

# EverGreen Maize for Africa



EverGreen Maize for Africa (EMA) is an initiative between the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and DuPont Pioneer to promote the use of fertilizer trees as part of integrated soil fertility management (ISFM), that helps build soil carbon, improve fertilizer use efficiency and soil water holding capacity thereby adapting maize farming to climate change. EMA is part of wider EverGreen Agriculture (EGA) practices being implemented in Zambia to increase African farmers' opportunities to improve and sustain maize yields using locally available resources.

## Quick Facts:

**Total farmers targeted:** 7,000 farmers

**Locations:** 6 districts in Eastern Zambia, covering 50 extension camps:

- Districts chosen are Chipata, Lundazi, Katete, Petauke, Chadiza, Nyimba

## Key agroforestry species

- 1,000 farmers using *gliricidia*
- 3,500 farmers using *tephrosia*
- 2,500 farmers using *sesbania*
- In addition, 3,000 farmers using one of the above will also be given *faidherbia*

**Average agroforestry area:** ~.40 ha of farmer fields will be targeted for agroforestry interventions.



## Project highlights:

- Inception workshop for the project held in September 2014.
- Training of Trainers workshops held in October 2014, where 70 camp/extension officers, government agricultural officers, and NGO extension officers, and 7 Pioneer sales representatives were trained on different agroforestry species.
- 50 sites identified to establish 140 demo plots on farmers' fields and at Farmer Training Centres.

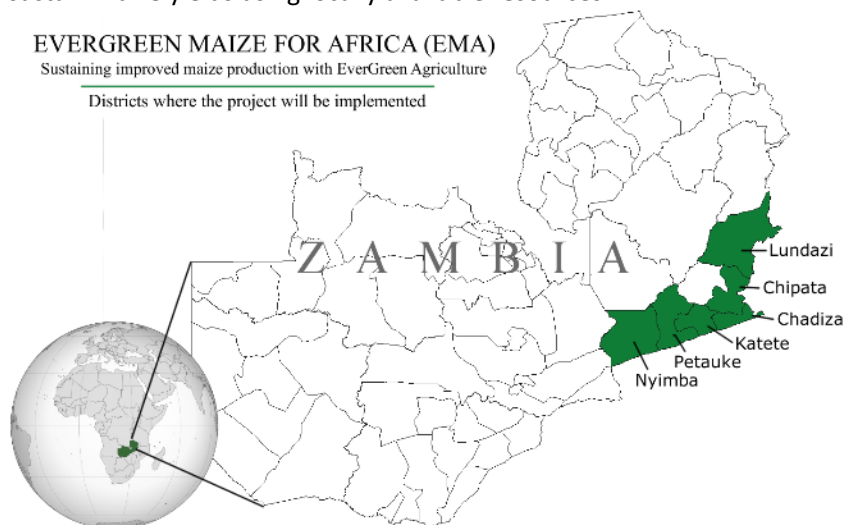
## The plan ahead for 2015:

- Training of 30 seed/ agro dealers in tree seed collection, grading and distribution.
- Hold field days in each district, with engagement of media to help disseminate widely knowledge about EGA.
- Hold a stakeholder workshop to raise awareness of EGA.

## EVERGREEN MAIZE FOR AFRICA (EMA)

Sustaining improved maize production with EverGreen Agriculture

Districts where the project will be implemented



ICRAF is partnering with Pioneer Extension Providers (PEPs), Lead Farmers, and Ministry of Agriculture staff, to reach at least 7,000 farmers in six districts of Eastern Zambia, with trainings and demonstrations on use of simple agroforestry techniques to improve maize yields. In these areas experiencing chronic low cereal yields due to poor crop management practices, farmers will benefit from skills on maize varieties and tree seeds that can improve their farms productivity. Extension providers will be trained on topics such as intercrop production systems, tree nursery establishment, field planting, fertilizer tree management, coppicing and leaf biomass incorporation, and timing of inorganic fertilizer supplementation.

The project has assembled knowledge and planting material (tree seed) for four fertilizer tree species (*sesbania*, *faidherbia*, *tephrosia*, *gliricidia*) for distribution and demonstration to farmers in 50 sites across six districts of eastern Zambia where DuPont Pioneer operates, to maximize on synergies. These species selected with initial farmer consensus are recommended to farmer-buyers of maize seed from DuPont Pioneer's existing crop seed distribution system and other outlets. This partnership is expected to reinforce the common goal of ICRAF and DuPont Pioneer to increase farmer adoption of improved and sustainable production practices while promoting maize farming profitability.