Government of Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe AGRICULTURAL GROWTH Programme

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ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

ISSUE 32

EDITORIAL

The ZAGP team welcomes you to the 32nd issue of ZAGP News, the newsletter for the European Union (EU) funded Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP).

In this issue, we give you updates on the various project activities happening across the country.

ZAGP conducts a number of short-term studies to assess various key issues within the programme. In this issue, we share the highlights of the study on green technologies and a link to the full document.

The assignment was commissioned to take stock of the green technologies being developed and implemented by its six projects, their potential impact and the impact tracking mechanisms that are in place.

We also provide a brief report submitted by the Youth Sounding Board (YSB) following their tour of ZAGP projects. YSB is an initiative formed by the EU to step up youth engagement to ensure that voices of young people are heard and taken into consideration when shaping and implementing EU programmes and policies.

As some projects within ZAGP draw to a close, we share some of the key lessons that have emerged during implementation. The Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC) project unpacks some of the lessons from the implementation of Poultry Business Associations (PBAs) across five clusters in Bulawayo, Gweru, Harare, Kwekwe and Harare. The PBAs are turning around the fortunes of small to medium-scale poultry producers.

Under the Zimbabwe Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS) project, we provide a summary of the project's achievements to date,

Elsewhere in this newsletter, we provide a report on the recent launch of the national integrated ticks and tick-borne disease control strategy by the Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety for the Future (SAFE) project.

Finally, under the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project, we focus on the results so far on direct consignment meat marketing, semen campaign and financial inclusion.

Happy reading!

(Cover photo: Delivery of eggs to the Domboshava Live Bird and Eggs Market under the IPVC project).

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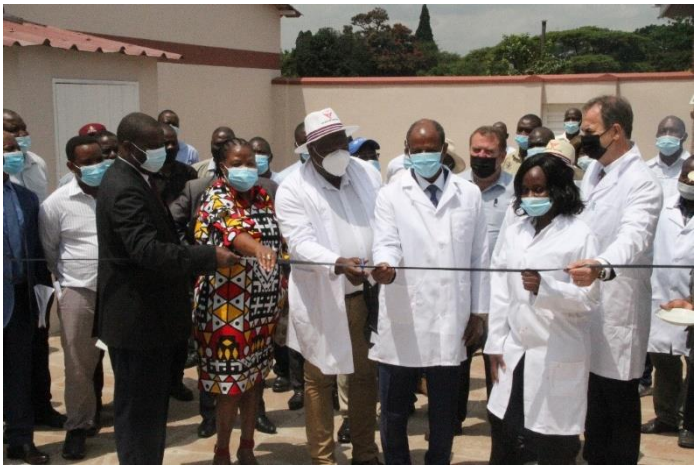
Zimbabwe Launches National Integrated Ticks and Tick-borne Disease Control Strategy



Tick-borne diseases (TBDs) are responsible for huge economic losses in cattle assets and farm savings in Zimbabwe. They account for more than 60 percent of cattle deaths in the country. To avert this and improve livestock productivity for wealth creation, the Government of Zimbabwe through the Department of veterinary Services (DVS) with support from the productivity Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety Systems for the Future (SAFE) project launched a 10-year integrated national ticks and tick-borne disease control strategy in Harare. The launch is part of multiple FAO and EU interventions that complement government efforts to correctly position the livestock sector for making meaningful contribution to the National Development Strategy 1 and achievement of the country's vision 2030.

"The strategy we are launching today is specifically to address the scourge of tick-borne diseases, the most problematic of which is theileriosis commonly known as January Disease. Tick-borne diseases have always been a huge problem in Zimbabwe from time immemorial. The EU funded ZAGP-SAFE project has come at an opportune time to buttress government efforts in the fight against tick-borne diseases that have seen a number of vulnerable households lose their valuable assets and source of livelihood," said John Basera, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development in his key note address officially opening the launch of the strategy.

Read the full report on the proceedings of the launch.

