



# Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN)

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[www.zilan.org.zw](http://www.zilan.org.zw)



## Our Mission:

*"TO CREATE AN ENABLING  
ENVIRONMENT FOR INCLUSIVE,  
PROSPEROUS AND SUSTAINABLE  
LAND AND AGRICULTUREBASED  
LIVELIHOODS"*

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## ABOUT ZILAN

The Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) brings together farmer groups, farmer organisations, producer associations and research institutions to form a unified network that advocates for land and agrarian policies and programmes that benefit small-scale producers, and more particularly vulnerable groups that include women and youths. The network facilitates the sharing of information, contacts, and experiences among its members and relies on evidence-based research to support its policy advocacy and lobbying efforts in the agrarian sector.

ZiLAN also transcends local connections and fosters regional solidarity by collaborating with organizations in countries that include South Africa which face similar challenges. These connections have proven to be transformative, expanding spaces for participation and collaboration. The network is currently comprised of 31 organisations.

# OUR ACTIVITIES 2024

## STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP

The Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) hosted a strategic planning workshop on April 24th and 25th, 2024, at Raregold Resort. This workshop was a crucial step in developing a comprehensive strategic plan that will guide ZiLAN's interventions and initiatives for the next six years. The plan will provide a roadmap for achieving ZiLAN's mission and vision, addressing critical issues related to land rights, agrarian reform, and sustainable agriculture.



## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) held its 33rd Steering Committee Meeting on 20 June, 2024, at its offices. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the organization's progress and plan for the future. Key discussions included the 2023 annual narrative and financial reports, the development of the 2024 annual plan and budget, the implications of the PVO Bill, and the progress of ZiLAN's strategic plan. The Steering Committee plays a crucial role in guiding ZiLAN's activities and ensuring that the organization remains focused on its mission.

## CLUSTER MEETINGS

Cluster meetings play a vital role in fostering collaboration and collective action among organizations. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, these meetings facilitate discussions on critical issues such as climate change, land tenure, markets, production, and finance. In 2024, ZiLAN convened three cluster meetings, focusing on land tenure, climate change, and the combined areas of markets, production, and finance. These meetings provided a platform for sharing knowledge, identifying challenges, and developing joint strategies to address these pressing issues.





## INTERNATIONAL RURAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) in collaboration with Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF) commemorated the International Rural Women's Day on 24 October, 2024, in Ward 2 Mwanza Village, Goromonzi District. The event was attended by 106 participants, including 13 men and 93 women. Key stakeholders present included representatives from the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage represented by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), traditional leadership and AGRITEX. The event discussed the importance of traditional seeds in ensuring household food security, the role of women in seed saving, and food sovereignty in line with the theme "Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All". The commemorations also aimed raising awareness on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and women's land rights.

## AGRO-ECOLOGY TRAINING

ZiLAN conducted training on agro-ecology targeting 60 farmers in Ward 4, Mutoko District in October 2024. The objective of the training was to equip farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement environmentally friendly and sustainable agricultural practices. The training covered topics such as the benefits of agro-ecology, agro-ecological principles and methods, as well as soil fertility management. Farmers also participated in practical sessions on bokashi production and the production of ash brew, a natural pesticide.

## EARTH AUGER TRAINING AND DISTRIBUTION

The Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) distributed earth augers and conducted training on their use targeting 100 women farmers in Ward 4 and Ward 8 Mutoko District. Ten (10) earth augers were distributed to 10 groups comprising 10 women each. The pilot initiative is a complement to the government initiated Pfumvudza scheme and is aimed at reducing the labour burden for women while at the same time enhancing their capacity to adapt to climate change.



## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER LAND DIALOGUE

ZiLAN conducted a Multi-stakeholder Land Dialogue in Ward 8 Mutoko District on the 22nd of October 2024. The dialogue was attended by farmers, traditional leaders, land policy actors including the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Mining Development and the Ministry of Local Government. The overall objective of the dialogue was to facilitate discussions around addressing farmer-miner conflicts that have become rampant in communities where mining activities are prevalent. The dialogue also mobilized recommendations for the review of the Mines and Minerals Bill.



## MUSHROOM PRODUCTION HUB

ZiLAN constructed a mushroom production hub in Ward 2 Goromonzi District which is benefitting 13 mushroom farmers from the local community. Beneficiaries also received training covering various aspects of oyster mushroom production including substrate selection, spawning, structure preparation, pasteurization and marketing. The initiative has enabled farmers to scale up their productive capacity and meet market demand.



