



MUMBWABILE YOUTH

# Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Presentation Note

## Dissemination of Research Findings: Local Value Addition as a Climate Adaptation Strategy for Smallholder Farmers

### Project Title:

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 Location:

Mwembeshi Area, Chibombo District, Central Province, Zambia

### Project Period:

January 2023 - December 2025

# 1. Introduction

As part of the research dissemination process, **Mumbwabile Youth Multi-Purpose Society organized stakeholder engagement sessions to present the findings and policy recommendations emerging from the research project titled “Local Value Addition as a Climate Adaptation Strategy for Smallholder Farmers.”**

The objective of the stakeholder engagement was to ensure that the evidence generated through the research contributes to **policy discussions, institutional learning, and practical interventions aimed at strengthening climate adaptation strategies for smallholder farmers in Zambia.**

The engagement also aimed to facilitate dialogue between policymakers, financial institutions, development practitioners, and research institutions on how agricultural value chains can support **climate-resilient rural development.**

## 2. Objectives of the Stakeholder Engagement

The stakeholder engagement and policy presentation sessions were organized with the following objectives:

- To present the key research findings from the Mwembeshi livestock value addition initiative.
- To share evidence on the role of **local agro-processing and value chain development in strengthening smallholder farmer resilience to climate variability.**
- To provide policy recommendations for integrating value chain development into national **climate adaptation and rural development strategies.**
- To facilitate dialogue between government institutions, financial institutions, and research organizations on opportunities to scale similar initiatives.
- To promote evidence-based policymaking in areas related to **agricultural value chains, rural economic resilience, and climate adaptation.**

### 3. Stakeholders Engaged

The dissemination of the research findings involved engagement with several key national stakeholders involved in economic policy, agricultural development, and climate adaptation in Zambia.

Key stakeholders engaged included:

#### **Ministry of Finance and National Planning**

Officials from the Ministry of Finance participated in the policy presentation sessions to examine how value chain development initiatives can contribute to **economic resilience and rural development policies**.

The Ministry of Finance expressed interest in exploring how financial institutions and development partners can support investment in rural agro-processing infrastructure.

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

The Ministry of Green Economy and Environment was engaged to discuss the implications of the research findings for **national climate change adaptation strategies**.

Discussions focused on the importance of integrating **economic resilience and market-based solutions** into climate adaptation programs targeting smallholder farmers.

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

ZIPAR participated as a research partner and provided technical input during the policy presentation sessions.

The institute highlighted the importance of generating empirical evidence on how agricultural value chains influence rural economic development and climate resilience.

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

As the financial institution supporting the project, ZANACO participated in the stakeholder engagement process to discuss the role that financial institutions can play in supporting **rural enterprise development and agricultural value chain financing**.

The bank expressed interest in exploring innovative financial instruments that can support agro-processing enterprises in rural areas.

## Local Government and Agricultural Extension Officials

Representatives from local government institutions and agricultural extension services were also engaged in the dissemination process.

Their participation provided valuable perspectives on how value addition initiatives can be implemented and supported at the district and community levels.

## 4. Policy Presentation

During the stakeholder engagement sessions, the research team presented a **policy brief summarizing the key findings and policy implications of the study.**

The policy presentation focused on the following key areas:

- climate change impacts on rural livelihoods
- market barriers faced by smallholder farmers
- the economic benefits of local value addition initiatives
- the role of agro-processing infrastructure in strengthening rural value chains
- policy options for supporting value chain development.

The presentation highlighted the Mwembeshi initiative as a **demonstration model showing how local value addition initiatives can strengthen rural economic resilience.**

## 5. Key Policy Messages Presented

The policy brief presented to stakeholders emphasized several key messages:

### 1. Climate adaptation strategies should integrate economic resilience approaches

Climate adaptation programs should not focus solely on improving agricultural production but should also strengthen **market systems and rural value chains.**

### 2. Rural agro-processing infrastructure is essential for improving farmer incomes

Investing in small and medium-scale agro-processing facilities can significantly improve **market access and price realization for smallholder farmers.**

### 3. Financial institutions can play a key role in rural enterprise development

Banks and development finance institutions can support value chain development by providing **financing for agro-processing infrastructure and rural enterprises.**

#### **4. Value addition initiatives can promote inclusive rural development**

Agricultural value chains create opportunities for **women and youth to participate in rural economic activities**, contributing to inclusive growth.

#### **5. Evidence-based policy development is essential**

Research initiatives that combine **practical development interventions with policy analysis** can generate valuable insights for national development strategies.

## **6. Outcomes of the Stakeholder Engagement**

The stakeholder engagement sessions produced several important outcomes:

- increased awareness among policymakers about the role of value chains in climate adaptation
- strengthened dialogue between financial institutions and development organizations on rural enterprise financing
- recognition of the Mwembeshi initiative as a **demonstration model for rural value chain development**
- interest from stakeholders in exploring opportunities to replicate similar initiatives in other rural areas.

## **7. Contribution to Policy Dialogue**

The research findings and policy brief contributed to ongoing national discussions on:

- climate adaptation and rural resilience
- agricultural value chain development
- rural enterprise financing
- inclusive rural economic development.

By presenting the research findings to key national stakeholders, the project helped ensure that the evidence generated through the Mwembeshi initiative informs **policy discussions and future development programs.**

## 8. Conclusion

The stakeholder engagement and policy presentation process played an important role in ensuring that the research findings generated through the Mwembeshi initiative were shared with institutions responsible for shaping national development policies.

The engagement demonstrated the value of **collaboration between research institutions, financial institutions, and government stakeholders** in developing practical solutions to rural development challenges.

Through continued dialogue and collaboration, the lessons learned from the Mwembeshi initiative can contribute to broader efforts aimed at strengthening **climate-resilient agricultural systems and rural economic development in Zambia.**



# MUMBWABILE YOUTH

**Mumbwabile Youth Multi-Purpose Society**  
Lusaka, Zambia

Email: [info@mumbwabileyouthsociety.com](mailto:info@mumbwabileyouthsociety.com)  
Website: <https://mumbwabileyouthsociety.com/>

Cybia Mwelemuka

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cybia Mwelemuka'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.