



# ZAGP News

## The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

ISSUE 18: OCTOBER 2020

### EDITORIAL

It is our pleasure to present to you our readers, the October 2020 Issue of ZAGP News. This is the 18th issue of the newsletter giving you updates of ZAGP's activities.

In this issue, we focus on the critical role of farmers' associations within ZAGP, highlighting how they are representing farmers to facilitate service delivery, mobilisation of resources, and collective marketing. More critically they also ensure their participation in the formulation and implementation of policies and agricultural development actions. The ZAGP projects are working with established farmer associations and also associations that have been created with the thrust to commercialise agriculture, from production through to marketing, facilitating farmer access to inputs, credit, output markets, technical training and to increase engagement with policy processes and improve coordination within the agricultural sector.

**BEST** is establishing the Beef Producers Association, an entity to address the gap in farmers' representation within the beef sector to collectively address the challenges they encounter in their production.

**VALUE** is working closely with the Goat Breeders Association of

Zimbabwe and the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe to facilitate the establishment of Goat Producers Business Associations and the Pork Producers Business Syndicates.

Strengthening the livestock sector coordination through producer and value chain actor engagement is critical within ZAGP. **SAFE** is working on reviving and strengthening the revival the livestock business forum in Zimbabwe.

**ZAKIS** is working with farmers' associations on ZimAgriHub, a virtual agricultural knowledge hub.

**IPVC's** Poultry Business Associations (PBAs) are gaining ground in the project's operation areas with now collectively bargaining for inputs. We highlight how the project is working with the Zimbabwe Poultry Association to address the challenges in the poultry value chain.

Finally, we focus on how **TranZDVC** is working with the Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) and the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union to tackle the bottlenecks in the dairy value chain.

*(Cover photo: Bulk feed delivery for the Gweru Cluster Poultry Business Association under IPVC.*

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## ZAGP WORKING WITH FARMER ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS

### BEST Set to Establish the Zimbabwe Beef Producers Association

Prior to the implementation of the land reform programme, the structure of the beef cattle sub-sector was largely dominated by large scale commercial farmers with well-functioning formal market systems. Over the past two decades, there has been a shift in terms of beef cattle ownership from large scale commercial farmers to small holder farmers, who now own 90 % of the total national herd. Small holder beef producers are currently fragmented, have poor access to formal markets and household cattle herd size is declining because of recurrent diseases and poverty induced cattle deaths. Unlike other livestock value chains such as dairy, poultry and pigs, there is currently a gap in grass root farmers' representation within the beef sector to collectively address these challenges.



90 % of the total national beef cattle herd is owned by small-holder farmers.



Small-holder beef producers are currently fragmented, have poor access to formal markets and household cattle herd size is declining because of recurrent diseases and poverty induced cattle deaths.



There is currently a gap in farmers' representation within the beef sector to collectively address these challenges.



BEST and the Livestock and Meat Advisory Council (LMAC) are facilitating the formation of the Zimbabwe Beef Producers Association (ZBPA). The association will constitute beef farmers from grassroots to national level. The association will address bottlenecks currently facing the beef sector which include disintegrated marketing systems, poor access to finance, lack of a strong voice in policy advocacy, declining national herd and decreasing calving rate among others.



78 beef marketing groups in the project's operation areas to be transitioned into Beef Producer Associations around Cattle Business Centres (CBCs).



Interim Cattle Business Management Committees graduate into Beef Producers Associations. Livestock Dipping Committees (LDCs) will be capacitated to participate in ZBPA.

### Roles of Zimbabwe Beef Producers Association

- Advocating for an enabling beef value chain (BVC) policy and regulatory environment.
- Representing beef producers in beef value chain activities.
- Information and knowledge hub for beef producers.
- Market Intelligence. Bulk procurement of inputs.
- Facilitating access to financial services.

