



**Brot**  
für die Welt  
Brot für die Welt –  
Evangelischer  
Entwicklungsdienst

**PELUM ZAMBIA**



# Enhancing Networking and Adoption of Agroecological Practices in Rural Zambian Communities

*A Journey of Transformation: 2022 – 2024*



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# PROJECT AT A GLANCE



Investment

€ 206,000



Duration

Jan 2022  
Dec 2024



Reach

5 Provinces  
9 Districts



Partner

Brot für die  
Welt

## Key Impacts

45

Member Organisations  
actively engaged

100

Farmers trained in plant  
genetic resource management

28

Member Organisations  
participating in joint events

288

Communication  
materials produced  
and disseminated

04

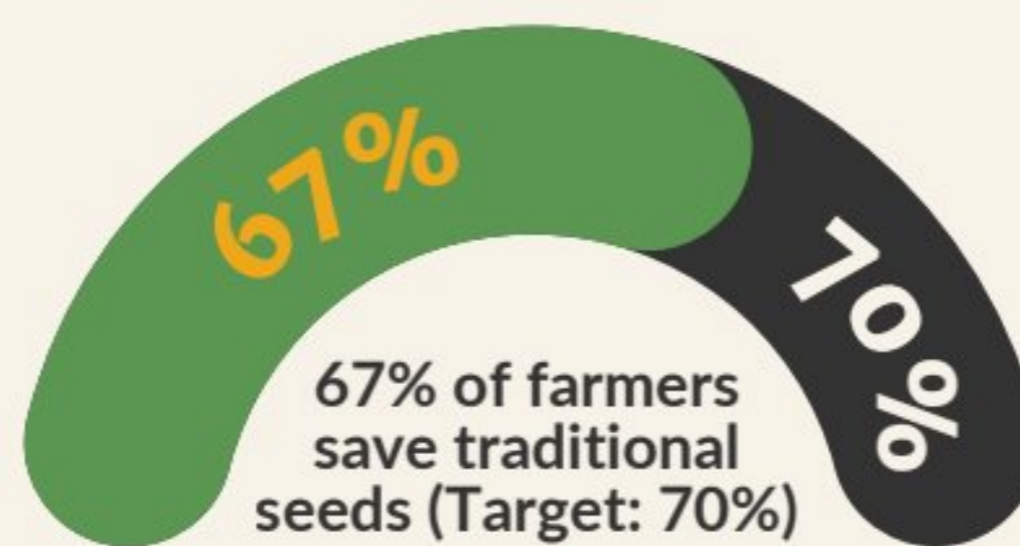
Government  
acknowledgements of  
policy submissions

239

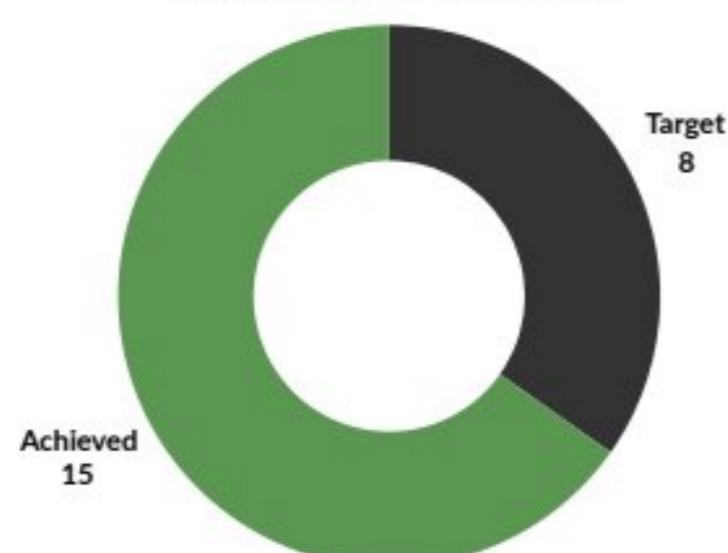
Participants at the first-  
ever Zambia Agroecology  
Conference

01

Community seed bank  
established in Chinsali,  
Muchinga Province



Cultivated Crop Species



15 Member Organisations cultivating  
5+ traditional crop species



77% attendance at national events  
(Target: 75%)

# OPENING MESSAGES

## Foreword from the Country Coordinator

Over the past three years, we have witnessed a remarkable transformation across rural Zambian communities. From Choma to Chipata, Lundazi, and Chinsali, farmers have rediscovered the power of traditional knowledge combined with innovative agroecological practices.

