



ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

ISSUE 14: JUNE 2020

EDITORIAL

We welcome you to the 14th issue (June 2020) of ZAGP News, giving you an update of the programme's activities. June marks ZAGP's first anniversary following the launch held at Chibero College of Agriculture on 11 June 2019. As we continue with the journey to create a modern, prosperous agricultural and livestock sector in Zimbabwe, ZAGP has made significant progress in addressing the bottlenecks affecting the performance of the livestock sector.

Most notably, much ground has been covered in key areas such as construction of infrastructure, breeds improvement, capacity building, market and service linkages, access to finance and extension among others.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc globally. At the time of writing, Zimbabwe had recorded 356 cases so far according to the latest data from the health ministry.

With Covid-19 declared a national disaster in March 2020 and a national lockdown currently in place, ZAGP's activities have continued, adhering to the health and safety guidelines recommended by the health officials.

There have been increased calls to explore policy options to address the impacts of the pandemic on agricultural value chains to keep supply chains open as the pandemic continues unabated. ZAGP is playing its part in ensuring continued production within the targeted livestock value chains.

We have also been collaborating with the Department of Veterinary Services to produce Covid-19 awareness videos targeting livestock producers, with two new productions on cattle dipping (Ndebele) and pig production.

In this issue, we focus on ZAGP's partnership with the private sector. We highlight how this sector is playing a critical role in various project interventions such as Cattle Business Centres, Goat Improvement Centres, Agricultural Centres of Excellence, Poultry Business Associations, breed improvements and Pig Producer Business Syndicates.

We welcome feedback on this, and future issues of the publication. Thank you, and enjoy reading! Stay safe and continue with the good practices which can halt the spread of Covid-19.

Cover photo: Appropriate goat housing at Zvikomborero Farm

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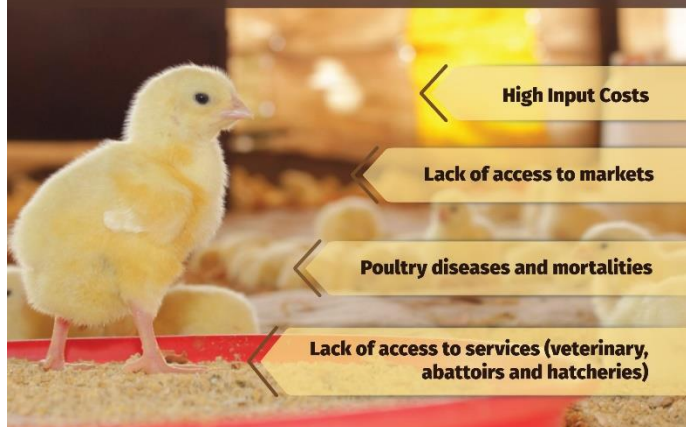


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PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

IPVC Engages Private Sector in Establishing Poultry Business Associations

CHALLENGES FACED BY POULTRY PRODUCERS



To address the challenges within the poultry value chain, the [Inclusive Poultry Value Chain \(IPVC\)](#) project has partnered with the private sector in the establishment of the Poultry Business Associations (PBAs).

The PBAs act as administration and coordination units for collective action for small to medium-scale poultry producers (SMPs). The goal of the PBAs is to enable organised farmer groups to access extension services, inputs, financial and market services in a more convenient and profitable manner.

It further aims to negotiate for bulk purchase of inputs, therefore addressing four main value propositions, which are; reducing cost of production, increasing revenue, leveraging on services, and offering different services from within the poultry value chain.

The Harare cluster PBA has engaged Fivet Animal Health which is going to offer support in growing healthy birds. Fivet will provide discounts for vaccinations, offer nutrition education as well as allow for bulk purchasing of inputs.

“At the end of the day, members of the PBA will get a significant discount on their purchases, get their purchases delivered (mainly for large scale) and get attention in terms of technical services and support”, Dr Shadreck Magonziwa of Fivet explained.

Since farmers face a challenge of poultry diseases which leads to under-weight chickens that are not suitable for the market and in some extreme cases, poultry mortalities, Fivet will assist with tests and vaccinations.

