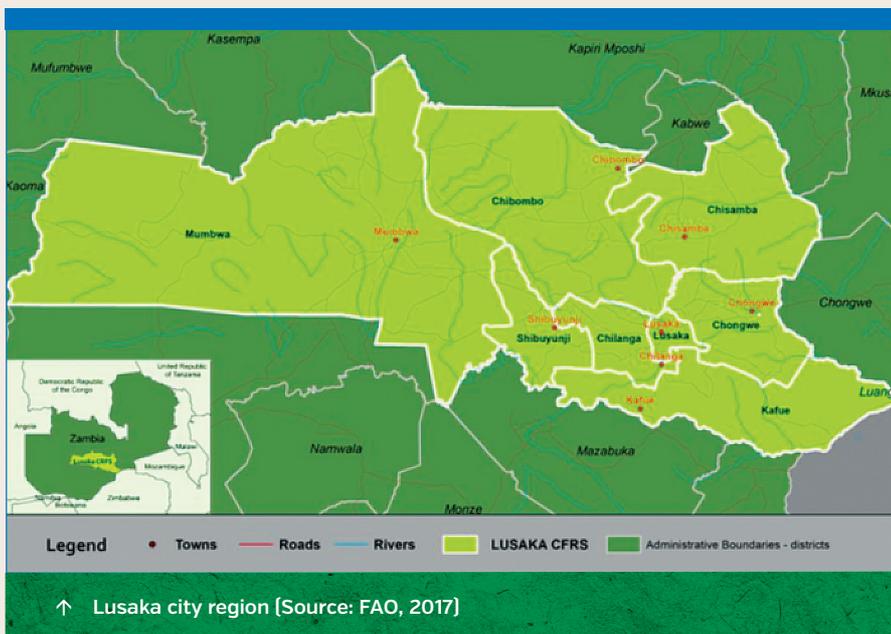


Assessing and Planning City Region Food System

Lusaka (Zambia)



:: Introduction

Lusaka city region is made of 8 districts: Lusaka, Mumbwa, Chibombo, Chisamba, Shibuyunji, Chongwe, Kafue, and Chilanga. This area is defined on the basis of the origin and flows of the food commodities that represent the typical food basket of the city region dwellers. It has been estimated that around **60% of the food consumed in Lusaka is produced in the city region area**. The area covers 4.3 million hectares and includes districts from both the Lusaka and Central Provinces.

:: Describing the city region food system (CRFS)

Food production: Who feeds the city region?

In Lusaka city region, approximately half of the households involved in food production. As shown in the map below, the main produced items are: **maize (94% of smallholder farmers)**, **chickens (68%)**, **groundnuts (60%)**, **sweet potatoes (58%)**, **vegetables (45%)**, **goats (30%)**, **cattle (23%)**, **mixed beans (18%)**, **cassava (12%)** and **cotton (10%)**.

To feed the city region, basic food products come mostly from rural areas outside the city region, within Zambia or imported from abroad. Provision of fresh products come mainly from peri-urban areas within the city region. Nevertheless, despite agroecological and economic potential, the **demand for horticultural products is higher** compared to the local supply.

Agricultural production in Zambia and in the city region is facing **several challenges**. Smallholder farmers are mostly provided **inputs** by the government through the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) programme, which has not, generally, encouraged **crop diversification**, particularly before the introduction of the electronic voucher.

Access to land for farmers is regulated through the council or through the chief and/or headman of the village (titled land or traditional land, respectively). The requested financial contribution to access land, particularly statutory land, is often limited for farmers that cannot afford it.

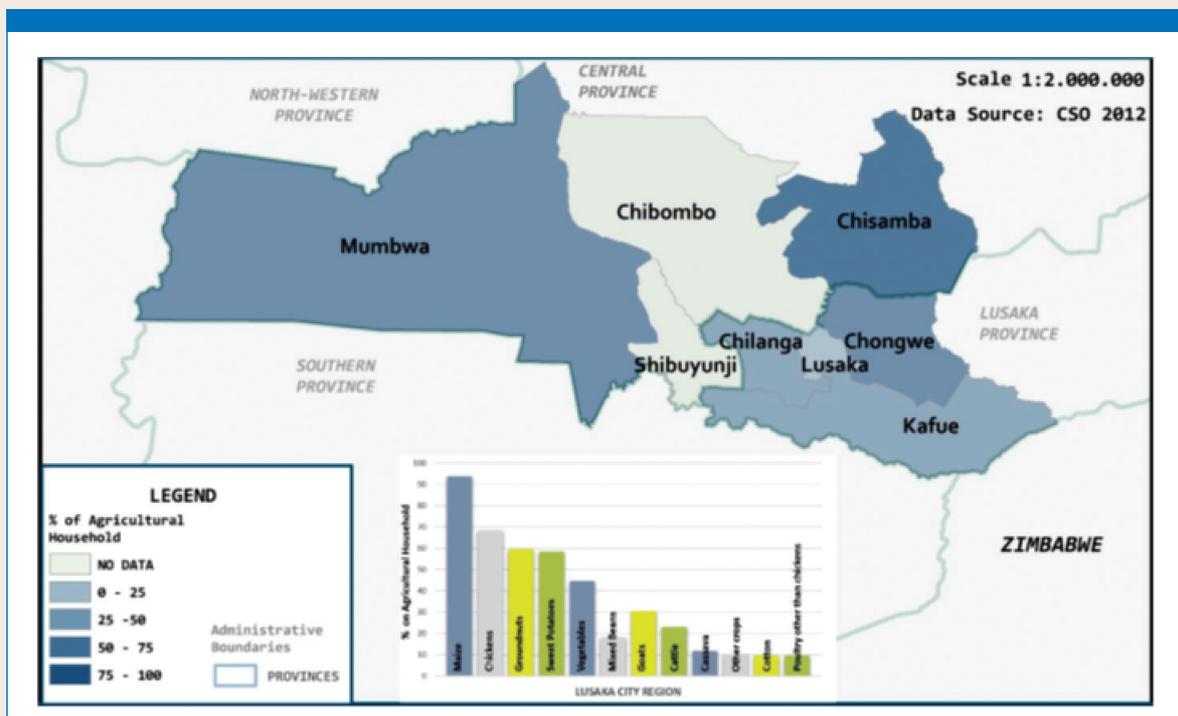
Only **25% smallholder farmers** are using **conservation agriculture** practices. The use of agrochemicals remains high, and sometimes not handled in a sound manner, endangering the workers' health and the environment.