This project was more than an intervention; it was a movement. We saw women become seed guardians, youth embrace farming as a viable future, and communities build resilience in the face of climate uncertainty. The seeds we planted together, both literal and metaphorical, will continue to grow for generations. The main objectives were to increase biodiversity, enhance networking and collaboration and influence policy for increased adoption of agroecological practices in rural Zambia communities.

Our gratitude goes to Brot für die Welt for believing in our vision of sustainable livelihoods rooted in agroecology, to our member organisations for their unwavering commitment, and most importantly, to the farmers who opened their hearts and fields to transformation.

**"Together, we have proven that agroecology is not just a farming method; it is a pathway to dignity, resilience, and food sovereignty."**



— Muketoi Wamunyima  
PELUM, Country Coordinator

## Farmer Representative's Voice

— Gordon Chinunka, Lead Farmer

Three years back, I only grew one crop in my field. Today, it is a garden of diversity, maize, beans, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, and traditional vegetables growing side by side. My family eats better, my soil is healthier, and I have seeds to share with my neighbours.

This is what agroecology has given us: not just better harvests, but also hope, knowledge, and a community that supports one another. We are no longer just farmers, but we are seed guardians, climate champions and teachers to the next generation.

# PROJECT JOURNEY

## About the Partners

**PELUM Zambia** is a network organisation dedicated to promoting participatory ecological land use management and agroecology across Zambia. With over 40 member organisations, PELUM serves as a bridge between grassroots communities, civil society, and policymakers, advocating for sustainable agricultural practices that honour traditional knowledge while embracing innovation.

**Mission:** PELUM seeks to improve the living standards of vulnerable rural and peri-urban communities through capacity building, sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources, networking, research, and evidence-based campaign advocacy and lobbying.

**Approach:** Community-centred, participatory and grounded in the principles of agroecology diversity, synergy, resilience and social values.

**Brot für die Welt ("Bread for the World")** is a globally recognised development organisation committed to fighting poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Their **vision** centres on empowering communities to achieve food sovereignty, climate resilience, and social justice through partnership and solidarity.

PELUM exhibiting at the Rufunsa District Seed & Food Festival



# Project Timeline

## 2022: Inception, Baseline Studies, First Trainings

- Held the project inception meeting with members.
- Conducted a four-day capacity-building training of trainers in plant genetic resources.
- Facilitated a technical working group to discuss the development of the national agroecology strategy.
- Made a presentation in the House of Chiefs on the benefits of agroecology.
- Conducted learning visits to the Medzaland community seed bank and Lundazi to learn about seed multiplication and seed bank setup.
- Facilitated a technical working group to analyse the national budget.
- Developed the monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Held a Communications and networking workshop with members.
- Produced policy briefs on seed and agroecology.
- Participated in the Zambian Traditional Seed and Food Festival and the Agricultural and Commercial Show.



## 2023: Seed Bank, Visits, Policy Engagement

- Facilitated an exposure visit for members of parliament to Sinazongwe to show climate change adaptation evidence.
- Held a technical working group to analyse the national budget with an agroecology perspective.
- Facilitated a technical working group on the Comprehensive Agriculture Transformation Support Program (CATSP).
- Featured on the ZNBC Climate Check programme, Radio Breeze (Chipata) & Choma Manu (Choma) to discuss agroecology.
- Held the member organisations meeting and annual general meeting.
- Donated 2 water tanks to Tusyayane Women's Club in Choma District and Rural Women's Assembly in Rufunsa District.
- Participated in the Zambian Traditional Seed and Food Festival and the Agricultural and Commercial Show.



