



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FOR THE

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTED ON
24TH SEPTEMBER, 2015**

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE FOR THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTED ON THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

Consisting of:

Mr K Chipungu, MP, (Chairperson); Mrs A M Chungu, MP; Mr V M Mooya, MP; Mr E T Chenda, MP; Mr A Sichula, MP; Mr G Namulambe, MP; Mr B Hamusonde, MP; and Mr J Shakafuswa, MP.

The Honourable Mr Speaker
National Assembly
Parliament Buildings
LUSAKA

Sir,

Your Committee has the honour to present its Report for the Fifth Session of the Eleventh 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, your Committee oversees operations of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

In overseeing the activities of these Ministries, your Committee carries out the following functions:

- i. to study, report and make recommendations to the Government, through the House, on the mandate, management and operations of the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries and Livestock, departments and/or agencies under their portfolios;
- ii. to carry out detailed scrutiny of certain activities being undertaken by the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries and Livestock, departments and/or agencies under their portfolios and make appropriate recommendations to the House for ultimate consideration by the Government;
- iii. to make, if deemed necessary, recommendations to the Government on the need to review certain policies and/or certain existing legislation;
- iv. to examine annual reports of Government ministries and departments under their portfolios in the context of autonomy and efficiency of Government ministries and departments and determine whether the affairs of the said bodies are being managed according to relevant Acts of Parliament, established regulations, rules and general orders; and
- v. to consider any Bills that may be referred to it by the House.

3.0 Meetings of the Committee

Your Committee held twelve meetings during the year under review. The Report of your Committee is in two parts. Part I deals with the consideration of the topical issue and Part II is on the Action-Taken Report.

4.0 Programme of Work

At its second meeting held on 30th September, 2015, your Committee considered and adopted the programme of work as set out below.

- i. Consideration of the Action-Taken Report on the Committee's Report for the Fourth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly.

- ii. Topical Issue: Review of the Implementation of the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP).
- iii. Consideration of the Committee's Draft Annual Report for the Fifth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly.

5.0 Procedure adopted by the Committee

Your Committee requested for detailed memoranda on the topical issue from concerned stakeholders and invited them to appear before it in order to give verbal submissions and clarifications on issues arising from their submissions.

PART I

SUBMISSIONS ON CURRENT ISSUES

6.0 Review of the Implementation of the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP)

Background

The Farmer Input Support Programme, formerly called the Fertiliser Support Programme, was introduced in 2002, following the drought that Zambia experienced. This programme was originally designed to address the then declining crop production, especially maize, following successive seasons of droughts and flood that the country had experienced.

These calamities had resulted in a diminished asset base for many small-scale farmers, as they attempted to use whatever resources they had to finance crop production, and ensure their own domestic food security. However, over the years the programme has evolved resulting in the increase in the number of beneficiaries, the non-graduation of beneficiaries from the scheme and the inclusion of other crops, among other changes.

Although Zambia has made some progress in this respect, evidence shows that despite achieving annual growth rates of more than 6 percent in agriculture, crop yields have remained low by international standards and rural poverty rates remain stubbornly high at about 80 percent. The low yield rates by farmers as well as the high rural poverty is testament that current agricultural policies are not doing enough to prioritise measures that will achieve productivity and reduce poverty especially among rural populations in the country. In addition, a significant proportion of the poverty reduction strategy of the agriculture budget is being spent on FISP which has not proved effective at boosting productivity.

In light of the foregoing, your Committee resolved to carry out a review of the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) with the view to understanding the policy impact on agriculture growth in the country.

7.0 Objectives

The objectives of the study were to:

- i. understand the policy objectives and goals of FISP;
- ii. learn the impact of the FISP programme on the growth of the agriculture sector;
- iii. appreciate the effectiveness of the management of the selection criteria of beneficiaries for FISP;
- iv. examine the monitoring and evaluation system of FISP;
- v. ascertain whether the programme is tailored to graduate the beneficiaries;
- vi. understand the role of the private sector in FISP;

- vii. learn the challenges facing the FISP programme; and
- viii. recommend the way forward on the FISP programme.

8.0 Stakeholders

In order to fully appreciate the subject under consideration, your Committee invited the following witnesses to provide both oral and written submissions:

- i. Ministry of Agriculture;
- ii. Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries;
- iii. Ministry of Finance;
- iv. Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry;
- v. Indaba Agriculture Policy Research Institute (IAPRI);
- vi. Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI);
- vii. Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU);
- viii. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- ix. World Food Programme (WFP);
- x. Agriculture Consultative Forum (ACF);
- xi. Food Reserve Agency (FRA);
- xii. Zambia Cooperative Federation (ZCF);
- xiii. Civil Society Organisation-Scaling up Nutrition (CSO-SUN);
- xiv. University of Zambia- School of Agriculture;
- xv. Caritas Zambia;
- xvi. Rural Women Assembly (RWA);
- xvii. Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC);
- xviii. Civil Society For Poverty Reduction (CSPR);
- xix. National Union for Small-Scale Farmers of Zambia (NUSFAZ); and
- xx. Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR).

Summary of Submissions from Stakeholders

9.0 Your Committee was informed that since independence, the Zambian Government had been confronted with the conflicting goals of maintaining food prices that were profitable for producers and affordable to consumers. Therefore, maize and input subsidies to support its production had been central to the social contract between the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) and the Zambian people.

Your Committee was informed that prior to structural adjustment, GRZ sought to uphold the social contract through consumer maize price subsidies and an integrated system of Government support to maize production and marketing through the parastatal National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBOARD). Through NAMBOARD, GRZ provided farmers with subsidised fertilizer and seed. However, the massive Government expenditures on these programs were not fiscally sustainable, and GRZ embarked on a structural adjustment programme (SAP) in the early 1990s.

Your Committee further learnt that under SAP, NAMBOARD was abolished, direct input price subsidies were eliminated, the parastatal seed company ZAMSEED was privatised, and seed, fertilizer, and maize markets were liberalised. Despite the structural adjustment reforms, the Government did not fully abandon efforts to subsidise inputs in the agricultural sector. Thus, despite some attempts to move away from direct input subsidies during the 1991–1996 period, the Government quickly established the Fertilizer Credit Programme in 1997.

