YOUNG EMERGING FARMERS INITIATIVE (YEFI)

PROPOSAL
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1. Abbreviations

CSA - Climate Smart Agriculture
DACO - District Agriculture Coordinator
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation
M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation
MP - Member of Parliament
SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals
SOA - Sustainable Organic Agriculture
ToR - Terms of Reference
YACA - Young Agriculture Conservation Agents
YEFI - Young Emerging Farmers Initiative
2. Overview and Rationale

Climate Change has affected the environment significantly in the entire world and agriculture sector has been directly affected by this particular change. In recent years Zambia’s climatic condition has been changing and in recent seasons, the country has faced tragic circumstances due to the effects of Climate Change via the el nino effect. Farmers also contributes towards the changes in climate through cutting down of trees (over 100,000 trees per year) and poor agriculture practices like Chitemene and burning of fields both at provincial and national level. In Lundazi, Chinsali, Mkushi, Serenje and Chitambo, people still use a lot of synthetic fertilizers and chemicals, burn their field before cultivating and cut down a lot of trees. Most young people in the areas mentioned have a wrong attitude and perception about Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) due to less or no information about CSA. The young people in these areas are not taking advantage of this type of agriculture which requires less financial resources to start and has high returns in the long-run. Majority (over 95%) of the target population are not in formal employment and therefore are looking for a venture that would give them quick returns of which Sustainable Organic Agriculture (SOA) requires patience and time for the soil to have the desired organic matter. It is to this reason why the aspect of mind set change is very important among the target population.

There have been several organizations in the areas such the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) promoting sustainable agriculture. This project that will focus on informing the youths on Sustainable Organic Agriculture, develop as well as strengthen the Agro-businesses run by youths/women and give them tools to be able to reach out to other people in the communities. The project earlier focused on disseminating information about sustainable organic agriculture among the youths and the role the youths can play to contribute towards the achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project aims at promoting sustainability and the environmental management, the SDGs will be translated in the local language; Bemba and Nyanja/Tumbuka. This will ease the understanding of the youths of the young people about the SDGs and what they can do to contribute towards achieving them. Youths and women will be taught how to practice sustainable organic agriculture, good natural resource management, agroforestry and sustainable livelihood actions like poultry, beekeeping and value addition. The project will still focus on achieving SDGs 1, 2, 13, 15 and 17.

In 2019 Young Emerging Farmers Initiative (YEFI) had undertaken some awareness trainings on climate smart agriculture (sustainable organic agriculture) in these areas under the Young Agriculture Conservation Agents (YACA) project and Zambia Youths for Conservation, Agriculture and Livelihood Action (ZYCALA) project and the response was amazing from the participants and they were very willing to try out the methods and techniques. However, there was limited time and resource to do so in other areas. The project will continue furthermore to have the youths trained in other sustainable agricultural activities as well as engage the community and local leaders on issues of climate
change and agriculture and practicability of sustainable organic agriculture in the 21st century in Africa and Zambia in particular. The project will target 500 youths and women. Young Emerging Farmers Initiative will target young people from the age of 15 to 35 years, both males and females as well as women in the target areas. The project will also ensure at least 5 to 10 percent of the direct beneficiaries are people with disabilities to foster diversity and inclusion. The project will build capacity of the Agro-businesses run by youths/women by providing business development services and Seed Funds for them to be able to scale.

3. **Overall Goal**

To contribute towards the reduction of poverty among 500 youths and women, conserve the environment through building capacity (technical and financial) of the youths in Muchinga, Eastern and Central provinces of Zambia as Agents of Change in their community and promotion of climate smart agriculture (CSA)

4. **Objectives, indicators and activities**

**Critical Pathway**

**Goal:** To contribute towards the reduction of poverty among 500 youths and women, conserve the environment through building capacity (technical and financial) of the youths in Muchinga, Eastern and Central provinces of Zambia as Agents of Change in their community and promotion of climate smart agriculture (CSA).
Training youths (Sustainable agriculture techniques, Livelihood trainings, Leadership). Engaging Relevant stakeholders

Undertaking panel discussions and radio shows

Identifying the area to plant the tree. Conducting tree planting exercises.

Establish and strengthen sustainable enterprises and registering.

Youths Trained and informed

Stimulated conversations around issues of climate change and agriculture

Youth/women Agro-businesses registered and/or strengthened.

