



2025 **Bi-ANNUAL** **NEWSLETTER**

ZIMBABWE LAND AND
AGRARIAN NETWORK

Our Mission

“To create an enabling environment for inclusive, prosperous and sustainable land and agriculturebased livelihoods”

Provision of information	Building technical capabilities
Providing spaces for dialogue	Facilitating linkages among members and stakeholders
Conducting evidence based lobby and advocacy for favourable policies and programmes	

Our Vision

“Sustainable and shared prosperity among land dependent Zimbabweans, particularly marginalised smallholder farmers, women and farm workers ”

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 advocate 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 promotes 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.



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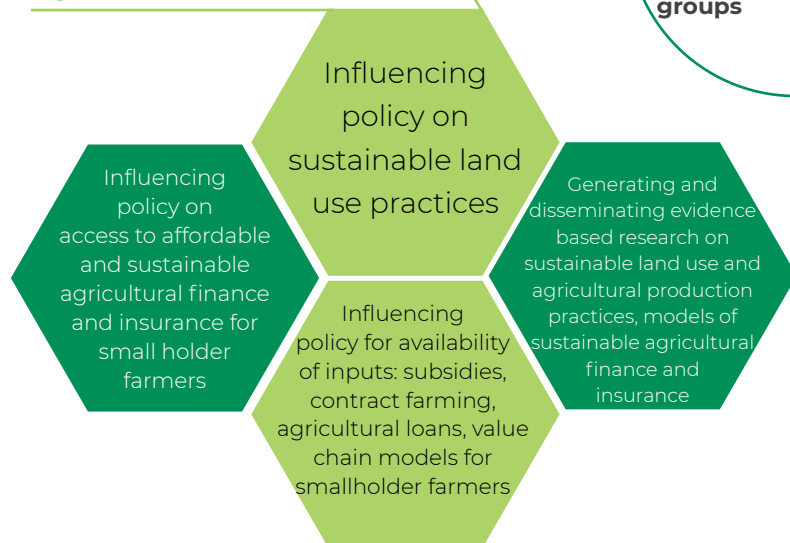
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THEMATIC Focus Areas

Production & Finance



Climate Change

Sensitisation of the communities and network members on climate change threats

Evidence based research on sustainable climate change resilient practices

Documentation and dissemination of research findings

Organising workshops to share research findings

Identifying pilot groups for appropriate technologies that are resilient to harsh climatic conditions which are suitable of small holder farmers

Sharing experiences on best practices

Influencing
land policy
review

Strengthening
land tenure

Constitutional
literacy on land
rights among
marginalised
groups

**Land
Tenure**

Parliamentary
advocacy

Conducting awareness
raising programs on land
rights for women
and youths



Agrarian Markets

Influencing domestic pricing modalities	Linking small holder farmers with alternative domestic, regional, global markets	Facilitating and supporting value addition/ rural industrialisation	Strengthening of producer associations for collective voice	Improving small holder farmers capacity to negotiate in contract farming	Promotion of food sovereignty and production as well as consumption of small grains
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Our Activities

Support Activities



COMMUNITY GARDEN ESTABLISHMENT

ZiLAN, with support from We-Effect and Mama Cash, partnered with a group of 10 farmers (8 women and 2 men) in Chikomba district, Chinyika, in Makonese village, who manage an organic nutritional garden. This initiative has been marked as ZiLAN's flagship project for the quarter. The Chinyika group, dedicated to purely organic farming, was identified through ZiLAN's member organization, the Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU). This group stands as a remarkable success story of farmers addressing food security and sovereignty challenges despite facing significant resource constraints. To support their efforts, ZiLAN, with resources from We-Effect and Mama Cash, implemented key interventions during the first quarter of 2025. The support included the installation of a 5,000 litre water tank and a steel tower, a drip irrigation system covering half a hectare, and a security fence enclosing the entire one-hectare garden. The drip irrigation system has significantly boosted production by providing a consistent and readily available water supply, while the fence has safeguarded crops from threats such as stray livestock and theft.



Drip Irrigation System Nutritional Garden.



Beneficiaries celebrating on their 5000 litre water tank



Garlic production in progress

Currently, the garden cultivates a variety of crops, including potatoes, butternut, garlic, covo, onions, pumpkins, and thorny melons, which demonstrate the group's potential to contribute significantly to household and local food security.