Your Committee was further informed that the Fertilizer Support Programme was born in the 2002 -2003 season and marked the return of large scale input subsidies to Zambia. Since then, the volumes of subsidised inputs distributed through GRZ's programmes have increased dramatically over time. The establishment of the cash-based Fertilizer Support Programme in 2002–2003, was prompted by low loan recovery rates under the Fertilizer Credit Programme and severe droughts in the 2000–2001 and 2001–2002 agricultural years. The Fertilizer Support Programme was in place from 2002–2003, through 2008–2009 and on average, 60,000 MT of fertilizer were distributed through the programme each year. Your Committee heard that the Fertilizer Support Programme was renamed the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) in 2008, and the programme has run from 2009–2010 to the present day.

Your Committee was informed that the overall objective of the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) was to improve the supply and delivery of agricultural inputs to small-scale farmers through sustainable private sector participation at affordable cost, in order to increase household food security and incomes.

The specific objectives were to:

- i. expand markets for private sector input suppliers/dealers and increase their involvement in the distribution of agricultural inputs in rural areas, which would reduce the direct involvement of Government;
- ii. ensure timely, effective and adequate supply of agricultural inputs to targeted small-scale farmers;
- iii. improve access of small-scale farmers to agricultural inputs;
- iv. ensure competitiveness and transparency in the supply and distribution of inputs;
- v. serve as a risk-sharing mechanism for small-scale farmers to cover part of the cost of improving agricultural productivity; and
- vi. facilitate the process of farmer organisation, dissemination of knowledge and creation of other rural institutions that would contribute to the development of the agricultural sector.

Your Committee was informed that FISP had since inception used co-operatives as the main form of registered farmer groups through which small scale farmers could benefit from the programme. As a result of this, the Programme had worked closely with the Department of Co-operatives Development in ensuring well managed cooperatives participate in the Programme. The co-operative movement, therefore, had been ensuring that co-operatives were legally registered, operate bank accounts and also members were well mobilised to effectively participate under FISP.

Challenges facing the design and implementation of FISP

i Eligibility criteria

Your Committee was informed that for a farmer to qualify for FISP support, he/she should have met the following eligibility criteria:

- be a member of a registered co-operative society or a farmer organisation;
- be a small scale farmer and actively involved in farming within the cooperative/organisation coverage area;
- have the capacity to grow 1 hectare of maize;
- have capacity to pay 50 percent (percent varies seasonally) of the cost of inputs.
- not concurrently benefitting from the Food Security Pack; and
- not be a defaulter of any agricultural credit programme.

It was, however, common knowledge that most FISP recipients hardly met these criteria. Your Committee was informed that among the FISP recipients, approximately 21% did not meet one or more of the eligibility criteria set. Of the ineligible recipients, more than half 53 percent failed to meet the cooperative/farmer group membership criterion, while 33 percent exceeded the cultivated area criterion. The biggest challenge had been ensuring that the farmers benefitting from the FISP inputs were not from fake cooperatives or were non-cooperative members.

In addition, among FISP recipients in 2010/11, slightly more than half received 200 kg of fertilizer, the official pack size under the Programme. However, due to either multiple signing up of household members and/or non-household members signing up for the Programme, 29 percent of recipient households obtained more than 200 kg during the 2010/2011 farming season. Your Committee was informed that the implication was that fewer households than the targeted numbers ended up benefitting from the Programme.

ii. **Targeting of recipients**

Your Committee was informed that most recipients of FISP were not necessarily the poorer households. It was found that poverty was highly concentrated in farming households cultivating less than two hectares. Surprisingly, households that cultivated larger areas (and were more likely to be above the poverty line) were the ones much more likely to receive FISP fertilizer. For instance, roughly 50 percent of households that cultivated two hectares and above of land, received FISP fertilizer in 2010–2011 farming season, whereas only 23 percent and 32 percent of households in the 0.5–0.99 hectares and 1–1.99 hectares categories received FISP.

Your Committee learnt that the allocations were even more skewed in favour of households cultivating larger areas when the quantities of FISP fertilizer received were considered. The average quantity of FISP fertilizer received by beneficiary households that cultivate 5 hectares and above was more than double that received by those cultivating less than 2 hectares and far above the 200 kg official FISP pack size.

This, therefore, suggested that FISP fertilizer was targeted disproportionately to households that cultivated larger areas, many of whom were above the poverty line. If FISP was intended to reduce poverty by directly targeting subsidised fertilizer to poor households, it had largely failed at doing so.

iii. **Crowding out the private sector**

Your Committee was informed that despite one of the objectives of FISP being to expand markets for private sector inputs suppliers/dealers and increase their involvement in the distribution of agricultural inputs in rural areas, there was a rich body of knowledge that had argued that the Programme has had significant crowding out effects on smallholders' purchases of fertilizer and hybrid maize seed from private commercial retailers.

Your Committee learnt that the majority 55 metric tonnes of FISP fertilizer in the 2010/2011 farming season was allocated to households cultivating two hectares of land or more. This category of households tended to be generally wealthier in terms of income levels, and both farm and non-farm assets, than the 73 percent of smallholder households that cultivate smaller areas. Wealthier farmers could easily buy inputs from the private traders.

Your Committee was informed that some of the subsidised fertilizer was diverted and re-sold on commercial markets offering direct competition to that sourced through private marketing channels.

Your Committee further learnt that despite the FISP implementation manual stipulating that inputs would be supplied by traders who were selected through a National Tender, indications were that there were fewer private participants. In case of seed, there had been a fair distribution in terms of the share of seed supplied by major seed companies in Zambia. On the other hand, fertilizer procurement had been the preserve of two companies, hence crowding out others.