Food processing, distribution and marketing

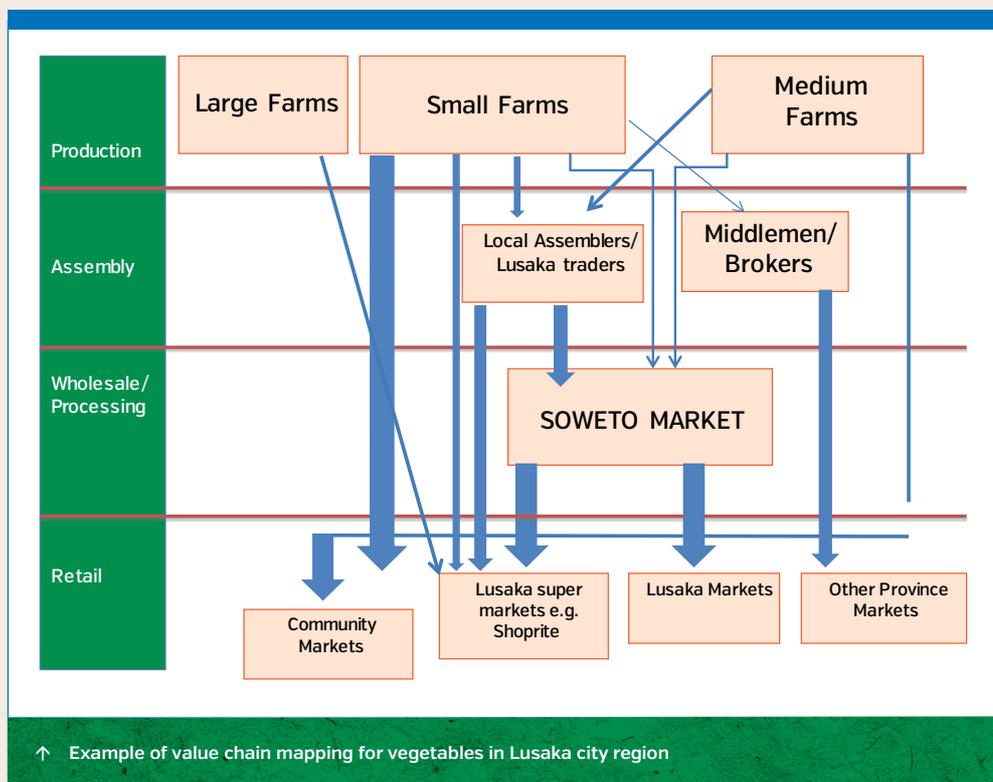
Despite the number of large scale food processing plants present in the city region, most products from **smallholder farmers** in the selected districts **are sold raw with little value addition**. Particularly, there is little on farm transformation, which results in important **food losses and waste**, especially in terms of fresh horticulture products.

The **transport network** in Lusaka city region appears to be **limited**, particularly in the rainy season when rural roads are difficult to traverse. Moreover, in the city region, farmers are **lacking good quality storage** facilities, on farms, during transportation and at the market that negatively impacts the conservation of especially fresh products. The poor quality of transportation and storage facilities is responsible for considerable losses and waste due to damages.

The **Soweto market** (in Lusaka), one of the most significant market channels responsible for sustaining commercialization in the city region and in Zambia, represent practically the only important food distribution hub in the city region, both for wholesaling and retailing. The **lack** of



↑ % of agricultural households and commodities produced in Lusaka city region
 [Source: Central Statistical Office of Zambia, 2012]



important **decentralized food hubs** in the city region, jointly with the poor road infrastructure, represent a significant constraint for smallholder farmers particularly in remote areas.