CHALLENGES	INTERVENTION	IMPACT
High **Cattle Deaths** due to tick borne diseases	Supplied equipment for vaccine production such as **humidifiers, tick dissection kits, plumping** and **hot water geysers**	**100,000 doses** of **theileria vaccine** to be produced
In the 2020/21 agricultural season, tick borne diseases accountied for **69%** of cattle deaths.	Renovated **vaccine production**-housing unit, cattle holding races, rabbit housing units and cattle housing units	**20,000** households to benefit

The SAFE project is working with the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) to strengthen the capacity of the government to produce tick borne disease vaccines.

The project supported the government's Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) with critical equipment for vaccine production such as humidifiers, tick dissection kits, hot water geysers, renovated the vaccine production infrastructure, cattle holding races, rabbit housing units and cattle housing units.

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ZAGP POLICY MONITOR

Zimbabwe Integrated Tick and Tick-Borne Disease Control Strategy (2022 – 2030)

Diseases caused by pathogens transmitted by ticks commonly known as tick-borne diseases (TBDs) rank highest on the list of diseases of concern to livestock farmers in both the small holder communal and large scale commercial sectors in Zimbabwe.

Four tick borne diseases, Babesiosis, anaplasmosis, theileriosis and heartwater, remain the major cause of cattle mortalities, accounting for 69% of cattle deaths during the 2020/21 agricultural season. To help reduce cattle deaths and improve livestock project recently launched Zimbabwe Integrated Tick and Tick-Borne Disease Control Strategy (2022 – 2030).

The SAFE project is lobbying to create conducive policy environment for increased livestock productivity. Below, is an outline of the key interventions of the strategy:

1: Prompt Diagnosis and Provision of Early Treatment

Improving prompt disease recognition and reporting by farmers and livestock production personnel. Extension services will be anchored on active involvement of livestock owners in the early detection of suspect TBD cases, reporting to Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) on time and the benefits of timely treatment of cases.

2: Effective Integrated Tick Control

Developing sustainable tick control methods which integrate chemical control with other approaches so as to reduce the quantum of chemical applications in line with international best practice.

3: Community Participation and Ownership

Facilitating farmer organisation to improve participatory approaches in livestock management activities such as the control of ticks, TBDs and disease control activities in general.

4: Involvement of Private Sector

- Tackling inadequate financial resources within the DVS which has experienced shrinking government financial resources over the years which has compromised the level of efficiency in service delivery.
- Establishment of strategic formal partnerships, leveraging on the capital, managerial capacity, and know-how from the private sector.

5: Surveillance

Strengthening the systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of health-related data to help guide decision-making and action. This will facilitate monitoring of ongoing patterns of disease occurrence and potential so that investigation, control, and prevention measures can be applied efficiently and effectively.

6: Legislation/Regulatory Framework Reviews

- Reviewing the legislation which sets out the policy on ticks and TBDs control and the regulations used to implement that policy in line with this strategy. Some of these reviews will come much earlier than others, depending on the need and practicality.
- Improving the enforcement of these legislations

7: Vaccination/ Immunisation

Utilising TBD vaccination as an integral component of the country's integrated TBD control strategy. Strengthening the capacity of the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) to produce adequate vaccines of the expected quality will be assured though enhanced development of infrastructure, inputs supply and personnel

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Zimbabwe Integrated Tick and Tick-Borne Disease Control Strategy (2022 – 2030)

8: Human Resource and Capacity Building
Capacity building of personnel at all levels in the right numbers to ensure essential effective implementation of the strategy and creating the necessary critical staff mass which is needed at all levels.

9: Establishment and Maintenance of Infrastructure & Equipment
Strengthening infrastructure, equipment and facilities at CVL, district and community levels to support to ticks and TBDs diagnostics, surveillance research and vaccine production.

10: Research
Strengthening TBDs research through the formation of a national body which oversees TBDs management and the development of the national capacity for problem-solving and cutting edge research.

11: Adequate Financial Support
Ensuring adequate resources to implement the TBDs strategy through mobilisation of funds from central government, farmer levies and fees, Private Public Partnerships (PPPs), NGOs and external funders.