## 2024: Consolidation, Conference, Planning

- Launched the #AgroecologyForResilience campaign to provide farmers with easy access to information.
- Held the first Agroecology conference with 239 participants.
- Commenced the construction of a seed bank in Chinsali, Muchinga Province.
- Made policy submissions to the committee on agriculture, developed 3 policy briefs, and made 4 budget submissions to the Ministry of Finance.
- Held focal point meetings in Eastern and Southern provinces.
- Exhibited at the World Environment Day.
- Participated in the Zambian Traditional Seed and Food Festival and the Agricultural and Commercial Show.



## Geographic Reach



The geographic scope of the project encompasses Zambia, specifically concentrating on five provinces:

Central	Eastern	Muchinga	Northern	Southern
Mumbwa	Chipata Lundazi Petauke	Chinsali	Luwingu	Choma Monze Sinazongwe

PELUM displays at the Zambian Traditional Seed and Food Festival and the National Agricultural Commercial Show



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

## Objective 1 - Increased Crop Diversity

### Achievement highlights:

100 farmers trained in plant genetic resource management, achieved through a four-day capacity-building trainers of trainers training.

1 community ex-situ seed bank established, with construction commenced in Chinsali, Muchinga Province.

Learning visits were conducted to the Medzaland community seed bank and Lundazi to inform seed bank construction and management.

### Targets:

- 15 member organisations cultivating 5+ traditional crop species (target: 8).
- 67% of farmers save traditional seeds (target: 70%).

### Impact:

Improved household nutrition and food security, reduced dependence on hybrid seeds and enhanced resilience to climate shocks.

## Objective 2 - Enhanced Networking

### Achievement highlights:

Held a communications and networking workshop with members to enhance collaboration. 30 member organisations attended the workshop.

Consistently supported and participated in calendar events like the Zambian Traditional Seed and Food Festival and the National Agricultural and Commercial Show across all three project years.

Produced and disseminated 288 communication materials, including pop-ups, banners, newsletters, and social media posts.

We welcomed 10 new members to our network and enhanced collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute.

Successful indaba organised, realised as the first Agroecology conference with 239 participants.

Held the member organisations meeting and annual general meeting with over 40 members.

**Impact:** Strengthened collaboration among member organisations, improved visibility for agroecology and enhanced knowledge sharing nationwide.

## Objective 3 - Policy Influence

### Achievement highlights:

Contributed to the Development of the Agroecology Strategy by facilitating a technical working group to discuss its development.

Made 3 budget submissions to the Ministry of Finance and analysed 3 national budgets through technical working groups, for 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 budgets.

Made policy submissions to the committee on agriculture.

Developed 3 policy briefs and specific briefs on seed and agroecology.

Conducted media engagements, including featuring on the ZNBC Climate Check programme and running the #AgroecologyForResilience campaign.

Made a presentation in the House of Chiefs on the benefits of agroecology.

#### Impact:

Agroecology is increasingly recognised in national policy, strengthening ties among farmers, policymakers, and researchers. The Ministry of Agriculture is also developing an agroecology strategy.

## Beyond the Numbers

**Women's leadership emergence:** Supported through activities like donating a water tank to Tusyayane women's club and visiting Women Envions Zambia members.

**Youth engagement through training and exchange visits.**

**Cross-provincial learning:** Facilitated through exchange visits for Members of Parliament and farmers, as well as holding focal point meetings in Eastern and southern provinces.

PELUM exhibiting at the 2024 World Environment Day



Members of Parliament visiting Sinazongwe agroecology farms



PELUM Staff Visits the Mezland Seed Bank in Shibuyungi



PELUM Presenting on Agroecology to the House of Chiefs



Technical Working Group Meeting

# IMPACT STORIES

## Southern Province

She made the shift from monocropping and synthetic fertilizers to intercropping and agroecology as her farming system, thanks to training provided by PELUM through its focal point organisation in Southern Province. Currently, she cultivates millet, cowpeas, and sorghum, and produces tea manures and bokashi to enhance her farming practices and support her tree-growing business.



– Jennipher Handondo,  
a smallholder farmer from Choma



– Mary Ndhlovu,  
Lead farmer from Lundanzi

## Eastern Province

Mary has successfully increased the number of follower farmers to 60 in Lundazi. These follower farmers expand and cultivate seeds through agroecological practices, which have turned into a viable source of income. This achievement is attributed to the exchange learning visits combined with the training sessions that PELUM has implemented within the communities in Eastern Province.

