



Office of the Vice President,
Resettlement Division



KASISI PROJECT LAUNCH

OFFICIAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT





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This report is published for public information, accountability, and development reporting purposes in relation to the Kanakantapa Solar Irrigation Scheme Initiative (KASISI). It reflects factual documentation of programme activities, partnerships, award recognitions, and implementation milestones as at the date of publication. The content herein does not constitute a political statement, legal claim, or exclusive attribution of credit, but is intended to transparently document a public-private development partnership implemented by Schweizer Agriculture Limited in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Division of Resettlement under the Office of the Vice President, with SEED Foundation as the capacity-building partner.

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LAUNCH GALLERY

Photos 1–2: Arrival & Registration

Farmers from participating cooperatives arrive and register for the KASISI Project Launch, demonstrating strong community ownership and readiness for implementation.

Photos 3–5:

Programme officially commenced with the National Anthem and an opening prayer, setting a respectful and patriotic tone for the event.

Photos 6–8: Welcome Remarks

Welcome remarks delivered by: Mr. Cooper Chimboba, Director, Resettlement Division, Office of the Vice President District Commissioner, Dr. Evans Lupiya. The speakers welcomed Government officials, partners, farmers, and stakeholders, highlighting the importance of KASISI to local development.

Photo 9–11:

Dr. Joas M. Chihangu, Executive Director of Schweizer Agriculture Limited, outlined the five-year KASISI programme, emphasizing an infrastructure-first approach to development and farmer-led delivery.

Photo 12: Statement by Schweizer Agriculture Limited

Statement by Dr. Joas M. Chihangu, Executive Director of Schweizer Agriculture Limited, outlining the irrigation scheme linked to renewable solar energy. He emphasized the use of drip irrigation systems covering 1 Lima up to 4 hectares per farmer, supporting climate-smart adaptation and sustainable agricultural production.

Photos 13–15: Energy Sector & Award Remarks

Remarks from: Mr. Andrei Tokai, Managing Director, NextEra Energy, Mr. Shena Lumande, Principal Energy Officer, Ministry of Energy, Mrs. Theresa Chewa, Energy Award Winner, Evergreen Cooperative (Farmer)

Photos 16–19: Access to Finance & Risk Solutions

Mr. John Lungu of Ministry of Agriculture speaking on Sustainable Agriculture Financing Facility (SAFF), with Ms. Frida Chibalamba from the same Ministry discussing access to finance, insurance, and risk-sharing mechanisms for farmers.

LAUNCH GALLERY

Photos 20–22: Development Partner Remarks

Representatives from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and National Development and private sector partners highlighted youth empowerment, agribusiness development, and training in solar and drip irrigation installation to support the KASISI Project and beyond.

Photos 23–25: Technical Overview – 5MW Hybrid Solar Model

Ms. Mandy Nkunta, CEO of SEED Foundation, presented the hybrid solar irrigation model and the Women in Energy Efficiency (WEE) Programme

Photos 26–28: Farmer Testimonies

Farmer Testimonies from Ms. Theresa Chewe, Mr. Kobi Mwansa, and Ms. Bradina Banda. Farmers shared their experiences in horticulture, inclusive seed multiplication, solar irrigation, training, and market access.s.

Photos 29–31: Guest of Honor Address & Awards Presentation

Permanent Secretary Ms. Mavis Nkomeshya, Division of Resettlement, Office of the Vice President, delivered the keynote address and presented the 2025 Agriculture Awards.

Photos 32–33: Ribbon Cutting, TWGs & Project Site Tour

Foundation stone unveiling, Technical Working Groups (TWGs) presentations, and project site tour led by Mr. Nacaala Lwindi, Scheme Manager, Division of Resettlement.

Photos 34: Refreshments & Networking

Networking session among farmers, Government officials, private sector partners, donors, and development stakeholders.

Photos 35–37: Youth Ambassador Segment

Recognition of youth leadership and advocacy under the KASISI Project, reinforcing inclusive and future-oriented agricultural development.

Photos 45 to 50: KASISI Project empowers youths with a K35,000 package:

1-lima drip irrigation kit, solar pump, and 1 lima horticulture crops, creating jobs through installations and business support.

A thick orange bar starts from the top left corner and curves downwards towards the right, ending near the top right corner. Another vertical orange bar runs along the right edge of the page.