Download the full Zimbabwe Integrated Tick and Tick-Borne Disease Control Strategy

The livestock sector and the livelihoods of livestock rearing farmers in the country has been under severe threat from tick borne diseases. The TBDs control strategy is expected to help reduce cattle deaths and improve livestock productivity

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ZAGP STUDIES

Development of implementation and impact tracking plans for services, grants and trainings related to green technologies

In view of the green economic growth premise of the programme goal and centrality of green technologies in ZAGP project interventions, a study was commissioned with an overall objective of development of implementation and impact tracking plans for services, grants and trainings related to green technologies.

The six projects under ZAGP are developing and implementing green technologies as part of strategies on transforming the Zimbabwe agricultural sector and contribution to achievement of an inclusive and sustainable green economy. These include: solar energy systems for lighting, heating, incubation and refrigeration; bio-digesters for energy for heating and lighting; battery powered tricycles for transporting farm inputs and produce; and solar powered water pumping and conveyance systems for watering animals, irrigation of fodder crop plots and vegetable gardens.

These green technologies are being implemented as parts of pilot initiatives by projects with a view of scaling up within and beyond project target groups and geographic and sub-sectoral areas. The scaling up will be through agricultural producers and processors adopting and adapting the green technologies to their enterprises. The six projects are spending between 1.70% and 5.5% of their budgets on hardware type green technologies. The full report is available on this link: ***https://bit.ly/3JWkmEA***

Below is a summary of the green technologies under implementation, the possible outcomes and anticipated impacts:

Green technology	Projects implementing technology	Possible outcomes	Anticipated impact
Bio-digesters (Tubular and Fixed Dome)	BEST IPVC TranZ-DVC VALUE	• Reduced dependence on firewood and unreliable energy supplies in poultry production and domestic use. Labour saving and increased business margins for farmers • Reduction in carbon monoxide emission from use of firewood and charcoal. • Sustainable waste management & digestate feeding into farmers' fodder and vegetable gardens. • Increase in knowledge of clean energy, renewable energy sources and increasing number of farmers adopting the technologies.	• Contribution to cleaner and sustainable environment. • Improved livelihoods and households wellbeing. • Improved farmer resilience amid climate change shocks.
Rocket stove	IPVC	• Reduced use of firewood, labour saving and increased business margins for poultry farmers.	• Contribution to a sustainable environment. • Improved livelihoods and households wellbeing.
Solar powered incubators	IPVC	• Elimination of recurrent energy costs and reduced dependence on unreliable energy supplies, increased productivity and production as chickens multiply faster and increased business margins for farmers. • Improved social organisation from the poultry farmer groups and women exercising leadership.	• Improved livelihoods of poultry farmers. • Improved efficiency of Matopos Research Institute poultry section. • Social harmony from working in groups. Confident women taking leadership positions
Solar power systems for lighting (Photovoltaic) and cooling.	IPVC TranZDVC VALUE ZAKIS	• Elimination of recurrent energy costs and reduced dependence on unreliable energy supplies • Increased business margins for farmers and cost saving for Agricultural Centres of Excellence (ACEs) leading to financial stability and sustainability. • Increase in knowledge of clean energy, renewable energy sources and increasing number of farmers adopting the technologies. • Agricultural colleges and research institutes building on the technologies to increase their research and teaching capacities.	• Improved livelihoods of poultry, beef, dairy, pig and goat farmers. • Improved operational efficiency of Agricultural colleges and research institutes • Other colleges and research institutes drawing lessons and inspiration from the ACEs and implementing similar technologies.

