

ZAAB

Zambia Alliance For Agroecology & Biodiversity

ZAMBIA NATIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS INSAKA

6-7th September 2023

M'Kango Golfview Hotel, Munali, Lusaka

PROCEEDINGS REPORT



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1. National vision and current policy context

Which way forward for smallholder farmers and rights holders in Zambia?

1.1 Welcoming remarks

Father Gabriel Mapulanga, ZAAB Chairperson

The Chairperson welcomed all the participants to the insaka. He recognized the presence of representatives from government ministries, Chieftainess Mpanshya's chiefdom, the National Food and Nutrition Commission Director, heads of civil society organisations, the media and esteemed ladies and gentlemen.

He stated that he was deeply honored to stand before the participants gathered for the Zambia National Food Systems Insaka organised by ZAAB in collaboration with esteemed partners such as CTDT, ZGF Oxfam SA, Pelum Zambia, ZCCN, HIVOS, NFNC and all the dedicated stakeholders who came together to discuss the future of Zambia's food system. The food system is just not an essential part of the economy. It is the bed rock of the nation's wellbeing. It sustains livelihoods, shapes the country's culture and mostly importantly is a fundamental human right. However, our food system faces a precedented challenge from the impact of climate change to inadequate global trade relations that threaten its very stability. Moreover, the way our food system is operated is a significant contributor to climate change itself.

He reminded participants that according to the United Nations World Food Programme, Zambia's malnutrition rates remain among the highest in the world; 48% of the population are unable to meet their minimum calories requirements and more than a third of children under five years are stunted; overweight and obesity, especially among women...and also men..., is a growing problem. This is attributed, among other factors, to unhealthy diets compounded by the country's over reliance on maize,. A considerable number of households in Zambia also suffer from seasonal hunger.

Zambia's 1.5 million smallholder farmers producing most of the domestic food supply are extremely vulnerable to climate shocks as they predominantly depend on rain-fed agriculture. Furthermore, they face limited access to high quality inputs, climate and post-harvest management information sustainable markets and financial services. While women constitute 80% of food producers, they benefit less than men from available resources and have smaller holdings.

Around the world there is a consensus for the need to transition to sustainable food systems. These systems are rooted in principles of agroecology, food sovereignty and the right to food, and a healthy environment for all. Such a transition requires integrated governance mechanisms at all levels with the active participation of all stakeholders. Zambia has not fully formulated a food system policy and cohesive governance structures needed to guide this critical transition. Despite this challenge, Zambia has committed itself to this just transition through national and international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the International Treaty



on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Human Rights Convention, Paris Agreement (PA) and most importantly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He stated that he understood that time is of the essence as humanity faces the growing climate crisis and deteriorating public health. The food system encompasses multiple actors and activities and how these components are governed affects everyone; from farmers and consumers to policy makers, businesses and especially the vulnerable populations then include women, youth and children.

In recent months, there has been significant efforts in critical policy areas that impact our food system including the development of the Comprehensive Agriculture Transformation Support Programme (CATSP), climate finance regulations, Zambia's aspiration to join the 1991 International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties: the review of the Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy and Zambia's commitments to the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. These policies touch on several governance issues including intellectual property rights and harmonizing laws with the African Continental Free Trade Agreements (ACFTA). He recognized the inter-connected effects of these policies processes which bring both positive and negative outcomes; and the fact that certain stakeholders hold greater influence over such policy outcomes and regrettably private interests often take precedence over public good. Therefore, it is crucial to reflect on how these policy changes affect the country's ability to transition to a just, healthy and sustainable food system that operates within the planets boundaries while respecting cultural and socio-economic rights of all.

Zaab and other partners convened the first ever food system insaka in Zambia, whose objectives were:

- i) To unite all food system actors to interact, deliberate and identify opportunities and challenges for building a resilient and just food system in Zambia.
- ii) To develop actionable steps for all rights and responsibility holders to move forward a sustainable future.
- iii) To focus on critical issues, including the need for an African, and in particular a Zambian food policy; the future of agriculture production systems; seeds and seed related laws and policies.

The desired outcomes were:

- i) Establish discourse on addressing the drivers and consequences of the current unsustainable food system.
- ii) To gather support from various food system actors for a GMO-free Zambia and the recognition of farmers rights.
- iii) To secure buy-in and commitment from key stakeholders to a process of positive intervention for a just and resilient food system, backed by a Zambian food policy.

These objectives contributed to Zaab's main activities including the "**NO UPOV-91**"; "**NO to GMOs**" and "**My Food is African**" campaigns.

The Chairperson thanked all participants for joining Zaab on this journey and asked them to fully participate.

For two days, participant engaged in interactive sessions, heard expert presentations, listened to farmers testimonies, and collaborated in group work. Participants brainstormed on what constitutes a just and sustainable Zambian food system.

1.2 Background to the Insaka- Why are we here?

Remarks by Frances Davies, ZAAB

Food systems and indeed food are the essential issues that the world and Zambia have recognized in shaping our future. It is recognized that if we do not get food systems right none of the other SDGs will be achieved. It is because food intersects many different areas of life-from how soils and land are used; how we interact with forests resources, how is food being produced across communities to how we transport goods across the world and how much greenhouse gases are being emitted into the atmosphere. Consequently, how is that food nourishing us and what is its impact on the rest of the planet? While we are making food is it also killing the soil and killing the birds and the bees.... and the water on which we rely? Or is it restoring and is it in harmony? Are we living in harmony with each other and the world around us?

At this critical time on the planet where all our futures are at risk and our children's future, we need to take stock of where are food systems are at; what they look like; how they are impacting us and the world and future generations? We need to look at where we want to go in the future. We also need to know who is going to participate in the stock taking process. Should it just some of us or all of us? We all eat food, and we all have children looking for a hopeful life. We are all rights holders in a democratic country where everyone has a right to participate in a policy making process. So, everyone should be participating in this conservation.

There is actually a whole range of policy options available to us as rights holders and to the country to guide our future. We don't have to stick within to the current policy processes. We can choose what policies we want and as rights holders we should have a voice in choosing those policies. That's why we take a food systems approach to looking at our future.

Small holder farmers are very important because they are majority of this country, they feed us and they are the majority of people who interact between society and also living in harmony with our land. Smallholder farmers are the breadbasket of economy this nation and are therefore important to the food systems discussion. Unfortunately, they are not always in policy discussions and are increasingly excluded.

In 2015 ZAAB undertook some research that looked at the current status of smallholder farming systems and the future direction for them. It was felt important almost a decade on to do this review again to look at where we are at with our policies and what is the difference between realty and what is materializing through policy and where budgets are going. Also, we wanted to undertake this review now because there is an ongoing global process, the United Nations Food Systems Summit UNFSS). The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has led the global stocktaking processes and also led the review process in Zambia which will be taken to Rome.

Seeing that very few participants are aware of the UNFSS and other processes, it is there important that we also create processes to input to such discussions. As rights holders we have a right to input to these processes. Which is what this meeting is also about today. We need to take stock of where we are at and we need to look at what our demands are for the future.

Our government policy makers really to want to do the right thing and are committed to achieving sustainable food systems to address climate change, health etc. This is an opportunity to work with them but how do we create spaces to work together better. That is one of the reasons we are here today. Second, given the centrality, the importance of sustainable food systems in determining our

future and Zambia's commitment to transitioning to sustainable food system considering the biodiversity crisis, the climate crisis, health crisis, poverty and loss of land for smallholder farmers, gender inequality and nutrition. All considered, requires that every single participant in the room requires to be part of the conservation whether working on environmental rights, consumer rights, transport and trade. Everyone needs to be part of the conservation because it all impacts the transition or potential transition to a sustainable future.

ZAAB is of the view that it is time that civil society and rights holder in Zambia have its own annual stock taking process where all may participate, like the Mining Indaba. ZAAB is therefore offering and inviting others to start an annual food systems insaka meeting where we can come together as rights holders to take stock of where we are at, to look available options and to look at the direction being pursued. What is the difference between policy process and what is actually materializing on the ground? Are we shifting power to people the ground or further extracting up to the top far away from Zambia and extracting money and resources out of the country? This meeting is therefore an initial offering from ZAAB but in partnership with others to start an annual monitoring of food systems in Zambia and a commitment to transition to agroecology and food sovereignty for a resilient and just food system and the right to food for all.

Looked forward to an interactive process where everyone can contribute from the different areas.



