



ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

ISSUE 33

AIMING FOR GROWTH

The ZAGP team welcomes you to the 33rd issue of ZAGP News; the newsletter for the European Union (EU) funded Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP). The focus of this issue is on sharing the achievements made by ZAGP towards growth in Zimbabwe's livestock sector. With the programme in its final year of implementation, we share the journey towards the achievement of the following outcomes to address the bottlenecks in the livestock sector.:

1. Increased production and productivity of the livestock sector
2. Livestock products have better access to markets and are more competitive
3. Increased public and private investment in targeted livestock value chains
4. Improved agricultural education systems and extension services
5. Institutions strengthened to develop and implement institutional and regulatory framework

ZAGP has made significant strides towards transforming the country's livestock. Production systems for the beef, dairy, goat, pork and poultry value chains are recording increased production and productivity and improved incomes as a result of the innovative approaches adopted by four value-chain specific ZAGP

projects. Equally important have been the two support projects focusing on animal health and food safety and improving agricultural research, education and extension.

We also share highlight of our successful participation at the 2023 edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) where ZAGP participated under the banner of the European Union Delegation to Zimbabwe - [#TeamEurope](#). The EU hosted member states and several development projects they are supporting.

Finally, this issue covers updates on short-term assignments commissioned by the Technical Assistance to ZAGP (TA-ZAGP), namely:

- Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) Surveillance Support to Department of Veterinary Services (DVS).
- Evaluation of the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Government Blitz Tick Grease Programme

Happy reading!

(Cover photo: (Left) The winning team. Participants at the 2023 edition of ZITF celebrating winning the first prize under the foreign exhibitors' category (Right) The President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa accompanied by King Mswati III of the Royal Kingdom of Eswatini, Vice President Dr Constantino Chiwenga getting a briefing on ZAGP from Munhamo Chisvo, the Team Leader.

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#TeamEurope Scoops Gold at ZITF 2023



For the first time, the European Union (EU) participated as **Team Europe** at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), in Bulawayo from April 25 to 29, 2023. The EU's participation was part of its efforts to strengthen economic ties with Zimbabwe and to promote trade and investment between the two regions.

The 2023 Edition of the ZITF was attended by over 400 exhibitors from 18 countries. The theme of this year's fair was **"Showcasing the New Normal for Business and Industry: Realities and Opportunities"**.

ZAGP along with several other projects funded by the EU and member states participated under the **#TeamEurope** banner, with the EU highlighting its support for Zimbabwe's development through its various development projects.

The exhibition was a success, and it helped to raise awareness of the EU's economic ties with Zimbabwe and the impacts of the development projects in agriculture, education, health, and governance.

According to Munhamo Chisvo, the Team Leader for the Technical Assistance to ZAGP (TA-ZAGP), the showcase provided an opportunity to raise awareness about the EU's development cooperation with the Government of Zimbabwe and a platform for projects to exhibit their initiatives.

"The EU stand attracted many visitors who were interested in learning more about the EU's trade and investment opportunities in Zimbabwe and also the support extended to the development sector. As ZAGP we were able to interact with over 600 visitors who were interested in our work to grow the country's livestock sector", he said.

Several dignitaries including the EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Jobst von Kirchmann, President of Zimbabwe, His Excellency the President of Zimbabwe, Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa accompanied by His Majesty, King Mswati III of the Royal Kingdom of Eswatini, Vice President Dr Constantino Chiwenga, government ministers and senior officials visited the stand.

As a recognition for a successful exhibition, the **#TeamEurope** stand won first prize under the foreign exhibitors' category, scooping the Supreme Foreign Exhibit accolade.

ZITF IN PICTURES



Winning team! The #TeamEurope stand won Supreme Foreign Exhibit at ZITF 2023



Deputy Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Kindness Paradza and EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Jobst on Kirchmann getting a briefing on the TranZDVC project from the Team Leader, Dr Edson Chifamba.



