2.6 Sustainable agriculture

Technology Action Title	Development of sustainable agriculture framework for implementation
Estimated budget	US$ 1,000,000
Rationale	Agriculture in Zambia's supports the livelihoods of over 70% of the population. Zambia's economy has grown steadily in real terms since 2000. However, the percentage contribution of agriculture sector to GDP had declined from 16% in 2001 to 12.6% in 2009. There are three main categories of farmers in Zambian agriculture; small, medium and large scale. Small scale farming systems in Zambia are overwhelmingly dominated by single crop maize. In 2009/2010 81.72% of all small scale farmers grew maize, which is the staple food for the country. Yield for maize is below global average and is estimated at 1.2 tonnes per hectare. This low yield is attributed to no or less use of fertilizers by the majority of small scale farmers since most of them is unable to afford. Despite this low yield they, produce about 50% percent of the total maize supply in the country. Although there is a Government program "Farm Input Support Program"which supports small scale farmers with fertilizer and seed, it does not cover the majority of small scale farmers. Some of the small scale farmers who have benefited from the farmer input support program have increased yields to 2-3 tonnes per hectare, but the number is significantly low. The intention of the program was to support more small scale farmers once in a given season and encourage them to stand on there on in the following farming season without this subsidy. However, this has not realized due to relatively low floor maize prices and in some cases poor management practices. In view of the above short comings, the Government is encouraging sustainable agriculture which has an advantage of increasing the yield without the use of fertilizer and a relatively lower cost.
Brief technology description	Sustainable agriculture is a widely recognized technology which enhances crop adaptation to climate variability and reduces GHG emissions. Sustainable agriculture has an advantage of increasing the yield without the use of fertilizer and a relatively lower cost. Sustainable agriculture involves a number of practices to include; (i) development of green manure and cover crops for soil improvements (ii) conservation tillage (iii) use of organic manure (iv) application of lime, (v) control of weed
Objectives and strategies	The main objective of the project is to develop a sustainable agriculture framework for implementation. The main strategies include; (i) need for development resources, (ii) use of appropriate machinery, (iii) awareness and information program, (iv) developing the program as a mitigation option to benefit from carbon financing
Actors	Ministry of Agriculture, ZARI, UNZA, ZNFU, GART, Bilateral and Multilateral institutions , Financial institutions
Timing	36 months
Keys for success	Involvement of all stakeholders