MEDIA ARTICLES

THE AGRICOOP News : January, 2026 SEED Foundation to Launch Solar Irrigation Scheme Initiative in Chongwe	14
ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL, Thursday, January 22, 2026 K205 MILLION Chongwe solar irrigation project launched	15
ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL, Saturday, December 27, 2025 Schweizer Agriculture: Giving glimmer of hope to farmers	16
BUSINESS NEWS, TIMES OF ZAMBIA, MONDAY, DECEMBER, 8, 2025 Schweizer, ABSA, and Megasave partner to support CB farmers	17
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KASISI PROJECT LAUNCH

OFFICIAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

The Kanakantapa Solar Irrigation Scheme Initiative (KASISI) is a five-year, two-phased agricultural infrastructure programme implemented by Schweizer Agriculture Limited in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Division of Resettlement under the Office of the Vice President, with SEED Foundation as the capacity-building partner.

The programme delivers solar-powered irrigation, mechanization, inclusive seed systems, access to finance, insurance, and guaranteed markets for small-scale farmers within resettlement schemes, aligning national priorities with farmer-led implementation.

The official launch marked the laying of the foundation stone and the commissioning of a pilot installation at Ms. Theresa Chewes's farm, demonstrating solar irrigation integrated with climate-resilient horticulture. Over its lifespan, KASISI will scale from 1 hectare to 4 hectares per farmer, reaching more than 9,000 farmers over five years.

2025 DISTRICT & PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURE AWARD WINNERS

As part of the 2025 District and Provincial Agriculture Awards Programme, outstanding farmers, agripreneurs, and community champions were recognized for their contribution to agricultural development, climate resilience, youth empowerment, and access to finance. The awards were designed to provide non-cash, productive assets and targeted business development support aimed at strengthening sustainable agricultural value chains and inclusive economic growth.

The awards presented during the launch recognized delivery, innovation, and community impact, with emphasis on practical outcomes at community level.

KEY AWARDEES



Mrs. Theresa Chewe

District Renewable Energy Award



Mrs. Bradina Banda

District Infrastructure for Agriculture Award



Ms. Ruth Ngoma

District & Provincial Youth Agripreneur Policy Advocate of the Year



Mrs. Violet Mtika

District Best Community Champion of Access to Finance



Mr. Kobi Mwansa

District Innovative Agriculturist of the Year

These awardees serve as legacy builders, anchoring KASISI at community level and strengthening inclusive agricultural production systems.

KASISI demonstrates how coordinated public-private collaboration, farmer leadership, and infrastructure-first investment can deliver inclusive and resilient agricultural transformation.

CELEBRATING FARMER LEADERSHIP AND DELIVERY IN ACTION.



Pictured dancing in celebration is Mrs. Theresa Chewe, following her receipt of the District Renewable Energy Award, witnessed by Government officials, Schweizer Agriculture Limited, SEED Foundation, and a gathering of fellow farmers.

Mrs. Chewe is not only an award-winning horticulture farmer, but also an active member of two (2) Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Infrastructure and Inclusive Seed Multiplication,

Horticulture and Landscaping, contributing directly to the design and implementation of climate-smart agricultural solutions under the KASISI Project.

Her joy reflects more than recognition—it represents farmer ownership, leadership, and confidence in systems that work.

RECOGNIZING INNOVATION DRIVEN BY FARMERS



Mr. Kobi Mwansa, recipient of the **District Innovative Agriculturist of the Year Award**, is pictured receiving his award from the **Division of Resettlement (DoR)** under the **Office of the Vice President (OVP)**, officiated by **Mrs. Mavis Nkomeshya**, Permanent Secretary, the District Commissioner, Dr. Evans Lupiya of Chongwe.

Mr. Mwansa is an active member of **two Technical Working Groups (TWGs)** on **Access to Finance** and **Infrastructure**, contributing to farmer-led solutions under the **KASISI Project**.

His in-kind award, valued at **K35,000**, includes a **1-lima drip irrigation kit**, a **solar pump**, and **1 lima of horticultural seed inputs** (cabbage or okra), alongside **business development support**, including **ABSA Bank account opening**, compliance assistance, and proposal and business writing support.

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH WOMEN-LED COOPERATIVES.