“We have a fully-fledged laboratory that can do all sorts of tests to make sure that birds are sold in a healthy state. We can also test the efficiency of vaccinations while making sure that vaccinations are done effectively. In the end, whoever is in the association is benefiting because we are testing the birds during production and before slaughter”, Dr Magonziwa added.

Working under Covid-19 has proved to be a challenge for most farmers due to limited movement, in turn limiting access to information. Masvingo Chicks is assisting the Masvingo PBA with access to information.

“Because of Covid-19, our main goal is to keep farmers rolling. Especially now that we are in winter, farmers need tips on brooding and heating.” Said Munyaradzi Tavareva of Masvingo Chicks. As the PBAs start functioning at full capacity, IPVC will engage more partners from the private sector.



At the core of the IPVC intervention is the promotion and support of the organisational development of small to medium scale poultry producers groups into business associations or formal business structures.



[IPVC on Facebook](#)



[IPVC on Twitter](#)



PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS ENABLING REVENUE GENERATION AT AGRICULTURAL CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (ACES)

Newly constructed fishponds at Chibero for which Fishfeeds has partnered by providing 3000 fingerlings and feed to establish the fish training enterprise within the ACE.

The [Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services \(ZAKIS\)](#) project has fostered the creation of private sector partnerships with the Agricultural Centres of Excellence ACEs at Chibero College of Agriculture (CHACE) and Matopos Research Institute (MACE). These partnerships are to strengthen viability and sustainability opportunities for the facilities.

One such partnership is with FishFeeds, a subsidiary of Profeeds, a stock feed manufacturing company. This initiative involves the production and marketing of fish fingerlings and feed for commercial aquaculture. Under the agreement, the Chibero fish ponds established by ZAKIS will be used for training purposes. It is in the interest of FishFeeds to see farmers and extension staff trained on fish farming as this will ultimately increase demand for their feeds if production and active producers increase.

At least four training sessions will be organised through the ACE per year and participants will be drawn from the four District Agricultural Centres of Excellence (DACEs). FishFeeds will also invite farmers from other districts that they are working in which they term high potential aquaculture districts, mainly in Manicaland province.

At CHACE, firstly, Chibero Agricultural College will benefit from the availability of a practical and hands on training “tool” in the form of stocked ponds for their students to complement the theory.

This will help students to get actual experience of fish farming, from the fingerling to the marketing stages.

Secondly, the college will have the opportunity to generate income from fish sales and achieve some dietary diversity for the students.

Thirdly, through the CHACE, a strategy is being formulated to commercialise the training with an expectation that participants will pay for certificate awarding courses. This will also add to the income stream for the CHACE.

FishFeeds have the staff that will conduct training for both extension staff and farmers, but within the districts, the extension staff will then be expected to cascade the information to more farmers.

Based on the farmer needs assessment done to support program design at the ACEs and DACEs 0.7% of farmers interviewed are practicing aquaculture in Chegutu district and 1.8% of farmers in Mhondoro Ngezi district. These districts with DACEs will bring participants to the CHACE training site. At least 680 farming households will benefit directly from this initiative with FishFeeds.

There are other companies that have also taken steps towards similar initiatives through the ACEs and DACEs, these are namely National Foods,

Prime Seedco and SuperFert who have to date, come on board to collaborate and create synergies with potential benefits for all parties involved.

The business model for most of these partnerships involves provision of key inputs such as genetic material which includes fingerlings, crop hybrids, day old chicks, stock feeds, fertilisers and crop chemicals. This will include the establishment of demonstration plots for an array of crops and pen-fattening of cattle for an off-take market.

The partnerships with the private sector involves the ACEs getting free inputs. Given that the centres will be used for farmer training, the private sector partners are able to demonstrate their best practice for optimum results as they market their products and immediately establish relationships with the participating farmers and beyond.

The private sector players anticipate that the farmers will be better informed and are therefore likely to procure inputs from suppliers they have a relationship with. The institution will further generate income from some of the specialised training fees and the selling of harvested commodities.

Discussions with the agriculture ministry have been initiated to allow income retention at the ACEs as this will play a key role in strengthening the sustainability prospects for the institutions.



[ZAKIS on Facebook](#)

TranZDVC Distributes Heifers to Small- Scale Dairy Farmers to Boost Milk Production

The [Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future \(TranZDVC\)](#) project, has handed over 105 in-calf heifers imported from South Africa, to boost the country's dairy sub-sector.