1.3 Current food systems context and achievements of Zambia SDGs

Facilitators: Rachel and Mwitwa, ZGF

1.3.1 Participant group discussions

Consideration: What is the current context of food systems in Zambia? DO you think we will attain the SDGs target with regard to food? Key points from the table discussions were as follows:

Challenges/Issues in the food system	Possible attainment of SDG target for food?
<p><i>Table 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal food system well-structured and better organised than the informal food system in terms of support policies e.g. poor marketing for SSF; Lack of awareness on climate change for SSF/promote climate resilience Promoting indigenous seed on the market Increasing food waste, especially by large supermarkets. Policy focuses more on the corporate arena/lacking for small scale farmers for food systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not anywhere close to achieving the SGD because of climate change; have not transitioned current farming methods to adapt to climate change. High prices of mealie meal negatively contributing to ending hunger.
<p><i>Table 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor road networks, and sometimes, dilapidated road infrastructure a challenge for food systems value chain; Inadequate access to inputs by farmers; Uncoordinated policy/different policy addressing different actors at every point in the food system; Food waste/post-harvest losses Innovations loaded towards large scale producers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes; if policy gaps are identified and addressed; most agriculture policies address production and productivity and not other critical issues in the food system; Policy dialogue limited; especially among non-state actors
<p><i>Table 3:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of expensive hybrid seeds; proliferation of pests and diseases that SSF find difficult to control Use of harmful chemicals and inorganic fertilizers Focusing more on quantity than quality in food production (crops/livestock) impact on general nutrition of the population; Lagging in terms of commercialization of agriculture for SSF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, still have a lot of work to do to attain SDGs
<p><i>Table 4:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> poor policy support for local seeds; Farmer support for producing indigenous seed lacking; poor marketing of indigenous need; Lack of organised market for organic inputs and products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attaining SDGs unclear because of unsustainable practices; economy and biosphere affected by unsustainable practices
<p><i>Table 5:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSF major producers of food in Zambia but not involved at policy level (about 70%); SSF have limited access to resources. High reliance on rainfed maize and other crops; raises vulnerability to climate change; High dependency on chemicals and inorganic fertilizers negatively impacting on ecosystems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picture unclear until sustainable processes are in place
<p><i>Table 6:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently agriculture system is flawed; Chemicals e.g. glyphosate eliminating local foods e.g. Blackjack and Bondwe; Consumer habits and uneducated population leading to poor food choices; obesity increasing; Lack of regulation in vegetable production (chemicals use) impacting the health of population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not on track
<p><i>Table 7: (small scale farmers)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity not promoted in the food system; limited seed supply in agro-shops; SSF hold diverse seed though not supported by policy; Strong promotion prompting SSF shift from use indigenous and diverse seed to tested hybrid seed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to attain SDG because policies do not support SSF; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion and recognition of diverse local seed held by SSF;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resilience building to climate change necessary among SSF; ○ Need to involve FFS in decision-making
Table 8:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate impact limiting food production (floods and drought) • Food insecurity growing; • Hunger and malnutrition in the population. • Research and innovations development inadequate in the food system
Table 9:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still have a long way to achieve SDG target; why? • Farming unsustainable; • Gap between support for SSF and commercial farmers; mechanization a challenge for SSF; • Effective use of organic inputs; how to achieve this

1.3.2 Panel presentations/discussions

PANEL 1: AGRICULTURE POLICIES

a. Status of and update on agriculture related policies-Comprehensive Agriculture Transformation Support Programme (CATSP)

Presenter 1: Ms. Babara Mukuni-Ministry of Agriculture

This keynote presentation highlighted the following:

- The CATSP is a commitment by the entire Government of Zambia to implement a compendium of effective and results-oriented policy implementation instruments
- The CATSP Theory of Change which centers on enabling the Private Sector to achieve national agriculture sector objectives

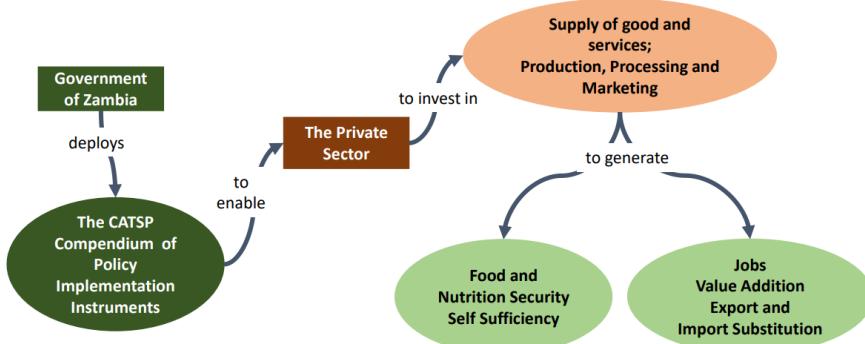
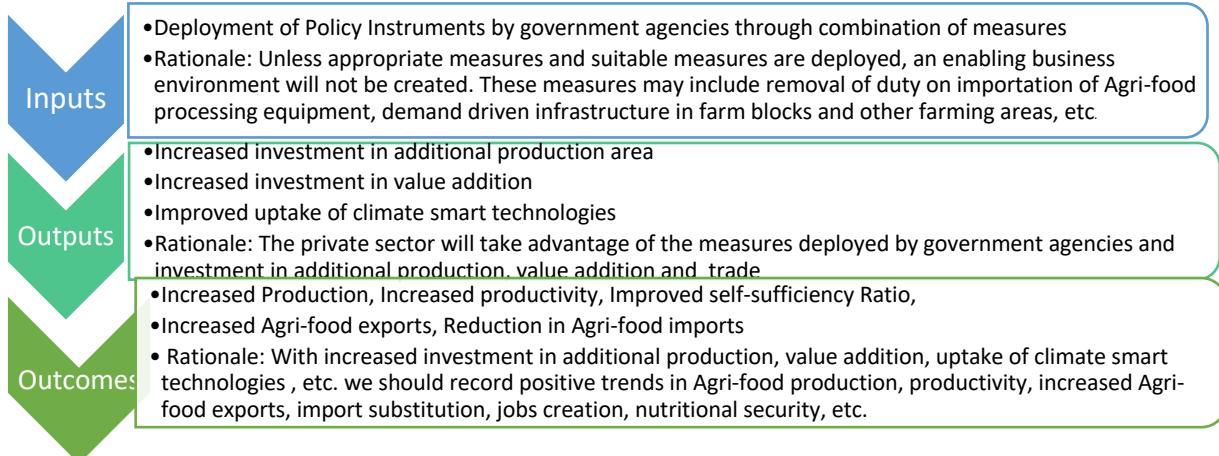


Figure 1: CATSP Theory of Change

- The CATSP results framework includes the deployment of policy instruments to outcomes, outlined below:



- The structure of the CATSP Compendium implemented through 7 sub-programmes:
 - Institutional Development and Program Management;
 - Innovative Risk Sharing, Financial & Non-Financial Services;
 - Agriculture Marketing, Trade and Industry;
 - Agricultural Research and Production Support;
 - Infrastructure Development;
 - Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response Mechanisms;
 - Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- 26 investment areas;
- 85 Policy Implementation Instruments (PIIs)

b. Relevance of CATSP to Food Systems Policy Landscape

Presenter 2: Eneya Maseko-Consultant

Key highlights from this presentation were as follows:

- There is need to assess the CATSP in The Context of Food System
 - CATSP takes a Value Chain Approach as opposed to a Food Systems Approach
 - CATSP advances an industrialized & consolidated food system as opposed to supporting & promoting informal, emerging & diversified food systems.
- As such, Sub-Programs & PIIs proposed emphasize some elements/components of the Food System:
 - Production
 - Distribution & aggregation
 - Processing
 - Markets

The CATSP Concerns on Food System are around: production, processing distribution and marketing; resources and environment; human health and wellbeing.

c. National plant variety protection system and UPOV

Presenter 3: Charles Nkhoma, Community Technology Development trust (CTDT)

This presentation highlighted the following:

- National Seed laws and seed regulations
 - The legal regime governing seeds in Zambia includes the:
 - Plant Varieties and Seeds Act (Cap 236 of the Laws of Zambia),

- Plant Pests and Diseases Act (Cap 231)
- Plant Breeders' Rights Act (No. 18 of 2007)
- The Plant Varieties and Seeds Act provides for the regulation and control of seed production and sale and for seed certification;
- The Act requires that all seed sold in Zambia be certified;
- The Plant Breeder's Rights Act, 2007 is the legislation that provides for the protection of plant breeder's rights.
- The Act regulates matters of plant variety ownership and use, and provides for the registration of plant varieties.

Purpose of seed legislation and regulations

- To improve the overall quality and reliability of seed in the marketplace and to protect farmers from using seed of low quality;
- The Problem is when the definitions of quality and other terms that are used to describe seed get distorted to the point where good quality seed becomes synonymous to commercial seed and bad seed equivalent to traditional seed!

