



LIVINGSTONE 2016

6th WFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
4-7 MAY 2016

E-Magazine

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WFO, THE HOUSE OF WORLD FARMERS

Marco Marzano de Marinis
SECRETARY GENERAL
WORLD FARMERS ORGANISATION



Five hundred participants from eighty countries around the World, one hundred sixty international farmers' delegates, High Level Political representatives, International Organization delegates, policy-makers, researchers, private sector, participated to 6th General Assembly of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) in Livingstone, Zambia, from May 4th to 7th, 2016.

This four-day journey was a critical exercise to analyze challenges farmers face every day, such as capacity building, market access, innovation, climate change and climate challenges, environment, land tenure and access to land.

Under the theme of "Partnership for Growth" delegates evaluated WFO's past experiences, current challenges and future actions of the Organization aimed at consolidating the WFO position in the international scene.

- MAY 4th 2016: OPENING SESSION

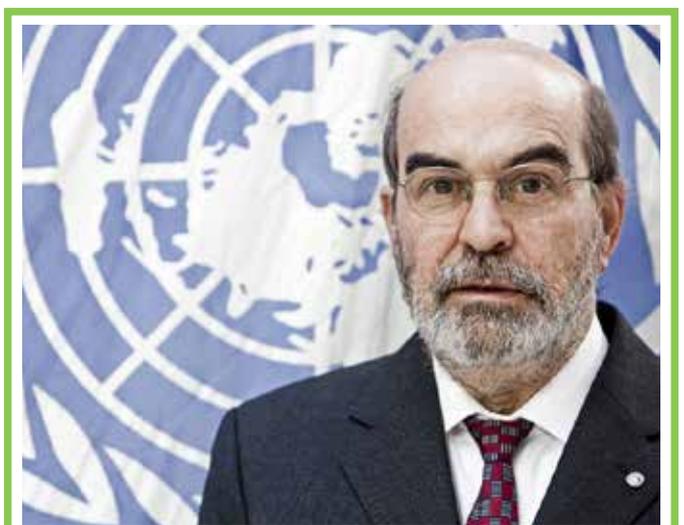
The opening ceremony of the 2016 General Assembly took place on May 4th, graced by a number of high-level personalities, such as the Minister of Agriculture of Zambia, H.E. Given Lubinda, the Mayor of Livingstone, H.E. Mr Fred Sikazwe, senior UN officials, FAO Director General, Graziano Da Silva, and CFS Chair, Amira Gornass. Farmers, policy makers and other key dignitaries attended also the event.

In his [video conference message to delegates](#), José Graziano Da Silva, Director General, FAO, highlighted the strategic role of WFO as a FAO's partner and also the role farmers play not only in producing food but also in preserving the environment.

"As you know, the international community has committed to end worldwide hunger and poverty in 15 years, with the endorsement of the 2030 Agenda. FAO is fully engaged to help address this challenge. But we know that this is only possible with solid partnerships, especially with non-state actors, such as WFO", said José Graziano Da Silva.

Farmers are indeed responsible for providing the food we all need but also helping preserve and sustain our natural resources.

The FAO Director General called for farmers' support and stated that they *"should be placed at the core of any strategy for increasing responsible investments in agriculture"*, stressing the importance of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.



JOSE GRAZIANO DA SILVA
DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, FAO

Another important contribution about the farmers in satisfying food security for the planet was offered by **H.E. Amira Gornass**, Chair, United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS) she stated that, -“Farmers are the backbone of any efforts for food and nutrition security...” and that “...Sustainable development for all is possible”, through partnerships with all actors of the food value chain to make sure that by 2030 “We end hunger and no one is left behind.”



H.E. AMIRA GORNASS
CHAIR,
COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD
SECURITY

Given Lubinda, Zambia’s Minister of Agriculture, also contributed to the discussion welcoming international participants to Africa and Zambia and reiterating the role of the Continent as provider of food for all. He actually stated that since “Africa is the home of small-scale farmers who create wealth and feed the world, access to land, ownership and control and modern technology, markets and financial resources are essential elements to enable them improve agricultural efficiency and productivity”.



H.E. GIVEN LUBINDA,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ZAMBIA

The opening ceremony was closed by, **Evelyn Nguleka**, President, WFO, who underlined the role played by agriculture and farmers in the many challenges faced by human beings in this planet, i.e. food security; climate change, access to finance; value chain, access to education. President Nguleka also pointed out that the multi-stakeholder approach adopted by WFO is the only viable solution in the present World scenario and that farmers are willing to support a value chain made of responsible players willing to share costs and benefits of a developing market.

“The global economy is based on the assets of efficiency and profitability. Farmers, likewise all other categories of entrepreneurs, deserve to see their work duly compensated by an appropriate income and their products effectively absorbed by the market. Farmers are ready to invest their days in the field, while looking for new solutions to increase the profitability of their farms,” she added.



DR EVELYN NGULEKA,
PRESIDENT,
WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION

Another relevant aspect that WFO’s President raised in her speech focused the work that WFO bodies (Board and International Secretariat) dispense every day in making clear that farmers in their lobbying activities do not need intermediaries.

Farmers are responsible players able to defend their position vis à vis of all political processes in which agriculture and farming activities are directly or indirectly discussed.

Farmers' Growth, Workshops

A four thematic workshop session preceded in morning of the May 4th the official opening ceremony of the 6th WFO General Assembly, aiming at developing and examining key themes at the core of WFO mandate: land tenure, climate change, capacity-building of farmers and innovation and technology applied to agricultural practices.

These workshops were organized in joint cooperation with some of the WFO's partners, such as FAO, WMO, IFA, GFAR, OIE, Copa-Cogeca, GACSA, Agriterra, Bayer, UPOV, Chamber of Commerce of Rome, MTK, DBV, UNIDROIT, among others.

The participation of local farmers in the discussions allowed a balanced exchange of views and experiences among the audience, with a common oriented focus on agricultural issues, and paved a way forward to a long-lasting collaboration among farmers, Governments, private sector and civil society organizations.

FARMERS' LAND MANAGEMENT: THE ROLE OF THE VGGT

by Laura Capolongo



"FARMERS NEED TO BE PLACED AT THE CORE OF ANY STRATEGY FOR INCREASED RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE."

*JOSE GRAZIANO DA SILVA,
DIRECTOR GENERAL, FAO*

The workshop of **Farmers' Land Management: The Role of the VGGT**, co-organized with FAO, was aimed at discussing farmers' challenges in negotiating the tenure of land, fisheries and forestry. It was also focused on implementing and disseminating The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of food security and nutrition (VGGT). Developed by the Committee on World Food Security and endorsed by FAO in 2012, the guidelines serve as a reference to improve the governance of land, fisheries and forests with the overarching goal of achieving food security for all.

These Guidelines are intended to contribute to the global and national efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty, based on the principles of sustainable development, recognizing the centrality of land to development by promoting secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests.

These Guidelines can be used by States; implementing agencies; judicial authorities; local governments; organizations of farmers and small-scale producers, of fishers, and of forest users; pastoralists; indigenous peoples and other communities; civil society; private sector; academia; and all persons concerned to assess tenure governance and identify improvements.

A special attention was drawn on WFO's contribution to the work of FAO in promoting and implementing the VGGT and other tools in accordance with national priorities. Indeed, land tenure represents one of the major challenges that farmers face, especially in developing countries. In particular, many small scale farmers, especially women, work on land that they do not own, exacerbating their poverty, lack of political power and equal recognition of basic rights. A special attention was drawn on WFO's contribution to the work of FAO in promoting and implementing the VGGT and other tools in accordance with national priorities.

focus on

LAND RIGHTS IN UGANDAby **Ayebare Prudence Aijuka**

POLICY RESEARCH ASSISTANT, UGANDA NATIONAL FARMERS FEDERATION

Uganda has undertaken a series of ambitious legal and policy reforms with regard to property rights and resource governance since 1995, with the intention of bringing about fundamental reforms in rights, tenure management and control of land. The Constitution (1995) and the Land Act (1998) redefined land rights, attempted to resolve old conflicts, and provided an institutionalized framework for land management with decentralization a key feature of that framework.

80% of the population in Uganda is depending on agricultural sector. The country also has relatively abundant water resources for production and a thriving, increasingly market-oriented agricultural economy. Access to productive land and water, however, is highly variable in different regions of the country and among different population groups. Only 0.1 % of land is irrigated, so rainfall and land productivity are closely linked. It is widely believed, in part because of inequitable access to land and insecure tenure rights, that land is not used optimally or sustainably.

