



FIAN INTERNATIONAL ZAMBIA REGIONAL MEETING REPORT

REGIONAL MEETING; RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION: BUILDING A PAN-AFRICAN AND DECOLONIAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR SOUTHERN

AFRICAN REGION

CHISAMBA FRINGILA LODGE 19-23 MAY 2021



FIAN
INTERNATIONAL
ZAMBIA

FIAN INTERNATIONAL ZAMBIA, ZAMBIA ALLIANCE FOR AGRO-ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY (ZAAB) AND AFRICAN CENTRE FOR BIODIVERSITY (ACB) TABLE OF CONTENTS



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ACRONYMS

FISP: Farmer Input Support Programme

ZAAB: Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity

ACB: African Centre for Biodiversity

PELUM: Participatory Ecological Land Use Management

FIAN: Food First Information and Action Network

ACHPR: African Commission on Human and People's Rights

NBS: Nature Based Solutions

ESCR: Economic Social and Cultural Rights

UNDROP: United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas

RtFN: Right to Food and Nutrition

PPARV: Popular Pan-African Resistance Vision

ITPGRFA: International treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

SERAC: Social and Economic Rights Action Centre

CESR: Centre for Economic and Social Rights

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

CSO: Civil society organisation

AfCFTA: African Continental Free Trade Area

ACSH: African Continental Seed Harmonisation

ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ETOs: Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations

UPR: Universal periodic review

AFSA: Alliance for food sovereignty in Africa

ABN: African Biodiversity Network

SKI: Seed and Knowledge Initiative

ESAFF: Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum

RESCOPE: Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture

FAO: Food and Agricultural Organisation

MNCs: Multinational Corporations

UPOV: Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

GALS: Gender Action Learning System

ETOs: Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations

FMSS: Farmer Managed Seed Systems

ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

FCPEEP : Front commun pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des
Espaces Protégés

RDC: Resident Development Committee

ZEMA: Zambia Environmental Management Agency

ZAWA: Zambia Wildlife Authority

SADC: Southern African Development Community

ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms

FACHIG: Farmers' Association of Community self-Help Investment Groups Trust

ZSSP: The Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme

ARIPO: African Regional Intellectual Property Organization

FISP: Farmer Input Support Programme

FAW: Fall Armyworm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Right to Food and Nutrition Regional meeting with the theme; Building a Pan-African and Decolonial Recovery Plan for the Southern African Region was hosted by the FIAN International Zambia, Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB) and African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB).

We are thankful to the Germany Foreign Ministry through FIAN Germany and Bread for the World Germany for their financial support. We thank Hon. Mudford Zachariah Mwandenga, Commissioner in the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR), for not only officiating at the meeting but also for his support to the discussions throughout the meeting.

We would like to thank our national and regional partners/networks for their participation, and their valuable contributions into the meeting. We are sincerely grateful to the communications team from ACB, for their dedication to the success of the meeting.

This meeting would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the team from the ACB, FIAN Zambia, ZAAB, and FIAN International Secretariat.





SUMMARY

The Regional Meeting on the Right to Food and Nutrition Building a Pan African Recovery Plan for Southern Africa was held on 19th to 22nd May 2021 at Frinjila Lodge in Chisamba Zambia where it attracted participants from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, Namibia, Congo DR, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Eswatini. The regional meeting was organised by FIAN International Zambia, ZAAB and ACB.

The main objective of the meeting was to build on previous discussions and bring together key actors across different areas of expertise/movements (i.e. RtFN, agro-ecology, food sovereignty, tax justice, extractives, climate, and deforestation) in the Southern Africa region in order to share experiences, lessons learnt and work out national and regional advocacy strategies. Participants deliberated on the converging crises such as climate change, increasing social inequity and poor health as experienced by Southern Africa and the forces driving them. They discussed implications and possible convergences of crises with a view to beginning develop a Pan-African, decolonial understanding and approach to food sovereignty, agro-ecology and healthy environment.

Mrs Angela Mulenga Mwape Board Chairperson of FIAN International Zambia, who welcomed participants, called the meeting to order, Ms Frances Davies National Coordinator of ZAAB highlighted the objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting. It was officially opened by Hon. Mudford Zachariah Mwandenga, Commissioner in the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and Chairperson of the Zambia Human Rights Commission.

The meeting which had both physical and online presence was organised in sessions that included presentations, plenary discussions, and group

discussions. Mrs Angela Mulenga Chairperson of FIAN International Zambia gave a vote thanks, and the meeting was concluded.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION



The world is facing a systemic collapse and business as usual cannot continue. Food is particularly central to the multiple crises we are facing in southern Africa. Unsustainable food production and trade are the primary causes of the drivers of climate change, increasing social inequity and poor health. Current policies, practices and programmes of the political and economic regimes in region offer short-term relief at best, but false solutions and embedding injustice as a norm.

Regional counties have all committed to human rights and regional and international instruments aimed at redressing ecological degradation and improving human wellbeing. We however continue to witness political disregard for their realisation, and instead increased power inequity, disenfranchisement of citizen's voices, and neo-colonial corporate and elite control over public and private life and the regions natural systems.

Reclaiming Africa's food sovereignty is imperative to addressing current trends and challenging growing power asymmetries that are at the roots of the systematic crisis. We identify the need to strengthen the food sovereignty agenda in southern Africa and act collectively push for the deliberate realisation of core human rights, particularly the right to food and nutrition.

