



Received: 17-08-2026
Accepted: 27-09-2026

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Research and Studies

ISSN: 2583-049X

Examining the Effectiveness of the Zambia's Land Policy on Agricultural Productivity: A Case Study of Small-Scale Farmers in Mufumbwe District

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.62225/2583049X.2026.6.5.6961>

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Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of Zambia's land policy for small-scale farmers in Mufumbwe District. While policies aim to improve agricultural productivity, there is limited information on how they affect rural farmers. The key problems identified include restricted access to land, unclear land rights, and insufficient financial support, which hinder farmers' success. The research employed a mixed-methods approach, surveying 100 participants comprising small-scale farmers, agricultural extension officers, and land officials. Data was collected through questionnaires and analyzed using statistical software to uncover patterns and trends. The results reveal a significant awareness gap: only 26% of respondents are knowledgeable about the land

policy. Highland leasing/purchase costs and lack of formal land titles were reported as major challenges by 63% and 24% of participants, respectively. Furthermore, 48% cited inadequate financial support as a key issue stemming from the land policy. While 39% of farmers maintained their agricultural income, only 17% saw an increase due to secure land ownership. The study recommends several actions for policymakers. Improving training on land rights, increasing financial support for small-scale farmers, and simplifying land titling processes are crucial. Encouraging community involvement in land decisions can also ensure the policy meets the needs of marginalized groups, such as women and youth.

Keywords: Land Policy, Agricultural Productivity, Small-Scale Farmers, Mufumbwe District, Zambia

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Land is considered a scarce resource globally, especially in Africa, due to fixed supply and increasing demand. This has led to challenges for leaders in managing land effectively. Zambia covers 752,614 square kilometers, divided into 10 provinces and 115 districts, with most land being customary (93.9%). The country shares borders with eight other nations, requiring careful management of its boundaries to avoid conflicts.

Historically, indigenous people held land through family or community systems, but colonial rule shifted land control to Europeans, creating disparities. After independence in 1964, Zambia inherited various land categories, including State Land and Customary Land. Over the years, land policies have aimed to support small-scale farmers, but many still face challenges, such as high costs and unclear land rights. Recent drafts of land policies sought to improve agricultural productivity and reduce poverty, but implementation remains weak.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite land policy efforts to improve housing and agricultural productivity in rural areas like Mufumbwe District, there is limited data on their effectiveness. Many rural residents lack titled land, and current policies have not met expectations. Challenges include unclear land rights, limited access to credit, and inadequate infrastructure. Small-scale farmers often struggle with insecure land tenure, which affects their ability to invest in improvements. Additionally, gender disparities in land rights persist, excluding women from accessing land resources. This study aims to assess how land policy affects

agricultural productivity, focusing on land tenure security, access to inputs, economic benefits, and financial support.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General objective

The general objective of the study is to determine the effectiveness of land policy on agricultural productivity in Mufumbwe district.

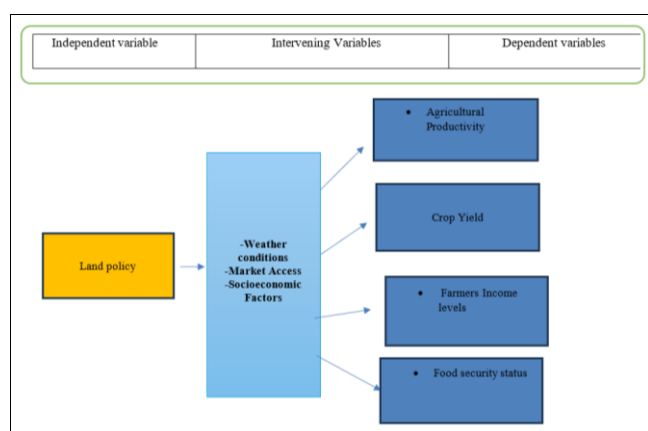
1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To assess the effectiveness of land policy on land access for small-scale farmers in Mufumbwe District.
2. To examine the socioeconomic implications of the land policy on livelihoods in Mufumbwe District.
3. To evaluate the effectiveness of land policy in fostering sustainable land management practices in Mufumbwe District.
4. To ascertain the limitations on land policy and economic empowerment in Zambia.

1.4 Research Questions

1. How has the land policy influenced land access for small-scale farmers in Mufumbwe District?
2. What are the socioeconomic implications of the land policy on livelihoods in Mufumbwe District?
3. How effective is the land policy in fostering sustainable land management practices in Mufumbwe District?
4. What are the limitations on land policy and economic empowerment in Zambia?

1.5 Theoretical Framework



The conceptual framework established the relationship between land policy (independent variable) and agricultural outcomes like productivity, crop yields, farmer incomes, and food security (dependent variables). It indicated that effective land policies could positively influence these outcomes through interventions such as securing land rights, improving access to agricultural inputs, and providing financial support.

The framework acknowledged that several factors, including weather conditions, market access, and socioeconomic variables like education and poverty, mediated this relationship. These factors complicated how land policies affected agricultural productivity.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study aimed to enhance land policy effectiveness for small-scale farmers. By examining the impact of land policies, it provided insights for policymakers and

development practitioners, helping them create targeted interventions. The findings were expected to inform evidence-based policymaking, address social and economic challenges, and support advocacy for improvements in land policy.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Overview

This chapter reviewed research on land policy effectiveness for agricultural productivity, focusing on small-scale farmers in Mufumbwe District, Zambia. It addressed land access, tenure security, socio-economic implications, sustainable land management (SLM), and policy limitations.

2.2 Effectiveness of Land Policy on Land Access

The effectiveness of land policy depended on tenure security and administrative efficiency (Doss *et al.*, 2018) [20]. Clear rights and recognition of customary claims led to fewer disputes and improved productivity. Evidence from Asia and Latin America showed that land registration expanded credit access and technology use (Deininger *et al.*, 2020) [17], but weak markets diminished these benefits (Lawry *et al.*, 2017). Inclusion of women and youth in reforms was critical for enhancing investment and resilience.

2.3 Socio-Economic Implications

Secure land rights correlated with increased investments and poverty reduction (de la O Campos *et al.*, 2018) [15]. However, formalization alone did not guarantee equitable gains, especially in exclusionary markets. Studies from India and Bangladesh highlighted the negative impacts of land grabbing on vulnerable communities, emphasizing the need for well-regulated land policies.

2.4 Land Policy and Agricultural Productivity in Zambia

Zambia's dual land tenure system influenced access and outcomes. Women and youth faced significant barriers, necessitating more equitable policies (Manenga *et al.*, 2021). The 8th National Development Plan aimed to improve tenure security and access for marginalized groups (GRZ, 2022) [28]. Research indicated that secure land tenure was essential for enhancing livelihoods, with resettlement schemes showing positive impacts despite challenges in information access.

2.5 Limitations of Land Policy

Studies identified challenges in land management across different economies, highlighting the need for context-specific policies (VanHolst *et al.*, 2014). Research indicated that formal land registration often did not significantly boost productivity due to various constraints (Akinyemi and Mushunje, 2019).

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Overview

This chapter outlined the research methodology used to assess the effectiveness of Zambia's land policy on agricultural productivity, focusing on small-scale farmers in Mufumbwe District. It covered research design, target population, sampling techniques, data collection methods, data analysis, and ethical considerations.

3.2 Research Design

A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining

quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. Structured questionnaires were the primary tool for quantitative data, while focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) provided qualitative insights.

3.3 Target Population

The target population included small-scale farmers, agricultural extension officers, land department officials, and NGO representatives involved in agricultural development in Mufumbwe District.