Means for securing property rights, though, are changing rapidly, especially in urban and peri-urban areas. Registration allows these landholders to convert these rights into freehold land rights, and there is a high demand for registration, although few have completed the process. Customary land tenure systems are biased against women. Figures on forest coverage vary, but, according to the government, forests cover 4.9 million hectares (24% of Uganda's land). About 30% of the forestland is in protected areas and parks. Seventy percent of the forests are on private land. While private forests are an important source of construction materials and fuel, they are reportedly being replaced by agriculture and urban uses. There is also significant pressure on state-managed forests and concerns that current management approaches are not effective enough.

SOURCE:

http://www.usaidlandtenure.net/sites/default/files/country-profiles/full-reports/USAID_Land_Tenure_Uganda_Profile.pdf

Focus on

SMARTPHONES HELP ZAMBIA TO SECURE LAND RIGHTS

Around the world, millions of people lack documented land rights. This may be the result of weak land governance systems or limited capacity to provide accessible and accountable land administration services.

Without documentation, people often lack secure tenure over land and natural resources. They are more vulnerable to wrongful displacements that disrupt their livelihoods and important social networks. They also have fewer incentives to invest labor and capital to improve productivity and enhance the future value of their land. For too many, tenure insecurity means that agricultural productivity and incomes remain low; resources are used in unsustainable ways; and, costly conflicts are all-too common. Additionally, poor land governance creates special hardships for women and other vulnerable groups.

USAID is addressing these problems through an innovative pilot called the Mobile Applications to Secure Tenure (MAST) project in Zambia. The vast majority of Zambian rural land

tenure lacks of formal documentation and registration mechanisms. Evidence has showed that chiefdoms maps are outdated and have not helped to resolve longstanding disputes. In remote villages, there is also a critical lack of formal boundaries which results in the absence of and registration and land ownership, multiplying vulnerability of many groups in the society.

The project team has developed an easy-to-use, open-source smartphone application that can capture the information needed to issue formal documentation of land rights. Coupled with a cloud-based data management system to store geospatial and demographic information, the project is designed to lower costs and time involved in registering land rights and, importantly, to make the process more transparent and accessible to local people.

SOURCE:

<http://www.usaidlandtenure.net/documents/mobile-application-secure-tenure-mast-brochure>

BUILDING FARMERS' CAPACITY TO GAIN EFFICIENCY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

by Luisa Volpe

The workshop on Building Farmers' Capacity to Gain Efficiency in the Agricultural Sector, jointly organized by WFO, UNIDROIT, DBV, IFA and Agriterria, was conceived as a platform to identify concrete solutions for building farmers' capacities and share mutual information and best practices of initiatives that each of the involved actors have implemented. Increase farmers' capacity would allow them to improve their work conditions and productivity, in a sustainable manner.

Farmers need to develop the right skills and knowledge to strengthen their management and entrepreneurial capacity effectively. Access to finance, ownership and control over land, management of productive resources and inputs are only a few of the challenges that farmers face every day.

Agricultural extension and advisory services are increasingly seen as key means to build farmers' capacity. These services help farmers deal with risk and change, by providing options and capabilities to make the right choices at the right time. The services assist rural actors to share technology and practices, and support farmers in acquiring a better position in value chains and markets, at local, national and international levels.

The global economy is based on the assets of efficiency and profitability. Farmers, likewise all other categories of entrepreneurs, deserve to see their work duly compensated by an appropriate income and their products effectively absorbed by the market. In order to contribute to the achievement of global food security, farmers are ready to spend their days in the field, while looking for new solutions to increase the profitability of their farms and taking care of the quality of the produced food.

In this context, one path farmers can follow to achieve this goal is running the way of innovation. The use of innovative techniques in agriculture can indeed support farmers' work in finding alternative modern solutions, which raise their capacity to gain better access in the value chain, to place their products in the market and stimulate the generational renewal in the sector to secure continuity in the long term. Another interesting point that emerged from the discussion is the importance of building farmers' political capacity.

While it is true that farmers' organizations are not political entities, it is also true that their work is to advocate on behalf of farmers to achieve more favorable policy framework, at all levels. To this end, it is of the utmost priority that farmers' organizations develop proper negotiation skills that allow them to establish institutional partnership with decision-making institutions.

FARMERS AS AGENTS OF SOLUTION TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE

by Valentina Gasbarri

The workshop of **Farmers as Agents of Solution to the Climate Change**, co-organized with GACSA, GRA and the WMO, was focused on first-hand experience of experts from around the world. It highlighted the importance of an integrated approach in dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation to boost productivity and sustainability.



Agriculture is part of the problem and part of the solution. Globally, agriculture directly accounts 13.5 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions (methane from animal digestion and nitrous oxide from agricultural soils) and indirectly for 17 per cent due to the fact that agriculture is a major driver of deforestation and land-use change. On the other side, it has a tremendous potential, mainly through reduced deforestation, soil management and increased productivity.

World farmers continue to join their efforts on a large scale in mitigating the climate change risks and threats, particularly, considering agriculture as one of the first victim of the negative impacts of environmental changes. Also, adaptation measures are key elements to guarantee the resilience of the sustainable climate-smart agricultural sector.

Investments in agriculture, in particular in developing countries, utilization of the potential and reward of carbon sequestration and a sustainable use of bioenergy might be good instruments for climate mitigation and adaptation.

focus on
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

The Challenges

- Agriculture contributes 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions
- Projected increases in emissions as global demand for food grows
- Agriculture is essential for many economies and is a key contributor to growth and development
- Increasing food production is central to food security
- Solutions can be difficult to implement and need buy-in from millions of individuals (farmers)

The Opportunities

- In many cases there is a direct correlation between reducing emissions and increases in agricultural productivity, efficiency and resilience – all of which contribute to food security
- Many countries are already investing in agricultural production and climate change research – the GRA leverages these efforts to make the best use of collective resources
- Opens up a wide field for research and education which then enables better connections with policy-makers
- Research is critical for development of viable and practical options for increasing productivity and reducing emissions intensity
- Paris COP21 outcome creates a fertile environment for increased focus and collaboration in this field

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO BOOST SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

by **Giulia De Castro**



The workshop on Innovation, organized in collaboration with Bayer, GFAR and UPOV, was aimed at exploring main features of innovation and the use of new technologies at the basis of the modern economy. They are agents of solutions for making economic systems more efficient and, consequently, more profitable. Farmers are innovators, they have been facing problems through innovative solutions since the ancient time.

However, in many cases, farmers are excluded from research projects and/or marginalized from innovation policy dialogues. A common position among the participants was reached in identifying an increasing gap in developing, acquiring, using and transferring new technologies between and within developed and developing countries. This gap is one of the main root causes of the rapidly expanding socio-economic gap between North and South countries and constitutes a major challenge for developing countries in their efforts to achieving the Sustainable development goals.

Recent findings have indicated that almost 60 per cent of the differences in income levels between sub-Saharan African (SSA) and

the industrialized countries can be attributed to differences in the stock of knowledge

Skills development, strengthened national systems of innovation and stimulating international, regional and national technology transfer and knowledge are important engine of innovation, not only for making products but also for the diffusion of processes, organizational practices and learning opportunities. This would lead to coherent and carefully crafted technology policies which can accelerate farmers' competitiveness and promote their entry into more complex and higher-level technology activities.

The digital divide is obviously a consequence of the asymmetry in the capacity of farmers to deal with major challenges of the current historical moment. Indeed, the population of the world is growing drastically while we are witnessing the reduction of natural resources in feeding the global increasing population.

"We need to be more innovative" said Given Lubinda.

He urged farmers to embrace Information and Communications (ICT) advancements to increase productivity and growth, encouraging the adoption of appropriate mechanization and husbandry technologies, e-payments and other e-services. This would unlock the growth potential of agriculture.

"If we are to end hunger worldwide in the next 15 years, we certainly need to ensure that farmers partners with all other players in the world economy and farmers should be position where they belong at the center of our global economy," Given Lubinda added.

He called upon world International Organizations and stakeholders to support farmers in their daily work, by creating a viable socio-economic environment necessary for their success and profitability.

- MAY 5th 2016

The full session of the General Assembly on May 5th was dedicated to statutory and programmatic issues, discussing the future strategic vision of the organization, budgetary issues and WFO Board members' appointment.

Since its establishment in 2011 and throughout the years, WFO has demonstrated to be an "Organization in Motion", with a dynamic engine willing to strengthening and widening the strategic action framework drafted by founding members:

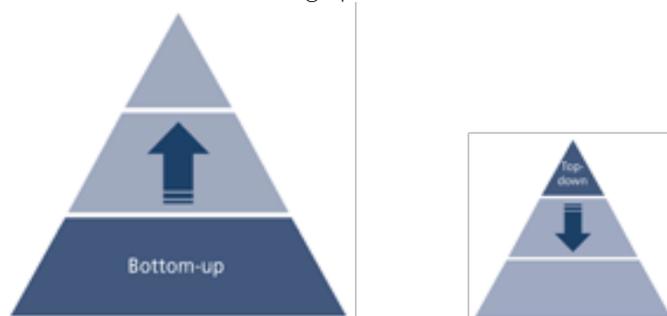
- **Visibility** of the WFO among national, regional and international stakeholders, based on the credible and reliable role the organization could play on the international scene;
- Creation of a **network** of members;
- **Financial** stability.



