



Zimbabwe
**AGRICULTURAL
GROWTH**
Programme



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VALUE NEWS

TALKING GOATS AND PIGS

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FROM THE TEAM LEADER'S DESK

VALUE Project Team Leader **NEWTON CHARI**

It is my pleasure to welcome our esteemed readers to the second issue of the VALUE News - Talking Goats and Pigs newsletter. The second quarter of the year was extraordinary as the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic declared a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the contagion. Although the period was undoubtedly a challenging one, I am glad to report that as a project we achieved several key milestones such as importation of 245 pig breeding stock and feed plants for integrators. Work on the Goat Improvement Centers in some districts of operations and construction of the Goat Holding Centre at Matopos Research Station

commenced. Also, we kickstarted the process of establishing farmer associations/syndicates along the production corridors the project is working in.

We are cognisant of the several challenges facing farmers during this period and are grateful for the efforts by Government to ensure smooth operations for farmers. In this covid-19 era, we continue to lobby and advocate for a more robust agribusiness environment.

I invite you to read through this issue as we provide updates on our efforts to contribute to the growth of the livestock sector in Zimbabwe.

Part of the breeding stock housed at Shamiso Farm in Goromonzi district



245 TOP QUALITY PIG BREEDS IMPORTED FROM SOUTH AFRICA

The Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) completed the importation of 245 pig breeding stock consisting grandparent and parent stock of Duroc, Landrace and Large white breeds. The breeding stock was delivered on 5 April and was in quarantine for 21 days at the Pig Industry Board (PIB) before being transferred to Braford farming and Shamiso Farm for breeding.

“We are grateful to the Government of Zimbabwe and the European Union for supporting this noble initiative. The top-quality genetics are coming in at a time the majority of small-scale farmers have expressed interest in accessing improved genetics” said VALUE Team Leader, Newton Chari.

Prevalence of tired pig genetics amongst small and medium pork producers has resulted in poor feed conversion ratios, increased susceptibility to diseases resulting in lower carcass weights and poor-quality meat thus affecting farmers profits.

“The breeding stock will largely address breeding level system constraints that have otherwise affected our farmers in attaining the desired productivity, organisational efficiencies and market competitiveness” added Chari.

After the quarantine period, the pig breeding stock is now housed at Shamiso Farm (Mashonaland East Province Integrator) and Braford Farm (Mashonaland West Province Integrator) while this other pigs remained at PIB. Farmers can access the genetics through these institutions in the form of boars and gilts or through artificial insemination services.

“The recent importation of new progeny and genetics is a serious indictment to the intent and key investment for competitive and comparative capacity being inbuilt into the small-scale pig production sector and its evolution and mainstreaming into commercial pig production industry,” said Samson Chauruka one of the Directors of Shamiso Farm.

Managing Director of Braford Farming, George Mudanga said, **“initially we are going to breed the pigs and avail semen as well as the progeny to farmers in our pork producer business syndicates in order to boost production.”**

The progeny will also be channelled to 600 young and women farmers through a weaner to finisher programme.

Watch video of the importation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p28QfJs5MPM>



TIPS FOR APPROPRIATE GOAT HOUSING

Goat breeding stock housed at Zvikomborero Farm in Chivhu

In building goat housing the following must be considered:

1. A roof to protect from rain.
2. Walls or sides to protect from the wind.
3. Well drained or cemented floors to prevent the ground from being too muddy.
4. Provision of raised areas to allow droppings to fall through and where goats can escape from wet and muddy conditions.
5. Regular cleaning to prevent the build-up of disease-causing bacteria and parasites in the dung and dust.

Farmers are encouraged to use locally available materials in constructing goat housing to reduce cost.



As we continue working under **#covid19**, we are undertaking an assessment of the effects of the pandemic along the goat and pork value chains in our operational districts.



