

INTRODUCTORY NOTES BY GART EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE
ZAMBIA - GERMANY AKTC CAFM FIELD DAY.

MECHANIZED CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE AND COVER CROPS FROM BETTER YIELD.

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Executive director - GART.

The Deputy Director, TSB-MOA.

The Team Leader, Zambia-Germany Agricultural Knowledge and Training Center, AKTC.

Senior Government Officials Present.

Representatives of Private sector partners.

Members of the SACAU Delegation.

Representatives from Zambian farmers associations present.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel honored and privileged to welcome you to this Field Day on Climate Adoptive Farming Methods (CAFM) under the Zambia – German Agricultural Knowledge and Training Center (AKTC).

Dear farmers, Ladies and gentlemen.

Zambia has been experiencing adverse impacts of climate change - including an increase in frequency and severity of seasonal droughts, occasional dry spells, flash floods and changes in the crop growing season.

As agricultural production is largely dependent on rainfall, the rising frequency of droughts and shorter rainy seasons has led to an increased loss and food insecurity in the country.

DFMS, ladies and gentlemen

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) has initiated activities to help determine priority climate change impacts and vulnerabilities, adaption strategies and means to integrate this knowledge into development of sectoral planning. The Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART) is proud to host the Zambia-German Agricultural Knowledge and Training Center (AKTC), which is one of the major bilateral initiatives promoting innovations aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen

AKTC is currently implementing a research project known as the Climate Adopted Farming Methods (CAFM) in collaboration with the University of Hohenheim and the University of Zambia (UNZA) with support from the Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART).

The CAFM Project was officially launched on 15th October 2019. The project fosters the demonstration of field trials in relation to the mitigation of climate related yield losses and hence securing income for market-oriented farmers through the application of adaptive mechanized tillage methods. The focus crops for this research are maize and soya beans, which have been grown under different land preparation methods.

Furthermore, The CAFM research envisions to give emergent farmers, agricultural companies, and institutions in Zambia insights on the importance of mechanized conservation agriculture by providing first-hand research findings through trainings and organized few days.

Ladies and gentlemen.

The Field Day Demonstration we all eagerly await is under the theme “mechanized conservation, agriculture and cover crops for better yield”.

As you go round enjoying the Field Demonstrations, you will notice three research tillage paradigms, namely:

- (i) Conventional tillage (Involving burning, discing and seeding)
- (ii) Direct seeding (with minimum soil disturbance)
- (iii) Cover crops (Aimed at showcasing their positive benefit on the yield through increased soil health)

Dear Farmers, ladies, and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust and indeed in recognition of the GART Agenda of Applied and Adaptive Research, I wish to congratulate the AKTC team for this memorable day and wish you all a pleasant and educative field day.

I thank you.