The Goals identified by founding members in 2011 have been largely achieved and since the WFO's startup phase has come to an end is time to revise the organization's strategic objectives. Since last General Assembly, WFO bodies, namely the Board and the International Secretariat, have worked closely with the WFO members to open up a dialogue aimed at developing a new set of priorities for the Organization to be approved by Helsinki 2017.

With the opening of this dialogue, mostly driven via working groups, member organizations have been directly involved in the daily activities of the Organization. WFO has managed

to establish a "bottom-up approach" where all WFO members and constituencies have the role to provide inputs, initiatives, goals so to enable WFO to remain engaged in the global policy dialogues and at the same time revise the political agenda of WFO vis à vis the new strategic plan.



The development of this strategy, which had already started embryonically in 2015, will be conducted throughout 2016. The process will involve several different steps, of which:

- Bilateral members consultation;
- Members Multilateral consultation: via questionnaire, fora, regional meetings;
- Multi-stakeholder Consultation.

Even the smallest member, in the most remote areas of the planet will have the opportunity to directly engage in WFO activities and policy, so to see their interests duly recognized and defended at a global level.

The strategic plan will be articulated in three steps i) a long term vision 2018-2028, which will represent the global strategic view of the Organization; ii) a mid term "review" of the strategic plan that will allow the Organization to strengthen its position in due course, and; iii) an annual work plan/reporting that will allow members to see the yearly positioning of the Organization and the activities undertaken or to undertake.



"TOO OFTEN THE DAILY WORK OF FARMERS GOES UNRECOGNIZED."

DR EVELYN NGULEKA
PRESIDENT
WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION



“WITHOUT FARMERS THERE
WOULD BE NO FUTURE
ON THIS PLANET”.

*H.E. MR EDGAR CHANGWA LUNGU,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, ZAMBIA*

WFO welcomes new members of the Board

WFO constituencies announced the appointment of three new members of its Board, as well as some changes in the Board of Auditors.

The members who are joining the Board are:

Mr. Choe Okuno, President, ZA Zenchu, Japan, Representative of the Asian Region;

Mr. David Velde, General Counsel, NFU US, USA, Representative of the North American Region;

Mr. Fritz Glauser, Vice President, SFU, Switzerland, Representative of the European Region.

Choe Okuno, WFO's newest board member, Mie Prefectural Union of Agricultural Cooperatives Chairman and Ise Agricultural Cooperatives, manages a company which process and sells agricultural products such as rice and several other vegetables.

David Velde currently serves as Chief Counsel and vice-

president of International Relations of the US National Farmers Union. He is also the owner of the Velde Moore Ltd. In Alexandria, MN, USA. David Velde serves as a United States Bankruptcy Trustee and he is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the First State Bank of Alexandria.

Fritz Glauser, elected as interim representative of the European constituency at the WFO Board, was officially appointed during the 2016 GA. He is also President of the Swiss Grain Growers, of the branch organization Swiss Granum, the Farmers' Union of canton Fribourg, and of the Gruyere row milk cheese factory where he is delivering his milk. He is running an organic dairy farm in Chatonnaye Fribourg together with his two sons. Besides of milk, they are also producing cereals and solar power. Fritz Glauser holds a diploma in agronomy and offers his expertise in a series of national commissions.

The Board of Auditors was also object of renewal with the election of Mr. Enrico Leccisi as Head of Auditors and Mr. Raul Roccatagliata as member of the auditor's group.

THE BOARD



William Rolleston
VICE PRESIDENT



Evelyn Nguleka
PRESIDENT



Fritz Glauser
TREASURER



Dave Velde
BOARD MEMBER



Luis Miguel Etchevehere
BOARD MEMBER



Charles Ogang
BOARD MEMBER



Choe Okuno
BOARD MEMBER

AUDITORS



Raul Roccatagliata
AUDITOR



Enrico Leccisi
HEAD OF AUDITORS



Omri van Zyl
AUDITOR

- MAY 6th 2016: HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON "PARTNERSHIP FOR GROWTH"



Livingstone 2016 - Last day was characterized by a High Level Political Dialogue on the relevance of partnership as a tool for achieving sustainable growth and supporting farmers market development. The event focused on the importance of discussing farmers' challenges such as Innovation, market access, farmers gain, responsible value chain, climate, food security not in isolation but in a multi-stakeholder dialogue with the aim of supporting farmers and Planet sustainable development.

The President of Zambia, H.E. Mr Edgar Changwa Lungu opened the HLP Conference accompanied by other eminent national and international representatives.

"Without farmers there would be no food and no future on this planet", said H.E. Mr Edgar Changwa Lungu.

The theme of Partnership for Growth reflected the importance of meaningful multi-stakeholder partnerships among governments, International organizations, farmers, civil society and private sector representatives towards the achievement of these goals.

As the President of Zambia highlighted, great challenges have to be addressed in the 21st century. These include global population growth, reduction of the natural resources, climate energy, food security and the threats posed by climate change. They all must remain at the core of the agenda of worldwide governments and they should be addressed by all stakeholder since all of us are called to play a role in that game.

Farming world is a big family.

A community of people, livelihoods, organizations, cooperatives, public and private sector entities, Government, research institutions that walk in the same direction responding to the food and security need of the planet, in a sustainable manner and in the respect of all involved stakeholder. Collaborative relationships between these actors and combination of their complementary strengths and resources to achieve a common goal means **partnership**.

It is on that framework that the high-level panel discussion on "Partnership for Growth" has worked with a view to promoting the importance of a farmer-centric approach of the sector.

The high-level panel was divided in two sessions. The first one discussing *Fostering economic growth through a multi-stakeholder approach in agriculture*. During this session, farmers discussed with representatives of the private sector, international organizations and civil society of the importance of developing effective partnerships among the different actors of the food chain, to support farmers in gaining a more favorable position along the chain and expand their markets at local, national and international level. Practical examples were reported by the representative of FAO, WFO and IFAD on the programs that the three Rome-based United Nations agencies, working on agriculture, are implementing in collaboration with farmers' organizations. Thanks to their interventions in fact, the farmers involved were able to place their products in local and foreign markets with a fair return that allowed farmers to reinvest in their farm and expand their profits. As a result, the overall wellbeing of their families and communities is considerably higher. It was also very interesting to notice the position of view of the private sector, represented by the International Fertilizer Association, IFA, which provided concrete examples of collaboration between farmers and input providers to contribute to the achievement of a global food security.

The second session focused on practical examples of partnerships between farmers and other stakeholders of the agricultural sector, which contributed to *Strengthening farmers' involvement in global policy dialogue on agriculture*. The involvement of farmers in the policy dialogue is conceived at national and international levels. Representatives of national Governments, private sector, civil society and farmers represented in the panel made very clear the point that "while alone we can walk, together we can run", therefore, if we really want to improve farmers' engagement in the policy discussion on agriculture, the only way is to do it in partnership with Governments and other stakeholders of the sector. Another interesting point, which was discussed during this panel discussion, is the political role farmers' organizations play at national and international level, by negotiating on behalf of farmers for the adoption of policies that may create favorable conditions for farmers.

The outcome of the two session was very positive, especially on the unanimous recognition that, in order to achieve a sustainable global food security, the only way is through a holistic approach in the agricultural sector, where farmers are at the center of a complex economic system that works in their support.

"FARMERS MUST BE INNOVATIVE AND INVEST IN APPROPRIATE FARMING TECHNOLOGIES THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO FEED THE GROWING GLOBAL POPULATION"

H.E. MR. GIVEN LUBINDA,
ZAMBIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND LIVESTOCK

- MAY 7th 2016: FARM VISITS

Agriculture remains the key priority sector in the growth and poverty reduction agenda of Zambia. Over 60 per cent of the population derives its livelihood from agriculture.

Zambia is currently experiencing a strong economic growth. Articulated agricultural policies, strategies and incentives have been put in place to emphasize objectives such as attainment of food security, farmers' incomes, sustainable agriculture, and marketing.

As part of the program of the General Assembly, a delegation of the WFO visited Zambian farms on Friday, May, 7th, to learn more about the country's innovative agriculture projects and advancement in its agricultural and economic development.

Comprised of staff from the WFO Secretariat, members of the Board, representatives of farmers' organizations, UN officials, Governments' delegates and members of the press, the delegation toured three farms, located 150 km far from Livingstone, Zambia.

