



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FOR THE

FOURTH SESSION OF THE TWELFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Printed by the National Assembly of Zambia

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE TWELFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Mr M J B Ng'onga, MP, (Chairperson); Mrs C M Mazoka, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr M Mawere, MP; Mr S K Michelo, MP; Mr P C Mecha, MP; Dr M Imakando, MP; Mr D Mung'andu, MP; Mr B Hamusonde, MP; Mr O S Mutaba, MP; and Mrs R C Fundanga, MP

The composition of the Committee changed following the demise of Mrs R C Fundanga, MP, who was subsequently replaced by Mr J Chishala, MP.

The Honourable Mr Speaker
National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
LUSAKA

Sir

The Committee has the honour to present its Report for the Fourth Session of the Twelfth National Assembly.

2.0 FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In addition to any other duties conferred upon it by the Honourable Mr Speaker, or any other Order of the House, the Committee oversees operations of the Ministries of Agriculture; Lands and Natural Resources; and Livestock and Fisheries.

In overseeing the activities of these ministries, the Committee is mandated to:

- a) study, report and make recommendations to the Government, through the House, on the mandate, management and operations of the Ministries of Agriculture; Lands and Natural Resources; and Fisheries and Livestock; departments and/or agencies under its portfolio;
- b) carry out detailed scrutiny of certain activities being undertaken by the Ministries of Agriculture; Lands and Natural Resources; and Livestock and Fisheries; departments and/or agencies under its portfolio and make appropriate recommendations to the House for ultimate consideration by the Government;
- c) make, if considered necessary, recommendations to the Government on the need to review certain policies and/or certain existing legislation;
- d) examine annual reports of Government ministries and departments under its portfolio in the context of autonomy and efficiency of Government ministries and department and determine whether the affairs of the said bodies are being managed according to relevant Acts of Parliament, established regulations, rules and general orders;

- e) consider Bills;
- f) consider international agreements and treaties in accordance with Article 63 of the Constitution;
- g) consider special audit reports;
- h) where appropriate, hold public hearings on a matter under its consideration; and
- i) consider any matter referred to it by the Speaker or an Order of the House.

3.0 MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee held fifteen meetings during the year under review to consider the programme of work and the topical issue.

4.0 PROGRAMME OF WORK

At its first meeting, held on Thursday, 20th September, 2019, the Committee undertook to study Zambia's response to the impact of climate change in the agriculture sector. The Committee also resolved to consider the Action-Taken Report on its Report for the Third Session of the Twelfth National Assembly.

5.0 PROCEDURE ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee requested for written memoranda from various stakeholders on the topical issue under consideration and invited them to appear before it in order to make oral submissions and clarifications on issues arising from their submissions.

6.0 ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

The Report is in two parts: Part I is the consideration of the topical issue. Part II is the consideration of outstanding issues from the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee for the Third Session of the Twelfth National Assembly

PART I

7.0 CONSIDERATION OF TOPICAL ISSUE: ZAMBIA'S RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

7.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Globally agriculture is facing a serious threat from climate change and this has resulted in, among other things, reduced production and productivity, increased food prices and to some extent global food insecurity.

The Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) has acknowledged that Zambia has been experiencing the effects of climate change, resulting in extreme weather conditions such as droughts, rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns. The frequency and intensity

of climate events is expected to rise in future, with a negative impact on the productive sectors of the economy, which include agriculture, and consequently on people's livelihoods.

In an effort to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change on the agriculture sector, the Government through the 7NDP, seeks to promote the adoption of agricultural environment-friendly practices (climate smart and organic techniques) such as conservation farming, crop rotation, less use of chemical fertiliser and creating public awareness on the adverse effects of climate change.

The National Policy on Climate Change (2016) recognises that the agriculture sector, being highly dependent on rainfall, is very sensitive to climate change. The resultant adverse impacts on crops, livestock and fisheries lead to reduction of agricultural productivity, thereby contributing to food insecurity.

In addition, the Second National Agricultural Policy (2016) recognises that, over the years, rainfall patterns have changed across all agro-ecological regions, which has affected agriculture farming systems. Therefore, the Policy seeks to promote and strengthen agricultural production methods that are resilient to climate change, adoption of environmentally friendly and climate-smart farming systems, promoting awareness on climate change mitigation and adaptation and strengthening existing early warning systems.

In the same vein, the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (2017-2020), states that small scale farmers are the most vulnerable people to the expected impacts of climate change mainly due to their lack of information, adaptation capabilities and access to financial and technical support mechanisms.

Countering the negative impacts of climate change in the agriculture sector requires increased investments and innovative institutional arrangements which will help farmers overcome climate change, pests and diseases. Integrating climate smart techniques is necessary to buffer against natural shocks, such as droughts and the weakening of seed varieties and animal species due to the impact of climate change.

In light of the foregoing, the Committee resolved to carry out a study on Zambia's response to the impact of climate change on the agriculture sector.

Objectives

The objectives of the study were to:

- i. assess the adequacy of the policy, legal and institutional framework governing climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- ii. appreciate the strategies and mechanisms put in place for adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change in the agriculture sector;
- iii. ascertain what mechanisms have been put in place for climate change financing in the agriculture sector in Zambia;
- iv. ascertain the extent of the impact of climate change on small scale farmers;

- v. appreciate donor contribution in programming and financing for climate change;
- vi. appreciate the challenges, if any, facing the agriculture sector in countering the impacts of climate change; and
- vii. make recommendations on the way forward.

7.2 WITNESSES

Listed below are the witnesses who made submissions on the topic under consideration.

- i. Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.
- ii. Ministry of Agriculture.
- iii. Ministry of Transport and Communications – Meteorological Department.
- iv. Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection.
- v. Ministry of Finance.
- vi. Ministry of General Education.
- vii. Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.
- viii. Ministry of National Development Planning.
- ix. Zambia Agricultural Research Institute.
- x. Conservation Farming Unit.
- xi. Musika Development Initiatives.
- xii. Zambia Environmental Management Agency.
- xiii. Zambian Open University – School of Agricultural Sciences.
- xiv. University of Zambia – School of Agricultural Sciences.
- xv. Seed Control and Certification Institute.
- xvi. Indaba Agriculture Policy Research Institute.
- xvii. Zambia Forestry and Forest Industries Corporation Limited.
- xviii. Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- xix. National Union for Small Scale Farmers in Zambia.
- xx. Zamseed Company Limited.
- xxi. Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre.
- xxii. World Wide Fund for Nature.
- xxiii. Zambia Climate Change Network.
- xxiv. Zambia Institute for Environmental Management.
- xxv. Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society.
- xxvi. Mr Rolf Shenton – GrassRoots Trust.