Women Farmers at the Medzaland Community Seed Bank in Shibuyunji District



## Muchinga Province

The establishment of the Chinsali seed bank represents a significant achievement in ensuring local seed sovereignty as well as food and nutrition security. This initiative will act as a learning center for more than 5,000 farmers in the Muchinga and Northern Provinces.



## Central Province

A newly engaged community in Mumbwa, centered around the Kanchibiya Gardens, has embarked on a transformative journey in agriculture. Members have quickly embraced agroecological practices, spurred by their involvement in national seed and food festivals that serve as valuable platforms for learning and knowledge sharing.

PELUM members capture a moment at the  
Zambian Traditional Seed and Food Festival



### #AgroecologyForResilience campaign!

*Cultivating Harmony Between Agriculture & Nature*



Join us on a journey to discover how traditional wisdom and modern science work together to create sustainable farming solutions.

# VOICES FROM THE FIELD

## Farmer Testimonials



– Regina Mshauko,  
Farmer from Chipata

“

*Agroecology has given us back control over our seeds and our future.*

”

“

*Through networking meetings, I have learned that sustainability is not a project, it's a lifestyle.*

”



– Mutinta Handondo,  
Youth Farmer from Choma

Mary Ndhlovu, a lead farmer in Lundanzi, is harvesting her Bokashi for the field



Mutinta Handondo carefully packages her mushrooms for sale following the harvest





Traditional Dance Troupe entertaining guests at the Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival

## NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS

- Collaboration with 45 member organisations nationwide.
- Joint learning events and farmer exchange visits.
- Strong visibility through national events and community outreach.

## Zambia's 1st Agroecology Conference

Date: 21-22 May 2024

Venue: Mulungushi International Conference Centre

# POLICY & ADVOCACY

## Policy Influence Journey

### Submissions Made

Policy submissions made on agriculture, the national budget, seed policy, climate change, and biosafety.

- Made policy submissions to the committee on agriculture.
- Made 3 budget submissions to the Ministry of Finance.
- Developed 3 policy briefs and specific briefs on seed and agroecology.

### Media Coverage

Engagements included press conferences, radio programs, featuring on the ZNBC Climate Check programme and social media posts.