CHINYIKA NUTRITIONAL GARDEN BILLBOARD INSTALLATION

To improve the garden's visibility, a billboard was installed on 18 March at the Chinyika turnoff along the main road, signalling the presence of the garden to passersby. This initiative has sparked interest from various individuals and institutions, including local schools within and beyond the ward, who have begun visiting the garden and placing crop orders. This growing attention has motivated the group to further expand their production, with aspirations of entering commercial markets.

*Chinyika Garden signage**Farmers celebrating billboard installation*

Monitoring Visit (Chinyika Nutritional Garden)

On the 25 March 2025, the Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) and We Effect conducted monitoring visit to the Chinyika Nutritional Garden in Hwedza. The objective of the visit was to assess the status of the projects and gather feedback from project beneficiaries. The visit served as a platform for We Effect to engage with the project beneficiaries, understand their operations, and assess the progress made with the availed resources.

*ZiLAN and We-Effect conducting discussions with the Chinyika garden members*



Mr Elijah Rusike (We-effect) sharing agricultural notes with the farmers



Mr Elijah Rusike (We-effect) and a few farmers touring the garden

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT AT MUSHROOM HUB IN BHORA

ZiLAN with support from We-Effect constructed a mushroom cultivation hub in Mwanza Village, Ward 2 in Goromonzi District as part of its efforts to improve food security and household incomes. The Hub, constructed in July 2024 is benefitting a group called “Shine Mushroom”, comprising of 13 mushroom farmers (11 women, 2 men). The group is producing oyster mushroom and the constructed structure has helped to increase production capacity due to improved conditions ideal for mushroom farming. Although the project started on a good note, it had its challenges along the way, such as water issues and production yield which was dropping. To address production challenges related to water shortages and labour demands, a water tank and a fogger-based watering system was installed at the mushroom hub with support from ZiLAN and We-Effect. This system was designed to optimize the use of water from the existing well while reducing the physical strain on women who previously had to carry water over long distances to water the crop. This intervention not only alleviated their burden but also contributed to more efficient and consistent production.



Installed water tank at the Mushroom Hub

Mushroom hub beneficiaries refresher training courses

The Shine Mushroom group from Bhora, underwent theory and practical oyster mushroom production refresher training courses conducted in Bhora in March 2025. The courses enhanced the group's knowledge while expanding both their theoretical understanding and practical skills. These trainings proved to be a turning point, as they shed light on several issues that had been limiting the group's ability to reach maximum production capacity. Following the sessions, the group started to see significant improvements in mushroom yields compared to previous cycles.



Mushroom farmers during theory training on oyster mushroom production



Mushroom farmers during theory training on sterilization



Mushroom farmers during theory training on soaking and sterilization



Mushroom farmers during theory training on spawning

FOOD FOR LIFE FESTIVAL

On the 23rd May 2025, the Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) attended the Food for Life Festival, hosted by Women in Farming Entrepreneurship (W.I.F.E) at Women University in Africa, Harare. The festival was a celebration of Africa's food systems, entrepreneurship, and sustainable agriculture. The event brought together women farmers and entrepreneurs, who showcased their fresh and processed produce, artisanal goods, and innovative products. In attendance were various organizations, financial institutions, and stakeholders, including Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zimbabwe, Total Farm Solution (TFS), Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU), NMB Bank, Champion Seeds, as well as women farmers from Chikomba District, particularly members of the Chinyika Garden, whom ZiLAN is actively working with. ZiLAN had a valuable opportunity to network with organizations within the agricultural sector, promoting connections to further its mission of supporting sustainable agriculture and community development. The Chinyika Garden group displayed an impressive variety of produce and seeds, including pumpkins, maize seed, groundnuts, garlic, and wild fruits such as tsvubvu (smelly berry fingerless fruit).



Chinyika group posing for a picture at the Food For Life Festival



Chinyika farmers showcased products

AGRIBUSINESS TRAINING AND SEED SHARING AT CHIKOMBA

Following their commendable recognition at the Food for Life Festival for their hard work and resilience as rural women farmers, the Chinyika group was awarded a valuable opportunity to participate in a complimentary agribusiness training session. This training, facilitated by the Zimbabwe Farmers Union, was held on 11th June 2025 in Makonese Village, located in the Chikomba district. The event featured a keynote address delivered by ZiLAN, highlighting the importance of empowering women in agriculture. Farmers from various Chikomba District Wards graced the event, including Pokotete Ward 24, Mupatsi Ward 26, Sadza Ward 25, and Warikandwa. Among the notable participants was Chinyika Ward Coordinator, Village Headman, District Executives, Agritex extension officers. Technical key stakeholders included the Faculty of Agriculture at Africa University and NMB Bank, which provided training on financial literacy and the principles of treating farming as a viable business venture.