During the three visits delegates had the chance to share experiences, to point out successes and, equally important, to show constraints and gaps that need to be addressed in the Country.

Mukaziwa Farm is a farm which has a long-lasting experience in crops, livestock production, black carrot, tobacco and maize, beef and dairy.

Chano Farm is located in the same area and represents a relevant model for the upcoming Zambian small-scale farmers, running in the form of family farming. Chano Farm is specialized in running a beef cattle herd, piggery, with goat and sheep.

Alexswill Bonsmara was created in 1994 and has been producing well adapted Bonsmara bulls for 21 years now.

The uniqueness of the aim of the farm is to produce well adapted, fertile, medium framed bulls and females that can make a positive contribution to Beef cattle in Zambia. Graham Mulders said: *"My advice to farmers is: Cattle farming is a long term investment; to reach your goals Passion, Patience and Persistence are the requirements for success"*

Focus on

A DELEGATION OF THE WFO WOMEN'S COMMITTEE MET LOCAL FARMERS IN ZAMBIA

A delegation of WFO Women's Committee from Argentina, Malawi, Uganda, Finland and Zambia among others, spent one full day exploring and exchanging views with local farmers 15 km outside of Livingstone.

They observed best practices in land preparation, crop seeding, harvesting, post-harvesting; culture techniques; and large-scale irrigation technologies and water management particularly related to wheat, tobacco, banana, groundnuts, cassava, green maize as well as poultry initiatives.

The farm visit was part of WFO-Zambia National Farmers Union's collaboration in the framework of the 2016 General Assembly.

The WFO Women's Committee has been set up with the aim of creating a platform to exchange ideas, case studies and best practices on how women have improved their farms. Business are growing for farmers in Zambia and the country is imparting its knowledge and techniques to other African and European countries as well as to women farmers.

The success story of the Livingstone Tobacco Farm owned by Aston Chris from the Livingstone Tobacco Farm, 25 km far from Livingstone, is a fact that deserves attention among

the farmers' community worldwide.

Tobacco has steadily grown in volume, over the past four years. Tobacco has continued to be one of the most important cash crops in Zambia. The farm is growing 40HA of tobacco and the 80HA of wheat and 20HA of bananas. The crop is lucrative but it is also a technical product which requires skilled labour. This is one of the reasons why some farmers work with contractors who always buy their tobacco unlike auction floors. Instead, merchants only buy tobacco when they are impressed by the specific grades.

Mary T. Nyirenda, a farmer from the Mosi-O-Tunya Executive Lodge, who is farming cassava cultivation and poultry. She shared her experiences and knowledge on the management of the farm and the foreseen crop seeding initiatives. She affirmed that she gained through the farm visits and the exchanges with other farmers, valuable knowledge and best practices in land preparation, crop planting, fertilization processes and seeds quality.

Marais Charl, from the Zampa Development Corporation Farm, gave the women delegates an inspiring change to see a high-technological irrigation system to grow at least 150HA of wheat, 90HA soya beans and 150HA groundnuts.

THE WAY FORWARD

LIVINGSTONE 2016 was a very intense gathering that allowed farmers coming from all continents to share their own experiences and exchange best practices and case studies.

This GA demonstrated once more that there is a critical need for an international unique farmers' voice, needed not only by the main user "farmers" but especially by those counterparts Governments, International Organizations, Policy makers that otherwise would have non-qualified actors to discuss about policies and strategies about farming and agriculture at the international scale.

LIVINGSTONE 2016 summarized the many relevant achievements WFO has put forward in these very few years of existence, CFS, COP Climate, ECOSOC to mention few and has built a bridge toward the future engagement of WFO members in redesigning the future vision of this Organization.

LIVINGSTONE 2016 come to an end and welcome Helsinki 2017, Shalapo and Tervetuloa



STRENGTHENING FARMER ORGANISATIONS' LOBBYING CAPACITIES: AGRITERRA'S FACT APPROACH

Marnix Sanderse

BUSINESS ADVISOR, AGRITERRA ZAMBIA

A *An influential role of Farmers' Organisations in societies and economies in developing countries generally results in more growth, good governance and democracy, a better distribution of income and wealth, leading to less poverty and hunger. This Theory of Change of Agriterra is gradually being realized across Africa through FACT: the Farmer Advocacy Consultation Tool, aimed at strengthening Farmer Organisations' lobbying capacities to influence decision-makers.*

One of Agriterra's key objectives is to increase farmers' influence towards key decision makers with respect to a better enabling environment for farmers and their strengthened position in the agricultural sector.

Agriterra is actively involved in the promotion of farmers organisations' lobby and advocacy work in developing countries through its Farmers Advocacy Consultation Tool (FACT). FACT was developed based on the widely recognized importance of lobbying & advocacy in the agricultural sector and the need to improve Farmer Organisations' lobbying capacities. Through FACT, the capacity of these Farmer Organisations is strengthened to raise key lobbying issues to decision-makers in the interest of their members.

FACT is built on four pillars that cover the entire lobbying cycle: membership consultation, participatory research, writing SMART proposals and lobby mapping/stakeholder analysis. The FACT approach is a way of generating proposals and position statements based on consultations with the members of a Farmers' Organisation, together with the advice of experts.

FACT is essentially a way for Farmers' Organisations and their constituencies to relate to each other. It ensures that any proposal and position statement that the organisation prepares, takes root in the reality and needs of members. The combination of the representation of members by their leaders with members' information and concerns as well as experts' advice generates proposals that are accountable, well-informed, tackle relevant issues and are technically well prepared. While the success of a proposal is never guaranteed, the FACT approach certainly increases the possibility of success of influencing decision-makers to bring about positive change for farmers.

The successes of FACT are many and vary from increased agricultural investments by government to improvements in the agricultural business environment such as the reduction or removal of taxes, and building of rural infrastructure. In Uganda, the Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) engaged the government on amending tax laws and policies to exempt cooperatives from taxation, as they are drivers of economic progress through empowerment of farmers.

Farmers were consulted at all levels, evidence-based research was conducted, proposals were developed and key decision-makers were identified including the President of Uganda who after lobbying by UCA issued a Presidential directive to abolish taxation of cooperatives in the country.

Other successes with FACT were achieved in Peru, where coffee farmers affected by crop losses due to coffee disease successfully lobbied for a € 40 million compensation package by employing the FACT-approach. In the Philippines, a FACT-inspired lobbying

campaign by PAKISAMA confederation of farmers realized the retrieval of revenues valued at € 50 million that were lost through the government coconut levy. In Africa, FACT is integrated in the lobbying activities of several Farmer Organisations, such as EAFF (East Africa), UNFFE & UCA (Uganda), KENAFF (Kenya), CONAPAC (DRC), CAPAD (Burundi) and SSAPU (South Sudan).

Recently, Agriterra used FACT to build the lobbying capacities of Dairy Association of Zambia (DAZ) and Cotton Association of Zambia (CAZ), affiliates of the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU). In a workshop on improving Farmer Organisations' lobbying capacity, held at the World Farmers Organisation General Assembly in May, CAZ and DAZ presented their experiences with FACT. The workshop provided a discussion platform for Farmer Organisations attending the WFO GA to share their experiences in lobbying & advocacy.

However, more discussion and interaction between stakeholders is needed on how to strengthen lobbying capacities of Farmers' Organisations in order to influence change in the in-

terest of farmers globally. FACT can be an effective approach to realise this, as shown by the successful examples from Africa, Asia and Latin America, which are testament to the large and meaningful impact that effective lobbying can have on farmers' business environment and position in the value chain.

Agriterra continues to roll out the FACT-methodology at Farmer Organisations across the globe, to ensure that farmers are empowered so that the societies in which they live realise more growth, democracy and a more equitable income distribution.

Agriterra

Agriterra is an agri-agency founded by Dutch Farmer Organisations in 1997 and funded by the Dutch government to strengthen and professionalise Farmer Organisations and cooperatives in developing countries. Agriterra employs a farmer-2-farmer approach in which experts from the Dutch agricultural sector provide business advice to Farmer Organisations and cooperatives to turn them into entities that are professionally run in the interest of their member farmers. Agriterra's main focus is on improving governance, financial management and business planning. In addition, Agriterra links farmer organisations and cooperatives to financial institutions in order to make them bankable, as well as creates links to businesses who are looking to connect with ambitious organised farmers to facilitate sourcing of commodities. The impact of the Agriterra approach is increased agricultural productivity, improved membership service provision to entrepreneurial members and a stronger position in the value chain through the empowerment of farmers.