### Outcome

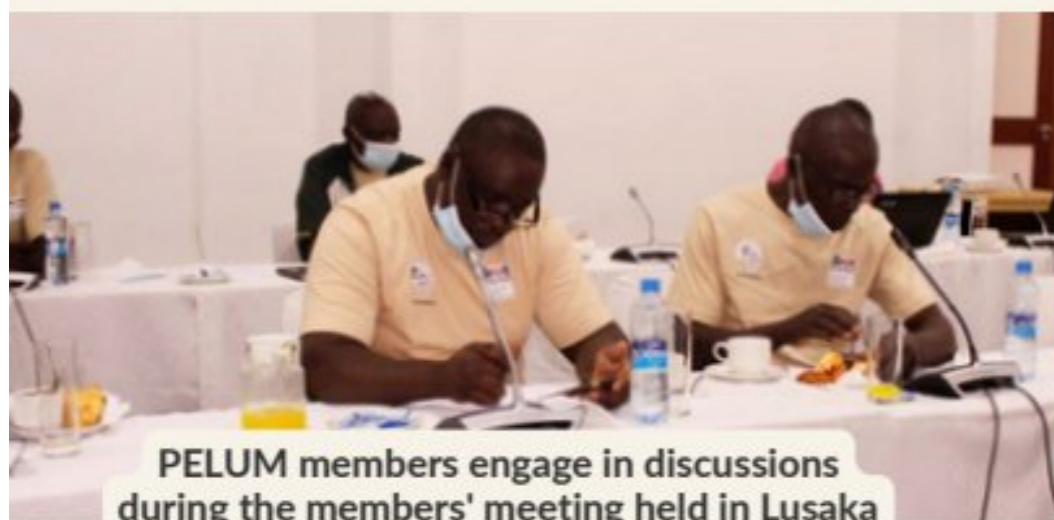
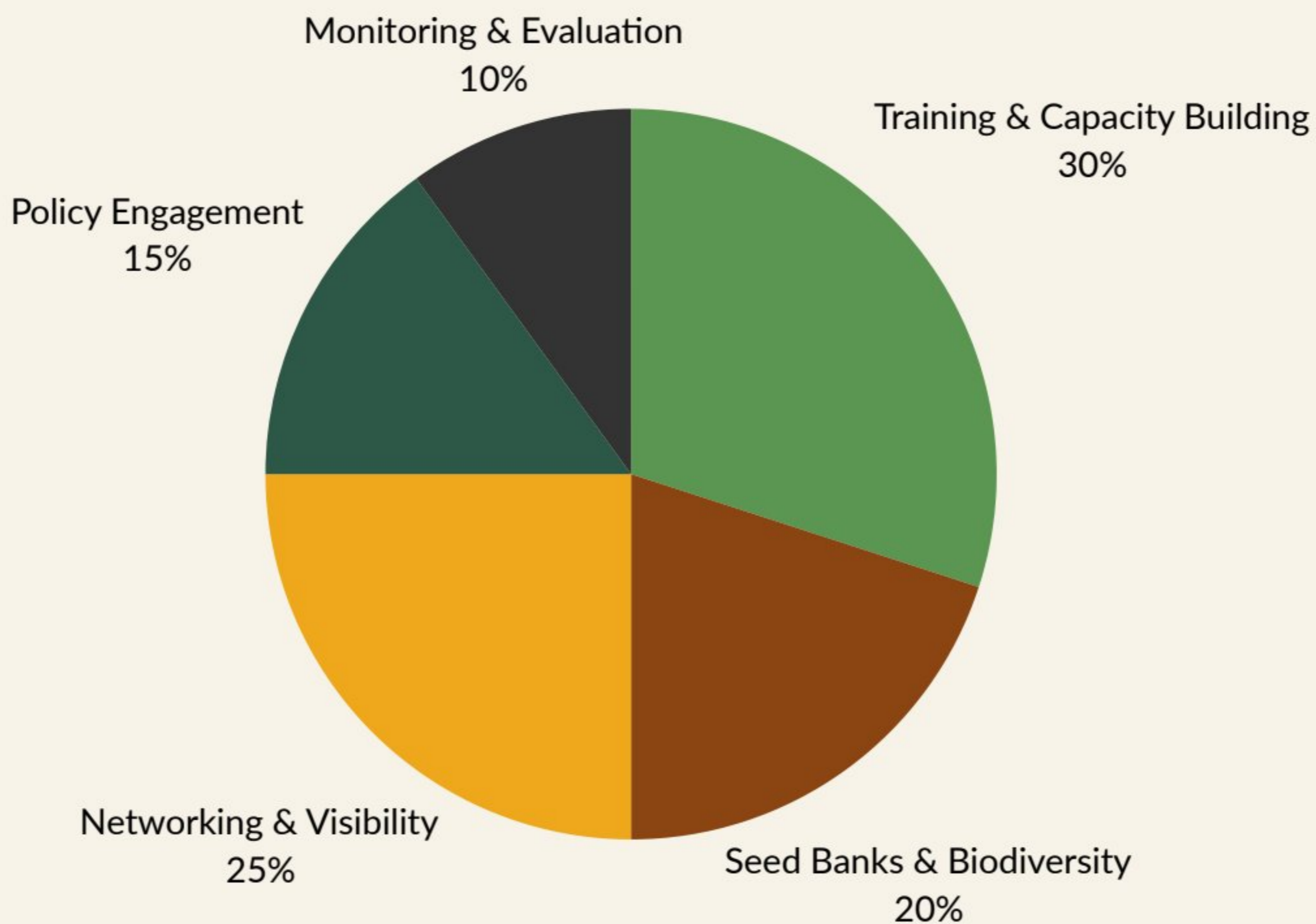
Highlighted government acknowledgement and contribution to the national agroecology strategy development.

## Amplifying Farmer Voices

- Facilitated interactions between farmers, communities and high-level stakeholders.
- **Case Study:** Farmers presenting to parliament and an exposure visit for members of parliament to Sinazongwe to see evidence of climate adaptation.
- **Advocacy:** Made a presentation in the House of Chiefs on the benefits of agroecology.

# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

**EUR 206,000 Investment Allocation**



# SUSTAINABILITY & LEARNING

## Sustainability Strategy

The true measure of project success is not what happens during the project, but what continues after it ends. From the outset, sustainability was woven into every activity, ensuring that achievements outlive the funding period.

### What Continues Beyond 2024

#### Established seed banks:

The community seed bank in Chinsali and knowledge from exchange visits.

#### Market Linkages:

Identify value crops for market linkages and value addition. Provide technical support to improve standards and food safety.

#### Policy frameworks:

Ongoing influence through submissions and contributions to the national agroecology strategy.

#### Trained farmer networks:

A cadre of trainers skilled in plant genetic resource management.

#### Strengthened member organisations:

Enhanced capacity for collaboration and implementation.

## Lessons Learned

- Importance of continuous monitoring, supported by the M&E framework developed early in the project.
- Youth engagement through innovation.
- Farmers are the best advocates for agroecology.
- The value of a multi-stakeholder approach, validated by successful engagements with parliament and traditional leaders.

# LOOKING FORWARD

## **Vision for the Future**

The end of this project is not the end of the agroecology movement in Zambia; it's a new beginning. The foundation has been laid, structures established, networks strengthened, and momentum built.

## Our Vision for 2030:

### **Food Sovereignty**

Every Zambian farming household controls its own seeds, practices agroecology, and enjoys year-round food security.

### **Youth in Agriculture**

Farming is recognised as a dignified, profitable livelihood attracting young people who innovate while honouring tradition.

### **Market Access**

Agroecological products command premium prices, connecting conscious consumers with sustainable producers.

### **Climate Resilience**

Zambian farming communities withstand climate shocks through diverse, resilient agroecological systems.

### **Gender Justice**

Women and men share power and benefits equally in agricultural decision-making and leadership.

### **Network Expansion**

PELUM's network grows to 100+ member organisations covering all provinces and influencing regional policy.

### Policy Integration

Agroecology is mainstream in government agricultural programs, extension services, and budget allocations.

### Traditional Knowledge Valued

Elders are recognised as experts, their knowledge documented and integrated with scientific understanding.

## Call to Action

### To Development Partners:

Invest in agroecology. The evidence is clear; it works for food security, climate adaptation, biodiversity, and sustainable livelihoods. Support community-led initiatives that respect farmer knowledge and agency.

### To Government:

Implement the National Agroecology Strategy. Allocate resources to agroecological research, extension, and support for farmers. Protect traditional seed systems. Create enabling policies.

### To Farmers:

You are the experts. Share your knowledge generously. Save your seeds carefully. Teach the next generation proudly. Organise collectively. Your voices matter. Speak up, speak out.

### To Everyone:

Agroecology is not just about farming; it's about how we relate to the land, to each other, and to future generations. It's about justice, sustainability, and hope. Join the movement.

### To Youth:

Farming is your future if you want it. Agroecology offers an opportunity for economic, environmental, and social benefits. Bring your energy, creativity, and innovation. Modernise farming while honouring heritage.

### To Member Organisations:

Continue the momentum. The network is your strength; use it. Advocate together, learn together, grow together. Support farmers to become the next generation of trainers and leaders.

### To Consumers:

Choose agroecological products. Support farmers who farm sustainably. Demand food that nourishes people and the planet. Use your purchasing power for change.



PELUM farmers at the PELUM stand during the National Agricultural and commercial show



Mary Ndhlovu, a lead farmer in Lundazi, in her field

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*PELUM Zambia extends heartfelt gratitude to:*

- **Brot für die Welt** for financial and technical support
- **Member Organisations** for dedication and collaboration
- **PELUM Zambia Board** for their leadership and guidance.
- **Government Partners** for policy engagement
- **Community Leaders** for their wisdom
- **Farmers** for their resilience and innovation

*This brag book celebrates our collective achievement.*

*Twalumba. Twatasha. Zikomo. Thank you.*


Join Us


# Agroecology for a Resilient Food System




*"Together, We Grew  
More Than Crops."*


## PELUM Zambia

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