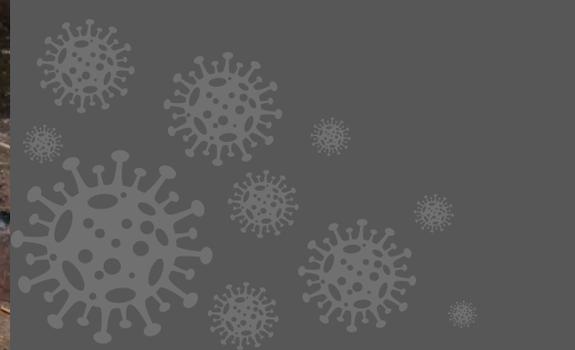
LIFE UNDER COVID-19 FOR A YOUNG SMALL PIG PRODUCER

By Benson Mutyanda – A young pig producer based in Mhondoro Ngezi

Watch video explainer here

https://youtu.be/X_rlc1t1Gc8

Benson runs a 20-sow unit in Mhondoro Ngezi district and is one of the anchor farmers under the VALUE project



The nationwide lockdown has undoubtedly affected our pig enterprise with regards to input supply, production and marketing. On the production side we have managed to maintain pretty much the same conditions we had before the pandemic. However, we have had to incur additional overheads with the increased bio security measures in order to prevent the spread of the disease.

It is on the marketing side that we have felt the biggest pinch. Since the lockdown came into effect, there has been depressed demand of the product as disposable incomes have shrunk significantly. In my view, the suspension of operations in the informal sector (which most households receive their incomes from) as well as that of the non-essential service formal sector has had a negative impact on the demand of meat products as people are looking to stretch their savings throughout the duration of the lockdown period.

We are also facing tough competition from bigger industry players who have the support systems to sell

their product at prices that are sometimes significantly lower than our production costs. This has further put a dent in our already falling demand. For instance, where we could previously manage to sell an average of 40 porkers a month before the outbreak of the pandemic and the lockdown, we have seen our sales plummet now to an average of 10-15 porkers a month.

On the input supply side, the prices of feed and medicines continue to rise resulting in increases in our costs of production thereby making operations less profitable by the day.

I applaud the support that the government has provided in response to the Corona virus pandemic in making agriculture an essential service, providing guidelines for the safety of our workforce and that of the nation. However, to help ease the situation for pork farmers, the government must continue to support our operations by helping ensure guaranteed access to raw materials such as grain, drugs and vaccines at a fair cost as well as access to viable markets.

“...where we could previously manage to sell an average of 40 porkers a month before the outbreak of the pandemic and the lockdown, we have seen our sales plummet now to an average of 10-15 porkers a month.”

KEY POLICY AND ECONOMIC INTERVENTIONS NEEDED TO SAVE THE PIG INDUSTRY AMID COVID 19 PANDEMIC

By Brian and Kimberly Nyatanga – Pig producers based in Marondera

[Watch video explainer here](#)

<https://youtu.be/5rYvJVekPY8>

Firstly, we would like to thank the government for granting farmers special permission to undertake farming operations during the COVID 19 lockdown. Initially, as farmers we were presented with the challenge of movement to and from the farms in search of feed and vaccines. Letters were not readily available hence there was a limitation on movement of essentials to and from the farms.

While this was sorted out by having the provincial Agritex officers assisting with letters, we still continue to face challenges with the police as they request for letters with new dates from the ones what were given to us during the initial lockdown phase.

Since the lockdown, the price of stock feed has continued to skyrocket to unsustainable levels, at the time of this writing (June 2019) a 50kg bag of pig grower concentrate is going for well over \$2000zwl.

Major cost drivers such as feed & vaccines continue to be aligned to parallel market US dollar rates. Fuel prices have also continued to rise amid scares availability leaving the farmer with little option but to purchase the fuel at exorbitant parallel market rates thus further reducing profits.

Pork Producer prices have remained depressed and below the \$2.50usd break-even price the farmer requires. Major Retailers and Meat processors continue to exploit this structural misalignment of prices citing low demand factors more so during the COVID 19 lockdown because of low disposable income from consumers.

Pig farming in Zimbabwe is unviable at the moment and we would like to appeal to the government to reintroduce the sale of subsidized stock feed through the GMB. Importation of low-cost raw materials will also go a long way in curbing production costs.

The COVID 19 pandemic has left a huge dent on the farmers balance sheet if government does not intervene soon the entire sector will face collapse. US Dollar pricing is a possible key intervention to ensure that the farmer breaks even as the cost of production is offset by corresponding \$US incomes. This alignment ensures continued production within the sector, food security and possibly much needed foreign currency earnings for the country.