3.4 Sampling Design

The study used a combination of simple random sampling for small-scale farmers and purposive sampling for key informants to capture diverse perspectives.

3.5 Sample Size

A total sample size of 100 respondents was targeted to gather a variety of experiences and opinions.

3.6 Data Collection

Primary data was collected through structured questionnaires distributed online and offline using platforms like Kobo Toolbox. Secondary data came from government reports and academic publications related to land policy.

3.7 Data Analysis

Statistical software, STATA and Excel, was used for data analysis, enabling the creation of statistical tables and graphics to identify patterns and trends.

3.8 Triangulation

Triangulation was achieved by integrating quantitative and qualitative methods, enhancing the study's validity and reliability.

3.9 Limitations of the Study

Challenges included high costs for printing materials and participant hesitance to share honest opinions, which could affect data quality and reliability.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and respect for participants. Transparency about the research purpose allowed participants to make informed decisions regarding their involvement.

4. Results/Findings

4.0 Presentation of results on background characteristics of the respondents

Data interpretation involves analyzing and deriving meaning from presented data, going beyond raw numbers to identify patterns, relationships, and implications. It requires understanding the context of data collection and study objectives. Researchers use statistical methods to uncover trends and significant findings, leading to informed conclusions and recommendations. The following sections will present the study's findings and interpretations, discussing their implications, limitations, and suggestions for future research.

4.1 Presentation of results on the background characteristics of the respondents

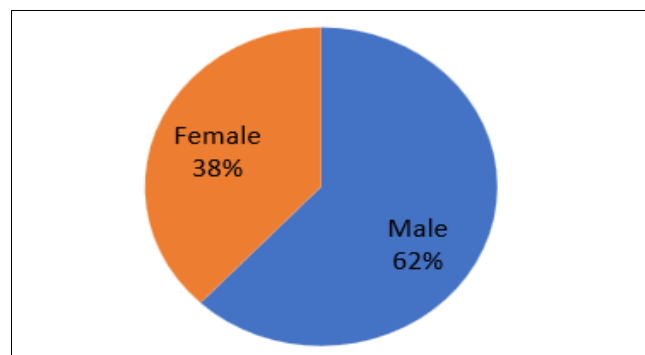


Fig 4.1.1: Gender of the respondent

The survey results indicate that out of the 100 respondents, 62% were male, while 38% were female.

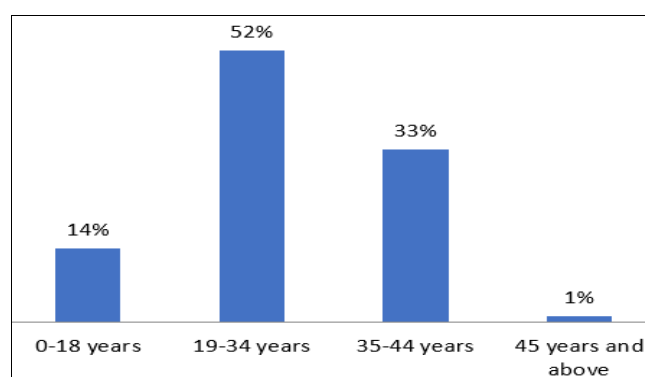


Fig 4.1.2: Age range

The results show that the majority of respondents, 52%, fall within the age range of 19 to 34 years. 33% of respondents are aged between 35 and 44 years, while only 14% are aged 0 to 18 years. The very small percentage of respondents aged 45 years and above, at just 1%, indicates that older farmers are underrepresented in this study.

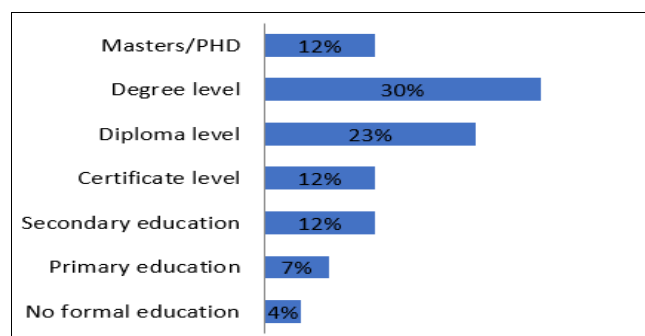


Fig 4.1.3: Highest level of education

The results regarding the highest level of education among respondents reveal a diverse range of educational backgrounds. As shown in Fig 4.1.3, 30% of participants hold a degree. 23% of respondents have a diploma, while 12% hold certificates. 4% of respondents reported having no formal education, and 7% completed only primary education.

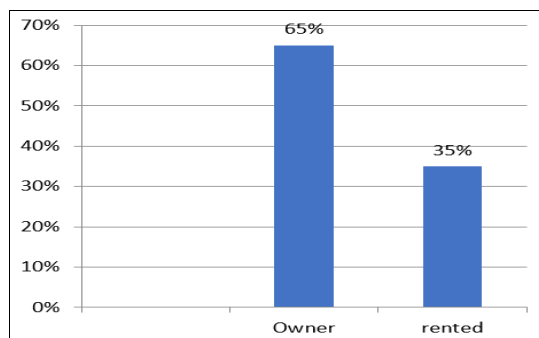


Fig 4.1.4: Farm ownership/rented

Table 4.2 shows the ownership status of the farm or land among the respondents. According to the data, 65% of the participants own their farm or land, indicating a strong trend towards ownership in this study. 35% of the respondents rent their land. This suggests that a significant majority of the farmers have a direct stake in their agricultural activities, which may lead to greater investment in their farming practices. The high percentage of land ownership could also reflect a sense of stability and commitment to farming, as owners are likely to be more invested in the long-term success of their operations. Overall, the findings highlight the importance of land ownership in the farming community, as it can influence farming decisions, investment in resources, and overall sustainability of agricultural practices.

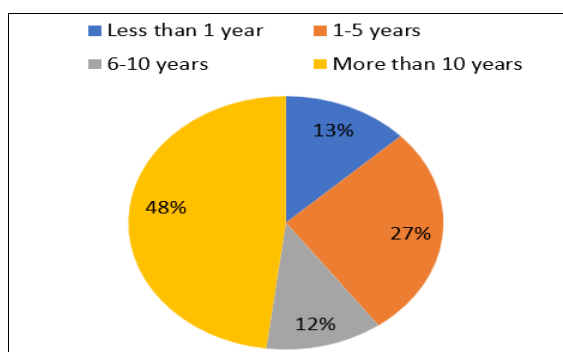


Fig 4.1.5: Number of Years Engaged in Farming

Fig 4.1.5 presents the distribution of respondents based on the number of years they have been engaged in farming. The data reveal that 13% of the participants have been involved in farming for less than one year. 27%, falls within the 1 to 5 years category, bringing the cumulative percentage to 40%. 12% of respondents have been engaged in farming for 6 to 10 years, and 48% have been farming for more than 10 years, culminating.

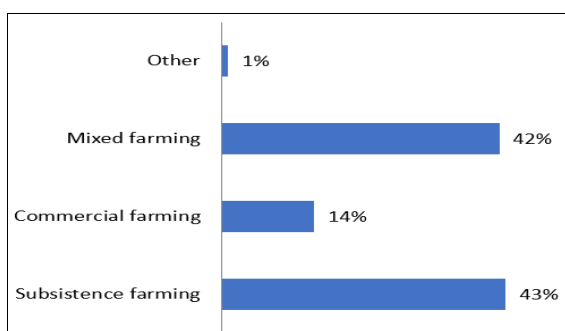


Fig 4.1.6: Farming practice

Fig 4.1.6 outlines the types of farming practices adopted by the respondents in the study. The results reveal that 43% of the participants engage in subsistence farming, 42% of the respondents practice mixed farming, which combines both crop cultivation and livestock rearing. 14% of the respondents are involved in commercial farming, which is aimed at producing goods for sale in the market, and 1% of the farmers reported practicing other types of farming, highlighting that the majority adhere to the three main practices mentioned.