Pictured is **Mrs. Bradina Banda** of **Kwacha Women Cooperative (KWA)** receiving her **2025 District Infrastructure for Agriculture Award** from the **Division of Resettlement (DoR)** under the **Office of the Vice President (OVP)**, officiated by **Mrs. Mavis Nkomeshya**, Permanent Secretary.

Mrs. Banda received an in-kind award valued at **K250,000**, comprising a **6kVA solar power system with a 10-year warranty**, a **10,000-litre water tank with a solar-powered pumping system**, and a **1-hectare drip irrigation unit**.

The award further included **1 hectare of legume seed inputs** (soybeans, groundnuts, and sugar beans), a **guaranteed five-year contract for four (4) hectares of soybean seed production**, and **business development support**, including **ABSA Bank account opening**, compliance assistance, and proposal and business writing services.

This award reflects the role of women-led cooperatives in driving climate-resilient and commercially viable agriculture under the **KASISI Project**.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ANCHORED IN DELIVERY AND PARTNERSHIP.



Ms. Ruth Ngoma, recipient of the **2025 District & Provincial Youth Agripreneur Policy Advocate of the Year** and **2025 District Infrastructure for Agriculture Award**, was recognized for her outstanding contribution to youth empowerment, agribusiness policy advocacy, and value addition under the **KASISI Project**.

Ms. Ngoma received an **in-kind award valued at K50,000**, delivered through Schweizer Agriculture Limited, in collaboration with **SEED Foundation** and the **Division of Resettlement** under the **Office of the Vice President (OVP)**.

The award package supported **business development and compliance, branding and product development**, marketing strategy development, and **bank account opening with ABSA Bank**. It further enabled the training of **30 youths** in **nutrition, health, and sanitation**, contributing to improved livelihoods and community wellbeing.

Ms. Ngoma's recognition reflects the importance of **public-private collaboration** in advancing **youth-led, farmer-centered, and inclusive agricultural development**.

CHAMPIONING ACCESS TO FINANCE AT COMMUNITY LEVEL.



Mrs. Violet Mtika, recipient of the **2025 District Best Community Champion of Access to Finance of the Year Award** and was recognized for her outstanding role in promoting **financial inclusion and access to finance** within her community under the **KASISI Project**.

Mrs. Mtika received a **combined award** comprising **K10,000 in cash** and a **Pick n Pay Smart Shopper grocery voucher valued at K5,000**, in recognition of her commitment to strengthening household resilience and supporting community livelihoods.

Her work highlights the critical role of **community champions** in linking farmers and households to financial opportunities that enable participation in climate-smart and commercially viable agriculture.

ANNEX 1: PICTORIAL REPORT



KASISI PROJECT LAUNCH



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ANNEX 2: MEDIA ARTICLES

The AGRI-COOP NEWS
We talk Agriculture.
JANUARY 2026 14-20

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UNLOCKING AGRIBUSINESS GROWTH PAGE 4 | ENERGY SAVING STOVES PAGE 6 | KURODA CARROTS PAGE 10 | PIG BUSINESS BIG RISK PAGE 13 | CHRISTMAS CHA CULTURE PAGE 15

SAFF MOBILISES 755M

STORY ON PAGE 16

Lisa sendwe's unique blend of crops and livestock
To page 14

Women cooperatives redefining prosperity in africa
To page 3

Nine motor bikes purchased by Chinkshi Out Grower Support project to ease mobility for officers under Department of Agriculture, Education, Community Development, Water Department and Ministry of Health under Kigali district.
To page 9

SEED Foundation to Launch Solar Irrigation Scheme in Chongwe

The Support for Education and Economic Development (SEED) Foundation is next month set to launch the Kanakantapa Solar Irrigation Scheme Initiative (KASISI) at Kanakantapa Resettlement Scheme in Chongwe District, a project aimed at strengthening climate resilience and agricultural productivity among smallholder farmers.

The initiative comes as Zambia recovers from its worst drought on record during the 2023-2024 agricultural season, induced by the El Niño weather phenomenon. According to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), some regions received less than 50 percent of normal annual rainfall, severely affecting food production, natural resources, and national food security.

Zambia's estimated two million smallholder farmers were among the hardest hit, largely due to their reliance on rain-fed agriculture. Their vulnerability is further compounded by limited access to quality inputs, climate and post-harvest management information, sustainable markets, and inclusive financial services.

