



# CEPHaS8

## Conservation Agriculture Perspectives



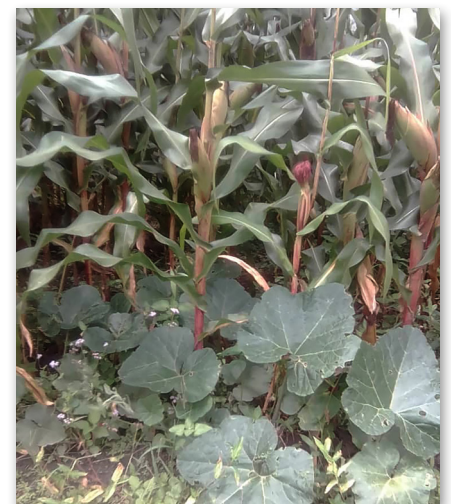
Bernadette Malamba is a small-scale farmer in Zambia, and board member of the Zambian Chapter of Rural Women's Assembly who attended the CEPHaS stakeholder meeting in Lusaka in 2019. The Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) was formed in 2009 and in the past years the movement has grown and taken root across Southern Africa. The RWA can best be described as self-organized network or alliance or national rural women's assemblies, grass root organizations and chapters of mixed peasant unions, federations and movements across several countries in the SADC region.

1. How is climate change affecting the lives of communities you know and how do they adapt?

- Climate change has affected most areas in our country by floods destroying houses, gardens and farms. Many people are staying in tents provided by the government through the Disaster Management Mitigation Unit. As Rural Women's Assembly, we need to learn techniques and strategies of climate change adaptation and ways how to mitigate.
- Communities affected have nothing at the moment because everything has been destroyed by floods. They are now dependent on handouts from the government and well-wishers.

2. Are communities you know using conservation agriculture (not tilling the soil, covering it with mulch, using crop rotations)? What benefits have they found from conservation agriculture, and does it cause any problems?

- In my area we have started with small portions. But in other areas where they started a longer time ago, they have big fields and they are doing fine.
- The benefits are soil preservation and the soil becomes more nutrient-rich. Under minimum tillage, agroecology is preserved. It doesn't cause any problem.

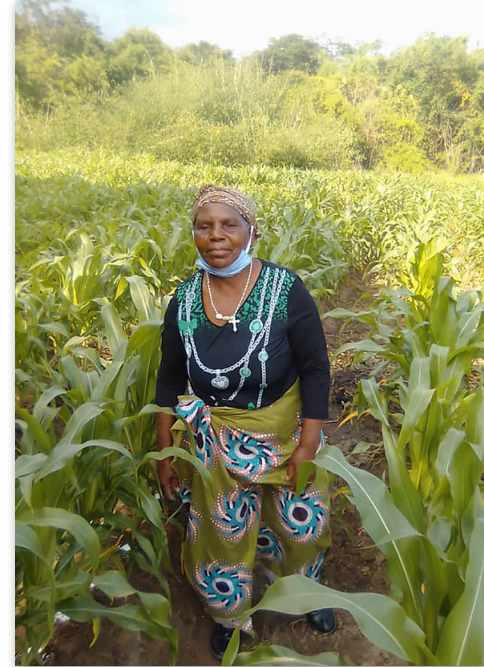


*Maize-bean and maize-pumpkin intercropping at Ms Malamba's field.*

3. Are there any questions about agriculture and water supply related to climate change which you think scientists should be trying to solve?

- Yes, farmers need support in terms of acquiring knowledge on how to overcome the problems when hit with climate change and how to prevent climate change. Water is big challenge everywhere on farm lands. We only depend on rain water. So as Rural Women's Assembly we want more training on how to harvest water so that we can be having food throughout the year while practicing conservation agriculture.

To find out more, visit our webpages at <https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/CEPHaS> and follow us on twitter @CEPHaS\_Soil



Ms Malamba, other stakeholders and members of the CEPHaS team at the Liempe experimental site during the 2019 stakeholder event.



CEPHaS is funded by UK Research and Innovation through its Global Challenges Research Fund programme.

