Evidence-Based Policies: From Politics to Reality

By Antony Chapoto, PhD

Presented at the Dialogue with Zambia’s Political Parties
Lake Safari Lodge, Siavonga
23rd March 2016
Presentation Outline

What is evidence-based policy-making?

Why is it important?

What is our role as political parties?

Discussion
Where is Zambia’s Agriculture?
Evidence-Based Policy Making in Zambia

- Development outcomes depend on the quality of policies adopted.
- Quality of policies depends on the evidence on what works and what doesn’t.

Poverty

A dynamic economic environment and scarce resources

Malnutrition

Food Insecurity
What Is The Role Of Evidence-Based Policy Making?

“Evidence-based policy helps people make well-informed decisions about policies, programmes and projects by putting the best available evidence from research at the heart of policy development and implementation. (Davies, P.T., 1999)
How To Deal With Agriculture Issues?

THE RIGHT WAY

Evidence Based
- Discussions
- Policies

1. Diagnosis
2. Evidence
3. Prescription
4. Monitor
5. Re-evaluation
The Challenge?
Solution
Why Evidence-Based Policy Making?

**Effectiveness** - ensure we do more good than harm

**Service orientation** - meet citizen’s needs/expectations

**Democracy** - enhance the democratic process

**Efficiency** - use scarce public resources to maximum effect

**Accountability** - transparency on what is done and why

**Trust** - help ensure trust in government and public services
Agricultural policies and programs in Zambia are often inadequately informed by research-based evidence due to:

- information gaps,
- political expediency
- lack of transparency
- ineffective and outdated solutions
- fear of change
- rent seeking behaviour by a privileged few
- culture and conventional wisdom
- habit and tradition
How Do We Change The Status Quo?
How Can We Change The Status Quo?

Political Parties

Researchers
How Can We Change The Status Quo?

Policy makers or Technical staff

Researchers
How Can We Change The Status Quo?

- DEMAND INFORMATION
- USE EVIDENCE
- DEMAND THAT YOUR ADVISERS ARE FACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL
Enhancing Evidence-Based Policy

- Continuous dialogue
Enhancing Evidence-Based Policy

- Communication of research findings effectively to our constituents
Enhancing Evidence-Based Policy

- We are always ready to provide you with evidence about the sector
  - With speed
  - Can monitor progress
What Do We Want To See?

Evidence-Based Policies

- Diversified Agricultural Sector
- Hunger Free Zambia
- Private sector led agricultural growth
- High agricultural GDP growth
- Zero Post harvest Losses
- Lower rural poverty rates
- Breadbasket of the Region
- Open Borders
- Zero malnutrition
What Is The Role Of Evidence-Based Policy Making?

“Evidence-based policy helps people make well-informed decisions about policies, programmes and projects by putting the best available evidence from research at the heart of policy development and implementation. (Davies, P.T., 1999)
Some Questions For Discussion

- How can smallholder farmers be better served?
  - *IS FRA the answer to farmers problems?*
  - *Is FISP the answer?*

- How can we stimulate agricultural diversification?
Thank You

Zambia’s Agriculture