4.2 Presentation of results based on a thematic area developed from objective one: To assess the effectiveness of land policy on land access for small-scale farmers in Mufumbwe District

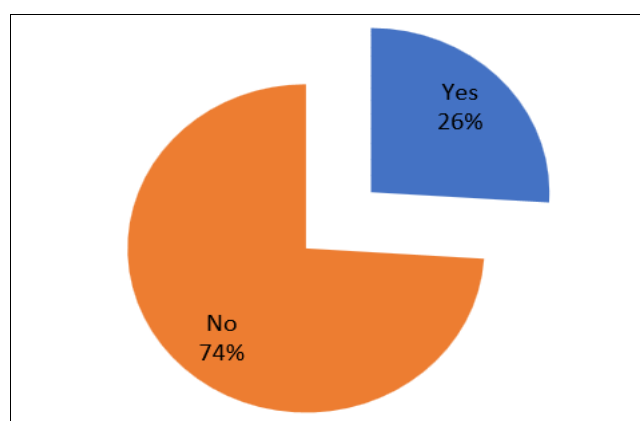


Fig 4.2.1: Current Zambia's land policy concerning agriculture

Fig 4.2.1 presents the respondents' awareness and understanding of the current land policy concerning agriculture in Zambia. The data shows that only 26% of the participants are familiar with the land policy. 74% of the respondents reported that they do not know or understand the current land policy.

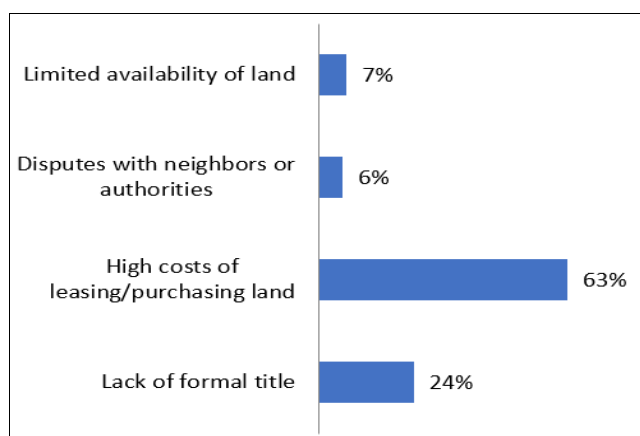


Fig 4.2.2: Challenges Faced Regarding Land Access

Fig 4.2.2 outlines the challenges faced by respondents regarding land access. The results indicate that a significant 63% of the participants identified high costs of leasing or purchasing land as their primary challenge. 24% of respondents reported a lack of formal title as a challenge. Only 6% of the participants mentioned disputes with neighbors or authorities as a challenge, and 7% of respondents noted limited availability of land as a challenge.

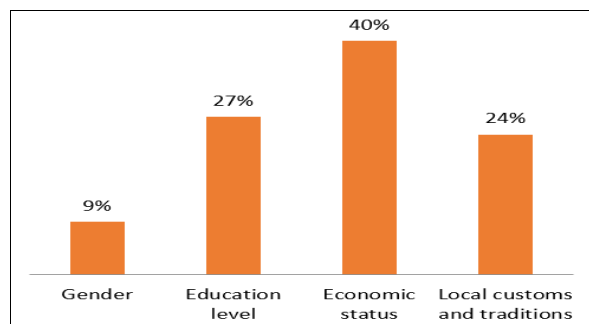


Fig 4.2.3: Factors influencing access to land the most

Fig 4.2.3 presents the factors influencing access to land among the respondents. The results indicate that economic status is the most significant factor, with 40% of participants identifying it as a primary influence on their access to land. Education level is the second most influential factor, with 27% of respondents acknowledging its impact. Local customs and traditions also play a significant role, as indicated by 24% of respondents who recognized this factor. Lastly, gender was identified as the least influential factor, with only 9% of participants citing it as a primary concern.

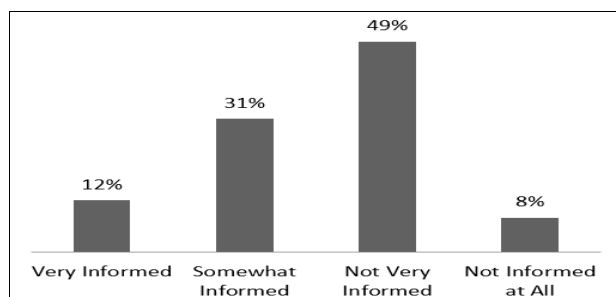


Fig 4.2.4: How informed do you feel about your rights under the current land policy

Fig 4.2.4 illustrates the respondents' perceptions of their knowledge regarding their rights under the current land policy. The results reveal that only 12% of the participants feel "very informed" about their rights, indicating a significant lack of comprehensive understanding among the majority. 31% of respondents consider themselves "somewhat informed," suggesting that while they have some awareness, it may not be sufficient to fully understand or advocate for their rights. 49% of the respondents reported that they are "not very informed," and 8% stated that they are "not informed at all." This means that nearly 58% of the participants lack adequate knowledge of their rights, which can have serious implications for their ability to navigate land-related issues effectively.

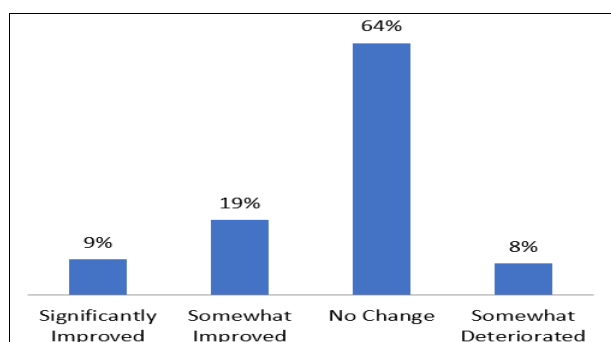


Fig 4.2.5: Impact of the land policy on the ability to secure land

Fig 4.2.5 presents the respondents' perceptions of how the current land policy has affected their ability to secure land. The results indicate that only 9% of participants believe that the land policy has "significantly improved" their ability to secure land. This low percentage suggests that very few farmers feel that the policy has made a meaningful difference in their ability to access and maintain land ownership. A slightly larger group, 19%, reported that their ability to secure land has "somewhat improved." While this is a positive sign, it still reflects a limited impact, with only a small fraction of respondents feeling that the changes have been beneficial. In contrast, a significant majority, comprising 64% of respondents, indicated that there has been "no change" in their ability to secure land. This finding is concerning, as it suggests that the land policy has not effectively addressed the barriers and challenges that farmers face in accessing land. 8% of participants reported that their ability to secure land has "somewhat deteriorated." This indicates that some farmers may have experienced negative consequences as a result of the land policy, possibly due to increased competition, disputes over land, or other external pressures that have made securing land more difficult.

