

# Agroecology in Action



Stories from the continent

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FREE ISSUE

## STORIES COMING UP



**Story of Change:** Empowering Tanzanian Farmers through the Healthy Soil Healthy Food Initiative.



**DR Congo:** Food sovereignty through a draft law

## FROM THE EDITOR

The story of Kalomo Community Radio's partnership with ZASHO and ZAAB highlights the transformative power of community-driven media in advancing agroecology. Using 10 free radio slots, this campaign has brought important knowledge on sustainable agroecological farming practices directly to the people who need it most. It is more than just a broadcast; rather, it is a platform where farmers, traditional leaders, and local authorities come together to exchange solutions rooted in culture, science, and community. As farmers adopt composting, mulching, and seed-saving techniques, the broadcasts are catalysing behavioural change and strengthening local resilience. Kalomo's experience is a compelling reminder that innovation doesn't always require expensive technology; sometimes, it starts with a microphone, a community, and a shared vision for food sovereignty and environmental stewardship.

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Warmly,

Abbot

# Airwaves for Kalomo Radio Bring Agroecology to the People

By **Mutinta Kentani**  
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In September 2024, Kalomo Community Radio Station in Zambia made a groundbreaking contribution to food system transformation by offering 10 free radio slots to ZASHO (Zambia Smallholder Farmers Organisation). These slots were used to air *My Food is African* programs focused on agroecology as a solution to the mounting challenges faced by smallholder farmers in Kalomo and neighbouring Zimba District. This initiative represents the first media engagement on agroecology in the region, and it's proving to be a powerful vehicle for education, awareness, and action.

Kalomo District is one of Zambia's key food-producing regions. Yet it faces serious threats to its agricultural productivity, including soil depletion, deforestation, and the worsening effects of climate change. These issues have placed increasing pressure on farmers, many of whom struggle with the cost of inputs, reduced yields, and land degradation.

The introduction of

agroecology-focused radio content is helping to address these challenges by offering practical, accessible information. Through weekly programs, smallholder farmers are learning about sustainable techniques such as composting, mulching, traditional seed saving, natural pest control, and crop rotation. The broadcasts are designed to be interactive, allowing listeners to call in with questions and share their own experiences.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LOCAL SUPPORT

The radio programs are built on a foundation of community involvement. Prior to the broadcasts, ZASHO and ZAAB (Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity) organised training sessions and follow-up meetings with farmers, traditional leaders, and local government officials. These engagements helped build local trust and enthusiasm for agroecology. The support of traditional leaders and district officials provided additional momentum, helping position agroecology not just as an alternative farming approach

but as a legitimate and culturally rooted response to the region's agricultural challenges.

## CHANGING PRACTICES THROUGH RADIO

The impact of the programs is already visible. Farmers who have tuned in are beginning to apply agroecological practices on their farms and in their households. Some are establishing small gardens, others are reducing their reliance on synthetic inputs, and community groups are organising to share seeds and knowledge. The broadcasts have also led to greater demand for more agroecology content.

## BUILDING MOMENTUM ACROSS THE REGION

This media initiative is helping bridge the gap between traditional farming knowledge and scientific agroecological practices. Delivering information through a trusted and widely accessed medium, the programs are empowering farmers with tools to improve their yields, protect their environment, and reclaim control over their food systems.

As interest in the broadcasts

grows, ZASHO and ZAAB are exploring ways to expand their reach. Plans are underway to create additional content formats, including farmer call-ins, youth-oriented segments, and partnerships with other community radio stations. Printed materials and training guides are also being developed to complement the broadcasts.

## A MODEL FOR AGROECOLOGY EDUCATION

Kalomo's radio engagement has become a model for low-cost, high-impact agroecology education. It demonstrates how community-based media can effectively disseminate vital information to rural populations, especially in areas where internet access and formal training are limited.

Combining the power of local storytelling with practical agricultural education is contributing to a broader movement for food sovereignty, resilience, and sustainable rural development. It is a strong example of how media can support grassroots change, amplifying the voices, knowledge, and solutions that are already rooted in the land.



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