Twenty-two small-scale farmers in May benefited from this consignment through milk processors - Pro dairy, Nestle Zimbabwe and Dendairy, who will match on a one - to -one basis what TranZDVC procured. The heifers, a cross breed between Jerseys and Jersey Friesian crosses, are expected to improve the quantity and quality of the national dairy herd.

Vangelis Haritatos, the Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water, and Rural Resettlement Guest of Honour officiated the handover ceremony of the first batch of 105 heifers at Bhara Bhara Farm in Marirangwe area in Mashonaland East province. He told the beneficiary farmers to take farming- as- a- family business, and improve the production and productivity of Zimbabwe's dairy value chain.

"I urge all beneficiary farmers of these in-calf heifers distributed here today to maximise the opportunity presented to them by the TranZDVC project and the government of Zimbabwe, to scale up their milk production efforts," said deputy minister Haritatos. The project is investing in interventions that will contribute directly to continued development of Zimbabwe's dairy sub-sector.

So far, TranZDVC has imported 200 heifers that we are going to distribute through private sector partners (large-scale processors) who include Dendairy, Dairibord Zimbabwe, Kefalos, Pro dairy and Nestle Zimbabwe."

A second consignment of 95 in-calf heifers will be imported from the same supplier of the first batch, Cape Eastern Livestock South Africa. These will be handed over to Dairibord Zimbabwe and Kefalos for distribution to another 26 small-scale dairy farmers.

Addressing participants at the same event, Goran Forssen, the

We Effect Country Representative said: "The project is about increasing the production of milk in Zimbabwe from 75 million litres a year (in 2018) to 120 million litres a year (by 2022) and increasing the participation by small-scale farmers, especially women and youth, in the dairy value chain".

To achieve this, the project is targeting 4,000 small-scale dairy farmers that are currently unable to participate in organised marketing of milk. Zimbabwe's dairy herd of 123,000 cows in 1990, at one point, produced more than 260 million litres of milk annually, but production declined over the years, with an estimated 39,000 dairy cows left. The annual demand for milk currently stands at 120 million litres and there is a deficit of 45 million litres.

Mudiwa Mupfanochiya, one of the farmers who received 10 heifers is involved in dairy production at Ponderossa Farm in Umzingwane district in Matabeleland South province. He is already looking forward to increased milk production.

"I applied for five heifers through this facility and received an additional five heifers from the project through Dendairy. This is major step in improving milk production at Panderossa Farm. I currently have 30 milking cows and producing 150 to 200 litres of milk per day using a low input and low output system" said Mudiwa.

Mudiwa is seeking to boost milk production to 15 litres per cow per day.

Speaking earlier in May during another heifer hand-over ceremony at Dendairy Farm in Kwekwe, in Midlands province recently, TranZDVC project coordinator, Dr Edson Chifamba said: "We also have a heifer facility where we are buying 500 in-calf heifers that we'll distribute to farmers on a one-to-one match. Buy one and get an additional one free. This will result in a herd increase of 1,000 dairy cows".



Honourable Vangelis Haritatos delivering the keynote address at the handover ceremony. He urged farmers to take farming as a business.



Part of the herd of in-calf heifers at Bhara Bhara in Marirangwe area in Mashonaland East province.



[TranZDVC on Facebook](#)



[TranZDVC on Twitter](#)

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 Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment \(VALUE\)](#) project revealed that the lack of formal goat selling facilities is a great barrier to the development of competitive and sustainable goat sub-sector 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.

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.

VALUE is working with support from two private sector integrators - 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 off-taking of the goats and vaccines.

Dr Divine Ndhukula 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 improved genetics, training and extension services, supply of drugs and vaccines, growing fodder crops for feed supplements and off-taking their goats for markets."

In addition, the district level Goat Producers Business Associations will spearhead the utility of the centres to provide services to farmers in their regions by offering the services below:

- Aggregation of live goat for bulk marketing
- Access to improved genetics both exotic and indigenous goats
- Animal nutrition - access to fodder crops and different feed formulations
- Animal health services - dipping and vaccinating facilities
- Extension - training / learning centres e.g. demo plots and organising farmers.
- Platform for external service provision e.g. financial institutions
- Exhibition fairs for suppliers and service providers to showcase their products
- Demonstration of green technologies and practices

"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.