CONTEXT



We are witnessing the continuous degradation of socio-ecological systems under the guise of development loans and aid, deepening dependency on destructive, short-sighted and short-lived carbon and capital-intensive projects. This, with the focus on global agricultural and forest value chains, all contribute to creating conditions of extreme vulnerability and an incapacity to respond to shocks such as the climate disasters, fall armyworm and of course, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ecological degradation is principally driven by multinational corporations and agribusiness, which behave like predators, exploiting tax evasion and illicit financial flows. This neo-liberal development paradigm has resulted in dispossessing smallholder farmers as traditional foraging grounds are usurped for mining, clear-cut logging, and industrial agriculture. This is entrenching the unequal relations between Africa and the rest of the world, not just the Global North. Our foundations for life, the rich natural and

human resources are being continuously, systematically and rapaciously extracted and destroyed. There are also around 25 conflicts on the continent, inextricably linked to resource extraction, undemocratic governments and broader geo-political ambitions entrenching Africa's resource poorness, dependency, disease ridden and generally in disarray and its peoples highly traumatized and oppressed.

Consequently, small-scale farmers end up turning to paid work on mines in the region. Many smallholder farmers are either encouraged to opt for monoculture production or to work as poorly paid and exploited labourers on farms and end up also as refugees in neighbouring countries and or in cities where they become part of the invisible and surplus peoples. These trends towards greater conversion of land for monocrops, including tree monocultures, contribute hugely to eroding and undermining local food security and livelihoods. The extreme pressures on livelihoods as a result of armed conflict, the extractives sector, and the absence of support for small-scale farmers is forcing more and more people into ever more precarious conditions.

We are clearly seeing the interconnections between extractivism, ecological collapse, precarious livelihoods, and, the relationship between ecological disturbance and human health being shaped by the distorted logics of austerity, profiteering and financialisation of all life.

Addressing pandemics, land degradation and deforestation cannot be de-linked from building economies and food systems that are grounded in the needs of people, particularly smallholder farmers, and thriving ecosystems. To achieve this, we must utterly reject and resist against the eco-cidal logics of commodification, financialisation and extractivism for human and ecological liberation of the continent - otherwise Africa is destined to become an economic and ecological wasteland, feeding the insatiable appetite of developed countries and economies in the south such as Brazil, India and China.

Despite the intersectional and systemic challenges we are facing, the so-called "solutions" being offered do little more than allow for the continuation of business as usual. Importantly, many African countries live under authoritarian dictatorships, where human rights are incessantly violated, leaving little space for political engagement and civic participation. Internationally, in negotiations towards a post-2020 global framework on biodiversity under the Convention of Biological Diversity we see increasing threats to the peoples of Africa and our natural resources. Intersecting with the climate negotiations, discussions of the highly contentious and misleading Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and the 30x30 target, seek to exploit African landscapes under the guise of its protection, and offset the insatiable and indefinite growth of especially developed

countries and middle income developing countries, at the expense of African livelihoods, ecosystems and the future of our children, including the unborn.

As the African continent continues to experience a common pattern of extraction, and facilitating neo-colonial trade agreements that have long-term regional implications, we require a new framing towards a Pan-African, agro-ecological resistance, due to our intricately interlinked economies and ecological systems. To deal with the changing nature of geopolitics and geo-economics in light of the new threats to the continent, we need to building on the historical work already in flow, and come together to support collective efforts nationally and regionally, enhance South-South collaboration and North-South solidarity.

Weak social and political, Economic policies frameworks are a predominant feature in Southern African countries, despite abundant resources and a good climate and various instruments such as International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR), United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), African Charter on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights, etc... The poverty and hunger being experienced is also: - a reflection of the absence of a strong socio-economic and political framework and policies that are people cantered, - Decades of neoliberal policies and practices and absence of public policies that fundamentally change the way in which our society is organized and the economic system operates, - And changes of climatic conditions, which have impacted on people's livelihoods.

In this way, we aimed to come together to build this pan-African agenda to work with movements across sectors/ areas, to move towards the decolonization of Southern African Regional economies and ecologies, and hold multinational corporations, local elites, and systemic racism, classism and institutional colonialism accountable for the ecological crisis we are in.

OBJECTIVE



This meeting aimed at building on previous discussions and bring together key actors across different areas of expertise/movements (i.e. RtFN, agro-ecology, food sovereignty, tax justice, extractives, climate, and deforestation) in the Southern Africa region to share experiences, lessons learnt and work out national and regional advocacy strategies

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- Collectively understand and deliberate on the converging crises as experienced by Africa, and in particular Southern Africa, and the forces driving them
- Discuss the implications of this context for the Southern African food movement
- Understand and identify the possible convergences between the food movement and these wider crises
- Begin developing a Pan-African, decolonial understanding and approach to food sovereignty, agro ecology and healthy environment
- Develop associated sets of demands for Northern (and other, such as China, India, Brazil, South Africa) partners/countries, and which can be worked on

- Informed by work in the meeting related to the above objectives, begin to identify a few initial issues for joint work nationally and regionally

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Ideas about building a “Popular Pan-African Resistance Vision (PPARV)” are collected for the next step of drafting, consultation and validation process of the PPARV with different actors.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting attracted over 50 participants Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, and Eswatini, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Uganda, Botswana and Kenya. The meeting will accommodated both physical and virtual participants.

OPENING SESSION

WELCOME REMARKS: ANGELA MULENGA, FIAN INTERNATIONAL ZAMBIA



In her opening speech Ms. Angela Mulenga Mwape, FIAN International Zambia Chairperson and Board member of FIAN International welcomed participants from out of the country and those who travelled long distances within the country to attend the meeting. She thanked all organisations that organised the meeting ACB, FIAN International and ZAAB and thanked Bread for the World Germany and Germany Foreign Ministry through FIAN Germany for their financial support. She thanked all the participants that braved Covid-19 due to the common passion they hold on this important subject matter about a prosperous Africa. Mrs Mwape concluded by inviting participants both virtual and physical to prepare themselves to be challenged, excited and inspired.

