

# REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP)

PMRC SUBMISSION TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

START

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BERNADETTE DEKA - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

POLICY MONITORING AND RESEARCH CENTRE

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- Producing high quality, relevant and timely public policy analysis, delivery monitoring and reform proposals.
- Promoting and encouraging informed public debate on critical social and economic policy issues critical to national development.



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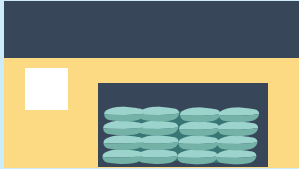
OPENING REMARKS



# IMPORTANT AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

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## 3.4 MILLION METRIC TONES



National production averaging at just over 2.5 million metric tones in the last 3 farming seasons (2013/2014 produced 3.4 million metric tones)



## EMPLOYMENT

**86.8%**

Agriculture accounts for 86.8% of Rural Employment

## 1.6 MILLION SMALL-SCALE FARM

The sector is characterized by approximately 1.6 million small-scale farms with 73% of these farms cultivated are 2 hectares of land or less (Characterized as poor)



The average poverty rate for the farmers' households in this category is 80.5% implying that a large majority of these farmers belong to poor households (LCMS 2010).

Agriculturally driven growth generates a larger welfare effect than non agriculturally driven growth, especially for the poorest 20% of the population (World Bank 2007)



### IMPORTANT AGRICULTURE STATISTICS



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# SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FISP

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2016

**K1.0 BILLION** vs. 100,000 Beneficiaries



2015

**K 1.1 BILLION** vs. 100,000 Beneficiaries



2014

**K 500 MILLION** vs. 900,000 Beneficiaries

- The FISP program was introduced in 2009/10 farming season and was transformed from the Farmer Support Program (FSP). During the transformation the number of inputs per household reduced by half from eight (8) 50Kg bags of fertilizer to four (4) 50kg bags per household. This reduction has however increased the number of beneficiaries from 120,000 in 2002/2003 to 900,000 in 2012/2013.



### SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FISP



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## SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH

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### THE MAIN SOURCES OF DATA

were primary sources and these included key informant interviews with small-scale farmers in 8 districts in 5 provinces

### CORE OF ZAMBIA'S AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

These areas were selected because they are at the core of Zambia's agricultural activity. Data collection was conducted in 8 districts: Chongwe, Chisamba, Mazabuka, Livingstone, Kaoma, Mpongwe and Solwezi.

### ZAMBIA NATIONAL FARMERS UNION OFFICES

The areas were selected strategically taking into account on-going farming activities. The selection also took into account the establishment of Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) Offices. The PMRC research teams leveraged on the presence of ZNFU offices to effectively locate farmers and access information.



SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH



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## RESEARCH FINDINGS/EXPERIENCES

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### INPUT DELIVERY: A FAIR EXPERIENCE WAS REPORTED



Farmers indicated that they had received inputs both late and early in the past farming seasons.



Poor monitoring in the formulation of cooperatives led to businessmen and commercial farmers using small-scale farmers to purchase inputs and resale them by paying for their cooperative membership fees and initial contribution to FISP. Thus the intended targets were not the actual beneficiaries.



Poor quality seeds as well as under-weight bags of fertilizer were delivered in certain areas, which ultimately affected farmers' crop yields.



Inputs delivered were inadequate inputs had received, thus forcing farmers to share these inputs in some of sites visited. This has resulted in low farming yields leading to the failure of farmers to graduate from the FISP program. There is need to determine an optimal input mix required for farmers to graduate from the program.



Inputs were not delivered in the sequences in which they are used. e.g. Top dresser, which is a final fertilizer, is received before D-compound, which is required early during planting. This led to a misapplication of the fertilizer.



RESEARCH FINDINGS/EXPERIENCES



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# RESEARCH FINDINGS/EXPERIENCES

## EXTENSION SERVICES

Farmers acknowledged the presence of extension services, however they reported that these were inadequate and requested enhanced support through the **establishment of Agricultural Centres**.

The FISP Program **emphasizes maize production** and this has discouraged crop diversification. Although it is **the will of the Government to diversify**, the structure of the FISP program discourages this, and emphasizes on maize by providing relatively cheaper inputs (FISP) and a ready market (FRA).

A monitoring and supervision mechanism was absent during the use of the inputs. This mechanism would assist to evaluate the usage on the inputs would assist determine the optimal quantity of inputs required to graduate farmers and that is would also deter farmers from reselling inputs as they would be monitored. A core management system maybe adopted similar to the one in use in the management of Fisheries.



The FISP program has encouraged the **creation of Cooperatives** with the sole purpose of acquiring inputs under FISP to poor monitoring of activity. Most cooperative interviewed did not conduct any other activities such capacity building of farmers, so as to increase productivity.



# E- VOUCHER

The E- voucher system is being piloted during the 2015/2016 farming season.

Though the move is welcome and will go a long way in resolving some of the inefficiencies of the traditional FISP implementation, there are a few areas of concern



### AREAS OF CONCERN: SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



The e- voucher system is currently being piloted on a ZNFU platform.

1. Not all farmers and farmer organizations will be members of ZNFU
2. This is a web based application- Internet connectivity and accessibility maybe a challenge to smallholder farmers
3. Need for government to ensure that **agro-dealers prices** are monitored and farmers in remote and distant places are not disadvantaged



## RECOMMENDATIONS

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- PMRC urges the Government to enhance the effectiveness of FISP through monitoring and evaluation as well as supervision during the utilization of the distributed inputs. This will assist the government to assess the program's effectiveness as well as identify the optimal inputs required for farmers to graduate from the program.
- PMRC encourages Government to enhance efforts to provide technical support through improved extension services and equip cooperatives with skills to train farmers so as improve input utilization.
- PMRC urges the Government to expedite the implementation of the e-voucher system, as this will end delays in delivery of inputs and allow for diversification in the inputs received. This will improve the accessibility to inputs as farmer can access them from local dealers.



RECOMMENDATIONS



# THANK YOU

**Unlocking Zambia's Potential** Response to this presentation can be sent to: [info@pmrczambia.net](mailto:info@pmrczambia.net)



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Plot No. 32 Sable Road, corner Bishop and Sable Roads, Kabulonga, Lusaka, Zambia, Private Bag KL 10  
Tel: +260 211 268 385 | +260 979 015 660

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