Your Committee was informed that wealthier farmers were much more likely to be able to afford inputs at commercial prices, but since they received subsidised inputs, they were likely to buy less and less from this marketing channel hence the crowding out effect. Your Committee learnt that FISP inputs that were diverted to commercial markets directly competed with private traders selling the same commodities. Further, the fact that only two fertilizer companies had been the sole suppliers of the FISP had essentially crowded out potential companies that could have blossomed in their businesses if they were given a fair chance to participate especially in cases where they had offered lower bids in comparison to the usual suppliers.

iv. **Failure to diversify to other crops**

Your Committee was informed that since the FISP was directly tied to hybrid maize, there was a tendency of promoting maize production at the expense of other crops even in areas where there was comparative disadvantage in maize production. The FISP had taken the country back to the second Republic agricultural policy of concentrating on maize while neglecting other sub-sectors with more potential to improve incomes of smallholder farmers and the country as a whole. Your Committee was informed that investments in other agricultural related activities had received dismal attention as resources of the Government were stretched due to the huge budgetary allocation to the FISP. Farmers who could profitably grow other crops were forced to stick to maize production.

v. **Late delivery of farming inputs**

Your Committee was informed that the intention of the Government had been to ensure that inputs were delivered to the beneficiaries of the FISP inputs before the onset of the rains. However, this had not been the case because inputs arrived late and were normally accessed by farmers when the critical stages of planting had passed. Your Committee further learnt that maize production had critical planting periods irrespective of the type of variety of maize a farmer used. Maize planted after December 8th was not likely to yield anything reasonable for the farmers. FISP had been dodged with late delivery of inputs. Late delivery of FISP and resultant late application of fertilizer roughly halved maize - fertilizer response rates. Late delivery of inputs led to reduced productivity through the low maize-fertiliser response rates.

vi. **No attention to critical Agronomic Aspects and low Maize Yields**

Your Committee was informed that in a bid to appease smallholder farmers in the whole country, the FISP distribution had failed to appreciate the efficacy of fertilizer application in the target areas. It was rare that consideration was made to target areas where applying fertilizer could actually give positive net economic benefits. Another issue concerned the seed varieties

distributed to farmers. The uniformity in seed in some cases failed to appreciate the differences in agro ecological zones.

Your Committee was informed that because of this and several other factors such as climate change, farmers' inadequate knowledge of new technologies that could enhance yields etc, the average yield of maize by small scale farmers in Zambia had stagnated despite the introduction of the FISP. The average maize yield during the FISP years was around 2 MT/ha when there was potential to grow between 4 – 5 MT/ha.

vii. **Corruption and Malpractices**

Your Committee was informed that corruption had been the root of the problems identified in the FISP. Reports of corruption and serious malpractices had been made at all levels of the FISP. A few examples included the following:

- formation of fake cooperatives to conveniently access the inputs. The biggest culprits have been some members of the District Agricultural Committees (DACs) in some of the districts. In other cases, political leaders had been reported to be the perpetrators of bulldozing their way into the identification process of beneficiary farmers;
- extension officers and their relatives had sometimes been the only beneficiaries in some camps leaving out other farmers who may have qualified to access the inputs;
- some farmers had received more than one hectare pack as some cooperatives had ghost members conveniently registered to ensure that more packs were accessed by the cooperative which worked to the advantage of the few members;
- farmers who had made their contribution towards purchasing the inputs have in certain circumstances not received their inputs and had not been refunded;
- there had been leakages in the supply chain due to malpractices by some of the actors such as transporters, warehouse managers; and
- fertiliser meant for the FISP had sometimes found its way to the open market.

viii. **The Political Economy of the FISP**

Your Committee was informed that FISP was perceived to be a political tool for the ruling party to consolidate the rural vote. Thus, opposition party leaders have seldom appreciated the benefits (if any) that the FISP had brought to the country. The “let’s wait and see if this Programme will work” attitude had characterised the majority of opposition party leaders who have not offered practical solutions that could either enhance the FISP or bring about a better Programme that would enhance agriculture productivity. On the other hand, ruling party leaders have not been magnanimous enough to accept that there was need for major surgery if the FISP was to achieve success.

ix. **Biased Budgetary Allocations to the FISP and FRA**

Your Committee was informed that during the past ten years, the Zambian Government had progressively introduced greater State intervention in food marketing and trade. The FRA had been playing an increasingly greater role in the marketing of agricultural commodities, particularly maize, which was the major staple. For instance, in the 2011 marketing season, Zambia recorded its second consecutive record-breaking maize harvest, and aggregate maize production levels in 2011 were more than double the average level from 2006 to 2008.

Your Committee further learnt that the expansion in maize production over the period corresponded with the scaling up of the Government of Zambia's two major agricultural support programmes. These were: (i) maize purchases at pan-territorial, above-market (import parity) prices through the FRA; and (ii) subsidised fertilizer distribution through the Fertilizer Support Programme (FSP) and its successor, the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). For instance, these Programmes accounted for 90-96 percent of the total budget allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture's Poverty Reduction Programmes (PRPs) in Zambia during the 2006- 2011 budget years. While there have been other PRPs such as the Food Security Pack, the budgets allocated to these Programmes have been tiny in relation to the FISP and FRA. Moreover, actual expenditures on FRA and FISP in recent years had far exceeded the budget allocations, further dwarfing the share of agricultural resources available for other activities and investments.

Your Committee was informed that this kind of expenditure on one crop was considered to be unsustainable in the long run and the Government could not afford to continue to support such expenditures on one commodity. Your Committee was informed that most stakeholders were of the view that the inability to prioritise and balance the PRPs expenditures to benefit important interventions such as agricultural research, extension, and infrastructure, which were critical in improving productivity, was one of the factors that had led to modest growth in the agricultural sector and little progress in poverty reduction in Zambia.

Your Committee was also informed that on average, the Government of Zambia spent 40 percent of its entire agricultural budget on the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). This severely limited the Government's capacity to invest in other poverty reduction and agricultural development programmes.

COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- i. Your Committee observes that the FISP pack of 200 kg of fertilizer and 10 kg of hybrid maize seed is a social security pack and the chances of beneficiaries graduating from the Programme are very slim. Your Committee further notes that running the conventional FISP and the e-voucher systems in a parallel manner will compromise the Programme.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that after reviewing the challenges encountered in the e-voucher piloting, the Government immediately rolls out the e-voucher to all districts as this will help weed out ghost beneficiaries and eventually graduate the beneficiaries.

- ii. Your Committee notes that agricultural field extension staff time for extending technical knowledge to the farmers is extremely reduced by their participation in FISP input distribution especially at the critical time of land preparation and planting.

Your Committee strongly recommends that a separate FISP Unit with its own dedicated staff be set up as this will greatly improve the operational efficiency of the Programme.

- iii. Your Committee observes that the traditional FISP has had challenges of poor targeting in that the main beneficiaries of FISP input are the relatively well-to-do farmers. This can be attributed

to lack of a well-defined monitoring system which is critical for the effective and efficient implementation of FISP.

Your Committee, therefore, urges the Government to have a dedicated division or unit to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the Programme.

- iv. Your Committee observes that selection of input suppliers through a National Tender process has limited the number of input suppliers and has not promoted the growth of agro dealers in the country.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that selection of agro dealers should be open and should not be done by the Government to allow more private sector actors.

