



**The Republic Of Zambia  
Ministry of Higher Education**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IMPRESSED WITH UNZA AGRICULTURAL  
TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE**

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**Lusaka, Friday, June 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2021** – The Ministry of Higher Education has urged the University of Zambia (UNZA) to enhance commercialization of the China - Zambia Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre at their Liempe farm in Silverest.

Higher Education Permanent Secretary Kayula Siame says that investment will help the centre take off from its formative phase to a commercial level.

Ms. Siame said this during her familiarization tour of the UNZA Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre and the Presidential milling plant today.

She added that a lot could be done in terms of adaptive technology, to support growth of the country's agriculture sector.

The Permanent Secretary said there was need to bring these technologies to the level where entrepreneurs and farmers at all levels can easily utilize them.

“We need to bring these technologies to the level where entrepreneurs and farmers at all levels can easily utilize them and use it for their own livelihood but also for commercial purposes.” She said

“So that two thronged approach is very important because we are looking at sustaining small scale farmers and also the commercial aspect. That blend is very important that needs to be worked on,” She indicated

Ms. Siame also said the Presidential Milling Plant, with a capacity of 40 tons, was an impressive facility that would contribute to maize production.

She urged the university to ensure that the backward linkages are well secured so that there is no stoppage for continuous supply to the facility.

“I assume you will be growing some of the maize so that you have a certain minimum amount that can be guaranteed for processing,” She said.

And UNZA Vice Chancellor Prof Luke Mumba said the Presidential Milling Plant, which is about 90% towards completion, represents an investment of about K43 Million Kwacha from the Chinese Government and K4 million from the Zambian government.

He further indicated that the centre has undergone three phase which started in 2009 and are currently in the third phase.

Prof. Mumba explained to the PS that the third phase, which is the sustainability phase, will transform the centre into a scientific hub that has a strong commercialization undertaking.

The China-Zambia Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre is being implemented through collaboration between the Jilin Agricultural University of China and the University of Zambia. The centre among other things is a commercial farm where fish, mushroom, village chicken and crop farming are underway.

**By:**  
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