Agriterra is based in 16 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

For more information, see: www.agriterra.nl

LOBBY CYCLE FO's with FACT-thinking

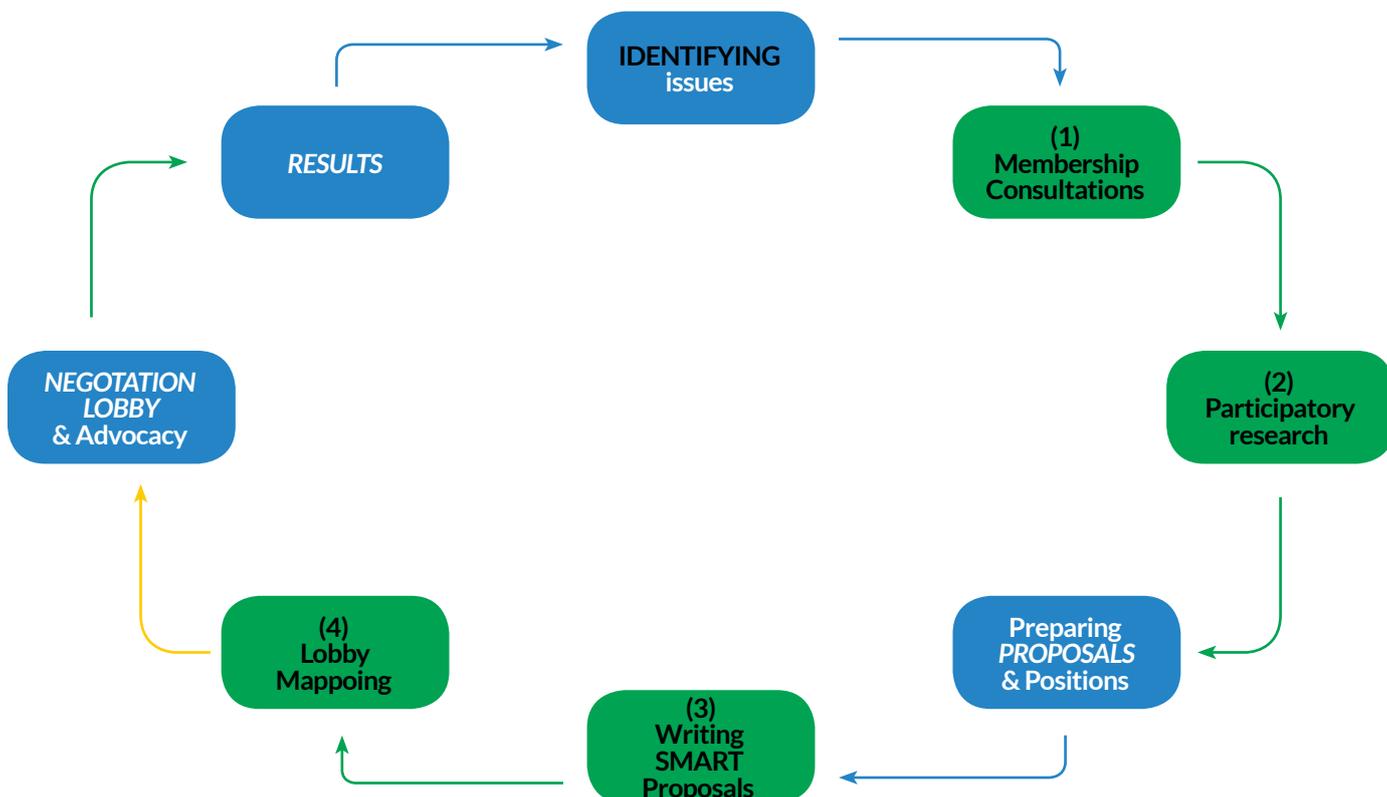


PHOTO-STORY: FARMING LESSONS FROM ZAMBIAN FARMERS

by **Valentina Gasbarri**

Zambia is endowed with a large land resource base of 42 million hectares of which only 1.5 million hectares is cultivated every year.

There are abundant water resources for irrigation and the country has 40 percent of the water in Central and Southern Africa.

Agricultural output in Zambia increased from 18 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2008 to about 20 percent of GDP in 2009. This was as a result of increased area planted, good rainfall patterns in the whole country, as well as favorable agriculture policies by the government.

The country recorded increased production of major crops during the 2009/10 agricultural season compared to the 2008/09 season, including; sunflower (118 percent increase), soya beans (50 percent increase), rice (39 percent increase), maize (31 percent increase), tobacco (7 percent increase) and wheat (5 percent increase).

The agricultural sector continues to be the backbone of the Zambian economy as it contributes to the growth of the economy and also to exports. Primary agriculture contribute about 35 percent to the country's total non traditional exports (all the country's exports other than copper and cobalt) and about 10 percent of the total export earnings for the country.

For many years, it has been common knowledge that agriculture in Zambia can act as an engine of economic growth and poverty reduction. Given that about 80% of the country's population depends on agricultural related livelihoods, Zambia is endowed with a large land resource base of 42 million hectares of which only 1.5 million hectares is cultivated every year. There are abundant water resources for irrigation and the country has 40 percent of the water in Central and Southern Africa.

The agricultural sector in the country has the greatest potential to significantly impact the country's poverty reduction agenda. This demands a re-focusing of the agricultural sector's development strategies and programmes towards drivers of inclusive agricultural growth. This is what the National Agriculture Investment plan (NAIP) of the Zambian Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock seeks to achieve between 2014 and 2018.

THE KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT INCLUDE:

(I) SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE BASE

(II) INFRASTRUCTURE AND MARKET ACCESS

(III) FOOD SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

(IV) RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY



Women's Committee

A delegation of WTO Women's Committee from Argentina, Malawi, Uganda, Finland spent one full day exploring and exchanging views with local farmers in Livingstone, Zambia.

They observed best practices in land preparation, crop seeding, harvesting, post-harvesting; culture techniques; and large-scale irrigation technologies and water management particularly related to wheat, tobacco, banana, groundnuts, cassava, green maize as well as poultry initiatives.

The success story of the Livingstone Tobacco Farm owned by Mr. Aston Chris from the Livingstone Tobacco Farm, 25 km far from Livingstone, is a fact that deserves attention among the farmers community worldwide.

The farm is growing 40HA of tobacco and the 80HA of wheat and 20HA of bananas. The crop is lucrative but it is also a technical crop which requires skilled labour.

This is one of the reasons why some farmers work with contractors who always buy their tobacco unlike auction floors where merchants only buy tobacco when they are impressed by the specific grades.



Tobacco has continued to be one of the most important cash crops in Zambia.

Tobacco growing has steadily grown in volume, over the past four years. According to the last figures, in Eastern Province, tobacco production for the 2015/16 farming season is expected to reduce from 6.7 million kilogrammes in the 2014/15 to about six million kilogrammes due to the poor rainfall experienced in the area.

ZNFU says the highest price for barley tobacco is US\$2.95 per kilogramme, while the lowest is US\$0.40 cents per kilogramme.



Bananas are a high value crop but they also require a lot of water to grow.

The erratic rainy season and periods of drought make the Zambezi River the only reliable source of water, through the use of irrigation systems, water pumps.