- v. Your Committee observes that there are delays in input distribution beyond recommended application dates. This significantly reduces the effectiveness of both seed and fertiliser use.

Your Committee urges the Government to ensure timely delivery of agriculture inputs.

- vi. Your Committee notes that the failure of FISP to recognise the spatial variability of soil fertility and climatic conditions in the country has resulted into a blanket fertiliser recommendation regardless of the area.

Your Committee, therefore, urges the Government to encourage crop diversification based on soil type by carrying out soil sampling. Your Committee further urges the Government to avoid blanket fertilizer recommendation to all areas. Distribution should be preceded by the soil structure analysis and advice given to farmers on what may be required in their particular area must be site specific.

- vii. Your Committee observes that there is limited collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, which is implementing the FISP programme and the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry which is in charge of cooperatives through which FISP is being implemented.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government broadens and strengthens inter-ministerial collaboration between Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry for value addition.

- viii. Your Committee observes that the budgetary allocation towards irrigation development, extension services, physical infrastructure development as well as research and development has been very minimal.

Your Committee urges the Government to restructure FISP and the FRA and increase the Ministry's budgetary allocation for research and extension services.

- ix. Your Committee notes that on average, the Government spends 40 percent of its entire agricultural budget on the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). This severely limits the Government's capacity to invest in other poverty reduction and agricultural development programmes.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that FISP be hived off to another Ministry such as Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry or to an independent agency which can be created to

oversee the implementation of FISP. This will in turn free the Ministry of Agriculture so that it concentrates on key agricultural development programmes.

PART II

Consideration of the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee for the Fourth Session of the Eleventh National Assembly

State and Management of the Fisheries Sector in Zambia

11.0 Your previous Committee had recommended, as a matter of urgency, that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock fully implements the *Fisheries Act No. 20 of 2011*.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry was in the process of revising the Fisheries Regulations No. 24 of 2012 and finalise aquaculture regulations in order to support full implementation of the *Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2011*.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

While noting the response, your Committee requests the Executive to provide a timeframe within which the revision of the fisheries regulations will be done and an update on the finalisation of the aquaculture regulations.

11.1 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Government launches and implements the fishery draft policy so that stakeholders could have clear Government policy on the fisheries sector.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Fisheries and Aquaculture stand-alone Policy was at the final stakeholder consultation stage.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to provide a timeframe within which the Fisheries and Aquaculture stand-alone Policy would be finalised.

11.2 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should invest heavily in infrastructure that supported the sector, so as to guarantee the growth of the sector.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the recommendation on infrastructure was noted, but the same was contained in the R-SNDP which was currently being implemented. Some of the infrastructure, such as fish freezing facilities, was already implemented or approaching completion at Machiya in Mpongwe, Siatwinda in Sinazongwe and Itezhi-tezhi.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Executive to give an update on the implementation process of infrastructure that supports the fisheries sector and when the same will be rolled out to other parts of the country.

11.3 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock ensures that the Department of Fisheries in collaboration with the Central Statistical Office conducts periodic surveys in both the capture and aquaculture sub-sector so as to enable stakeholders have accurate production and consumption figures. Further, the Government must ensure that the data is well managed and disseminated to stakeholders.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Department of Fisheries was collaborating with Central Statistical Office in gathering and collating data for both aquaculture and fisheries.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee resolves to continue monitoring the collaboration between Central Statistical Office and the Department of Fisheries on the gathering and collation of data for both aquaculture and fisheries.

11.4 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock should ensure that staffing levels for fishery extension officers are commensurate with the existing establishment in order to foster the much needed extension services.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government had taken note of the low staffing levels under the whole Ministry, and was in the process of recruiting 500 officers out of which 115 would go to the Department of Fisheries.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to provide a progress report on the recruitment of the officers especially for the Department of Fisheries.

11.5 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock should ensure that a separate law enforcement agency conducts the enforcement while the fishery extension officers perform their original mandate of offering extension services.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that findings on dual roles played by the extension staff were acknowledged and the Ministry was waiting for the granting of Treasury Authority on establishment of an inspectorate unit which would address the current situation.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

While noting the response, your committee requests the Government to give an update on progress made in seeking Treasury Authority on establishment of an inspectorate unit.

11.6 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government through the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) creates an enabling environment for investment in the fisheries sector by reducing the bureaucratic procedures associated with accessing the EIA. Furthermore, the Government must facilitate the revision of the *ZEMA Act* in order to empower the Agency or the Minister, by way of Statutory Instruments, to conduct periodic revision of statutory fees and general regulations as and when need arises.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government, through ZEMA, had since drafted a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulation. The regulation was in draft form and the Minister would sign it once stakeholder consultations were concluded. The regulation had taken into account the revision of time required for EIA approvals, statutory fees for various scales of activities and delegation of power to Local Authorities to approve certain or categories of projects. While it was important to reduce on the number of days for approval of certain EIA projects, aquaculture in water-bodies (streams, rivers and lakes) was a very sensitive activity which required close monitoring by experts to avoid both short and long term adverse impact on the aquatic life in the water-bodies. For instance, unregulated nutrient loading, arising from fish feeding, could result in proliferation of noxious weeds, which may adversely impact on other water users such as hydro-power generation.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to give an update on the progress made in concluding the draft new EIA regulations.

11.7 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock should ensure that the current curriculum for the fisheries training was revised in order to include current and emerging technologies in the subsector. Furthermore, the Government must establish more Institutions of learning for the fisheries sector.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government was in the process of reviewing all curricula in the Agricultural Training Institutions (ATIs) to strengthen information/skills delivery.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the progress made in the review of the curricula in Agricultural Training Institutions.

11.8 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock introduces fish inputs on the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) in order to enable fish farmers benefit from the Programme as the case was with farmers in the crop sector.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed, through the Action-Taken Report, that the Government through the Ministry would be implementing the e-voucher system following Cabinet approval. Meanwhile it was planned that the facility would now include fish farming inputs as well.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to include the fish farming inputs on the E-voucher system and thereafter, increase the voucher coverage area countrywide.

11.9 Your previous Committee had recommended, as a matter of urgency, that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock effects the operationalisation of the Aquaculture Development Fund, which was anticipated to contribute significantly to the growth of the fisheries sector.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the urgency to operationalise the Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund was noted and the Government through the Ministry was still in the process of finalising the modalities for its implementation.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Executive to provide a progress report on the operationalisation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund.