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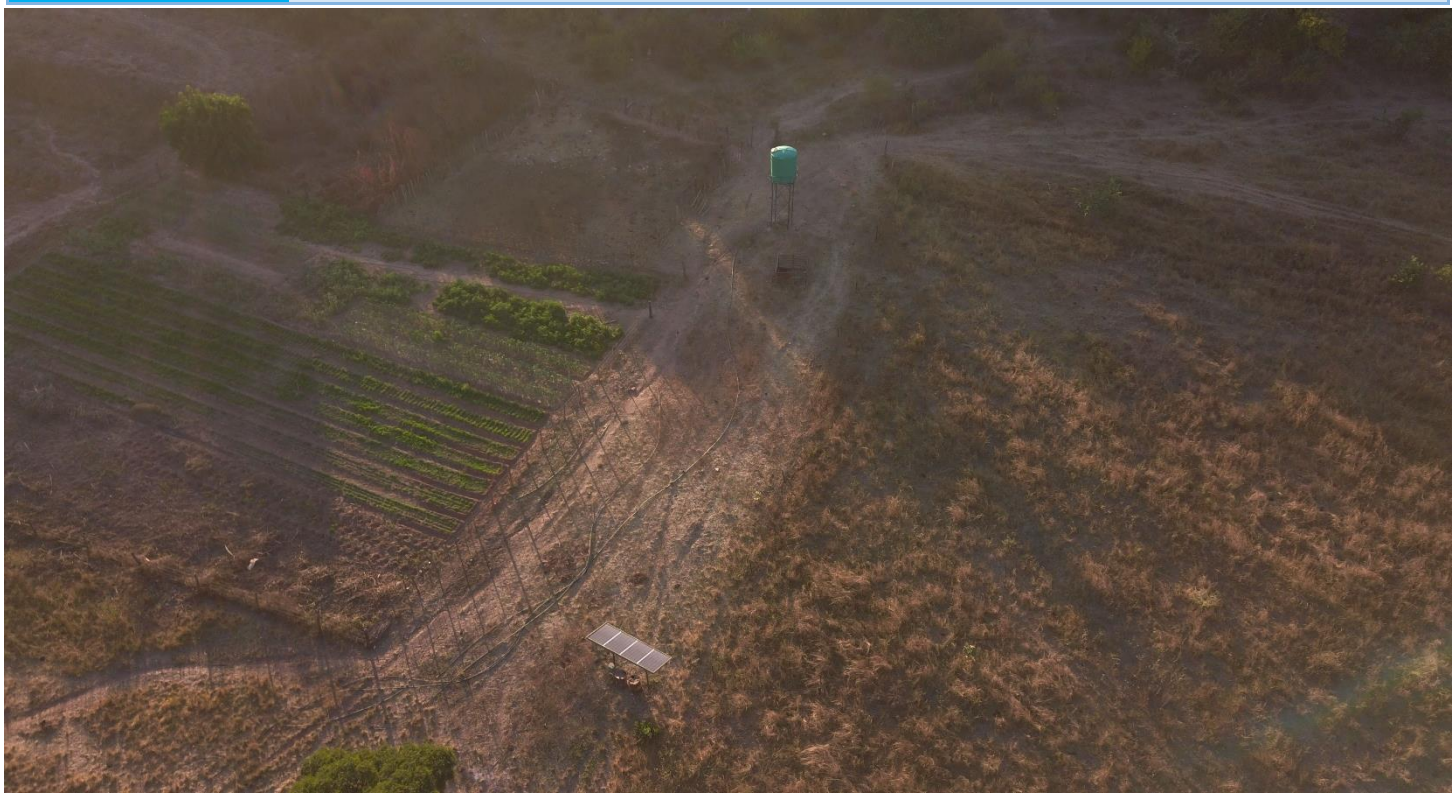
Green Technology	Projects implementing technology	Possible outcomes	Anticipated impact
Solar power systems for: a) **CBCs and GICs – powering lights, internet, computers, & drugs & vaccines cold chain storage.** b) **Admin. blocks - lights, computers, lab equipment, internet, etc.**	BEST VALUE TranZDVC SAFE ZAKIS	• Reduction of recurrent energy costs, reduced dependence on unreliable electricity supplies and reduced carbon footprint from diesel powered generators leading to increased business margins for farmers and cost saving for Agricultural colleges and research institutes. • Improved communication and information sharing (ease of doing business). • Farmers accessing veterinary medicines and vaccines in close proximity, elimination of transport costs and increased business margins for farmers.	• Improved livelihoods of poultry, beef, dairy, piggery and goat farmers. • Improved operational efficiency of Agricultural colleges and research institutes.
Solar powered water systems including boreholes and wells.	IPVC BEST TranZDVC VALUE ZAKIS SAFE	• Elimination of recurrent energy costs and increased farmer business margins. • Reduction in carbon monoxide emission from use of diesel powered pumps. • Agricultural colleges and research institutes generating revenue from irrigation projects and reducing dependence on fiscus.	• Contribution to safe and sustainable environment. • Improved farmer resilience amid climate change shocks. • Agricultural colleges and research institutes able to better focus on their core business.
Battery powered tricycles	IPVC TranZDVC	• Improved transport system for farmers, increased business margins and reduced reliance on donkeys and injury (to donkeys) from carrying loads of milk in mountainous areas. • Improved social organisation from the poultry farmer groups and women exercising leadership.	• Improved livelihoods of poultry and dairy farmers. • Social harmony from working in groups. Confident women with positive self-esteem.



