



ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

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Livestock Disease Management Vital

Caroline Kambudzi from Chiota district in Mashonaland West province is one of the government extension officers who participated in a training of trainers course on bio-security in poultry production under the Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC) project. After training, she has proceeded to impart the knowledge to poultry producers in her district.

“Since training farmers on biosecurity, there have been major improvements in poultry hygiene, and farmers are now installing biosecurity structures on their farms, resulting in lower mortality rates”, said Kambudzi.

Kambudzi’s work is an example of initiatives being undertaken under the European Union funded Zimbabwe Agricultural Programme (ZAGP) on animal disease control, a key area to ensure public and animal health, leading to higher productivity.

Animal diseases constitute a major constraint to livestock production and safe utilisation of animal products worldwide and Zimbabwe is no exception. The large number of disease outbreaks afflicting the country and the control measures instituted to manage these outbreaks have had significant negative economic impact.

In this month’s issue, we focus on animal health and disease control, sharing the various project approaches in this area.

These initiatives include capacity building on good animal husbandry practices, leveraging on private sector financing to improve animal health service delivery institutional capacity building to enhance animal disease prevention, early detection, diagnosis and control.

Focus is also on improving access veterinary drugs and chemicals for disease control and prevalence resulting in better health, genetics and increased production and productivity.

These activities mirror ZAGP’s thrust of creating a more productive and profitable livestock sector, which is hindered by low productivity, high disease morbidity and mortality.

In all these initiatives, ZAGP is working closely with the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) - responsible for surveillance, prevention and control of animal and zoonotic diseases, including animal-source food safety issues.

As always, we value your feedback on this and all other issues of the newsletter. Happy reading!

(Cover photo: Members of the Pimbi Small-scale Dairy Association, a grouping of 10 farmers from Featherstone in Mashonaland East Province who have ventured into dairy production after receiving five in-calf heifers from the project and matching with another five).

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Disease Control Key to Tackling High Goat Mortality Among Small and Medium Producers

VALUE Goat Value Chain at a Glance



12

Goat Improvement Centres (GICs) offering mating, veterinary drug sales, and dipping services in Beitbridge, Binga, Buhera, Chipinge, Chikomba, Gwanda, Lupane, Matobo, Mbire, Mudzi, Nkayi, and Rushinga districts.

4,086

Goats dipped monthly across all GICs

USD734

Sales volumes of veterinary drugs sold within the GICs.

45

Improved goat breeds distributed by goat integrators to smallholder farmers.

One of the major challenges in the goat value chain is high mortality noted to be 40% by the goat value chain scoping study carried out by the [Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment \(VALUE\)](#) project in 2019. Among small and medium goat producers, high mortality is mainly caused by diseases caused by inadequate application of external inputs including essential drugs and vaccines. The scoping study found that 90% of small and medium goat producers practice informal production.

To address the high mortality in the goat value chain resulting from poor disease control among producers, the VALUE project is empowering farmers through the Goat Improvement centres (GICs) to control diseases, internal and external parasites. All 12 GICs have functional dip tanks and are collaborating with the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) in selling drugs through the private sector linkages with veterinary drug suppliers such as Coopers and Veterinary Distributors, who have been triggered for bulk supply of the drugs.

The availing of drugs at the district centres has proven to be a game changer for farmers who used to travel long distances to purchase them.

“We are grateful for the investments done by the VALUE project in building the dip tank and the drug store, getting the drugs locally has saved farmers money as we no longer have to travel to Harare to get them”, said Regis Kasako, the Business Development Officer for the Rushinga Goat Producers Business Association in Rushinga district, Mashonaland Central province.

Goat producers in and around the goat improvement centres pay fees for dipping their goats and purchase drugs at the centres.

“Since April we have dipped a total of 884 goats with farmers paying a service of USD0.15 cents per goat. In addition, we are running a vaccination programme against pulpy kidney where farmers pay USD0.25 cents per goat,” added Kasako.



