



CSA/CIS Bundle 3: Addressing Drought through Climate Smart Seed Varieties

Climate-smart varieties and technologies are needed for addressing emerging challenges of climate change and variability - drought, variable rainfall and high temperature, emerging pests and diseases, among others. However, availability and adoption of improved seeds is very low. Most private sector seed companies have little interest in promoting legume and cassava seeds due to low profitability and inadequate production of Early Generation Seed / foundation seed for production and multiplication of certified seeds.

This bundle intends to address both the supply and demand aspects of the market for new climate smart varieties in three provinces in Zambia. The bundle seeks to improve access to climate resilient seeds, improved agronomic practices, technical information, and climate information services. This bundle will (i) support national agricultural institutions, Small and Medium seed companies, and community based out-grower partners to accelerate variety release and upscaling of both foundation and certified seeds, (ii) develop and test innovative, evidence-based tools and strategies to improve women and youth entrepreneurs' access to climate smart seeds, accelerate varietal turnover; and expand seed marketing to women, youth and men farmers who are not reached by current seed value chains.; (iii) Promote the use of good agronomic practices (e.g. minimum tillage, rotations, mulching, etc) to enhance crop productivity; (iv) improve access to technical information through training of extension staff and making seed production protocols available to users (farmers, extension and seed companies); and (iv) improve farmer access to climate-smart information services through the integration of this bundle into the agriculture data hub. To achieve this, the team will engage with at least 5 representatives from the private sector, government agencies, NGOs, service providers and to test and share options for driving faster varietal turnover, adoption and greater inclusion of women and young farmers.

Target Provinces: Eastern, Central and Southern Provinces

Target crops: Maize, soybean, groundnuts and cassava

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