



# Zambesia Enterprises Ltd

Cultivating a Greener Future

Annual Report, 2024



[www.zambesiaent.co.zm](http://www.zambesiaent.co.zm)



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# Introduction

Zambesia Enterprise Ltd. is a pioneering start-up in Zambia, dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and mitigating climate change through the cultivation of *Gliricidia sepium*. Commonly known as *gliricidia* or *madre de cacao*, this fast-growing leguminous tree matures early and has extensive applications in agriculture and environmental management. It is used as a living fence for livestock, a protein-rich fodder for ruminants, and a nitrogen-fixing species that enhances soil fertility and organic carbon through green manure.



The tree serves multiple purposes, including efficient fuelwood production, providing shade for crops, and supporting climbers like vanilla. Additionally, it acts as an insect repellent and rodenticide. Its rapid growth and early maturity make it ideal for agroforestry and climate change mitigation, contributing significantly to carbon capture, soil health improvement, biodiversity, and resilience to climate variability. Thus, *Gliricidia sepium* offers eco-friendly solutions to the challenges faced by Zambia's agriculture and energy sectors.



Recognizing the urgent need for climate resilience, Zambesia Enterprise has focused its efforts in the Southern Province, a region severely impacted by prolonged droughts and poor crop yields due to climate change and unsustainable farming practices. Consultations with key traditional leaders, including Chief Cooma of Choma District and Chief Sipatunyana of Kalomo District, as well as engagements with local village headmen and cooperatives, revealed overwhelming support for the initiative. This reflects a shared understanding of the importance of adopting sustainable agricultural practices.



# Objectives



- **Increase Tree Planting:** Set annual targets for tree planting and collaborate with local cooperatives and farmers to facilitate tree-planting initiatives.
- **Enhance Soil Health:** Educate farmers on the benefits of *Gliricidia sepium* for improving soil fertility and structure through nitrogen fixation. Promote agroforestry practices that integrate these trees with crops to enhance biodiversity and sustainability.
- **Carbon Sequestration Measurement:** Develop systems to measure and report carbon sequestration achieved through tree-planting efforts. Conduct baseline assessments to evaluate the long-term impact of *Gliricidia sepium* on carbon capture.
- **Community Engagement and Training:** Organize workshops to educate communities on the environmental benefits of agroforestry and tree planting. Provide training on best practices for planting, maintaining, and utilizing *Gliricidia sepium* trees.
- **Promote Sustainable Land Use:** Advocate for sustainable land management practices that incorporate *Gliricidia sepium* as part of larger agroforestry systems. Support smallholder farmers in transitioning to agroecological practices to enhance resilience to climate change.
- **Economic Benefits for Farmers:** Develop value-added products from *Gliricidia sepium*, such as fodder for livestock and biomass for energy, to boost farmers' incomes. Establish market linkages for farmers to sell products derived from agroforestry systems.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Create a robust framework to monitor the growth and health of *Gliricidia sepium* trees and their ecological impacts. Regularly assess the effects of agroforestry practices on crop yields and farmers' economic benefits.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Forge partnerships with NGOs, government agencies, international organizations, and academic institutions to expand the project's reach and effectiveness. Collaborate with research institutions to study the ecological impact of *Gliricidia sepium* in Zambia's context.
- **Awareness and Advocacy:** Launch awareness campaigns to emphasize the importance of tree planting and agroforestry in combating climate change. Advocate for policies that support agroforestry initiatives and sustainable land use in Zambia.



# Nurseries Setup and Planting



**Kanchele Village**

**Nachibanga Farm**

**Siasikabole Village**



Nurseries across key villages, including Kanchele, Siasikabole and Nachibanga were successfully setup. Each nursery was strategically positioned to cater to surrounding communities, ensuring accessibility for farmers and other stakeholders.

