As 2023 begins the project site women and youth as well as the leaders have thousands of ideas that they want to implement. After a series of meetings and discussions they settled on making 2023 the E3 (Expansion, Education and Entrepreneurship) year with food being the focus and core of 2023.

This year the leaders plan to engage more farmers within the community as well as outside the community to create farming groups and blocks that will promote Natural Agriculture and they plan to create food driven sustainable business models around the existing technical training centre and project site lodge.

As part of this year's activities the technical training centre will begin its baking program and the foods made will be sold in the roadside store which will be roofed and created into a business shop and restaurant for the nursing school and community to utilize.

We look forward to seeing what 2023 has to offer and we look forward to the return of the Natural Agriculture show this August. We will keep you posted every step of the way.

Barbara Hchipuka Banda
Project Coordinator
The November/February period is always a busy time for farmers because this is the Zambian rain season and the farming season for all farmers. During this period, we have limited activities because farmers are in the fields working and planting their crops. In the last decade the rains have been unstable resulting in poor crops due to drought or damaged crops due to flooding.

This farming season seems hopeful with our Natural Agriculture field looking healthy and green and the maize stalks looking strong. The pictures shown on the side show Mercy Mulota our project site caretaker standing in a healthy field 15 years after we started growing the crops.

As Natural Agriculture teaches continuous cropping and mulching, and continuous seed saving will result in strong crops and this year’s produce is an example of those teaching. We look forward to showing the harvest in the July/August harvest season.

This year we have also planted new Cassava stems which we hope to show you in the next farming season.

"If a ship is not sailed correctly under the guidance or command of a good captain then it is likely that there will be a shipwreck!" I am a strong believer that good leadership is a foundation for development and progress. It is great to see the active role the founding project leaders of this project continue to play in the growth and development of this project. Their passion and drive to ensure community participation and the support they show the new leaders is great to see and will ensure the continued success of the project.

Laiza Chuma and Aaron Chileshe were the two founding leaders that mobilised and sensitised the community about the importance of cooperatives. They were the leaders that continued to push the project after the death of Jessie Brenda Hachipuka and even after they left their Union positions they have continued to push the project by becoming Natural Agriculture advocates in the Mbabala, Pemba and Chikanta areas as well as other parts of Zambia.

23 years later after registering the cooperative they are still active participants and play a vital role in the future of this project. This month we celebrate them!