

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA SMALLSCALE
FARMERS' FORUM'
(ESAFF) ZAMBIA



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Introduction

Country Operating Context

ESAFF Zambia continued to monitor the microeconomic fundamentals, their effect on public service delivery and poverty while advocating for appropriate policy and practice to improve the wellbeing of the citizens. Following two years of COVID 19 disruptions, 2020 and 2021 threatened livelihoods, food security, nutrition and schooling and other economic activities especially the populations working in the informal sector. While the expected impacts in the agriculture sector and the economy were not yet out, a reduction in growth and investment was expected. There was however gloomy news in that the copper prices during the period under review weakened from USD 9550 per metric tonne in December 2021 to USD 7422 per metric tonne in September 2022.

The political environment continued to be fairly stable with the New Dawn UPND Government settling down implementing its campaign promises in the midst of a few tensions between the Government and the former ruling party and now opposition MMD Party. This has led to isolated acts of violence that are said to be tied to political tension but which have since been contained. However, there are concerted efforts to revamp the economy and improve the livelihoods of the citizens in accordance with UPND Manifesto and especially after the disruptions caused by the COVID 19 which appeared in the country in March 2020, the situation appears to have been adequately contained though not completely eliminated. During the two years of economic distress in 2020 and 2021, the year 2022 recorded signs of recovery albeit slow.

Further, Zambia continued to engage with creditors to complete debt restructuring which would result in debt reducing to affordable levels. During the same period the Mission from the International Monetary Fund continued (IMF) continued its visits to Zambia, during which it held consultations and discussions on debt restricting support. Despite indication on broad agreement on key objectives, targets and policies no consensus has yet been reached. There has not been any development in terms of moving forward with the recovery plan with or without the IMF. ESAFF Zambia will continue to monitor the situation on how this is going to affect the livelihoods of the rural and urban poor and the vulnerable groups, especially the small-scale farmers.

Program Implementation

During the period January- December 2022 ESAFF Zambia continued to implement the SDC Social Accountability project in Monze and Lusaka districts. Additional ESAFF Zambia managed to get an additional funder- SADC/ GIZ for implementation of the Regional Integration Agenda which was implemented in Lusaka, Monze, Choma and Chipata. The Secretariat continued to engage with various Government ministries and local CSOs on emerging issues in the agriculture sector and to monitor the progress of the COVID 19 Emergency Response project that was funded by the Agroecology Fund- USA. During the period under review, the three ESAFF Regional Office Staff did visit ESAFF Zambia for consultations and programs review. The following are the activities undertaken during the period January to December 2022.

SDC Social Accountability Project

District dialogue on Agroecology and Seed

The District dialogue on Agroecology and Seed was held on 30th March 2022 at the Monze District Council Chamber Hall and brought together participants from smallholder farmer organizations, District Administration Officials, Government Departments including the Local Government, Traditional and Community leaders, the Constituency Office and local media representatives

The objective of the District objective was to mobilize stakeholder to debate and exchange views on key issues relating to agroecology, food and seed security, and climate change with emphasis on the district and national perspectives. This aimed at giving local duty bearers a better understanding of the needs of smallholder farmers based on the current food production systems in relation to access to farm inputs and technologies and access to markets and the role of agroecology in minimizing climate change impacts on smallholder production and productivity.



(Mr Abel Yubana, ESAFF Zambia Chairperson welcoming participants at the agroecology dialogue in Monze district - Left)

dialogue included:

The specific objectives of the

- ❖ Review the current challenges facing small scale farmers in accessing seeds and the food security situation in the district in terms of production and productivity, consumption, access to markets and policy environment
- ❖ Discuss and agree on common approaches to agroecological farming practices in addressing farmers' needs, climate change impacts, and food and seed security.
- ❖ Share experiences and best practices for small scale farmers and vulnerable communities in the context of climate change
- ❖ Discuss and agree on a Joint District Programme of Action around food production, agroecology and Seed to be unfolded at national level.