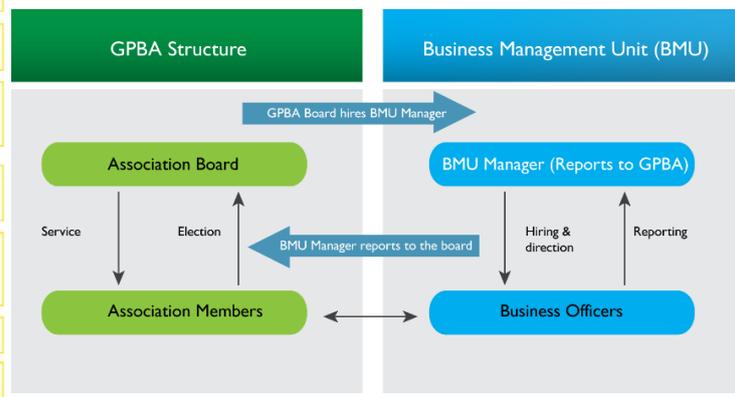
#### VALUE Championing Goat and Pork Farmer Associations

The [Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment \(VALUE\)](#) project is working in 20 districts undertaking goat (12 districts) and pork (8) value chain upgrading strategies for small and medium producers through establishment of farmer associations for collective action. The associations are self-organising groups that offer value adding business services to members through collective business strategies and leverage on economies of scale. The local value chain specific associations namely the Goat Producers Business Associations (GPBA) and the Pork Producers Business Syndicates (PPBS) are working closely with other farmer organisations such as farmer unions and national level associations such as the Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe and the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe.

#### Goat Producers Business Associations (GPBA)



- Developing inclusive business for association members, with the aim of improving inclusiveness of small holder farmers in the long term.
- Coordinating goat farmers toward commercialisation of goat breeding.
- Facilitating value added business activity and to provide a hub to aggregate orders to access convenient input.
- Promoting good husbandry practices, through training courses and field days
- Providing local farmers with improved breeds (e.g. buying improved breeds and bucks at affordable prices).
- Disseminating lobby and advocacy information.
- Disseminating good husbandry practices and goat breeding standards.
- Disseminating goat markets information.



#### Pork Producers Business Syndicates (PPBS)



- A PPBS is a self-organising group of pig producers offering value adding business services to members through collective business strategies and leveraging on economies of scale.
- Two PPBS will be established for Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West provinces.
- The PPBS will be made up of 100 primary members drawn from the 400 small to medium pig producers registered in the targeted eight districts.
- The PPBS will be key in stimulating business activities and win-win interaction between farmers, input suppliers, output market (e.g. small butcheries, supermarkets) and government players including policy review.

#### Online Resources

- [How to Effectively Detect Heat in Sows](#)
- [Good Piglet Management Practices](#)
- [How to Successfully Fatten your Pigs](#)
- [Pig Breed Selection Process](#)
- [Goat Value Chain Scoping Study Report](#)
- [Pork Value Chain Scoping Study Report](#)

#### The Crucial Role of Zimbabwe Poultry Association in the IPVC Project



#### At a Glance

- Paid up PBA membership: 1 203
- Bulk feed purchases: 4,812 bags
- Bulk chick purchases: 15,250

IPVC established five regional Poultry Business Associations (PBA), across its clusters in Harare, Masvingo, Gweru, Mutare and Bulawayo. Members of the PBAs are mainly small to medium poultry producers (broilers and eggs). The five PBAs are ultimately members of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association.

ZPA is an association under the Livestock and Meat Advisory Council (LMAC), formed as an independent council.

ZPA ensures that the voice of the Zimbabwe's poultry industry is heard and lobbied at government and policy making level.

- Issues of concern that the Council continues to address include:
  - Inputs – shortages and rising costs especially of maize and soya.
  - Imports – Impact of uncontrolled poultry meat and egg import on the local market.
  - Health – prevention of the spread of poultry diseases such as Newcastle disease.