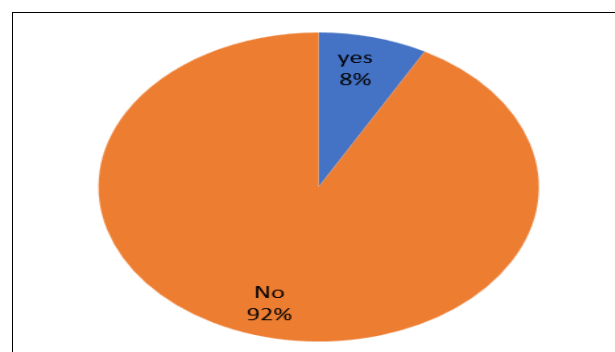


Fig 4.2.6: Have you participated in any workshops or training on land policy

The pie chart reveals that the vast majority of respondents, 92%, have not participated in any workshops or training on land policy, while only 8% have participated in such activities.

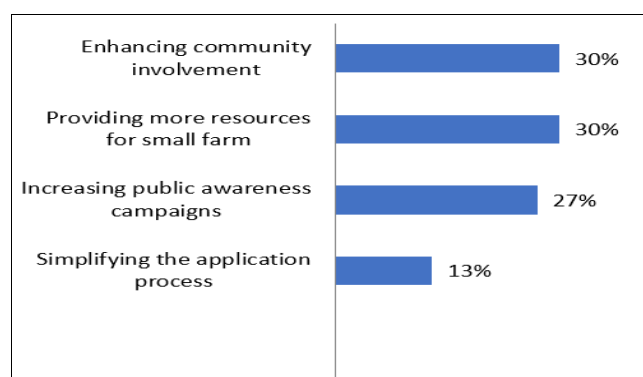


Fig 4.2.7: How can the land policy be improved

Fig 4.2.7 presents the respondents' suggestions for improving the current land policy in Mufumbwe District. The most commonly suggested improvement, at 30% of responses, is enhancing community involvement. Another 30% of respondents recommended providing more resources for small-scale farmers. Increasing public awareness for small-scale farmers. Increasing public awareness

campaigns was suggested by 27% of participants, while 13% advocated for simplifying the application process.

4.3 Presentation of results based on a thematic area developed from objective two: To examine the social-economic implications of the land policy on livelihoods in Mufumbwe District

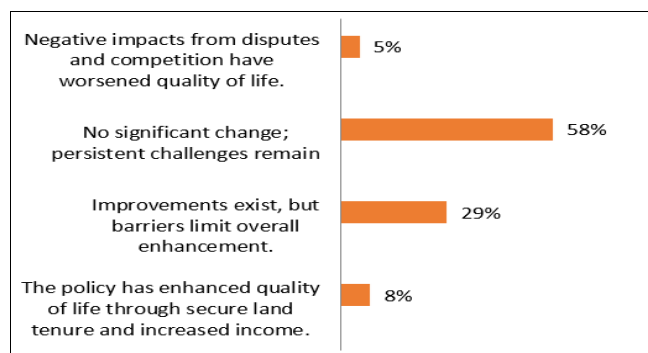


Fig 4.3.1: Do you believe that the land policy has improved your overall quality of life

Fig 4.3.1 presents the responses of participants regarding whether they believe the land policy has improved their overall quality of life. The results indicate a mixed perception among respondents. 8% of participants feel that the policy has significantly enhanced their quality of life through secure land tenure and increased income. 29% of respondents, acknowledges that there are some improvements, but they also recognize that various barriers limit the overall enhancement of their quality of life. 58%, reported that there has been no significant change in their quality of life, indicating that persistent challenges remain. 5% of participants indicated that the land policy has had negative impacts on their quality of life, citing disputes and increased competition for land as factors that have worsened their situation.

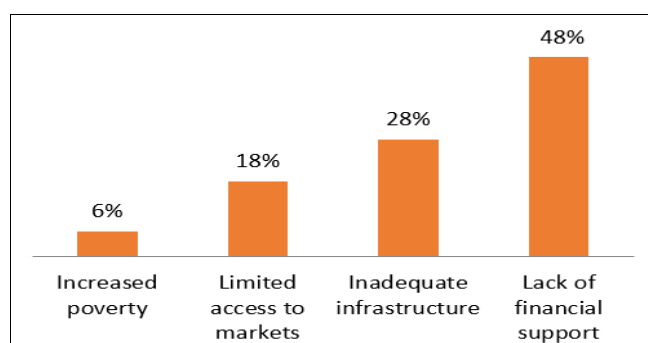


Fig 4.3.2: Socio-economic challenges faced as a result of the land policy

Fig 4.3.2 illustrates the key socio-economic challenges faced by the respondents as a result of the land policy. The data reveals several significant issues that have impacted the community's quality of life. The most prominent challenge, according to 48% of the participants, is the lack of financial support. Another significant issue, reported by 28% of respondents, is the limited access to markets. Inadequate infrastructure, as indicated by 18% of participants, is another challenge that undermines the effectiveness of the land policy. 6% of respondents reported that the land policy has led to increased poverty.

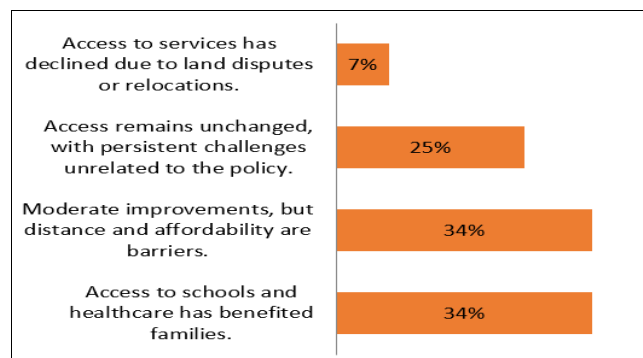


Fig 4.3.3: Ways land policy impacted your access to essential services

Fig 4.3.3 presents the responses from participants regarding the impact of the land policy on their access to essential services, such as schools and healthcare. 34% of respondents indicate that access to schools and healthcare has benefited families. 34% of participants reported moderate improvements in access to services, but they also noted that distance and affordability remain as barriers. 25%, stated that access to services has remained unchanged, with persistent challenges unrelated to the land policy. 7% of participants reported that access to services has declined due to land disputes or re-locations.

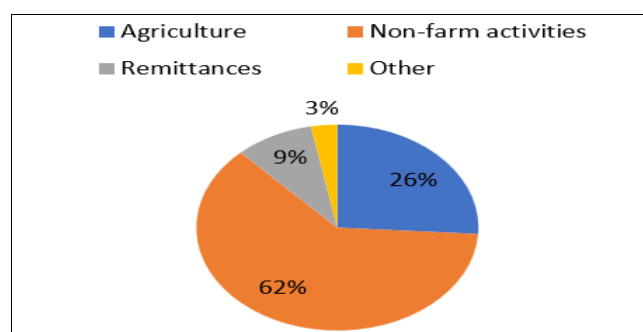


Fig 4.3.4: Primary source of household income

Fig 4.3.4 presents the primary sources of household income in the study area. 62% comes from non-farm activities. Agriculture accounts for 26% of household income. Remittances, which are financial transfers from family members or relatives living outside the local area, contribute 9% of household income. The "Other" category, which includes sources such as government assistance, pensions, or other miscellaneous income, makes up 3% of total household earnings.