Farmers following proceedings during the training session



Farmers showcasing and sharing seeds

ZLC BILATERAL MEETING ON EQUITABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND HOLDINGS IN ZIMBABWE

In May, 2025, SMAIAS took part in the Zimbabwe Land Commission's (ZLC) bilateral meeting on equitable access, size, occupation and usage of agricultural land holdings in Zimbabwe, with key stakeholders. The focus of the meeting was to validate the draft report on equitable access, size, occupation, and usage of agricultural land holdings in Zimbabwe prepared by the ZLC. The meeting brought together high level institutions including the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), ZIMPARKS, the National Council of Disabled People of Zimbabwe, CBZ Agro Yield, the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB), and many other organizations. The study tackled gender inequality, insecure tenure, and inefficient land use to boost agricultural potential, social justice, economic empowerment, and sustainable development.

The findings of the study are expected to inform government policies for an inclusive and productive land tenure system. The meeting's goal was to obtain feedback and recommendations from key stakeholders regarding the draft report, to pave way for a revised draft for the National Consultative validation workshop. SMAIAS' participation provided an important opportunity to contribute to the refinement of policy recommendations which will be presented to government. The discussions also aimed to improve sustainable and inclusive land administration practices in Zimbabwe.



Participants following Dr. Hungwe's presentation of findings and Recommendations on Gender Discrimination and Land Use in Zimbabwe



(Left) ZiLAN representative discussing with Dr. Hungwe on her presentation during a break out session



ZLC NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE STAKEHOLDER VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON EQUITABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND

Following the ZLC Bilateral Meeting held in May, the Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) was invited to participate at the National Consultative Stakeholders Validation Workshop on equitable access, size, occupation and usage of agricultural land holdings in Zimbabwe, held on the 10th June 2025. The validation workshop sought to allow a wider stakeholders review and contribution to findings and recommendations on equitable access, occupation, use, and size of agricultural land holdings. Participants included senior government officials, representatives from agri-financial institutions, and development partners like the Food and Agricultural

Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), alongside farmer representatives from across the country. Dr. Hungwe presented research focused on addressing inequalities stemming from the 2000 Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) while promoting smallholder farmers' access to land. Key recommendations from stakeholders included conducting periodic audits and decentralizing land administration systems to improve grassroots access to conflict resolution. Additionally, the need to align land policy with the constitution was emphasized and issuance of tenure documents to ensure marginalized groups, including women, youths, and persons with disabilities, are included in land access initiatives.



Participants following proceedings during the ZLC Validation workshop



ZiLAN representative with Dr. Hungwe

ZILAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Zimbabwe Land and Agrarian Network (ZiLAN) had its 34th Steering Committee Meeting on the 22nd May 2025. Key discussions were the newly enacted Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) Act and mapping the way forward. A key resolution included ZiLAN's transition from a trust to a Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) in accordance with current regulations.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT MEETING

On 27th June 2025, ZiLAN convened a strategic engagement meeting at the Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre (FPC), the lead institution spearheading the drafting of the national agroecology strategy and promotion policy. The meeting brought together five key representatives, three from ZiLAN and two from FPC, with the primary objective of assessing the current status and trajectory of the agroecology strategy and promotion policy. Discussions revealed significant progress in the development of the policy. Notably, the initiative received formal endorsement for implementation through an official communique from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands. This greenlight, granted even as the policy remains under review, signals strong institutional support and a promising path forward for agroecological transformation in Zimbabwe.

Key outcomes from the engagement meeting are listed in the box below:

- Revival of the climate change working group under ZiLAN's leadership to align agroecological efforts with climate resilience strategies.
- Creation of a centralized database to map and coordinate organisations actively engaged in agro-ecology, enhancing collaboration and reducing duplication.
- Development of harmonized, context-specific **agroecology frameworks** to ensure consistency and relevance across diverse ecological zones.
- Strategic contribution to national development agendas, specifically the Agricultural Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy2 (AFSRTS2) and National Development Strategy 2 (NDS2) to reinforce agroecology's role in sustainable food systems.

The engagement meeting marked an important moment in aligning stakeholder efforts, streamlining policy implementation, and reinforcing the CSOs and the country's commitment to ecological farming practices



Participants following proceedings during the engagement meeting



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