#### ZAKIS ZimAgriHub: A One-Stop Shop for Agricultural Related Content

The [Zimbabwe Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Services \(ZAKIS\)](#) project seeks to ensure that farmer driven research and farmer to farmer extension materials are made accessible to the general public through collaborating with national farmers' unions in Zimbabwe.

ZAKIS is working with the Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) and the Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) to ensure all the non-commercial publications are hosted on ZimAgriHub. This is a knowledge management portal which will provide all actors in the agricultural space with a one stop shop for all agricultural related content.

The availability of the content on the portal will ensure that farmers are not only exposed to research and online educative material that has been developed by agricultural technical professionals, but will also have access to content which the peers themselves have developed and shared. The content from the farmers' unions will be digitized and made available to the general public.

#### Who is ZimAgriHub for?

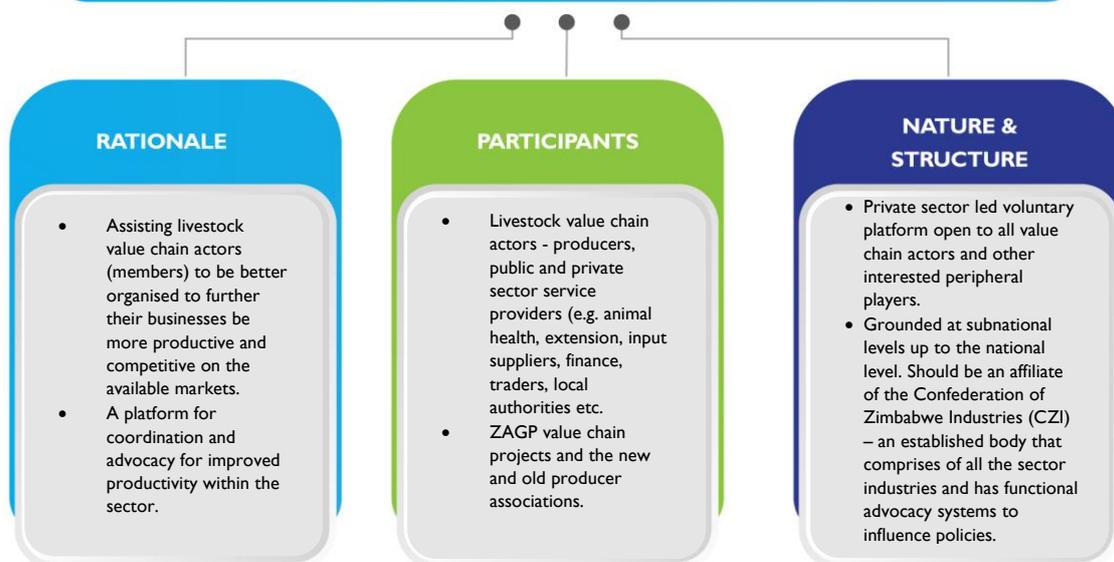


#### Online Resources

- [Organisation Champions Soil Analysis](#)

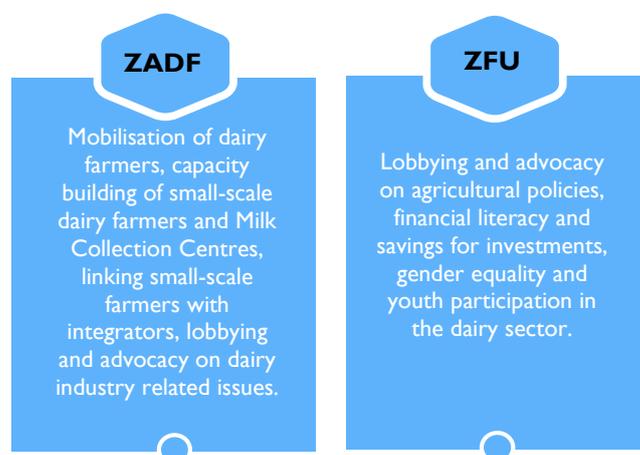
#### SAFE Reviving the Livestock Business Forum

SAFE in collaboration with the Livestock and Meat Advisory Council (LMAC) is focusing on reviving and strengthening the livestock sector coordination through producer and value chain actor engagement in livestock business meetings and networking for development. The project will establish a functional and sustainable platform that provides guidance to its membership and liaises with the other subsector organisations to advance their interests in a win-win approach.