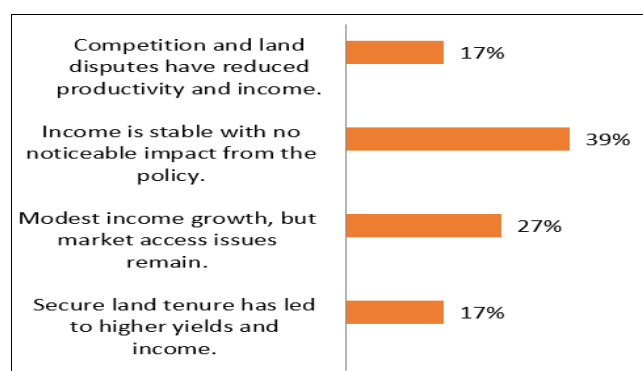


Fig 4.3.5: Effects of land policy on income from agricultural activities

Fig 4.3.5 examines the effects of the land policy on household income from agricultural activities in the study area. The data reveal that for 39% of households, their income from agriculture has remained stable with no noticeable improvement. 27% of households have experienced modest income growth, which they attribute to improved market access. 17% of households, secure land tenure has led to higher yields and incomes from their agricultural activities. Another 17% of households have reported that competition and land disputes have reduced their income from agriculture.

Table 4.3.6: Relationship between the socio-economic challenges faced by respondents due to land policy and the impact of that policy on their access to essential services

Key		frequency				chi2 contribution	
C2. What socio-economic challenges do you face as a result of the land policy? (		C3. In what ways has the land policy impacted your access to essential services					
		Access to	Moderate	Access re	Access to	Total	
Increased poverty		3	2	1	0	6	
		0.5	0.0	0.2	0.4	1.0	
Limited access to mar		2	10	3	3	18	
		2.8	2.5	0.5	2.4	8.1	
Inadequate infrastruc		9	8	11	0	28	
		0.0	0.2	2.3	2.0	4.5	
Lack of financial sup		20	14	10	4	48	
		0.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	1.6	
Total		34	34	25	7	100	
		4.1	3.0	3.3	4.9	15.3	
Pearson chi2(9) = 15.3072 Pr = 0.083							

The chi-square test provides insights into the relationship between the socio-economic challenges faced by respondents due to land policy and the impact of that policy on their access to essential services. The results are summarized below:

The total number of respondents is 100, with a chi-square statistic of Pearson chi2 (9) = 15.3072 and a p-value of 0.083.

Interpretation of Chi-Square Results

1. Statistical Significance

The p-value of 0.083 is above the commonly used alpha level of 0.05, indicating that we fail to reject the null hypothesis. This suggests there is no statistically significant association between the socio-economic challenges faced due to land policy and the impact of that policy on access to essential services.

2. Implications for the Study

The results indicate that while some respondents report various socio-economic challenges, these challenges do not significantly differ in their impact on access to essential services. For instance, the high number of respondents citing "Lack of Financial Support" as a challenge (48) indicates that this issue is prevalent, but it does not correlate strongly

with how access to services is perceived across the different challenges.

3. Challenges Highlighted

Limited Access to Markets: This category has the highest chi-square contribution (8.1), suggesting that limited access to markets significantly impacts perceptions of service access. This may indicate that farmers who face market access issues are more likely to perceive a moderate impact on their access to essential services, which could relate to their ability to generate income and fund service access.

Inadequate Infrastructure: The contribution of 4.5 indicates that infrastructure issues are also a notable concern, as they can directly affect farmers' ability to access markets and essential services.

In conclusion, the chi-square analysis indicates that while socio-economic challenges related to land policy are prevalent among respondents, they do not show a statistically significant impact on access to essential services. This finding highlights the need for comprehensive policy approaches that address the underlying issues affecting farmers' livelihoods, particularly in enhancing market access and infrastructure development. By focusing on these areas, policymakers can work towards improving the overall effectiveness of land policies and their impact on small-scale farmers in Mufumbwe District.

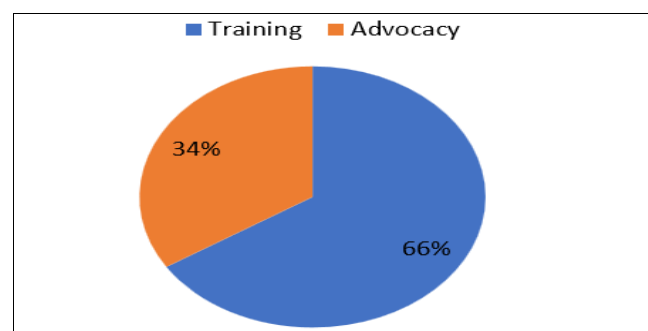


Fig 4.3.7: Role of agricultural cooperatives in your farming activities

Fig 4.3.7 presents the roles that agricultural cooperatives play in the farming activities of the respondents. The data reveals that the primary role of the cooperatives is providing training, as reported by 66% of the participants. The second key role of the cooperatives, as cited by 34% of respondents, is advocacy.

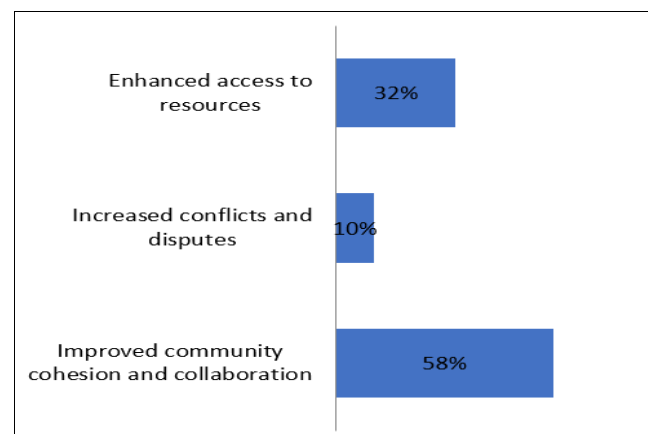


Fig 4.3.8: How has the land policy affected your community

Fig 4.3.8 examines how the land policy has affected the community in Mufumbwe District, as reported by the respondents. The most prominent impact, as cited by 58% of the participants, is "Improved community cohesion and collaboration." Another significant impact, noted by 32% of respondents, is "Enhanced access to resources." The study also reveals a concerning impact, with 10% of respondents reporting "Increased conflicts and disputes" as a result of the land policy.

4.4 Presentation of results based on a thematic area developed from objective three: To evaluate the effectiveness of land policy in fostering sustainable land management practices in Mufumbwe District

a) How often do you implement sustainable land management practices?

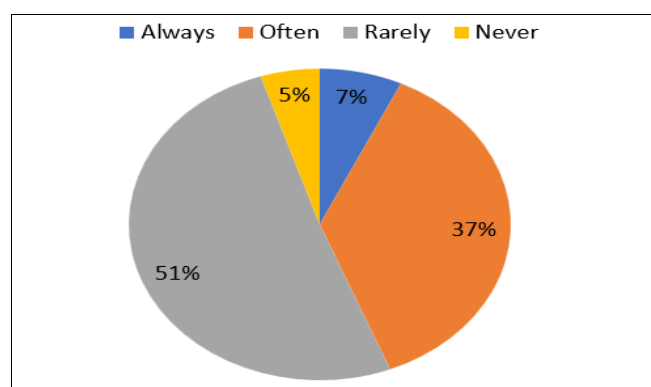


Fig 4.4.1: How often do you implement sustainable land management practices

Fig 4.4.1 presents the frequency with which households in the study area implement sustainable land management practices. The data reveals that the majority of households, 51%, rarely implement sustainable land management practices. 7% of households report always implementing sustainable land management practices, while 37% do so often.