Munhamo Chisvo (R) giving an overview of ZAGP to Minister of Finance and Economic Development Minister, Prof. Mthuli Ncube accompanied by the EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Jobst on Kirchmann.



The President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa accompanied by King Mswati III of the Royal Kingdom of Eswatini, Vice President Dr Constantino Chiwenga, government ministers and senior officials visited the stand and received highlights of EU's economic ties with Zimbabwe.



TOWARDS GROWTH: PROJECT SUCCESSES TO DATE

Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST)



The goal of the **Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST)** project is to create a robust, competitive beef value chain that promotes enhanced trade, employment creation, food security, and inclusive green economic growth by 2023 for 25,000 small to medium scale farmers. The key strategy for the project was establishment of Cattle Business Centres (CBCs) managed by the private sector. The CBCs act as livestock agribusiness hubs with supporting infrastructure, where farmers access extension, input and output marketing and financial services. Physical infrastructure constructed at the CBCs include solar powered boreholes, 60 head capacity feedlots, biogas digesters, storage rooms, offices, livestock input sales facilities among others. The CBC is also a centre of excellence for livestock training activities where good animal husbandry practices and all the innovations around livestock production are practiced and demonstrated for adoption and replication by the wider community of farmers.

ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE



10 Main CBCs, **48** Satellite CBCs, **10** Biogas Digesters



US\$71,806 Hay Bale Sales



US\$340,657 Earned on Pen Fattening



Cattle Auctions: **US\$1,634,183**
Direct Cattle Sales: **US\$793,361**



Stock Feed: **US\$106,342**

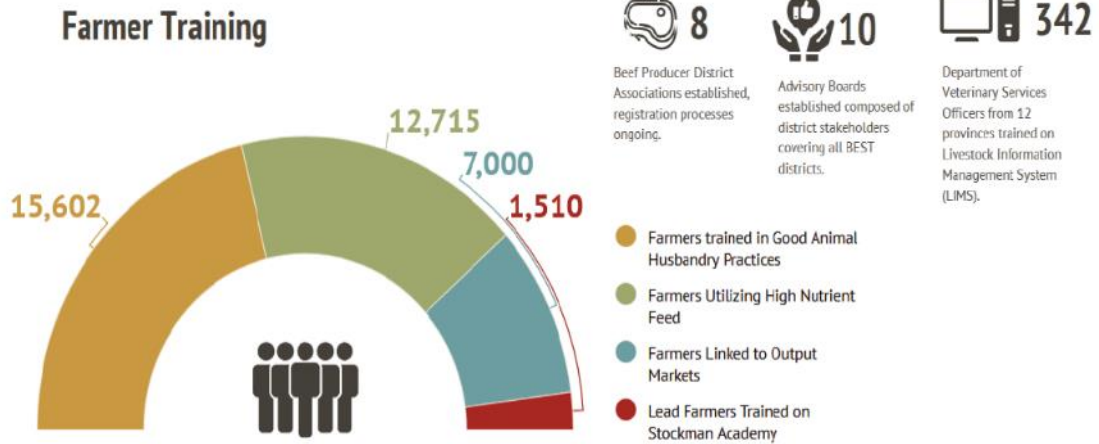


Vet Drug Sales: **US\$23,417**

TOWARDS GROWTH: PROJECT SUCCESSES TO DATE

Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST)

BEST ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE



50
Bulls distributed across the 10 BEST districts for Breed Improvement (5 per district).

Umguza
Mt Darwin Chiredzi Kwekwe
Lupane Makoni Buhera
Makoni Gokwe South
Shurugwi



326 cattle serviced to date by the bulls and 94 calves born

ONLINE RESOURCES

Success Stories Booklet



The BEST project has produced a Success Stories booklet featuring a series of voices of the beneficiaries on the various initiatives implemented under the project.

Download a copy of the publication (PDF).

VIDEO: Creating Agricultural Entrepreneurs



Watch a video on how beef producers under the BEST project have embraced good animal husbandry practices and all the innovations around livestock production.