SEED Foundation, a capacity building and farmer support initiative under Schweizer Agriculture Ltd, is implementing the solar-powered irrigation scheme to insulate farmers from climate shocks such as droughts and erratic rainfall. The project is expected to ensure a reliable water supply, improve crop yields, and enhance household incomes and food security.

The launch of the irrigation scheme will coincide with the SEED Foundation-ZABA District Excellence Awards, to be held under the theme "Recognizing Innovation, Service and Inclusive Economic Transformation."

The awards were established to identify, celebrate, and institutionalize excellence in community development, agribusiness innovation, public service delivery, and inclusive economic empowerment.

The awards are designed as a development instrument, rewarding practical impact and inspiring replication of successful models while strengthening public-private-community partnerships. Award values are provided either in cash or in-kind, including valued technical support, equipment, tools, and institutional assistance.

Among the key honors is the District Renewable Solar Energy & Irrigation Innovator of the Year Award, valued at K110,000 in in-kind support. The prize includes a 6kW solar-powered irrigation unit capable of supporting up to four hectares of horticulture and legume production. The award will be presented by the Ministry of Community Development and the Resettlement Division, with Permanent Secretary Ms. Mavis Nkomesha expected to officiate.

Other awards include the Creative Agripreneur of the Year Award, valued at K50,000 in cash or in-kind support, presented by the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts in partnership with Kachi Agri Micro Finance; the District Agriculturist of the Year Award valued at K20,000; and the District Administrator of the Year Award, valued at K10,000, recognizing outstanding public service leadership.

KANAKANTAPA SOLAR IRRIGATION SCHEME INITIATIVE (KASISI) PROJECT
Dear All,
KASISI Project Launch – Postponement Notice
Please be advised that the KASISI Project launch scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed due to technical and delivery delays affecting our solar installation unit. The new launch date is 21st January 2026. We regret any inconvenience caused and appreciate your understanding.
Kind regards, Schweizer Agriculture / SEED Foundation
Twindi +260 97 763 3623 | Mandy +260 96 682 9215
www.agricoopnews.com | +260 855 791 676

CATTLE PASS-ON BOOSTS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT IN CHITAMBO

By LENZY MWILA

CHITAMBO District Commissioner, Topson Kunda, underscored the importance of the programme in enhancing poverty reduction and promoting livestock development. Speaking in Chalilo Ward, Mr Kunda recognised the strides made in livestock development through the cattle pass-on under the Poverty Reduction Project (PRP).

The cattle pass-on is an initiative which has been running for several years, as it enables farmers who initially received cattle to breed them and later pass-on the offspring to other cooperative groups, ensuring continuity and sustainability across the district.

Mr Kunda noted, the PRP has continued to support farmer groups in Chitambo District, complimented by the Enhanced Smallholder Livestock Investment Programme (E-SLIP), a programme supported by The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The programme focuses on assisting farmers with small livestock. Together, these interventions are transforming rural livelihoods through livestock ownership and management.

The ceremony saw the hand-over of five heifers from Musumba Cooperative and four from Chalilo Cooperative. The receiving groups were Mutapa Cooperative of Chalilo Camp and Lukuku Cooperative of Mpelembe Camp, while the passing-on groups included, Misumba Cooperative of Mpelembe Camp and

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K205 million Chongwe solar irrigation project launched

■ Veep describes project as landmark intervention in addressing urgent development priorities

MATHEWS MALAZIKA
Chongwe

VICE-PRESIDENT Mutale Nalumango has launched the Kanakantapa Solar Irrigation Scheme Initiative (KASISI) in Chongwe District, a five megawatt project valued at over K205 million and designed to benefit 413 households directly, with an additional 2,065 farmers

impacted indirectly. The initiative, implemented by Schweizer Agriculture Limited in partnership with the Resettlement Department under the Office of the Vice-President, will provide each farmer with six kilovolts ampere of power to support irrigation and agricultural productivity. Mrs Nalumango described the project as a landmark intervention addressing Zambia's urgent development priorities, including climate resilience, food security,

inclusive growth, and rural transformation. "Solar-powered irrigation such as Kasisi represents a strategic response to climate change, enabling farmers to transition from seasonal production to all year production while reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering production costs," she said in remarks delivered on her behalf by Permanent Secretary for resettlement Mavis Nkomeshya. Mrs Nalumango added that the initiative aligns with

