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TranZDVC Bulletin

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



SEPTEMBER 2021



FROM THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

Unlocking Dairy Farmers' Potential Through Animal Nutrition

Welcome to yet another edition of the TranZDVC Bulletin where we share with you latest information on the TranZDVC project.

I am pleased to share that TranZDVC is now working with at least 4,221 new dairy farmers that were mobilised in the 33 project districts (36% were females and 64% males) against a 2022 target of 4, 000 new dairy farmers.

Our efforts have created a "commercial " approach to farming where crops and animals are managed to generate cash surpluses as well as providing a source of food for the family. To achieve commercialisation, dairy farmers, especially smallholders, need access to technical knowledge, price information, financial services, farm inputs, and markets. These are the services that TranZDVC is providing through its technical staff and decentralised team of partner organisations,

The project focuses on transferring improved technologies to increase yields per unit area and lower costs of production, thereby increasing gross margins and net household incomes. These technologies include "improved genetics", meaning better animal breeds suited for local conditions appropriate use of animal feeds and good agricultural practices such as feed conservation to address animal nutrition, especially during dry spells.

Through direct training, technical assistance and market linkage activities, many targeted farmers have already started putting their newly acquired knowledge into action. Their new knowledge, investment in inputs and adoption of good agricultural practices are already paying off.

Elsewhere in this issue we report on efforts being put by the TranZDVC project to work with smallholder farmers to rethink animal nutrition to unlock their economic potential. For the majority of smallholder dairy farmers in Zimbabwe, inadequate supply of feedstuffs leading to nutritional deficiencies is a major cause of low milk yield in dairy cattle as well as infertility and low live-weight gains. TranZDVC TECHNICIANS are therefore providing training on the importance of proper feed rations (diet) that meet the needs of the cattle in the different stages of their production. We are happy to report that TranZDVC is participating in the Presidential Inputs and Command Silage Schemes to improve farmers' dairy farming productivity.

We also have updates covering the work being done on the 2021-2025 Dairy Sector Strategic and Investment Plan (DSIP) where a development consultant has been hired to steer this work forward as well as articles focusing on Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) Farmer Review Meeting. Finally, we publish the full list of dairy farmers who have benefitted from the first batch of in-calf heifers distributed in April 2020 under the Heifer Matching Facility.

Please take the time to read, reflect and kindly give us feedback.

Dr Edson Chifamba, TranZDVC Project Coordinator

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Dairy Sector Strategic and Investment Plan Validation

The 2021-2025 Dairy Sector Strategic and Investment Plan (DSIP) validation meeting was held in Harare in September 2021 to validate the roadmap for the dairy stakeholders. The strategic plan was put together by Goran Forssen, as part of the TranZDVC consultant in the draft Dairy

The draft document was developed by the consultant following extensive consultation of dairy stakeholders from March 2021 to date.

The consultant presented the following major highlights:

- Analysis of the dairy sector in Zimbabwe
- Stakeholder analysis
- Objectives, targets, problem analysis and strategic interventions of the dairy sector strategic plan
- Investment plan

Stakeholders gave further recommendations after each strategic objective presentation and endorsed/adopted the outcomes in the draft DSIP. Going forward, work will continue on further editing of the draft document.

The target audience for the dissemination of the DSIP will also be identified.

The Zimbabwe Dairy Industry Trust (ZDIT) will champion all the dairy strategic plan activities including its dissemination. The launch of the document is planned for 21st October 2021.

Various stakeholders would be targeted and consulted on various aspects of the strategy, which would run from 2021-2025.



TranZDVC Participating in the Presidential Inputs and Command Silage Schemes

TranZDVC team members attended a virtual dairy stakeholders' meeting hosted by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement, where a fund for fodder production for dairy farmers was discussed. Government has introduced a silage and pasture production fund for enhanced milk production and veterinary public health.

As part of TranZDVC's lobby and advocacy efforts, the Government of Zimbabwe approved two input support schemes for small, medium and large-scale dairy farmers as a strategy to reduce the cost feed at farm level.

Under the Presidential Silage Scheme, at least 1,500 smallholder dairy farmers are going to be supported with inputs to produce one hectare of maize or sorghum silage and 0.5 hectares of pasture. The inputs package includes:

- 25 kg maize seed
- 5 X 50kg Compound D fertiliser
- 5 X 50kg Ammonium Nitrate fertiliser
- 5 L Glyphosate herbicide
- Star grass seed for 0.5 ha

- Forage legumes for 0.25 ha

Silage production for enhanced milk production in medium to large scale dairy sector is being supported under the National Enhanced Agriculture Input Scheme. This facility is a tripartite arrangement involving the farmers, the financier CBZ Holdings Limited (CBZH) and the milk processors with Government as the guarantor.

Funds to support the above can be accessed through a National Enhanced Capitalised Agriculture Productivity Scheme.

Dairy stakeholders present at the virtual meeting were tasked to form a sub-committee to administer the facility. The TranZDVC team is part of the sub-committee through its implementing partners ZADF, ZDIT AND ZFU who are currently mobilising farmers to apply for the Presidential Inputs and Command Silage Schemes. Listing and verification of Presidential Silage Scheme beneficiaries is on-going and discussions on the Command Silage Scheme modalities are underway.

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Beneficiaries of the Heifer Matching Facility Phase One

We publish the beneficiaries of the first batch of 200 in-calf heifers imported from South Africa in February 2020. The importation of the heifers is part of TranZDVC's effort to boost the Zimbabwe's dairy herd and also improve genetics. Through the importation of the heifers, TranZDVC will increase the production of milk in Zimbabwe from 75 million litres (in 2018) to 120 million litres (by 2022) per year.