[Watch the video on the ZAGP channel](#)

IPVC Boosts Poultry Production in Zimbabwe



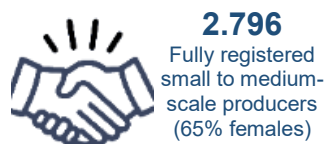
The **Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC)** project ran from February 2019 to September 2022 and The project aimed at benefiting small to medium scale poultry producers (SMPs) by improving value chain social, environmental and economic performance at all levels as well as engaging private sector integrators.

The IPVC project contributed towards increasing the profitability of SMPs through adoption of costs reduction strategies in the poultry meat and table eggs value chain. The IPVC promoted organizational development of poultry Small and Medium Producers (SMPs) and Poultry Business Associations (PBAs).

Poultry Business Units (PBUs) were established in five peri-urban area clusters namely Bulawayo, Gweru, Harare, Masvingo and Mutare. The SMPs in the five different clusters have Poultry Business Units serving as administration and coordinating entities for collective action. The PBUs allow poultry farmer groups to benefit from economies of scale and scope, allowing them to more easily and profitably access extension, inputs, regulatory, financial and marketing services. The PBUs negotiate bulk purchases of day-old chicks and feed for SMPs, which helps with four key value propositions: lowering production costs, increasing income, leveraging service and providing services such as training and provision of poultry farming information.

IPVC managed to develop productive capacity of over 11,000 small scale poultry producers, and helped organize 3,135 of these into poultry business associations which operate cooperative companies. The cooperative companies provide poultry value chain services in the form of credit finance, feed, day old chicks (DOCs) and output markets to members.

SNAPSHOT OF IPVC ACHIEVEMENTS



Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety for the Future (SAFE)



The overall objective of the **Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety for the Future (SAFE)** project is to upgrade Zimbabwe's Animal Health and, sanitary and phyto-sanitary/food safety systems. This is delivered through four key output:

- Strengthened Animal Health and Food Safety Policy and regulatory frameworks;
- Strengthened Livestock and Food Safety Information Management Systems for disease surveillance and control;
- Strengthened capacity of public and private sector players in animal health and food safety; and
- Establishment of functional multi-stakeholder platforms for coordination, collaboration, advocacy and support for efficient revenue generation and utilization of regulatory bodies.

SAFE ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

Strengthened Animal Health and Food Safety Policy and Regulatory Frameworks



National Integrated Ticks and Tick-borne disease strategy 2022/30 adopted and support to implementation on-going.



- National Food Safety 2022/26 Strategy adopted and support to implementation on-going.
- Food Establishment Health Guidelines formulated and adopted for use.
- Food Recall regulations formulated and awaiting gazetting, Animal Health Act - and Veterinary Surgeons Act Regulations.
- Four new additional tests introduced for Salmonella, Ecoli, Aflatoxin BI and Listeria in provinces and at ports of entry.

Digitalization of National Animal Health and Food Safety Information Systems



- Livestock Information Management Systems (LIMS- disease reporting modules),
- National Food Safety and Port Health Information Management Systems.

Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety for the Future (SAFE)

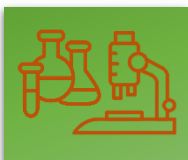
Strengthened Capacity of Public and Private Sector Players in Animal Health and Food Safety



Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) capacitated to produce Theileriosis vaccine. **138,000** doses produced to date.



26 AMHCs equipped and private sector players engaged using Joint Venture Agreements for improved animal health service delivery.



Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) and Government Analyst Laboratory accredited for ISO 17025:2017.



Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) and Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) reviewed and under use.



- Curriculum reviews completed and under implementation (Mazowe Veterinary College and Food Inspectors (Environmental Health Technicians).
- **305** Technicians out of a target **281** trained and gained knowledge on Risk Analysis.

Establishment of Functional Multi-stakeholder Platforms for Coordination, Collaboration and Advocacy



- Livestock Business Forum Meetings undertaken
- Project flagship intervention success story video produced
- Technical brochures and banners produced for January Disease, Heartwater, Red water, Ecoli, Salmonella and Listeria



A Livestock Business Forum meeting in progress. The forum brought together representatives and key stakeholders in the livestock sector.