World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement

- The WTO Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights;
- (TRIPS) provided for the protection of plant varieties either by patents or by an effective *sui generis* system;
- The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants; (UPOV) is just an examples of a *sui generis* system;
- However, many countries are misled to believe that adherence to UPOV is the only option of an acceptable *sui generis* system.
- Consequently, Zambia enacted a plant variety protection law modeled on UPOV 1978 version.

Plant Breeders' Right, Act No. 18 of 2007

- This plant variety protection system is based on a strong DUS criteria;
- Makes it impossible for farmers to claim legal ownership of their varieties as they would not fulfil this requirement.
- Makes it impossible to produce and sell seed of a farmer variety as certification also follows these criteria.

Exceptions and national interest provisions in the current law;

- Provide space for farmers to practice their seed system: allows for limited use of a protected variety by farmers; for limited sale of seed by farmers of a protected variety; utilization seed of protected variety for further selections to develop new varieties; saving and exchange or use part of the seed from the first crop of a protected variety which the farmer has grown for sowing to produce a second and subsequent crop;
- A plant breeder's rights on a new variety may be subject to restriction with the objective of protecting food security, health, biological diversity and any other requirement of the farming community for propagating material of a particular variety;

The quest for Zambia to join UPOV 1991

- Zambia has over the past few years been attempting to join UPOV.
- For it to qualify, it has to revise the current PVP law and model it on the UPOV 1991 Act.
- UPOV 1991 provides that plant breeders be granted comprehensive rights

- to the detriment of farmers' customary rights to save, re-use, exchange and sell seeds.
- Exchange and sale of seeds among farmers is totally prohibited.
- The exceptions and national interest provisions that are in the current law will have to drastically reduced in order to comply with UPOV 1991.
- It is therefore better to maintain the current PBR Act of 2007 and not replace it with anything modelled along UPOV 1991.

Negative consequences of joining UPOV 1991

- Makes routine farmer practices illegal, including farmers gathering seed from protected varieties during their harvest for saving and replanting; poses a critical danger to food security and protecting biodiversity in the context of climate change;
- Acceding to UPOV1991 contravenes Zambia's obligations under international treaties aimed at protecting biodiversity and farmers' rights, such as the ITPGRFA, (CBD) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Living in Rural Areas (UNDROP);
- UPOV will further the corporate control and concentration in Zambia's seed and food system; will also limit the policy and practical options of government in building a sustainable green economy;
- UPOV serves a very small sector of farmers and food types, at the expense of and leaving unsupported the great majority of farmers.

The need for appropriate legislation

- Zambia needs to ensure legislation that supports the growth of a truly green economy by protecting agrobiodiversity and farmers' seed systems.;
- Needs to build a locally controlled and owned seed industry which meets the diverse agroecological production needs of different farmers across the country by involving them in the whole seed value chain;
- No compelling reason for revising the current PBR Act which was only enacted in 2007. Certainly not modeling it on UPOV 1991.
- What is required is a comprehensive national seed policy that will ultimately provide a basis for appropriate seed laws.

Key Observations/Comments/Responses Raised In Plenary Discussion

Regarding CATSP:

- What is the role of the private sector as a driver of CATSP? Is there not too much emphasis of the private sector in CATSP?
- Where is the small-scale farmer in the CATSP Theory of Change (ToC)? Are small scale farmers also considered? Does the private sector as defined in CATSP also include the small-scale farmer?
- Where are the non-wood-forest products (NWFP) in the CATSP which are also of significance to farmers? NWFP are under threat from current agriculture practices? Does CATSP contain Social and environmental safeguards; is the focus primarily on what farmers are doing on the agriculture field but not so much on the proximate forest resources and the environment?
- Private sector has strong emphasis in the CATSP; Seven (7) strategic priorities are embedded in the CATSP; Private sector is the key; the ToC is about unlocking opportunities of the private sector to help deliver objectives around food and nutrition security; important to underscore this.

- The way private sector has been given prominence in the CATSP is not by accident. This emanates from a private sector led and export led economy given prominence in several of governments economic policies
- Who or what is the private sector? Important conservations going in government to defining the private sector; Reference is made to citizen-led and owned enterprises grounded in the economy which can help to meet the non-economic objectives such as nutrition.
- The ministry of agriculture to help define the private sector and who else in the value chain/food system can contribute to achieving the CATSP goals.
- At what stage is the CATSP in terms of approval? Is there possibility for further engagement with stakeholders at the current stage;
- CATSP is at an advanced stage; nearing launch stage, but door still open for additional consultations.

Regarding National plant variety protection system and UPOV:

- Need to protect our traditional food and therefore our culture; Cultural begins with what we eat; Our local foods are under threat; current quality of food on the market is questionable; local foods are of high quality and rich in nutrients; it is worrying that our chiwawa (pumpkin leaves), delele (local okra leaves); Bondwe (*amaranthus*) are not certified and therefore cannot compete on the international market. The onus on everyone to protect our rich indigenous foods going forward.
- Is there a formal link between CATSP and the move to accede to UPOV 1991?
- Seed is the very basic unit of production, over and above the chemicals and fertilizers etc. A farmer need seed for it to be planted and to germinated. Seed is the single most important factor in addition to land and water; This fact is very clear to multi-national corporations in the seed industry. The reason why Zambia wants to join UPOV is to facilitate private sector to invest in agriculture and in seed. Zambia is already producing large quantities of seed, especially maize and is a net exporter of maize seed. Why then is there an urgent need to join UPOV91? What is the key driver?
- The strength of CATSP is going to be in the quality of policies that support it. CATSP already seems to embrace the private sector. Accession to UPOV91 may therefore tend to favour the private sector as UPOV is meant for the private sector and not the farmers. There is however still room and opportunity within CATSP to ensure that relevant policies and laws are much more inclusive. In Zambia more than million farmers are involved in the agriculture system. They should not just be viewed as recipients of seed. They should be involved in the development of seed, developing the variety and even the dissemination of the seed.
- The SCCI observed that Zambia is at liberty to devise laws that will benefit its farmers, including the small-scale farmers. Zambia needs to adopt pragmatic steps in investing in research and development to remain competitive internationally. In terms of accession to UPOV91, consultations are still on going and will be inclusive. Farmers rights will not be infringed upon.
- Zambia should fully utilize the provisions of the UPOV78 before we even think of joining UPOV91; Why do we allow foreign “experts” to write our laws when we have qualified local experts? We need home grown policies to support our farmers? Why do we allow organisations such as AGRA to write our policies?
- How does Zambia define what it wants in terms of the food system? Fundamentally, are we ready to define what we want for ourselves? The non-state actors must work towards mobilizing more farmers to grow the foods that we want and fill the shelves. Do we not have alternatives to what the private sector wants us to grow? We have them; we can have all the open markets we want. The concern is that markets are occasional and only available when

someone is providing funding for local foods. We should make a deliberate move to have the food available every day. Zambia should also look at an alternative financial architecture that will support the work needed. Civil society should consolidate the type of resources needed through action and not just mere talk.

- Regarding policy and legislative reform stakeholders need to define the kind of consultation needed for civil society. Current consultation seems to be by invitation and not necessarily by input. We need a mechanism to track the consultation needed-is it just by appearing in a meeting or contributing a paper? The consultation should prove that it has been of benefit to the process;
- Government needs to deliberately support small scale farmer with cheap financing and a chance to work like any other entities. Small scale farmers can become big players in the economy;
- *What do we want as country?* Process of defining what we want is always flawed-determined by a small subset of the population. The challenge in defining what we want in relation to seed is always addressed by a very small group of people. The approach needs to be much broader based and inclusive;
- Regarding abilities of small-scale farmers, CTDT has demonstrated, working with farmers in Chirundu, Rufunsa, Shibuyunji and Chikankata, that with very minimal support the small-scale farmers are able to do what any private sector can do. Mobilisation of farmers is the route to take; Shibuyunji farmers have come up with a popular variety GoByRed, now being produced in large amounts. There are many popular varieties elsewhere which do not qualify as seed. An environment has to be created that will change the laws. This might be difficult to achieve without deliberate action on the ground.

PANEL 2: GREEN ECONOMY, LAND AND CLIMATE CHANGE

d. The National Lands Policy-Key highlights

Presenter: Patrick Musole, Zambia Land Alliance

This presentation raised the following key issues:

- The Land Policy was adopted in May 2021, but perceived not meet stakeholder aspirations and submissions as expressed during consultations in the final draft of 2019;
- Positive provisions include:
 - Affirmative provisions of 50% land to women and 20% for youth
 - Lowering of contractual age for youth to own land from 21 years to 18 years
 - Basis of affirmative action is equality and equity;
 - Digitizing all land records;
 - Decentralization of land registration.
 - Regulation of access to land by non-Zambians.
 - Limit extent and tenure of land leased to non-Zambians.
 - Reduce the risk of displacement of local communities without adequate compensation.
 - Documentation of customary land rights by Royal establishments;
 - Opportunity for reviewing and amending archaic existing legal framework.
- What are the issues and concerns?
 - Single directional conversion of land threatens the long-term existence and sustainability of customary land;
 - Failure to provide for Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

- Failure to recognize Customary Land Certificates and Occupancy licenses that are currently already in use
- Failure to learn from our past experience in planning developments
- Lack of enforcement of existing laws and policies
- Failure to make laws and policies available to citizens in accessible formats
- Apparent disconnect between policy makers and technocrats.