the Presidential Irrigation Programme, which seeks to expand land under irrigation and stabilise national food production. It also supports government targets of producing 10 million tonnes of maize, one million tonnes of soya beans, while contributing to the 6.4 percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth target. Schweizer Agriculture Limited representative Joas Chihangu reaffirmed the

company's commitment to partnering with the New Dawn administration in combating the negative effects of climate change. Chongwe District Commissioner Evans Lupiya welcomed the project, while Ministry of Energy representative Norman Siwawa pledged continued support for renewable energy initiatives. Beneficiaries praised the scheme, saying it will transform their livelihoods by improving access to affordable irrigation

infrastructure. The solar irrigation project focuses on improving access to affordable irrigation infrastructure for small-scale farmers within resettlement schemes, thereby contributing to food security and energy availability. Schweizer Agriculture Limited has also trained farmers in seed multiplication, horticulture and landscaping over the past 27 months, further strengthening agricultural capacity in resettlement areas.

Schweizer agriculture: Giving glimmer of hope to farmers

■ Organisation supports in reducing poverty through modern farming practices

DARLINGTON MWENDABAI
Lusaka

MASAITI farmers Martha Chanda, Fieldless Kafunda and Watson Nkonde work tirelessly to earn a living from the land in the Miyengwe Resettlement area.

Yet, as reports of bumper harvests reverberate across the country following Zambia's maize output of 3.6 million metric tonnes, the trio finds little reason to celebrate.

The record harvest was achieved despite the severe drought of the 2023/2024 farming season, which President Hakainde Hichilema declared a national disaster. However, for many small-scale farmers in Miyengwe, productivity remains stubbornly low.

Cultivating maize, groundnuts, cassava and sweet potatoes for both food and income, the farmers say limited access to modern farming methods has kept yields far below potential.

Ms Kafunda, a maize farmer, says she harvests only 85 bags from two hectares, well below expected output.

"Because we still use manual labour and till the land with hoes, our production is very low," she laments.

Groundnut farmer Martha Chanda echoes the same concern, explaining that she harvests just 10 bags of 50 kilograms from one hectare.

"These poor yields are a result of outdated farming methods and limited knowledge. We have been producing less for many years," she says.

Mr Nkonde, who grows various crops, shares similar

frustrations, noting that despite years of experience, his yields remain low.

As a result, many families in Miyengwe struggle to earn enough income to meet basic needs, including paying school fees for their children.

Masaiti District has an estimated 50,000 farmers, about 80 percent of whom are small-scale.

Most cultivate between one and five hectares, while 16 percent are emergent farmers working on five to 10 hectares.

Only four percent are large-scale farmers.

The majority are engaged in crop production, growing maize, soya beans, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, beans and cassava.

Although land is readily available and the district has strong irrigation potential, there are few established large-scale farming operations.

However, a glimmer of hope has emerged.

Schweizer Agriculture, a Zambian agricultural organisation, has stepped in to support farmers with knowledge, tools and market access aimed at boosting productivity and reducing poverty.

For the first time in many years, farmers in Miyengwe Resettlement are seeing light at the end of the tunnel.

With improved farming practices, stronger market linkages and supportive partnerships, they believe they can finally break the cycle of poverty.

Schweizer Agriculture, in partnership with the Office of the Vice-President's Department of Resettlement, recently visited Masaiti to support four co-operatives namely Mwengwe, Malekano, Mwaala and Mwingesh, representing about



SCHWEIZER promotes horticultural activities to diversify farming.

300 farmers, most of whom own more than four hectares of land.

Schweizer Agriculture executive director Joas Chihangu described land as an "untapped goldmine" that should benefit all farmers.

"Land remains the greatest resource farmers have. With land, the farmers of Miyengwe have a strong foundation to build on," Dr Chihangu said, pledging the organisation's support in reducing poverty through modern farming practices.

Schweizer Agriculture operates through five pillars: inputs, AgriTech, access to finance, markets and farmer support.

Under its inputs unit, the

organisation provides high-quality seed, soil management solutions and crop nutrition support.

Through its AgriTech unit, Schweizer Agriculture promotes mechanisation and efficiency by introducing tools such as handheld tractors, shellers and irrigation systems to reduce labour costs and increase yields.