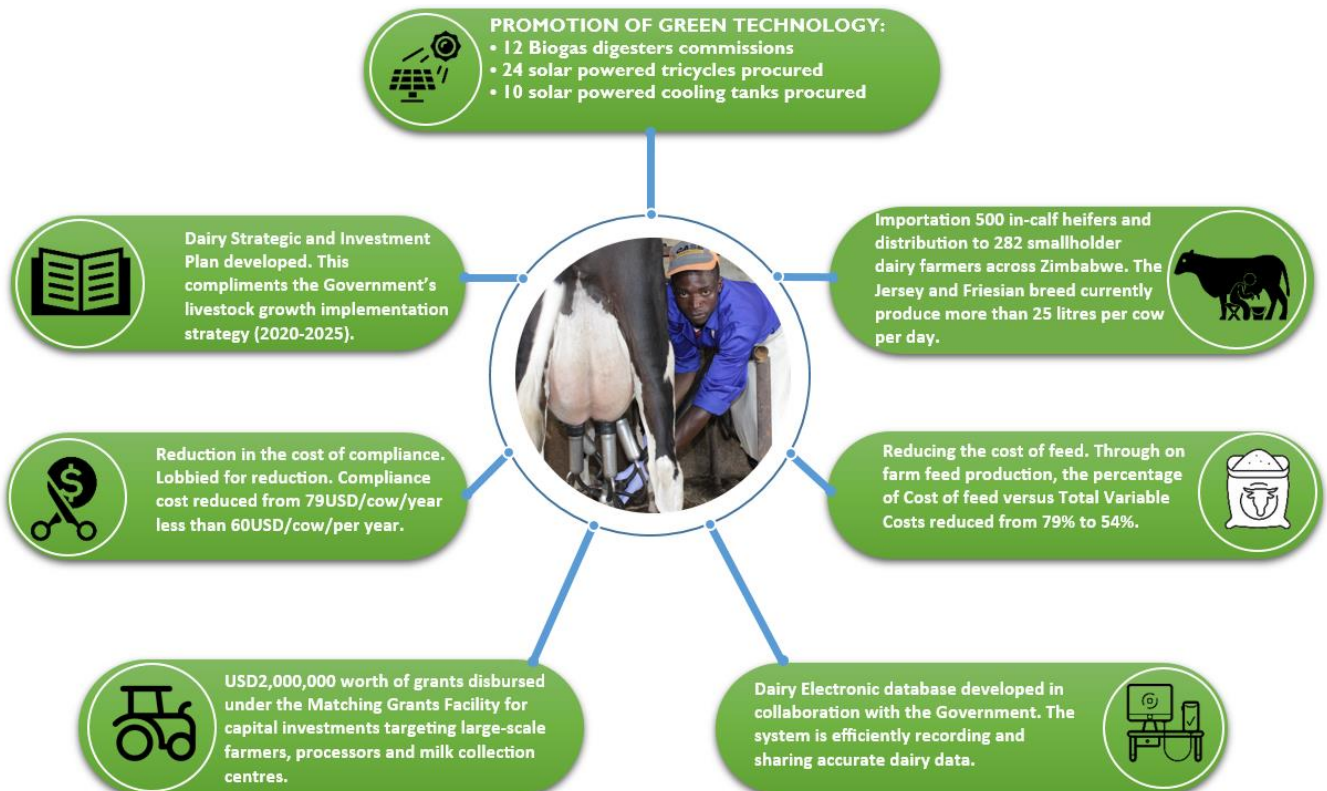
Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future (TranZDVC)



The **Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future (TranZDVC)** project aims to address the root causes of under-performance in the dairy value chain by Strengthening financing, production, processing and market linkages. The project works with over 4,800 dairy farmers countrywide. These include small -scale, medium and large- scale dairy farmers.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the development of a diversified and efficient dairy sector that promotes inclusive economic growth.