REMARKS: BETTINA MEIER, BREAD FOR THE WORLD, BERLIN GERMANY

Ms. Bettina Meier, Programme Officer Zambia/Malawi Southern Africa Desk, from Bread for the World who was attending the meeting virtually from Berlin gave remarks noting that it was gratifying to see people meeting physically in Lusaka Zambia whereas she was rushing to get home due to COVID-19 restrictions. She gave a brief history of Bread for the World which was founded in 1959 and now have over 1800 projects in 85 countries with

the highest amount of resources dedicated to supporting food security and agriculture. She said their work in Southern Africa goes towards supporting partner organisations working on the underlying causes of poverty and hunger by providing technical assistance on agriculture, nature conservation, land tenure, climate change and hunger. She mentioned that many of the issues on the agenda for the regional meeting are of special interest to Bread for the World.

Ms Meier went further to read through the latest Bread for the World Newsletter to the effect that a lot of people are marginalised due to the impact of climate change, geopolitical or geo-economic constraints which makes them suffer from extreme poverty. In order for people to live dignified lives, Bread for the World partners are ready to defend people's rights and will mobilise efforts and resources leaving no one behind. She said this was a rallying call for Bread for the World and wished all the participants a fruitful meeting with outcomes that are able to make a difference in people's lives.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES: FRANCES DAVIES (ZAAB), ZAMBIA



Ms. Frances Davies who is the Coordinator for ZAAB thanked the co-organisers and financial supporters of the Regional meeting. She said the issues to be discussed during the regional meeting have been on the common agenda of all partners represented during the meeting and now it was necessary to build on previous discussions and bring together key actors across different areas of expertise and movements regarding the Right to Food and Nutrition, agro-ecology, food sovereignty, tax justice, extractives, climate, and deforestation in the Southern Africa region to share experiences, lessons learnt and work out national and regional advocacy strategies.

Ms. Davies mentioned that the broad expected outcome is a “Popular Pan-African Resistance Vision (PPARV)” for food sovereignty, agroecology and biodiversity and ideas should be collected for the next step of drafting, consultation and validation process of the PPARV with different actors.

She concluded by inviting all participants to share their expectations of the meeting and see if these would be met at the end of the meeting. Ms. Davies called upon Rutendo who was representing Ms. Mariam Mayet the Executive Director of the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) South Africa.

REMARKS: THE VISION: RUTENDO ZENDA (ACB), SOUTH AFRICA



In her brief speech Ms. Rutendo Zenda who is the Research and Advocacy Officer for African Centre for Biodiversity from Johannesburg said ACB has a special interest in Southern Africa because it still exhibits one of the worst

hunger and malnutrition statistics globally. Hence, this situation makes the achievement of the right to food and nutrition in the region a very important political and human rights war ever. She said the COVID crisis has made extremely clear the converging of systemic ecological, economic and social crisis where rural people and small-l holder farmers experience these crises in specific way due to their position in the global hierarchy. She said the powerful do not hold the solution to the current crisis. It is the people, movements and small-holder farmers that hold the key to the solutions to these problems. She therefore acknowledged the experience, work, activism and insight around the food sovereignty movement, agroecology, farmer's rights, and the right to food and nutrition brought to the meeting by the participants. She said this meeting is an opportunity for participants to reflect on the nature of the converging systemic crises, its meaning for our work and the roles that each one should play moving forward.

She said the meeting provides an opportunity to collectively strengthen our common perspective, common action guided by a Pan-African vision rounded in ecological and human liberation. She said it is an opportunity for participants to reconsider political, economic and ecological contexts and begin to develop the beginnings of a common recovery plan to push back against forces of destruction and push forward global solutions.

She said this is especially important due to what is going on regarding negotiations on global agreements such as the new agreement to protect biodiversity under the CBD and protection of farmer's rights under article 9 of the ITPGRFA. She highlighted that while this war goes on, we should not be blind to northern conservation group's efforts to push for false solutions. Therefore, she concluded that it is critical for the food movement to lead the way to fight for the rights of farmers, protect agrobiodiversity and make the beginnings of what we might call a Decolonial Recovery Plan, an Action for People, and a Plan for Africa.

**REMARKS: THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE: SOFIA MONSALVE, FIAN
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, GERMANY**



Ms. Sofia Monsalve-Secretary General for FIAN International who was attending the meeting virtually, she warmly welcomed and thanked all organisations participating. She said coming originally from Colombia, South America. Her home country is going through instability due to decades of civil war. Presently, she said there is a terrible wave of violence and oppression against foreigners and indigenous people including a big Afro descendant community. She said it is now inspiring to see young people, students and workers taking to the streets because they have lost their sense of fear. While the colonial type fascist and authoritarian government has taken a hard-line stance of repression, it is the sense of unity of the oppressed that is giving hope to the country. She said despite where you come from in South America or Southern Africa the converging crises being faced by people from different countries is essentially the same. Therefore, despite being a farmer's rights organisation or human rights organisation or working on biodiversity, tax justice health or education it is important to be united, because the structural factors of the multiple crises we are facing are the same. For example the financialisation of global capitalism, the deep crisis of democracy being faced nowadays have deep roots in the colonial or neo-colonial past which requires our unity to face them. She concluded by saying it is a precious thing that was being built, to get to know one another, learn from one another and support one another as we face the future.

OFFICIAL OPENING SPEECH: HONOURABLE MUDFORD ZACHARIAH MWANDENGA, COMMISSIONER IN THE AFRICAN COMMISSION OF

HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS (ACHPR), AS WELL AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE ZAMBIA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



The Hon Commissioner started by thanking FIAN International Zambia, Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity (ZAAB) and the African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) for extending the invitation to him to come and officiate at the Regional Meeting. He also thanked the participants, drawn from across different areas of expertise or movements namely agro-ecology, food sovereignty, extractives, climate and deforestation in the southern African region for making it to this very important meeting.

He said he was intrigued so much by the theme “Right to Food and Nutrition: Building a Pan African and Decolonial Recovery Plan for Southern African Region,” knowing that the organisers have assembled a faculty of persons who are very well versed in the various topics to be discussed, he could learn one or two or many things in the meeting. He mentioned that the meeting could not have come at a better time than now when the world in general and southern Africa in particular, is faced with numerous challenges that are a major threat to the enjoyment of the right to food and nutrition to many people.

