



MUMBWABILE YOUTH

# Policy Influence Statement

## Contribution of Research to National Policy Dialogue on Climate Adaptation and Rural Economic Resilience in Zambia

**Research Project:**

Local Value Addition as a Climate Adaptation Strategy for Smallholder Farmers

**Implementing Organization:**

Mumbwabile Youth Multi-Purpose Society

**Funding Partner:**

Zambia National Commercial Bank (ZANACO)

**Research Partner:**

Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR)

**Study Area:**

Mwembeshi Area, Chibombo District, Central Province, Zambia

**Project Duration:**

January 2023 – December 2025

## 1. Introduction

The research project titled “**Local Value Addition as a Climate Adaptation Strategy for Smallholder Farmers**” was implemented by **Mumbwabile Youth Multi-Purpose Society** with financial support from **Zambia National Commercial Bank (ZANACO)**. The study examined how local agro-processing and agricultural value chain development can improve the economic resilience of smallholder farmers facing climate variability.

The research generated practical evidence demonstrating that **local value addition initiatives can strengthen rural market systems, improve farmer incomes, and contribute to climate adaptation by enhancing economic resilience.**

Following the completion of the research, the findings were disseminated to key national stakeholders through policy presentations, stakeholder consultations, and policy briefs aimed at informing national discussions on climate adaptation and rural economic development.

## 2. Contribution to National Policy Dialogue

The findings from the Mwembeshi research initiative contributed to policy dialogue at the national level by highlighting the importance of integrating **agricultural value chain development into climate adaptation strategies.**

The evidence generated through the research demonstrated that strengthening rural market systems can complement traditional climate adaptation strategies that focus primarily on agricultural production improvements.

This perspective contributed to broader discussions among policymakers and development institutions on the need to incorporate **economic resilience mechanisms into climate adaptation policies targeting smallholder farmers.**

## 3. Engagement with Key Policy Institutions

The research findings were presented and discussed with several institutions involved in economic policy development, climate adaptation planning, and agricultural sector transformation in Zambia.

Key stakeholders engaged during the dissemination process included:

### Ministry of Finance and National Planning

The Ministry of Finance was engaged during policy presentation sessions to discuss the economic implications of strengthening agricultural value chains and rural enterprise development.

The discussions highlighted the potential role of financial institutions and development finance mechanisms in supporting rural agro-processing initiatives as part of broader economic resilience strategies.

## **Ministry of Green Economy and Environment**

The Ministry of Green Economy and Environment was engaged to examine how agricultural value chain development can support national climate adaptation objectives.

The research findings contributed to discussions on how **economic resilience interventions can complement climate-smart agriculture programs and other environmental management initiatives.**

## **Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR)**

ZIPAR participated as a research partner and contributed to the policy engagement process by providing technical perspectives on the economic analysis of agricultural value chains.

The research findings informed discussions on how strengthening rural market systems can support inclusive economic development and climate resilience.

## **Zambia National Commercial Bank (ZANACO)**

As the financial institution supporting the research project, ZANACO participated in discussions on the role that financial institutions can play in supporting **rural enterprise development and value chain financing.**

The engagement demonstrated the importance of collaboration between financial institutions and development organizations in promoting sustainable rural economic initiatives.

# **4. Key Policy Insights Generated by the Research**

The research produced several key insights relevant to national policy development.

### **1. Market Systems Are Critical for Climate Adaptation**

The study demonstrated that strengthening agricultural value chains can improve the economic stability of smallholder farmers and reduce vulnerability to climate-related income shocks.

### **2. Local Agro-Processing Can Improve Rural Economic Resilience**

The Mwembeshi initiative showed that small-scale agro-processing infrastructure can significantly improve farmer income stability and strengthen local economic systems.

### **3. Financial Institutions Can Support Climate Adaptation**

The project highlighted the potential role of financial institutions in supporting climate adaptation through investments in rural enterprise development and agricultural value chain infrastructure.

#### **4. Value Chain Development Can Support Inclusive Growth**

The research demonstrated that value addition initiatives create opportunities for **women and youth to participate in agricultural markets**, supporting inclusive rural development.

### **5. Policy Relevance for Zambia's Climate Adaptation Agenda**

The research findings align with Zambia's national priorities related to:

- climate change adaptation
- agricultural sector transformation
- rural economic development
- inclusive economic growth.

By highlighting the role of value chain development in strengthening rural economic resilience, the research contributes to discussions on how climate adaptation programs can incorporate **market-based solutions and rural enterprise development strategies**.

### **6. Contribution to Evidence-Based Policy Development**

The Mwembeshi research initiative represents an example of how **practical development interventions can generate evidence that informs national policy discussions**.

By combining field-based research with stakeholder engagement and policy dissemination activities, the project contributed to strengthening the link between research and policy development in Zambia.

The study demonstrates the importance of supporting applied research initiatives that generate insights into innovative approaches for addressing climate adaptation challenges.

## 7. Conclusion

The research conducted by **Mumbwabile Youth Multi-Purpose Society** has contributed to policy dialogue on how agricultural value chains and local value addition initiatives can support climate-resilient rural development.

Through engagement with national policy institutions, research organizations, and financial institutions, the findings from the Mwembeshi initiative have helped highlight the importance of integrating **economic resilience strategies into climate adaptation frameworks for smallholder farmers**.

The insights generated through this research provide a valuable foundation for future policy development and investment aimed at strengthening sustainable agricultural systems and rural livelihoods in Zambia.



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Cybia Mwelemuka

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cybia Mwelemuka', located below the printed name.