



**FIAN**  
INTERNATIONAL  
ZAMBIA

## **CIVIL SOCIETY BREAKFAST MEETING, 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021, SAROVAR HOTEL, LUSAKA ZAMBIA.**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of March Caritas Zambia, PELUM Zambia and FIAN Zambia with other Civil Society Organizations hosted a Breakfast meeting. The meeting was aimed at presenting Civil Society views and Position on Agroecology.

Agroecology is the ‘ecology of the food system’ and a farming approach that is inspired by natural ecosystems. It combines local and scientific knowledge and applies ecological and social approaches to agricultural systems, focusing on the interactions between plants, animals, humans, and the environment. Agro ecological methods can also help farmers cope with climate change by enhancing resilience. Agroecology has the explicit goal of strengthening the sustainability of all parts of the food system, from the seed and the soil, to the table, including ecological knowledge, economic viability, and social justice. To reach this goal, agro ecological methods strive to minimize or exclude the use of fossil fuels, chemical inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, and large-scale mono-cropping – cultivation of a single crop on vast tracts of land.

An agro ecological approach includes a number Agriculture methods, such as diversification of crops, conservation tillage, green manures, natural biodegradable fertilizers and intercropping including legumes, biological pest control, rainwater harvesting, and production of crops and livestock in ways that store carbon and protect forests. It also emphasizes on the importance of local knowledge, farmer empowerment, and socio-economic justice.

Having realized the economic, social and environmental challenges the rural small scale farmers are facing to adequately produce food for their families and have excess to sell for income due to climate change, soil degradation and lack of capital to purchase the inputs, we are proposing to hold a stakeholder consultative breakfast meeting to discuss some of the possible ways that can assist the farmers cope and mitigate the challenges they are facing.

Civil Society Organisations believe that alternative means of production such as regenerative agriculture which uses agroecology technologies can be successfully used to produce the much-needed crops as shown in other countries such as Cuba and Finland which have successfully implemented these technologies. In Africa we also have countries such as Uganda and Ethiopia that are successfully using agroecology techniques.

Civil Society acknowledge government's effort in recognizing the contribution the agriculture sector plays in national food and nutrition security and we also note that we are at a time when the policy environment is under revision in the sector. However, we feel that the inclusion of regenerative forms of farming will go a long way in alleviating the production constraints the farmers are facing especially in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic.