

THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

AT

THE GART ZAMBIAN – GERMAN AGRICULTURAL
KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING CENTRE (AKTC)

**CLIMATE ADAPTED FARMING METHODS
FIELD DAY**

GART Chaloshi Farm

06th March 2024

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART)

THE TEAM LEADER – Zambia - Germany Agricultural Knowledge and Training Centre (AKTC)

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS from the Germany Federal Research Institute for Cultivated Plants

CHERISHED FARMERS PRESENT

SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS CORPS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I am very honoured and privileged to officiate at the 2024 **“CLIMATE ADAPTED FARMING METHODS”** Field Day

May I take this opportunity to first welcome you to Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART) Chalsohi Farm and to the Zambian - German Agricultural Knowledge and Training Centre, in short AKTC.

As you might be aware, AKTC is a bilateral cooperation project between the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Zambian Ministry of Agriculture, and it has been hosted by GART since 2014.

AKTC and GART have been conducting Research and Trainings on Climate-Adapted Agriculture and Agroecology Practices for some time now

This year's Climate Adaptive Farming Methods Field Day is held at a time when the country is experiencing a severe change in the weather pattern.

It all started with the late onset of the rains which then paused between the end of December, 2024 and end of February, 2024.

This severe weather pattern has affected the performance of many crops especially in the southern parts of the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Zambia is experiencing first hand extreme weather events with shifting rainfall patterns and rising temperatures, compounded by the subsequent incidence of the Fall Army Worm which pose significant challenges to our farming methods and systems.

Agriculture stands at the frontline of the impact caused by climate change

It is against this background that I wish to bring your attention to the significance of today's event with regards to Climate-Adapted Agriculture and Agroecology in shaping the future of our agricultural practices.

Climate-Adapted Agriculture and Agroecology holds the key to Sustainable and Resilient food production.

It is therefore important for farmers to embrace a paradigm shift in our approach to agriculture and move towards Climate-Adapted Practices and Agroecology.

Fellow Farmers

As we face the unpredictable consequences of climate change, we need tools and knowledge to adapt our farming practices accordingly.

Climate-adapted agriculture involves implementing strategies that enable farmers to cope with and capitalize on the changing climate conditions.

This requires a holistic understanding of the local climate and soil conditions, coupled with the integration of cutting-edge technologies.

Agroecology, on the other hand, is a sustainable approach to agriculture that emphasizes the importance of ecological processes and biodiversity to optimize the efficiency and resilience of agricultural production.

It minimizes the use of external inputs, encourages crop diversity, and enhances soil health, ultimately leading to more robust and sustainable food systems.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Climate-Adapted Agriculture and Agroecology are crucial for the future of agriculture in Zambia

These approaches contribute to increased resilience in the face of climate uncertainties.

Farmers equipped with the knowledge of Climate-Adapted techniques can better navigate the challenges posed by erratic weather patterns, ensuring consistent and reliable yields.

Agroecology fosters biodiversity and provides a natural buffer against pests and diseases thus reducing the dependence on chemical inputs.

Fellow Farmers

Climate change is intensified by conventional farming practices that contribute to deforestation, soil degradation, and excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Climate-Adapted Agriculture and Agroecology offer a way forward by mitigating these negative impacts, promoting conservation, and restoring the health of our ecosystems.

Climate-Adapted Agriculture and Agroecology practices are in line with the Government's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This field day will present and demonstrate a bouquet of different ideas, practices and approaches.

I wish to commend the Management of GART and AKTC for the initiative to mobilize farmers and Extension Officers country wide to come and equip themselves with the tools they need to make informed decisions in the face of Climate Change.

To my fellow farmers, Please adapt what is relevant to your farming practices to become more resilient to climate change.

Fellow Farmers

May I conclude by emphasising that the adoption of Climate-Adapted Agriculture and Agroecology is not just a choice; it is a necessity and we must embrace innovative, sustainable, and resilient agricultural practices.

I Thank you and May God bless you all.