Chief Chona (L) and Chief Monze® at the agroecology and seed dialogue

Chief Chona noted that “Local communities are the custodians of traditional seed varieties and agro-biodiversity but are slowly losing out on local seed conservation and traditional knowledge that was handed over to us through generations” and warned that “we cannot abandon our culture and traditions without consequences.” He added that climate change was real and lamented that rural communities and smallholder farmers were not adequately sensitized on agroecology and climate change and its long-time impact on their livelihoods. He thanked ESAFF Zambia for coming up with the dialogue on agroecology and seed noting that it was central to local communities’ food security and sustainability of livelihoods

Issues identified

- ❖ Current floods in the District that have affected over 2400 households and destroyed crops, livestock, houses and infrastructure and which they said was due to lack of disaster risk preparedness on the part of the Government and the limited community access to disaster risk management information.
- ❖ The National Agriculture policy is heavily inclined in favour of industrial farming and promotion of monocropping. Concern was raised by smallholder farmers that industrial farming and monocropping practices were eroding and undermining local food security and livelihoods and thus exposing smallholder farmers’ households and local communities to increased vulnerability to climate change impacts.

- ❖ Non-recognition of farmer managed seed systems for commercialization purposes which encouraged monopoly and seed capture by corporate companies.
- ❖ Low awareness of agroecology and climate change adaptation strategies by smallholder farmers and local communities in rural and urban areas hence their low response to climate change adaptation mitigation initiatives.
- ❖ Extension services and new technologies not availed to small scale farmers and local communities which undermines their competitiveness in production and access the markets.
- ❖ Inadequate consultation of small-scale farmers and local communities in Agriculture Policy formulation and review processes at all levels.
- ❖ Frequent outbreaks of army worms and other pests, and crop and livestock diseases that have left small scale farmers and local communities vulnerable to low yields and postharvest losses.
- ❖ Inadequate small scale irrigation schemes for smallholder farmers and local communities to reduce dependency on rain-fed agriculture and increase access to food availability all year round especially during off season.
- ❖ Inadequate media coverage of small-scale farmers events and dissemination of information on issues affecting smallholder farming, climate information, awareness on agroecology, seed and other emerging issues in the agriculture sector.

Recommendations

Capacity building

- ❖ -Community sensitization on agroecology and climate change at district level and national levels.
- ❖ -Support farmer-to-farmer learning visits on agroecology and seed saving
- ❖ -Conduct stakeholder training in agroecology and farmer managed seed systems.
- ❖ -Hold more localized meetings on agroecology and seeds
- ❖ -Establish grassroots alliances for agroecology and seeds

Advocacy

- ❖ Support Smallholder participation in budget consultations at district and national levels to influence allocation to agroecology and related activities
- ❖ Facilitate smallholder farmers' participation in the review and development of the 8th National Development Plan (8NDP), National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and the National Agriculture Investment Policy (NAIP) to influence policy direction on agroecology, seeds and climate change.
- ❖ Enshrining Agroecology in government policy documents with programme and budgetary support.
- ❖ Develop position paper based on the dialogue discussions for engagement at national level.
- ❖ Advocate for patenting of farmer seeds
- ❖ Produce communication materials for sharing, learning and awareness on agroecology and seeds
- ❖ Monitor the domestication of international and regional protocols/Agreements on seed and agroecology at national level.

Media engagement

- ❖ Train media on agroecology, seed and emerging issues on climate change and smallholder farmer food productivity and sustainability of livelihoods
- ❖ Engage the media to publicise events, activities dialogues and campaigns on climate change, agroecology and food security at district and national levels

a) **Production of a documentary in Malundu Ward in Monze district on the impact of social accountability to stalled/stopped projects in the ward.**



Documentary crew in Malundu Ward

The documentary which featured the community in Malundu Ward who had earlier on been deprived of their goat rearing and domestic water project had stalled since 2017 due to misappropriation of the funds allocated. However due to the advocacy initiatives by ESAFF Zambia through the PSA/SDC project implementation, the project caught the attention of policy and decision makers which prompted resumption of the project and was completed in 2022. Malundu community has 200 households 10 of which are female headed and are basically smallholder farmers practicing integrated farming. Failed projects in rural areas of Zambia have been a common feature during the PF Government era something the new dawn Government of UPND is trying hard not to replicate



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Follow-up with Monze District PSAM Platform Stakeholders on the key advocacy issues for 2023

This activity took place for one week from 16th-24th December 2022 and involved virtual discussions with groups and individual stakeholders that included Entrepreneurs, Small Scale Farmer Organizations, Traditional Leaders, Agro-dealers, Government Officials (including local Government) and the media in the Monze district. Participants included 20 women, 15 men and 8 youths from various parts of the district.