The finance unit focuses on financial literacy, helping farmers access loans and credit through partnerships with financial institutions.

Meanwhile, the market unit links farmers to local, regional and international buyers to ensure fair and competitive prices for their produce.

The farmer support unit offers

training in best agricultural practices, business management and financial literacy.

With this integrated approach, Dr Chihangu says farmers are being equipped with practical skills to improve both productivity and livelihoods.

He noted that Schweizer Agriculture has already worked with more than 1,500 farmers in Lusaka Province and now aims to reach 250,000 farmers nationwide.

To achieve this goal, the organisation is collaborating with government agencies, development partners and private sector players.

"For example, we are working with the Office of the Vice-President to promote agricultural

projects in resettlement schemes and partnering with other organisations to support cassava production and ethanol processing," Dr Chihangu said.

He urged farmers to take advantage of opportunities presented by the ethanol plant currently under construction in Luanshya by expanding cassava production. He also encouraged them to utilise government financing options such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Copperbelt Province principal resettlement officer Leonard Mweemba commended Schweizer Agriculture for complementing Government efforts to improve agricultural productivity.

He encouraged farmers in Miyengwe to embrace cassava farming in anticipation of growth in the ethanol industry.

Senior agricultural officer Samuel Muwowa added that government tractors are available for hire and that loan facilities exist to support irrigation development.

For the farmers of Miyengwe Resettlement, hope is beginning to take root once again.

With organisations like Schweizer Agriculture planting the seeds of knowledge and innovation, farmers across the country are gaining renewed confidence that better yields and better livelihoods are within reach.



CHIHANGU

'Mining sector buoyant'



•ABSA Bank Zambia Head - Agribusiness Lombe Mwale explains about products and services offered by the bank during an interaction with farmers in Mpongwe District. Picture by CHATULA KANGALI

Schweizer, Absa and Megasave partner to support CB farmers

By CHATULA KANGALI

SCHWEIZER Agriculture has announced a collaborative partnership with Absa Bank Zambia and Megasave Supermarket to implement an Input Financing Scheme (IFS) targeting small-scale farmers across the Copperbelt Province.

The initiative will

support the production of 3,000 hectares of soyabeans, connected to the Sustainable Agricultural Financing Facility (SAFF), Constituency Development Fund (CDF) programmes and structured market systems such as off-take by Megasave.

Executive Director Joas Chihangu says the partnership aims

to improve yields and technical capacity, strengthen financial inclusion, restore soil health through climate-smart practices, enhance farmer incomes and market participation and build resilient rural economies.

Speaking during an engagement with smallholder farmers in Mpongwe last week, Dr Chihangu said Schweizer

Agriculture unveiled financing models, training pathways and market-linked opportunities designed to support small-scale farmers.

"This partnership aligns with Zambia's national development agenda, supporting food security, renewable energy value chains and inclusive economic growth," he said.

Dr Chihangu said the partnership was expected to have a significant impact on the lives of smallholder farmers on the Copperbelt, improving their livelihoods and contributing to the country's economic growth.

He said the organisation was looking forward to scaling impact and unlocking new opportunities for smallholder communities.

Dr Chihangu said Schweizer was working with other stakeholders to redefine the future of agriculture.

He said the partnership was part of Schweizer Agriculture's efforts to strengthen Zambia's agricultural value chain through strategic partnerships.

By KENNEDY MUPESENI
ZAMBIA needs to galvanise US\$200 million yearly to invest in green and brown mining projects for the country to achieve the target of producing three million tonnes of copper per annum by 2031.

The Zambia Chamber of Mines (ZCM) said the mining policy stabilisation in the last four years had continued attracting fresh capital in the mining industry which called for more support towards mineral explorations and expansions to reach production milestones.

ZCM Chief Executive Officer Sokwani Chilemba said this during the virtual launch of the 2025 Zambia Mining Survey report by PriceWaterCoopers (PwC) Zambia last week whose findings show that the highest the country could achieve given the circumstances in terms of copper production was 1.9 million tonnes of copper.

Mr Chilemba said the mining policy stabilisation in the last four years had continued attracting fresh capital in the mining industry which called for more support towards mineral explorations and expansions to reach production milestones.