11.10 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Government engages the countries in trans-boundary shared water bodies with Zambia in order to foster integrated management systems and harmonised enforcement strategies.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed, through the Action-Taken Report, that the recommendation to address trans-boundary water resources was noted and Zambia was a signatory to a number of international protocols and treaties such as Convention on the Sustainable Management of Lake Tanganyika and SADC Protocol on Fisheries which sought to foster integrated management of trans-boundary fisheries resources and research.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

While noting the response, your Committee seeks further clarification on the actual implementation of the requirements of the International treaties and protocols signed by the Government on the management of trans-boundary fisheries resources.

11.11 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock develops modalities for supporting Aquaculture Development Association of Zambia (ADAZ) in order to enable the Association have a national presence.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the concerns on the ADAZ were noted and the Government through the Ministry would work with ADAZ once it completed its registration with the Registrar of Societies.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee seeks an update on the support given to ADAZ in order to enable the Association have a national presence since the Association is now a registered entity.

11.12 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock initiate mandatory guidelines on the certification of hatcheries before fingerlings were delivered on the market, in order to reduce the high attrition rate arising from poor services by most hatcheries.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed, through the Action-Taken Report, that observations on hatchery certifications were noted and the Government through the Ministry was waiting for finalisation of aquaculture regulations.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the response and urges the Government, as a matter of urgency, to finalise the aquaculture regulations.

11.13 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock must develop and implement fish value chains to further enhance the potential of the sector.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken report that the Government through the Ministry took note of your Committee's recommendations and would continue to promote value addition in all the sub-sectors of agriculture, fisheries included.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to give an update on how the fisheries sector was being enhanced.

11.14 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock enhances and supports programmes by various stakeholders championing climate change mainstreaming for sustained fish production.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry had noted the submission on matters of climate change and were collaborating with UNDP under the Adaptation to Climate Change Project as well as other partners.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee seeks further clarification on how issues of climate change can be mainstreamed for sustained fish production is being handled with the various stakeholders.

11.15 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock set up and implemented the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems in order to curb the high illegal fishing on most water bodies.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that the Government through the Ministry took note of your Committee's recommendation and that the current Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Systems would be strengthened once the proposed inspectorate unit was established under the Department of Fisheries.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the establishment of the inspectorate unit.

11.16 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock initiates measures of regulating fish imports in the country in order to allow the growth of aquaculture subsector in the country.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that Government would, through the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock; Finance; and Commerce, Trade and Industry consider the recommendation of your Committee.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the matter.

Tour Report

12.0 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock should urgently relocate the Department of Fisheries Headquarters to a more suitable location with adequate space, water resources and modern infrastructure in order to enhance its technical support to stakeholders in the sector.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed, through the Action-Taken Report, that the facility in Chilanga included Department of Fisheries Headquarters and Chilanga District GRZ Fish Farm. The recommendation to relocate the Government fish farm to an area with adequate space and water resources was acknowledged and an alternative site was yet to be identified.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expeditiously relocate the Department of Fisheries Headquarters and the Chilanga District GRZ Fish Farm from their current location.

12.1 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock should ensure that the Department is adequately funded with seed money in order for it to be fully involved in the high production of fingerlings and undertake cage fishing in order to enable it become self-sustaining in its operations.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock acknowledged the need to increase funding to the Fishery sub-sector.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government the review of the funding to the Fishery subsector.

12.2 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock through the Department of Fisheries facilitates collaboration between the private sector and the Government in order to stimulate mutual technological sharing by both the Government and the private sector.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries had been carrying out:

- i) on-farm trials e.g. one undertaken with Kalimba Farms on comparative studies on performance of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and three spotted bream (*Oreochromis andersonii*);
- ii) field days at selected farmers' establishments;
- iii) training of fish farmers in proven technologies; and
- iv) exchange visits for fish farmers.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the matter.

12.3 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock develops and implements the national strategic hatchery policy which would not only be critical for the supply of quality fingerlings, but also for disease management.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that the observations on hatchery policy were noted and the Government was waiting for the finalisation of aquaculture regulations.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the finalisation of the aquaculture regulations and awaits a progress report on the national strategic hatchery policy.

12.4 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government zero rates tax on the ingredients that were imported in the formulation of feed such as fish meal, methionine, and lysine amongst others, in order to reduce the high cost of fish feed on the market.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government would engage the Ministry of Finance on zero rating tax on various feed additives, including those used in the manufacture of fish feed.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on how far the Ministry has engaged with the Ministry of Finance on the zero rating of feed additives, including those used in the manufacture of fish feed.

12.5 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock through the Zambia Bureau of Standard (ZABS) establishes national standards of fish feed formulation in order to improve the quality of feed on the market. Further, ZABS must be conducting periodic laboratory verifications of the fish feed on the market to guarantee quality fish feed.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government took note of its recommendation. Your Committee was informed that the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) had commenced drafting a standard for the specifications of fish feeds. Once the drafting process was completed, consultations would be held with all the relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to discuss and agree on the draft standard.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the progress made in drafting of the standard for the specifications of fish feeds.

National Aquaculture and Research Development Centre (NARDC)

13.0 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government must not only increase funding to NARDC, but also ensure that the releases of the allocations are timely in order to enable the fisheries sector have the much needed information on research and development. Furthermore, the Government was urged to ensure that the staff establishment of NARDC was filled in order to enable that the institution operated at full capacity.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that Government would engage the Ministry of Finance in order to increase funding and timeliness of releases to the Ministry of Agriculture

and Livestock and the Department of Fisheries in particular. Further, the Government would continue to engage the Public Service Management Division (PSMD) to ensure that the staff establishment was filled in the Ministry.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the engagement with PSMD on the filling of the staff establishment in the Ministry.

13.1 Your previous Committee had recommended, as a matter of urgency, that the Government allocates funding for the establishment of a fish disease and fish nutritional laboratory at NARDC.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry took note of your Committee's recommendations and would work out modalities for the establishment of the said infrastructure, by including the item in the annual budget.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Ministry to expeditiously establish a fish disease and fish nutritional laboratory at NARDC.

13.2 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock invests heavily in research and development in order to promote modern technologies for the growth of the sector.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry took note of your Committee's recommendation.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to prioritise research and development for the sector to realise meaningful growth.

