



This issue...

- Commercial Farmers
- Zambian Tobacco Leaf Crop Cycle
- Tobacco Varieties and Proportion
- Crop Development 2026
- Crop Forecast 2026
- Weather Conditions
- Zambian FCV & Burley tobacco growing map
- Political and Economic Update
- Exchange Rate

➤ Commercial Farmers

Early crop (Irrigated)

- The irrigated crop for the 2025-26 season was planted in September and October. Growing conditions for the seedbeds were good, and farmers did not experience many setbacks at seedbed stage.
- The irrigated crop grew well with ample amounts of sunshine. Topping started in November and was completed in early December. Reaping started for crops planted in early September and for the latter, reaping commenced in the last week of November.
- Hail and wind damage has affected four commercial farmers. Two of those farmers had between 90 to 100% damage and are ploughing in the crops. The other minor numbers of farmers were not affected to that extent, and the crops are recovering well.
- The majority of the irrigated tobacco is KRK26R, a variety from Zimbabwe. The remainder is from Cross creek varieties K326, CC35 and CC13.
- To date, all seedlings have been transplanted.
- Currently 100% of the crop has been topped.
- Roughly 20% of the irrigated cop has been harvested / reaped & cured.
- At this early stage of the season the crop is showing excellent quality potential.
- In general, all commercial crops are currently looking healthy, strong and well established, and are thriving, with some of the later planted fields benefiting exceptionally well from the start of the early rains, and very conducive current weather conditions.



Commercial Irrigated Crop Southern Region CY26

Late crop (Dryland)

- Farmers planted their dryland crops between early November and mid-December. The first rains arrived in October and November had a decent amount of rain albeit very localised. That said, all farmers have received rain. The late crop is growing well, with topping continuing through into February 2026.
- About half of the Dryland crop is Zimbabwean varieties KRK29 and KRK66 and the remaining half is CC35 from Cross Creek USA.
- Commercial farmers if required have adequate irrigation facilities, however this requirement is unlikely, as weather conditions remain stable and very conducive to crop growth.
- 100% of seedlings have been transplanted.
- Currently no harvesting has taken place yet.
- Dryland quality potential at this early stage, with good crop development looks to be very encouraging and positive.



Commercial Dryland Early Crop Central Region

Small scale - Project Tobacco (Dryland)

- This year all growing areas received planting rains earlier than last year. Roughly a third of the farmers have transplanted their seedlings, however these seedlings are not well-hardened due to the early and continued rains, nevertheless, the survival rate has been better than anticipated.
- All project growing areas have received plentiful rains and to date transplanting has been completed. Farmers from early December started applying fertiliser to the crop.
- The main varieties planted and most suitable for this region, being 90% Cross Creek varieties.
- A small percentage of Project seedlings have been water planted, with the bulk of seedlings transplanted naturally, due to good precipitant conditions.
- Topping is currently in the early stages.
- Small-scale growers have not started reaping to date, however, their fields are varied, depending on the area and the timing of the transplanting. It's expected that with the current and very positive climatical growing conditions, good growth potential will be realized in due course.

Project Growers Crops at Various Stages Throughout the Country



➤ Zambian Tobacco Leaf Crop Cycle

PROVINCE	Transplanting %	Topped %	Reaped %
Northern Region	100 %	0 %	0 %
Western Region	100 %	10 %	0 %
Central Region	100 %	60 %	20 %
Eastern Region	100 %	20 %	0 %
Southern Region	100 %	70 %	20 %

➤ Tobacco Varieties and Proportion CY26

- 30% = Seed varieties KRK66, KRK26, KRK29—from Zimbabwe Tobacco Seed Association and Kutsaga.
- 70% = Seed varieties CC35, CC13, K326—from Cross Creek Seed Suppliers in United States of America.

➤ Crop Development 2026

Crop Status	Seedbeds	Transplanting	Topping	Harvesting	Curing	Buying	Processing
January							
February							
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							

➤ Crop Forecast - CY26 Projected Volumes

- Zambia's National crop size for this year is anticipated to be between 57 & 60 million kilograms.
- Zambian Burley volume estimated availability this season 700 tons, green.
- Markets this year are expected to open early April, with factory startup in mid-May.

➤ Weather Conditions

Seasonal Weather Overview

➤ October

- First rainfall arrived mid-month.
- Temperatures milder than usual due to scattered showers.

➤ November

- Western region: received good planting rains (typical pattern).
- Central region: patchy rainfall → limited transplanting.
- Temperatures stayed below average.

➤ December

- Above normal rainfall received throughout the country.
- Eastern region: consistent planting rains began (slightly later than other regions).
- Eastern region: widespread good to adequate rainfall, with sunny breaks.