- **Kanchele Village (Kalomo District)**: Focused on early-stage nursery development, this site became a model for soil preparation and seed propagation techniques.
- **Nachibanga Farm (Choma District)**: Known for its consistent germination rates, this nursery emphasized youth participation in potting and maintenance.
- **Siasikabole Village (Choma District)**: Designed to serve a larger geographic area, this nursery supported multiple cooperatives by providing seedlings for expansive agroforestry projects.

These nurseries collectively produced thousands of *Gliricidia sepium* seedlings, ready for transplanting into farmlands. The high success rates in germination highlighted the effectiveness of Zambia's hands-on training and quality input materials.



# Achievements

From August to December 2024, Zambesia achieved several significant milestones:

- Planted over **300,000** *Gliricidia sepium* trees in nurseries across Choma and Kalomo, leveraging existing community structures such as cooperatives and farmer groups covering some **270** hectares.
- Provided essential resources, including locally procured seeds, poly plastic bags, shade nets, and watering cans, to support nursery establishment—all offered at no cost to farmers.
- The initiative operates on a collaborative model, working closely with the **Provincial Forestry Office (PFO)**, **Provincial Agricultural Coordinating Office (PACO)**, agriculture camp officers, and forest guards. To ensure seamless implementation, additional support comes from dedicated project coordinators and village-level coordinators.
- **Farmer Engagement:** Zambesia Enterprise Ltd reached out to a total number of **6,750** small scale farmers in Choma district and Kalomo district.



By integrating traditional leadership, community structures, and government offices, Zambesia Enterprise Ltd. has established a robust foundation for scaling its tree-planting initiative. This aligns with the company's mission to combat climate change while empowering local communities. The partnership marks a critical step toward achieving sustainable agriculture, environmental restoration, and resilience in Zambia's Southern Province.

## Key Outcomes

- Enhanced soil fertility for local farmers through increased availability of quality seedlings.
- Strengthened community ties through cooperative collaboration and shared responsibilities.
- Improved local capacity for managing agroforestry systems, laying a foundation for expanded impact in 2025.

By placing nurseries at the heart of their operations, Zambesia Enterprise Ltd. not only increased access to essential resources but also empowered communities to take ownership of sustainable agricultural solutions.



# Training and Leadership Engagement

In 2024, Zambesia Enterprise Ltd. conducted impactful training sessions, reaching out to more than 42 cooperative groups in Choma and Kalomo districts. The training focused on practical agroforestry techniques, including nursery management, *Gliricidia sepium* integration with crops, and soil health improvement.



Training session on nursery preparations and my management in Kanchele village

## Participation

- **Women Trained:** Women actively engaged in the sessions, with many taking on leadership roles in managing nurseries and leading community initiatives.
- **Men Trained:** Men contributed to the technical aspects of nursery setup and field demonstrations, ensuring strong community buy-in for agroforestry practices.
- **Youths Trained:** Young participants were especially prominent, with their energy and commitment driving activities such as potting and seedling care.

## Key Outcomes

- **Improved Capacity:** The training equipped participants with practical skills, resulting in better seedling survival rates and improved crop yields.
- **Community Empowerment:** Trainees became local ambassadors, sharing their knowledge to expand the reach of sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Gender and Youth Inclusion:** Women and youths played pivotal roles in ensuring the success and sustainability of Zambesia's programs.



# Challenges



As a start-up, Zambesia Enterprise Ltd. faced significant challenges:

- **Financial Constraints:** Operating without government or donor funding limited Zambesia's ability to procure seeds, establish nurseries, and organize essential training workshops and educational materials.
- **Resource and Logistical Challenges:** High costs for nursery infrastructure and insufficient transportation hindered outreach to under-served areas, affecting equitable resource distribution and project implementation.
- **Limited Training and Awareness Efforts:** A lack of funds restricted the scope of workshops and the production of educational materials, reducing the project's ability to engage and educate communities effectively.
- **Inadequate Monitoring and Evaluation:** Financial and logistical limitations made it difficult to establish a robust monitoring framework, leading to gaps in tracking tree health, environmental impact, and overall progress.
- **Scaling and Expansion Limitations:** Despite community interest, Zambesia struggled to expand its operations to additional regions due to insufficient funding and operational resources.



# Future Plans



Zambesia Enterprise Ltd. aims to secure partnerships and financial support from donors and stakeholders to:

- **Facilitate Key Events:** Successfully organize the tree planting launch event scheduled for February 2025 at Chief Cooma's Palace in Choma, Southern Province.
- **Expand the *Gliricidia Sepium* Project:** Target the planting of an additional 500,000 trees in collaboration with local farmers, schools, and communities.
- **Achieve Ambitious Goals:** Set a milestone of planting 1,000,000 trees by the end of 2025 to further enhance reforestation efforts.
- **Enhance Nursery Capacity:** Expand nurseries and increase the availability of seedlings to meet the rising demand from farmers.
- **Broaden Project Reach:** Acquire funding to scale the project to additional chiefdoms within Southern Province, broadening its impact and benefits.



- **Strengthen Community Engagement:** Develop comprehensive training programs and workshops for farmers and communities, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to manage *Gliricidia sepium* plantations effectively.
- **Develop Value-Added Products:** Introduce initiatives to create value-added products from *Gliricidia sepium*, such as livestock fodder, organic fertilizers, and biomass energy, to enhance farmers' incomes and create market opportunities.
- **Establish Monitoring and Reporting Systems:** Implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track tree survival rates, carbon sequestration, and project outcomes, ensuring transparency and continuous improvement.



# Conclusion

Zambesia Enterprise Ltd.'s initiative to plant *Gliricidia sepium* trees marks a significant stride in addressing the dual challenges of climate change and sustainable agricultural development in Zambia. By focusing on agroforestry and partnering with local cooperatives and small-scale farmers in the Southern Province, the project aims not only to improve soil health and biodiversity but also to empower communities both economically and socially.



Meeting Chief Sipatunyana (center) at his palace in Kalomo District. 9/10/24



Women of Kanchele village tending to their *Gliricidia* nurseries

Integrating *Gliricidia sepium* into local farming practices delivers numerous benefits, including enhanced soil fertility through nitrogen fixation, increased carbon sequestration, and opportunities for diverse income streams from value-added products. Through education and capacity-building initiatives, Zambesia Enterprise Ltd. is fostering a culture of sustainability that promotes both environmental conservation and economic resilience.

As the project evolves, monitoring and evaluating its impact will be essential to achieving its objectives and maximizing benefits for all stakeholders. Zambesia Enterprise Ltd.'s dedication to combating climate change through innovative agroforestry practices establishes it as a leader in promoting sustainable development in Zambia. This initiative lays the groundwork for a greener, more resilient future for the environment and local communities alike.



# Directors



Mr. Thomas Syamujaye brings a wealth of experience in education to Zambesia Enterprise Ltd. With a strong background in teaching and curriculum development, he has dedicated his career to empowering communities through knowledge and sustainable practices. His passion for climate change and smart agriculture drives his commitment to educating farmers and cooperatives about the benefits of agroforestry and environmental stewardship. Mr. Syamujaye believes that informed communities are key to fostering a sustainable future and is actively involved in training programs that promote innovative agricultural techniques.



Mr. Zandi Hamalambo is an accomplished Engineer with extensive experience in Mining Engineering, Contract Sourcing, project management, Safety and Environmental sustainability. His technical expertise complements the mission of Zambesia Enterprise Ltd, where he focuses on integrating smart agricultural practices with innovative engineering solutions. Driven by a deep concern for climate change, Mr. Hamalambo is passionate about developing sustainable systems that enhance productivity while minimizing environmental impact. His leadership is instrumental in implementing efficient practices that support local farmers and promote resilience in agricultural communities.



Together, Mr. Syamujaye and Mr. Hamalambo lead Zambesia Enterprises Ltd with a shared vision of advancing sustainable agriculture and combating climate change through education, innovation, and community engagement.

Together, we can cultivate a greener future.



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