

New Master Trainer candidates for the *Farmer Business School (FBS)*

Agri-business Facility for Africa (ABF) successfully conducted the first capacity building round of the second pan-African FBS Master Training Program (MTP) in Zambia. 20 Master Trainer candidates from 10 African countries participated from 21 March to 1 April in the programme. FBS MTP – what is it about?

Since the demand for Farmer Business School (FBS) is constantly rising, qualified FBS Master Trainers are needed for further successful implementation. Master Trainers are important for the adaptation of FBS to the local context, qualification of FBS trainers, supervision, and quality assurance.

The first round of the MTP offered interactive training elements, simulation sessions both in joint and breakout format for the anglophone and francophone candidates. Additionally, 5 candidates from Madagascar – who were not able to travel – participated in hybrid sessions via MS Teams. Three days were allocated for field visits, where candidates got exposure of FBS trainings, and witnessed the impacts of the trainings on the ground. The journey of the capacity building continues upon return of the candidates.

We want to express our gratitude to GIZ country office in Zambia and our partner project FANSER for the support!

FBS – MTP: Key Facts of the first round of capacity building

- **When:** March 21st to April 1st 2022
- **Where:** Lusaka and Petauke, Zambia and hybrid via MS Team
- **Who:**
 - 14 participants from 6 anglophone African countries (Malawi, Ethiopia, Namibia, Rwanda, Zambia, and South Sudan)
 - 11 participants (including 5 online) from 4 francophone African countries (Algeria, Cameroon, Madagascar, and Tunisia)
 - 2 International Master Trainers (Nigeria and Burkina Faso)
 - 2 ABF representatives
- **Agenda:**
 - Opening session, roles, and tasks of Master Trainer
 - Simulations of 12 FBS Modules for Trainings of Trainers
 - 3 days of participating and evaluating FBS trainings in the field in Petauke, Eastern Province, Zambia.
 - Closing session and individual feedback rounds



Interactive sessions during the first round of the FBS MTP in Zambia.

The two weeks in a nutshell

The one-year FBS MTP consists of 3 rounds of capacity development. In the first round, the opening workshop in Zambia, ABF planned a comprehensive and challenging program that included presentations, simulations of Training of Trainers (ToT) and field visits. The candidates explored the didactics and methodology of delivering, implementing and monitoring FBS through practical exercises and feedback sessions with their peers and the experienced international Master trainers.

To prepare the master trainer candidates in their role as supervisors and coaches of FBS trainers, they visited FBS trainings to observe and evaluate local FBS trainers according to ABF standard quality criteria.

During a visit of a FBS trained woman's soybean field, they experienced the practical positive outcomes of FBS on the production.



The two weeks program ensured enough room for networking and international and intercultural exchanges between the candidates, master trainers and organizers.

The opening workshop of the one-year FBS MTP was the first step. The second and third round will include atingi e-learning courses, virtual workshops, and preparation and organization of pilot trainings, ToTs or refresher courses for trainers under supervision in their countries of origin. After completion of the Master Training Program, successful candidates will receive a certificate in a closing workshop beginning of 2023.



All Master Trainer Candidates, the two Master Trainer facilitators, and two ABF Advisors after an interesting and promising first round of the FBS MTP.