Key observations/comments/responses raised in plenary discussion:

On the Land Policy:

- The reason why the 40% target has not reached land allocation for women is because women are absent from decision-making platforms. How can people make decisions on behalf of women when they are not sitting at the table?
- The current CATSP replaces the second National Agriculture Investment Plan-2; How coherent is the current Land policy with CATSPs aspirations in advancing farm blocks and also in relation to the women?
- When land is being registered why are the so-called landless people not taken into consideration so that land is shared equitably?
- How is woman defined in this context? Which woman is being targeted? Is it the single or married woman in the urban area who are already empowered and know that they have the right to land? Is it the woman in the rural area who can't speak for herself unless she speaks to her husband? These are cultural aspects that should be considered when land policies are being reviewed.
- What is being done to ensure dissemination of information on policies, especially to the grass root populations?
- Zambia Land Alliance is represented in five provinces and 15 districts. Its reach is limited. It tries to leverage opportunities such as civil society meetings. ZLA also uses radio, press statements etc. ZLA also deliberately printed copies of the land policy for dissemination and translated the policy into Bemba, Tonga and Nyanja for ZLA project areas. The policy should be translated into all major languages including Braille.
- People find themselves landless because some good policies are not being implemented. A good example is the Resettlement Policy which is not followed in the translocation of people.
- While a positive approach has been adopted in the Land Policy regarding limiting tenure, consideration should be given to protecting areas of biological importance. Some of this land is increasingly being degazetted; we need to put a cap on how much land is degazetted otherwise we will remain no land to grow food on. There is need to implement safe guards for the protection of biologically sensitive land contributing to our food systems.

e. Food safety and consumer rights in relation to food systems

Presenter: Dr Angela Mapani, CUTS

Key highlights for this presentation included the following:

- The high number of deaths annually globally prompted the United Nations in 2004 to declare safe food a human right rather than a commodity;
- However, risks are still rife in the food systems supply chains; these would include:
 - Changes in the production and supply systems leading to consumption of imported and processed foods; sustainable development requires changes in food production and consumption;
 - Changes in the environment leading to food contamination;
 - Emergence of new bacteria and toxins;

- Changes in consumer habits;
 - Inability by most countries to maintain safety and quality products
 - Lack of capacity by countries to implement traceability capacity
- Consumer rights and consumer protection are important in food safety;
- Consumers in Zambia are protected by the Consumer Protection Act (CPA). The Act can be used to advocate for safe food safety;
- The role of the CPA is to ensure that consumers are given equal and fair rights under any industry; Protection under the CPA includes trade in food as well;
- The relevance of the Act relates to determination of the quality of food that people receive and the overall wellbeing of the nation;
- The CPA of 1985 gives citizens the following rights:
 - To be protected against the marketing of goods and service harmful to people;
 - To be informed of the quality of food-adequate labeling on content of the food being consumed is necessary;
 - To be assured where possible access to a variety of goods and services at a competitive price;
 - To be heard (to complain of a purchased food, products etc.)
 - To seek redress against unfair practices;
 - To consumer education (this is where CUTS is active)
 - To be provided with non-toxic consumables;
- The Food Safety Standards Act also protects consumers from unsafe food through the formulation of science-based standards;
- According to UNCTAD, consumer policy is an important means by which countries can support the implementation of many, if not all the 17 SDG's. Consumer protection is an important tool for promoting the goals aimed at empowering consumers to stand up for their rights and to make informed and sustainable choices in terms of the foods that we consume;
- CUTS advocate for:
 - Harmonisation of all policies that pertain to consumer rights and safe food related laws for ensuring a healthy nation;
 - Enforcement of good agriculture practices among farmers and provision of adequate extension service;
 - Increased coordination among relevant institutions;
 - The establishment of a food safety agency for regulating food safety;
 - Collaboration among the public and private sectors and civil society for developing comprehensive food safety strategies, standards and other food policies;
- Improving food safety standards in Zambia is not just a regulatory obligation but a moral commitment to the people and the international community. This requires enhancing agriculture practices and modernizing production methods;
- Strengthening surveillance systems is key as is implementing robust testing protocols and providing trading and resources to agriculture stakeholders for achieving food safety and a strong voice for consumers.
- Engagement of the media is important in the food systems campaign-this will sustain our voices.

Key observations/comments/responses raised in plenary discussion:

On Food safety and consumer rights in relation to food systems.

- To what extent are food safety services available at the farmer at the camp level?
- Regarding traceability has CUTS interacted with this in the studies being undertaken?

- Why are harmful chemicals (those with the red ribbon) not banned bearing in mind that farmers capacity to manage toxic chemicals is low
- How do we enable the adequate dissemination of food safety information and indeed other relevant policies to the grassroot; to rural areas where most farmers are based?
- How do we ensure that food safety is maintained along the value chain bearing in mind power of marketing/advertisement of unsafe food by those with the money?
- How do we manage plastics use in the production of safe food?
- Traceability relates to tracing food in the food chain from food to the table; It is key to maintaining food safety. CUTS monitor traceability in the policy arena Trade and also keeps track of traceability issues in the WTO, COMESA and AFTA discussions.
- CUTS engage several key actors in monitoring harmful chemicals into the country including the Zambia Bureaus of Standards (ZABS).
- CUTS has programmes for capacity building at capacity building and is open to engaging with interested organisations on food safety and consumer welfare at grassroots level.
- Zambia's laws allow for the importation of processed GMO foods largely because of the dependency on imported foods; Zambia's laws do not allow production of live GMOs; Live organisms interact with the environment. Need to monitor possible changes in the law that may allow for the production of live organisms whose impact on the environment and the population will be detrimental. Informed citizens should make it habit to read the labeling on food packages especially for imported foods. Need also to pay attention to chemical residues in food.
- Reducing the use of plastics needs concerted effort and advocacy with government; there is also need to step up plastics recycling.
- Safe food starts from the mind followed by implementation through the farmer. Team work and the participation of various stakeholders and disciplines will support the realization of safe food. This includes sharing of information and resources; Community radio stations are important for sharing information.

F. Tracking Zambia's UNFSS commitments

Presenter: Frances Davies, ZAAB

This presentation highlighted issues of participation in the UNFSS:

- Zambia country level process have been exclusive to some and not to all with interest;
- Development of food systems at global level being developed with those the biggest level;
- Powerful interests have been hijacked by powerful interest
- So even if there is space at the at table are civil society voices being heard;
- CATSP being presented as the main agriculture policy even with the limited consultations there has been;
- Civil society working in a myriad of areas-climate change; biodiversity conservation; human rights issues; seed issues; pesticides monitoring. Civil society needs to bring the various voices together; The food systems policy can enable civil society to bring its diverse views together by accessing the necessary spaces and feeding back to others with the same objectives of ensuring a sustainable food system for all;
- The FFS processes are held by UNFAO; Need to put out a very strong statement that UNFAO was invited to this meeting to make up for not inviting civil society that they were not invited to the last FFS meeting
- There are good elements in some of the policies and framework (CATSP, Land Policy etc.) but the challenge is what actually gets to happen on the ground.

Key observations/comments/responses raised in plenary discussion

On Tracking Zambia's commitments to the UNFFS

- Concerning that the FAO is not present at the Insaka particularly that the UN is supposed to work in partnerships given their mandate. Whatever statement comes out of the Insaka should not just be sent over but should be followed with the meeting with the Zambia Representative;
- Civil society has voice; Our meetings need to be well planned and strategic in approach in order to counter the moves of big corporates. Whatever the outcomes of the meeting, civil society needs to act; we need to get Zambians on the side of civil society.
- Children are at the risk of inheriting an unhealthy future. How do we bring children into the conservation? If we isolate the children we may end up with a problematic generation. Children have a right to information especially in relation to consumption of unhealthy food laden with toxic chemicals.

Day Two: 7th September 2023

2. Towards a resilient and just food system

Visualizing Agroecology for food sovereignty and the right to food for all

2.1 Technical input:

Group discussions: What should good governance and inclusive policy processes look like-rights and responsibilities.

