, agriculture and policy research institutions, government departments, the private sector, civil society, donors, women, youth, and the media. For more information, please visit: [www.fanrpan.org](http://www.fanrpan.org)

### **Agricultural Consultative Forum (ACF)**

Agricultural Consultative Forum (ACF) is a Zambian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that provides a stakeholder platform for agricultural policy dialogue and fostering of public-private partnerships in Zambia's agricultural sector. ACF is an innovative private-public sector platform, that provides an opportunity for dialogue and consultation on government's agricultural policies, strategies and programs, and other agricultural-related policy interventions or issues, in Zambia and the region and globally, in general. It contributes to information-sharing, coordination, and networking among agricultural stakeholders. ACF also monitors the implementation of government agricultural policies, strategies and programs and undertakes agricultural policy analysis and research. Over the years, our institution has contributed to the increased ownership of various policy formulation processes by stakeholders in Zambia, and the increased recognition and adoption of policy advisory notes by the Zambian government.

### **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is an international, research-for-development organization. Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, IWMI is a CGIAR Research Center with offices in 14 countries and a global network of scientists operating in more than 30 countries. IWMI targets to help address water and land management challenges faced by poor communities in developing countries, and through this contributes towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of reducing poverty and hunger and maintaining a sustainable environment. Based on evidence and knowledge drawn from science, innovative technologies, and testing of business models, IWMI works with governments, farmers, water managers, development partners, and businesses to solve water problems and scale up solutions. Together with its partners, IWMI combines research with data to build and enhance knowledge, information services and products, strengthen capacity, convene dialogue, and deliver actionable policy analysis to support the implementation of solutions for water management. In 2012, IWMI was awarded the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize Laureate for its pioneering research, which has helped to improve agricultural water management, food security, and environmental health and alleviate poverty in developing countries. More information is available at: [www.iwmi.cgiar.org](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org)

### **CGIAR**

CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future. CGIAR science is dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. Its research is carried out by 13 CGIAR Centers/Alliances in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organisations, academia, development organisations and the private sector. We would like to thank all funders who support this research through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund: [www.cgiar.org/funders](http://www.cgiar.org/funders).

To learn more about Ukama Ustawi and other initiatives in the CGIAR research portfolio, please visit [www.cgiar.org/cgiar-portfolio](http://www.cgiar.org/cgiar-portfolio)