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NEWS LETTER

CLIMATE CHECK

TOP NEWS FOR THE QUARTER

The Government of Zambia has announced measures to prepare the agricultural sector for the projected El Niño weather conditions, which are expected to pose risks to crop production and national food security.

The adoption of organic farming practices demonstrates how innovation and local knowledge can contribute to climate resilience and sustainable food systems, by promoting practical, low-cost solutions,

Investing in Climate Resilience for Zambia's Future

By: Josephine Tembo

As climate change continues to reshape Zambia's economic and social landscape, building resilience is no longer optional, it is essential. From recurring droughts to increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, the effects are being felt across agriculture, energy production, and household livelihoods.

A recent report by the World Bank highlights that while these climate-related challenges are significant, they also present an opportunity for Zambia to strengthen its economy through strategic investments and forward looking policies.

The report identifies several priority areas for action, including expanding climate-smart agriculture, investing in resilient infrastructure, accelerating the transition to renewable energy, strengthening disaster preparedness, and creating employment opportunities for young people. Together, these measures can help reduce climate risks while supporting sustainable economic growth.

Investing in climate resilience also has the potential to improve food security, protect critical infrastructure, and enhance the well-being of vulnerable communities. By integrating climate considerations into national planning and development initiatives, Zambia can better prepare for future climate shocks while promoting innovation, attracting investment, and creating more sustainable livelihoods across both rural and urban areas.

The report also emphasizes the importance of stronger institutions and increased private sector investment to drive long-term climate resilience. By working together, government, businesses, development partners, and communities can help build a more inclusive and climate-resilient future for Zambia.

Organic Farming for a Resilient Future

Bokashi making and plants thriving using bokashi manure

By: Josephine Tembo

Healthy soils are the foundation of sustainable agriculture. Through training in Bokashi organic manure production and agroecological farming practices, youths are being empowed in communities to improve soil fertility using locally available materials. These environmentally friendly techniques reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers while enhancing crop productivity and protecting ecosystems.

The adoption of organic farming practices demonstrates how innovation and local knowledge can contribute to climate resilience and sustainable food systems. By promoting practical, low-cost solutions, the Urban Futures Project is helping communities strengthen food security while building resilience against the impacts of climate change.

Beyond improving agricultural productivity, the initiative is fostering a new generation of environmentally conscious youth equipped with the skills to champion sustainable farming within their communities. As more young people embrace organic agriculture, they are not only improving household livelihoods but also contributing to healthier ecosystems, reduced environmental degradation, and a more resilient future for Zambia's food systems.

Growing Young Climate Champions Through School Clubs

Matipula Primary School pupils

By: Josephine Tembo

The Urban Futures Project is nurturing the next generation of climate-conscious leaders by strengthening environmental education and sustainable food systems awareness in schools across Chongwe District in Zambia.

The Urban Futures project empowers young people in Chongwe and across the world to drive sustainable food systems through entrepreneurship, innovation, climate-smart agriculture, and mentorship.

Through the establishment of Urban Futures School Clubs and practical school gardening initiatives, learners are gaining the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to become active contributors to healthier communities and more resilient food systems.

As part of this initiative, the Urban Futures Project recently established the Urban Futures School Club at Matipula and Silver Rest Primary Schools, providing learners with a platform to explore sustainable food systems, agroecology, nutrition, climate action, environmental conservation, and leadership.

A key component of the programme was the introduction of agroecological practices that demonstrate environmentally friendly methods of improving soil fertility, conserving natural resources, and promoting sustainable agricultural production.

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Government Steps Up Preparations for Projected El Niño

Pictures illustrating the effects of El Niño

By: Josephine Tembo

The Government of Zambia has announced measures to prepare the agricultural sector for the projected El Niño weather conditions, which are expected to pose risks to crop production and national food security.

Through the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers are being equipped with knowledge on climate-smart farming practices, including the adoption of drought-tolerant crop varieties developed by the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI). Government is also strengthening agricultural extension services by providing officers with tools and information to better support farmers in adapting to climate-related challenges.

The Ministry of Agriculture Principal Public Relations Officer, Mr. Balewa Zyuulu, said the Ministry is proactively equipping farmers with the knowledge and technologies needed to minimise the anticipated impacts of climate change on agricultural production.

“We have empowered all our extension officers with the testing kits, we have also developed through our departments, such as Zambia Agriculture Research Institute, drought-tolerant crop varieties, which farmers can adopt,” Mr Zyuulu said.

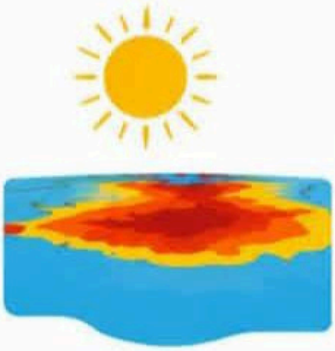
As part of its long-term resilience strategy, Government aims to expand irrigation coverage to over 500,000 hectares by 2031 while working with the private sector through the Sustainable Agriculture Financing Facility (SAFF) to improve farmers' access to irrigation equipment for year-round production.

WHAT IS EL NIÑO?

El Niño occurs when sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean become warmer than normal.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Pacific Ocean waters become unusually warm.



2. Rising air and heavy rainfall shift eastward over the Pacific.

3. Global wind patterns and tropical circulation are altered.

4. Some regions get excess rain and floods, while others experience drought.

For Southern Africa, El Niño often means: less rainfall, higher temperatures and increased drought risk.

TOPICAL CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES CONSUMERS SHOULD KNOW:

Changing rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and floods are reducing crop yields and increasing food prices. Consumers should understand how climate change affects the availability and affordability of staple foods like maize and vegetables.

Hydropower-dependent countries such as Zambia are vulnerable to drought, which can reduce electricity generation and lead to power shortages. Consumers can help by adopting energy-efficient appliances and considering renewable energy options like solar power.

Everyday purchasing decisions, reducing food waste, recycling, and supporting environmentally responsible businesses all help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

📞 Tel: 0211 410 098
✉️ Email: lusaka@cuts.org
📍 Address: E4 Warthog Road,
Kabulonga, Lusaka
🌐 Website: CUTS International, Lusaka