2.1.1 Discussion on elements of an inclusive policy process

Facilitator: Rachel Mwila and Jack Kalipenta

- *Each table was given one element to discuss;*
- *With respect to the element being discussed:*
 - *Was it happening? If not...;*
 - *How can it be done?*

<i>Is it happening?</i>	<i>If not, how can it be done?</i>
<i>Table 1: Diverse stakeholder engagement Lead -Kawende Namuzyambo-FAO</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To some extent happening but limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before policy engagement, need to undertake comprehensive stakeholders mapping; to identify all stakeholders and ensure stakeholders are represented in the meeting;• Timely communication for the meetings; invitations should not reach the invitee hours prior to the meeting;• Engagement should be from outset and throughout the process for effective input;• Gender and youth responsive; Patriarchy pushes women especially in the rural areas to the back seat in

Table 2-Equity and fairness; Lead -Patson, Shikaba ZLA

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not equitable; not consultative, other are more involved than others e.g. disabled usually left out• Policy drivers in than ministries more involved than other stakeholders; e.g. CAPTS• Not fair-government policy makers tend to favour politically and economically advantaged;• Policy process hesitant to include knowledgeable civil society organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current policies guide lines support participation;• Civil society should advocate for a mechanism to implemented and put in place; so that policy guidelines are elevated to be fair and equitable to everyone.
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Table 3: Conflict resolution; Lead -Derrano Choonga, Farmer, Kasisi.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict resolution is a platform availed in order to resolve difference that may arise at any given time; Conflict resolution mechanisms not in place; No engagement of rights holder or citizens; lack of awareness, consultations and information given Language barrier for citizen and farmer engagement; scripts are mainly in English; Abrupt changes in policy; some people left behind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The identified constraints/negatives for conflict resolution should be reversed
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Table 4: Accessibility; Lead Emma Muzyamba, Farmer Shibusunji

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access difficult; farmers not consulted over their seed Policy making is not inclusive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers and other stakeholders should be included and be consulted in relation to indigenous knowledge Should be gender balanced; inclusion and full participation of women; Promote production of indigenous seed and consumption of local food products
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Table 5; Cultural sensitivity; Lead Triphonia Nyau, ADA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture is not fully reflected in the policy (Seed Act) Favors hybrid seed; No specific protection of local seed reflective of our culture Seed embraced in traditional ceremonies Not every farmer that can afford hybrid seed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers should be well consulted; Managing, developing and certification of local seed; Work on qualities that can support certification; farmers should be involved in the process Seed is passed on from generation to generation but possibility of losing local seed if not protected; not trace of some seed
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Table 6: Regular feedback loop; Lead Juliet Makwana, Millennium Radio

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is not happening; engagement inadequate There is no regular feedback and mutual engagement between policy makers and other stakeholder and communities Policy making happening without the participation of other interested groups Agriculture experts already decided what should go into a policy e.g. CATSP where farmer participation was lacking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for participation for all to be actualized, even in the pricing of agriculture products (Maize, soybeans etc.,)
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Table 7: Access to information; Lead Misheck Nyirongo, Journalist, Khumbilo Agro-ecology Media Services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of information on policy formulation for small scale farmers in rural areas and even among civil society organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information should be made to public at all levels of policy formulation; Civil society should support media freedom; Advocate for the adoption of the Freedom of Information Bill; this will help us to drive the national sustainable development agenda; Access of information is not only for the journalist; it is also for the public; Civil society needs concrete information for strong advocacy; access to information will make it easier and advocacy based on informed decision. Access to information has relevance to the global sustainable agenda development and in particular in meeting target SDG 16.10
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Table 8: Capacity building; Led by Dalitso Mvula, CEJ

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some capacity building is taking place; Being undertaken mostly by CSOs; Effort by CSOs not being coordinated Not inclusive; not seeking out those with capability for policy analysis; need to know what is happening; Lack of capacity building on policy influence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building strong networks for coordination capacity building; Make space, build capacity for marginalised groups; Women in the rural setup, youths, disabled etc. Undertake mapping of indigenous knowledge in the communities and build on it; Translation of policies into local languages; policies usually in English; Use of media (every medial tool) to disseminate information on policy process; building awareness and creating visibility on policy processes Building capacity building for policy analysis.
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Table 9: Representation/community engagement; Led by Charles Nkhoma, CTDT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not happening; The little that is happening is insignificant for creating real representations; • Entities mandated to drive policy mistaken in thinking that they own the process; the ownership is actually the whole country; • Entities left to decide who is relevant to the policy process and to decide at what point stakeholders should be involved; • Because of this the reasoning stakeholders involved has nothing to do with representation. • In fact, the entity is bringing stakeholders only where they see a shortfall in the mandate entity in terms of capacity and therefore co-opt a stakeholder because they are looking for input on an aspect where they are weak. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to re-examine the guide lines for policy process • The guidelines need to be more elaborate in terms of how we address stakeholders. Using terms like “relevant stakeholders” may not be adequate; • Need to be elaborate; there should be guidelines for categories of stakeholders and which sectors they are from; • Investment more in publicity of policy processes to make the public interested in the policy process; • Capacity building is required for those categories that require to be brought to the same level of understanding so that they can participate fully.
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Reflections on the Group discussions

Facilitation: Rachel Mwila

- Observation that responses leaning on the negative i.e. policy processes are not inclusive; this is a sad place to be;
- Is it possible to have all the elements included in the policy process?
- Two examples referenced for inclusive policy process that could have worked well-the Cotton Act and the Public Order Act;
- A cautionary approach is advised for ensuring an inclusive process:
 - No one entity should decide what should happen;
 - Inclusive consultations should be undertaken to develop a roadmap for the policy process;
 - A full background to the proposed policy should be available.
 - If building on an older policy; an inclusive consultative review is necessary, the results made available and considered in the formulation of the new policy.

2.1.2 Discussion on good governance

Facilitator: Jack Kalipenta, ZGF

Where does good governance start from?

- Governance starts from the grassroots.
- Vibrant grassroots movement is necessary for effective governance.
- Good governance requires shifting power to the people on the ground.
- The grassroots need to demand the power.
- Civil society requires to shift power to the ground; this requires that citizens know their rights.

What comprises good governance?

S P E O D E E S E S T A

S -systems P – processes E – ensuring; O -overall D -Direction	S -Supervision E -Equity S -Sustainability T -Transparency A - Accountability
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E-Effectiveness	
E -Efficiency	

- All these elements put together make up good governance;
- There are several things citizens can do to remain sustainable;
- Active citizens should be able to stand up for what is right on their own.; not empowered.
- Development should be community led; If communities are leading development, they will stand up for what is right no one will evict them; because they are where they belong;
- Civil society can help communities to see what assets they have; How then can citizens stand on their own?
 - By recognizing the assets and pursuing assets-based development or community led development-even in growing local food;
 - Everyone in the community has something to give; local giving; no one has nothing to give.
- With this people should be able to be sustainable;
- Going forward-communities disrupt system through the grassroot movement-farmers have the ability to say no to CAPST; but no one will disrupt with free fertilizer.

Observations reflections on good governance in plenary

- Need to seriously get to the ground to work; less talking and more action;

2.2 Taking stock- proposals for democratic food systems transition.

This session focused on the actions/activities of the ZAAB partners in advancing in democratic food system and how the activities align and synergize with national processes. Further the session raised identified positive aspects of the national processes that the Alliance would wish to build on. This session also considered how Alliance members can work together to achieve more.

e. Sustainable food systems, food sovereignty and agroecology

Presenter: Mutinta Nketani, ZAAB

The presentation highlighted the following issues:

Sustainable food systems

- Food systems (FS) encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked -value-adding activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food product that originate from agriculture, forestry of fisheries and parts of the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which they are embedded;
- The food system comprises subsystems (e.g. farming systems, waste management system, input supply system etc.) and interacts with other systems (e.g. energy system, trade system, health system etc.)
- A sustainable food system is one which delivers food and security and nutrition for all in such a way that base to generate food and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.
- This means that the food system is -profitable, throughout; has broad based benefits for society and has a positive or neutral impact on the natural environment.
- A sustainable food system is at the centre of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- FS is not a new idea, it recognizes all the dimensions of a healthy, ethical, and just food system.