DEEP DIVE - GOAT IMPROVEMENT CENTRES SET TO ALLEVIATE CHALLENGES FACED BY SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE GOAT PRODUCERS

A study into the goat value chain in Zimbabwe by the VALUE project revealed that the lack of formal goat selling facilities is a great barrier to the development of competitive and sustainable goat subsector enterprises including but not limited to goat meat. In order to address this and other bottlenecks in the value chain, the project is establishing goat improvement centres (GICs) in the twelve districts of operation across six provinces.

GICs are physical hubs providing primary business support services, such as, among others: goat aggregation for the market, access to veterinary drugs, mating services for breed improvement, hands-on training for farmers, demonstrations, breeding services and input sales. GIC will cover 1,5 hectares and will include goat pens, mating/maternity pens, offices, drug store, toilets, dip tank, fodder garden, loading ramp and a solar powered borehole.

During the nationwide Covid-19 induced lockdown, work on the construction of the GICs commenced in Mudzi, Lupane, BeitBridge, Matobo and Nkayi districts. The centres are being built on land allocated by the rural district councils with project farmers and local contractors in each district taking a leading role in the construction.

With support from the two private sector integrators namely Michview Enterprises and Zvikomborero Farms, the GICS will provide primary business support services such as hands-on training for goat farmers, goat breeding services, fodder seeds and plants, holding pens for offtaking of the goats and vaccines.

Dr Divine Ndhelukula of Zvikomborero farms in Chikomba district said, **“as an integrator we are involved in the setting up of the goat improvement centres where we will be offering support to farmers in the form of spearheading cross breeding of local goats with the**



Brick moulding at the Nkayi Goat Improvement Centre which is still under construction



improved genetics, training and extension services, supply of drugs and vaccines, growing fodder crops for feed supplements and offtaking their goats for markets.”

“One of the key roles we are playing is to integrate the small-scale farmers and ensure that there is aggregation of stocks for bulk supply to markets. In addition, through trainings and capacity building initiatives at the GICs we will ensure that small holder farmers adopt the principles of commercial goat production” said Lindani Ncube of Michview Enterprises.

Out of a total of 12, works have started in the Districts, with communities collaborating in brick moulding and site clearing, and local builders contracted for the construction works. In the remaining 6 Districts, all preparatory activities have been carried out.



3D models of the Goat improvement Centres being set up in the 12 districts

PERCENTAGE SHARE VALUE IN THE GOAT VALUE CHAIN

WITH REGARD TO RETURN ON INVESTMENTS IN THE GOAT VALUE CHAIN, THE SCOPING STUDY FOUND OUT THAT **BROKERS (MIDDLEMEN)** ARE GETTING THE HIGHEST GROSS MARGINS. THE MIDDLEMEN ENJOY A MONOPOLISTIC POSITION IN THE CHAIN FROM COLLECTION, BROKERING, WHOLESALING AND RETAILING.



INTERVIEW WITH REGINA NDIWENI FROM WARD 14 NDIWENI VILLAGE ON EFFECTS OF COVID 19 ON GOAT PRODUCTION

Sathi singena ehlelweni lwe ZAGP Value, sasicabanga ukuthi iproject izaphakama masinya sithole impongo ezizathuthukisa uhlonzi lwembuzi kodwa kwaphuza ngenxa yeCOVID 19, kumise, inhlelo ukuthi zihambe ngokuphangisa. Esikhathini esinengi, kunzima ukuthi abathengayo bafinyelele ngapha eMatobo ngenxa yokuba kokuhamba hamba okwalethwa yiCovid-19, abalimi sebeswela imali yokuziphilisa.

Ekufikeni kweCOVID 19 intengo yembuzi yakhwela isuka ku 200rtgs isiya ku 1500rtgs. Loba kunjalo, kodwa imali yakhona ayisathengi lutho ngoba intengo yokudla layo isiphezulu.

Kungakabi leCOVID 19 abalimi bebesenelisa ukuyathenga imithi koBulawayo, kodwa njengoba kungela transport, lokhu kwenza ukuthi kubenzima ukuvikela lokwelapha imikhuhlane yembuzi.



"The advent of covid19 saw the price of goats increasing from RTGS \$200 to RTGS \$1500, however the prices of basic commodities have also gone up," says Regina Ndiweni



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