7.3 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS BY STAKEHOLDERS

The submissions made by the stakeholders on the subject under consideration by the Committee are summarised below.

7.3.1 Adequacy of Policy and Legal Framework

a. Policy Framework

The Committee was informed that the policy framework governing climate change mitigation and adaptation included the following:

1. Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) 2017-2021

The Government of the Republic of Zambia had mainstreamed climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) which were expected to promote social wellbeing, including better health, growth of the economy and at the same time reduce environmental risks, such as shortage of water, air pollution and other effects.

Furthermore, the Plan recognised that climate change had increased the frequency and intensity of disasters. The 7NDP had put in place strategies such as improving coverage and targeting of social protection programmes to aid affected communities to adapt to climate change effects through climate-proofing their livelihoods, production and assets.

2. Second National Agriculture Policy (SNAP) 2016

This policy provided for measures aimed at:

- i. strengthening the capacity to undertake appropriate research on effects of climate change;
- ii. inclusion of climate change components in the curricula of agricultural training institutions;
- iii. construction of agriculture marketing infrastructure which are climate resilient;
- iv. promoting climate resilient indigenous breeds;
- v. integrating climate change adaptation measures in plans and programmes; and
- vi. building local and national institutional capacity to carry out climate change risk assessments.

3. National Water Policy 2010

The Committee was informed that the National Water Policy also recognised climate change as one of the serious threats to sustainable development due to its adverse effects. To achieve the objectives under the water resources development and management sector, the policy has provided for measures outlined below.

- i. Develop and manage water resources to support the agricultural and irrigation sector.
- ii. Support the development of the agriculture sector through the establishment of a fair, efficient and transparent water allocation system.
- iii. Conduct public awareness campaigns to ensure that the public is enlightened on climate change issues, including mitigation and adaptation measures.
- iv. Invest in irrigation systems, supply of clean and safe water to communities to prevent occurrence of water borne diseases that come with floods and drought.
- v. Contribute to minimisation of the impact of water related disasters such as droughts and floods through early warning systems and implementation of emergency management systems.
- vi. Assess and monitor the potential impact of climate change on eco-systems especially woodlands, forests and wetlands.

4. National Policy on Environment 2007

The Policy outlined strategies that were aimed at mitigating and enhancing the country's adaptive capacity to climate change. The policy measures included:

- i. developing and promoting alternative energy sources to fuel-wood and technologies in order to reduce the use of fuel-wood and enhance carbon sinks;
- ii. strengthening the existing national climate and meteorological database and monitoring networks;
- iii. supporting funding for research on climate change;
- iv. using climate change data to help guide land use and economic development;
- v. promoting use of ozone friendly technologies;
- vi. reducing gas emissions from the transport sector and the manufacturing sector; and
- vii. assessing and monitoring the potential impact of climate change on ecosystems, vegetation and net carbon sinks as well as promotion of climate data usage to help guide land use and economic development decision.

5. National Policy on Climate Change of 2016 (NPCC)

The Committee was informed that the rationale behind the Policy was to establish a coordinated national response to climate change. The Policy provided measures for adaptation and disaster reduction aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate change by:

- i. strengthening the resilience of infrastructure, ecosystems and promote innovation, knowledge and education;
- ii. promoting the adoption of appropriate climate smart agricultural technologies for different agro-ecological zones;
- iii. promoting the protection of water catchment areas, including the development of environmental friendly infrastructure for bulk water transfer, storage, management and utilisation of water resources;
- iv. strengthening mechanisms for identifying risks and hazards in order to facilitate planning and early warning; and
- v. establishing or strengthening mechanisms for monitoring networks and information systems for improved utilisation of climatic data and information.

The Policy provided for other measures aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change as outlined below.

- i. Promote sustainable land use planning to protect key eco-systems and related services such as carbon sinks.
- ii. Promote landscape based livelihood diversification.
- iii. Reduce forest degradation and loss of forest eco-systems.
- iv. Ensure investment adherence to sustainable development principles and in line with low carbon development principles.

6. National Forestry Policy of 2014

The Committee was informed that the Policy acknowledged the need to address emerging issues such as climate change, bio energy development, and prioritisation of agriculture, eco-

tourism and the environment as being catalyst to the country's socio-economic development. The National Forestry Policy provided for measures that included sustainable forest resources and eco-system management, eco-system services and climate change, among others. Furthermore, under the promotion of eco-system and climate change, the Policy had provided measures set out hereunder.

- i. Provision of a framework for undertaking incentive based initiatives aimed at adaptation and mitigating against the impacts of climate change.
- ii. Creation of public awareness on environmental and socio-economic effects of climate change, deforestation and forest degradation arising from unsustainable forest management.
- iii. Promulgation of appropriate legal framework to facilitate the establishment of appropriate monitoring systems for reducing deforestation and forest degradation.
- iv. Develop strategies for increasing the capacities of local communities to adapt to climate change impacts.
- v. Develop appropriate regulations for the promotion of forest based bio-fuels in order to ensure sustainable forest resource management and land.

7. National Disaster Management Policy (2015)

The Committee was further informed that the Policy recognised the negative impact of climate change on human life and the environment. The Policy provided for the development and strengthening of capacities for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and effective national early warning systems.

The measures under the Policy included, among others, capacity building in such areas as disaster preparedness, response, disaster prevention, disaster mitigation, rehabilitation, recovery and restoration and resilience to climate change.

8. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2015-2025)

To accelerate implementation of the measures highlighted in the policies stated above, the Committee was informed that the Government of the Republic of Zambia had formulated the second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which played a complementary role in addressing the impact of climate change through strengthening the capacity of forests to help capture and store water in order to mitigate floods, soil erosion and dry spells.

This Strategy and Action Plan drew lessons from implementing the NBSAP (2000-2009) and aimed at ensuring that Zambia's biodiversity was valued, conserved, restored and used sustainably. The National Action Plan was also developed to give an evaluation of the impact of climate change on the relevant sectors. The Plan contained mitigation and adaptation measures against the impacts of floods.