- Food sovereignty is thus a more holistic system than food security.
- It recognizes the control over food system needs to remain in the hands of farmers, for whom farming is both a way of life and a means of producing food;
- The sustainability of food systems is threatened by industrial agriculture which tends to undermine ecological systems of food production. Industrial systems have exacerbated or even created the multiple crises of rising food prices, poverty, climate change and biodiversity loss.

f. My Food is African Campaign

Mutinta Nketani, ZAAB

The key aspects of the campaign include the following:

- “My Food is African” name was coined by Juliet
- The campaign is about consumption of healthy and culturally appropriate food (traditionally grown and eaten);
- Food is our identity; it is part of who we are and our identity as Zambians;
- Indigenous food is diverse and nutritious e.g. Kalembula is as nutritious as spinach
- Consuming local foods supports our both our local and national economies; Kalembula, impwa for example are grown and collected by local farmers respectively but also consumed in urban areas far from where they are grown; consuming local foods also supports women farmers
- Local foods are resilient to climate change;
- Growing local foods strengthens our food sovereignty -promotes ownership over our own foods;
- Our local food is easier to grow-not exposed to chemicals and also contain no chemical residues. These benefits accrue across the value chain.

Key observations/comments/responses raised in plenary discussion:

On My food is African Campaign:

- This is a good campaign; it is targeting changing back to what has been lost or about to be lost in our culture; we need to promote local foods; the demand for local foods is low because of poor marketing; farmers tend to grow products that have a market-for example mangoes are going to waste because of no value addition;
- Need to explore opportunities for strengthening campaign implementation at district level through traditional food and seed events;
- Explore use of the media-electronic and print for spreading information the campaign; campaign information should be placed on the ZAAB website;
- Farmer rights and knowledge need to be disseminated; consider nurturing disciplines to spread the messages and information;
- Demand and market opportunities will encourage people to grow indigenous products; what is ZAAB doing to promote this?
- Small scale farmers have knowledge and skills-should not be perceived to be ignorant all the time;
- What are the positive aspects of local foods; these need to be made known, especially as value is added to local foods;
- ZAAB does not work directly with the farmers-the focus of the insaka is policy; our focus also focuses on informing consumers of key issues e.g. the aggressive marketing around imported and unhealthy foods which impacts informed decision-making on the part of the consumer.

g. No-to Genetically Modified Organism Campaign

Discussant: Frances Davies, ZAAB

- As part of a promoting a just and sustainable food systems for Zambia ZAAB has for the last number of years been helping to coordinate and push for the “Keep Zambia Free of GMOs” campaign.
- The campaign about public interest and everyone is free to get involved as much as they want. It about personal choice and personal rights;
- GMOs are the pinnacle, the crown of industrial, colonial, capitalist extractive agriculture systems. The entire point of GMOs is that they can be patented to restrict other people's use them.
- Genetic resources, the environment is a public good and it also has rights in its own value. The world and the earth her own right to exist, in her own integrity. Interfering with genetic manipulation disrupts the free and integral functioning of the earth's system and also impacts on people's human rights.
- We have the right to say no-whether this comes from a personal choice or a faith based choice or other, we have a right to say no without justification; We also have the right to protection to a healthy environment, a right to healthy and safe food. GMO food and genetic engineering of the ecosystem has not had long term testing-the main people who control testing are the proponents and the biotechnology industry themselves; so, we cannot say GMO foods are completely safe for our health, animals or the environment;
- GMOs are an infringement on the rights of children;
- There are therefore multiple human rights issues with GMOs;
- In Zambia with the changing of policies around GMOs it is also infringed on our rights to due participation within policy process that should be about formulation bottom up and building upon what citizens demands are rather than in the interest of a few.
- ZAAB has been following up this for a long time since 2017 when it became known that there was a new Biosafety Policy been drafted. There have been numerous different versions of the Biosafety Policy and every time ZAAB has written extensive comments to this text. ZAAB has also given overarching comments on participation and involvement in relation to participation, people's demand, showing all the corporate and vested interests and all the different people driving this from outside;
- The fight is still going on; once the policy is changed all the laws under it will also have to change; This is a long fight and we need everyone to be involved in it. This is a public campaign it's not only ZAAB's campaign. Please do not allow it to be just ZAAB's campaign. It must be a campaign of the people. Please take the GMO campaign up in every single area that you can-it's about your rights and environmental rights.
- ZAAB secretariat can offer information, support and coordination operating through its members; ZAAB is therefore inviting everyone to take get involved in whatever spaces you are in.
- When the time comes for review Secretariat will need people to be there, which is always an issue.

Key observations/comments/responses raised in plenary discussion:

On My food is African and No to GMOs Campaigns:

- Two types of Zambians here-urban (one who eats everything on the menu) and rural (one who is very specific about what they grow and eat); regarding the “My Food is African” campaign, it is the urbanites who need this campaign more because of unhealthy food habits. The

Campaign is important to ensure that we walk the talk. Need to encourage rural people to keep to the food overnight that we promote.

- The “My Food is African” campaign should start with us. We should demand the local foods that we promote even as we gather at Alliance meetings;
- As we wait for government to come back to us is there more that we can do to notch up things?
- The success of the campaign requires farmers to be in the forefront; As farmers however need to ensure availability of the foods; Government is not totally against local foods;
- Labeling packaging for local foods with the nutrient content will promote uptake of local food. Farmers should grow foods for their nutrients rather than for the market;
- Markets for community products; need to work hand in hand with ZAAB on this;
- Gratifying to see the developing energy around the My Food is African campaign which is interconnected to the GMO-Free campaign; We need policies that work for Zambia. This will help hold true what is true to Zambia and build up the Zambian economy for the benefit of Zambians. On the GMO front, public pressure will stop any undesirable policies going through; Voices in many places will increase pressure-in churches, in markets and on the street. This is what will generate results.

h. Call for Agro-ecology an Agro-ecology Strategy for Zambia

Presenter: Muketoi Wamunyima, PELUM

Key issues from this presentation were as follows:

- Current issues with our food and agriculture
 - Green revolution proving problematic; has not delivered as anticipated
 - Low production and productivity
 - Need to pay attention to dynamics in agriculture and food systems (AE zones; cultures, dietary needs etc.)
 - Environmental degradation;
 - Demands for health food; food and nutrition insecurity
- What makes AE different?
 - Based on bottom approaches;
 - Looks at delivering contextualized solutions to local problems;
 - AE innovations are based on co-creation of knowledge-science and traditional knowledge
 - Empowers producers and communities;
 - Seeks to address root causes of problems in agriculture systems
- Farming methods: minimum tillage and using maize stalks as mulch for fertility; Agro-forestry for soil fertility; plants that improve soil fertility; intercropping; Bokashi compost making.
- Do we need an NAS?: needed to address multi-dimensional sustainability targets related to food systems; implementation by state actors and supported by civil society; private sector, grassroots organisations including farmers;
- NAS-unlocking the potential: Good strategies and policies allow for the equilibrium and collective action to reach desired goal.

Key observations/comments/responses raised in plenary discussion:

On Call for a National Agro-ecological Strategy presentation.

- Concern with the language used. In most documents (government and civil society) we call our farmers as “small scale” or “small holders”. Language has a lot of implications; If we are

saying 70% of our food comes from peasant farmers, how then do we call them “small”, yet they are the ones feeding us. This is an insult as they begin to see themselves as small and will feel pity on themselves. Language is a war of the mind and is critical in shifting the power. Calling them peasant farmers sounds more honorable. Is there a way that we can influence the terminology?

- What role is ZARI playing in promoting and preserving indigenous seeds in addition to the dissemination of information on the dangers of hybrid seeds?
- What kind of collaboration exists among institutions mandated to protect natural resources (forestry, wildlife etc.) with those promoting local foods to ensure balanced diets through legal access to wild foods especially those in protected areas?
- How do we reconcile the AE strategy with CAPST? CAPST is a recent initiative and almost cemented
- Why are we allowing the poverty trap to be sustained? From operation of policy by government and from political manifesto that brought the current government into power. They said they would increase production in agriculture: this is against a background of 4 million farmers; approximately 1 million are on FISP; Inputs are expensive and the output cannot be accessed because of high costs. How can this be addressed in the context of AE?
- When we talk about food let's not forget the protection of indigenous fish and livestock species which also form part of the food system.
- Extract from the UPND Manifesto: “*The UPND government will improve agriculture productivity to meet household and national food security enroute to becoming a regional bread basket. More specifically the UPND government will do the following:Gradually create a pathway to reduce dependence on harmful chemicals in farming and move towards more soil friendly organic farming and use of natural soil enhancement methods..*” Let us help the UPND government to achieve this
- The reference UPND Manifesto is an important observation. We need to remind them of these commitments made before they assumed power.
- The language on small scale farmers has been debated for a while in terms of how we address them. Unfortunately, the different stakeholders have reached no consensus as to how best to address them. Small scale basically refers to the hectarage farmed. The Zambian farmer categories are small, medium and large scale. That's where the “small scale” terminology comes from. We might need to revisit these and probably use more respectful categories such as “family farm” as used elsewhere.
- For research Mount Makulu is public research and it needs to address the problems faced by small farmers. Stakeholders have interacted with Mt Makulu in terms of services they offer.
- When stakeholders started to push for AE, CATSP was not on the scene. But there is an opportunity in that CATSP has a number of pillars that are implementing blocks. We are having opportunity to fuse in AE into some of these pillars and challenge those pillars that we feel block the advancement of AE. For example, there is a pillar on gene technology which in some sense comes across as promoting GMOs. For us it's to interact with CATSP to see how we can move forward.
- It would make sense to include fish and livestock issues in the AE strategy.

