Agricultural Interventions for Small and Medium Scale Farmers in Zambia: Opportunities and Challenges for Food and Nutrition Security

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Objective

Identify current interventions in Zambia’s agricultural sector

Examine bottlenecks and opportunities associated with the intervention
Focus

- Interventions targeted at improving agricultural growth among Small and Medium-scale Farmers
- Public-private and public interventions (or activities)
Why intervention strategies

Outcomes influence by:
- Policy,
- Institutional and political frameworks.

- Poverty reduction
- Food and Nutrition security
- Agricultural growth
- Agricultural interventions
Interventions currently in place

- **Social Protection**
  - Social Cash Transfers

- **Nutrition**
  - The First 1000 most critical days
  - Agricultural Productivity and Market Enhancement Program (APMEP)

- **Input subsidies and Rural Finance**
  - Farmer Input Support Project (FISP)-includes e-voucher pilot.
  - Rural Finance Expansion Program (RUFEP)
Interventions currently in place

- **Irrigation**
  - Smallholder Irrigation Promotion Program (SIPP)
  - Irrigation Development Support Program (IDSP)

- **Rural Infrastructure and Water development**
  - Cashew Infrastructure Development Project (CIDP)
  - Zambia Water Resources Development Project
Interventions currently in place

- **Agribusiness interventions**
  - Smallholder Agribusiness promotion program (SAPP)
  - Agricultural Productivity and Market Enhancement Program (APMEP)
  - Food Reserve Agency (FRA)

- **Conservation Agriculture**
  - Conservation Agriculture Scale-up (CASU)
  - Conservation Farming Unit (CFU)
Interventions currently in place

- **Production and productivity interventions**
  - Smallholder Productivity Promotion Program (S3P)
  - Agricultural Productivity Program for Southern Africa (APPSA)

- **Livestock development interventions**
  - Livestock Infrastructure Development and Animal Health Project (LIDAHP)
  - Livestock Infrastructure Support Project (LISP)
  - Enhanced Sustainable Livestock Investment Program (E-SLIP)
Who are the custodians of the interventions and who is funding the intervention?

- 90% implemented under the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Livestock
- Targeted at smallholder farmers especially women and some target youths
- Coverage area
  - Most are national programs
  - Some target specific districts
Project period, budgets and funders

- Project period ranges between 3 and 7 years

- Budget ranges between US 20 million and US 200 m

- Loans and grants: World bank, ADB and IFAD and other development partners.

- GRZ also contributes to project funding.
What are the concerns and bottle necks around the ongoing interventions?
Lessons from past interventions

Mismatch between intended goals and actual outcome

- Higher project costs than budgeted (inflation, exchange rate volatility)
- Delays in implementation due to late procurement of goods and services
- Lack of ownership by recipients and implementers
- Poor supervision of some project areas due to failure to include all weather roads at the design stage.

Reduced effectiveness in achieving intended goals
Concerns from current projects

- Erratic and untimely release of funds to the project areas.
- Delays in implementation due to lengthy procurement procedures and staffing.
- Lack of/poor exit strategy. Poor project sustainability.
- Low adoption rates e.g. conservation agriculture
- Conflicting goals across the interventions
- Inadequate and unreliable data and untimely reports from the field.
### Other specific concerns

- VAT on processed products not refunded – threatens viability of agro-processing interventions (e.g. in cassava processing)
- Government’s direct participation in the market distorting prices and crowding out private sector
- Wrong project/program recipients
- Zambia has no aflatoxin level regulation for groundnuts
What are the opportunities for agricultural growth from interventions?
Interventions opportunities....

- Availability of funding
- Result Oriented
- Specific time frame
- Goals that can be measured
- Capacity building of project staff and recipients
- Targeted recipients
How can we improve performance of future interventions?
How to improve performance of future interventions

- Problem of delays in project implementation
  - Establish a legal unit within the ministry
  - Capacity building of lower project staff

- Inflation or exchange rate problems –
  - Re-negotiating the loan amount or scale down project
Problem of beneficiary targeting
  - Utilize research evidence when designing and implementing programs/projects
  - Transparency in selecting beneficiaries
  - Tailor the project to address the main problems affecting the recipients

Use evidence of successes and failures from past projects/programs
  - Quality of project evaluations is key
Question for Discussion

• Are the interventions having any significant impact on food and nutrition security?

  • Stunting is at 40%
  • Zambia moved from 45.8% (2000-02) to 48% (2013-14)
  • Rural poverty around 74%
Thankyou
What interventions are currently in place, and what do they want to achieve

**Nutrition**
- SUN 1000 critical days
- Agricultural Productivity and Market Enhancement Program (APMEP)

**Rural Infrastructure and Water Development**
- Cashew Infrastructure Development (CIDP)
- Zambia Water Resources Development Project

**Irrigation**
- Smallholder Irrigation Promotion Program
- Irrigation Development Support

**Agribusiness**
- Smallholder Agribusiness promotion program (SAPP)
- Agricultural Productivity and Market Enhancement Program (APMEP)
- Food Reserve Agency (FRA)

**Livestock**
- Livestock Infrastructure Development and Animal Health Project (LIDAHP)
- Livestock Infrastructure Support Project (LISP)
- Enhanced Sustainable Livestock Investment Program (E-SLIP)

**Production and Productivity**
- Smallholder Productivity Promotion Program (S3P)
- Agricultural Productivity Program for Southern Africa (APPSA)
Current Interventions

- Social Security
- Nutrition
- Rural Finance and Input...
- Conservation farming
- Crop Productivity and...
- Irrigation
- Livestock Development
Research Questions

- What interventions are currently in place, and what do they want to achieve
  - Who are the custodians of the interventions?
  - Who is funding the intervention?
- What are the concerns and bottle necks around the ongoing interventions?