Stakeholders were of the view that the policy framework governing climate change in Zambia was adequate. The policy regime was also properly supported by various sectoral policies and plans that provided for adequate measures aimed at addressing climate change impacts on energy development, agriculture, and eco-tourism and water sectors.

b. Legal Framework

In terms of the legal framework, the Committee was informed that the country had no legal framework dedicated to climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, the Government was making efforts to ensure that the legal framework was put in place that would facilitate a coherent and comprehensive coordinated response to climate change. This measure would conform to the National Policy on Climate Change which had provided for a framework for coordinating climate change programmes.

The Policy had stipulated that the Government would ensure that a comprehensive legal framework for an integrated climate change response was put in place and that the sector ministries would also be expected to review their relevant policies and legislation in order to ensure that they conformed to the objectives of the Policy.

Notwithstanding the above, there were other sector legal frameworks that were being utilised in the absence of an overarching climate change legal framework. Some of these pieces of legislation are discussed below.

1. Constitution of Zambia

The Committee noted that in Article 257, the Constitution of Zambia, as amended by Act No 2 of 2016, provided that the State shall in the utilisation of natural resources and management of the environment, among other things, establish and implement mechanisms that addressed climate change.

2. Water Resources Management Act, No.21 of 2011

The Committee noted that the *Water Resources Management Act* established the Water Resources Management Authority and defined its functions and powers. The Act also provided for the management, development, conservation, protection and preservation of the water resource and its ecosystems as well as for the equitable, reasonable and sustainable utilisation of the water resource.

The Act had various provisions relating to issues and interventions on climate change, such as the following:

- i. Section 6 provided that the management of water resources in Zambia shall be governed by principles that included management, development and sustainable utilisation of water resources taking into account climate change adaptation;
- ii. Section 8 also provided for conservation, preservation and protection of the environment, in particular, wetlands, quarries, dambos, marshlands and headwaters and took into account climate change and the challenges posed by climate change through various interventions;
- iii. Section 26 provided for the Minister to ensure that the Authority put in place adaptive measures for climate change in collaboration with appropriate and conservancy authorities;

- iv. Section 56 provided for the Minister responsible for water resources on behalf of the Government to put into place adaptation measures to deal with climate change; and
- v. Section 57 provided for the Minister to ensure that any agreement entered into protected Zambia's sovereignty and adequately operationalised the principles of equitable, reasonable and sustainable utilisation of shared water resources by taking into account, among others, climatic and climate change factors of a natural character.

3. *Environmental Management Act, No. 12 of 2011*

The Committee noted that the Act provided for integrated environmental management and the protection and conservation of the environment and the sustainable management and use of natural resources as well as the creation of the Zambia Environmental Management Agency.

The Act, in Section 9 (2) (f), provided among the functions of the Zambia Environmental Management Authority Agency, undertaking research or sponsoring research on the effects of climate change on human beings and the environment.

Furthermore, in Section 41 sub section (g), the Act mandated the Zambia Environmental Management Agency to prepare guidelines for the management of environmental emergencies, including natural and climate change related disasters such as floods, cyclones, droughts and major pest infestations.

4. *Forests Act, No. 4 of 2015*

The Committee noted that the *Forests Act, No. 4 of 2015* provided for the establishment and declaration of National Forests, Local Forests, Joint Forest Management Areas, botanical reserves, private forests and community forests. Furthermore, the Act had a provision for the establishment of a Fund for addressing climate change as espoused in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to which Zambia was a signatory.

It was evident from the existence of climate change related legal provisions in various legal instruments, including the Constitution which was the supreme law of the land, that the Government was committed to mainstreaming climate change and addressing the impact of climate change.

7.3.2 Institutional Framework for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.

The Committee was informed that in order to effectively coordinate implementation of the National Policy on Climate Change (2016), an implementation framework which had an institutional arrangement had been put in place where all key stakeholders had been brought on board through the relevant structures that had been established, which included:

i. Council of Ministers on Climate Change

The Committee was informed that the Council of Ministers was a supreme body overseeing climate change interventions. It also provided policy guidance to facilitate the mainstreaming and integration of climate change activities in national plans and sector policies.

ii. Steering Committee of Permanent Secretaries

This committee played an advisory role to the Council of Ministers on Climate Change. The Steering Committee was composed of key line ministries whose mandate was to oversee the development and revision of appropriate policies aimed at facilitating the implementation of the National Policy on Climate Change. In addition, the Committee was responsible for overseeing the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of Climate Change Policy.

iii. Climate Change Department

The Committee was informed that the Department had been created under the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to facilitate effective implementation of the policy and ensure that issues to do with the climate mitigation and adaptation were addressed.

However, the country fell short in implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation in that the Climate Change Department existed only at the Ministry headquarters and had no presence at provincial and district levels.

7.3.3 The Impact of Climate Change on Small Scale Farmers

The Committee was informed that small scale farmers were affected differently by the impact of climate change. The following were some of the issues:

i. Smallholder farming

Farm holdings were too small despite the low population density in the country. These small holdings prevented effective crop rotation and diversification which could build climate resilience. In the absence of practices such as crop rotation and diversification, smallholder farmers became more vulnerable to climate change and variability.

ii. Mono-cropping

Most farmers practiced mono-cropping, in particular maize, and had not diversified cropping patterns or alternative off farm sources of income to an appreciable scale. In case of a crop failure due to changes in weather patterns, it implied total crop failure. Due to monocropping and a lack of alternative crop production, the onset of climate variability and change had increased the vulnerability of farmers.

iii. Extensive farming system

The yield patterns indicated that there was low productivity over much of the country regarding maize in that more land was covered but the yield was very low. Therefore, maize yields would reduce remarkably if there was reduction in area cultivated associated to climate variability and change. In addition, the cultivation of maize was concentrated over few of the ten provinces.

iv. High dependence on rain fed Agriculture

While Zambia was the source of an estimated 45 percent of the fresh water pool for the Southern African region, the agricultural sector, particularly the majority smallholder farmers, depended on rainfall for their agricultural production, especially for crop production. In the wake of reductions, variability or torrential supplies of rainfall that could and had occurred with climate change and variability, high dependence on rain-fed agriculture made the sector very vulnerable.