Relevant stakeholders engaged /partnership

Increased number of Young farmers practicing the techniques learnt on CSA/SOA

Increased number of sustainable agriculture enterprises established and Increased income

Increased number of Youths lobbying from relevant support structures

Increased number of youths planting trees

Reduce poverty levels through improved food security and household income and conserve the environment at local level via the use of sustainable practices in the target population and surrounding areas
**Objectives**

- To promote sustainable agriculture techniques in Lundazi, Chinsali, Mkushi, Serenje and Chitambo Districts.
- To conduct trees planting exercise in Lundazi, Chinsali, Mkushi, Serenje and Chitambo district.
- To engage local authorities and youths/women in conversations around CSA and SOA in Lundazi, Chinsali, Mkushi, Serenje and Chitambo districts.
- Establish and strengthen sustainable enterprises in Lundazi, Chinsali, Mkushi, Serenje and Chitambo district.

**Indicators**

i. The number of young people who understand the sustainable agriculture method/technique (500 youths/women)
ii. The number of farmers practicing sustainable organic agriculture, (500 farmers).
iii. The number of trees planted in a selected schools and selected areas (1000 trees).
iv. The number of trees planted by youths (plant a tree campaign).
v. The number campaigns undertaken (1 campaigns in each district).
vi. The number of radio outreach (10 shows).
vii. The number of stakeholders engaged (5 stakeholders).
viii. The number households reached, (1000 households).
ix. The number of sustainable enterprise established and/or strengthened (20 Agro-enterprise).

**5. Approaches/Strategies**

A young farmer focus approach is critical considering that the largest population in Zambia constitute of young people and young people are more responsive to intervention. Farmers in these areas are one of the major contributors of environmental destruction and degradation due to the use of bad agricultural practices like the Chitemene system, the intensive use of Synthetic fertilizers and chemicals. It is important to target the youths as it is one of the ways to reach out to the larger community. Promotion of Sustainable organic agriculture is very critical to the conservation of natural resources and allows farmers to continuously engage in agriculture
without spending a lot of money on synthetic fertilizers and chemicals as well as stop deforestation. Tree planting will also be encouraged and promoted through a tree planting exercise.

Young Emerging Farmers Initiative will train young people and women to become agents of change in their community so that they can be able to reach out to other members of their communities and other surrounding communities. The translating the SDGs in local languages had made it easy for the young people to understand the SDGs and the role they can play in the food system towards the achievement of these goals. Young Emerging Farmers Initiative will also encourage the formation/strengthening of youth cooperatives/clubs so that the young people can be organized to stimulate the social enterprise in the long run. YEFI will work through existing structure such as cooperatives and partners who will take on the project on the ground to monitor actives such as radio programmes and community outreach. The project will also create as well as facilitate markets for the youths/women through strategic partnerships with relevant players in the agriculture sector. This will increase the capacity of these enterprises to conserve the natural resources, increase food security and nutrition as well as income at household level.

The use of local language during the training will make it easy for the young people to understand as well as teach other members of their community. The youth and women will be encouraged to dialogue and interact with the local authorities such as traditional leaders, Counciolors, Members of Parliament (MP). The youth will work on advocating for a local policy from the traditional leaders such as no cutting of trees but branches or cut one plant two policies. The promotion of cooperatives will help the youths/women organise themselves towards the practice of sustainable organic agriculture. The young people will conduct a tree planting exercise with the involvement of local tradition leaders with the intention to advocate for local policy implementation on trees. The young people will advocate for no cutting down of tree but branches policy and/or cut one plant two policy, to the traditional leaders. The agents of change will also be able to help reduce deforestation through the promotion of sustainable organic agriculture.

Over time, the youth cooperatives/clubs should be able to stimulate local economies through sustainable Organic Agriculture in the long-run, as well as livelihood actions such as Beekeeping, Organic Poultry, and Value addition. The youth people will have to start conducting awareness campaigns on their own as organized youths through the ‘My Farm My Swag Campaign’. The aspect of young people becoming agents of change will be necessary to reach the intended objectives as this information dissemination to the larger community will dependent on these young people.

YEFI will work with a volunteer focal persons to help in the running of the activities at local level.
6. **Relationships**

Young Emerging Farmers Initiative developed a model of called *Hold-Hands Model*, in this model YEFI believe in working with different key stakeholders in the agriculture sector that can help in achieving the organisation’s goal and objectives. YEFI intended to collaborate with Global Platform Zambia, Agents of change Foundation, Seed companies, as well as companies that can buy from farmers like LUSH. Young Emerging Farmers Initiative with also work with government institutions such as Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Ministry of Youths, Sports and Child development.

Young Emerging Farmers Initiative will also work hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Agriculture under the District Agriculture Co-ordinator (DACO) office. It is very important to recognize and work with government institutions as they will always be there even after the project ends. It is to this fact that the Ministry through the DACO’s office are engaged since they directly work with the farmers both in rural and urban areas. YEFI will also work with the ministry of General Education, through schools at district level. The Districts Commissioners will also be engaged.

