



Opening Remarks by the ACF Board Chairperson

The Hon. Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata, International Water Management Institute, Southern Africa
Senior Government Officials Present
Representatives of FANRPAN
Your Excellences
Distinguished invited guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure and honor to welcome all of you to this National Policy Dialogue on the launch of the Ukama Ustawi (UU) initiative: Diversification for Resilient Agrifood Systems in East and Southern Africa.

This National Policy Dialogue is being hosted by the Agricultural Consultative Forum (ACF) and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN).

The UU initiative is a CGIAR regional integrated initiative being led by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in collaboration with regional and national partners, including ACF and FANRPAN. The UU initiative will support climate-resilient agricultural livelihoods and agribusiness ecosystems in twelve (12) East and Southern African countries including Zambia. It will help millions of vulnerable smallholders in the targeted countries to transition from maize-mixed systems to sustainably intensified, diversified, and de-risked agri-food systems with a strong maize base.

The purpose of this National Policy Dialogue is:

- a) to present the East and Southern Africa policy hub to stakeholders in Zambia;
- b) to disseminate and validate findings of a stakeholder and policy mapping exercise on the status of Zambia's agriculture and food systems-related policies; and
- c) to discuss pressing issues relating to agrifood systems, diversification and resilience-building.

This Policy Dialogue has brought together key stakeholders from the government, research community, civil society organizations, private sector, farmer organizations, youth and women organizations and the media, to prioritize specific opportunities for collaboration and joint work on sustainable intensification and diversification policies in Zambia.

Guest of Honour, Dear Participants,

ACF is an innovative private-public sector platform, that provides an opportunity for dialogue and consultation on government's agricultural policies, strategies and programmes, and other agricultural-related policy interventions or issues, in Zambia, in particular, and the Region and Globally, in general. It contributes to information-sharing, coordination, and networking among agricultural stakeholders. ACF also monitors the implementation of government agricultural policies, strategies and programmes and undertakes agricultural policy analysis and research. Over the years, our institution has contributed to the increased ownership of various policy formulation processes by stakeholders in Zambia, and the increased recognition and adoption of policy advisory notes by the Zambian Government.

Guest of Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,



This workshop will be characterized by keynote presentations that will be followed by plenary sessions and group discussions to get the stakeholders' views and responses on key policy issues. The policy dialogue will serve as a validation platform for the policy mapping study undertaken by FANRPAN to understand the status of Zambia's agriculture and food policies. The Policy Dialogue deliberations will also be captured in the form of a report, and a policy advisory note which will be submitted to the office of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Guest of Honour,

Let me take this opportunity to thank our cooperating partners and sponsors for making this workshop a success. In particular, let me thank the CGIAR for providing funds for this workshop. The outcomes of this workshop will obviously augment Zambia's efforts in developing agricultural development plans and strategies.

Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, on behalf of the ACF Members and the Board, I have the pleasure and honor of once again welcoming you all to this workshop.

I also wish to appeal to all the invited participants present here, to take the deliberations of this dialogue seriously.

Thank you for your attention and participation.