v. Unsustainable land cover and land use patterns

There was evident competition regarding the use of the mainly tree cover over Zambia by cultivated and managed areas. Vices such as uncontrolled fires, encroachment for cultivation and settlements, illegal timber cutting and logging, poaching, fuel-wood and charcoal burning were evident in Zambia. These vices weakened the resilience of these ecosystems to climate variability and change. They also compromised the vital function of these areas as water recharge areas and carbon sinks.

vi. Intra-seasonal variability

Poverty and lack of viable alternatives made farmers particularly vulnerable to shocks such as droughts, floods, rising temperatures and rainfall shifts. Whole crops may be lost by droughts which occurred within a season. For example, the unpredictability of the on-set and ending of the growing season made planning for production difficult with consequences of loss of yields and, in some cases, complete decimation of water sensitive crops.

vii. Inter-seasonal variability

Long drought periods which occurred over several years could make rain-fed agriculture and associated activities such as livestock tending unviable.

7.3.4 Challenges facing the Agricultural Sector in mitigating and adapting to climate change

The Committee was informed that the following challenges were encountered in the efforts aimed at mitigation and adaptation to climate change:

- i. There was limited knowledge and information on crop diversification and conservation farming techniques among the smallholder farmers.
- ii. There was an unreliable weather forecast coupled with early warning systems with high technical or scientific language which farmers could not understand.
- iii. There were limited crop varieties which were adaptive to the changing climatic conditions.
- iv. There was limited research, innovations and development on adaptation and mitigation of climate change.
- v. There was overdependence on maize (mono-cropping) as the main crop even where rainfall patterns were declining.
- vi. The high cost of chemicals and pesticides to address diseases and pest infestation such as army worms was a hindrance to farmers accessing them.
- vii. There was poor financing to the Ministry of Agriculture as ratified by the Maputo Declaration which demands 10 percent of the total budget allocation to Agriculture.

- viii. A bulk of the agriculture budget goes to the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) and Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) at the expense of extension and research into innovative, adaptive technologies such as traditional seed varieties which were more tolerant to drought and disease.

7.3.5 Efforts and mechanisms in place for Climate Financing

The Committee was informed that the agriculture sector's current financing of interventions including mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change came from the National Treasury and cooperating partners at various bilateral and multilateral levels. This funding was largely inadequate.

The Committee heard that cooperating partners had put in place financing strategies and mechanisms such as Green Climate Fund (GCF), Civil Society Environmental Fund (CSEF), Green Environmental Fund (GEF) and Climate Investment Fund (World Bank) that could be accessed for climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes. Development of country documents such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPAs), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) had all been funded with the help of cooperating partners. However, conditions or requirements attached by cooperating partners made it difficult to access the funds.

The Committee learnt that the Zambian Government had identified sustainable farming approaches such as conservation agriculture and organic farming as important in several policies, but had not matched this with adequate funding and implementation. Rather, there seemed to be more concentration of resources going towards the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) and the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) which were biased towards conventional maize production and marketing at the expense of extension and research into innovative, adaptive technologies.

7.3.6 Recommendations by Stakeholders

The Committee was informed that climate change continued to pose a challenge nationally, regionally and internationally on a number of sectors such as agriculture, water, energy and health, among others. There was urgent need to ensure that strategies aimed at addressing the impact of climate change received adequate attention. Stakeholders, therefore, made the following recommendations:

- i. There was need for the Government, through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, to strengthen collaboration and coordination among stakeholders by fostering integrated planning to avoid working in silos, which resulted in duplication of efforts in the implementation of climate change programmes.
- ii. There was urgent need to develop a comprehensive legal framework for an integrated climate change response. This would ensure that the objectives of the policy governing climate change were realised.

- iii. There was need to undertake a vigorous public awareness campaign on the dangers of deforestation, encroachment of the water catchment areas as well as the impact of climate change on humans and environment. This should include enhanced early warning systems for weather forecasts by combining scientific and indigenous (local) knowledge.
- iv. There was need to strengthen mainstreaming of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in sector plans.
- v. There was need to allocate adequate resources towards climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions and ensure timely disbursement of the allocated budget to the Ministry of Agriculture.
- vi. There was need for the Government to undertake a review of some of the policies related to effects of climate change such as the National Water Policy of 2010 and the National Environment Policy of 2007 which had come of age to bring them in line with new developments such as Sustainable Development Goals and international protocols and agreements on climate change such as the Paris Agreement, among others
- vii. The Government should strengthen the capacity of the Extension Department and recruit more staff to educate farmers on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- viii. There was need for the Government to support the promotion of research and development of robust varieties and breeds of crops and livestock which were resilient to climate change and also encourage crop and livestock diversification such as small livestock in contrast to cattle which produced large amounts of methane.
- ix. There was need to review the insurance policy under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) so that it provides a buffer for affected farming communities.
- x. The Government should seriously expedite introducing climate change in the school curriculum.
- xi. There was need to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework and implementation plan of the National Climate Change Policy and ensure that the operations of the Climate Change Department were decentralised to district level.

7.4 Committee's Observations and Recommendations

After a detailed analysis of the written memoranda and careful consideration of oral submissions from the stakeholders, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations set out hereunder.

i. Inadequate collaboration and coordination among stakeholders

The Committee observes with concern the inadequate collaboration and coordination efforts among the various stakeholders in implementing climate change mitigation and resilience efforts. This is unacceptable as working in silos results in duplication of efforts in the implementation of climate change programmes with limited results.

In this regard, the Committee strongly recommends that the Government should take concrete steps to increase collaboration and coordination among the stakeholders involved in the implementation of climate change interventions so as to have a coordinated response.

ii. Lack of a comprehensive legal framework for an integrated climate change response

The Committee observes that despite the country having some pieces of legislation dealing with various aspects of climate change, there is no standalone piece of legislation dealing with climate change holistically. This does not conform to the National Policy on Climate Change which has provided for a legal framework for coordinating climate change programmes and is not appropriate for an integrated climate change response.

The Committee, therefore, urges the Government to expedite the process of drafting appropriate legislation on climate change, which will domesticate the Paris Agreement and other United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) guidelines.

iii. Inadequate allocation of resources towards climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions

The Committee expresses concern that there are inadequate resources allocated to climate change in the national budget as most of the financing is reliant on donor and cooperating partners' funding avenues. This is unacceptable as conditions or requirements attached by cooperating partners make it difficult for interested industry players to access the funds.