The Commissioner observed that, the right to food and nutrition is among the human rights and fundamental freedoms that have been universally recognised over decades. The right to food and nutrition is generally an inclusive right and cross cutting. It is simply not a right to a minimum ration

of calories, proteins and other specific nutrients but is a right to all nutritional elements that a person needs to live a healthy and active life and the means to access them. The major elements of the right to food are that food must be available, accessible and adequate.

He noted that the African Charter on Human and People's rights being a set of rules called Articles, guarantees the promotion and protection of the rights of the entire peoples of Africa which includes the Right to Food in Southern African Region. In this regard, he assured the participants of the full support of the African Commission and was expectant of its outcomes.

He pointed out that though the African Charter does not expressly provide for the Right to Food, it accommodates some of the elements of the right to food and nutrition and freedom from hunger and malnutrition. In this regard, the African Commission has interpreted the right to food in SERAC & CESR vs Nigeria as inherent in the right to life, the right to health and the right to economic, social and cultural development under the African Charter; and that this right is realised when everyone alone or in community with others has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or the means of its procurement and free from hunger even in times of natural other disasters. Furthermore, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in African 2003 (Maputo Protocol) guarantees the right to food security (Article 15). The African Commission has also had occasion to pass Resolution 374 of 2017 on the Right to Food and Insecurity in Africa and Resolution 431 of 2019 on the Right to Food and Nutrition in Africa.

Hon. Mwandenga singled out Resolution 431 of 2019 where the African Commission called on States Parties to:

1. Take appropriate policy, institutional and legislative measures to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to food which includes constantly accessible and quality food that meets the requirements of nutrition and cultural acceptability;
2. Promote and strengthen multi-sector and gender inclusive platforms at the national level, with the full and meaningful participation of small-scale food producers, farmers, livestock farmers and fishermen to develop, implement, and monitor policies towards the realisation of the right to food and nutrition;
3. Design policy responses and interventions in situations of protracted crisis, conflicts and natural disasters to protect vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised groups in order to realise their right to food and nutrition;

4. End the practice of resource grabbing affecting farming, fisheries, forests, and pastoralist communities, and move towards an equitable management of these resources (natural, material and financial) by strengthening community rights, benefit sharing policies and enacting strong and binding legislations;
5. Ensure that prisoners have access to adequate food for them to fully enjoy their fundamental rights to physical and mental health;
6. Foster local and organic food production and consumption, including banning the use of genetically modified organisms; and
7. Strictly regulate the importation of foreign food items as well as the promotion and marketing of industrialised and highly processed foods.

Hon. Mwandenga told participants that their efforts and activities are knowingly or unknowingly assisting the African Commission in fulfilling its mandate of promoting and protecting Human and People's rights in Africa. Because of this, the Commission has had occasion to grant observer status to a number of CSOs and NGOs. Observer status confers on the CSOs or NGOs a number of entitlements such as:

- a) Being invited to be present at the opening and closing sessions of the African Commission and participate in the proceedings in accordance with the Rules of Procedure governing sessions;
- b) Access to documents of the African Commission,
- c) Being invited specially to be present at closed sessions dealing with issues of particular interest to them;
- d) To be authorised to make a statement on an issue that concerns them;
- e) An opportunity to be given the floor to respond to questions directed at them by participants;
- f) To request to have issues of a particular interest to them included on the agenda for the Commission's session.

He however, cautioned that observer status is granted upon meeting certain set criteria and it comes with responsibilities.

Above all, Hon. Mwandenga urged the CSOs and NGOs represented to seriously consider working towards applying for observer status (if not yet observers) with the African Commission, so that they can be supporting the African Commission to fulfil its mandate of promoting and protecting human and people's rights in the respective areas of interest.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING



1. The Observer status provided by the African Commission to CSOs and NGOs is a great opportunity FIAN has utilised before. FIAN is looking forward to support Hon. Mwandenga's mandate. CSOs should take advantage of the space provided to them by the ACHPR in order to advance the right to food and nutrition for small-holder farmers and indigenous people.
2. The False Narratives are promulgated by the powerful who are well aware that the Continent is facing multiple crises. These false narratives are referred to as false solutions because:
 - They are designed to increase multinational corporation's profit levels;
 - They are not grounded in the needs of people, particularly smallholder farmers, and thriving ecosystems;
 - They attempt to address pandemics, landscape degradation and deforestation by building economies and food systems that are not people centred;
 - They try to import foreign solutions instead of using locally appropriate methods of restoring degraded landscapes;
 - They keep the reinforcing patterns of debt and extractivism;