TRANZDVC ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE



Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE)

The Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project is targeting 1000 pork producers and 10000 goat farmers who are currently operating at suboptimal stages of commercialisation and economic growth. Through a mix of interventions, the project is addressing several value chain constraints namely financial, environmental, technological, organisational, market, regulatory and policy level constraints.

VALUE ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

Goat Value Chain



3199 goats giving total of 40351.716kg of goat meat sold to 43 butcheries in Harare and Bulawayo markets by 868 farmers



312 pure bred goats imported (256 doelings, 56 bucklings), and 1729 offspring of imported genetics have been born



6740 goat farmers are utilizing the GICs



Construction of 12 GICs that provide animals nutrition, animals health, breeding services completed



Formation of functional 12GPAs



USD138 218.583 generated as revenue for farmers under DMM initiative



Revenue of USD51 790 generated from AI semen sales,



Development of 13 customised technical and non-technical manuals for goats and pigs to guide on farmer trainings and adoption of best production practices



13 multipliers farms were capacitated to multiply superior genetics at cluster level.

Pork Value Chain



244 pigs imported, and 307 offspring of imported genetics has been sold from breeder farms to farmer to date



10 549 semen doses from imported grand parent stock distribution to +/- 500 farmers



195049.5 kilograms (\$55 2691.6usd) of pork sold by the the ME/MW pork producers Business Syndicate via the meat market Centre



78 230 777 ZWL worth of loans was awarded to 46 PVC farmers by First Mutual producing 211200 kilograms of pork sold collectively in Mashonaland East and West



667458 kilograms of commercial feed purchased by farmers in Mashonaland East and West under the first Mutual loan facility



From the imported genetics 6810 piglets farrowed have been to date (5688 Braford, 1122 MEPPBS),



327 trained young and women farmers were trained, and 224 (12f, 103m) farmers are now incorporated into production.

Development of alternative low-cost feed formulars and training of PVC and GVC farmers to guide localised feed production, resulting in feed cost of more than 30%.


Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS)





The **Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS)** project was anchored on the agricultural centres of excellence model to address the knowledge transfer gap and silos which were existing among the three pillars of agricultural research, education, and extension. The project sought to harmonise the three pillars to improve agricultural efficiency and knowledge dissemination to farmers thereby contributing to improved food production leading to poverty reduction in the country.


The extension to farmer ratio in Zimbabwe is 1: 800, hence the ZAKIS project intended to capacitate the ministry of agriculture extension workers – foot soldiers, enabling them to effectively deploy services to farmers at district and ward level.


ZAKIS Project aims to create an enabling environment where agricultural research, education, and extension interface to create an integrated, dynamic, market-oriented, and farmer-centric agricultural knowledge and innovation services system that meets the needs of modern agriculture in Zimbabwe.


- 


Established 2 Agricultural Centres of Excellence (ACEs) and 4 District Agricultural Centres of Excellence (DACEs).
- 


Over 26,162 farmers have been trained through the ACEs and DACEs against a target of 20,213.
- 


Launched and implemented the New Agricultural Education for Development (AE4D 5.0) curriculum and 1,046 students across the eight agricultural colleges now using new curriculum. 96 % of college staff capacitated on new curriculum AE4D 5.0.
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Developed and launched the ZimAgriHub (Online Digital Library) www.zimagrihub.org.zw
The platform library has reached to over 62,367k stakeholders and/or farmers with over 9,000 file downloads
- 

Developed and launched the Agric Extension In-service Training App launched (100% utilization). 7,136 extension officers have registered and are utilizing the app.
68,053 enrolled on the training app.
Cumulative total of 18 581 certifications awarded on the In-service Training App
- 

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68,053 enrolled on the training app.
Cumulative total of 18 581 certifications awarded on the In-service Training App
- 

13 Ward Information Centres established and equipped and has reached to over 5,930 farmers within the 4 operational districts.
- 

44 percent of the targeted farmers have adopted at least 3 of the promoted agricultural practices in the 4 operational districts.
- 

Established 8 public- private partners (PPP) collaborating with ACEs and DACEs

PROJECT UPDATES

ZAGP Extends Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) Surveillance Support to Department of Veterinary Services (DVS)

The Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP) has embarked on a Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) support assignment for the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS).

