

Zambia's Conservation Farming Unit — National Smallholder Conservation Agriculture Programme

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Zambia

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since 1995 Zambia's Conservation Farming Unit has trained smallholders in minimum-tillage, crop-rotation farming. Multi-year on-farm trials (2016-2021) found maize yields 24-39% higher than conventional ploughing, driven by better use of scarce rainfall.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-08

[Conservation Farming Unit \(Zambia National Farmers Union\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-08

[Plant and Soil \(Springer\)](#) — multi-year on-farm trial results, 2024 — accessed 2026-09-08

[ReliefWeb](#) — Zambia: conservation farming proves popular with farmers — accessed 2026-09-08

Cite this — Evidoria. *Zambia's Conservation Farming Unit — National Smallholder Conservation Agriculture Programme*. Persistent ID: 8dd748c0-3c7a-44f1-b6f8-919db2724925.