- They propose underlying laws, policies, programmes, agreements and investments, which promote the wholesale destruction of forests, landscapes, oceans and the atmosphere, and which dislocate and displace peoples' land and resources, livelihoods and seed and food systems;
 - They take lands and forests and link them to carbon markets to allow the fossil fuel industry to continue polluting and devoid of human faces;
 - They use development particularly debt and extractivism as a tool for a socially equitable future;
 - They Push GMOs as a solution to drought and encourage the stealing of genetic resources from farmers.
 - They promote 'fortress conservation' approaches that cut off valued areas from local communities, in the name of protecting them. This is because, they promote the stealing of the commons from those communities who depend on those ecosystems to survive, and indeed very often protect them already.
 - They use of the **AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)** by simply deepening a private sector-led capitalist utopia through pushing for instance. African Continental Harmonisation of seed by regulating the formal seed sector, while neglecting, undermining and, in some cases, criminalising farmer seed management: The **AFRICAN CONTINENTAL SEED HARMONISATION (ACSH)** initiative is essentially following the same path as other Regional Economic Communities' seed law harmonisation efforts, such as those undertaken by SADC, ECOWAS, and COMESA where national, regional or continental wide seed laws are all designed to facilitate the registration, multiplication, and trade in corporate seed varieties, and protect the interests and profits of the seed, agrochemical, and biotechnology industry;
3. The future of African agriculture must be based on the agricultural biodiversity, ecological integrity, and the full realisation and implementation of Farmers' Rights, rather than the promotion of an industrial agricultural agenda;
 4. The persistent myths and neo-colonial policies that are related to international trade and investment and are implicit in national policies around land use, tenure systems, conservation approaches, and food and agriculture were debunked;
 5. The false narrative of treating smallholders as inefficient, unproductive and driving ecological degradation and deforestation were debunked;
 6. The meeting highlighted that reclaiming farmers' rights must be above those of private property rights, and be integral to a bundle of human rights. This requires Pan-African solidarity and movement building towards shifting the narrative, paradigm and unequal power relations. This can only be achieved by decolonising, pushing back strongly against false solutions, and reclaiming our diverse heritage and future;
 7. There is a need to Phase out repetitive and chronic food and seed aid and prevent displacement of local food and seed systems, which form the basis for smallholder farming livelihoods;
 8. At the global level, cooperation is required to prohibit illicit financial flows and tax evasion of companies operating in the Global South. We need to scrutinise how investments are made, in which sectors, and who benefits from them;

9. The impact of increasing disasters and shocks in under resourced countries needs to be urgently addressed, taking into account the ecological and climate disasters vis-à-vis debts/aids from countries of the North;
10. There is need to think about and create well defined political strategies and the strategic alliances within countries, regionally and internationally, to take forward activities that work towards human-ecological liberation on our continent;
11. There is a need to come up with the right narrative and push against capitalism due to its displacement of small-scale farmers;
12. We need to be involved in advocacy and monitoring work vis-à-vis different policies. This is because most of the policies that pass do so without the contributions of the food movements and by the time we realise it there would be no laws and policies to support our agenda. Additionally, we need to invest in evidence-based advocacy and get the media with us on our side;
13. Too much discussions has been made and now what needs to be done is action through a bigger movement, starting from the grassroots to the region while using all possible platforms including digital ones and social media to make our agenda heard;
14. All regional blocks SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS etc are protecting commercial hybrid seeds what hope is there to succeed with local seed varieties?;
15. There is need to collectively hold documentary evidence such as resilient local seed varieties that thrive when farmers practice agro-ecology;
16. There is need to create space for sensitisation at various levels including grassroots so that we can have them on our side;
17. Participants should continue to think critically and come up with the methodology about the right narrative towards pushing back against the systemic crises that we collectively face and engage together towards a common narrative in collaboration with other platforms, and target our collective messages to regional and continental bodies;
18. We need to push for an open the democratic space for democratic engagement so that small-scale farmers can have political allies on their side. This would create interest for investment in local seed systems including research and the necessary change we want to see;
19. We need to ensure that food provides a social function as it used to be in the past where sharing food was the norm.;
20. The status of ECOWAS compared to SADC. ECOWAS has advanced in implementation of agreements. Desk officers in Zambia for example do not have capacity to follow up on agreements made at Regional Level in SADC. Can CSOs take up this space to assist such desk officers to follow-up on these recommendations?
21. How can we use the Right to Food and Nutrition to fight hunger and malnutrition in Africa?
22. African governments are very poor in adhering to Human Rights obligations. They only implement the bad practices and ignore good ones;

23. What are the international standards of food production, processing and packaging and how does the international standards on food production processing, and packaging affect the Right to Food for small-scale farmers?;
24. Once we have Right to Food and Nutrition Bill how can it be used to stop the practice of land grabbing, extractives and displacement of small-scale farmers?;
25. When the right to food is enshrined say in the constitution it becomes easier to deal with violations. This was the crux of the presentation. Even if there are no national laws on the Right to Food there is a possibility of obtaining justice at regional level from the African Court for Human and People's rights once a state recognizes it and declares that NGOs or individuals can submit the complaints to the court. The ACHPR and the Committee on ICESR are also other avenues to seek justice;
26. There are opportunities such as for DRC and Namibia to parallel report on Economic Social and Cultural Rights through CEDAW which is the committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
27. Contrary to the claim that investments result in employment opportunities for local people the opposite is true as they are highly mechanised. For example only 80 people are employment on the Mpongwe Farms at Somawhe Estate which is highly mechanised compared to 1200 living right next to the farm and forced out of their land and live close by at Kasambamyambi;
28. Although there is a complexity of the financialisation of agriculture there are other means of increasing pressure on those responsible for Human Rights violations by the principle of Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations (ETOs);
29. There has been increasing interest in organically grown products from Eastern and Southern Africa with a lot of exemptions in exporting to the EU. The EU is also reforming its laws with a view that 25 percent of farm land in the European union has to be organic by 2030. With this in mind, the organic seed market is rising in Europe. Because of this there is a rising financialisation of organic seed coming from the EU with many Germany and Dutch companies involved. The Germany government is interested in supporting agro-ecology and organic farming systems and that there is an increasing shift to reduce funding from industrial seed systems to organic.
30. How can we concretely make our demands so that the shifting of funds from supporting industrial agriculture goes strictly to agro-ecology, food sovereignty, healthy environment and small scale farmers?;
31. There is need to involve the African Development Bank to finance the green organic revolution;
32. Strengthening Infrastructure of farmer managed seed systems at household or community level;
33. Stimulating Trade and Exchange to improve seed fairs and Capacity strengthening in seed laws, policies and seed knowledge; including value addition;
34. Advocacy for Farmers' Rights-calling for support of Farmer Managed Seed Systems and advancement of farmers right as enshrined in Article 9 of the ITPGRFA;