Advocacy issues identified:

- ❖ Government to meet its commitment to Malabo Declaration and the domestication of international and regional protocols that support the enhancement small Scale Farmers' livelihoods.
- ❖ One hundred per cent migration to E-voucher system to reduce corrupt practices and inequality in the distribution and access to the CASP services especially by women and hard-to-reach communities in rural areas.
- ❖ Gender responsive Comprehensive Agriculture Support programme
- ❖ Recognition of agroecology and the promotion of agroecological approaches in agriculture to attain food security nutrition and food sovereignty.
- ❖ Increased budgetary allocation and recruitment of Extension Staff to boost the extension and advisory services across the country
- ❖ Revival of farm blocks sub-divided with a maximum of five hectares plots allocated to small Scale Farmers and practising agroecology and producing export-oriented crops and with a link to local food processors. It is argued that this will create more jobs and business opportunities and grow the economy through participation of Small-Scale Famers in the export market.
- ❖ Review of continental and regional seed harmonization and plant protection protocols which legislate and advance predatory seed laws against Small Scale Farmer' seed saving traditions and which are key to Small Scale Farmers' agricultural production systems.
- ❖ Increased percentage of the funds invested in climate finance nationally and targeted to Small Scale Farmers to provide resources needed to implement locally appropriate proactive resilience strategies aimed at alleviating climate change drivers of food insecurity and land degradation in rural areas.
- ❖ Promotion of small-Scale Farmers financial inclusion through cooperatives as financial inclusion tools
- ❖ Review of curriculum and Inclusion of agroecology as an examinable subject in institutions of higher learning including Universities and colleges

Consultation with smallholder farmers on the implication of development of the Constituency Development Fund to the Districts.

Online discussions held with farmers in April 2022 in Mongu, Mumbwa, Shibuyunji Monze and Chipata Districts. This involved 30 participants (20 female farmers, 15 men and 5 young farmers) drawn from five districts in which PSAM trainings had been conducted and have existing District PETs Committees. The interviews were conducted under a structured questionnaire. The following were the recommendations from the farmers' online discussions conducted by the national Coordinator Mr Henry Singili.

- ❖ The District Council to conduct community sensitization meetings in all the wards or organize a stakeholder meeting to explain the communities on the operationalization of the fund
- ❖ The District Council to explain the criteria and levels of funding and especially the participation of women and the youth
- ❖ Special consideration for female farmers' project proposals as they already have challenges accessing credit from other sources.
- ❖ Training to be conducted for smallholder farmers, CSOs, local Government officials especially the newly elected Councillors and the Media on Public Resource Management (PRM) with a focus on the management of the of the District Constituency Development Fund for better oversight
- ❖ Transparency and accountability of the operationalization of the Constituency Development Fund
- ❖ Funded groups names and the levels of funding be made public
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms be put in place

Discussions with the District Council Chairperson: Mr Powell Mutenguna

In a separate discussion held with the Council Chairperson, Mr Powell Mutenguna and the ESAFF Team, Mr Mutenguna revealed that the Council had four Standing Committees namely:

- ❖ The finance Committee (which also handles agriculture, Land, certification and budget issues)
- ❖ Health Committee (which also handles environment and sanitation issues)
- ❖ Planning Committee (Development and Urban Planning)
- ❖ Audit Committee (Expenditure and accountability)

He pointed out that all members of the committees were new and from different backgrounds and although they were given some orientation on their responsibilities he felt it was important that they pursue other sources of knowledge and skills that will facilitate easy grasp of especially the financial aspect of handling the Constituency development fund. He further noted that ESAFF Zambia could fill the gap by conducting social accountability monitoring for the Council Staff and members of the various Standing Committees.

The Team then visited other stakeholders who it is intended to incorporate in the District PSAM Budget Group. These included the Chief Monze, the new Monze Central Member of Parliament Mr Jack Mwiambu, Malundu Ward Councillor Mr Everson Hakaimbo Malungu, Mr Moses Mumba, Extension Officer Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Brian Zimba of Byta FM, Ferdinand Syanyuka of Chikuni FM and the Chairman Monze District Council Mr Powell Muteguna. Majority of those contacted are beneficiaries of the first PETS/PSAM training conducted by ESAFF Zambia 2020 in Monze.