[Watch video on tools used in goat production](#)

Disease Control Mechanisms in the Pork Value Chain

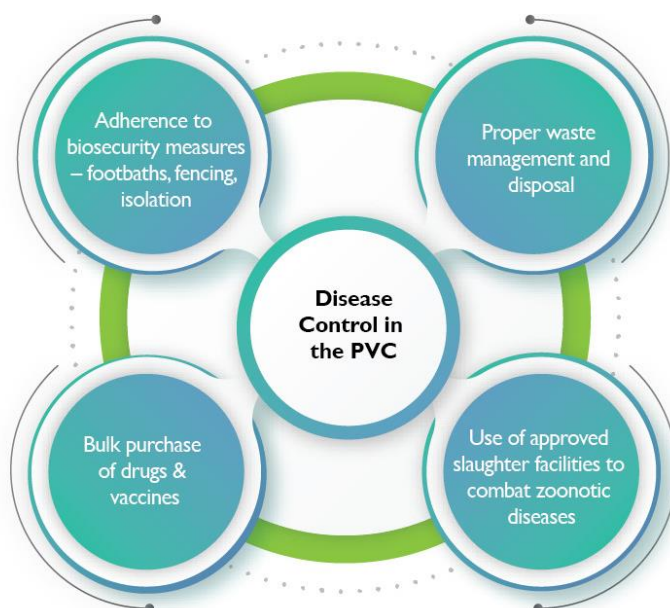


Under the Pork Value Chain (PVC), VALUE is working closely with the Pig Industry Board (PIB) and the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) to capacitate farmers on good animal husbandry practices including disease prevention and control to ensure adherence to biosecurity to help minimize the risk of disease transmission.

Key measures adopted include strict adherence to biosecurity measures with emphasis on reducing and controlling the movements of people, vehicles, or equipment into areas where the pigs are kept, checking the health status of livestock before buying or selling animals, zoning, routine cleaning and use of disinfectants, post-mortem and proper disposal of dead animals as well as isolating ill animals.

Head of training at the PIB, Tamo Hove Muza, said “Farmers should always aim to provide an environment that is optimal for the animal and inhospitable for disease-causing agents, maintain good biosecurity, buy breeding stock from high health status herds, and suitably quarantined before introduction. Farmers should be alert and make sure stockmen know the signs and symptoms of common diseases.”

Initiatives adopted to reduce disease occurrences under the PVC:



Beef Value Chain Initiatives on Animal Disease Control

BEST at a Glance

10

Main Cattle Business Centres (CBCs) offering services in Buhera, Chiredzi, Gokwe South, Kwekwe, Lupane, Makoni, Mt. Darwin, Mwenzi, Shurugwi and Umguza districts.

182

Cattle inducted at the CBCs. Buhera (97) and Chiredzi (83)

7,351

Farmers trained on Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHPs). 4122 (male) 3229 (female).



7,351

Hay bales harvested at the Lapache CBC in Mwenzi district, Masvingo province.

14

Satellite Cattle Business Centres offering services in Buhera (2), Chiredzi (5), Gokwe South (1), Kwekwe (1), Lupane (4) and Umguza (1) districts.

USD63,843

Revenue generated across all the CBCs

3,843

Cattle sold through alternative channels (walk ins, and auctions).

Smallholder Beef production in Zimbabwe depends on shared assets, both natural assets such as water and rangelands as well as man-made assets such as dip tanks and other handling facilities. The congregation of animals at these facilities poses a risk to animal health and on farm biosecurity. Pre-disposing factors in this operating system include failure to keep distances, inconsistent ineffective dipping, in addition to failure to have sound deworming programs, uncontrolled cattle movements, poor hygiene, poor handling of sick and new animals, uncontrolled slaughters, poor disposal of carcasses and poor animal husbandry practices in general.

The [Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation \(BEST\)](#) project is conducting training and capacity building efforts to stimulate change of behaviour among small to medium scale farmers. The project is facilitating pluralistic extension and training incorporating the Department of Veterinary Services, Agritex, private sector players such as Coopers and Windmill, agro dealers and off takers, and research/training institutions. BEST is also collaborating with the [Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety for the Future \(SAFE\)](#) project on animal health and food safety initiatives; and on facilitating the cold chain at CBCs.