i) Registration of Farmers varieties to secure farmer rights

Presenter: Charles Nkhoma, CTDT

- Farmers rights provisions in the ITPGRFA
 - Protection of traditional knowledge of farmers;
 - Equitable sharing of benefits arising from use of crop diversity;

- The right to use, save, exchange and sell seed grown on the farmers' land
- Ensuring that farmers participate in decision making on matters affecting the conservation and unsustainable use of their crops diversity and local seed systems
- Problem definition of the current seed system
 - Only seed of a registered variety can be sold or distributed in Zambia;
 - Seed of farmer varieties is not considered as seed but grain;
 - The current variety registration system sets conditions that make it difficult to register farmer varieties;
 - The registration system is based on the principle of DUS;
 - Consequently, seed of farmer varieties are absent from the formal seed system
 - Paradoxically this same seed from the informal sector contributes more to crop production than the formal seed.
- One possible solution to the problem
- Create a system that allows for registration of farmer varieties and their subsequent seed production;
 - Facilitate the formal registration of the farmer varieties and enable their inclusion in on the national variety list;
 - Increase awareness on the value of farmer varieties;
 - Promote the conservation of increased use of farmers' varieties;
 - Contribute to the realization of Farmers Rights as provided for under the Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Enabling legal provision
 - The national seed law has provision for the amendments to be made to the current Seeds Act and its Regulations;
 - The draft framework is a proposed amendment to various Articles
 - The Seeds Act provides for the Minister of Agriculture to make statutory instruments (SI) that may include provisions to allow registered farmer varieties to be recognized as seed for purposes of seed production and marketing in Zambia
- Seed production and marketing
 - Seed production for a registered farmer variety may be done by a registered seed producer who may be an individual entity or farmer group;
 - A seed producer for a specified farmer variety shall be registered as seed produced with the National Gene Bank;
- Participatory plant breeding (PPB): using PPB to develop farmer varieties that may be registered through proposed farmer variety registration framework or the current variety registration system;
- Community seed banks established to secure the diversity of germ plasm in the community; for increased access to seed by farmers; distribution points and aggregation for seed sales of farmer varieties.

i. Sustainable diets for all
Mangisa Choongo, Hivos

HIVOS has been working in the food system promoting sustainable food production and consumption. HIVOS has been supporting farmers in AE, organic farming, capacity building for traditional leaders in deforestation and how to manage soils. The presentation focused on the *lessons learnt* while participating in the food system value chain and what more could be learnt from those with specific knowledge

- Sustainable production: have to be realistic about the tradeoff. It's good for the soils but the population is growing. How are we going to scale up? What are alternative strategies to get there? Where are the opportunities and the trade off?
- My Food is African campaign-Who are we targeting with this campaign; issues include making make foods accessible and providing convenience. African foods are acquired tastes. Also need to integrate children so they can start eating foods early.
- It is pragmatic to identify the quick wins and to show these as examples
- We have focused on farmers and forgotten about the traders. Can use the traders them to develop the demand for traditional foods
- One major missing link is the absence of aggregators. They are needed to make access to markets easier for the farmers;
- HIVOS has developed the Food Policy Council for local level policy engagement. Civil society usually works in silos; need to work together to advocate for policy. HIVOS inviting other to join in.

Key observations/comments/responses raised in plenary discussion.

- Organic production is labour intensive; that's why the industry is struggling to expand. What type of machinery can help the industry to grow?
- There's been no investment in research to support organic farming in Zambia compared to elsewhere. There are model farms however which have demonstrated that organic farming does work and can be profitable (Kasisi, Loctaguna). Let's strategically show case these examples to decision-makers and to others that may wish to learn.
- The concerns about organic production are not intended to slight on other people's efforts. The "Buts" are intended to help others. Organic farming works, but can the model farmers help others who are struggling in networking or knowledge. For example, there is no price differentiation organic products. Are there ideas that can overcome this challenge or the challenges of organic farming in general.
- The Insaka is a good platform that needs to be enhanced in terms of sharing knowledge. Most of the things being discussed are happening and there are many success stories around. We just need to find a way of harmonizing our work as stakeholders so that we can enhance the works on the ground. Some challenges in organic farming maybe from a lack of investments. Investments will help the scaling up of current activities;
- There are many amazing results emerging from the ground, the potential of AE, the movement of people reclaiming African food systems. But there are also the presentations from CTDT and HIVOS which is about identifying lock ins that exist in the current unsustainable, unhealthy food systems that need to be disrupted. Are seed laws for example locking in unsustainable industrial seed systems and locking out the potential for diverse seed systems to flourish? There is also the behaviour of markets that are preventing farmers accessing markets or getting a better price for products. Farmers can't sell diverse food into supermarkets because of market behaviour. The proposals put forward to address unsustainable food systems at this insaka have to be addressed as a collective.
- Addressing unsustainable food systems requires varied approaches and meeting to discuss and adopt approaches such as this insaka is one way. Meeting are important to know what other are doing are important, but of course need to go together with everything else that is happening.
- Regarding the media, a lot more effort and innovations are required to penetrate media spaces where AE and food systems information may be shared effectively.

- As small-scale farmers expand to “emerging” status how will they be assisted to continue to grow local foods?
- The assistance provided to smallholder farmers will depend on organisational priorities and the expressed needs of the farmers.

j. *Green growth, carbon finance and false solutions*

Presenter: Lydia Chibambo, ZCCN

The key issues from this presentation were:

- Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing the agriculture sector and threatens food security;
- Zambia is developing several policies to address climate change-adaptation and overall green growth.
- Climate finance is intended to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change
- No international agreed official definition for climate finance but ...But refers to: “local, national and transnational financing which may be drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change.”
- Examples of climate financing mechanisms: provisions of grants or concessional loans; GEF; GCF, Adaptation Fund; Least Developed Countries Fund (LCDF);
- Carbon financing a market-based mechanism is also another mode of climate financing. It is perceived as an innovative financial instrument that assigns a monetary value to carbon emissions and enables businesses desiring to offset their own emissions to purchase carbon credits generated by sustainable initiatives.
- Carbon financing is currently considered a “false solutions” by many especially those in the south, as carbon offsetting and burning of biomass for energy do very little to reduce emissions. Instead, they rely on market-based mechanisms that turn carbon into another tradable commodity, shifting responsibility for implementation to poor communities in the south, while allowing developed nations to continue their emissions-fueled economies.
- How did we get to where we are in relation to carbon financing?
- Large corporations have captured the global climate policy. Led by fossil fuel companies, big agribusiness, their financiers, and the technology giants, they are using all their might to resist the systemic and structural changes needed to overcome the climate crisis.
- They are drowning out the voices of the south and shifting the burden of emissions reductions to vulnerable communities and their territories—community lands, forests, pastures, fertile farmlands, and commons that are the lifelines of these communities.
- For Zambia it is critical to adopt policy and enact laws that will protect the country in terms of regulatory frameworks for enhanced response to climate change and to achieve a climate resilient food system which is closely related to the grassroots.

Key observations/comments/responses raised in plenary discussion:

On Green growth, carbon finance and false solutions.

- Is Zambia or Africa at large ready for the carbon markets? Of what benefits would carbon markets be to Zambia?
- We need to know what is behind the carbon trading. If we know what is behind carbon markets then we will understand what is behind the push for carbon trading. The bottom line

is that oil companies that are depend on fossil fuels and others are polluting for production are not ready to reduce their emissions. So how do you get around to continue fossil fueling and getting coal out of ground? Trees draw carbon out of the atmosphere. So, Africa and other parts of the world become an opportunity because these areas have a lot of trees. If Africa and other lands can draw the carbon from the atmosphere while keeping the trees standing and gets paid for it, then others can continue to pollute. In other words, Africa and other areas would be “helping” the world to reach a balance in terms of reducing the rising global temperature. But it is too late because the earth is warming up faster than we thought. Rather, a drastic measure is needed for the polluters to reduce emissions rather than entice Africa to draw carbon. There is also the danger of depriving the local communities of numerous forest products if well-connected interests prevent communities from accessing forested areas in the pursuance of carbon trading.

