



My Food is African

Farmers' Rights

GMO Free Zambia
Our Seeds Our Heritage

Stop UPOV Seed Sovereignty My Seed is African

Farmers' Rights are seen as the starting block of agricultural production and the foundation for achieving diversified diets and sustainable food systems. Farmers' Rights are enshrined in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), ratified by Zambia in 2006. As a farmer in Zambia, you enjoy the right to:

- Save, use, exchange, and sell your own seed
- The protection of your indigenous knowledge, your land, and your livelihoods.
- Participate in decision-making at all levels

The Threat to Your Rights As Farmers

The Zambian Ministry of Agriculture proposed membership to 'UPOV' (the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants), which will block the implementation of FARMERS' RIGHTS and criminalise local seed practices. Joining UPOV will grant undue power to foreign seed companies, negating the sovereignty of our farmers and nation. Join us in saying NO to UPOV to safeguard local seed diversity, farmer autonomy, and human rights to food and livelihoods.

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) includes a highly contentious draft protocol on intellectual property rights (IPR) on seeds which restricts Farmers' Rights. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) threaten small-scale farmers in favour of corporate market interests. The risks of the privatisation of both land and seeds through FTAs, and the monopolisation of genetic resources and agri-food markets by corporate entities, are a major concern for Zambia.

What You Can Do About It

1. Preserve, promote, and share indigenous seed varieties that are adapted to local conditions and have cultural significance. Embrace agroecological practices to reduce reliance on external inputs, foster resilience, and strengthen local food systems.
2. Educate yourself - understand the implications of trade agreements and seed laws, and familiarise yourself with existing national and international laws that protect your rights to seeds and genetic resources.
3. Engage with local and national policymaking processes to voice your concerns and influence decision-making processes.

Joining farmer cooperatives, associations, and networks amplifies our voices and enables collective bargaining power. Connect with the ZAAB network today!