

Influencing Policy Processes for Sustainable Livelihoods: strategies for change

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QUOTE FROM PAGE 20:

One way of capitalising on policy space is to have a clear and visible success story to present to policymakers. The case of Zephaniah Phiri and other resource poor farmers in Midlands province in the south of Zimbabwe illustrates how dynamic experiments can be taken up into policy networks and achieve new degrees of influence on policy and institutional practice. This farmer had been arrested on several occasions for not respecting Zimbabwe's strict natural resource regulations. But his intensive cultivation around prohibited streambanks, and his experimentation with new forms of fertility management and soil and water harvesting have now won support from Agritex, the extension agency, and the Department of Natural Resources. Indeed they are now praised as a model of farmer innovation and harnessing of 'indigenous knowledge'