Stakeholders' recommendations for the establishment of the District

PETS/PSAM Budget Group

The following are the recommendations gathered from all the stakeholders contacted during the Discussions:

- ❖ The District PSAM Budget Group should be established and coordinated by ESAFF Zambia.
- ❖ Group members will alternately host the Group meetings
- ❖ District PSAM Group should be officially launched at district stakeholders' forum
- ❖ TOR be developed for the PSAM Budget Group.

- ❖ Elections held for the Budget Group to formalize its structures at district level and outline responsibilities.
- ❖ ESAFF Zambia to facilitate the provision of Identity Cards for members of the Group to support their operations in sourcing information from different service providers and institutions
- ❖ Current District PETS Committee be dissolved but its members allowed to contest positions in the District PSAM Budget Group elections.
- ❖ Develop the Mission, Vision and Objectives of the Budget Group
- ❖ Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed by all members

b) Engagement with SADC National Committee and the SADC P Parliamentary Forum members at national level.

This exercise was undertaken in Lusaka from 26th-31st August and included visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Assembly SADC PF Desk Office. The following information was gathered during these visits:

SADC National Committee (SNC) in Zambia

Zambia is a member of SADC and has been involved in the development agenda of the SADC Vision 2050 and the RISDP 2020-2030. The SADC Treaty Article 23 emphasises on the establishment of the SADC National Committee that guarantee citizen participation in the SADC Regional Integration agenda. Zambia is compliant as it has a functional Committee.

The mandate for the implementation of the SADC Regional Integration Agenda lies with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (as the national Focal Point) which through its SADC National Committee (SNC) engages with key stakeholders across the sectors with a view to getting their full involvement and participation in the regional integration, cooperation, regional policy design, implementation and evaluation. The SNC is assembled to provide inputs at the national level in the formulation of regional policies and strategies as well as coordinate and oversee the implementation of programs at national level. In this regard, the Government has posted SADC Desks Officers in Key Ministries.

The SADC Treaty outlines the composition of SNC as being stakeholders from Government, Private sector and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). However, in Zambia, the Non State Actor representation is considered inadequate taking into the account the diverse members and backgrounds. Besides, there are no laid down mechanisms for engagement nor a formal calendar meeting which makes it difficult for NSAs to plan in advance. Engagement with NSAs is ad hoc leading to poor coordination in the implementation of the Regional Integration Agenda and generation of inputs for national reporting.

In Zambia the SNC is aligned to the National Development Coordinating Committee (NDCC) which provides NSAs participation through the SADC National Focal Point (SNFP)- the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The embedment of the SNC as a cluster in the NDCC has been cited as one of reasons for exclusion and non-participation of majority NSAs from various backgrounds like the Civil Society, Academia, business Associations and the Private sector in the SADC Regional Integration Agenda. This has led to the uncoordinated engagement with majority NSAs. For example, out of 24 members of the NDCC only 2 non-State Actors are actively engaged. Moreover, most of the NSAs lack not only the capacity but also independent budgetary provisions for SADC related activities and this deprives them of meaningful participation in the regional integration agenda and the opportunity to reach out to their constituencies. The Government blames the Non-State Actors for not taking their rightful place in the engagement with the NDCC leading to weak national and regional linkages that cannot sustain the implementation of the SADC

Integration Agenda. On the other hand, the NSAs feel that they could engage more effectively with SNC if it was supported as a standalone structure. Alternatively, the NSAs feel that the current alignment with NDCC should be reviewed to allow meaningful representation at national level.

Engagement of ESAFF Zambia in the implementation of the RISDP 2020-2030

In an effort to chart the entry point for ESAFF Zambia engagement with the SNC, discussions were held with Mr Lubasi Mungandi the Director for International Cooperation and Regional Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over a year ago.