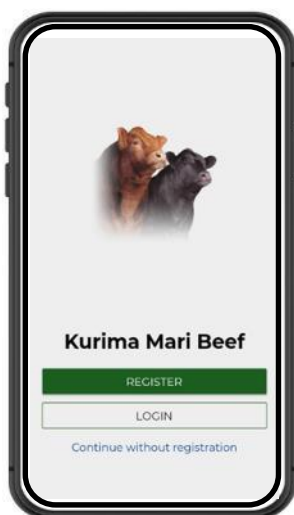


The congregation of animals at these facilities poses a risk to animal health and on farm biosecurity.

Beef Value Chain Initiatives on Animal Disease Control



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perimeter and veterinary fences, vehicle and human foot baths to promote biosecurity at the CBCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good drug handling –cold chain at CBCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ante and post-mortem inspection at abattoirs, controlled cattle movements; Livestock Information Management System (LIMS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile and fixed spray races at CBCs to fortify dipping services and showcase the technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of GAHPs to improve animal response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), at farm and CBC levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segregation, proper handling of new and sick animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned fee for service veterinary services linked with livestock service providers training and capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBCs equipped with veterinary kits for demonstrations and hire out to service providers in the communities



Kurima Mari Beef App

Have you downloaded the Kurima Mari Beef App yet? Get quick access to all matters related to beef farming. Features include tips on Marketing, Animal Health, Production, Access to Finance, Policy Matters and a Farmers' Chat Room.

Download on Google Play Store.



Disease Control Vital for Poultry Production

IPVC Project at a Glance



2,367 Poultry Business Association (PBA) members



1,440 tonnes of chicken feed sold



156,166 day old chicks sold



BIO-SECURITY

The Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC) project is encouraging the practice of biosecurity to reduce transmission of infectious diseases, parasites, pests and invasive alien species. Robust biosecurity trainings are on-going across all clusters, with emphasis on good agricultural practices. IPVC has trained extension staff from Agritex on biosecurity to train more farmers.

GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES TRAININGS

IPVC is conducting good agricultural practises trainings across all Poultry Business Associations. The trainings are meant to educate farmers on the adoption of good agricultural practises to prevent diseases and mortalities. Farmers are being trained on good cleaning and disinfection of poultry houses, brooding, common diseases and culling.

The project is also collaborating with the Department of Veterinary services on a poultry disease awareness campaign aimed at educating poultry farmers on disease prevention, symptoms and cure. The campaign will include community radio infomercials, fliers and brochures, to be distributed across the country to poultry farmers and stakeholders.



DRUG REVOLVING FUND

A revolving fund for vet drugs and vaccines has been mobilized by the project to ensure a last mile distribution of poultry medicines and vaccines at discounted prices. Vet drugs sold under this model are 15% cheaper relative to market price, serving as an enabler for farmers to better compete on the end-market.

Furthermore, the fund is promoting farmers to vaccinate their birds. The PBA pilot poultry shops thus enable farmer group purchase of vaccines, enabling economies of scale and scope to SMP vaccine access.

The project has partnered with FIVET, who are offering farmers laboratory services for the diagnostics of various diseases and advice on the best remedies.



Disease Control Vital for Poultry Production

VACCINATIONS

IPVC is offering technical assistance to farmers and assisting them with vaccinating their birds.

"I am new in the poultry business, the technical expertise I have received from IPVC has been very helpful, including vaccinating my birds against the infectious coryza, which I had no idea how to do" said Prosper Nyamadzawo from Zvimba ward 21.



IPVC Establishing Live Bird Markets



The Poultry Business Associations in all clusters are linking poultry farmers to the market by construction live market sheds where farmers will be selling live birds and eggs. Currently live market sheds in all five clusters, and their sub-hubs are under construction and nearing completion. The sheds have a minimum capacity of 1 000 birds and will have lockable lockers for eggs. Their locations are easily accessible to running water and toilet facilities

"Normally I would just sell my chickens and eggs outside my gate to passers-by and motorists travelling to Penhalonga. Sometimes, we end up consuming the eggs ourselves because of low demand. Having a live bird market shed will really go a long way in providing a market for us. I am very grateful to the Manica Inclusive Poultry Association" said Kudzai Muzamhindo, from Penhalonga who is a member of the Mutare Poultry Business Association.

