



Zambia - Key facts

Population 13,046,508

Population living in poverty 9,784,881

Population who live on less than \$1 per day 64%

Rural poor 6,200,000 47%

Malnourished people 5,200,000

Children who suffer from chronic malnutrition 45%

HIV/AIDS prevalence 15%

Livelihoods partly reliant on AAS 3,000,000

Seasonal inundated area 20% of country

Human development index ranking 164

Aquatic Agricultural Systems in Zambia

Zambia contains 40% of Southern Africa's surface freshwater and seasonally almost 20% of the country (150,000 km²) is inundated. Zambia's rivers, lakes and wetlands support extensive agriculture, fisheries and livestock production, and contribute to the livelihoods of about 3 million people, almost 25% of the country's population. These aquatic agricultural systems (AAS) are particularly important to poor people and provide significant opportunities for agriculture-based economic growth.

The main crops grown in AAS environments in Zambia include maize, millet and cassava, while in some locations irrigation-based commercial agriculture of sugar cane and rice is expanding. Cattle herding and small livestock production, as well as seasonal and permanent fisheries are the other main components of these agricultural systems.

What is an aquatic agricultural system?

A system where the annual production dynamics of freshwater and/or coastal ecosystems contribute significantly to total household income

Our focus areas

Zambia is one of the program's focus countries representing the African freshwater systems. In Zambia, we are focused on three main systems:

System	Characteristics	Development Context
Barotse Floodplain	Floodplain fisheries with seasonal transhumance between floodplain and uplands. Cattle on seasonal pasture. Crops: rice, maize, sorghum, millet and cassava. There are forestry resources and some horticulture.	83% below poverty line. 53% stunted children <5 yrs. 15% HIV prevalence. Gender inequities.
Kafue Flats	Floodplain fisheries, aquaculture and cattle on communal pastures. Irrigated commercial crop production with out-grower schemes. Maize is the main food crop with horticulture close to main towns.	73% below poverty line. 18% HIV prevalence. Gender inequities.
Luapula-Chambeshi	An area of extensive swamps and wetlands (10,000km ²) with lake, river and wetland fisheries. There is small livestock production. Cassava, millet, maize and groundnuts are the main food crops.	79% below poverty line. 56% stunted children <5 yrs. 16% HIV prevalence. Gender inequities.



Opportunities for impact

Despite the poverty and vulnerability of many AAS users, these systems provide a strategically important resource for food security and socio-economic development in Zambia and the wider region. In each of the research hubs, important opportunities for agriculture-led growth exist that can be translated into real opportunities for poor and vulnerable populations through development investments that are guided by integrated and innovative research.

System	Opportunities	Targets
Barotse Floodplain	Productive fisheries sector. Expanding markets for fish, rice and livestock. Prominent role of women as household heads. Strong presence of traditional leadership. Abundance of surface water.	150,000 poor people in target districts.
Kafue Flats	Strong urban and regional markets for horticulture, fish, and livestock products. Linkages with commercial agricultural sector. Employment opportunities in rural economy. Options for community-based tourism.	100,000 poor people in target districts.
Luapula-Chambeshi	Cross-border trade to urban markets in DRC for food commodities (esp. fish and livestock). Horticulture development. Opportunities for diversification (nutritious crops, small livestock). Livelihood opportunities in cross-border trade, in particular for women.	200,000 poor people in target districts.

Working in partnership

Partnership is a key element of this Program. In Zambia the program is being designed, developed and implemented in close collaboration with:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
- Provincial and District authorities
- Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI)
- Universities
- Traditional leaders
- Farmer groups and associations
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Concern Worldwide
- Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART)



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