



Maize Yields in Zambia

Reported maize yields in Zambia are lower than what is possible.

Yields reported in Zambia depend upon many factors. Typically small, subsistence farmers tend to average 1.4-3.0 t/ha (7-15 sacks/lima). Commercial farms tend to average 3-4 t/h (15-20 sacks/ha).

In Iowa (USA), the average maize yield of all famers is usually about 12.5 t/ha (60 sacks/lima). Most of the farms are not irrigated and get about the same rainfall as Zambia during the growing season.

The highest recorded maize yield in the USA was 39.2 t/ha (196 sacks/lima). The farmer was David Hula in 2023 and the field was strip tilled and irrigated.

Research in Zambia has shown yields of 8-15 t/ha (40-75 sacks/lima) are possible under good conditions.



Picture showing a contrast of traditional small scale farmer practices vs improved practices for small scale farmers in Feb of 2025 near Petauke.