

## Geographical Distribution

This pest has been reported in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. In Zambia, preliminary surveillance conducted by Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) through its National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO), the Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Service (PQPS) and the Entomology Team confirmed the presence of this particular pest in Zambia. The preliminary surveillance has shown that the pest is present in the Northern, Central and Lusaka provinces of Zambia. The first identification in Zambia was done early this year (2016) through use of pheromone traps.

## Summary

Tomato is one of the important vegetable crops in Zambia, grown both on a small and commercial large scale as cash crop with small scale farmers being the highest producers. Studies show that tomato is one of the top five crops (along with rape, cabbage, watermelon, eggplant, and onion) dominating smallholder systems which accounts for 86% of the total value of fresh fruit and vegetable sales within the smallholder sector for Zambia. Tomato was also cited as one of the top most valuable fresh fruit and vegetable items sold by the smallholder farmers in 2004. The entry and establishment of *T. absoluta* to Zambia is devastating to the tomato production industry both economically and food security.

## Danger

*T. absoluta* infestation can result in 80 -100% losses which will have negative impact on food security and economically for farmers involved in growing tomato. This will not only affect farmers but also the numerous middlemen such as transporters and retailers who depend on regular availability of tomato from producers.

## Preferred languages: English

IPPC Plant Health contact person	Email address	Mobile number
K. K. Msiska	<a href="mailto:msiska12@yahoo.co.uk">msiska12@yahoo.co.uk</a>	+260 977 771503



Moses Mwale

**DIRECTOR – ZAMBIA AGRICULTURE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**