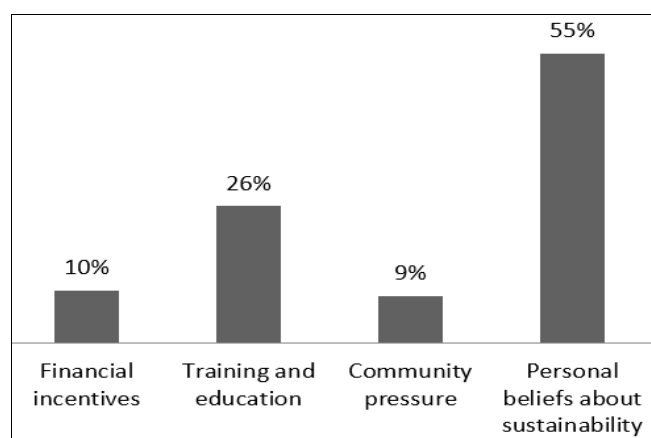


Fig 4.4.2: Motivation to adopt sustainable practices

Fig 4.4.2 examines the motivations behind the adoption of sustainable land management practices by households in the study area. The data reveals that the primary motivation for 55% of households is their personal beliefs and values about the importance of sustainability. The second most common motivation, reported by 26% of households, is the availability of training and education on sustainable land

management practices. Financial incentives, such as subsidies or access to credit, motivate 10% of households to adopt sustainable practices. Community pressure, which can come from social norms, peer influence, or collective decision-making, motivates 9% of households to adopt sustainable practices.

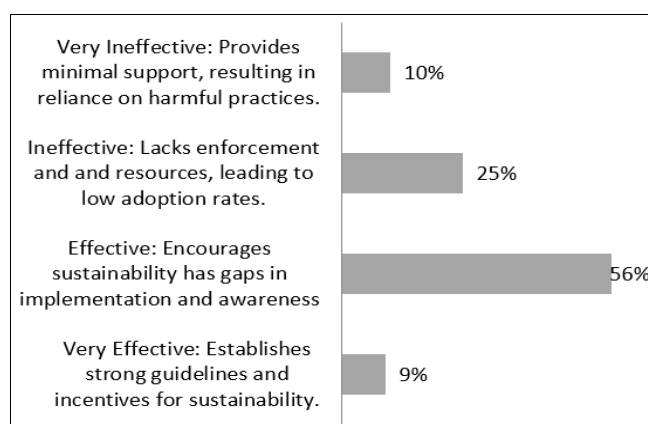


Fig 4.4.3: Effectiveness of the current land policy in promoting sustainable practices

Fig 4.4.3 examines the perceived effectiveness of the current land policy in promoting sustainable land management practices among households in the study area. The data reveals that the majority of households, 56%, find the land policy to be "Effective" in encouraging sustainability, but with gaps in implementation and awareness. 25% view the land policy as "Ineffective" in promoting sustainable practices. 10% of households consider the land policy to be "Very Ineffective," as it provides minimal support, resulting in a continued reliance on harmful practices. On the positive side, 9% of households perceive the land policy as "Very Effective," as it establishes strong guidelines and incentives for sustainability.

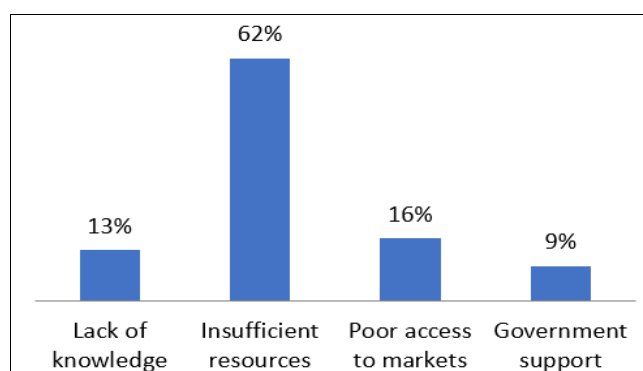


Fig 4.4.4: Barriers encountered in implementing sustainable land management

Fig 4.4.4 examines the key barriers encountered by households in implementing sustainable land management practices in the study area. The most significant barrier, as reported by 62% of households, is the "Insufficient resources" to adopt and maintain sustainable practices. The second most prevalent barrier, cited by 16% of households, is "Poor access to markets." Lack of knowledge, reported by 13% of households, is another key barrier to the adoption of sustainable land management. 9% of households identify "Government support" as a barrier, suggesting that the current policy and institutional framework may not be

providing adequate support, incentives, or enabling conditions to facilitate the widespread adoption of sustainable land management practices.

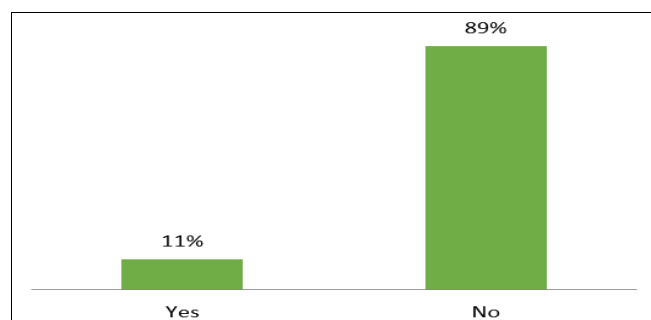


Fig 4.4.5: Training received on sustainable land management practices through government or NGO programs

Fig 4.4.5 presents the findings on whether households have received any training on sustainable land management practices through government or NGO programs. The data reveals that the vast majority of households, 89%, have not received any such training. 11% of households reported having received training on sustainable land management.

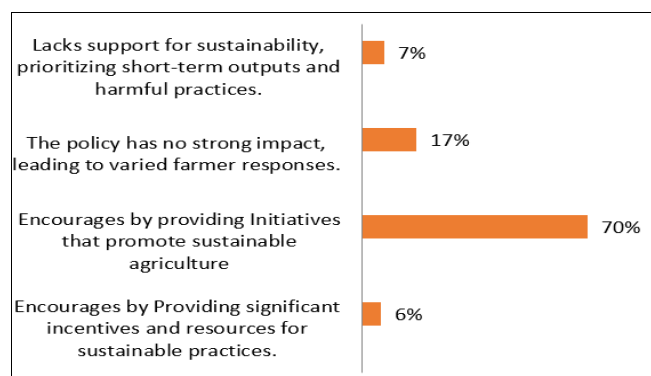


Fig 4.4.6: Impact of the current land policy on sustainable agriculture

Fig 4.4.6 examines the impact of the current land policy on the promotion of sustainable agriculture in the study area. The data reveals that the majority of households, 70%, believe that the current land policy "Encourages by providing Initiatives that support sustainable practices." This suggests that the policy framework includes some positive elements, such as incentives, programs, or regulations that facilitate the adoption of sustainable agricultural techniques among local farmers. 17% of households reported that "The policy has no strong impact, leading to a neutral effect on sustainability." This indicates that for a significant portion of the population, the current land policy does not provide a clear or sufficient impetus for transitioning towards more sustainable agricultural practices. 7% of households stated that the policy "Lacks support for sustainability, prioritizing other objectives." This suggests that the policy may be biased towards other priorities, such as productivity or economic growth, at the expense of promoting environmental sustainability in the agricultural sector. 6% of households believe that the current land policy "Encourages by Providing significant incentives for sustainable agriculture." This low percentage highlights the potential need for stronger financial or regulatory incentives to drive the widespread adoption of sustainable farming methods.