35. Research-To strengthen links between farmer-led research to national and regional institutions;
36. In order to address gender issues there is a need to use the GALS (Gender Action Learning System) which is a community-led empowerment methodology that uses principles of inclusion to improve income, food and nutrition security of vulnerable people in a gender-equitable way;
37. Corporate pressure from the seed industry on Governments is resulting in policy and legislative changes, putting limitations on what farmers can do with their seeds they buy;
38. The regional Intergovernmental Organization such as ARIPO is not helping much. Instead there has been a sustained process of enacting plant variety protection laws in several countries in SADC including Zambia. These laws aim to protect Intellectual property of breeders;
39. Local seed generally is not currently recognized in the PVP system, unless registered on the basis of distinct, uniform and stable (DUS tests which are expensive for farmers);
40. **THE UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS (UPOV)** based in Geneva does not help small-scale farmers. For example, Article 14 of UPOV states that : farmers need authority from the plant breeder to (re)produce, offer for sale, sell or market, export, import or stock protected seed. A breeder may authorize but this requires payment from the farmer to the breeder;
41. Uphold and stick to the African model law which provides that “The state and its people should exercise sovereign and inalienable rights over their biological resources”. Citizens must come first;
42. The government must refrain from being party to the development of regional seed laws that criminalize farmers’ rights and undermine seed systems in the country;
43. Need for **COLLECTIVE CAPACITY BUILDING** of grassroots communities in claiming the rights as enshrined in international treaties and conventions;
44. Hold duty bearers accountable, transparent by signing **SOCIAL CONTRACTS** with the rights holders;
45. Demand for **REPRESENTATION OF FARMER GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES IN POLICY FORMULATION FORUMS** at national, regional and continental levels;
46. Create a **CRITICAL MASS OF INFORMED CADRES AT CONTINENTAL LEVEL** that can demand, repeal draconian laws and make an impact;
47. Above all preambles of rules and policies should have explicit provisions to the following effect: “Nothing in these Regulations shall preclude, prohibit or inhibit farmers from sharing, exchanging, saving and replanting their seeds for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources.”;
48. The UNDROP is an instrument that passed from peasants to peasants. The word peasant is used instead of farmer because it is a wide definition that also covers pastoralist, fishermen, hunters, those engaged in handicrafts, forestry etc. It also covers collective rights because people in the rural areas are not just small-scale

- farmers. Even if the national law does not recognise the rights of peasants they can still use the UNDROP in this regard. It can also be useful not just to update local legislation but also when drafting national policies or development plans;
49. It is important in our struggles that we do not use just one international law but use wide ranging instruments to represent our people;
50. The UNDROP also covers the right to food, food security and food sovereignty, right to land, right to seeds, right to biodiversity, right to water and clean water systems and also the right to health and social security;
51. The right to food sovereignty is covered under article 15 and defined as a food system in which the people who produce, distribute, and consume food also control the mechanisms and policies of food production and distribution.
52. UNDROP can also be used to fight violations when they happen in other countries. For example Syngenta violations in other countries can be cited using the UNDROP. Other cases where the UNDROP could be useful include the following:
- a. Defining who the local persons are so that they can receive a specific policy or budgets
 - b. Transitions to agro-ecology and protection of biodiversity
 - c. Banning pesticides, GMOs
 - d. Issues of land reform and land redistribution
 - e. Issues of food security
 - f. Trade policy reform
 - g. Issues of water or dam cooperation
53. To answer the question on the misconception that agroecology will not be able to feed the nation: Zimbabwe is currently working on a multi stakeholder agricultural draft policy. It is made of 9 pillars. Each of the pillars is identifying challenges. Pillar 8 is looking at resilient and sustainable agriculture which I am chairing. We have managed to correct a lot of misconceptions. Because simply planting organic seed is not agro-ecology. Agro-ecology needs to be a holistic and systemic approach which looks at all the systems, biodiversity and the synergies connecting all these so that the environment becomes resilient from an economic cultural and social point while remaining viable. So the Ministry of agriculture is working with the Ministry of environment and other stakeholders to transition towards resilient agro-ecology farming. Part of it is the field trips to farmers engaged in agro-ecology farming methods and getting information from farmers themselves.

KEY ISSUES OF CONCERNS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

LAND



1. Land grabbing for Industrial large scale agriculture production and mining; such is the case in the' Amatheon-Mumbwa, Dangote – Masaiti, ZAMPALM Mpika (Zambia)
2. There is lack of/inadequate Compensation of displaced farmers, Infringement on farmers' rights – farmers are pushed to unfertile lands and Lack pasture for farm animal.
3. **FARMER-MINER** conflict, lack of harmonisation of the lands policy and the mines and minerals policy. Degradation in terms of land due to artisanal mining.
4. In addition, fluctuating inconsistency policies, affecting small-scale miners' registrations, which is so expensive, but the big companies like the Chinese are given claims but there are no remittances to the RDCs.
5. Chiredzi, promoting monoculture through Land grabbing communal land for sugar plantations, tobacco, cotton, castor bean.

6. Confusion in terms of land stewardship because traditional and local authorities, leading to loss of indigenous knowledge systems and in turn leading to bio-diversity loss
7. E.g Musana and Muzarabani destruction of sacred forests. And burial areas of traditional places being desaced
8. **POLITICAL PATRONISM** – random settlements sprouting to buy votes especially towards elections.
9. **LACK OF COORDINATION** between different stakeholders on land and environment issues.
10. **CARBON FOOTPRINT** increased through non-economic and environmentally friendly policies e.g neglecting railways systems and pipeline and promoting use of trucks for transporting fuel and grain.
11. Rural-urban drift
12. Deforestation
13. Large scale importation of agricultural products
14. Establishment of several mining companies that do not meet environmental standards
15. High unemployment rate
16. Multi-million dollar investment in project implementation, which promotes industrial intensification of chemical fertilizers, pesticide and hybrid seeds
17. Land grabbing by Chinese/Indian