Contractors digging foundations for the goat pens at the Nkayi Goat Improvement Centre.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Watch videos explaining the goat value chain model [from Michview Enterprises](#) and [Zvikomborero Farm](#).
- [Video explainer on the goat value chain interventions](#).



[VALUE on Facebook](#)



[VALUE on Twitter](#)



ESTABLISHMENT OF PIG PRODUCER BUSINESS SYNDICATES UNDERWAY IN MASHONALAND EAST AND MASHONALAND WEST

The [VALUE](#) project is in the process of setting up two provincial level Pig Producer Business Syndicates (PPBS) which are self-organising groups of pig producers that offer value adding business services to members through collective business strategies and leverage on economies of scale. The two PPBS are being established in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West provinces covering all the eight districts.

The PPBS will be made up of 100 primary members drawn from the small to medium pig producers registered in the targeted districts, the 20 champion and 40 anchor farmers. The PPBS will be run by a Business Management Unit (BMU), a highly valued 10-member technical team from selected anchor and champion farmers, government specialists, private sector players and other individuals with requisite skills to support syndicate businesses.

Farmer leaders will be democratically and independently selected by members whilst specialists from government departments and the private sector will be seconded by respective organisations.

To ensure inclusivity, the BMUs will have 40% women and 30% youth membership. Fostering inclusivity principles will safeguard participation of women and youth pig farmers in syndicate business and decision-making processes.

“The syndication model has been designed to address bottlenecks along the value chain by organising farmers into associations to lower the cost of production, enable collective action on policy, production and market related issues,” said Shamiso Farm Managing Director Mr Samson Chauruka.

The PPBS’s main purpose is to drive efficient delivery of value-adding business services to members through collective business strategies. The syndicate 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 to facilitate policy reviews. The capacity of the PPBS, through the BMUs, will be built up to the point their functions will transition to Meat Cooperative structures that will provide marketing and coordination of all support services such as cold stage chains.

Benson Mutyanda, a pig producer from Mhondoro Ngezi district said “I am looking forward to receiving as much support as possible starting from the production up until the marketing of our products”

“The two syndicates will own slaughter and cold chain facilities as well as transport services to address challenges in those areas. With regards to the recently imported breeding stock, the members will be prioritized in accessing the progeny at a fee which will generate revenue for PPBS sustainability,” said VALUE Team Leader Newton Chari.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Video: [Unpacking the Pig Producer Business Syndicates](#)

Private Sector Partnerships to Improve Competitiveness of the Zimbabwe Beef Value Chain

The majority of Zimbabwe's beef producers are small to medium scale farmers (StM) found in communal and small-scale resettlement areas. There is great potential to improve production and productivity of this sector for the benefit of StM beef producers and increase the contribution of beef production to the country's gross domestic product. The [Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation \(BEST\)](#) project has engaged private sector partners in the ten target districts to participate in the provision of essential beef value chain functions.

Creating private sector partnerships to improve access to beef value chain services is the major project strategy. Services include marketing facilities, financial services, bulling services, access to finance among others. The BEST project engaged partners, many of who are private sector players which include input suppliers, cattle buyers/abattoirs, universities, research institutes, private consultants as well as government extension personnel in the ten districts under the project. The table below is a summary of major private partners and their value chain functions;

