



The USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub: Enhancing Economic Growth and Food Security through Trade

Zambia



Duration

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The USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub: Working in Zambia

The goal of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Southern Africa Trade Hub is to increase international competitiveness, intra-regional trade and food security in Southern Africa. While the majority of the Trade Hub's activities are regional in nature, certain activities target Zambia as a direct beneficiary.

Customs to Business Forum: The Trade Hub facilitated the establishment of the Zambia National Customs to Business Forum, a platform bringing together public and private sector stakeholders to address customs policy, procedures, and service delivery.

e-Certificate of Origin: The Trade Hub trained customs and private sector personnel from the region, including Zambia, to develop an electronic certificate to replace the manually issued certificate. The Trade Hub also assisted with a pre-pilot assessment of an e-Certificate program between Zambia, Botswana and Namibia.

Grain Grading and Storage Management Training: The Trade Hub conducted trainings on national grain grading and standards, warehouse management and pest control. The training targeted staff from warehouse facilities, government, private traders, feed and grain mills, and other grain processors, reaching the majority of formal grain storage entities in the country. The course directly reached storage operators working with dozens of organizations, who in turn reached thousands of farmers indirectly through trained storage operators.

Warehouse Receipts System (WRS): The Trade Hub worked with the Zambian Agricultural Commodities Exchange (ZAMACE) and the Lusaka Stock Exchange to launch the Warehouse Receipts System on September 16, 2015. WRS allows a farmer or small trader to deposit grain in an accredited storage facility and obtain a receipt for collateral, which can be used to obtain finance. The President of Zambia, His Excellency Edgar Chagwa Lungu, honored USAID's Southern Africa Trade Hub with an award on behalf of the Zambia National Farmers' Union in recognition of the Trade Hub's successful efforts to develop a Warehouse Receipts System for the country. The Trade Hub is also facilitating the establishment of an Agricultural Storage Investment Facility (ASIF) for Zambia to help warehouse operators obtain affordable, long-term credit to establish high quality facilities closer to smallholder farmers.

Agritech Expo: The Trade Hub supported the establishment of the successful Agritech Expo, Zambia's first outdoor agricultural event in 2014. The 2015 event saw even more visitors than the first, establishing the commercialization and sustainability of the event. For the 2015 Expo, the Trade Hub sponsored a farmer training program composed of technical workshops and panel discussions.

Transfer of Agricultural Technology: As part of the Trade Hub's Strategic Partnership Grant Program, the Trade Hub provides grants to South African organizations to encourage investment and technology transfer to the Feed-the-Future countries of Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. Grants that benefit Zambia include:

- Support to AFGRI in the installation of thousands of metric tons of storage and procurement infrastructure in rural Zambia.
- Support to Central African Seed Services (CASS) to purchase and install sorting and grading technology at Jungle Beat Zambia to enable Jungle Beat to improve the quality of sourced groundnuts from Zambian smallholders for local and regional markets
- Support NWK to introduce soybeans into an existing cotton outgrower network: providing farmers with finance, quality inputs, extension services and improved agricultural technology to grow soy.
- Support Ybema Grain Services to develop a mobile grain training service to offer hands-on certification training to remote grain depots and trading posts in grain grading, handling, and storage.
- Upgrade Lumuno Organic Farms' vegetable processing capacity and develop its small-scale farmer outgrower network to support regional exports.
- Support Ammtech to invest in upgrading the COMACO peanut butter processing facility.

Accredited Laboratory Testing: Through a partnership grant, the Trade Hub is supporting an investment to upgrade and accredit testing services in a Zambian commercial laboratory. Local availability of reliable, accredited testing will improve the competitiveness of feed and food products and reduce the high lead-time and cost currently associated with Zambian agricultural exports.

Making Improved Seed Available to Farmers: The Trade Hub co-financed the South Africa National Seed Association (SANSOR) market intelligence platform for Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique. The system enables seed companies to make better investment decisions and select types of seed varieties to develop at lower costs to targeted markets in the region. The Trade Hub is also supporting the implementation of the SADC Harmonized Seed Regulations (HSR), which will enable the simultaneous release of approved seed varieties across SADC member states and promote regional agricultural integration. In Zambia, the Trade Hub is assisting in the review of current legislation to align domestic seed regulations to the SADC HSR. The Trade Hub is also using ICT technology to support the Zambian Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) to manage its processes for registration of seed growers, field inspections, and laboratory tests.

Groundnut Aflatoxin Mitigation Trainings: The Trade Hub has developed a practical, management-based approach to aflatoxin reduction in commercial groundnut supply chains and has delivered trainings across the region to stakeholders in production, trading, processing, and regulatory sectors.

REFIT Policy Development: The Trade Hub assisted the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development (MMEWD) to develop a Renewable Energy Feed-In-Tariff (REFIT) policy, which provides guidelines to various stakeholders and IPPs as they develop the clean energy sector in Zambia.

Capacity building of the Energy Regulation Board of Zambia (ERB) and Rural Electrification Authority (REA): The Trade Hub supports the ERB by developing tools for regulating the clean energy sector based on the new REFIT policy. The Trade Hub assists REA by training its board, management, and technical staff in project and proposal evaluation, as well as contract and project management of rural electrification programs.

Improving the Business Enabling Environment: National Enquiry Points (NEPs) provide information portals where domestic and foreign producers, consumers or government entities can obtain information on a WTO member's technical regulations, standards, and certification procedures. The Trade Hub worked the Zambia Bureau of Standards to improve the efficiency of its NEP with training and IT equipment, which was re-launched in April 2015. The Trade Hub partnered with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to conduct training on International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committees National Mirror Committees for participants from Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia.