



Press Release

22nd April 2022

FAO, RUFORUM and UNZA collaborate to build capacity for creating an enabling policy environment to support family farmers

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the University of Zambia (UNZA) will host a “Public Policy Cycles for Family Farming Training Program for State and Non-State Actors in Zambia” in Siavonga, Zambia from 25 – 29 April, 2022. The training will complement other capacity building efforts by various actors in the country for agricultural policy formulation for government officials, private sector, academia, among others.

The aim of the training is to increase the capacities of distinct actors in Zambia while providing them with versatile tools, instruments, and competencies to build, implement, monitor and evaluate relevant, effective, and context specific family-centered policies. This will be achieved by creating a connection between policy theory and concrete practices that have been successfully applied around the world.

The training is based on the “Learning framework for inclusive, integrated and innovative public policy cycles for family farming” developed by the FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) under the framework of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028.

FAO and RUFORUM have been collaborating on several activities through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2017 and renewed in 2020. The partnership recognizes the central role of family farming in agricultural innovation, as the agent of change for eliminating hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition, and the need for support towards an enabling policy environment backed by strong and sustained political commitment. Therefore, the partnership seeks to build on developing national programs on public policy and processes for family farming. The Zambia training program follows a similar course held in Uganda in November 2021.

In the last few years, the focus of the partnership has been on identifying challenges in accessing appropriate technologies, effect of COVID-19 on livelihoods, access to and use of digital technologies, skills enhancement in entrepreneurship and agri-business management for family farmers, among others.



Notes to Editors:



About RUFORUM:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), is a consortium of 147 African universities operating in 38 countries on the continent with a mission to ‘strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of smallholder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions’. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

About FAO:

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO is uniquely placed to directly contribute to the achievement of a number of SDGs organized around FAO's four aspirations (**better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life**). With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. We believe that everyone can play a part in ending hunger. Join us in creating a world without hunger and poverty. For more information, please visit <http://www.fao.org>

About the University of Zambia:

The University of Zambia (UNZA) was established by Act of Parliament No. 66 of 1965. The first intake of students took place on 17 March 1966. The motto of the University, SERVICE AND EXCELLENCE has guided the development of the University since its inception. UNZA is situated in Lusaka on two campuses. The main campus is the Great East Road Campus and it is situated on the Great East Road, 6km from the town center. The other campus is the Ridgeway Campus catering for the Medical School. It is situated on John Mbita Road, 4km South East of Lusaka, opposite the University Teaching Hospital. For more information, visit www.unza.zm

For additional information, see contact below.

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