7. **Resources**

**Human Resource**

The project will require 5 personnel to implement the project. This will include 1 Project officer, 1 project Coordinator, 1 Communications Officer, and 1 Finance Officer. At least two of the personnel will undergo a trainer of trainer training on advocacy or already undergone training.

Project Officer – Will be responsible for the overall day-to-day operation of the project. He/she is a lead personnel of the project and will be responsible for reporting to Actionaid International Zambia. He/she will also be responsible for M&E processes and reports.

Project Coordinator – He/she will assist the Project Officer in the YACA project. He/she will be responsible to support the Project Officer on M&E processes and reports. He/she will also be responsible for mobilizing target population and organizing events. He/she will offer 50% level of effort to the project.
Comms. Officer – Will be responsible for all communications related to the YACA project. He/she will be responsible for publishing project related content of all YEFI social media platforms. He/she will offer 30% level of effort to the project.

Finance Officer/Accountant – He/she will be responsible for all financial aspects of the project. He/she will prepare regular financial reports and check all financial documentation and controls. He/she will offer 30% level of effort to the project.

Support Staff – Will be responsible for supervising of the Project Officer and Project Coordinator. He or She will oversee the Overall operation of the Project and ensure ensures the Project Officer has the necessary tools to implement the project. The Position will the take up by a senior member of management.

**Financial Resources**

Budget for twelve months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Project Details</th>
<th>18 Months ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Admin. Cost</td>
<td>4,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Direct Costs/Programmes</td>
<td>45,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**8. Risk Analysis**

Assumptions

i. The youths and women will be willing to participate in this project.

ii. There will be political will to support the project.

iii. Government institutions will show support to the project.

iv. Young farmers will be willing to take up sustainable organic agriculture.
Risks

i. Young people will not be willing to take part in the trainings.

ii. Relevant authorities like government institutions will not show support to the project.

iii. Young farmers will not be willing to take up in the campaigns.

Management of risks

i. Already identified young farmers that are willing to participate in the project.

ii. Use that right procedure to engage the relevant authorities.

iii. Emphasis on the long-term benefits of sustainable organic agriculture.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The M&E and learning for this project will be the responsibility of project manager and the project coordinators. YEFI will work on developing an M&E system and a participatory M & E approach will be used where possible with the help of the M&E department.

M&E activities include:

- Fine-tune log-frame & indicators. Devise simple formats for additional baseline data required. Develop reporting formats and tracking systems using a participatory M&E approach where possible.

Quarterly: Update reports to log-frame, scheduling to be submitted to the board and donors quarterly (6 month).

Annual: Reflection and planning meetings with team and core stakeholders to draw out lessons learned; check progress against milestones, indicators, outcomes; identify changes to plans & unexpected outputs; share experiences and review strategy. Include beneficiary and stakeholder input. Financial audit.

Final project year: ToR for project evaluation. Project evaluation to measure impact. Stakeholder meetings and beneficiary consultations. Mid-term & End project. The end of project evaluation will depend on the availability of resources.
Ongoing tracking systems (to be finalized)

- Internal reporting formats
- Log of significant meetings and action points
- Log of network activity
- Pre / post training questionnaires on attitudes and skills
- Mini case studies on training experiences and most significant change stories from participants
- Dissemination materials blog, f/b page, Twitter etc.
- stakeholder / beneficiary meetings for feedback, input and to share lessons learned

10. Estimate of reach and advocacy achievements

The project will directly engage 500 young people and women in two years in the 5 target areas. The project is expected to reach out to about 1000 households at local level in the target areas and about 500,000 people through press and social media platforms. Young Emerging Farmers Initiative will build capacity in the young people to become agents of change in their localities for effect reach out to the general population in the target areas of the project.
11. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The project will strictly adhere to the M&E framework stipulated below.

Goal:
To contribute towards the reduction of poverty among 500 youths and women, conserve the environment through building capacity (technical and financial) of the youths in Muchinga, Eastern and Central provinces of Zambia as Agents of Change in their community and promotion of climate smart agriculture (CSA).