The Committee therefore, recommends that the Government allocates adequate resources in the national budget for climate change and ensure timely disbursement of such resources in order to put in place more sustainable interventions.

iv. Low uptake of conservation agriculture

The Committee observes that despite conservation agriculture being advantageous and recommended, it has not yet fully been adopted by the majority of smallholder farmers in the country. The Committee further observes that there are more resources going towards the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) and the Food Reserve Agency (FRA), which are biased towards conventional maize production and marketing at the expense of extension and research into innovative, adaptive technologies. Given that the adoption of conservation agriculture would assist in mitigating the effects of climate change and improve production and productivity, this lack of focus on the promotion of conservation agriculture is worrisome.

The Committee therefore, urges the Government to fully fund activities that will promote the adoption of conservation agriculture in order to mitigate on the impacts of climate change.

v. Underdeveloped Early Warning Systems

The Committee observes that the early warning system in the country is still underdeveloped, thereby making farmers unable to prepare adequately for extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. There is need to improve the early warning system so as to generate

relevant information and enable farmers to prepare themselves for such events by planting crops and keeping livestock that has the capability to withstand the adverse climate effects.

The Committee therefore, strongly urges the Government to expedite the improvement of early warning systems to facilitate timely dissemination of weather information so as to enhance preparedness for extreme weather events such as floods and droughts.

vi. Lack of Budget Tracking Tool for Climate Financing

The Committee observes that there is no budget tracking tool for climate financing to inform the exact amount allocated and disbursed to climate change through the national budget. The tool is necessary to guide investment decisions and aid coordination of Zambia's climate change response. It is, therefore, not acceptable that the country does not have such a tool in place.

The Committee, therefore, strongly urges the Government to expedite the preparation of the budget tracking tool in order to ensure that investment decisions in the climate change response are tracked and well-coordinated.

PART II

8.0 Consideration of the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources for the Third Session of the Twelfth National Assembly

i. Inadequate Funding for Effective Forest Management

The Committee in the previous Session had observed with concern that, despite having favourable forestry policies and legislation, forest management was unsustainable because of inadequate funding and understaffing of the Forestry Department as well as the lack of forestry inventory equipment which had hampered effective monitoring and regulation of forest resources. This had put Zambia's forests at risk of over-exploitation.

The Committee had therefore, recommended that there should be an increase in funding to the Forestry Department to enable it procure vehicles and to recruit more forestry officers to enhance forest management. The Committee had further recommended that the Government should speed up the engagement of honorary forest guards.

Executive's Response

The Executive, in response through the Action-Taken Report, stated that the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources had started the process of engaging honorary forest officers and a list of shortlisted names had been submitted to relevant government departments for security clearance in an effort to speed up the engagement.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks further progress on the engagement of the honorary forest officers.

ii. Uncoordinated Land Use Planning

The Committee in the previous Session had observed that there was limited use of integrated land use planning and collaboration between the various line ministries and the Forestry Department in determining land use. This had engendered trade-offs where there was need to reach a compromise for competing land use needs as it had the potential to trigger conflicts among stakeholders who may wish to exploit the land for different activities. The Committee had also observed that there had been much emphasis on the development of the mining and agricultural sectors at the expense of conservation of the forestry resources.

In this regard, the Committee had recommended that the Government should take steps to ensure that there was a deliberate policy to compel all line ministries, local communities and other sector players to increase collaboration in land use planning to ensure a balance was struck between fostering of economic development and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Executive's Response

The Executive acknowledged through the Action-Taken Report and stated that it had participated in the development of the Policy on Urban and Regional Planning by Ministry of Local Government. The Policy was expected to enhance collaboration on integrated land use planning. Further, the Ministry had been working with the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare and Ministry of Local Government in implementing joint programmes aimed at integrated land use planning in selected parts of the country.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and requests for a progress report on the development of the Policy on Urban and Regional Planning.

iii. Limited Alternative and Affordable Energy Solutions and Livelihood Options

a. The Committee in the previous Session had observed that the majority of local communities living within the vicinity of the forest areas depended on forest resources for their livelihood and as an energy source, with limited affordable alternative options, creating pressure on the forest resources.

In this regard, the Committee had recommended that the Government should promote renewable, clean and alternative energy sources in order to reduce the demand for charcoal and wood.

Executive's Response

The Executive, in response through the Action-Taken Report stated that it agreed to the recommendation made by the Committee. It stated that the Government was promoting renewable, clean and alternative energy sources, through supporting projects such as the Forest Regeneration Project in Central Province whose implementation was being done by the Ministry of Energy and the University of Zambia.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks progress on specific and tangible programmes and actions countrywide being implemented by the Government aimed at promoting renewable, clean and alternative energy sources, especially in rural areas.

b. The Committee had further recommended that the Government should promote alternative livelihood sources such as beekeeping, sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, and many others. The Committee had further recommended that exploitation of forest resources should be prioritised as an economic activity to avert deforestation.

Executive's Response

The Executive, in response, through the Action-Taken Report stated that the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources agreed to the recommendation and stated that the promotion of alternative livelihood sources was being done in several projects supported by cooperating partners in the country. Further, the Ministry was also securing treasury authority to procure motor vehicles to support beekeeping development in the country. Furthermore, the Government had prioritised the forestry sector as an economic activity in the Seventh National Development Plan and was contributing to the pillar of Economic Diversification and Job Creation.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks further clarification on the procurement of motor vehicles for beekeeping support and also a list of the specific projects done by cooperating partners.

iv. Limited Support for Reforestation and Afforestation

The Committee in the previous Session had observed that, despite having Government programmes to promote afforestation of barren lands and reforestation of previously forested areas, tree planting initiatives remained limited in Zambia due to inadequate funding, non-availability of seedlings and underdeveloped tree seedlings value chains.

In light of this, the Committee had recommended that the Government should operationalise and implement the Forest Development Fund to support afforestation and reforestation activities by the Forestry Department, at schools and household level, and to support other activities which were beneficial to the forestry sector. The Committee had further recommended that the Forestry Department be empowered to lead the development of tree seedlings value chain as an avenue for revenue generation.

