

RESEARCH FOR AGROECOLOGY NETWORK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (RAENS)

Zambia Chapter | Led by NPGRC - ZARI

About RAENS:

RAENS is a four-year regional initiative (2025–2029) implemented across Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, aimed at promoting agroecology through research, learning, knowledge sharing, and policy engagement.

Coordinated by CCARDESA, RAENS involves a group of eight implementing partners:

- University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa (project lead)
- Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi
- Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Tanzania
- Marondera University of Agriculture, Science and Technology (MUASt), Zimbabwe
- The Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI)
- Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), Malawi
- Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland
- Young Professions for Agricultural Development (YPARD), Germany

The project seeks to transform the agricultural landscape by promoting sustainable, regenerative, and people-centered farming systems.

In Zambia, RAENS is implemented by:

National Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NPGRC) – ZARI

Collaborators: PELUM-Zambia, Department of Agriculture-extension services, Mulungushi University, etc.

Main Objective:

To establish a robust, innovative, and sustainable multi-actor transdisciplinary agroecology research and knowledge network in Southern Africa to strengthen existing initiatives, showcase the potential and scalability of agroecology, facilitate shifts in agricultural training and research towards agroecological and regenerative ways of producing food, fibre, and fodder, and to inform, thereby leading to an enabling landscape for agroecology uptake, research and training.

Focus Areas:

1. Agronomy (intercropping, crop diversification, mulching, potholing, minimum tillage, etc.)
2. Soil health improvement (biochar, composting, etc.)
3. Agroforestry
4. Promotion of indigenous seed varieties (on-farm conservation, etc)

5. Participatory variety selection

Implementation Sites:

1. Chipata
 2. Mumbwa - Kaoma
 3. Choma
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Why Agroecology?

Agroecology integrates ecological science with traditional knowledge, farming innovation, and social justice—making it a powerful pathway to climate resilience, food security, and ecosystem restoration.

 RAENS Promotes Agroecology To:

- ☒ Strengthen and scale successful practices
- ☒ Encourage regenerative production of food, fibre, and fodder
- ☒ Reform education and training for sustainability
- ☒ Create an enabling policy environment.

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✦ Let's build a future where agriculture heals, empowers and sustains.

RAENS – Rooted in Knowledge, Growing with Communities!