Green technologies in action. Implementation of solar powered water pumping systems have enabled the irrigation of fodder crop plots.

Download the full report.

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Youth Sounding Board Members Visit ZAGP Projects

Several projects that make up the ZAGP have set initiatives that accommodate and encourage youth participation to achieve an inclusive green economic growth. In that context, the Youth Sounding Board (YSB) Green Economic Growth Committee members in the company of Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) officials and ZAGP staff visited different ZAGP projects sites that are spread across the geographical locations of Chegutu, Buhera, Rushinga, Nkayi and Gwanda to evaluate youth inclusion, participation whilst identifying possible key entry points for young people within the livestock value chains.

YSB is an initiative formed by the European Union to step up youth engagement to ensure that voices of young people are heard and taken into consideration when shaping and implementing EU programmes and policies.

These projects visited included BEST, IPVC, SAFE, TranZDVC, VALUE and ZAKIS. The field visits consisted of several interactive activities such as site/community observations, focus group discussions with youth groups and interviews with committee members, DVS, AGRITEX and ZAGP project officials located at the different sites.

Findings from the different sites visited indicated that ZAGP projects are of high value and have potential to improve food security and the financial status of young people. The youth are appreciating the role that the ZAGP has played so far in the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe which include provision of support and services related to animal health management; feed supply; access to markets; improved breeds and trainings and knowledge advancement.

However, there is a need for deliberate inclusion and engagement of young people in the different livestock value chains especially in those projects that generate profit quickly as those tend to attract more youths. Promotion of short cycle value chains like poultry and goat production could be key to luring more young people into this sector. There is an overall need of improving youth decision making in livestock value chains by assisting them to attain ownership of the means of production.

(Submitted by members of the YSB)

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Direct Consignment Meat Marketing Changing the Fortunes of Small and Medium-scale Goat and Pork Producers

Meat studies conducted prior to the inception of the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project showed that Harare and Bulawayo consumed at least 50% of pork and goat meat. To promote commercialisation which is predicated on the off take and market competitiveness, VALUE is organising Goat Producer Business Associations and Pork Producers Business Syndicates to aggregate and jointly supply meat consignment stock to licensed butcheries and supermarkets.

Initially 590 butcheries were profiled, and contracts signed with 81 butcheries. Since then, 33 butcheries have been supplied with 575 goats slaughtered from five districts (Binga, Mbire, Mudzi, Nkayi and Rushinga) which amounted to 6,662kg of meat sold and 422.8kg of offals sold. A total revenue of USD23,717.62 was realised from the pilot in two months. The average wholesale prices are better than the farm gate prices. Subsequently farmers have been able to increase their profit margins from at least USD3.00 to USD20.00 per goat. The intervention has also positively contributed towards increased market share value for farmers, who in precious years only enjoyed 17% of the share compared to the 55% gained by Middlemen.

Access to markets have improved for goat producers through Goat Producer Business Associations selling directly to buyers.