Executive's Response

The Executive, in response through the Action-Taken Report stated that the Ministry was in the process of seeking cabinet approval to operationalise the Forestry Development Fund. A Cabinet memorandum had since been prepared.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and requests for progress made on the operationalisation of the Forestry Development Fund.

v. Inadequate Regulation of Mukula Trade

The Committee in the previous Session had observed with concern that the illegal tree harvesting and log export of Mukula from Zambia had increased despite the ban on trade in Mukula. According to the Forestry Department, in 2017, 3,550m³ of Mukula were illegally harvested and exported translating into 142 containers, whereas in 2018, 8,000m³ of logs were confiscated, translating into 320 containers which were exported by ZAFFICO. The Committee had observed that the ban on the export of Mukula from Zambia had not helped in curbing the illegal harvesting of the tree species.

The Committee had recommended that the Government should lift the ban on the export of logs so as to encourage transparency in the export of Mukula.

Executive's Response

The Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry had prepared a Memorandum for Cabinet consideration and approval to declare Mukula as protected flora in order to regulate its harvesting and trading. Further, the Ministry was making consultations with other ministries and Government agencies regarding the establishment of a public auction mechanism for timber to enable the Government collect optimal revenue from the sale of the Mukula tree.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and requests for a progress report on the proposal to declare Mukula as protected flora and also the establishment of a public auction mechanism for timber.

vi. Inadequate Funding to the Forestry Research Unit

a. The Committee in the previous Session had observed that, despite research being an important component in the development of forests and plantation management techniques for application at both indigenous and exotic plantation level, there was inadequate funding to the Forestry Research Unit, resulting in obsolete laboratory infrastructure and equipment and lack of specialised training in modern techniques of conducting research. This was impacting negatively on the operations and effectiveness of the Unit.

The Committee had therefore, strongly recommended that the Government should decentralise and provide adequate funding to the Forestry Research Unit in order for it to realise its mandate of carrying out forest plantation establishment and management as well as conducting research in forest preservation.

Executive's Response

The Executive responded through the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry agreed that funding for Forestry Research activities had not been adequate. However, the proposal to decentralise the unit would require the engagement of the Public Service Management Division to restructure the Forestry Department.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and calls for the expeditious restructuring of the Forestry Department. The Committee will await a progress report on this matter.

b. The Committee had further recommended that the Forestry Research Unit should be encouraged to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Zambia Forestry and Forest Industries Corporation Limited (ZAFFICO) so that the Research Unit conducts all research on behalf of ZAFFICO instead of ZAFFICO employing their own researchers and ZAFFICO would in turn commit a certain percentage of funds to the Unit to pay for the service. This would also require that the Research Unit be decentralised.

Executive's Response

The Executive stated through the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry supported the recommendation and would engage ZAFFICO on the possibility of having a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forestry Department to support research activities.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the ministry's engagement with ZAFFICO regarding the Memorandum of Understanding.

vii. Regulation and Control of Bushfires

a. The Committee, in the previous Session had observed that bushfires were a big problem in the management of forests as there were no forest officers on the ground to patrol the forests due to inadequate staff and lack of transport.

The Committee had therefore, recommended that there was need to regulate and control bushfires through empowering the officers to carry out early burning and further providing adequate funding and transport to the Forestry Department for monitoring activities.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report stated that it had engaged the Office of the Secretary to Treasury requesting to be granted authority to retain forest revenue collected from various forest produce. Once approval was granted, the Ministry intended to use part of the funds to procure motor vehicles for the Forestry Department to address the challenges of transport in the provinces. This would enhance forest patrols and hence regulate and control bush fires, among other issues.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the engagement with the Office of the Secretary to Treasury and the procurement of motor vehicles for the Forestry Department.

b. The Committee had further recommended stiffer penalties for offenders.

Executive's Response

The Executive responded through the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry supported the recommendation and commenced the process of amending the *Forests Act, No. 4 of 2015* to provide stiffer penalties in order to discourage would be offenders.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the amendment of the *Forests Act, No. 4 of 2015*.

ix. Mining Explorations in River Catchment and Sensitive Headwaters

a. The Committee in the previous Session had observed with concern that mining exploration was being allowed in forests housing river catchment and sensitive headwaters, thereby threatening the biodiversity in the areas, which needed to be protected. The Committee had further observed that regions with streams and water basins had remained unprotected, leaving them open to encroachment by small-scale miners.

The Committee had therefore, recommended that there should be a deliberate policy where no mining explorations should be entertained in sensitive headwaters and all forests with water basins and streams so as to protect them.

Executive's Response

The Executive, through the Action-Taken Report stated that prior to conducting mining exploration, the *Environmental Management Act, No. 12 of 2011* required that an Environmental Impact Assessment be undertaken. The weak collaboration among the sectors had resulted in protected areas being encroached with other developments such as mining explorations.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and reiterates its earlier recommendation that there should be a deliberate policy where no mining explorations should be entertained in sensitive headwaters and all forests with water basins and streams. The Committee seeks a progress report on this matter.

b. The Committee had also recommended that future impact assessments should involve all relevant ministries such as Local Government; General Education; Health; Agriculture; Fisheries and Livestock; Commerce, Trade and Industry; Lands and Natural Resources; Mines and Minerals Development; Energy; Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection and the Forestry Department together with other stakeholders including the chiefs and the communities they serve. To this effect, all active mining licences in very sensitive water catchment areas should be terminated.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report informed the Committee that a decision to terminate active mining licences in very sensitive water catchment areas would require

consultation on legal implications with the Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development which was responsible for the issuance of mining licences.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and reiterates its previous recommendation that active mining licences in very sensitive water catchment areas should be terminated. To this effect, the Committee seeks a progress report on how far consultations on the legal implications of terminating such licences have gone.

x. Unregulated Charcoal Burning

a. The Committee in the previous Session had observed with concern that charcoal production was a major challenge to forest preservation as it was not regulated and had in fact been legitimised because of the Government revenue charged for licences for timber cutting and the sale of forest produce.

The Committee had recommended that charcoal burning should be regulated and managed by the forestry officers who should create designated areas for charcoal production while the other areas were left to regenerate.