Fiyongoli Research Station

14.0 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock establishes provincial fish research centres to deal with research on the local species of fish that had been depleted in most water bodies.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that the Government through the Ministry took note of your Committee's recommendation and had in place aquaculture and fisheries research stations in all the provinces to strategically address the regional needs.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes that the aquaculture and fisheries research stations in the provinces are in a dilapidated state and therefore, strongly recommends that the Government must expeditiously improve the infrastructure at these research stations.

14.1 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock upgrades the infrastructure at Fiyongoli Research Station and employs more qualified staff to increase the number of researchers at the institution.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that the Government through the Ministry took note of your Committee's recommendation and as staff was being recruited, aquaculture researchers would be sent to Fiyongoli and other stations.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the matter.

Mpende Fisheries

15.0 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government must prioritise the upgrading of the Kaputa-Sumbu Road in Nsama District in order to enhance the huge potential the area has in fish production.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the upgrading of Kaputa-Nsumbu-Mporokoso Road in Nsama District was under valuation and would soon be awarded to contractors for commencement of works.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the upgrading of the Kaputa-Nsumbu-Mporokoso Road which leads to Mpende Fisheries in Nsama District.

15.1 Your previous Committee had observed that the plans by the Northern Co-operative Union to set up a fish feed production plant would not only enable fish farmers in the area to have easy access to fish feed easily, but also reduce the cost of doing business in the area.

Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Government supports and engages the Northern Co-operative Union in setting up a fish feed production plant with the view to ensuring that it is actualised in the area given the huge demand for fish feed in the area.

Executive's Response

In its response in the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock took note of your Committee's recommendation.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government through the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry, which is in charge of co-operatives, to give an update on the matter.

Lake Tanganyika Project

16.0 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock ensured that the local leadership in Nsama District was fully involved in the implementation of phase II of the project that was scheduled to commence in 2015.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry acknowledged your Committee's recommendation and currently was engaging the communities.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to provide information of what measures have been put in place in engaging the local leadership in the implementation of phase II of the Lake Tanganyika Integrated Project.

16.1 Your previous Committee had strongly recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock collaborates with the African Development Bank (ADB) to extend the implementation of phase II of the Lake Tanganyika Integrated Project to other water bodies in the country in order for the communities to have other sources of livelihood other than fishing.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that your Committee's recommendation was duly noted and the Government would continue engaging the African Development Bank and other cooperating partners to come up with similar initiatives that supported the sustainable use of natural resources, offer alternative livelihoods to the fishing communities and contribute to the growth of the fisheries sector.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to provide a progress report on the extension of the project to other fishing communities to have alternative sources of livelihoods.

Public Hearing in Nchelenge District

17.0 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should promote other sources of livelihood to people who live near water bodies in order to reduce the over reliance on capture fisheries as the main source of survival.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock would continue to implement the agricultural diversification

strategy in all the subsectors, including fisheries. Further, the Ministry would continue to promote aquaculture as an alternative source of fish for the communities near water bodies.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the matter.

17.1 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should, as a matter of urgency, implement a two year fishing ban on all the major water bodies so as to allow the fish to reproduce. This measure would require a comprehensive audit of fish stocks on all the water bodies across the country.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry took note of your Committee's recommendation and would review all possible approaches in the implementation of the fishing ban.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee seeks to have a progress report on the matter.

17.2 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government through the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs and Department of Fisheries conducts periodic sensitisation campaigns with chiefs in order for them to appreciate the importance of good fishing practices on water bodies.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government was working with the Fishery Village Management Committees (FVMCs) to sensitise traditional authorities through collaborative Management structures at fisheries areas such as Lake Kariba in Southern Province and Lake Mweru in Luapula Province on the suitable utilisation of measures meant to safeguard the usage of fish resources.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government not to limit its focus on Lake Kariba and Lake Mweru, but to include all water bodies in the country where fishing takes place to safeguard the usage of fish resources.

17.3 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock establishes a marine unit to be conducting monitoring and surveillance on water bodies in order to curb bad fishing practices and adherence to the annual fishing ban.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that the Government through the Ministry took note of your Committee's recommendation and matters of monitoring, control and surveillance would be addressed with the establishment of the proposed fisheries inspectorate unit.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the establishment of the inspectorate unit.

17.5 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government must ensure that ZEMA was decentralised by facilitating the establishment of offices in all the provinces and districts in order to ease accessibility by stakeholders. This would reduce the longevity of accessing licences from ZEMA.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that the Government through Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) was in the process of establishing ZEMA presence in all the ten Provincial Centres. In addition, the Government would devolve some of ZEMA's functions particularly relating to processing of Environmental Project Briefs to the extent possible. The devolution would require capacity building at the local authority level. The Government would ensure that the capacity needed was built through ZEMA.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the establishment of ZEMA presence in all the ten provinces.

17.6 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock should ensure that the Department of Fisheries in collaboration with ZEMA conducted countrywide sensitisation programmes to stakeholders in the fishery subsector on environmental legal requirements and implementation of fishery best management practices which would positively contribute to environmental sustainability.

Executive's Response

Your Committee through the Action-Taken Report was informed that the two Ministries through ZEMA and the Fisheries Department were studying the matter and would at the appropriate time roll out the programme.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the roll out of the programme.

Consideration of the Action-Taken Report on the Report of the Committee for the Third Session of the Eleventh National Assembly

Legislation and Regulation of Non-Traditional Crops

18.0 Your previous Committee had noted the response and requested for an update on the review of the legislation and policies and the appointment of Boards for the various institutions in the agriculture sector.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that the Government through Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock was currently reviewing the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and a

number of pieces of legislation in order to improve the policy environment in the sector. Concerning the Boards, all the Boards under the Ministry were dissolved in May, 2015. The Ministry was in the process of appointing new boards.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the operationalisation of the dissolved boards and to ensure that the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) and other pieces of legislation are finalised.

Agriculture infrastructure

19.0 Your previous Committee had recommended that the Government should invest heavily in infrastructure development such as for irrigation, in order to guarantee the growth of the non-traditional crop sector in Zambia.

Executive's Response

In its response to your Committee through the Action-Taken Report, the Government stated that it remained committed to infrastructure development that supported the growth of the agriculture sector, irrigation inclusive. The increased investment was envisaged to contribute to the growth of the non-traditional crop sector in the country.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to provide a progress report on the infrastructure developed to support the agriculture sector, especially the non-traditional crop sector.