"The mining industry was previously gasping for fresh air but with the policy consistency we have seen the mining industry rebounding by an average of 10 per cent..." he said.

He said meeting the three million tonnes of copper per year by 2031 required annual

capital injection of about US\$200 million in mining expansion and exploration while maintaining consistency in the policy environment.

In a presentation, PwC Zambia Country Senior Partner Andrew Chibuye said from the survey perspective, the country was not likely to attain the three million tonnes but that there was a possibility of graduating to 1.9 million tonnes from the brown and green fields potential.

"The country has made progress in the mining industry if you consider Kansanshi Mine's S3 Project, the revival of Mopani Copper Mine and Konkola Copper Mine (KCM)...but our findings show that we will only manage 1.9 million by 2031," Mr Chibuye said.

Ministry of Mines and Mineral Development Director - Planning and Information Obias Musonda who was on the panel maintained the Government's target of achieving three million tonnes of copper by 2031.

"We are confident the milestone of reaching three million tonnes of copper will be attained because the Government is not sitting idle and waiting for things to happen..." Mr Musonda said.

He said the formalisation of the Artisanal and Small Scale Miners (ASM) where the Government was expecting 100,000 tonnes of copper this year were some of the additional interventions.

Masaiti farmers tap into holistic approach to rural transformation

By **CHATULA KANGALI**

SCHWEIZER Agriculture has embarked on an initiative in Masaiti District to unlock growth opportunities for smallholder farmers, with a strong focus on access to finance as the entry point for transformation.

Executive director Joas Chihangu says limited access to finance remained one of the biggest obstacles preventing farmers from moving from smallholder to commercial production.

Dr Chihangu noted that

while some farmers had benefited from government programmes, inadequate financial literacy often led to misallocation of resources instead of investments in critical farming equipment and inputs.

“To address these challenges, Schweizer Agriculture has introduced three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) access to finance, focused on equipping farmers with financial literacy, savings strategies, budgeting, and loan management skills.

“Cooperatives are

opening bank accounts, with members contributing K100 each, while Schweizer Agriculture matches contributions with K2,000 monthly. Over a year, a cooperative of 100 members can raise K120,000 as collateral for term loans, inputs or equipment,” he said.

Dr Chihangu said the Infrastructure Technical Working Group would be dedicated to addressing production and logistical bottlenecks such as irrigation systems, storage facilities, renewable energy and mechanisation,

ensuring farmers can scale up efficiently and reduce post-harvest losses.

He said the Inclusive Seed Multiplication Technical Working Group would be designed to build local seed sovereignty by supporting farmers, especially women and youth to multiply maize, soybean, and legume seeds, strengthening rural input supply chains and ensuring inclusivity.

“This is more than a financing model; it is a holistic approach to rural transformation. By combining

cooperative strength with sound financial literacy, infrastructure development, and inclusive seed multiplication, Masaiti farmers can unlock opportunities, scale sustainably, and contribute meaningfully to Zambia’s food security and economic resilience,” he said.

He said the programme would also train farmers in budgeting, savings, credit, investment, and risk management, providing a foundation for financial independence and stability.

need for the contractor to deliver the works within the agreed-upon timeframe.

Mr Chomba said the dam needed to be completed quickly to harness water for agriculture irrigation, fish farming and also to provide drinking water for livestock at Siakalinda and the surrounding villages.

“Once completed, the dam has capacity to irrigate about 250 hectares of arable land translating into about 1,500 tonnes of cereal if utilised for agriculture irrigation,” he added.

Construction for Africa Limited director Rodgers Mugala assured that the works will be done within the stipulated time frame.

Mr Mugala said works will meet the desired outcome.

Schweizer Agriculture brings renewed hope to Masaiti farmers

By CHATULA KANGALI

IN the lush fields of Miyengwe Resettlement in Masaiti District, farmers like Martha Chanda, Fieldess Kafunda, and Watson Nkonde toil tirelessly to make a living from the land.

They cultivate maize, groundnuts, cassava, and sweet potatoes – crops that serve both as food and income. Yet, despite their commitment, yields remain far below potential.

Ms Kafunda, a maize farmer, harvests only 85 bags of maize from two hectares, well short of expected production.

"Because we have been using manual labour with hoes, we are producing less," she laments.