Objective 1: To promote sustainable agriculture techniques/activities in Lundazi, Chinsali, Mkushi, Serenje and Chitambo Districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Results</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Project Target</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcome 1: Increased number of Young farmers practicing the techniques learnt on CSA/SOA</td>
<td>Number of young people who understand the CSA/SOA technique within project catchment</td>
<td>500 Young people in able to explain the CSA/SOA technique</td>
<td>YEFI M&amp;E report</td>
<td>Youths will be willing to learn and understand</td>
<td>Once in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of farmers practicing CSA/SOA within project catchment</td>
<td>500 young farmers practicing CSA/SOA</td>
<td>YEFI M&amp;E report Ministry of Agriculture Camp records (District)</td>
<td>Atleast 10% will be interviewed and generalize the entire target</td>
<td>Once in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outputs 1.1: Youths trained and informed</td>
<td>Number of Youths trained</td>
<td>500 young farmers</td>
<td>YEFI attendance list</td>
<td>Youths will be willing to learn and understand</td>
<td>Once in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outputs 1.2: Stimulated conversations around issues of climate change and agriculture</td>
<td>Number of meetings on CSA/SOA</td>
<td>5 meetings</td>
<td>YEFI M&amp;E report Min. of Agriculture Camp record</td>
<td>Youths will adopt the concepts and be willing to educate others</td>
<td>Once in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goal:
To contribute towards the reduction of poverty among 500 youths and women, conserve the environment through building capacity (technical and financial) of the youths in Muchinga, Eastern and Central provinces of Zambia as Agents of Change in their community and promotion of climate smart agriculture (CSA).

Objective 2: To conduct tress planting exercise in Lundazi, Chinsali, Mkushi, Serenje and Chitambo Districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Assumptions</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcome 1: Increased number of Youths planting trees</td>
<td>Number of trees planted in two selected schools within project catchment</td>
<td>100 School Pupils plant a tree each</td>
<td>YEFI M&amp;E report, Target school records, Traditional leaders’ records</td>
<td>Youths will be willing and understand the importance of trees</td>
<td>Once in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of trees planted by the Youth (direct beneficiaries) within project catchment</td>
<td>1000 trees planted</td>
<td>YEFI M&amp;E report</td>
<td>Atleast 10% sample will be interviewed and generalize to the entire target group</td>
<td>Once in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outputs 1.1: Stimulated conversations around issues of climate change (environment)</td>
<td>Number of climate change engagements done by the direct beneficiaries</td>
<td>20 engagements</td>
<td>YEFI M&amp;E report, Youth club records</td>
<td>Youths will be willing and understand the importance of trees</td>
<td>4 in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Goal:**
To contribute towards the reduction of poverty among 500 youths and women, conserve the environment through building capacity (technical and financial) of the youths in Muchinga, Eastern and Central provinces of Zambia as Agents of Change in their community and promotion of climate smart agriculture (CSA).

**Objective 3:** To engage local authorities in conversations around CSA and SOA as well as partner with relevant stakeholders in Lundazi, Chinsali, Mkushi, Serenje and Chitambo Districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Results</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Project Target</th>
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<th>Assumptions</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 1:</strong> Increased number of Youths lobbying and linked to relevant support structures</td>
<td>Number of stakeholders engaged</td>
<td>Atleast 5 relevant stakeholders are engaged</td>
<td>YEFI attendance list</td>
<td>Stakeholders will be willing to be engaged</td>
<td>One in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of people reached through radio</td>
<td>10 radio programmes</td>
<td>Radio Station records</td>
<td>Youths will be supported</td>
<td>twice in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outputs 1.1:</strong> Local authorities and relevant stakeholders engaged.</td>
<td>Number of stakeholders engaged</td>
<td>Atleast 5 relevant stakeholders are engaged</td>
<td>YEFI Attendance list and records</td>
<td>Stakeholders will be willing to be engaged and partner with the Youths/Women</td>
<td>At least one in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goal:
To contribute towards the reduction of poverty among 500 youths and women, conserve the environment through building capacity (technical and financial) of the youths in Muchinga, Eastern and Central provinces of Zambia as Agents of Change in their community and promotion of climate smart agriculture (CSA).

Objective 4: To Establish and strengthen sustainable enterprises in Lundazi, Chinsali, Mkushi, Serenje and Chitambo Districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Results</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Project Target</th>
<th>Means of Verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 1:</strong> Increased number of sustainable agriculture enterprises established</td>
<td>Number of Youth/women led established enterprises</td>
<td>At least 16 enterprises established/strengthened</td>
<td>Certificate of registration and/or Seed Funds received.</td>
<td>Youths will meet the registration requirements, or the capacity requirement to get the Seed Fund</td>
<td>At least one in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outputs 1.1:</strong> Youth clubs formed and registered</td>
<td>Number of management meetings of the enterprise</td>
<td>100 management meeting</td>
<td>Meeting minutes</td>
<td>The enterprise will be registered and/or follow good business management ethics.</td>
<td>At least 5 in each district</td>
<td>Project Officer and Project coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I declare that the information given in this proposal gives a true and fair view.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Richard Kachungu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cofounder, Director – Resource Mobilisation / M&amp;E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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