## RADIO PROGRAMME

ZiLAN, with support from MamaCash, hosted a radio program at Radio Zimbabwe to discuss the critical issue of women's land rights in a changing climate on 1 November 2024. The objectives for the radio program were to discuss the importance of women's land rights and measures/strategies to improve land rights; to discuss how women's land rights are affected by climate change; and to explore how women's land rights can improve climate change response and resilience. The radio program discussed key topics, which included the importance of women's land rights; the status of women's land rights globally and locally; specific challenges faced by women regarding access to land and land-related resources; the disproportionate impact of climate change on women; how land rights intersect with climate change issues, particularly for women in rural areas; strategies to promote women's land rights and strengthen climate change resilience; as well as the role of policy in promoting women's land rights and strengthening climate change resilience.

## ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS ON THE AGRO-ECOLOGY POLICY AND PROMOTION STRATEGY

ZiLAN has been actively involved in the development process of the National Agro-ecology Policy and Promotion Strategy. ZiLAN co-hosted the Northern Region policy validation exercise together with Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre in 2023 and contributed extensive inputs to the draft policy and strategy. While the draft policy is yet to be finalized and still undergoing internal reviews, the Ministry of Lands gave a greenlight to start implementing some activities that have been identified as quick wins. ZiLAN has been subsequently conducting meetings with Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre (FPC), the lead organisation seconded by the Ministry of Lands in the development of the National Agro-ecology Policy and Promotion Strategy with the objective of discussing the implementation strategies of the policy. Key issues discussed include the importance of devising a policy tracker in order to assess the policy progress as well as the need for more research and documentation of agro-ecology particularly indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) which are at the core of agro-ecology.



## NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY FRAMEWORK (NAPF) MEETING

ZiLAN participated in the National Agriculture Policy Framework (NAPF) Pillar 8 first quarter meeting which was held on the 16th of April 2024. The meeting was attended by 35 participants (10 women, 25 men) including representatives from Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development officials, FAO, European Union in Zimbabwe, CSOs and farmers. The meeting coincided with the declaration of a nationwide state of disaster following the Elnino induced drought that negatively impacted the 2023/24 cropping season and consequently rendered over 2.7 million people food insecure. The meeting discussed strategies to mobilise resources to support the response plan. Emphasis was given on the need for the involvement of all stakeholders from the grassroots level to policy level in order to map effective responses

## NATIONAL DROUGHT ACTION COMMITTEE (DAC) SECONDMENT

ZiLAN's active involvement in the policy development process of the Agro-ecology Policy opened up an opportunity to be incorporated in the Drought Action Committee (DAC), an initiative that is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development as part of its efforts to develop mitigation strategies to combat the impact of the Elnino induced drought. The ZiLAN is participating in the Cereals Sub-Committee together other stakeholders drawn from government institutions, private sector and civil society. The committee is mandated to develop and oversee the overall short term and long term response strategy, monitor and assess drought conditions, identify vulnerable populations and implement Elnino response strategies among other responsibilities.

## REGIONAL AGRO-ECOLOGY CONFERENCE

ZiLAN participated in the Regional Agro-ecology Conference a build-up on extensive work in the development of the Agroecology policy/strategy which was organised by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development with support from its partners. The conference was convened from the 30th of July to the 1st of August 2024 and ran under the theme 'Recovering from Elnino Through Agro-ecological Tailoring and Resilience Building'. The conference brought together over 200 participants (120 women, 80 men) including farmers, CSOs, private sector, development partners and academia drawn from Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Zambia, Mozambique, Kenya and also had representation from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union (EU). The objective of the conference was to advance agroecological practices, policy frameworks and to reflect on how best smallholder farmers can leverage on agro-ecology as a climate mitigation and adaptation strategy as well as explore innovative approaches to address barriers to adoption by smallholder farmers. Overall, the conference facilitated collaborations, networking, and knowledge sharing elements that are key in advancing agro-ecology.





## AGRIBUSINESS/MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND FARMER SUPPORT- GREENHOUSE BENEFICIARIES

The Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) hosted an Agribusiness Training Workshop in Harare on the 25th of June for 23 women farmers who are beneficiaries of a 300sqm greenhouse that was set up in Makumbe, Domboshava as an innovative strategy to increase production and improve the incomes of these women in the wake of the Elnino induced drought .The objective of the training was to capacitate farmers with knowledge on improving productivity, profitability and their overall business management skills. The training covered broad topics that include greenhouse management, crop selection and production, financial management, marketing as well as networking and collaboration. The training was co-facilitated by Total Farm Solutions (TFS) a local company that provides farmers with practical solutions to modern day farming systems together with the Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA).