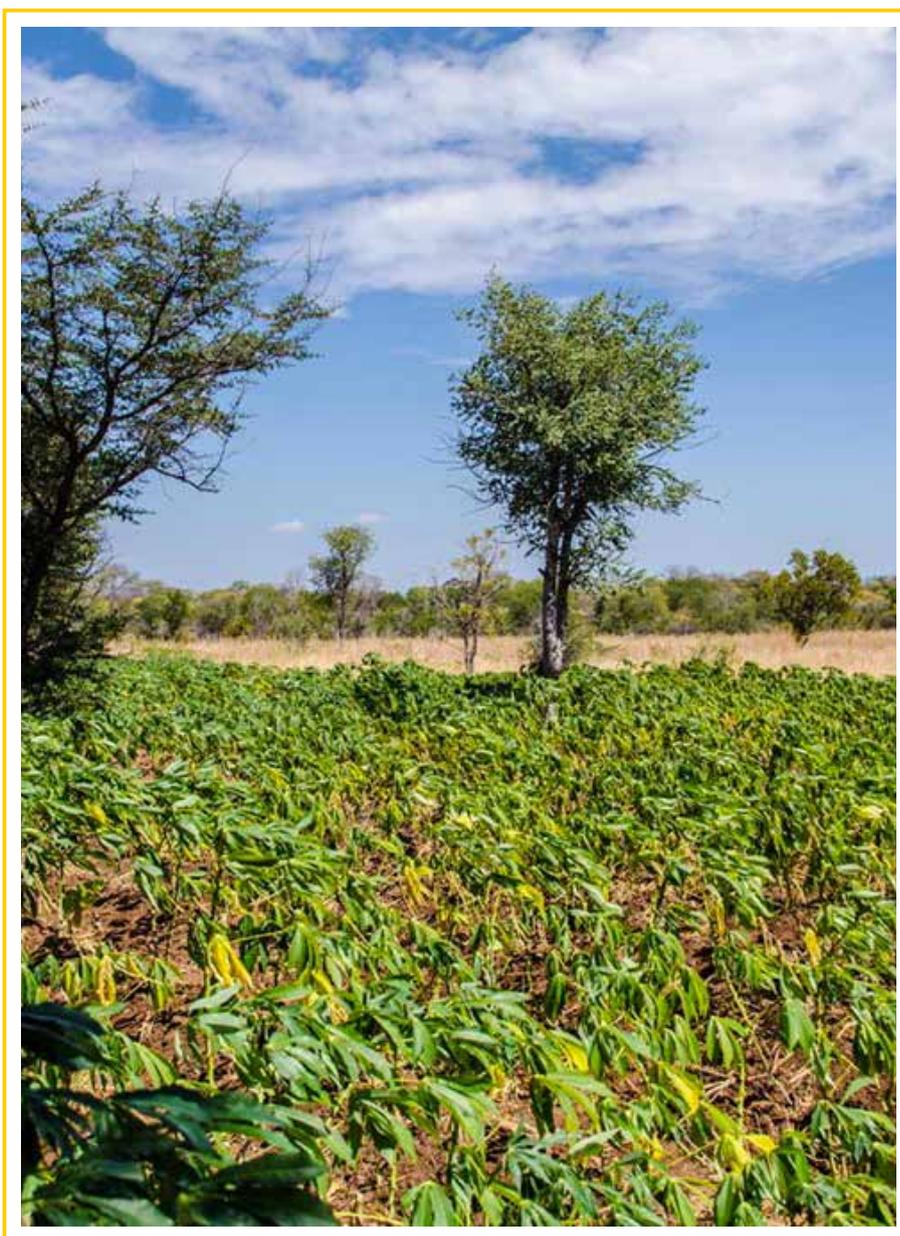
Bananas are rich of vitamin B6, manganese, vitamin C, potassium, fiber and biotin.

A first type of cardiovascular benefit from bananas is related to their potassium content.

Bananas are a good source of potassium, an essential mineral for maintaining normal blood pressure and heart function, with benefits for the diabetics and digestive health.

Cassava cultivation at Tapiwa Farm, 11 km far from Livingstone. Cassava has nearly twice the calories than that of potatoes and perhaps one of the highest value calorie food for any tropical starch rich tubers and roots. 100 g root provides 160 calories. Cassava is very low in fats and protein than in cereals and pulses. Nonetheless, it has more protein than that of other tropical food sources like yam, potato, plantains. As in other roots and tubers, cassava too is free from gluten. Young tender cassava (yuca) leaves are a good source of dietary proteins and vitamin K. Vitamin-K has a potential role in bone mass building by promoting osteotrophic activity in the bones. It also has established role in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease patients by limiting neuronal damage in the brain.

Cassava is a moderate source of some of the valuable B-complex group of vitamins such as folates, thiamin, pyridoxine (vitamin B-6), riboflavin, and pantothenic acid. It is one of the chief sources of some important minerals like zinc, magnesium, copper, iron, and manganese for many inhabitants in the tropical belts. In addition, it has adequate amounts of potassium (271 mg per 100g or 6% of RDA). Potassium is an important component of cell and body fluids that help regulate heart rate and blood pressure.



Livestock rearing is one of the leading farming activities practiced by rural communities in Zambia.

The animals kept include cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and various species of poultry of which chickens are the most common. Rearing of animals in rural areas is mostly done on a subsistence level where the emphasis is to produce for own household consumption with very little left for sale to generate income.

However, in recent years, there has been an increased effort by the Zambian government to encourage farmers to improve animal productivity as a way of creating employment and income generation.



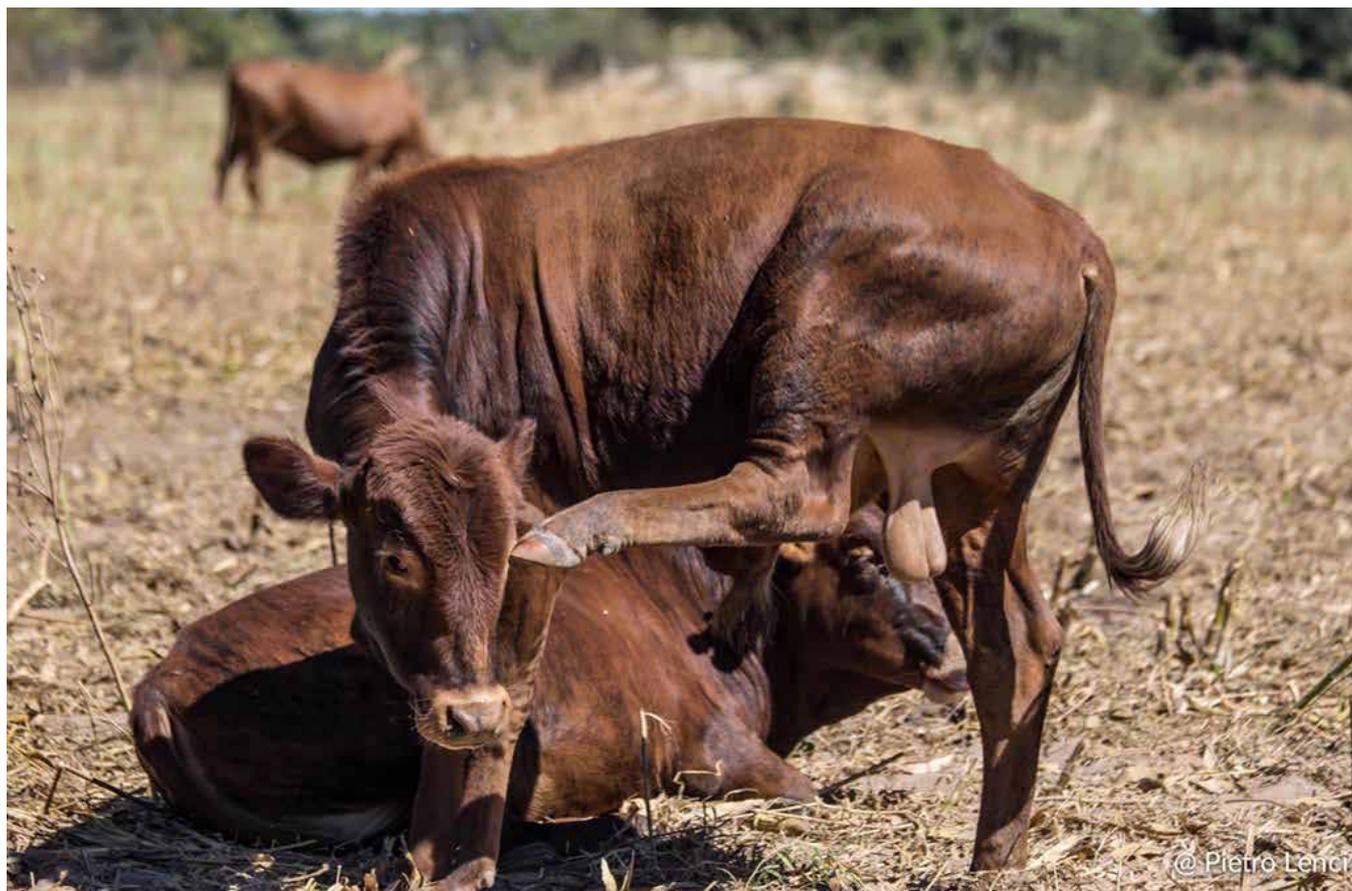
Chano Farm, 150 km far from Livingstone is thriving mixed emerging farm, running a mixed beef cattle herd, a piggery, goat and sheep.

Chano represents a number of upcoming Zambian smallholders.



WFO Delegates during the visit at Alexsvill Farm. Registered in 1994 as a Bonsmara Stud Alexsvill Farm produces well adapted bonsmara bulls and females, which are increasingly making a positive contribution to the Zambian beef cattle production.





The Bonsmara is a medium framed, smooth coated, heat and tick tolerant beef breed. It is uniform red-brown to light brown in colour and has the typical frame of an efficient sub-tropical breed. A slightly sloping rump ensures that it is also an easy calver.

Over the years the Bonsmara has distinguished itself as an “easy care” breed with the following positive at-

tributes: Very well adapted to most climatic conditions; bushveld, savannah and sourveld environments. Very fertile with short intercalving periods. Early maturity. Low birth weights and therefore easy calving with high re-conception rates.

Well developed udders with adequate milk to wean a strong calf. Good growth ability: Bonsmara bulls may

thus be used to good effect in a crossbreeding program. Advantageous feed conversion ratio. Excellent carcass and meat qualities: its meat is of high quality – tender, tasty and succulent.