- On the carbon question, whether it is false or not we first need to educate ourselves on what it is and also on the current laws and statutory instruments that have been provided. There are a lot of gaps remaining, for example it's not known whether ZRA has a code to tax carbon or not. Carbon is a non-tangible product. You cannot see or touch it but it is there. There is a provision by the Forests Department called the Community Forests Management Groups (CFMGs) in collaboration with traditional leaders to allow community groups in close proximity to forests to continue to work in those areas only on non-wood forest products. This gives back to the women their indigenous right to collect herbs, mushroom, fruits and wild vegetables from these areas because they do not affect the carbon content of the forest.

So, it is one thing to black list carbon trading and say it does not work and another to look at it as an opportunity to bring back the biodiversity of the forest and to bring back the forest cover and density. It would be opportune to have a whole session to educate ourselves at farmer, community, women levels and to invite others to clearly discuss what it means for us and how we can't take it as an opportunity and not so much a curse.

- In view of the fact that other countries, especially in the west are transitioning to electric vehicles, what plans are putting in place to avoid being dumping ground as other countries reduce their emissions from vehicle use?

2.3 Reconciling policies for an inclusive transition to equitable sustainable food systems for all

k. Smallholder farming opportunities offered by agroecology and local seeds production-stories from farmers.

Discussants: Small holder farmers from Mumbwa, Shibuyunji and Chongwe

Mary Sakala (Mumbwa): Impact of policies on farmers

- The benefits of policies eluding the farmer because Zambians are not ready to change;
- Unsustainable technologies (GMOs etc.) being promoted on the pre-text of population growth.
- Why do we limit ourselves, every food system should be embraced, even that using indigenous seed; People rely on indigenous foods. They have kept the population going for generations. Why do we limit ourselves to formal seed only (a few) when there are thousands indigenous seed varieties of seed out there with local farmers;

- The goals of higher-level policies may not be achieved because we are not building on to first earlier policies; Are we just adopting policies for the policies sake? How will CATSP make a difference when the performance of previous agriculture policies (e.g.
- Farmers are the only ones who can “zero hunger”; give them the right support; Send a farmer to zero hunger because they the farmer knows all the strategies for this to be achieved.
- Regarding diversification, the farmer is looking for seed registration beyond just benefitting the individual farmer;
- Farmers left out of policy processes; Policies made out of farmers knowledge after all. Huge amounts of resources used on making policies. At the end of the day not a lot is achieved.
- Let us consider the range of crops available- Hunger cannot be zeroed by one crop.

Mrs Katongo (Shibyunji); Seeds and opportunities for farmers in the seed sector

- Farmers eager to venture into seed production and multiplication; For how long are going to wait for policy to suit us?
- We want to start producing significant amounts of varied seed to make a difference now food systems; We want to multiply local seed; farmer varieties.
- Seed is my life; seed is my existence;
- We organised in farmer field schools to start producing seed.
- Those looking to support food systems, support farmers to produce indigenous seed; this is in terms of technical support and marketing, organic ways of producing. With this support we cannot fail.
- Seed banks are available in the community from which starter seed may be obtained;
- Urging farmers to come join the production of indigenous seeds.
- Farmers are looking forward to selling their seed without hinderance. We want to demonstrate to government that we are capable of producing quality seed.

Bevis Mushimbwa (Shibyunji): Eco-feminism/women and climate change

- Approximately 75% of the population of Zambia are smallholder farmers; the majority are women; women are the custodian of diverse indigenous seed and involved in production of crops;
- Climate change is real and affects smallholder farmers; Local seed in the custody of women and resilient to climate change should be promoted; The role of women in raising nutrition levels securing food security in the community should be taken seriously and the issues they face given due consideration;
- If you teach a woman, you have taught the nation; Consequently, teaching women seed production is of great benefit to the nation.
- Therefore, let us support women to survive the harsh conditions that face us.

Lloyd Michelo (Chongwe): Opportunities for farmers in agroecology;

Works closely with Kasisi

- AE is a way of doing farming in harmony with nature; It principles include:
 - Sustainable soil fertility management: healthy food starts with healthy soils; contaminated soils lead to contaminated food; soils must be of high organic matter and diverse nutrition and microbiology (life in the soil); Chemicals damage soil life; AE makes use of organic ways of improving soil fertility (organic fertilizer; bokashi, add residues to the soil)

- Water harvesting: soil erosion washes away organic inputs to soil; AE champions need to take measures that will allow soil to sink into the water; water harvesting also benefits water levels and boreholes;
- Natural pests and diseases management: organic farmers should adopt natural and sustainable ways of controlling pests. Organic solutions include: natural pest solutions; companion planting (growing leafy vegetables with onion); push and pull; crop rotation and crop diversification
- Benefits of AE
 - Production I sustainable
 - Maximizing profit; making use of local resources
 - No residual chemicals in food
 - Healthy life
 - Reducing PH in the soil; Bokashi for example add organic matter to the soil.
 - Organic matter helps to cushion the soil.
- Farmers need support to produce organic fertilizers in order to expand organic farmers.
- Done correctly, AE is a viable venture.

Key observations/comments/responses raised in plenary discussion.

- What is the pull and push strategy?
- Do we have a consolidated list of the nutritional and medicinal properties of local/indigenous foods and animals?
- Loctaguna offering to teach/share the mechanics/science of organic farming with interested smallholder farmers;
- The desire for small scale farmers is that indigenous seed is protected in policy and law. Humanity is about sharing, caring, loving and supporting; How much does this cost? The value is immense;
- Pull and push method is a sustainable way of controlling pest by planting a mixture of plants (e.g. plant marigold, onion and leafy vegetables); the aphids attacking rape will be attracted (pulled) to the bright colour of marigold, while onion will pull and localize the larvae;
- Local foods are of great value in times of food stress; The severe drought of 1992/1993 challenged households in Mumbwa. Many families survived by consuming indigenous local foods such as Mpama (wild yam) (personal testimony by Mary Sakala). This is why local foods are important. We have food that will allow us to survive.

3. Closing session

Facilitator: Mutinta Nketani

3.1 Considerations for an annual insaka

In the closing session of the insaka participants were requested to consider the following proposals as a way of keeping up the momentum on inputs to ongoing policy processes for the food system:

- i) Should the insaka be an annual event?
- ii) If yes, what type of overall structure/working modalities/partnerships should be in place to support the annual insaka?
- iii) What next steps do participants want to see:

Participants proposed the following:

Issues	Group responses				
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
i) Should the insaka be an annual event/Annual gathering?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, the insaka has to continue	Yes
ii) Type of overall structure/working modalities/partnerships should be in place	In favour of a setting up a steering committee	Put up steering committees at all levels (right from the district level)	Include divers stakeholders- Forestry' water; Agriculture, Lands Research; Manufacturers; ZABS/CCPC; Education; Hotels and Catering Association of Zambia; Health; CUTS; Traders Association; Cross Boarders Traders Association; ZAMSOF and media At least 3 days for the insaka TWGs of stakeholders	Government officers should attend these meetings throughout Include ZEMA; ZABS; CCPC; WARMA; Academia; ZCSA. Research institutions (IAPRI, PMRC); Lawmakers; Musika;	Transparency; Decentralized Structure needed for: organisation and formulation of agendas Structure should link up to national Indaba (from insakas to Indaba; Budget for insakas and Indaba
iii) Scope/What next steps do participants want to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile recommendations and submissions • Engage the line ministries and stakeholders; • Management the recommendations and submissions on the ongoing campaigns • Ownership of the campaigns: • Translation of the advocacy messages into local languages; • Advocacy in action(demo-plots) as recommended by our farmers; • Having small insakas at district level; leading to a national level insaka; • Increasing knowledge and awareness through continuous involvement of media; • Community involvement in 	<p>Needs a theme and ranking of topics; Decentralize the meeting to allow for farmer participation; Organizers to meet with government especially regarding CATSP; Statement should be prepared to engage government; Capacity building for participants to mainstream AE and biodiversity in their programmes</p>	<p>More farmer exhibits (food diversity-cooked and raw); Youth participation (e.g. during farmer presentations); Action plans on AE; Engagement with policymakers; e.g. MP; Timely communication; TWG comprising of all stakeholders; At least</p>	<p>Food safety; Gender aspects of the food system' Food processing and packaging for indigenous foods;</p>	<p>Should be holistic; Integrate the entire food system; Attainment of action points See positive outcomes from the Insaka</p>

	the insaka planning and decision-making				
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3.2 Closure of the Insaka

Mutinta Nketani, ZAAB

Thank all the participants for attending and for the valuable feedback for all the sessions. The ZAAB secretariat will continue to communicate with participating organisations. A WhatsApp group shall be formed to facilitate communication. Following this announcement, the Insaka was formally declared closed.



Annex 1

Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity

Zambia National Food Systems Insaka

Daily attendance 6-7th September 2023

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