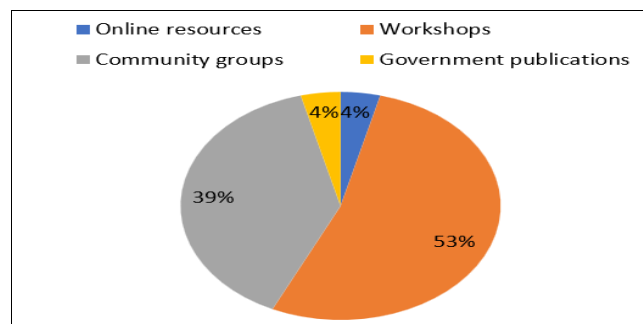


Fig 4.4.7: Most helpful resources in adopting sustainable practices

Fig 4.4.7 examines the resources that farmers find most helpful in adopting sustainable land management practices in Mufumbwe District. The data reveals that the most widely utilized resource is Workshops, as cited by 53% of the respondents. The second most helpful resource, according to 39% of the participants, is Online resources and only 4% of farmers find Government publications to be the most helpful resource in adopting sustainable practices.

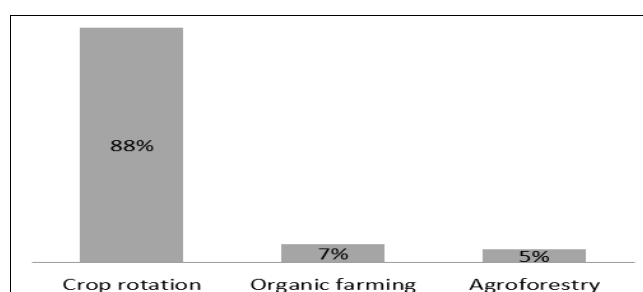


Fig 4.4.8: Effective sustainable practices

Fig 4.4.8 presents the sustainable practices that farmers in Mufumbwe District have found to be most effective. The data reveals that crop rotation is the most widely adopted and effective sustainable practice, as reported by 88% of the respondents. Organic farming, which avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, is the second most effective sustainable practice, as cited by 7% of the participants. Agroforestry, which integrates the cultivation of trees and crops on the same land, is the least widely adopted sustainable practice, with only 5% of respondents finding it effective.

4.5 Presentation of results based on a thematic area developed from objective four: To ascertain the limitations on land policy and economic empowerment in Zambia

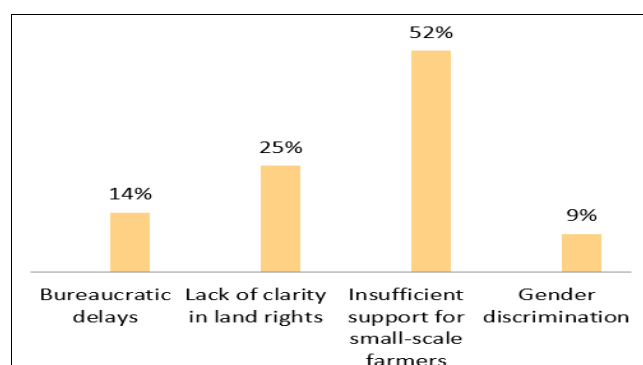


Fig 4.5.1: Limitations perceived in the current land policy

Fig 4.5.1 presents the limitations perceived by households regarding the current land policy in the study area. The most significant limitation, as reported by 52% of households, is the "Insufficient support for small-scale farmers." This suggests that the current land policy may not adequately address the specific needs and challenges faced by small-scale agricultural producers, who often constitute the majority of the local farming community. The second most commonly cited limitation, reported by 25% of households, is the "Lack of clarity in land rights." This indicates that the policy framework may not provide a clear and secure system of land tenure, which can create uncertainty and insecurity for land users, particularly small-scale farmers. Another limitation, as perceived by 14% of households, is the "Bureaucratic delays" associated with the implementation and administration of the land policy. This can create barriers and frustrations for farmers seeking to access land or navigate the policy's processes and procedures. 9% of households reported "Gender discrimination" as a limitation of the current land policy. This suggests that the policy may not adequately address issues of gender equity and inclusion, potentially disadvantaging women in terms of their access to and control over land resources.

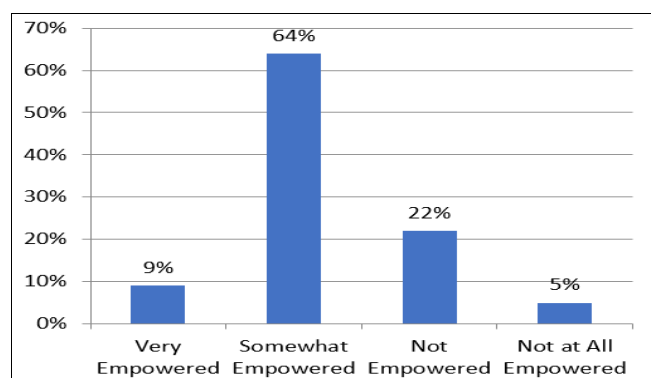


Fig 4.5.2: Rate of empowerment by farmer under the existing land policy

Fig 4.5.2 examines the level of empowerment felt by farmers under the existing land policy in the study area. 64% feel "Somewhat Empowered" under the current land policy. 22% of farmers reported feeling "Not Empowered," while 5% of farmers stated that they feel "Not at All Empowered" under the existing land policy. 9% of farmers feel "Very Empowered" under the existing land policy.

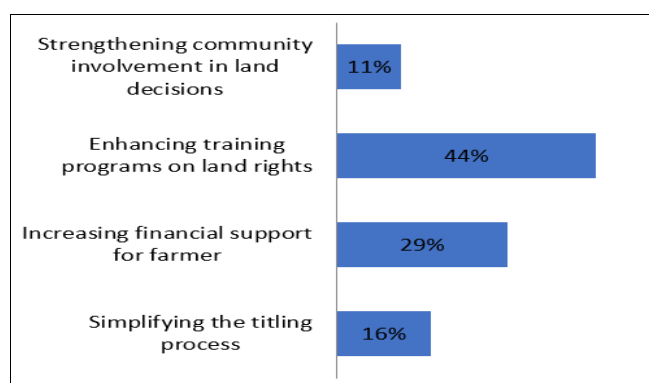


Fig 4.5.3: Improvements suggested for the land policy

Fig 4.5.3 presents the improvements suggested by households for the land policy in the study area. The most

commonly suggested improvement, as reported by 44% of households, is to "Enhance training programs on land rights." The second most popular suggestion, made by 29% of households, is to "Increase financial support for farmers." 16% of households suggested "Simplifying the titling process" as an improvement to the land policy. 11% of households recommended "Strengthening community involvement in land governance" as an improvement to the land policy.

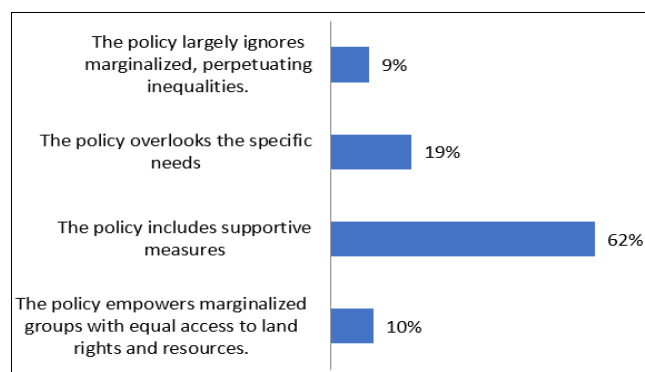


Fig 4.5.4: Do you believe that the current land policy adequately addresses the needs of marginalized groups (e.g., women, youth)

Fig 4.5.4 examines the perceptions of households regarding the extent to which the current land policy addresses the needs of marginalized groups, such as women and youth. The data reveals that the majority of households, 62%, believe that "The policy includes supportive measures" for marginalized groups. 19% of households believe that "The policy overlooks the specific needs" of marginalized groups, indicating that the policy may not be adequately tailored to their unique circumstances and requirements. 9% of households feel that "The policy largely ignores marginalized groups," suggesting that the land policy fails to meaningfully consider or prioritize the needs of these vulnerable populations. On a more positive note, 10% of households believe that "The policy empowers marginalized groups with equal access to land rights and resources."