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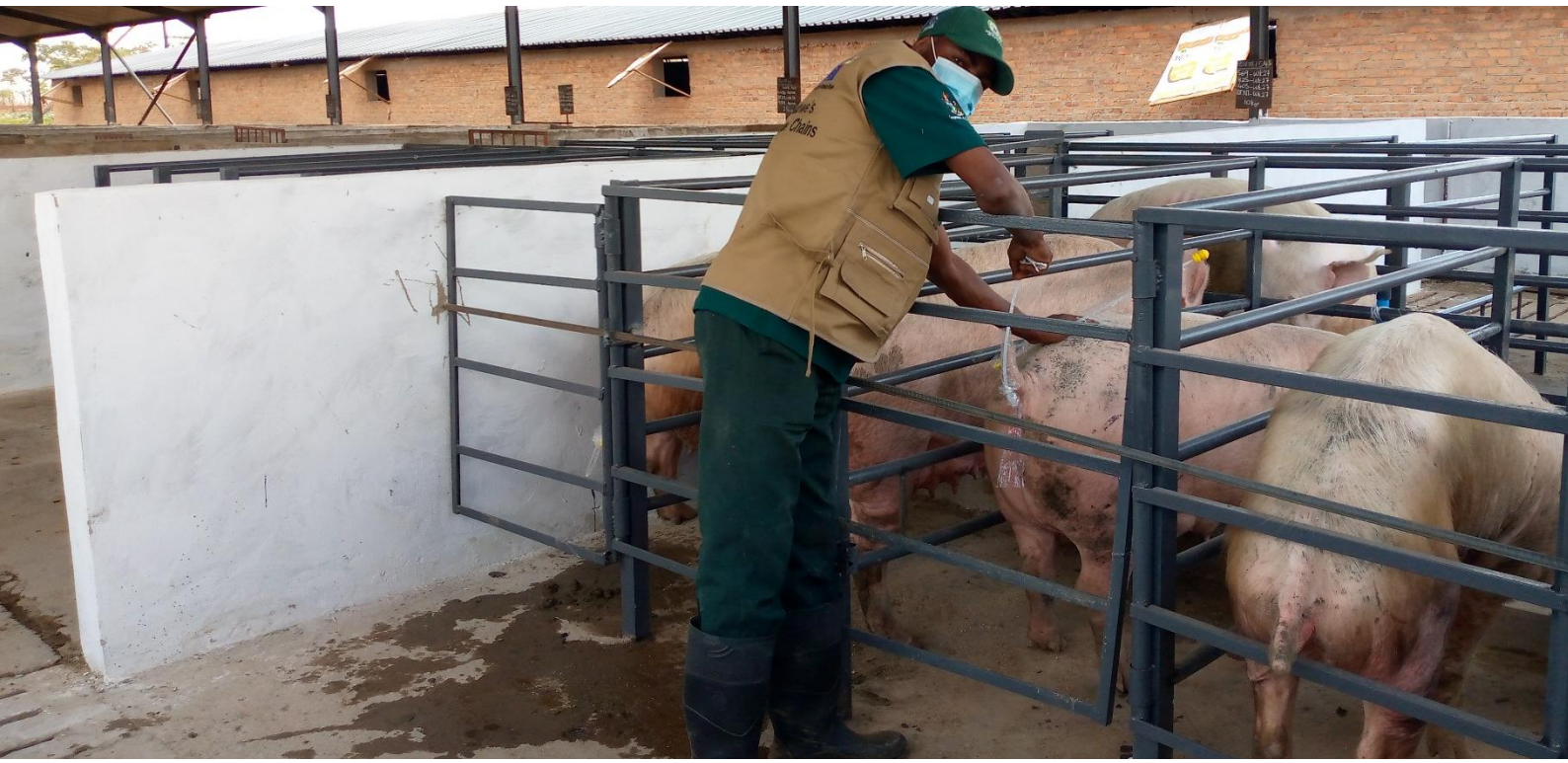
Small and Medium-scale Farmers Accessing Top Quality Pig Genetics through Semen Campaign



Semen tapping in progress at the Artificial Insemination Station estableished by the VALUE project in Chegutu district, Mashonaland West province.

The VALUE project is promoting uptake of superior pig genetics to small and medium scale producers primarily in Mashonaland East and West production corridors through sale of breeding stock and semen. From the 15 imported top quality grandparent boars imported in 2020, a total of 4,653 semen doses have been sold from the project imported grandparent boars.