In Masvingo, the Chitima live market is now at 90% completion.

Government Analyst Laboratory Receives Timely Boost



The Laboratory Microwave Digester procured for GAL (left) and training on its use in progress (right).

KEY RESULTS

9 People Trained

Consistent Sample Results

Improved Turnaround Time

Improved Quality

The [Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety for the Future \(SAFE\)](#) project procured a Laboratory Microwave Digester for the Government Analyst Laboratory (GAL) in Harare, empowering the institution to achieve multi-element limits of detection previously unobtainable by other wet oxidation and dry ashing methods.

In addition to procuring the equipment, the project also installed the equipment and trained 9 (six females and 3 males) GAL employees on the use and management of the digester on the 9th of June 2021. The training focused on among other things; sample preparation, operating the machine and cleaning. The trainees were drawn from the Foods, Waters, Toxicology, Customs and Instruments sections.

According to Livingstone Musiyambiri, the Director for the Government Analyst Laboratory, the microwave digester has improved the turnaround time for sample analysis. "The laboratory used to digest samples using the microwave digester at the Central Veterinary Laboratory on Thursdays only as the agreed time slot. At times the laboratory digested samples using the wet-oxidation and dry-ashing methods which are not only slow but tedious and inefficient. The determination of trace elements and heavy metals using ICP-MS after microwave digestion is more sensitive and precise hence improving the accuracy, repeatability and reproducibility of results" he said

Consistent results every time.

Since installation, the machine has significantly improved GAL's operations in sample digestion. This has also improved the turnaround time of sample analysis, consistency and quality of results.

Good news for Zimbabwean food producers and exporters.

The use of the microwave digester has also boosted the chance of the organization to get ISO accreditation which will enable GAL to get international recognition and effortlessly work with other labs through inter-laboratory testing.

ZimAgriHub Goes Live



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ZimAgriHub a virtual Agricultural Centre of Excellence (VACE) developed with technical support from the [Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services \(ZAKIS\)](#) project is now live. The farmer-focused digital repository of agricultural knowledge providing knowledge resources for agricultural research, education, extension and farmers leading to a more efficient, sustainable agricultural sector in Zimbabwe.

It is expected to transform the sharing of agricultural knowledge and the delivery of innovation in Zimbabwe through directly linking farmers to digitalized archives/libraries, researchers, educators, and extension service providers.

How you can benefit from and participate in ZimAgriHub

- Visit the ZimAgriHub online, benefit from free downloads
- Participate in discussions and get in touch with experts
- Share, research and knowledge on ZimAgriHub
- Contribute actively by sharing research information and knowledge products



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Animal Disease Control for Dairy Enterprises



The [Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future \(TranZDVC\)](#) is implementing various activities to ensure disease control from farm to table. The operation of a dairy farm for maximum profit and disease prevention includes good feeding, breeding, care and management, as well as good record keeping and a dairy health program.



ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL AT FARM LEVEL

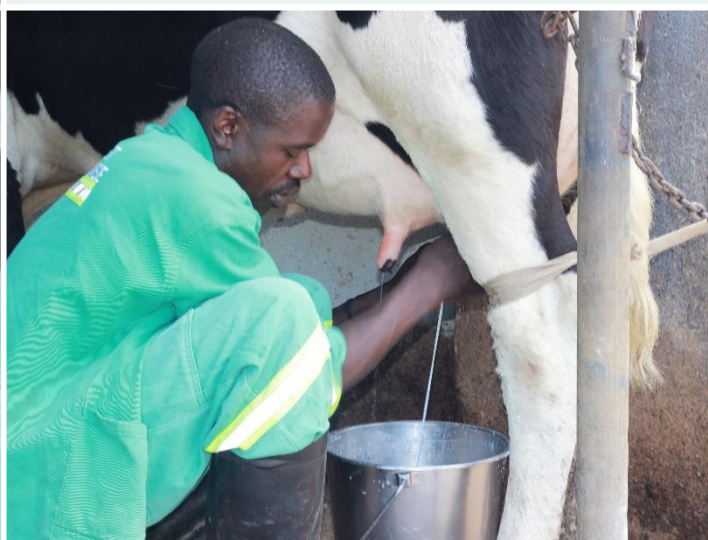
The TranZDVC team is implementing various activities to ensure animal disease control for the local herd as well as the in-calf 500 heifers imported under the project through a multi-sectoral approach involving collaboration with all dairy value chain stakeholders.

