

SEMINAR REPORT: WEALTH CREATION, FINANCIAL LITERACY AND TREE PLANTING

Date of Seminar: 10th July 2025
Venue: Kanakantapa, Chongwe District
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1. Introduction

This seminar brought together local residents of Kanakantapa, a rural community in Chongwe District, Zambia. The community is experiencing high levels of deforestation and poor financial literacy. Many households rely on small-scale farming but often store their income at home, putting their savings at risk in case of fire or theft. The area also faces the challenge of massive tree cutting without reforestation, leading to environmental degradation and missed economic opportunities.

The seminar aimed to empower community members with knowledge on **wealth creation**, **financial literacy**, and the **economic value of tree planting**, showing how environmental stewardship and proper financial practices can lead to improved livelihoods and community development.

2. Objectives of the Seminar

- To promote financial literacy and introduce secure financial practices.
- To raise awareness about the impact of deforestation and climate change.
- To educate the community on the economic benefits of tree planting.
- To present banking and agricultural financing opportunities to small-scale farmers.
- To encourage sustainable environmental practices as a tool for wealth creation.

3. Relevance of the Seminar

This seminar was highly relevant to the needs of the Kanakantapa community. It addressed two critical issues: **environmental degradation** through deforestation and **poor financial management**. By linking tree planting to income generation and introducing banking options, the seminar provided practical tools for improving both the **economic well-being** and **ecological stability** of the community.

4. Seminar Details

- **Date:** 10th July 2025
- **Venue:** Kanakantapa, Chongwe District
- **Topic:** *Wealth Creation, Financial Literacy and Tree Planting*

5. Organizers and Partners

- **Organizer:** IFPAB (International federation of people with albinism & blindness)
- **Supporting Partner:** Centrica Foundation
 - **Coordinator:** Mr. Lewis Mutale
 - **Partner:** Zambia Forestry Department

6. Key Speakers and Presentations

- **Ms. Doreen Mungomba (Forestry Department):**
Spoke about Zambia's indigenous and plantation forests, climate change, and how communities can **adapt and mitigate** environmental impacts through sustainable practices such as reforestation and renewable energy use.
- **Mr. Masuaso Chambeshi:**
Focused on **tree planting as an economic activity**. He discussed which tree species (like pine, eucalyptus, and bamboo) are valuable, their environmental benefits, and the kinds of soil and climates they thrive in.
- **Ms. Janet Halyonda (Indol Zambia Bank):**
Shared information on **agricultural financing**, including loans for **drip irrigation systems, trucks, and farming equipment** to help small-scale farmers boost productivity.
- **Ms. Sharon Sang'and (Indol Zambia Bank):**
Explained the different types of **bank accounts** available, including **interest-bearing savings options** tailored for rural clients. She emphasized the risks of keeping money at home and promoted safe banking habits.

7. Activities and Engagements

- **Tree Planting Demonstrations** – Participants learned how to plant and manage economically viable tree species.
- **Financial Education** – Interactive sessions on budgeting, saving, and using banking services.
- **Recognition of Attendance Certificates** – 63 **participants** received certificates, organized by Centrica Foundation, acknowledging their active participation.

8. Outcomes and Key Takeaways

- Over **30 new bank accounts** were opened with Indol Zambia Bank during the seminar.
- Increased awareness of **tree planting as a wealth creation tool**.
- Recognition of the **risks of storing money at home** and greater understanding of safe financial practices.
- Empowerment of the community to take action against deforestation.
- Connection between climate resilience and economic empowerment established.

9. Community Feedback and Commitments

Participants expressed gratitude for the information shared and showed strong interest in starting **tree nurseries**, joining **community-based tree planting groups**, and regularly saving money in banks. Commitments included:

- Starting **community reforestation projects**.
- Encouraging neighbours to open bank accounts.
- Organizing local follow-up workshops in collaboration with IFPAB and Centrica.

10. Challenges Faced

- Some participants could not attend due to **long travel distances**.

Suggested Solutions:

- Hold future seminars in **more central or multiple locations**.
- Provide **transport support or decentralized sessions** to reach more people.
- Use **local radio and mobile outreach** for continued awareness.

11. Conclusion and Final Remarks

The seminar was a **resounding success**, combining practical financial advice with environmental education. It empowered a rural community to view tree planting not only as a conservation effort but also as a pathway to **wealth creation**. The **opening of 30+ bank accounts** shows a real shift toward financial inclusion.

There is a clear need for **continued community engagement** through workshops, tree planting initiatives, and financial literacy programs. Ongoing collaboration between IFPAB, Centrica Foundation, and partners like Indol Bank will be vital in building **resilient, financially empowered, and environmentally conscious communities**.

12. Recommendations

- Conduct follow-up seminars on **climate-resilient investments** such as **pine, eucalyptus, and bamboo plantations**.
- Support **community-led tree nurseries** with training and startup materials.
- Increase **access to banking services** through mobile banking agents.
- Promote sustainable farming and forestry as **income-generating ventures**.
- Integrate **youth and women** into future initiatives for broader impact.