(Mr Lubasi Mungandi-Director for Regional Integration and International Cooperation -Foreign Affairs& International Cooperation - Left)

ESAFF Zambia has since participated in several meetings leading to the development and budgeting RISDP 2020-2030 at national level and is a Group Member of the Whatsapp Group for SADC Desk Officers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This has helped ESAFF Zambia to keenly follow the

progress and also participate in the implementation of the RISDP at national level.

g) Engagement with the SADC PF committee secretary and Chair of members in Lusaka to familiarize with their mandate and explore opportunities for ESAFF Zambia's participation in their Forum meetings at national level.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) in SADC Member State countries provides a platform for Parliaments and parliamentarians to promote and improve regional integration through parliamentary involvement as outlined in the SADC Treaty and the Forum Constitution. Among some of the objectives of the SADC PF is to promote Human Rights, Good Governance, Gender equality, Democracy and Transparency. Under the Forum, there are various Committees that each Member Country assigns representation.

In Zambia, the SADC PF is headed by the Speaker of the National Assembly and engagement with the citizens is conducted through the Desk Officer, National Assembly. All requests for engagement with members of the Zambia SADC PF members is formalized through the speaker of the National Assembly.



Hon Jeffrey on a regional assignment in South Africa

In an effort to contact some of the SADC PF members and to learn of their experiences, the SADF PF National Assembly Desk officer, Mr Geoffrey Zulu provided ESAFF Zambia with the contact numbers of the members as follows:

- **Hon. Nelly Mutti, Speaker National Assembly.** Appointments through Executive Assistant Mr Sage Samuwika Cell No.+260977331640
 - **Hon. Mutinta Mazoka** - Cell No. 260978777545
 - **Hon. Julien Nyemba** - Cell +260963732477
 - **Hon. Princes Kasune** - Cell +260973758148
 - **Hon. Jeffrey Mulembwa** - Cell +260973178633
 - **Hon. Victor Lumayi** - Cell +260977101964
 - **Hon. Kalalwe Mukosa** - Cell +260977235969

On two occasions the ESAFF Zambia National Coordinator was able to participate in some of the workshops where the Honourable members have invited and also had side discussions with them on their mandate as SADC PF members. Hon. Jeffrey Mulembwa who sits in the Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FARN) provided useful information on the role of the members in bringing regional experiences to bear at national level and vice versa and in the promotion of regional integration as outlined in the SADC Treaty.



The national Coordinator Mr Henry Singili and Hon. Jeffrey Mulembwa at a Partnership for Social Accountability in Lusaka

Hon Mulembwa identified areas where ESAFF Zambia and CSOs could engage with the SADC PF emphasizing on Agriculture, Food Security, and Natural Resource Governance. He advised ESAFF Zambia to constantly get in touch with the National Assembly Desk Office for possible participation in some of their meetings. ESAFF Zambia could also schedule meetings with the Forum through the Speaker of the National Assembly.



Hon. J Mulembwa and other SADC PF members having a side chat with some members of the Civil Society on Regional Integration and the mandate of the SADC PF members from Zambia (Left)

ESAFF Zambia has already contacted three other members of the SADC PF namely Hon. Kalalwe Mukosa, Hon Princess Kasune and Hon. Victor Lumayi. Other members indicated that they needed time to familiarize themselves with their positions as they were new in Parliament.

ESAFF Zambia will continue to familiarize with the members of the SADC PF in Zambia for purposes of developing an engagement agenda for joint meetings and discussions with the

Forum on issues affecting small Scale Farmers at national and regional, and the opportunities and benefits that accrue with regional integration and market access for small scale farmers, participation in the implementation of RISDP and other SADC priority protocols and the domestication of regional policies.

Recommendation

- ❖ Prepare and implement a plan of action on SNC and SADC PF engagement at national level
- ❖ Identify capacity gaps among ESAFF Zambia, CSOs in the agriculture sector and the media and prepare a capacity building strategy to mitigate the gaps.
- ❖ Participate in the implementation of the RISDP at national level
- ❖ Develop a resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the Regional Integration agenda among smallscale farmer Organizations, CSOs in the agriculture, Community leaders and the media at national level
- ❖ Identification of gaps in the domestication of regional protocols to inform policy

Participation in the Lusaka Seed and Food Festival

Lusaka seed and food festival is an annual event that brings together small-scale farmers to show case their innovations, local seed and traditional foods. ESAFF Zambia annually supports farmers to participate as a leaning platform. Participants come from all regions in the country with diversified seeds which they also exchange. During the festival which is also accompanied by traditional music and cultural costumes, farmers have an opportunity to show case their culture, experiences and knowledge on the cultivation and consumption of various foods.