PROCESSOR	BENEFICIARY	NUMBER OF HEIFERS	TAG NUMBERS	PROVINCE
Reddane	William Mazingi	1	176	Mashonaland East
	Dorothy Mutizwa	2	174; 183	Mashonaland East
	George Chihoro	5	169; 175; 118; 184; 186	Mashonaland East
	Tawona Rusere	5	171; 178; 180; 187; 189	Mashonaland East
	Moses Magume	3	173; 167; 177	Mashonaland East
	G. T. M. Gwanzura	1	188	Mashonaland East
	Crispen Hela	2	166; 185	Mashonaland East
	M. Mtapi	1	179	Mashonaland East

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	Solomon Gonye	4	190; 172; 181; 170	Mashonaland East
ProDairy	Robert Knot	2	130 ; 163	Mashonaland East
	Duan Schoultz	5	137; 138; 146; 150; 152	Mashonaland East
	Watershed	5	135; 140; 142; 145; 158	Mashonaland East
	Nigel Philp	5	122; 126 ; 127; 156; 160	Mashonaland East
	Moses Kurenjeka	5	136; 144; 149; 155; 161	Mashonaland East
	Felix Kamusasa	5	128; 147; 159; 164; 143	Mashonaland East
	Cyprian Kunaka	5	124; 125; 132; 134; 139	Mashonaland East
	Mafuro Farm	5	129 ; 133; 141; 157; 162	Mashonaland East
	Robert Muguti	4	121; 123; 131; 148	Mashonaland East
	Rachel Longwe	4	151; 153; 154; 165	Mashonaland East
Nestle Zimbabwe	Oregon Farm	5	196; 197; 198; 199; 200	Mashonaland East
	Watershed Dairy	5	191; 192; 193; 194; 195	Mashonaland East
Dairiboard Zimbabwe	Paramu Farm	4	EU041; EU001; EU053; EU062	Midlands
	Gavi Farm	4	EU017; EU065; EU044; EU057	Midlands
	Maroora Farm	2	EU052; EU061	Midlands
	Nyoni Farm		EU055; EU045; EU009	Midlands
	G and T Farm	5	EU024; EU067; EU032; EU014; EU043	Midlands
	Nancy Pride	5	EU036; EU002; EU010; EU027	Midlands
	Cheshire Farm	5	EU037; EU060; EU051; EU025; EU046	Midlands
	Sarafia Farm	2	EU018; EU058	Midlands
	Mabukwa Farm	4	EU048; EU049; EU047; EU004	Midlands

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Dendairy	Acacia Farm	5	EU059; EU069; EU050; EU042; EU022;	Manicaland
	Femnest Farm	5	EU008; EU011; EU028; EU034; EU040	Manicaland
	Bernaclaude Farm	5	EU118; EU085; EU119; EU073; EU098	Midlands
	Van Breda Farming	4	EU095; EU100; EU106; EU115	Midlands
	Grower Field Farm	5	EU091; EU107; EU101; EU094; EU071	Midlands
	Greenwood Farm	5	EU090; EU103; EU096; EU075; EU109	Midlands
	Shumba Farm	5	EU104; EU110; EU116; EU092; EU099	Midlands
	Makoni Farm	5	EU083; EU086; EU087; EU088; EU108	Midlands
	Kearney Farm	5	EU077; EU082; EU078; EU074; EU112	Bulawayo
	Dorcas Kopje Farm	5	EU102; EU105; EU080; EU114; EU097	Bulawayo
	Ndiweni Farm	5	EU084; EU117; EU089 EU113; EU111	Bulawayo
	Precious Life Foundation	5	EU081; EU072; EU120; EU079; EU076	Bulawayo

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European Union Delegation Head of Cooperation Tours Dairy Enterprise

Franck Porte, the new European Union Delegation Head of Cooperation visited I686 Dairies, an enterprise operated by Mrs Rudo Sithole in Mutasa district, Manicaland province. This was part of his familiarisation of ZAGP projects in the province, where he also visited the Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC) project.

Sithole is a “Woman in Dairy” who started as a small-scale dairy farmer whose enterprise grew into a medium-scale, and which currently producing 308 litres per day milking 14 cows, up from milking 120 litres per day milking eight cows.

She received two in-calf heifers in 2021 and was also supported with a 70% contribution towards setting up of a solar powered irrigation system.

“I contributed US\$700 towards purchase of pipes for gravity fed irrigation system and we are now drawing water from a water source that is 4km away from the farm. With improved water access, I am now able to grow fodder crops such as Ryegrass. I also have adequate water for my cows and to clean the milking parlour”, said Sithole.

Prior to the project support, she was using a diesel-powered generator to pump water from her borehole, a situation which was not economically and environmentally friendly.

This dairy enterprise represents some of the work of TranZDVC at farm level and some of the service models that were supported by the project. The EU Head of Cooperation’s visit was to enable him understand – first hand some of the operations of ZAGP’s supported projects.

Sithole’s dairy is also one example of TranZDVC project working across the dairy value chain and partnering with many different actors in the sector. Examples are: small, medium, and large- scale dairy farmers, farmer groups and dairy centres, societies, milk processors, commercial fodder producers, training farms, training institutions, other input and service providers, industry associations, among others. At the primary production level TranZDVC promotes inclusive formal milk supply chains between farmers, Milk Collection Centres, and milk processors; and addresses systemic issues in the industry with stakeholders at sector level; and with national partners it stimulates linkages to fast-track innovation and knowledge exchange.