The in-calf heifers have been distributed to 303 smallholder farmers.

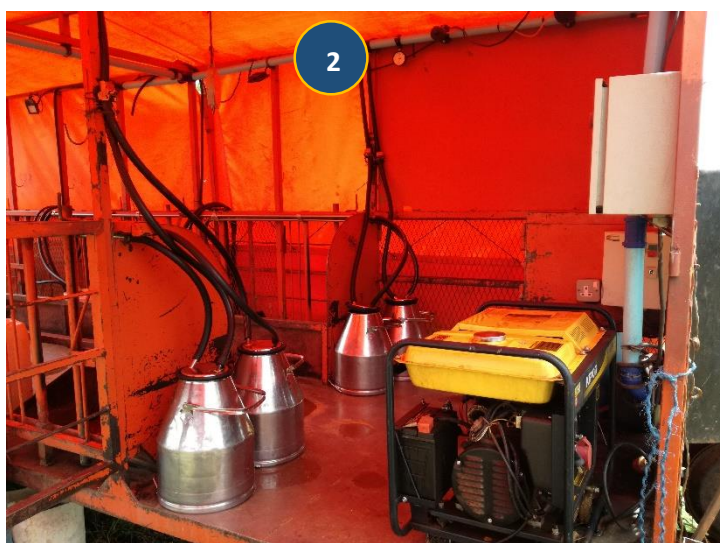
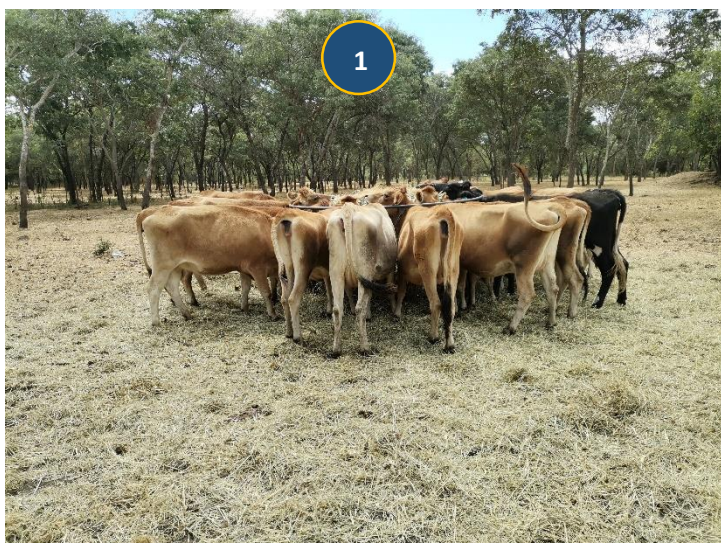
Collaborative efforts are essential in managing disaster risk situations like disease outbreaks.

DISEASE CONTROL THROUGH CLEAN MILK PRODUCTION

- Hygienic milk production, proper handling and storage of milk, and appropriate heat treatment can reduce or eliminate pathogens in milk.
- Clean milk production interventions ensure control and prevention of zoonotic and foodborne diseases from being spread from the farm to the consumers of milk and its products.
- TranZDVC is conducting trainings across the country on clean milk production systems for improved quality at farm, milk collection centre (MCC) and small-scale processor levels.



PROJECT UPDATES



1. In-calf heifers in 28 days of quarantine to prevent transmission of South African diseases onto the local herd.
2. Clean milk production technologies promoted by the project.
3. Animal nutrition and disease management training in Chipinge district. Manicaland province.
4. World Milk Day commemorations. The event held on the 1st of June each year promotes consumption of milk and its products.

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