The festival is open to the public and attracts participants from both the private and public sectors

Establishment of a National PSAM Budget Group

ESAFF Zambia has mostly concentrated its advocacy work at district level with limited visibility at national level. The Establishment of the National PSAM Budget Group will offer ESAFF Zambia the opportunity engage at national level and while enhancing its visibility and maintaining its grassroots linkages at both levels. This will ensure that issues raised at district

level feed in the national mainstream for inclusion into national dialogues and decision-making.

In an effort to establish a national platform for engagement it is necessary to establish the relevant platform for engagement. The National PSAM Budget Group comes in handy in advancing social accountability in the agriculture sector. To achieve this, several stakeholders with strong linkages with small scale farmers were identified including the media. The stakeholders visited had been identified through their long experience working with small scale farmers and especially in the area of food security, Policy advocacy and capacity building in addition to having long and association and collaboration with ESAFF Zambia and its partners in various initiatives in support of small-scale farmers. All the stakeholders identified have competencies and experiences that will add value to the objectives of the Budget Group by providing strong voices for evidence-based advocacy for institutionalization of social accountability in the agriculture sector for better service delivery.

Networking and Partnerships building

Visits to the various institutions started on 25th -31st August 2022 and involved institutions in the agriculture sector based in Lusaka. The main purpose was to seek “buy in “for the establishment and their participation in the proposed National PSAM Budget Group. The National Coordinator Mr Singili first met with Brother George Paul and Mr Singili during visit to Kasisi Agricultural Training Center to discuss issues on PSAM Budget Group formation (picture below)



The following organizations and institutions visited:

- ❖ **Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zambia** – Has a membership of 32 organizations and institutions. It is involved in building advocacy and lobbying capacities among its members as a way of placing them in a position for the to participate effectively in national policy development and enhance local peoples access to information and public resources with a particular focus on food security for rural communities.

- ❖ **Zambia Land Alliance**

Is a network of NGOs of eight member organizations and 20 partners involved in Lobbying and advocacy to ensure pro-poor land policies and laws. ZLA also works with other like-minded organizations at regional and international levels.

- ❖ **Caritas Zambia**

A Catholic Organization that is integral structure of the Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops with a mandate to foster and uphold human dignity through promotion of integral

and human development. Aims to improve the outcomes for all Zambia Society, specifically targeting the poor and marginalized through its core programmes: Organizational Development, Gender equality, Governance and Human Rights, Sustainable Agriculture and emergency response preparedness

❖ **Green Living Movement (GLM) Zambia**

Supports sustainable use of natural resources and community livelihoods in Rural Zambia GLM's work focuses on sustainable agriculture, environmental awareness, capacity building, empowerment and advocacy

❖ **Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity**

The Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity is a collaborative network of concerned citizens, Civil Society Groups and farmer-based organizations working to strengthen the growing movement for Agroecology. Its work is in the is centred on food security and nutrition – resilient and sustainable food systems in Zambia

❖ **FIAN International Zambia**

A human Rights organization that advocates for the realization for the Right to Food and nutrition

❖ **Action Aid Zambia**

Action Aid Zambia is part of the Action Aid International working to achieve social justice, Gender equality and poverty eradication and working towards the advancement of women' rights and Civic participation, engagement with the youth and support for farmers to improve their livelihoods.

❖ **Kasisi Agricultural Training Center**

The centre was founded by the Jesuits of Zambia and Malawi. It conducts trainings in sustainable organic agriculture while carrying on research, extension and lobbying efforts. The Center is currently offering a two-year Diploma in agroecology

❖ **Ministry of Finance and National Planning (FNP)**

Mandated by the Government of Zambia to perform several statutory functions that include preparation and presentation of National Budget (Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure), National Planning, Economic Management, Resource mobilization, Debt Management and Finance management

❖ **Ministry of Agriculture**

A government of Zambia Ministry mandated to design, implement and manage the Government activities in the Agriculture Sector

❖ **Ministry of Green Economy and Environment**

This is a new Ministry in Zambia with the mandate to formulate and implement policies and laws on green economy, climate change, environment management, Meteorology, biosafety and sustainable development.

❖ **CBC Television Zambia**

Channel Broadcasting Company provides high quality and engagement with local and international content with over 3million viewers per day countrywide.