Executive's Response

The Executive, through the Action-Taken Report agreed with the recommendation and stated that the Ministry, through the Forestry Department, had been conducting consultations to put in place a Statutory Instrument that would regulate the production and trade in charcoal. Draft regulations had since been developed and would soon be submitted to the Ministry of Justice for consideration and approval.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the promulgation of the Statutory Instrument that would regulate the production and trade in charcoal.

b. The Committee had further recommended that the Forestry Department should also encourage the growing of bamboo for charcoal production to lessen the pressure on the indigenous tree species.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, the Executive responded that the Ministry was in support of the recommendation and indicated that the Ministry had procured bamboo seedlings that had been distributed to some provinces (Central, Eastern, Lusaka, Northern and Southern Provinces) to set up demonstration plots and also as sources of plant material for growing of bamboo by local communities.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and urges the Ministry to specify areas where the bamboo demonstration plots have been set up and also to submit a progress report on how the local communities were adopting the use of bamboo for charcoal production.

8.1 Consideration of the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources for the Second Session of the Twelfth National Assembly

A. Livestock Production and Stocking in Zambia

i. Livestock Breeding Policy

The Committee in the previous Session had awaited a progress report on the finalisation of the Livestock Development Policy.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report stated that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock completed consultations with stakeholders and held a workshop in June, 2019 to finalise the Livestock Development Policy. A draft policy had been produced and was submitted to Cabinet by the end of the third quarter, 2019. This was approved and is now awaiting printing of final document.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the matter.

ii. Monitoring of Abattoirs

The Committee was not satisfied with the response to its recommendation that abattoirs should be monitored to curtail the use of illegal abattoirs to slaughter stolen livestock. The Committee had further requested for an update on the progress made in the development of the electronic animal identification and traceability system.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report responded that the development of an electronic system was underway and would be piloted in October, 2019 in three selected districts which were Mazabuka, Kazungula and Shibuyunji. The Committee was informed that the Government had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with *Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale"* (IZS), Teramo, Italy who had designed the electronic system. This MOU however, terminated after 36 months due to non-performance of contractual obligations by the ministry.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the piloting of the electronic system and the monitoring of abattoirs. The Committee further wishes to know whether the ministry would sign another MOU with Italy since the previous one did not materialise.

iii. Proof of Ownership through Certification

The Committee in the previous Session had requested for an update on the progress made in the development of the regulations for certification.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report had responded that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock had developed animal identification regulations that would cater for certification and already had submitted a draft to the Ministry of Justice for legal opinion.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the finalisation of the animal identification regulations.

iv. Employment of Expert Breeders

The Committee in the previous Session had requested for information on where the Ministry had managed to employ expert breeders in the country through private sector participation. The Committee had further requested for an update on the capacity building done.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report had stated that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock had been working with the Herd Bull Society to coordinate and register all livestock breeders in the country. The major outcome of this collaboration was the provision of high-quality pedigree livestock to farmers throughout the country. In terms of capacity building, the Ministry had focused on short term training for officers in the Department of Livestock Development. So far two officers had been sent for short term training and another four would be sent in 2020. The Ministry also intended to send some officers for long term vocational training.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and requests for the database and the location where these expert breeders can be found.

B. Land Management in Zambia

i. Finalisation of the National Land Policy

The Committee in the previous Session requested a progress report on the finalisation of the Land Policy.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report informed the Committee that Government through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources had developed the following road map:

- a. Technical Committee (TC) was reconstituted in March, 2019;
- b. in April, 2019, a cordial handshaking meeting with the chairperson of the House of Chiefs supported by five other chiefs took place;
- c. in May, 2019, a Technical Committee met with Committee of Permanent Secretaries for guidance on issues raised by the chiefs at the 4th April meeting and continued to receive responses from multiple ministries;

- d. in July, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources met with the full House of Chiefs during its sitting and agreed on the way forward with regard to the draft Land Policy and its contents; and
- e. in November, 2019, the Ministry was hopeful that the validation of the National Land Policy would be held. However, as at May, 2020 validation had not yet been done.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the validation of the National Land Policy.

ii. Revision of the Lands Act, Chapter 184 of the Laws of Zambia

The Committee in the previous Session had recommended the revision of the *Lands Act, Chapter 184 of the Laws of Zambia* and the incorporation of the Lands Circular No.1 of 1985 into the Act.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report informed the Committee that the revision of the *Lands Act, Chapter 184 of the Laws of Zambia* and the incorporation of the Lands Circular No.1 of the 1985 into the Act were agreed to. The amendment of the Act was now at the stage of consultation with all line Ministries through the Electronic Cabinet platform.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and awaits a progress report on the revision of the *Lands Act, Chapter 184 of the Laws of Zambia* and the incorporation of the Lands Circular No. 1 of 1995 into the Act.

iii. Finalisation of the National Land Audit

The Committee in the previous Session still awaited a progress report on the finalisation of the provincial audits culminating into the national land audit.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report stated that the overall objective of the National Land Audit was to provide comprehensive, accurate and reliable information on land ownership and development and utilisation patterns in Zambia in order to enhance good governance, transparency and subsequently contribute to sustainable socio-economic development. The land audit exercise was progressing well and it was an ongoing programme from 2015 to 2022.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a further update on the progress made in the land audit exercise.

iv. Issuance of Certificates of Title to Government Institutions

The Committee in the previous Session had wondered what type of framework was being developed seeing that a sufficient legal provision for obtaining title deeds was already

available. The Committee had awaited a progress report on the consultations on developing the legal framework.

Executive's Response

The Executive submitted through the Action-Taken Report that issuance of Certificates of Title to government institutions was now mandatory. The Government, through Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, was working closely with all relevant government institutions to ensure that this was achieved. It was important that all government properties were protected through fencing off and by obtaining certificates of title as security.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks an update on the issuance of certificates of title especially to government schools and other institutions of learning.

8.2 Consideration of Outstanding Issues from the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee on Agriculture for the Fourth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly

i. Revision of the Fisheries Regulations

The Committee in the previous Session had awaited a progress report on the Aquaculture Regulations and the conducting of stakeholder consultations.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-taken Report stated that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock had completed drafting the Aquaculture Regulations and was mobilising funds to conduct stakeholder consultation in all provinces. With regard to the Statutory Instrument on regulation of kapenta fishing, the Ministry had finalised the Statutory Instrument and was in the process of submitting it to Ministry of Justice for legal opinion.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes that the issue of formulating the aquaculture regulations has been outstanding for a long time, and therefore, urges the Executive to treat the matter with the seriousness it deserves and expedite the process of finalising the document and submitting it to Ministry of Justice.

ii. Implementation of Lake Tanganyika Development Project

The Committee in the previous Session had requested for information on whether the consultants had since been engaged and progress made so far in the implementation of the two projects.