Irrigation Schemes

19.1 While noting the response, your previous Committee had requested a progress report on the commitment by the Government to irrigate the targeted places.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government intended to put over 17,500 hectares under irrigation by 2018. This was being carried out through five projects namely; Small Scale Irrigation (SIP), Irrigation Development Support Project (IDSP), Agriculture Productivity and Market Enhancement Project (APMEP), Finland Government Expanded SIP and JICA-COBSI-T Project. Through these interventions, the Government would put up 12,952 hectares of land under irrigation for well over 40,000 beneficiaries in thirty-three formal identified sites.

Small Scale Irrigation Project (SIP) was funded by the Government of Finland through the African Development Bank (AfDB). This Project had completed construction of Nega-Nega Irrigation Scheme (495 Hectares), Nzenga Irrigation Scheme (98 Hectares) and Muleya Bulima Irrigation Scheme (100 Hectares).

As at May, 2015, 95.5 ha had been planted with sugar cane at Nega Nega. In addition, the contractor for land preparation had been mobilised to prepare and extend the irrigated land from 95.5 hectares to 210 hectares. At Nzenga, 98 hectares of land would be developed for growing irrigated various crops and to date a loan to grow 50 hectares of potatoes had been secured from the First National Bank (FNB).

Furthermore, 60 hectares of land was being utilised for growing various irrigated crops at Muleya Bulima. However, due to the poor rainfall received in the last season, water levels in the Kariba dam had receded from the pumping station. Consequently irrigated crop production would be affected at Muleya Bulima while at the 100 hectare Sinazongwe irrigation scheme, land preparation had commenced in readiness for crop production.

- (i) The Irrigation Development Support Project (IDSP), irrigation development would be carried out in two phases called groups. Group I would cover Lusitu in Chirundu, Mwomboshi in Chisamba and Musakashi in Mufulira districts, respectively. A total of 5,400 hectares of land was expected to be brought under irrigation under the group I sites. Group II would include Katongo-Kapala in Mpika, Miloso in Mkushi, Nyamphande in Petauke and Lumwana-Maheba in Solwezi Districts, respectively. The pre-feasibility studies indicated that an area in excess of 10,000 hectares was expected to be brought under irrigation under group II.

During the last three years of implementation, the project had primarily focused on conducting pre-investment baseline activities related to environmental, socio-economic and technical/engineering feasibility studies including the preparation of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and detailed engineering designs and tender documents for Group I sites.

As of June, 2015, the project had just concluded evaluating tender bidding documents for the construction of 457 low cost houses for the resettlement and compensation of affected smallholder community households at the three sites in Group I as a prelude and precondition for the construction of bulk water infrastructure and associated irrigation schemes.

In addition, a total of 110 km of access roads in the three Group I sites had been constructed, paving way for easy access to the sites by the contractors to commence construction of the houses as part of the resettlement action plan, as well as other related initial and preliminary civil works including supply and installation of electricity transmission lines at the three sites.

Further, the detailed engineering designs for the three Group I sites had been completed and currently, the Ministry had completed the prequalification tendering process to select a company to construct the three schemes, while contracting of the supervising engineers was also at the tender stage.

Furthermore, thirteen sites belonging to public institutions, namely; the Zambia National Service (ZNS), Zambia Prison Service (ZPS), Zambia Police Service and Agricultural Training Institutions under the Ministry, had been identified for funding. These institutions had submitted irrigation development business proposals which have been cleared by the Ministry and World Bank for funding. These thirteen sites were expected to bring at least 2,394 hectares of land under irrigation.

- (ii) The Community Based Smallholder Irrigation (T-COBSI) Project jointly funded by the Government of Japan through JICA and GRZ would contribute 950 hectares of irrigated land in Northern, Luapula and Muchinga Provinces.

- (iii) The Agriculture Productivity and Market Enhancement Project (APMEP) funded through a grant from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) had set aside USD19 million for irrigation development. The targeted Districts were Gwembe, Sinazongwe, Rufunsa, Chongwe, Chitambo and Serenje where ten (10) irrigation schemes would be developed covering 2,032 hectares and targeting 4,115 farmers.

As of May 2015, the project had been launched and expression of interests for full feasibility studies on irrigation had been received. The evaluation of the request for proposals was on-going.

- (iv) Expanded Small Scale Irrigation Project (E-SIP), the prefeasibility studies were being conducted with support from the Government of Finland under the Expanded Small Scale Irrigation Projects (E-SIP) in the provinces of Eastern (Petauke, Lundazi, Chipata and Chadiza), Northern (Kasama, Mbala, Luwingu) and Muchinga (Isoka, Chinsali and Shiwangandu). An additional, USD 1 million grant from African Water Facility (AWF) had been secured for conducting full feasibility studies in all sites under the E-SIP.
- (v) Chiansi Agricultural Water Development Project was intended to bring 3,800 ha under out-grower irrigation involving small scale farmers and large scale commercial farmers. 1,900 ha would be under small scale production. There were 600 targeted beneficiaries for the project. As at May, 2015, mobilisation for construction was on-going.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the projects.

Implementation of the National Agriculture Policy

20.0 Your previous Committee had noted the response and requested an update on the finalisation and implementation of the National Agriculture Policy and Plan.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that consultations for the Draft NAP had continued. The latest were in February, 2015, with Civil Society Scaling-Up Nutrition Alliance (CSO-SUN). The comments on nutrition from the Zambia Civil Society Scaling-Up Nutrition Alliance (CSO-SUN) were incorporated. The final stakeholder consultative meeting had been planned to be held at the end of July, 2015. Thereafter, the Policy would be circulated to other Ministries for comments before tabling it in Cabinet.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the finalisation of the draft policy document and awaits an update on the matter.

Inclusion of other crops on the FISP programme

21.0 Your previous Committee had requested a progress report on the actualisation of the electronic vouchers in order to include other crops on the FISP programme.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that Cabinet authority had been given to pilot the E-Voucher System in thirteen districts namely; Kalomo, Choma, Monze, Mazabuka, Chikankata, Pemba, Ndola, Mumbwa, Chongwe, Chibombo, Kapiri Mposhi, Chisamba and Kabwe. A total of 241,000 beneficiaries had been targeted in the thirteen districts. The Ministry would work in collaboration with the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU). Beneficiaries would be able to access assorted types of fertilizer, seed, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, agricultural lime, livestock feed, veterinary drugs, dip chemicals, fingerlings and sprayers. Each beneficiary farmer would be allocated only one card.