To further promote uptake, the project launched a Buy One and Get One Model (BOGOM) where farmers will get two semen doses for a price USD6.00. A total of 2,000 semen doses have been set aside for the campaign. The approach is also centred on price reduction to ensure affordability on the farmers' side as well as quick diffusion of technology amongst the farmers.

Government extension staff (36) and lead farmers (34) were trained by the Pig Industry Board (PIB) on the artificial insemination technique and are serving as inseminators for pig producers in their localities.

Spearheading Financial Inclusion for Small and Medium-scale Pork Producers

The VALUE project facilitated financial linkages for seven (7) members of the Marondera Pork Producers Business Syndicate to value chain financing through a loan facility availed by First Mutual.

- Total loan amount of 15 million ZWL was availed. The facility was directed towards financing working capital necessary for fattening weaners over a 4-month period.
- Farmers collectively procured 143 tonnes of Maize and 40 tonnes of Soymeal
- 65.5 tonnes of pork meat supplied to independent butcheries and supermarkets as a result
- Cumulatively farmers generated USD82400 from sales
- All participating farmers successfully repaid their obligations

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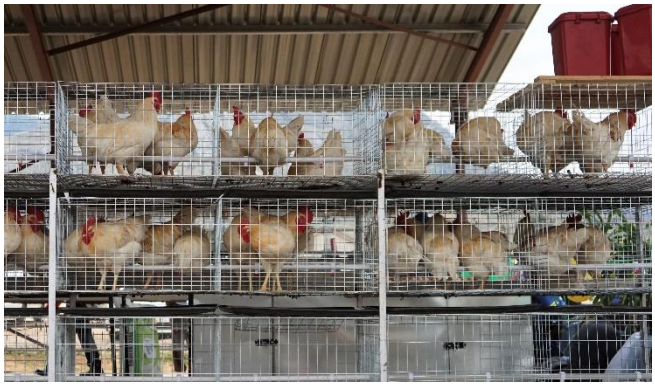
Emerging Lessons from Poultry Business Associations (PBAs)



The Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC) project has established Poultry Business Associations (PBAs) in five clusters covering Bulawayo, Gweru, Harare, Kwekwe, Mutare and Masvingo.

PBAs are producer member institutions, that administer and coordinate collective action for farmer access to extension, inputs, financial and market services in a more convenient and cost-effective manner.

With the PBAs supporting at least 2,812 fully registered small to medium-scale poultry producers (1844 females, 969 males), a number of key lessons are emerging:

PBA registration is crucial: Since the establishment of the PBAs it has become apparent that registering them as a business entity can help ease negotiations with other value chain players. Registration is required at the initial stage, to enable PBAs to compete and negotiate with players in the poultry production industry. For example, the Bulawayo PBA failed to win tenders to supply road runner chickens due to lack of registration.

PBA committee members vetting: There is a continuous call for proper vetting of PBA committee members. There have been instances where committee members were not poultry farmers, which then put to question their interests. PBA committees should be poultry farmers who are able to participate in the day to day poultry business of the association. Furthermore, committee members need to be trained on proper governance as they are running the Poultry Business Units (PBUs) as a business. They should also be awarded the position with clear ToRs and be able to enforce implementation of existing constitutions.

Diversification of suppliers and products: There is need to have more reliable suppliers for inputs, feed and chicks than relying on one supplier. PBAs have to continue identifying opportunities for value addition. Product diversification can help to attract different customers.

Reduction of costs:

a) Feed formulation trainings and adoption of localised feed formulation by farmers has proven to aid in reduction of production costs for farmers. Therefore, continuous feed formulation trainings by the PBA to farmers are encouraged. However, availability of raw materials has proven to be a challenge and most farmers do not have enough land to grow the crops for feed formulation.
b) Collective action: Farmers are reducing cost of production by pulling out their resources together. Bulk feed and chick purchases have also shown that farmers are able to save more through collective action as they are able to negotiate discounted prices.