➤ January

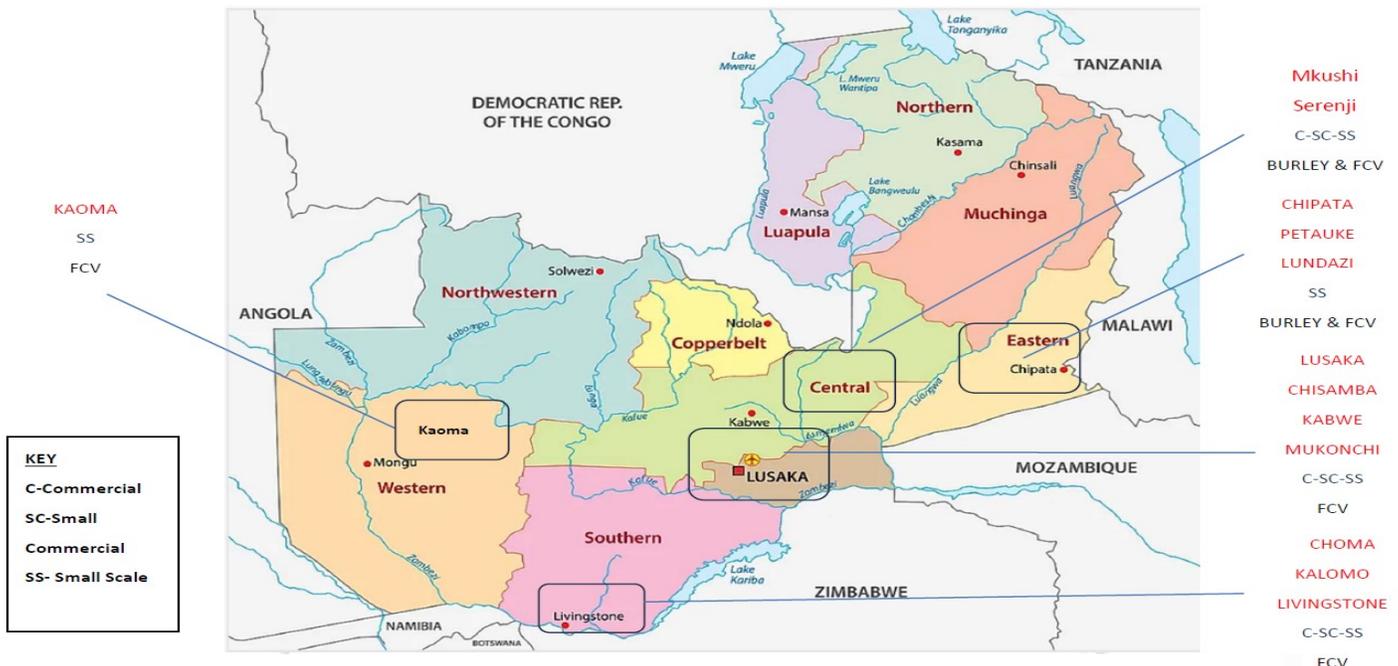
- Currently receiving heavy rains, Serenje, Mkushi, and the eastern region.

Impact on Crop Development

- **Western region:** Strong start thanks to timely rains.
- **Central region:** Delayed transplanting due to patchy rainfall but recovered well after good November / December rains.
- **Eastern region:** Later planting window, however growing conditions very favourable.
- **Southern region:** Good start to rains and dam replenishing, excellent crop growth and potential.
- **Overall:** Crops are now well established with healthy development, supported by balanced rainfall and warm sun filled days.

The current outlook is positive for strong crop establishment across Zambia.

➤ Zambian FCV & Burley tobacco growing map, Commercial and Small Scale.



➤ Political and Economic Update

- Zambia closed 2025 on a cautiously optimistic note: the economy rebounded with stronger mining and agriculture output, while politically, President Hakainde Hichilema enjoyed a 75% approval rating amid ongoing constitutional reforms. The country also exited default status after credit upgrades by S&P and Fitch, signalling renewed investor confidence.
- Zambia has become the first African country to formally accept China's yuan for mining taxes and royalties, a move that highlights Beijing's expanding financial influence across the continent's most strategic resource sectors.
- The economy is projected to grow by over 6% in 2026 after credit rating upgrades and debt restructuring progress, while politically, constitutional reform debates and opposition fragmentation dominate ahead of the August 2026 general elections.
- **General elections are scheduled for 13 August 2026**, covering presidential, parliamentary, and local government seats.

➤ Exchange Rate – As of 8th January 2026

U.S. Dollar	Chinese	Zambian	British	Euro	Zimbabwe
USD 1.00	RMB 6.98	ZK 19.90	GBP 0.74	EUR 0.86	ZIG 25.74

End of Report

The views expressed in this report are those of the Company's representative unless specifically attributed. ATC Worldwide Limited makes no representation concerning and does not guarantee the source, originality, accuracy, completeness or reliability of any statement, information, data, finding, interpretation, advice, opinion or view represented.