



ZAMBIA

German-Zambian Agricultural Knowledge & Training Centre

Agricultural development in Zambia and the region: trials and training on mechanisation, climate resilience, agroecology, diversification



PROJECT TITLE
German-Zambian Agricultural Knowledge & Training Centre (AKTC)

TIMEFRAME
08/2021 to 12/2025

AS OF
December 2024



Plant Production



Bioeconomy



Education and Training in the Agricultural Sector



Climate Adaptation and Climate Protection

The Agriculture in Zambia

Climate resilience is a pressing issue in Zambia. Droughts have had a negative impact on agriculture in recent years, particularly on smallholder farms. In addition to increasing the area under cultivation, policymakers are also focusing on expanding agricultural research and extension, mechanisation and diversification. Zambia is a pioneer in conservation agriculture in the region and is open to different cultivation methods as well as investments in climate and resource-saving technologies.

The Project

Since August 2014, the AKTC has been training farmers, farm managers and multipliers (universities, advisory services) in sustainable, climate-adapted crop production and agricultural technology. Since 2024, trials on climate-resilient and diversified cultivation have been supplemented by trials on agroecological methods and small-scale mechanisation. The German Julius Kühn Institute is providing scientific support on the topic of agroecology. The knowledge AKTC acquires in this way is to be disseminated regionally via the Zambian partner GART and a networks of farmers' organisations.

Project goals

- Qualification of target groups in the practical application of technology and sustainable cultivation methods
- Further development into a competence centre for climate-resilient plant cultivation
- Development of new trial and demonstration areas for sustainable, conservation farming methods, regenerative agriculture and agroecology
- Expansion of local, regional and international cooperation



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Together with the University of Hohenheim and the Julius Kühn Institute, the AKTC is conducting research into mechanised conservation tillage and agroecological approaches. Proven economic advantages also help to convince farmers.



PORTRAIT ZAMBIA

Landlocked country in southern Africa, mild tropical climate with hot rains and cool dry season. Rainfall of up to 1,000 mm but with pronounced droughts in recent years. Zambia has an area of 752,614 square kilometres and a population of around 18 million. The presidential republic is run in a stable manner.

Results and Successes

- Since 2014, the AKTC has trained more than 18,000 participants through training courses and demonstrations.
- Since 2023, the Zambian tractor driving licence can be obtained at the AKTC.
- The AKTC is part of the EOAfrica ARIES project of the European Space Agency (ESA). It develops satellite technology applications for agriculture that contribute to food security.
- In addition to collaborations in the education sector, the AKTC also acts as a consultant for the development of training content for the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA).

Project Partners and Cooperations

- Ministry of Agriculture, Zambia
- European agribusiness companies
- Zambian Agricultural Universities and Colleges
- University of Hohenheim & Julius-Kühn-Institute
- Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions - SACAU

Project Partner on Operational Level

- Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART)
- Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU)

Implementing Organisation

GOPA AFC, IAK Agrar Consulting, DLG International, DEULA Nienburg



International



Zambian - German Agricultural Knowledge & Training Centre

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