BIODIVERSITY & FARMERS RIGHTS



1. Farmers' rights are being eroded as a result of Increased pollution in the ecosystems i.e. land and water which is killing life, Lack of access to natural resources e.g. firewood, fishing, wild fruits,
2. Reduced water levels due to tempering with water resources e.g. mwatishi river in Masaiti District of Zambia
3. **LACK OF EQUITABLE** benefits from business models which are offered by corporates. E.g corporates paying in kind at inflated prices.
4. "Financial inclusion" – false solutions which are given to farmers' problems e.g payments in terms of mobile money that can never be retrieved into cash in which it is rated in the parallel markets
5. **RIGHT TO FOOD**- no enforcement, also farmers have self-denial kind of system e.g, if you bring macaroni and cowpeas, they will opt for macaroni.
6. **SEED POLITICS**, hybrids being favoured as compared to traditional seeds. , need of food systems and seed systems be promoted and commercialisation of Farmer Managed Seed Systems like small grains.

7. Concerning threats to biodiversity, for instance farmers in Burkina Faso are still facing attempts to introduce GMOs and the experimentation of genetically modified mosquitoes.
8. The groups that are suffering at the hands of extractivism, corporate-biais policies in the context of Burkina Faso and West Africa in general are rural people made up of smallholders.
9. Criminalization of the peasant seed system (food and agro ecology sovereignty)
10. In Malawi, Maize is highly politicised even with the abundance of other nutritional foods.
11. Access to food is linked to the ID system, in Malawi Those without an ID are being excluded
12. Agriculture/seed sovereignty NGOs tend not to link good governance processes to the right to food
13. Subsidy programmes are linked to high indebtedness to bretton woods institutions i.e world bank/IMF. (Malawi)
14. The uncertainty of the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods.
15. We have laws that are not respected and thus victimization of local farmers
16. Criminalization of local seed systems,
17. There is corporate capture, Multi National Corporations monopolize the system and control the governments
18. In Mozambique NGOs lack the financial muscle and the legal framework in terms of policies to support the work that they do
19. Farmers are unaware of difference between Conservation farming, Agro-ecology, Organic farming etc.
20. We need to stop development as a narrative, we should push agro-ecology as a movement.
21. Developing a consistent grammar which is neither apologetic nor violent. We should present it to small-scale farmers as something they should choose. If we bluntly say we are fighting the corporate world, we get quite extreme and make the corporate companies come back with more force. We should package the information according to the recipient of the information.
22. Farmers do not fight for their rights, instead us CSOs.

23. Our actions as CSOs are reactive and not proactive. We always wait for something to happen for us to move in. We should learn to do things before situation arises. Have farmers, grow with them and this will help them not be exploited and brainwashed
24. Indebtedness to large corporates through input subsidies. People grow what they don't eat, and eat what they don't grow, leading to food and nutrition insecurity and continuous dependency syndrome among the marginalised communities.

GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

1. Lack of dialogue with communities
2. Lack of judicial redress
3. Lack of access to local authorities by the communities and CSOs
4. Lack of support from government departments
5. **PRO-CORPORATE** policies by the government, the government is very sympathetic to corporates at the expense of the populace.
6. **LACK OF DECENTRALISATION** of budgets to district level to improve local level demand systems for accountability.
7. Always a conflict between CSO and the government. e.g CSOs are seen as potential threats by the government and portrayed as agents of regime change.

STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS



1. Collaboration in the form of synergies to create advocacy at the African level so that leaders take into account the needs of small-scale farmers.
2. Bringing mining companies and governments to the clauses in the environmental standards to deal with climate change, deforestation and peasant farmers' displacement.
3. Protection and valorization of the peasant seed sector which must be crowned as the sole guarantee to promote the sovereignty agro-ecology
4. Develop projects in the context of small-scale farmers to deal with multinational enterprises, who promote industrial agriculture that does not meet environmental and ecological standards.
5. Consult farmers in the area where farming must be done to take into account their needs
6. Amplification of people's voices
7. Prioritize joint methodology
8. Popularize rights-based approaches
 - Gender empowerment
 - HR mainstreaming
9. To be part of African Movement Committee on agroecology and organic farming
10. Support to strengthen national network by equipping them with enough understanding of agro-ecology and organic farming to effectively extend the good practices in terms of seeds and organic fertilizer application

11. Support in lobby and sensitization of government officials to elaborate and apply for a good investment, access to land and agriculture input policy (this will help to reduce risks related to land grabbing, cities extension to agriculture areas, chemicals and hybrids bans, expropriation of peasants and distribution of environment)
12. In the next 2-3 year, develop a strong network of scientists who are able to argue this point to masses.
13. In 2 years, look at cycle of the UN and the UPR (Universal periodic review mechanism- this is where countries report on how they put into practice various xxxx)
14. In the next 2-3 years, SADC Peoples Summit incorporating a food and seed festival.
15. In next one year, have agro-ecology go to the world social forum- deals with indigenous people and the right to food.
16. By 2022 -2023, Build capacity of farmers on farmers rights and traditional leaders, knowing the limits of their powers.
17. Class action - Have a group of small-scale farmers coming together and questioning the state on the matters.
18. lobby for strengthening of laws and legal framework around the resettlement plans to include the following.
 - Either that ensure that farmers cannot be displaced from their fertile lands
 - Or farmers should be adequately compensated for their land - where they are taken should be similar to where they are from.
 - Corporates should provide alternative homes and livelihoods before they develop or displace the farmers.
 - Investors should sign proper agreements when purchasing land and displacing homes.
 - Investors should be held accountable for damages they cause and the human rights abuses that they pose to the community e.g road and blockages
 - Have a system/organization that will be able to visit all homes and take note of the plight of displaced communities.
 - There must be a national register for displacements which shows that displacements have been done and where the people have been taken
 - Build evidence-based depository for displacements.
19. Capacity building for both communities and traditional leaders on their land rights and channels they can use in order to curb common violations.