PPR is a devastating disease of sheep and goats that has been spreading across the world. Its effects on livelihoods are such that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) have jointly collaborated in efforts to craft strategies for the eradication of PPR.

Zimbabwe is at risk of PPR basing on the boundaries that it shares with Zambia to the north, and Mozambique to the east which have a link with infected countries. PPR is a highly fatal disease of goats and sheep caused by a Morbillivirus. Mortality rates can be as high as 100% in naïve populations.

PPR was first described in West Africa, but has been spreading northwards and recently southwards, reaching southern Africa in recent years. PPR has been confirmed in Tanzania, which borders with Zambia and Mozambique. Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique are traditional trade partners with Zimbabwe. There is a general spatio-temporal trend of a southward migration of PPR starting from West Africa.

There is cross border informal trade of small ruminants and their products between Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique. This transboundary trade is a potential risk factor as a possible vehicle for movement of infected animals or animal products and fomites.

Although Zimbabwe has not recorded the presence of PPR, there is insufficient surveillance data to prove absence of PPR virus in circulation and gain World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) official recognition of country freedom from PPR. The OIE free status recognition plays a prominent role in facilitating the international trade of animals and their products.

It is against this background that the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) is extending and carrying out continuous and sustainable surveillance and awareness programme for PPR in the country. This would enable Zimbabwe to fulfil requirements for declaration of PPR freedom by OIE as well as establish early warning, early detection and rapid response systems in order to maintain PPR freedom.

The overall objective of the assignment is to declare freedom from PPR disease in Zimbabwe.

More specifically, focus will be on;

- Mapping and establishing markets and routes of trade for small ruminants in Zimbabwe (Risk assessment for PPR);
- Carrying out awareness programs for PPR in Zimbabwe; and
- Carrying out risk-based surveillance in small ruminants of livestock and wildlife in Zimbabwe.

The overall output will be OIE recognition of national PPR freedom status and improved national access to regional and international market for small ruminant livestock and livestock products.



Sensitisation and consultative workshop in progress in Harare for the draft PPR Dossier for submission to the WOAH.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Government Blitz Tick Grease Programme



ZAGP supported the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD) to undertake the Evaluation of the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Government Blitz Tick Grease Programme.

Government, as a major role player in collaboration with development partners, has introduced the Livestock Growth Plan which seeks to revive and improve livestock production and productivity, as one of the major drivers contributing towards Vision 2030 of becoming an upper middle-income economy. The Livestock Growth Plan consists of strategic interventions on animal health, animal nutrition and disease surveillance. The Government Blitz Tick Grease Program (GBTGP) was one of the interventions under animal health implemented by the Government of Zimbabwe to reduce cattle mortality as TBD were spreading to formerly non-TBD areas.

The study provides empirical evidence to inform future investments and engagement in the sector as well as providing recommendations for improvements in Government's animal health and disease control programs on how the BTGP could be enhanced as the country seeks solutions to boost the livestock sector through the implementation of the Livestock Development and Growth Plan, the Climate Smart Agriculture Investment Plan (CSAIP), and integration with the One Health Approach.

