

Multiparty Stakeholder meeting 5th March 2021, Sarovar Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia

On 5th of March 2021, PELUM Zambia, Caritas Zambia and FIAN Zambia, hosted a multiparty stakeholders meeting. The meeting was attended by major political parties in Zambia including the Patriotic Front (PF), United Party for National Development (UPND), National Restoration Party (NAREP), National Democratic Party (NDC) among others.

The civil Society presented the farmers manifesto to the political parties, who assured their willingness to include agro ecology in their agriculture manifestos.

Civil Society Organisations indicated that even though government introduced the E-voucher system which is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and targets a number of districts in the 10 Provinces, farmers still face many challenges in accessing the facility. Farmers tend to get their input late because of poor network. Further, the food system and environment has been compromised due farmer's use of agro chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers.

Focus of agricultural policies, which support industrial agriculture, has negatively affected the small-scale farmers who face numerous challenges including high cost of inputs. Agroecology improves the adaptive capacity of agroecosystems and reduces vulnerability to natural disasters, climate change impacts. The government, farmers, and other relevant stakeholders should make concerted efforts to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers by fostering ecological land use management.