Live markets and butcheries increased sales volumes: Across all PBAs, a pattern has been noted that sales of both live birds and dressed birds made an exponential rise since the establishments of live bird markets and butchers. In addition, the number of market sheds in different clusters and regions need to be increased as there is high demand at the existing market sheds, while improving on bio-security measures to ensure good animal health.

Snapshot of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS) Project Successes

2 Agricultural Centres of Excellence and **4** District Agricultural Centres of Excellence established with **98%** of the required equipment installed.

2,754 out **5,000** Agritex officers have registered for In-service training app, 1901 have completed their courses and have been awarded with certificates.

1,200 users on ZimAgrihub www.zimagrihub.org.zw

326 trials and demonstrations set up at ACEs, DACEs, and model farmers households.

549 cows artificially inseminated in Matobo and Insiza districts.

566 trials and demonstrations set up at ACEs, DACEs, and model farmers households.

24 farmer field schools set up in the four districts.

72 fodder demonstration plots established.

180 Conservation Agriculture and rainwater harvesting demonstrations established.

20 Varieties of drought tolerant crops demonstrated.

24 Fall Armyworm Push and Pull technology demonstrations established.

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IN THE NEWS

Cattle marketing facilities breathe life into Lupane, Chiredzi

The rehabilitation of the Gomoza cattle marketing facilities into a satellite Cattle Business Centre (CBC) has brought about change in the marketing of cattle in Lupane and unlocked better deals for livestock producers.

Located in Ward 12 of Lupane District, before rehabilitation the new satellite CBC had been in a highly dilapidated state that saw the local community shunning the use of the facilities depending more on speculators and middle men when intending to sell their livestock.

Under the Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST) project, where Government is actively involved, Gomoza CBC is one of the five satellite CBCs selected for rehabilitation in Lupane district.

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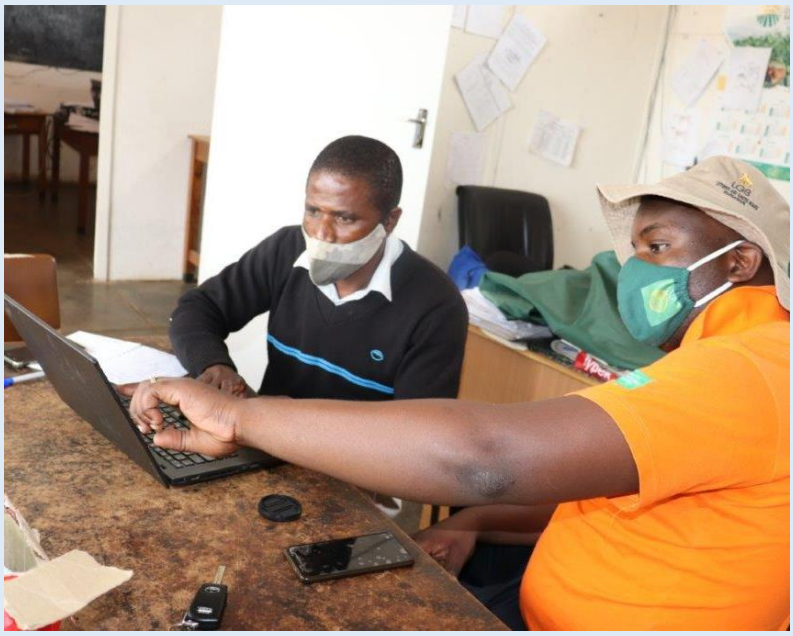
Agriculture Ministry to digitize records



The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Resettlement recently initiated a records digitization process for its education, research, and extension departments.

The initiative is supported by the European Union (EU)-funded Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS) project.

In an interview recently, the ZAKIS head of project Kumbirai Nhongo said, "Our support is part of the ZAKIS project mandate to provide ICT for Development (ICT4D) innovations and solutions that improve efficiencies within the sector.

"The initiative will convert hard copy knowledge resources into digital formats and create an online archive which can be easily accessed remotely. This will therefore facilitate access by a broader audience, among them researchers, students, academia, extension staff and farmers, for the benefit of the entire agriculture sector."

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