The study was implemented by the Center for Agriculture and Food Policy (CAFP) and it involved desk research, interviews with experts in animal health and those in the tick grease supply chain, interviews with farmers through a structured questionnaire survey and focus group discussions. The study had five interlinked objectives as follows:

- i. To assess effectiveness and efficiency of delivery of the tick grease program;
- ii. Assess selection criteria for the households and how that can be improved in future programs;
- iii. Check the functionality of dip tanks across the country as a means of disease control;
- iv. To assess the impact and contribution of the GBTGP on rural households' livelihoods; and
- v. Identify challenges in the implementation of the program; and provide recommendations for future implementation of animal disease control programs.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Government Blitz Tick Grease Programme

KEY FINDINGS

In general, the Blitz Tick Grease Programme was regarded as effective (both FGDS and KII) and econometric models confirmed that. Female headed households were less likely to receive tick grease from the GBTGP. Results also indicated that increased visits by the veterinary officers increased the likelihood of a household receiving tick grease. Some of the factors that were seen to curtail impact of tick grease included distance to the dip tanks, time of receiving tick grease as well as distribution challenges as the program did not have transport facilities to ferry the tick grease from GMB to distribution points.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The GBTGP has tremendous potential to support and strengthen resilience of smallholder livestock farmers against tick-borne diseases such as theileriosis. It is a subsidized program with positive returns to investment in community livelihoods and public health. To strengthen the capacities of smallholder farmers in eradicating poverty through animal health interventions, the following recommendations were made based on study results:

Timing and delivery of tick grease

Study results show that tick grease is more effective as a preventative measure and therefore should be delivered before the onset of the rains which is the peak infestation period. It is therefore important for maximum impact that the tick grease is delivered to farmers prior to the start of rains (before the onset of the tick infestation) instead of after tick infestation.

Tick grease quantity

Stock size should determine quantity of tick grease to be allocated per stock owner. Sub-optimal application of tick grease may not yield the intended results and can additionally lead to the emergence and spread of resistance to acaricides.

Inclusion of women

Women farmers should be targeted more directly since they are the most vulnerable in cases of disease infestations and other shocks. Study results showed that, on average, female headed households were less likely to receive tick grease from the program. This made them more susceptible to herd mortality which reduced their income and food and nutrition security.

Functionality of dip tanks

Most dip tanks were classified as functional, however communities encountered challenges in draining the dip tanks. It is labour intensive, hence they continuously used recycled dirty water in dip tanks leading to the acaricides not mixing well with the water. For this reason, rehabilitation and construction of dip tanks should incorporate a self-draining mechanism as well as ensuring the availability of fresh water at dip tank points through drilling boreholes or building it closer to a perennial water source, and where possible incorporating solar systems to improve efficiency of water supply to dip tanks. There is also need for a wider range of dipping chemicals together with strict monitoring and registration of acaricides that are imported to prevent tick resistance to a particular chemical. The most commonly used acaricides in Zimbabwe are synthetic pyrethroids and formamidines.

Cattle movement

Given that movement of tick infested livestock was cited as one of the main drivers of the spread of tick-borne diseases from one area to another, it is therefore prudent for farmers to strictly adhere to animal movement regulations. Those responsible for authorizing cattle movement are encouraged to enforce the DVS standard operating procedures to ensure all conditions are satisfied before cattle are allowed to move. Punitive measures through enforcement of penalties on illegal cattle movement in line with the Integrated Tick and Tick-Borne Disease Control Strategy (2022 – 2030) need to be introduced. There is need for joint stakeholder awareness and enforcement with regards to animal movement as enshrined in Statutory Instrument (SI) 280 of 1984.

To strengthen the disease surveillance systems, it is key for government and development partners to join efforts to enhance the capacity of veterinary officers and extension workers. This would mean the field staff need to be equipped with electronic gadgets that can be used to capture or enter data for timely and rapid data transmission.

Roadmap and exit strategy

The GBTGP has tremendous potential to support and strengthen resilience of smallholder livestock farmers against tick-borne diseases such as theileriosis. As a subsidized program it is key for government to ensure that farmers do not become over dependent on hand outs. Instead, it is important to promote the development and growth of agro-dealer network. Government should deliver the subsidy through innovative means that allow agro-dealers to procure and distribute the products across the country, thus enabling government to gradually reducing its involvement in financing of procurement and distribution of the product. Government should then focus on investing more resources into livestock extension and farmer training to create demand for the tick grease supplied through the private sector.

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