

Family farming in Zambia

Family farms feed and employ two-thirds of the African population and work 62 percent of the land. Family farmers ensure the future of Africa and are at the heart of food security and sustainable food systems. The United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF 2019-2028) aims at unleashing the potential of family farmers as key agents of change to transform food systems world-wide. Within this framework, the Yenkasa Africa communication initiative implements a regional campaign to raise awareness on the UNDF and promote improved communication capacities and services for family farming in Africa.

KEY FIGURES

More than three-quarters of Zambia's 18 million people are small-scale farmers. In Zambia, family farming equates to small-scale farming or 'smallholder farming'. Zambia's economic situation has improved in the last decades.

Two-thirds of the population lives in rural areas and relies on agriculture for income. Agriculture accounts for about 20 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The agriculture sector employs over half of the workforce, though its contribution to GDP has been gradually declining.

Smallholder farming households number approximately 1.5 million, over 20 percent of which are headed by women.

Zambia's economy fell into a deep recession due the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Real GDP contracted by an estimated 4.9 percent in 2020.



United Nations
Decade of
**FAMILY
FARMING**
2019-2028



UNDF in Action

The climate emergency has an impact on Zambia food security. In 2020, Zambia experienced two extreme weather which affected the food security and nutrition situation. On the one hand, the widespread droughts have significantly contributed to the increase in food insecurity. On

the other hand, the flooding which was experienced in some parts of the country's northern region and the valley districts of southern province (Gwembe, Siavonga and Sinazongwe) significantly affected crop production, and ultimately food security.



Contribution to sustainable food systems

The Forest and farm producers in Zambia have learned that joint motives led to collaboration and sharing between different producer organizations. This allowed nurturing the embryonic Zambia National Forest Commodities Association within the already established Cotton Association of Zambia (CAZ). The Zambia National Forest Commodities Association (ZNFCA), is a not-for-profit membership-based farm forestry and environment conservation organization established to promote ecological and sustainable management of forests and farm forestry commodities and farmland in Zambia. The association seeks to achieve this through promoting and safeguarding forestry growth, reduce deforestation, advancing socially responsibly ecologically sound and economically sustainable forestry and farm, provide information and education.

In ten forest degraded hot spots, traditional chiefs and the Forestry Department worked with Choma District Charcoal Association members to replenish resources and improve sustainability of trade, demonstrating how the association has already had a significant impact on Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) and the forest landscape. More than 100 smallholder honey producers gained a better price in Chief Chibwika area, Mwinilunga District, by selling honey at a bulking center close to their villages. ZNFCA recently promoted sustainable charcoal production and environmental protection in Sikalonga Area (Mboole, Kabombo, Sindebuuka, Siazeula and Chooye), sensitizing and strengthening its community group members on study cycles through the distribution of books on Sustainable Charcoal Production and Forest Management, Study Cycle Implementation and Agroforestry for Small Farmers.



Forest and Farm Facility Programme support to entrepreneurship and smallholders access to markets in Zambia

The Forest and Farm Facility provides direct financial support and technical assistance to strengthen forest and farm producer organizations in Zambia, the participation by women was encouraged, including business training for producer organizations using the FFF Market Analysis and Development approach with at least 50 percent female participation. This has been witnessed by several beneficiaries., like in the case of Juliet Machona.

“ I am a farmer beneficiary of the Tubeleke Women’s Club, in Siachicema Village of the Kolomo district in Southern province of Zambia. Through the knowledge we acquired with the FFF programme, our Women Club has become more organised, conducting regular meetings to plan, bulk the products, identify new source markets. Thanks to FFF we have diversified into other business activities and enterprise”.

According to Juliet, “after attending the training on Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) which had business experts from Zimbabwe, the group started focusing on basketry, diverting to business enterprise. We decided to add value to the products being produced by ourselves. The MA&D training linked Tubeleke to other markets and we had an exposition in Livingstone district which helped to increase awareness of Tubeleke products and market”.

Useful links

[FAO in Zambia](#)

bit.ly/3iEqB5i

[Family Farming Knowledge Platform](#)

www.fao.org/family-farming/home/en/

[Forest and Farm Facility](#)

www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en/

[Family Farming Campaign](#)

bit.ly/3fZxagW

[Case study: The diversified climate-resilient business model of the Tubeleke Club](#)

bit.ly/3jHzE4M



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