In a crossbreeding program the Bonsmara improves the quality of the meat of the breed with which it is crossed, especially as regards tenderness.



UNLOCK THE FULL POTENTIAL OF WFO WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

By Giacomo Udugbor
and Valentina Gasbarri

W “Women supply 43 per cent of all agricultural labour in low - and middle-income countries” (FAO, 2015) and

upwards of 70 per cent in developing countries (Fairtrade International 2015). The challenges to supporting women in agriculture come up repeatedly in the international dialogues, particularly around women farmers’ access to land, and their limited access to inputs, seeds, credits, and extension services.

A recent report released last October 2015 by UN Women, UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank Group recognizes the crucial role that closing the gender gap in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda will play in boosting productivity and economic growth and vitality in these areas. Closing the gender gap could potentially lift close to half a million people living in rural areas in these countries out of poverty (FAO, 2011).

Giving a voice to these women is goal of the WFO's Women Committee.

The Committee is almost at its full potential: one more member is needed from Europe and one from North America. The current members are: Ms. Kati Partanen as Facilitator; Ms. Alice Kachere and Ms. Rose Akaki, representing Africa; Ms. Mariko Inoue and Ms. Aishatul Radziah, representing Asia; Ms. Francesca Giro-

ne representing Europe; Ms. Adela Nores and Ms. Maria Yolanda Moreno, representing South America; Ms. Debra Pretty-Straathof, representing North America; Ms. Elizabeth Brennan and Ms. Katie Milne, representing Oceania.

Since its establishment in 2013, the WFO Women’s Committee continues to be a powerful voice, at the international and regional level, to advocate on how to promote the status of women; to strengthen the capacities of women farmers through their participation in farmer’s organisations; to ensure equal treatment between women and men in agricultural sector; to encourage solidarity and cooperation among women farmers; to promote, analyze and disseminate research on women farmers’ economic and social conditions.

Since last General Assembly in Milan, exploiting the potential of new technologies, the Committee held 3 e-meetings which have brought to the definition of a Work Plan for the period 2016-2017.

The active participation of the members of the Committee to global and regional events is a critical element in the work of the Women's Committee.

Representative of the WFO Women’s Committee joined international and regional events throughout the year, such as the celebrations in the occasion of the International Women’s day 2016, under the theme Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it up for gender equality and zero hunger, co-organized by the three Rome-based agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP) and International Development Law Organization (IDLO).

The event aimed at promoting gender equality in order to realized the Zero Hunger Challenge, stressing the need to empower women especially in the agricultural sector, where significant discriminations between men and women continue to persist. WFO participation was

highly appreciated by the WFP Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin, and Josephina Stubbs from IFAD, who thank personally WFO for the commitment in empowering women in agriculture.

In the framework of the 6th WFO's General Assembly in Livingstone, Zambia, the Women's Committee had the chance to hold a meeting in which all members exchanged experiences and best practices.

Engagement of the Women's Committee was also a reliable and informative source of inspiration for the design and development of the WFO monthly publication. WFO Secretariat welcomed a large number of contributions from the women's perspective on various topics with a narrative argument more often forgotten or left aside.

The International Day of Rural Women (IDRW) on 15 October 2015, was another relevant event to continue to build momentum on the urgent need to raise awareness among

international community of the role of women farmers in ensuring healthy, affordable and nutritious food around the world.

In the 2015 edition, the WFO Women's Committee specifically focused its intervention on the need to maintain and restore worldwide, where rural women are more often the first indirect victims of conflicts.

Without a peaceful society, the challenges rural women face can't be overcome. Peace is also the key element to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. The committee also organized a global Twitter Chat on the IDRW where we answered in the chat session to five questions and intended to raise up discussion about the rural women.

To celebrate the UN International Year of Soil in 2015, Women's Committee has organized the "Soil Quilt Project", following the suggestions of a former facilitator, Ms. Susan Carlson. Women around the world buried

the piece of fabric to soil for couple of week and dug them up to be used as the piece of art project. Now the fabrics are in the hands of an artist who puts the pieces together.

The idea is to show how important soil is for the farmers and how it combines the farmers.

The final piece of art will be handed over to the UN headquarters next October.

The Women's Committee will be working on several thematic issues during the years 2016 - 2017, linked to WFO's activities, such as food security, women's role in the climate change, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), capacity-building and need for education and training. But also participating in events as CFS42, WTO Public Forum, COP22, WFO's Event on Nutrition, to bring the Women's Farmers voice in international fora.



PARTNERSHIP FOR GROWTH: INSIGHTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Virginia Cravero

ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR YPARD

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As described by the Office of the Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State, Partnership for Growth (PFG) is a partnership between the

United States and a select group of countries to accelerate and sustain broad-based economic growth by putting into practice the principles of President Obama's September 2010 Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development.

It involves rigorous joint analysis of constraints to growth, the development of joint action plans to address these constraints, and high-level mutual accountability for implementation (U.S. Department of State, 2011).

El Salvador, Ghana, Philippines, and Tanzania agreed to become the first set of PFG countries based on their performance on the Millennium Challenge Corporation's selection criteria, a track record of partnering with the United States, policy performance, and potential for continued economic growth, among other criteria (U.S. Department of State, 2011).

In PFG partner countries, the U.S. government's development efforts aim to create an "enabling environment for economic growth" which will attract private capital.

The government is engaging with private sector partners to determine what specific factors are keeping them from investing in the PFG countries, in order to focus its resources towards addressing those issues.

The PFG aims to "spur new investment by lowering the risks and costs of investment with developmental impact," increasing non-aid flows into developing countries and creating more sustainable development. By deliberately promoting economic growth through private investment and economic growth, U.S. agencies are positioning themselves as "catalytic minority shareholders in development" helping to unleash growth with more than official aid money (Atencio, 2013).

One of PFG's signature objectives is to engage governments, the private sector and civil society with a broad range of tools to unlock new sources of investment, including domestic resources and foreign direct investment.

By improving coordination, leveraging private investment, and focusing political commitment throughout both governments, the Partnership for Growth enables partners to achieve better development results (U.S. Department of State, 2011).

Core principles of the Partnership for Growth include (U.S. Department of State, 2011):

- Country ownership and partnership;
- High-level political leadership and commitment to development progress;
- Rigorous, evidence-based joint analysis on constraints to growth conducted by integrated teams of U.S. Government and PFG country officials;
- Joint decision-making on where to focus and prioritize resources;
- Use of a broad range of tools, including catalytic policy change, institutional reform, aid, diplomatic engagement, and other 'non-assistance' policy tools;
- Transparency, mutual accountability and fact-based monitoring and evaluation.

What has made the Partnership for Growth process unique, compared to the development of Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compacts, Feed the Future, Power Africa, or any other economic development priority, is greater national security staff (NSS) engagement. The NSS is involved in several trade and development processes, but few are chaired and managed by the NSS.

PFG is unique in the degree of NSS interest in a coordinated strategy, in part because PFG was conceived to operationalize the Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) that called for a more inclusive, coherent development strategy. Indeed, greater NSS involvement is one possible solution often offered to address the relative disconnection between U.S. trade and development programs.

One of the lessons PFG can teach, then, is whether a stronger NSS role—and the necessary capacity and competencies needed to go with it—on trade and development priorities is a viable solution to this longstanding problem (Jensen, 2013).

Many interviewed participating in the PFG process observed achievements in terms of transparency of the number and variations of agency programs that could be brought to bear on specific PFG priorities. In the case of PFG, NSS involve-

ment has been useful in providing needed strategic coordination at the front end of establishing a development priority, and in providing transparency to encourage agencies to share strategic priorities when they intersect. NSS oversight has brought coordination that would not otherwise have occurred and had rarely occurred before across agencies—particularly in terms of shared constraints analyses, greater program coordination of some agencies (e.g., USAID around MCC compacts), and greater programmatic transparency (Jensen, 2013).

PfG has shown us, then, that NSS involvement in a priority initiative can achieve a significant degree of strategic coordination across trade and development programs. This coordination is fundamental to engaging non-aid actors, but it is not sufficient. Relying on greater NSS involvement alone to achieve more sustainable development is not a long-term strategy. As implementation demands of PfG intensify, or if new countries are added to the initiative, NSS management of PfG could become increasingly unsustainable (Jensen, 2013).