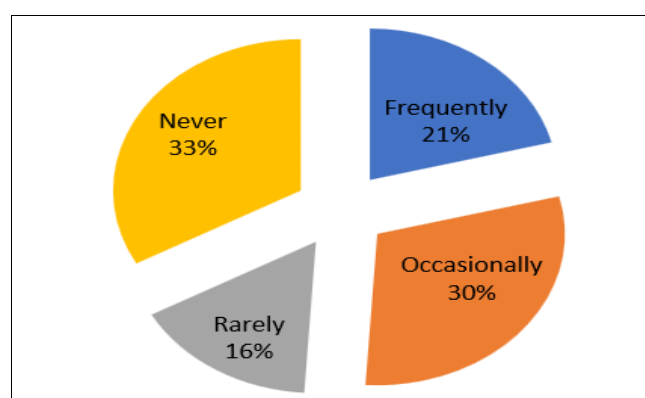


Fig 4.5.5: How often do you encounter issues related to land disputes as a result of the current land policy

Fig 4.5.5 presents the frequency with which households encounter issues related to land disputes as a result of the current land policy. The data reveals that a significant proportion of households, 33%, have never encountered such land disputes. 30% of households report encountering land disputes occasionally, indicating that these issues do

arise, though not on a frequent basis. 21% of households state that they frequently encounter land disputes due to the current land policy. 16% of households report rarely encountering land disputes, which could be a result of the policy's provisions or the specific local context and land tenure arrangements.

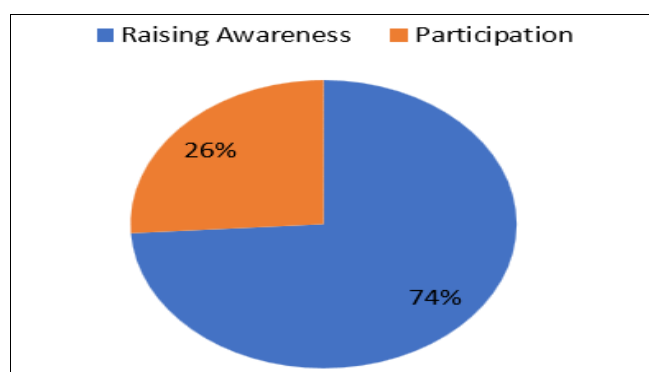


Fig 4.5.6: What role do you think community engagement plays in improving land policy

Fig 4.5.6 examines the role of community engagement in improving the land policy in Mufumbwe District, as perceived by the respondents. The data reveals that the primary role of community engagement is Raising Awareness, as cited by 74% of the participants. The second role of community engagement, as reported by 26% of the respondents, is Participation.

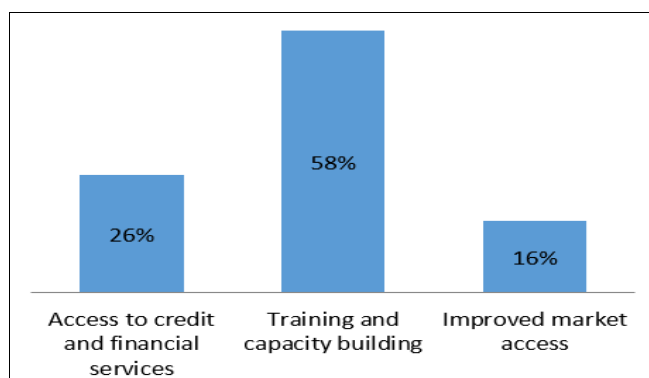


Fig 4.5.7: Additional support needed for economic empowerment

Fig 4.5.7 examines the additional support that small-scale farmers in Mufumbwe District believe is needed for their economic empowerment. The most prominent area of support, as cited by 58% of the respondents, is Training and capacity building. The second area of support, as reported by 26% of the participants, is Access to credit and financial services. Improved market access is the third area of support, as mentioned by 16% of the respondents.

5. Discussion of Results

5.1 Background Characteristics of Respondents

Gender: 62% of respondents were male, indicating traditional gender roles in agriculture. This imbalance suggests that men may have more access to resources and decision-making power, affecting the study's findings. Addressing gender disparities is important for equitable development.

Age: 52% of respondents were aged 19 to 34, indicating a younger farming population that may be more open to new

agricultural techniques. Engaging younger farmers is essential for future agricultural productivity.

Education: 30% of participants held degrees, and 65% had education beyond secondary school. This education level can enhance their understanding of land policies and farming techniques, suggesting a need for training programs to support those with lower educational attainment.

Farm Ownership: 65% owned their land, indicating stability and a commitment to farming, which can lead to greater investment in agricultural practices.

Farming Experience: 48% of respondents had over 10 years of farming experience, showing that many participants had substantial knowledge of agriculture.

Farming Practices: 43% engaged in subsistence farming, while 42% practiced mixed farming. This diversity indicates that many farmers prioritize food security and resilience in their agricultural strategies.

5.2 Impact of Land Policy on Livelihoods

Awareness of Land Policy: Only 26% of respondents understood the current land policy, highlighting a need for better communication and education about land rights and available resources.

Challenges in Land Access: 63% identified high costs of leasing or purchasing land as a major barrier. Other challenges included lack of formal titles and limited availability of land, which can exacerbate inequalities.

Factors Influencing Access: Economic status (40%) was the most significant factor affecting land access, followed by education (27%) and local customs (24%). Gender was less influential but still important.

Knowledge of Rights: 58% of respondents felt uninformed about their rights under the land policy, indicating a need for educational initiatives to empower farmers.

Perception of Land Policy's Impact: Only 9% believed the land policy significantly improved their ability to secure land. Many reported no change or negative impacts due to disputes and competition.

5.3 Additional Support for Economic Empowerment

Training Needs: 58% of respondents emphasized the need for training and capacity-building to enhance their skills and productivity. Access to credit (26%) and improved market access (16%) were also identified as crucial areas for support.

5.4 Conclusion

The study concluded that while some positive aspects of the land policy existed, significant gaps remained.

5.5 Recommendations

1. Conducting a gender and social inclusion analysis of the land policy.
2. Strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms.
3. Improving documentation and registration of land rights.
4. Establishing community-based conflict resolution options.
5. Promoting awareness campaigns about land rights.
6. Enhancing coordination among government agencies and stakeholders.

By implementing these recommendations, policymakers could create a more inclusive and effective land policy that

supports small-scale farmers and contributes to sustainable agricultural development in Mufumbwe District.

6. Acknowledgments

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my father, Patrick Muleza, for his unwavering support and guidance throughout this journey. To my mother, Maureen Hazemba, I thank you for your encouragement and for ensuring that our resources were utilized effectively. I would like to acknowledge my friends, Selina Lukendo and Audrey Mubanga, for their support and encouragement during this process. I extend my sincere appreciation to my supervisor Dr. Chibomba and Dr. Nsana Sharon, for their guidance throughout this study.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Zambia Research and Development Center (ZRDC) for providing a 75% scholarship, which greatly facilitated my pursuit of higher education. This study would not have been possible without the contributions of all these individuals and organizations. Thank you all for your invaluable support.

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