

Zambia Updates

July 2016

INGENAES stands for Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services. We aim to assist partners in Feed the Future countries to build more gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive extension approaches and tools to improve agricultural livelihoods for women and men and enhance household nutrition.

ingenaes.illinois.edu/about-us

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INGENAES staff support MoA nutrition program development

INGENAES and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) are partnering to further harmonize, test and disseminate nutrition promotion by agricultural extension services. In May, McDonald Mulongwe joined the INGENAES team. McDonald will spend some of his INGENAES time working closely with the Food and Nutrition Section of the Ministry of Agriculture. He is well prepared for this role given his previous experience working with integrated agriculture and nutrition projects, and his recent completion of a nutrition degree. In addition to refining nutrition messages, McDonald will also help INGENAES partners improve their ability to address nutrition through their agriculture and food security programs.

Zambia National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy 2016-2020 on its way to completion

On July 14th, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL) came together with the Zambia Forum for Agricultural Extension Services and other stakeholders to validate the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy 2016-2020 (NAEASS). The validation meeting was officially opened by the MoA Permanent Secretary, Mr. Julius Shawa, and closed by the Deputy Director, MFL, Dr. Yambayamba. *Continued on second page...*



Photo:
NAEASS
Validation
Meeting
in Lusaka.
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Zambia National continued... The meeting allowed stakeholders to comment extensively on the document (in small groups) and to demonstrate their support for the strategy. The meeting discussions will be incorporated in the NAEASS. INGENAES has supported this process with its expertise in agriculture extension and the integration of gender and nutrition in extension approaches. INGENAES team members, Dr. Mark Bell of UC Davis, Wesley Laytham of Cultural Practice, and Vincent Akamandisa, INGENAES Local Representative, helped facilitate and document the workshop. Mark and Wesley also met with government and NGO extension staff in Eastern Province to talk about the extension strategy.

Photo below: PROFIT+ CAD Olipa Showa outside of her shop in Chipata with PROFIT+ staff Mary and Ivy.
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Post-harvest loss workshop in Chipata

INGENAES collaborated with PROFIT+, Share Africa Zambia and AWARD to host a workshop on post-harvest management for farmers and extension personnel in Chipata District. The workshop was well attended, with over 40 farmers and extension personnel, in addition to district representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture. AWARD fellow, Dr. Juliet Akello (IITA) and her mentee shared best practices for reducing post-harvest loss, while Dr. Alyson Young, University of Florida INGENAES team member, worked with groups of farmers and extension representatives to improve communication about barriers to implementing best practices. She also led a session for extension staff on participatory approaches working with farmers to prevent post-harvest loss.

Photo right: Post-harvest loss workshop in Chipata
© A Young 2016



Photo above: Government and NGO extension staff meeting in Chipata. © W Laytham 2016

PROFIT+ survey of CADs implemented

Vincent Akamandisa, INGENAES Local Representative, designed and implemented the PROFIT+ Community Agro-Dealer (CAD) Survey. PROFIT+, a U.S. Government Feed the Future Initiative project, is working with CADs and entrepreneurship groups to improve dissemination of technologies and access to markets for remote men and women farmers. Vincent and his team interviewed 57 CADs (50% women) in three Eastern Province districts. Preliminary results demonstrate how women have been able to access and adopt agricultural extension advice and new technologies, contributing to improved well-being. Some of the CADs have been able to save and acquire bicycles, build houses, buy inputs, educate children or pay for medical expenses. Women took up leadership positions in community groups and were consulted for agricultural advice by other smallholder farmers. The CAD model demonstrates that women can create strong networks and disseminate agricultural advice amongst men and women farmers.



Nutrition and gender indicator workshop

The Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI), an INGENAES collaborator, hosted a stakeholder workshop to validate survey findings, and to move Zambian agricultural development entities toward a shared understanding of which measurement tools are most appropriate in the Zambian context. IAPRI shared findings from a survey of how partner institutions are measuring nutrition and gender outcomes in the context of agricultural extension and development projects. IAPRI brings substantial policy and data expertise to this topic. Future activities will solidify IAPRI's skillset as it relates to specific indicators, and will inform the measurement activities of government and NGO partners.

Photo below: UNZA School of Agricultural Science: Olipa of UNZA with Mark Bell, Vincent Akamandisa, and McDonald Mulongwe of INGENAES. © M Bell 2016



UNZA presentation on agricultural extension, higher education, and ICTs for agriculture

Dr. Mark Bell, UC Davis INGENAES team member, spoke at the UNZA School of Agriculture weekly seminar. He presented on agricultural extension systems, higher education and research, and ICTs for agriculture. The presentation provoked many questions and comments. Participant comments revealed that a commonly held belief is that a lack of resources and funding is the major constraint to effective agricultural extension in Zambia.

MoA Staff attend FAO dietary guideline workshop (with ING support)

Two Zambia representatives were supported by INGENAES to attend a consultative workshop on the development and use of food based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) for the African Sub-Region. The workshop, sponsored by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in association with the Nutrition Society of South Africa (NSSA), was an outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). Nalukui Mukubesa-Sakala of the Food and Nutrition Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and McDonald Mulongwe, INGENAES Zambia Nutrition representative, attended for Zambia. Participants drafted action plans for the development of national FBDGs - MoA is working with the Zambia draft plan. FBDGs are a tool for promotion of nutrition well-being and desirable consumption patterns; prevention of malnutrition and diet related diseases; and a tool to guide nutrition education programs and food and agriculture policies.

UF students conducting applied research on food safety and groundnut production

David Dillon and Josh Crosby, INGENAES support graduate students working with Dr. Alyson Young of University of Florida, began applied research on food safety and groundnut production with PROFIT+ Community Agro Dealers (CADs) and Demo Host Farmers (DHF). They are conducting interviews with men and women in the PROFIT+ extension network to identify how information about aflatoxins, safe pesticide use and methods for reducing post-harvest loss is shared among men and women CADs and DHFs in Chipata District. This information will be used to identify potential gaps in information networks as well as incentives and barriers to promoting best practice for improving food safety in groundnut value chains. This research builds on the technology assessment on AflaSafe conducted in 2015. Results from the study will be used to help PROFIT+ monitor and evaluate their efforts to promote safe food production in Zambia.

Photo below: David Dillon and Josh Crosby (UF). © A Young 2016



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