## GREENHOUSE BENEFICIARIES EXCHANGE VISIT

ZiLAN conducted an exchange visit to Dunstan Farm in Goromonzi district on the 15th of August 2024 targeting 23 women farmers who are beneficiaries of the greenhouse initiative in Makumbe, Domboshava. The objective of the visit was to promote sharing of experiences and best practices related to crop production, greenhouse management and pest control. Through the exchange farmers got insights into common challenges as well as effective strategies and solutions in greenhouse farming. The exchange visit also fostered the establishment of networks with other farmers which are expected to improve access to resources (information and expertise) as well as markets.Overall, the exchange visit provided valuable insights into greenhouse farming practices, particularly for tomato production which the farmers are currently undertaking





## SHASHE AGRO-ECOLOGY SCHOOL EXCHANGE VISIT

ZiLAN organised an exchange visit to Shashe Agro-ecology School, one of the most successful farmer to farmer agro-ecology training hub promoting the exchange of experiences through horizontal learning and dissemination of agro-ecological and sustainable peasant agriculture practices in Zimbabwe. The exchange visit which was conducted from the 12th to the 15th of March 2014 drew a total of 10 lead women farmers from Goromonzi, Seke, Makoni and Masvingo districts. The exchange visit facilitated the sharing of information on agro-ecology and organic farming among women farmers and equipped them with the practical knowledge on various agro-ecology practices which they will cascade to other women within their respective communities.

## WOMEN LAND RIGHTS TRAINING

ZiLAN hosted a Women Land Rights Community Training on the 10th of July 2024 in Ward 8 Chipfiko Village, Mutoko district. The event was attended by 126 participants (7 male and 119 female) including women farmers, representatives from the Rural District Council, Ministry of Women Affairs, traditional leaders as well as extension officers. The overall objective of the training was to raise awareness on women's land rights to enhance their capacity to engage with duty bearers, demand land rights and consequently improve access, ownership and control of land by women. The training also aimed at capacitating participants with information on the importance of promoting women's access to land.

## MUSHROOM PRODUCTION TRAINING FOR FARMERS

ZiLAN conducted a mushroom production training at Chengeta Mushrooms in Harare on the 2nd of September 2024 targeting 13 farmers who are beneficiaries of a Mushroom Cultivation Hub that was constructed in Mwanza Village in Goromonzi district. The training provided participants with valuable insights into the production process of oyster mushroom. Participants gained knowledge on the importance of the use of appropriate substrates, maintenance of a clean and controlled environment as well as proper pasteurization techniques. The training also covered the critical stages of spawning, colonization, and harvesting. The participants were also capacitated with key market related information including packaging, pricing and potential market opportunities.





## ANNUAL POLICY DIALOGUE

The Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) hosted its Annual Policy Dialogue on 28 November, 2024, at the Bronte Hotel. The dialogue focused on the theme “Strengthening Land Tenure Systems: Building Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods.” Key discussions included emerging land tenure policies, women’s land rights, and land conflicts. The event provided a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, share experiences, and advocate for policies that promote equitable and sustainable land governance.



## GREENHOUSE SUPPORT (AGRONOMY SUPPORT)

The Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) initiated a greenhouse project in Domboshava. However, beneficiaries encountered stunted crop growth. To address this issue, ZiLAN engaged with Kutsaga Research Board to conduct plant and soil tests, revealing a high nematode infestation and fungal diseases like Fusarium and Alternaria. In response, ZiLAN engaged Damara Bio Agri to provide agronomic support. The agronomist conducted monitoring visits, assessed the tomato crops, and recommended a pest and disease management program along with a revised fertigation program to improve crop health and optimize production.



# NETWORK MEMBER ACTIVITIES 2024

## WOMEN AND LAND IN ZIMBABWE (WLZ)



Figure 1: Shows rural women exchanging knowledge and skills on value adding farm produce

### WLZ NATIONAL MEETING (WOMEN AND LAND IN ZIMBABWE)

Women and Land in Zimbabwe conducted its ninth Annual general meeting from the 27th to the 30th of August 2024 at Hovano Primary school in Gokwe South under Chief Njelele. The meeting was running under the theme “WOMEN AT THE FRONTLINE OF CLIMATE ACTION: A PATHWAY TO ADDRESS POVERTY AND BUILDING RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS”. The objective of the meeting to create a safe, inclusive, respectful and transformatory space for the women to share knowledge and lived experiences dealing with contemporary issues affecting their livelihoods and survival collectively. Women as suggested by the theme celebrated each other through acknowledging accomplishments in feminist agroecology, economic empowerment in value addition of forest, farm produce, fighting gender-based violence, and the occupation of decision-making spaces. Five thousand plus (5000+) rural women at the meeting strongly advocated for the domestication of the International Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, climate justice and protection of farmer saved seeds in the National Seed Act and access to land by young women. The meeting provided women with the opportunity to interact with and create linkages between farmers, private sector and government to increase productivity and incomes.



## NATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND SEED EXHIBITION (WOMEN AND LAND IN ZIMBABABWE)

WLZ conducted a Photographic Seed Exhibition during the National Good Food and Seed Festival at Harare Botanical Gardens from the 13th to the 18th of September 2024. The exhibition was well attended and attracted many people which were close to 2000, it became a centre of attraction, and all the visitors and stakeholders appreciated the work that was done by rural women. Amongst the visitors to the stall, was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, stakeholders from regional countries including Kenya, Ghana and Swaziland. The exhibition was conducted for six days, running under the theme “Our Seed have Stories”. The first two days of the exhibition were running parallel with Good Food Festival event and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (ASFA) Tripartite event.

The Photographic Seed Exhibition was an enlightening and visually stunning event that highlighted the invaluable role traditional seeds play in maintaining biodiversity and preserving cultural heritage. It provided a platform for visitors to reflect on the importance of seed preservation, not just for food security but as a part of the cultural fabric of communities worldwide. By showcasing the beauty and diversity of traditional seeds through photography, the exhibition succeeded in fostering a greater appreciation for the role of these seeds in lives of people. The exhibition was a celebration of both the art of photography and the wisdom of generations of women farmers dedicated to the preservation of our traditional seeds.



Figure 2: Shows the seed exhibition stand by WLZ at the Good Food and Seed Festival.

***“OUR SEED  
HAVE  
STORIES”***





## ZIMBABWE INDIGENOUS WOMEN FARMERS ASSOCIATION TRUST (ZIW FAT)

In 2024, ZIW FAT continued to empower women farmers in rural communities through various initiatives. Recognizing the challenges posed by climate change and unpredictable weather patterns, ZIW FAT partnered with 3PsG on a successful pen-fattening project. This project involved feeding cattle for three months and then selling the meat, generating profits for members. In 2024, three batches were completed, with profit sharing among members taking place in January. A new batch is scheduled to commence in the first week of February, continuing this vital income-generating activity throughout the year.

Furthermore, ZIW FAT actively promotes market gardening, horticulture, and poultry farming among its members. These initiatives empower women to generate income, improve food security for their families, and contribute to the overall economic growth of their communities. ZIW FAT's motto, "As women farmers, we must work harder to get a dollar per. Support a woman you know you have supported the whole Nation," reflects the organization's commitment to empowering women and fostering economic development





## WOMEN FARMERS LAND AND AGRICULTURE TRUST (WFLAT)

### CLIMATE PROOF INSURANCE FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS (WOMEN FARMERS LAND AND AGRICULTURE TRUST)

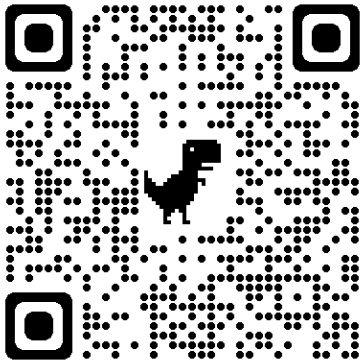
As a multi stakeholder responsive measure to the detrimental effects of climate change and in a bid to improve and increase food security and related climate resilience, WFLA Trust participated in an International Insurance Innovation Lab (liilab) as part of team Zimbabwe. Therein it partnered with varied stakeholders along the value chain including IPEC and Insurance Company of Zimbabwe with funding from IFC to co-create a short-term insurance for Smallholder Farmers coined by participating farmers as 'The Farmers Basket.' The Insurance product which was incubated over a period of 18 months was piloted in Goromonzi during the 2023/ 2024 farming season, as a proof of concept. It was launched at a colourful ceremony on 19 September 2024. The launch which was made to coincide with the first claims pay-out to farmers and was presided over by the Hon. Minister Mthuli Ncube Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, minister of Lands, Agriculture Fisheries, Water and Rural Development Hon. Dr Anxious Masuka who were accompanied by various leadership within the Mashonaland East province. Over 4200 farmers received their pay outs totalling to USD\$232996,75. The insurance project is to be scaled and rolled out throughout the country where WFLA Trust will collaborate with identified Insurance companies in rolling out the product.





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