

LAUNCH OF A MULTI-COUNTRY RESEARCH STUDY ON FOOD SYSTEMS

Zambia stakeholder consultative workshop

Lusaka, Zambia

23– 24 November 2023

Introduction

Transformation towards sustainable, resilient, equitable, and inclusive agri-food systems is one of the most important challenges of our times across Africa as it contributes to reducing poverty, and unemployment and achieving food and nutrition security in rural, peri-urban, and urban communities. Therefore, research focusing on the transformation of food systems is one of the present and key research agendas of AISA in South Africa and other countries in the region including Tanzania and Zambia. The current study focuses on Food systems transformation leveraging digital and climate-smart agriculture technologies is scheduled to start field data collection in South Africa, Tanzania & Zambia towards the end of this year. As a preparation to undertake the fieldwork in Zambia, a multi-stakeholder consultative workshop becomes essential ahead of the field data collection process. Such a workshop will allow the team to understand the perspectives, needs, and concerns of various stakeholders involved in the agri-food system. This can help shape the research objectives and methodology to ensure they are relevant and beneficial to those directly impacted by the system. The workshop will provide an opportunity to build relationships and trust with stakeholders, to facilitate better cooperation and participation during the actual fieldwork. More importantly, this consultative workshop will help identify potential challenges or barriers that might arise during the research project. This can allow for proactive planning to address these issues.

Goal

Undertake high-level multi-stakeholder engagement dialogues with diplomats, local and national government officials, the private sector, the research community, and civil society groups regarding food systems transformation in Zambia study to enhance policy advocacy and institutional visibility.

Objectives of the workshop

- To map and establish collaborative networks with stakeholders such as the University of Zambia, the Government, the FARNPAN node, and others for research purposes.
- To conduct preparations such as ethics clearance approval, study site selection, and data collection instruments finalization for the implementation of the agri-food systems transformation study in Zambia
- To establish a good engagement for the development of MOU/MOA with partners such as the University of Zambia and the FARNPAN node
- To enhance HSRC/AISA visibility and footprint in research and development in Zambia for continued sustainable research collaboration beyond the current study.
- To build awareness, and community trust with key stakeholders involved in agriculture, food security issues, and local governance to facilitate easy community entry during the implementation of the study.
- Develop networks and contacts with key informants such as policymakers, food safety experts, market regulators, and other key stakeholders in the food supply chain for possible intw.

Methodological Approach

The workshop will be done in Lusaka, Zambia in collaboration with the FANRPAN Zambia node and the University of Zambia (UNZA). The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), and the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) will lead the workshop engagements. Participants will be drawn from government departments, Universities for example, the University of Zambia, The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Zambia node, Civic society, Development agencies, and local government institutions. The workshop will be done over 2 days, and the expected outputs and outcomes are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Activities, outputs, outcomes, and verifiable indicators of achievement of the multi-stakeholder workshop in Zambia

Objective	Activity	Outputs	Outcomes	Verifiable indicators of achievement
Establishing collaborative networks	Stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Institutions engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Improved visibility	List of institutions engaged
Preparations such as ethics clearance approval, study site selection, and data collection instruments finalization	Discussions with partners on ethics clearance, study site selection, and instruments reviewing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Study areas identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Instruments reviewed and improved· Ethics clearance process and logistic set	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· List of study areas· Instruments reviewed.· Ethics application process and responsibilities established

the development of MOU/MOA with partners such as the University of Zambia and the FARNPAN node	Discussions with potential partners	· Institution(s) for MOU/ MOA signing identified	· Improved collaborative networking	· Listing of institution(s) for signing MOU/ MOA
Build awareness, and community trust with key stakeholders involved in agriculture, food security issues, and local governance to facilitate easy community entry	Identification and engagement of key institutions involved	· Names of institutions and contact persons identified	· Initial collaborative engagements done	· List of institutions, contact persons and responsibility