In the city region, differently from large agribusiness companies, smallholder farmers mostly sell their products through **Middlemen and brokers** retailers and brokers, especially at Soweto market. The value chain is strongly driven by brokers and commission agents that represent a consolidated informal system that dictate the terms of trade in terms of price, quality and volumes. This limits the freedom of farmers to market their products in a transparent manner.

Food consumption

Food insecurity and malnutrition rates in urban areas are quite significant in informal settlements. **Diabetes** and **anaemia** are some of the main **causes of prime-age adult death**. On the contrary, **food insecurity rates in formal settings are quite low**.

Poor households in Lusaka district have a nutritionally inadequate diet: while maize remains an important component of poor urban households' diet in Zambia, **consumption of fruit and vegetables is low**, especially among vulnerable groups/high density neighborhoods. **The share of food budgets on livestock products and processed food increases with affluence**.

Traditional market channels (market stands, mobile and street vendors and the Kantemba Sector) account for about **60% market share for staples in Lusaka**, where most of the dwellers buy their food. Food bought and

consumed outside home is an increasing phenomenon, also among poor households.

Food loss and waste

A majority of farmers in the city region are producing waste, especially in the horticulture production subsector, due to the lack of appropriate transport and storage infrastructures. Most of the time, losses and waste are not reused, but dumped. Unsold products at the market at the end of the day, are most of the time not brought back to the farms/homes, because of non-appropriate transportation facilities, leading to considerable food waste.

Governance of the food system

There is no single existing institution mandated to govern the food system within the city region, as well as the whole Country. The agriculture sector is primarily governed by policies and legislation developed and implemented through the **Ministry of Agriculture**. Other sectors such as National Policy on Environment [2007], Fisheries Policy [2011], **National Forestry Policy** [2014], environment, land, Minerals Development Policy [2013] and National Water Policy [2010] also have legislation that affects the way the agriculture policy is governed. The principle governing policy is the National Agriculture Policy [2012-2020] whose primary aim is to ensure that agriculture contributes to reducing poverty and increasing incomes at household level. Locally and within each municipal jurisdiction, agriculture is also governed through the local council by-laws.

:: Opportunities for strengthening the CRFS

Lusaka city region food system can be strengthened at different levels.

Agricultural practices can be improved to shift to **conservation agriculture** for a limited impact on soils, ecosystems and the workers' health. There is the need to improve access to proper information and training on these specific agricultural practices, as well as raising awareness and establishing more control over the use of agrochemicals. The government's **FISP programme** needs to provide a more stable access to inputs for smallholder farmers, while encouraging crop diversification.

There is high potential for **local vegetable production**. The high demand for vegetables in the city region could enjoy more local supply. This requires addressing the issues of high cost of production, limited knowledge of improved farming techniques and practices and price variability.

The **transportation network** in Lusaka city region could be improved to provide easier access to markets for farmers and minimize food wastage along the road. More and better **storage** facilities

[regular and cold storage] should be put in place during transportation and at the markets. **On-farm processing facilities** particularly could benefit the farmers and avoid or minimize food waste and losses.

Stronger control and **regulation of broker and commission agents'** activities at the markets is needed, especially at Soweto market [Lusaka]. This would allow for better access to markets by farmers and a more equitable conditions among the actors involved in the value chain.

The fragmented **governing bodies** for food systems do not normally work in collaboration; a **multistakeholder** and **inter-institutional** mechanism or body responsible to define food strategies and policies would be key to reinforce the food system, in order to ensure food and nutrition security, including food safety.

Empowering **women** and the **youth** with knowledge on the importance of adopting food and nutrition practices that promote **good health** and sustainability could be promoted in Lusaka city region.

:: Policy and planning interventions for CRFS

Within a multistakeholder and participatory process, policy strategies and intervention plans are being identified to strengthen the city region food system:

| Thematic Area | Prioritized areas of intervention |
|---|--|
| Nutritional Policy and Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nutrition education (especially in urban areas) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote national Food-based Dietary Guidelines and the taxation of junk foods ■ Food Safety (Quality and Traceability) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable use of agrochemicals by training and inspections |
| Sustainable Rural & Peri-urban Agricultural Production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Land tenure under customary land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonize and disseminate adequate guidelines ■ Storage and processing capacity of horticultural products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce implementation of existing legislation, particularly the Food and Drugs Act |
| Food Supply System | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Market information systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote agribusiness incubation system • Revise agriculture trade policies and strengthen their enforcement to be more favorable to farmers, especially women farmers |

Implementation plans are being finalized, to be widely shared and used as a basis for discussion. Most of the proposed strategies will be implemented within the various relevant existing policies/policy frameworks, plans/actions and legislations. However, some of the existing policies/policy frameworks and pieces of legislation may need to be reviewed and enhanced to facilitate smooth and effective implementation of some of the proposed strategies.

Contacts

Christian Chomba, FAO Zambia. Email: christian.chomba@fao.org

Gilbert Siame, FAO Zambia. Email: siamegilbert@yahoo.co.uk

Guido Santini, FAO. Email: guido.santini@fao.org

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