Private Sector Partner	Value Chain Function
Sabie Meats .	Manage Lapache Cattle Business Centre (CBC) in Mwenezi district, off-taker
MC Meats	Manage Mhlanguleni (Chiredzi), Chachacha (Shurugwi), Mutiusinazita (Buhera) and Mateta (Gokwe) CBCs, off-taker
Balu Pecan & Livestock Company	Manage Balu CBC (Umguzo), off-taker
Outback Livestock Company	Manage Mathambo (Lupane) CBC, off-taker
Bellevue abattoirs and Butcheries	Manage Dendera (Kwekwe) CBC, off-taker
Paperhole Investments	Manage Dotito (Mt. Darwin) and Mayo (Makoni) CBCs, off-taker
Tongaat Hullets	Lapache CBC land clearing, preparation, design and installation of irrigation facility
Chinhoyi University of Technology	Beef breed improvement using artificial insemination, good animal husbandry training
Great Zimbabwe University	On-farm research and innovations, rangeland management and rehabilitation training.
Nurture Finance	Supply of improved heifers for breed improvement
Coopers Animal Health	Farmer training, development of training material, supply veterinary drugs
Fivet Animal Health	Supply veterinary drugs, provide technical extension material
Veterinary Distributors	Supply veterinary drugs, provide technical extension material
Windmill	Farmer training, development of training material, supply stock feed, finance demo sites, supply/sell hay
Matopos Research Station	Farmer training, set-up fodder demo sites, disseminate on-farm research results
Henderson Research Station	Farmer training, set-up fodder demo sites, disseminate on-farm research results
Grasslands Research Station	Farmer training, set-up fodder demo sites, disseminate on-farm research results

Partnership with Chinhoyi University of Technology in Chiredzi district

To address the challenge of poor cattle breeds and genetics, BEST project is partnering with Chinhoyi University of Technology to roll out a breed improvement programme using Mhlanguleni CBC.

A total of 92 cows from Wards 10 and 12 were inseminated.



Artificial insemination process at Mhlanguleni CBC in Chiredzi district

Engagements with Drug Suppliers and Stockfeed Manufacturers to Improve Access to Inputs

The BEST project has engaged Coopers Zimbabwe and Windmill for the supply of Veterinary drugs and stock feeds at CBCs. The project will facilitate formal partnership agreements between the identified input suppliers and private sector partners managing cattle business centres established under the action. In Wards 14 and 16 of Mwenezi district in Masvingo province, BEST has mobilised farmers to purchase cattle dipping chemicals from Coopers Zimbabwe to supplement government public dipping services.

Coopers plans to recruit community-based agro-dealers as stockists of their products to increase access to dips and drugs and promote farm-based entrepreneurship.



[BEST on Twitter](#)

World Food Safety Day Message from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO)

Theme: “Food safety, everyone’s business”

June is a special month for food safety the world over as countries commemorate the importance of food safety. Food safety experts share with consumers, pertinent issues in the field and encourage each other to adopt international science-based approaches. Efforts by the Transforming [Zimbabwe’s Animal Health and Food Safety Systems for the Future \(SAFE\)](#) project to capacitate food safety competent authorities to work towards international best practices and supporting [ISO accreditation of the Central Veterinary Laboratories \(CVL\)](#) and the [Government Analyst Laboratory](#) resonates well with this year’s Food safety Day theme. The main objective being to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

Everyone has the right to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Still today, almost one in ten people in the world falls ill after eating contaminated food. When food is not safe, children cannot learn, adults cannot work. Human development cannot take place. Safe food is critical to promoting health and ending hunger, two of the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. When food is not safe, there can be no food security and, in a world, where the food supply chain has become more complex, any adverse food safety incident has a negative impact on public health, trade and the economy. Yet food safety is regularly taken for granted. It is often invisible until you get food poisoning. Unsafe food (containing harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemical substances) causes more than 200 diseases – ranging from diarrhoea to cancer.



Laboratory staff at the CVL in Harare. SAFE is working with to capacitate food safety competent authorities to work towards international best practices and supporting ISO accreditation.

This international day is an opportunity to strengthen efforts to ensure that the food we eat is safe. Whether you produce, process, sell or prepare food, then you have a role in keeping it safe. Everybody along the food chain is responsible for food safety. For the second observance of World Food Safety Day (WFSD), all stakeholders are invited to raise awareness about food safety and to highlight that everyone involved in food systems has a part to play. To combat ongoing changes in climate, global food production and supply systems that affect consumers, industry and the planet itself, everyone needs to consider food safety now and in the future.

To this end the SAFE project, in partnership with other development agents is organising a virtual platform (Webinar/Zoom meeting) to raise awareness of the importance of Food Safety in line with the Global theme.

The tentative date is 26th June 2020 and more details may be obtained from the organising team at FAO led by James Mugombi (Food Safety Specialist): james.mugombi@fao.org and Delilah Takawira (Nutrition Specialist): Delilah.takawira@fao.org