Sensitisation meetings had been held for district, provincial and Headquarter staff. Printing of the implementation documents was underway and some documents had already been distributed to Kalomo, Choma, Monze, Mazabuka, Chikankata, Pemba, Ndola and Kapiri Mposhi Districts. In line with the above, selection of beneficiary farmers would commence the week starting 15th June, 2015. Meanwhile, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and ZNFU was being finalised. Further, Cooperating Partners had written to the Ministry outlining which areas of the budget they would like to support for the E-voucher implementation.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits an update on the implementation of the e-voucher system.

Agriculture Officers to Monitor the Non-Traditional Crops

22.0 Your previous Committee had noted the response and requested for an update on the recruitment of crop specialists to be based at the Ministry Headquarters.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that at the moment, a number of positions under the Department of Agriculture which was responsible for the provision of extension services in crops had been frozen. The Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Finance and Cabinet Office would consider unlocking these positions so that crop specialists were recruited in order to monitor the growth of each of the Non-Traditional Crops. However, the crop experts were available at headquarters and were providing guidance on the various crops.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the response and awaits an update on the recruitment of crop specialists especially in non-traditional crops.

Tour to Kenya

Markets for Non-Traditional Crops

23.0 Your previous Committee had noted the response and requested for an update on the implementation of the robust online Market Information System to address the Markets for the Non-Traditional Crops.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government through the Ministry had been collaborating with the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) to realise the dream of having the online system in place. The two institutions had agreed to upgrade the data base and discussions had continued on the operationalisation of the database.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits a progress report on the operationalisation of the online marketing system database.

Fertiliser Subsidies in Kenya

23.1 Your previous Committee had noted the response and requested for an update on the subsidising of fertilizer across the board in the country to reduce the high cost of production.

Executive's Response

It was reported in the Action-Taken Report that the Government had continued supporting the Nitrogen Chemicals of Zambia (NCZ) in order to enable it produce fertilizers at affordable prices. The major challenge that the Government was addressing at NCZ was to recapitalise the company in order to help reduce the cost of production.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee awaits progress report on the recapitalisation of NCZ. The issue of subsidising fertilizer across the board was not addressed and with the e-voucher system in place, whether the NCZ will still be competitive with other fertiliser companies.

Participation of the Kenyan Government in the Agriculture sector

23.2 Your previous Committee had noted the response and requested for an update on the appointment of new Boards to facilitate standards of crops for the international market.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that all the Boards under the Ministry were dissolved in May, 2015. The Ministry was in the process of appointing new boards.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the appointment and operationalisation of new Boards.

National Airline in Kenya

23.3 Your previous Committee had noted the response and requested for an update on the establishment of a national airline by the Government to ease transportation of agriculture commodities.

Executive's Response

In the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that Zambia Airways (2014) Ltd (National Airline) had been incorporated as a private company. The Government was in the process of acquiring aircrafts and equipment, set up interim management and the national flag carrier was expected to be airborne.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government to expedite the setting up of a national flag carrier.

Research Institutions in Kenya

23.4 Your previous Committee had noted the response and had requested for an update on the revamping of the research institutions.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed, through the Action-Taken Report, that with regard to expanding the network of research stations, the Government was in the processing of identifying a site to build a new research station in Muchinga Province and sites to build Technology Assessment Sites in all districts, and scouting for funds required to build these.

With regard to strengthening research in horticultural crops, the Government was revamping research facilities at Mt. Makulu by rehabilitating laboratories, purchasing and installing new equipment, rehabilitating irrigation facilities and green houses as well as developing more research fields. The Government was looking for funds to revamp research facilities at Nanga Research Station in Mazabuka and Copperbelt Research Station in Mufulira, which together with Mt. Makulu, were earmarked to be the main horticultural research centres.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee urges the Government, as a matter of urgency, to revamp the horticultural research facilities. Your Committee further requests the Government to move Mt Makulu Research Station to another more suitable site to avoid the pollution coming from LaFarge Cement.

Establishment of an Agriculture Development Fund in Kenya

23.5 Your previous Committee had noted the response and had requested for an update on the finalisation and implementation of the draft National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP).

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report your Committee was informed that the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) was finalised and launched in May, 2013. The NAIP runs for a period five years (2014-2018). It had a total budget of USD 2.7 billion. It had a funding gap of USD 605 Million. Its implementation started in 2014.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the response and requests for an update on how the Government would cover the funding gap.

Local Tour

Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI)

24.0 While noting the response, your previous Committee had requested for an update on the establishment of ZARI as an autonomous institution.

Executive's Response

Through the Action-Taken Report, your Committee was informed that the Government remained committed to ensuring that ZARI discharged its mandate of agriculture research fully and was in this regard exploring the best way of actualising this, including the feasibility of turning ZARI into an autonomous research institution.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee notes the response and requests the Government to expedite the turning of ZARI into an autonomous research institution and also to increase the budgetary allocation to enable it do research.

Issuance of Tobacco Floor licences by TBZ

25.0 Your previous Committee had noted the response and had awaited the revision of the *Tobacco Act*.

Executive's Response

Your Committee was informed through the Action-Taken Report that consultations with stakeholders were going on. A special Committee would then come up with a draft to be submitted to MAL. The review was expected to be completed by December, 2016.

Committee's Observations and Recommendations

Your Committee seeks an update on the revision of the *Tobacco Act*.

CONCLUSION

26. Mr Speaker, your Members wish to extend their gratitude to you for appointing them to serve on your Committee on Agriculture and for the support rendered to them throughout the year. Your Committee is indebted to all the stakeholders who appeared before it for their cooperation in providing the necessary memoranda and briefs.

Your Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the invaluable and tireless assistance rendered throughout its deliberations. Your Committee is hopeful that the observations and recommendations contained in this Report will be favourably acted upon by the Executive.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF OFFICIALS

National Assembly

Mr S C Kawimbe, Principal Clerk of Committees

Ms M K Sampa, Deputy Principal Clerk of Committees

Mr F Nabulyato, Committee Clerk (SC)

Mrs M K Siwo, Assistant Committee Clerk

Ms C M'tonga, Stenographer

Mr C Bulaya, Committee Assistant

Mr M Chikome, Parliamentary Messenger