❖ **National Agriculture Information Services Information (NAIS)**

Ministry of Agriculture information service department that document and share agricultural information nationally with branches in the Provinces and Districts.

Suggestions from the stakeholders visited included:

- ❖ A national symposium to launch the National PSAM Budget Group
- ❖ The group to function as a loose platform with a defined objectives, structure and TOR
- ❖ ESAFF Zambia to coordinate meetings of the of the Group
- ❖ Meetings to be hosted alternately by Group members with the support of ESAFF Zambia
- ❖ Elections be held to elect office bearers and their responsibilities outlined

- ❖ Resource mobilization strategy be developed
- ❖ Inclusion of the private sector actors biased in agriculture
- ❖ Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed by all members

Review of the PSA/SDC project performance in Monze District

The Project review meeting was held on 27th June 2022 at the Village Blues Lodge in Monze town. It was attended 16 participants: 3 staff from the ESAFF Regional Office, 3 Esaff Zambia EXCO members, 9 Members of the Monze District PETs Committee and the ESAFF National Coordinator.

ESAFF Zambia Chairperson welcomed the participants and requested them to openly participate in the proceedings of the meeting. He thanked the Staff from the Regional Office for having sacrificed time to come to Lusaka and especially during the time that COVID 19 was still around though with diminished cases.

During the proceedings which were guided by Irene Liborious from ESAFF Regional Office, PETS Committee Members expressed their gratitude for the training and the campaigns facilitated by the project which resulted in them acquiring skills and knowledge on Public Social Accountability and its application to various cases of failed services that have in the past gone unnoticed and undocumented. Mrs Munachoongo Muleya the PETS Committee Secretary said that she was a District Commissioner Monze PSA/SDC project started and could attest to the fact that the project worked very well with various stakeholders who included smallholder farmers, Government Officials, CSOs, Traditional leaders and the Media, commending the efforts made by ESAFF Zambia to reach out to marginalized communities with skills and knowledge through both the PETS and PSAM trainings. She said that today smallholder farmers in particular are able to stand up and demand services from the government and other service providers. She however requested the training to be up-scaled to other wards and communities in the district

The participants freely and openly conducted a SWOT analysis the project and developed plans for future up-scaling within the district. The Regional Office commended the Board and the Staff at ESAFF Zambia for effectively implementing the project especially during the difficult times and challenges posed by COVID 19 pandemic disruptions. It was hoped that ESAF Zambia will continue working hard to improve the livelihoods of small scale farmers and rural communities especially in these times of increased commodity prices and the impact of climate change.



(Group work to develop the plan for up-scaling of the PSA/SDC project in Monze district

The Chairperson Mr Abel Yubana remarked that farmers were still experiencing challenges accessing inputs and services including seeds and extension services respectively. He concurred with the opinions expressed by other speakers that Agroecology remained the best option for smallholder farmers' hope for food security and combating the negative effects of climate change and hence called for concerted efforts to sensitize smallholder

farmers on agroecological approaches to agriculture.

Mr Bornface Hangala the ESAFF Zambia General Secretary and also a members of the EXCO, requested ESAFF Regional Office to look for ways that could facilitate the training of stakeholders in Public Resource Management considering that the Constituency Development Fund had been devolved and well-funded at District level. He expressed fear that lack of financial management skills could plunge the administration of the fund to poor operationalization as most of the staff and even the Councillors who are supposed to oversight the fund were new. He however commended the project for the good work done the past two years in Monze District. He also noted that agroecology was not well articulated in the district and there was need to sensitize smallholder farmers on agroecology and its implication on food security in the midst of climate change, COVID 19 and global conflicts.

Lobby meetings with Government Ministries on the New Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP)

Between 5th to 15th December 2022, ESAFF Zambia was hosted by various Government Ministries as a routine follow-up of previous discussions held in the year and the emerging issues that touch on agriculture and food security, climate change, environment and Government policy and pronouncements made from time to time. The meetings were held under the direction of the relevant Permanent Secretaries in the respective Ministries. During this period discussions were held with Government officials from the Ministries of Finance and National Planning Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (as SADC focal point), Fisheries and Livestock, and Green Economy and Environment.