Ms Chanda, a groundnut farmer, shares the same frustrations, explaining that her poor harvests are the result of



•SOME Farmers from Miyengwe Resettlement listen to proceedings during a meeting with Schweizer Agriculture on enhancing agriculture productivity in the area. Picture by CHATULA KANGALI

outdated farming methods and lack of knowledge.

For years, their meagre incomes have barely covered essential needs such as school fees for their children.

That cycle is beginning to change. Schweizer Agriculture, in partnership with the Office of the Vice President's Division of Resettlement, has begun working with local cooperatives to unlock the farmers' full potential.

Through improved seed varieties, regenerative soil practices, minimum-tillage technologies, irrigation support, and access to finance, Schweizer is laying a foundation for transformation.

The cooperatives,

Mwengwe, Malekano, Mwaala, and Miengweshi, represent more than 300 farmers, most of whom own over four hectares of land.

Dr Joas Mukanda Chihangu, Executive Director of Schweizer Agriculture, believes land is the community's greatest untapped resource.

"With land, the farmers in Miyengwe have where to start from. Our commitment is to help them turn that land into wealth, reduce poverty, and create lasting prosperity," he says.

He encourages farmers to take advantage of government initiatives such as the Constituency

Development Fund and ABSA Bank Zambia Plc's Input Financing Scheme, designed to provide inputs to deserving farmers under strict monitoring and evaluation.

Senior Agricultural Officer Samuel Mowowo adds that government tractors are available for hire and irrigation loans are accessible, urging farmers to embrace these opportunities.

To ensure long-term impact, Schweizer Agriculture has established technical working groups in areas such as technology, seed multiplication, and finance.

Group leaders will be trained and expected to

transfer their knowledge to others, creating a ripple effect across the community.

"From these working groups, you need to adopt technologies like hand tractors, irrigation systems, and financial literacy through bank accounts to unlock credit opportunities," Dr Chihangu explains.

Schweizer Agriculture operates as a leading organisation, bridging agricultural science and practice. Its approach rests on five pillars: high-quality inputs, AgriTech solutions, access to finance, market linkages, and farmer support.

The company has developed two new

climate-resilient maize hybrids to be launched next year, which will be made available to smallholder farmers across the country.

By providing mechanisation tools such as shellers and irrigation systems, the organisation is helping farmers reduce labour costs while boosting productivity.

Beyond food crops, cassava is emerging as a vital crop for the future, especially through its link to Zambia's renewable energy strategy.

Dr Chihangu highlights the ethanol plant currently under construction in Luanshya, which will source cassava from Masaiti and surrounding

districts.

Under national energy standards ZS 868 and ZS 869, ethanol will increasingly be blended with petrol to reduce fossil fuel imports, lower pump prices, and cut carbon emissions.

"Ethanol production is no longer just a by-product – it is central to Zambia's renewable energy strategy. By growing cassava for ethanol, farmers in Masaiti will not only supply food and feed but also fuel that powers the nation's vehicles," Dr Chihangu emphasises.

This approach directly supports government commitments to diversify energy sources, stimulate rural economies, and

contribute to climate goals.

Companies such as Ayoun Energy are also rolling out filling stations that will supply petrol and diesel blended with biofuels, directly linking rural farmers to the energy transition.

Copperbelt Province Principal Resettlement Officer Leonard Mweemba expressed gratitude to Schweizer Agriculture for aligning agriculture with the national energy vision.

"This is how we create win-win solutions: farmers earn from their land, the nation saves on fuel imports, and our environment benefits from cleaner energy," he said.

For the farmers of Miyengwe Resettlement, this initiative brings renewed optimism.

"With Schweizer Agriculture's guidance, we can finally adopt better farming methods, grow cassava for ethanol, and improve our incomes," says Mr Nkonde.

The partnership is more than an agricultural project; it is a pathway out of poverty that connects smallholder farmers to Zambia's renewable energy policies and global carbon-neutral goals.

As Martha Chanda reflects while preparing her next groundnut plot, "This time, we feel our sweat will finally bring a better harvest and a better life for our children."

The collaboration between the farmers and Schweizer Agriculture has brought a renewed sense of purpose, and the community is eager to reap the benefits of their hard work and dedication.

Look Out

**Davis Mataka
On Tuesday
is back. Make
sure to read
the column in
tomorrow's
edition. -
Editor**

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