Executive's Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report stated that they had made the following progress on the implementation of the Lake Tanganyika Development Project:

a. Construction of Modern Fish Market

The consultant completed the designs of the modern fish market and construction works for the new market would start in September 2019.

b. Small scale floating cages

The consultancy works for designing of cages for small scale aquaculture on Lake Tanganyika were concluded. The project was in the process of determining how many cages could be procured and managed from the allocated funds.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the matter from the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection under which the project falls.

iii. Procurement Process for the Aquaculture Development Project

The Committee in the previous Session had awaited a progress report on the procurement of the consultancy for the designing of all infrastructure in the framework of the project.

Executive’s Response

The Executive responded through the Action-Taken Report that the process of procuring consultancy had been finalised and a consultant had been granted the contract to design all infrastructure in the Project, including the nutrition laboratory at National Aquaculture Research and Development College (NARDC). The works were expected to be concluded in September, 2019.

Committee’s Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and seeks a progress report on the finalisation of the works.

8.3 Consideration of Outstanding Issues from the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee on Agriculture for the Third Session of the Eleventh National Assembly

i. Regulation of Non-Traditional Crops and Related Legislation

The Committee in the previous Session had requested for a progress report on the review of the Acts.

Executive’s Response

The Executive through the Action-Taken Report stated as follows:

a. *The Fertiliser and Feeds Act, No. 13 of 1994*: The Ministry of Agriculture had completed the consultations with the various stakeholders in the fertiliser industry on the review of the *Fertiliser and Feed Act*. The Ministry intended to undertake a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) as required by the *Business Regulatory Act, No. 3 of 2014*. The process of conducting the RIA was expected to be completed in 2020 subject to availability of funds.

b. *The Food Reserve Act, No. 20 of 2005*: The Ministry completed the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the review of the *Food Reserve Act, No. 20 of 2005* and received approval from the Business Regulatory Review Agency. The Ministry had since prepared a layman's draft of the Bill that would be submitted to Ministry of Justice for final drafting and legal opinion before the end of 2019. As at May, 2020, the Bill had gone through all consultation with stakeholders, Ministry of Justice had given its approval and Cabinet approved its presentation to Parliament in the next sitting of Parliament.

c. *The Plant Variety and Seeds Act, Chapter 236 of the Laws of Zambia*: The Ministry of Agriculture still awaited a response from the Ministry of Justice on the Bill submitted for legal opinion.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and awaits a progress report on the finalisation of the revision of the stated Bills.

ii. Revision of the *Tobacco Act, Chapter 237 of the Laws of Zambia*

The Committee in the previous Session had awaited progress made on the matter.

Executive's Response

The Executive in its response through the Action-Taken Report stated that consultations on the *Tobacco Act, Chapter 237 of the Laws of Zambia* were still on-going in order to build consensus among the stakeholders. The stakeholders agreed that the consultations on the issues on the Act and the tobacco industry be extended. This decision was agreed following some discontentment that arose in the 2018 tobacco marketing season with regard to the existing legislation, particularly with regard to marketing floors and associated fees. The stakeholders resolved that there was need to ensure that these issues were taken into consideration during the review process. The Ministry hoped to complete the consultations with the stakeholders and preparation of the Regulatory Impact Assessment in 2020.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and awaits a progress report on the matter.

8.4 Consideration of Outstanding Issues from the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee on the Report of the Auditor General on the Management and Control of Livestock Diseases for the Fifth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly

i. Non-functional Quarantine Facilities

The Committee in the previous Session had taken note of the importance of having a quarantine facility in disease prevention. The Committee therefore, had awaited a progress report in terms of finding an alternative land and the construction of a quarantine facility.

Executive's Response

The Executive responded through the Action-Taken Report that the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock was still in the process of identifying an alternative quarantine facility in disease

prevention. The construction of a quarantine facility would commence once the alternative land had been identified.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and awaits a progress report on the identification of alternative land and construction of a quarantine facility.

ii. Regional Laboratory Construction

The Committee in the previous Session had awaited a progress report on the process of obtaining title for the Ndola regional laboratory.

Executive's Response

The Executive had acknowledged through the Action-Taken Report that all the land where the regional laboratories were constructed was not on title and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock was in the process of acquiring title for all the six regional laboratories. So far, the Ministry had engaged the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources on the matter and consultations were ongoing.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

The Committee notes the response and awaits a progress report on the acquisition of certificates of title for the regional laboratories.

CONCLUSION

9.0 The Committee observes that, globally agriculture is facing a serious threat from climate change and this has resulted in, among other things, reduced production and productivity, increased food prices and to some extent global food insecurity. Therefore, countering the negative impacts of climate change in the agriculture sector requires increased investments and innovative institutional arrangements which will help farmers overcome climate change, pests and diseases. Given the foregoing, the Committee strongly urges the Government to promote the uptake of conservation agriculture as a means of adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change among smallholder farmers who are usually the most affected by the effects of climate change. The Committee further strongly urges the Government to expedite the preparation of the budget tracking tool to ensure that investment decisions in the climate change response are tracked and well-coordinated.

Finally, the Committee is grateful to you, Mr Speaker for the guidance rendered to it during the Session. The Committee is also grateful to the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly and her staff for the support rendered to it throughout the Session. The Committee is further indebted to all the witnesses who submitted memoranda and appeared before it.

M J B Ng'onga, MP
CHAIRPERSON

June 2020
LUSAKA

APPENDIX

List of National Assembly Officials

Ms C Musonda, Principal Clerk of Committees

Mr F Nabulyato, Deputy Principal Clerk of Committees (SC)

Mr S Chiwota, Senior Committee Clerk (SC)

Mrs M K Siwo, Committee Clerk

Mrs R N Mwiinga, Typist

Mr M Chikome, Committee Assistant

Mr D Lupiya, Committee Assistant

Mr M Kantumoya, Parliamentary Messenger