During the meeting held with the Ministry of Finance discussions centred on Zambia's commitment and domestication of regional and international treaties and agreements and in particular, the Malabo declaration in which Zambia is yet to meet the targets in relation to CAADP implementation. The Ministry explained the role of the various ministries in achieving the Malabo declaration commitments as well as collection of data for the relevant indicators and reporting. The role of CSOs was also indicated to be key in supplementing government efforts. Additionally discussions touched on the progress towards the attainment of 10 per cent allocation of the national budget to the agriculture sector and the achievement of the 6 per cent growth. It was explained that various factors have constrained these efforts including global increase in fuel prices, the national debt crisis, COVID-19 pandemic among other factors. On the reformed Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP) that replaced the FISP, it was explained that this had been expanded to include farm inputs, extension service support, and irrigation development, access to finance, value addition, storage and logistics. The Ministry of Finance indicated that the operationalization of the CASP remained the mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs centred on Regional Integration agenda and the participation of Non-State Actors in citizen sensitization on the Regional Integration Agenda with a focus on agricultural trade and other related areas. ESAFF Zambia had the opportunity to implement the "Strengthening Regional and National Linkage"- SNRL Programme in 2022 that sought to build the capacity of Non-State Actors in the Agriculture Sector and community leaders on the Regional Integration Agenda. The meeting reviewed the performance of the trainings offered across the country and the planned future engagements. Additionally, a review was done on the development and implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Plan Development (RISDP) Esaff Zambia participated in the development of the national RISDP and the Implementation Plan. The meeting also reviewed the engagement with the SADC National Committee and the SADC Parliamentary Forum on matters relating to their roles and the planned engagement with ESAFF Zambia.

I) SADC GIZ Project

Training of Non- State Actors in the Agriculture Sector on Regional Integration Agenda

During the period under review, ESAFF Zambia worked very closely with Government Ministries and Departments at national and district levels. Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported ESAFF Zambia's proposal to build the capacity of Non-State Actors in the agriculture sector and Community leadership in Lusaka and four selected rural districts (Mongu, Luanshya, Monze and Chipata) in SADC Regional Integration Agenda with a focus on RISDP 2020-2030. The project was supported through the SADC Programme "Strengthening the National-Regional Linkages"- SNRL Programme.



ESAFF Zambia National Coordinator (left) welcoming participants at the SADC Non-State Actors in the Agriculture Sector Workshop at Hilton Garden Inn in Lusaka



A cross section of the participants at the SADC Regional Integration Workshop at the Hilton Garden Inn in Lusaka



SNRL Partnerships with Non-State Actors

- Whilst SADC Member States have been the principal target group for SNRL capacity development support, the programme has also collaborated with several NSAs with the aim of raising awareness of the impact of RI at the national level as well as to strengthen monitoring of implementation of regional programmes at the national level.
- NSA partners that have worked with SNRL include NICE Malawi, ESAFF Zambia, Southern Africa Trust, Centre for Conflict Resolution, SANBio, SARIMA, Wits University, and the University of Botswana, among others. The SNRL programme has also worked with various media houses across SADC through providing RI orientation and training programmes.
- SNRL has partnered with academic institutions and regional think-tanks to convene Regional Integration Public Lectures & awareness-raising activities e.g University of Botswana; University of Dar es Salaam; Uongozi Institute; CCR.
- SNRL has also promoted the inclusion of NSAs in SADC National Committees e.g Malawi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia, etc





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The two day workshop was held on June 28th to 30th 2022 and brought together 35 participants from across the agriculture sector including Small Scale Farmer Organizations, CSOs, food processors, agri-businesses, Agro-dealers, Business community, Cross Border Traders, Manufacturers and Transporters under the theme “ Together We Can”. The Workshop was focused on the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Plan (RISDP) and SADC Vision 2050. However, for the purpose of this workshop the emphasis was on Civil Society- mainly, charitable, advocacy, youth, Women’s, Social movements, Community-based Organizations and Media among others. Facilitators included Academia, CSOs and Government Ministries that included Ministry of Commerce and Trade, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance and National Planning. At the centre of the workshop was the understanding that citizens must be involved in Regional Development and that SADC’s regional Plan- the RISDP- belongs to the people of the region and must know it and understand it. The training was funded by SADC/GIZ, Gaborone, Botswana.