A significant benefit of the PfG experiment was the shared development of an economic constraints analysis between USAID, MCC, and the Department of State, and the use of the analysis as a strategic “roadmap” for PfG discussions around Joint Country Action Plans. Another benefit of the PfG process was greater coordination of government programs around MCC compacts, which, when developed in synch with PfG Joint Country Action Plans, at least aligned the MCC compact with USAID programs. This is a significant occurrence, because MCC compacts have been largely nego-

tiated between the beneficiary government and MCC, without the benefit of strategic coordination with other U.S. trade and development agencies (Jensen, 2013)

The PfG process also brought to light that agency alignment is most successful when PfG designation is synched at the start of MCC compact development and based on the same constraints analysis. If Joint Country Action Plans are negotiated out of synch with an MCC five-year compact, coordination is marginal at best. For example, El Salvador’s Joint Country Action Plan had little in common with El Salvador’s first MCC compact. However, El Salvador’s second compact and constraints analysis were synched with the PfG Joint Country Action Plan, allowing for coordination. This suggests the next wave of PfG countries should prioritize MCC countries where a new compact is just underway to maximize outcomes (Jensen, 2013).

Those interviewed thought there was still some distance to go in achieving coordination across agencies of complementary programs at the mission level. That said, PfG did provide a rationale for initiatives that could combine trade and development tools. For example:

- In El Salvador, a Growth Council was created to improve dialogue between the public and private sector—both of which had longstanding suspicion of each other—on how development resources could be focused to increase investment.
- An education initiative was launched to help El Salvadoran vocational institutions provide training relevant to the private sector and potential investors.

- In the Philippines, the country furthest along in the PfG process, more than \$160 million of the economic growth budget was recast from underutilized basic education programs in Mindanao for tertiary and vocational educational programs in high demand by the private sector (Jensen, 2013).

But these were exceptions to the general observation that a country’s strategic plan did not reflect PfG priorities, and strategic plans in PfG countries that coordinated programs across agencies and with the private sector were missing. Companies still perceive a disconnect between the rhetoric of both proposed legislation and agencies that call for greater leveraging of mission strategic plans with the private sector and the processes available to enable them to follow through (Jensen, 2013).

In conclusion, PfG has demonstrated that better strategic coordination can be achieved to some extent across agencies on priorities, and that a shared blueprint can achieve programmatic synergies across U.S. development agencies. Coordination was less successful when strategic priorities of agencies did not intersect and is still limited across U.S. trade and development agencies. PfG also demonstrated that White House involvement can only go so far in achieving a coordinated trade and development strategy without programmatic budget alignment, and cannot overcome the varied mandates and jurisdictions of agencies. It can encourage, but cannot unilaterally accomplish, the U.S. Global Development Strategy’s goal of a coordinated sustainable development strategy that engages non-aid actors.

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NEWS



ZAMBIA TO HOST THE 6TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE WORLD FARMERS' ORGANIZATION

World Farmers' Organization President (WFO) Dr Evelyn Nguleka has announced that Zambia will this year host the 6th General Assembly for the organization.

Speaking at a media briefing Dr Nguleka who is also Zambia National Farmers' Union ZNFU President said the assembly which is the largest gathering of farmers in the world puts the country in the lime light at a global stage and that it also gives Zambia an opportunity to sell itself to the wider world.

<http://bit.ly/25cpApJ>



ZAMBIA HOSTS GLOBAL AGRO-CONFERENCE

Over 100 countries are expected to attend the 6th World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) general assembly to be hosted by Zambia on May 4 in Livingstone.

The assembly is expected to serve as a platform for discussion and promotion of the role of partnerships among different stakeholders to achieve sustainable development in agriculture.

Zambia is anticipated to host leaders from farmers' organisations from around the globe, international organisations in national, regional and global food and agricultural industries.

<http://bit.ly/1Tw98rg>

INVEST IN FARM TECHNOLOGY-GOVT

Minister of Agriculture Given Lubinda says there is need to invest in appropriate farming technologies and climate-smart agriculture to increase production. Mr Lubinda says countries must seek solutions and innovations to adapt to climate change that has induced adverse weather conditions.

He was speaking in Livingstone during the World Farmers' Organization General Assembly opening ceremony. Mr. Lubinda said farmers' organizations are best suited to influence agriculture and agribusiness development policies.

<http://bit.ly/1ThBwkj>

FARMERS HOLD KEYS TO ENDING POVERTY, HUNGER, FAO SAYS

With recent data showing that 793 million people still go to bed hungry, ending hunger and poverty in 15 years is the next development challenge that world leaders have set for themselves.

As part of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these two have been made a special priority because of their impact on the world's ability to achieve the rest.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) understands the enormity of the challenge ahead, and the importance of the producers of food – the farmers – to meet the set target.

"As you know, the international community has committed to end worldwide hunger and poverty in 15 years, with the endorsement of the 2030 Agenda. FAO is fully engaged to help address this challenge. But we know that this is only possible with solid partnerships, especially with non-state actors," said FAO Director General José Graziano Da Silva during the World Farmers' Organisation General Assembly, which opened here Wednesday, May 4.

<http://bit.ly/26Z42ex>



WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION MEETING EYES NEW MARKETS, FRESH INVESTMENT

No Farmer, No Food' is an old slogan that the Zambia National Farmers' Union still uses. Some people consider it a cliché, but it could be regaining its place in history as agriculture is increasingly seen as the answer to a wide range of the world's critical needs such as nutrition, sustainable jobs and income for the rural poor. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), agricultural investment is one of the most important and effective strategies for economic growth and poverty reduction in rural areas where the majority of the world's poor live. Available data indicates that Gross Domestic

Product (GDP) growth in agriculture is at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as growth originating in other sectors.

Armed with this evidence, the world's development trajectory is focusing on how the sector can boost the fight against hunger and extreme poverty—two of the major obstacles to achieving sustainable development. And the upcoming 6th World Farmers' Organisation General Assembly slated for May 4-7 in Zambia is set to be dominated by, among other things, agricultural investment and market linkages.

<http://bit.ly/1OQakqN>

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP PLENARY ASSEMBLY

23-25 May 2016, Rome, Italy

The fourth session of the GSP Plenary Assembly will take place in Rome from the 23-25 May 2016. The Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly is the main yearly meeting of ITPS members, GSP Executive Secretariat, representatives of the different partners and members to FAO. This assembly is in charge of reviewing and prioritizing GSP actions, and facilitating a balanced regional decision-making process.

<http://bit.ly/1W4BOLN>

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT AGENDA (UNEA)

23-27 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya

The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) will take place at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, under the overarching theme of Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Assembly, which represents the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment, will culminate in resolutions and a global call to action to address the critical environmental challenges facing the world today.

<http://web.unep.org/unea/about-unea>

G7 SUMMIT 2016

26-27 May 2016 Kashikojima, Mie Prefecture Japan

The 2016 Group of 7 (G7) Summit in Japan will bring together the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US to address global challenges. Under the Presidency of Japan, the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit will discuss measures to address the global economic slowdown, terrorism, the humanitarian crisis and ongoing conflicts. Separate meetings of G7 ministers will also take place through the year at various locations around Japan, including meetings of foreign, finance, agriculture, ICT, energy, education, science and technology, environment, health and transport ministers. The G7 was officially established in 1985 to facilitate economic cooperation among the world's largest industrial nations; summit meetings of the member nations began in 1975.

EIGHTH TRONDHEIM CONFERENCE ON BIODIVERSITY ON "FOOD SYSTEMS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURE"

31 May - 3 June 2016 - Trondheim, Norway

The eighth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity is expected to make an important contribution to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and contribute to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Cancun, Mexico in December 2016.

<http://bit.ly/1RbpS2E>

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2016

15-16 June 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The European Development Days (EDD) are Europe's leading forum on development and international cooperation. Organised by the European Commission, the forum brings the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

<https://www.eudevdays.eu>

SIDE EVENT EUDEVSDAYS16: FARMING FIRST & CGIAR SIDE EVENT AT EU DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2016

15 June 2016, Brussels, Belgium

"Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals with Science" is the theme of the side event jointly organized by Farming First and CGIAR on 15 June 2016. The panel – moderated by BBC science & environment journalist Mark Kinver – will tell stories of science changing farmers' lives Pecha Kucha style. Discussing 20 images for just 20 seconds each, the speakers will stimulate debate on how science can be harnessed to achieve many of the interlinked Sustainable Development Goals, including ending hunger, combatting climate change and empowering women.

<http://bit.ly/23YCLVI>

GACSA ANNUAL FORUM ON CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

14-17 June 2016, Rome, Italy

The theme of this year's Annual Forum is Climate-Smart Agriculture in Action.

GACSA's ambitious future is based upon supporting and inspiring action. Farmers, fishers, foresters, and ranchers are at the center of this action, and therefore GACSA is devoting its Annual Forum to showcasing climate-smart agriculture in action.

The Forum will be a dynamic gathering, where the participants share solutions, discuss challenges, and build partnerships on climate-smart agriculture. We are seeking out action-oriented stakeholders to come to both share and learn at the GACSA Annual Forum.

A farm visit is included in the programme of the event, in partnership with WFO.

<http://www.fao.org/gacsa/en/>



@ Pietro Lenzi

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