#### TranZDVC Working with Farmers' Unions to Boost Milk Production

The [Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future \(TranZDVC\)](#) project is working in partnership with Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) and the Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) to boost milk production in Zimbabwe. The two organisations have representation in the country's 10 provinces. ZADF is the national association of milk producers in Zimbabwe, which engages in lobbying and advocacy work on issues directly related to dairy and provision of technical services. ZFU is a national farmers' union that lobbies for better agricultural sector policies in general and provides demand-driven outreach services to its members.





This month, we feature feedback received from Prof. N.T Ngongoni, one of our readers from the Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU). Below is his response to the September 2020 issue of ZAGP News which focused on capacity building of government staff.

Thank you for inviting our comments on some key issues in Agricultural Extension in your September Newsletter.

**Training in feed formulation:** This is a critical input to livestock production nowadays. This service may not be best offered by Agritex staff alone. I think it should be carried out by an appropriately staffed University Institution or Consultancy company. A computer lab that is well equipped and staffed is essential. The training of Agritex staff to help farmers is justified by the high cost of stock feed sold by relevant companies today. In the long term, stock feed companies are going to be out of business unless they take this extension approach of helping farmers to do on-farm stock feed formulation using farm produced and locally available feed ingredients. What is also critical is laboratory analysis of the feed ingredients to be included in the rations. The principle which must be emphasized is least-cost diet formulation to make use of the cheapest feed ingredients first to reduce feed costs for the farmer. Nowadays, feed formulation has become a specialist operation in view of some desirable micronutrients like vitamins and trace minerals as well as undesirable anti-nutritional compounds or substances like Aflatoxins

**Use of Computer technology in Agriculture:** Extension staff need to be trained to be themselves and the farmers computer literate. The specific areas of training are Total farm budgeting and partial budgeting. As was advised for feed formulation, collaboration with University specialists in the area of Agribusiness will access specialists like Prof. Lighton Dube of Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU). The situation of appropriate computer-aided records will improve the efficiency of farm Management.

**Appropriate Artificial Insemination(AI):** This can lead to efficiency in the management of reproduction in ranch cattle cows; developing regular yearly calving without missing. The farmer's herd and National herd will grow and if the bull breed is well chosen, big long cattle will produce good beef carcasses which will earn the farmer more money. In addition, venereal diseases will be controlled. I actually think that all extension staff working with cattle farmers should be able to carry out AI and pregnancy diagnosis together with Veterinary Extension staff. However, my discussion with extension staff in the field exposed to me that they have no means of transport among the farms from where they are stationed. I recommend diesel pick-up trucks with canopy in case of rains while carrying local farmers from a meeting or motor cycles. The current situation of walking from place to place on foot in the area is belittling and tiresome with poor coverage.

I hope my comments constitute help in improving extension work in Zimbabwe. I have used some of my experience after my training for a diploma at Chibero College of Agriculture.

**Professor N T Ngongoni**

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## PROJECT NEWS



Women and youth members of the Poultry Business Association (PBA) under the Gweru Cluster receiving their chicks and feed. PBAs have successfully negotiated for discounted prices for inputs.



Harvesting of fodder at the Lapache Cattle Business Centre in Mwenezi district, Masvingo province.



Hay bales ready for the market.



Ripe and ready! Beef producers purchasing hay bales at the Lapache Cattle Business Centre. This will go a long way in saving their cattle from hunger induced deaths. According to the Crop and Livestock Assessment Report, in 2019, Masvingo lost more than 17,000 cattle due to hunger.