OPPORTUNITIES



1. Regional integration e.g the African free-trade area.
2. Taking advantage and creating political allies with politicians locally, regionally, globally.
3. Change of government will give us an opportunity to infuse our narrative into their manifestos. Take advantage of political cycles.
4. Taking advantage of international protocols and instruments that Zambia is a part of.
5. Engaging with more receptive farmers, especially the ones more affected by evictions and discriminations by the multinational companies.
6. Demand for local product (local and indigenous organically grown food) due to increases in non-communicable diseases e.g diabetes, sugar diseases etc.
7. Traditional ceremonies that give importance to local seed and food. Taking advantage chief shimukunami hid traditional seed in his hair and that is the one which was multiplied and provided food for generations for locals.
8. We need more involvement with the youth who are more energetic and have the drive to do this. More capacity building programs to the youth on importance of agroecology.
9. Setting up more community seed banks in more communities. Hence the locals will be custodians of their seed.
10. Taking advantage of failures of the FISP and how vulnerable people have become to the Programme and capitalizing on it, encouraging agroecology.
11. The existence of international instruments such as UNDROP can be used to advance the case of small scale farmers.
12. There is a need for a movement to be created, countries should work in solidarity regardless of region of where the NGOs is coming from.
13. Creating a platform where challenges and solutions can be shared
14. Covid 19, is an opportunity as we need to build local policies for Africa by Africans, Africa depends a lot on Outside help. Covid has shown that Africa cannot rely on food imports and thus we have to rethink and improve our local food systems.

15. Extraterritorial obligations should be used to compel MNCs (Multinational companies) to comply with the international agreements that are signed in their countries of origin.
16. We can utilize the parallel report to draft the human rights situation of our country in order for voices to be heard.
17. A continental movement is needed because the major challenges that are faced are the same i.e. land grabs a problem of South Africa must be the problem of all other Africa countries.
18. Creation of an Alert system to share problems with member organization of challenges faced so that problems are shared in real time. If something happens it's immediately shared through this system .This system should also include media that can transmit this information.
19. Grassroots awareness and participation is important and they should decide what their want. The grassroots should participate in coming up with the solutions
20. Mapping of policies to see which policies are pro poor and those supporting MNCs. There is a need of a policy audit in all countries
21. Evidence based research and monitoring is important so as to have evidence based advocacy.
22. The climate (extreme weather events) which the country is facing makes as an opportunity to push people to practice sustainable agriculture practices. E.g Farmers playing a central role in seed and biodiversity restoration after Cyclone Idai and recent flooding. There is an opportunity for CSOs to work with National Gene Bank, hydrologists, water engineers and agriculture engineers to identify, multiply and conserve Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agric.
23. Covid 19 exposed weaknesses in the current food systems. There is an opportunity to strongly support local production local food systems and shorter food chains where producers are directly linked to consumers.

ACTION PLAN



Agroecology and Farmers Rights, can be achieved through Advocacy, Legal and Policy Reforms and Research & Data. In our context, Farmers' rights are human rights with the inclusion of the bundle of rights such as the;

- The right to food and nutrition,
- To choice of seed
- To land,
- To agricultural finance,
- To water.

Farmer's rights will be achieved through

1. Building resistance against corporate takeover of land and seed (input and output subsidies, consumer issues, trade issues, market issues, value chains, supply chains, environmental pollution)
2. Realization of the right to food and nutrition at household, national and regional level, which also covers farmer's rights.

ADVOCACY, CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT

Mass mobilization of the grassroots farmers, Promotion of Research based Advocacy that should be uniform in the different African Countries, Promote Agro-ecology practices which enhance sustainable resilience and viable food production systems among the small-scale farmers.

ADVOCACY

1. Advocate for the realization for the Right to Food and Nutrition.
 2. Advocating for farmer managed seed systems that are recognized
 3. Advocate for peasants' rights
 4. Advocate for domestication of international protocols
- capacity building
 - Media advocacy
 - Case studies
 - Engage regional and continental bodies
 - Position papers
 - Litigation
 - Civic education

BY WHOM



- Farmers

- CSOs
- Media
- Think – tanks (Universities)

PLATFORMS

- National human rights institutions.
- Parliamentary committees
- Local government
- Grassroots – traditional leaderships/ council of chiefs
- COMESA, SDC, ECOWAS, Community of the Great Lakes Region, AU, African Commission for human and people's rights

MONITORING AND RESEARCH NEEDS – CROSS-CUTTING.

- Feedback mechanisms - Number of laws and policy enacted
- Baseline studies
- Case studies.
- Parallel/shadow reports
- Policy and legal framework review
- Generate information for evidence-based advocacy
- Monitoring will be at local, national, regional and international level taking into account the needs of the grassroots.
- Use of an alert system that can be used to inform others of what is happening at local level.

ALLIANCES AND CONNECTIONS

- Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa AFSA
- African Biodiversity Network (ABN)
- Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI)
- IFOAM- international federation for organic agriculture movement
- CIDSE – Alliance for catholic development Agencies working together for global justice
- Universities and Research Centres.
- Le via Campesina, Africa Biodiversity Network, PELLUM, ESAFF, Promoting local Innovations, RESCOPE, ACB, Seed knowledge initiative

HOW TO SUPPORT LOCAL SOLUTIONS?

- Capacity building in agro-ecology
- Information sharing

- Research and evidence building
- Networking and coordination on strengthening local markers for agro-ecology
- Developing of economies at local levels e.g developing infrastructure through community seed banks, market infrastructure, value chains.

KEY ACTIONS AND WAY FORWARD

- Selected country representative from all the countries at the regional meeting will act at focal points to act on key strategic points
- A communique will be developed and this will be done by the core group of ZAAB, ACB and FIAN with the selected country Representatives
- An email list should be created of all participants for the purpose of information sharing, promoting joint actions and strategies