



ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

ISSUE 6: OCTOBER 2019

Welcome to Issue 6 (September 2019) of ZAGP News, the monthly newsletter for the European Union (EU) funded, Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP). The newsletter is one of the channels for the sharing of programme information and updates of activities across the different provinces of Zimbabwe.

This month, we do a deep dive on the Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety Systems for the Future (SAFE) project. The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) is leading the implementation of the project.

Through the "Farm to Fork" approach, SAFE seeks to transform Zimbabwe's animal health and food safety systems for improved livestock productivity, food and

consumer safety to enhance market access. SAFE's activities will ensure that the food we consume is free from food-borne hazards by strengthening each and every link in the complex process of food reaching the consumer - from the way livestock is raised, processed, packaged, sold and consumed.

We also provide updates on the other projects being implemented under ZAGP across the different value chains and support projects in various provinces of the country. The newsletter also features key events that are taking place during the month of October.

We welcome your feedback on this and other issues of ZAGP News.

(Cover photo: Surrey Group Abattoir, Marondera)

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ZAGP NEWS FOCUS

“From Farm to Fork”

Transforming Zimbabwe’s Animal Health and Food Safety Systems (SAFE).



The SAFE project was jointly designed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement as well as the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) in the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC).

The project will contribute to the key outcomes of the umbrella Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP) on increased production and productivity of the livestock sector, livestock products having better access to markets and are more competitive, increased public and private investment in targeted livestock value chains and strengthened institutions to develop and implement institutional and regulatory frameworks.

SAFE focuses on building the capacity for animal disease control and sanitary and phytosanitary food safety services in the livestock and food processing and handling sectors. The overall objective of the project is to transform Zimbabwe’s animal health and food safety systems for improved livestock productivity, food and consumer safety that enhance both domestic and international market access.

Running from February 2019 to April 2022, SAFE covers 30 selected rural districts and 18 ports of entry in Zimbabwe. Key staff members from the two departments are involved in the implementation of SAFE at national, provincial, district and ward levels. The government field staff will carry out most of the specific project activities for the intended outputs under the guidance of the FAO SAFE project team.

The alignment of the SAFE project in ZAGP

The SAFE project is designed to work on improving the environment and service delivery for the livestock value chains so that they are able to increase the productivity of quality animal products for domestic and international markets. The improved productivity will, in turn enhance viability of the livestock enterprises along the value chains.

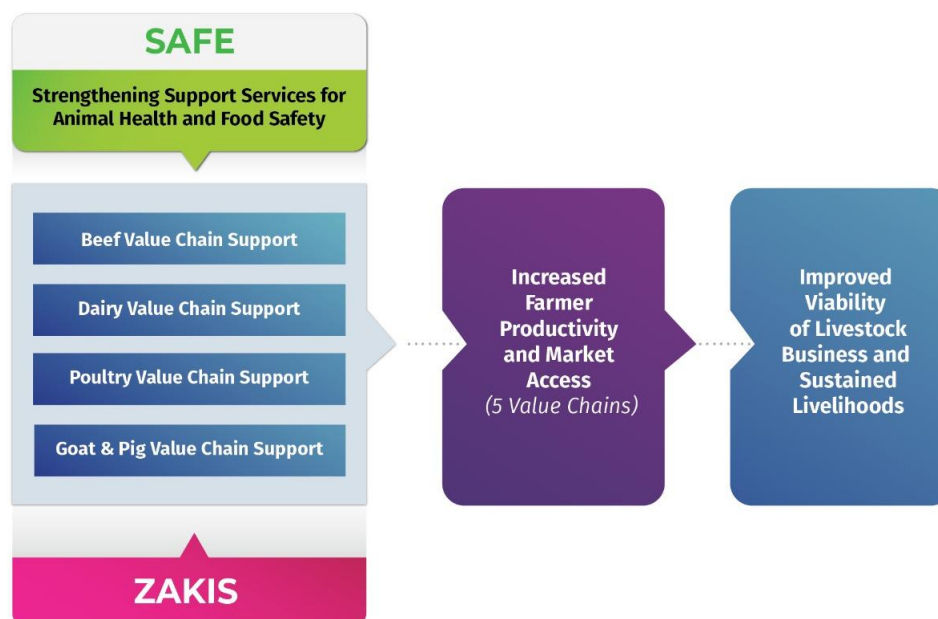


Figure 1: The SAFE project component under ZAGP.

Following the farm to fork concept, the SAFE project is designed to implement interventions that enable the overall improvement of the environment for the value chain actors to be able to express full potential in the production of targeted animal products that meet both domestic and international quality and food safety standards.

The two main areas of focus are;

1. Animal Disease Control Services.

These are key for ensuring public health, animal health and welfare, and animal productivity and market access. Great attention is placed on strengthening the regulatory functions of the competent authority and leveraging on private sector financing to improve animal health service delivery. In particular, an animal health delivery model centred on the Animal Health and Management Centres (AHMCs) that involves private sector players will be implemented with full participation of key stakeholders. The approach is to build the capacity of the DVS structures to be better able to provide services for animal disease prevention, early detection, diagnosis and control, thereby increasing productivity and quality as well as build the farmers' confidence to pay for such services for sustainability of the system.

2. Food Safety Services.

These are critical for consumer protection. Food safety measures also protect human or animal life or health from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in foods, beverages or feedstuffs. "Contaminants" include pesticide and veterinary drug residues and extraneous matter (foreign substances in foods). The action recognizes the importance of food safety in ensuring food security and economic development.

The main thrust will focus on strengthening institutional and regulatory capacity of the competent authorities, review of policies and regulations, standards development and supporting the development of effective and efficient quality assurance protocols. Particular attention will be given to segregating roles and responsibilities of institutions involved in food safety regulation. The action will build on the successes of past projects and create synergies with other ongoing initiatives.

The SAFE project interventions aim to deliver into four results pillars that are highly complementary in improving service provision for animal health and food safety systems. The pillars are as indicated in Figure 2 overleaf.



Figure 2: The SAFE project results pillars.

1. Policy and Regulatory Framework: There are several pieces of legislation and multiple administrative institutions covering issues of animal health, welfare and food safety in Zimbabwe. Most of these legislation and standards governing animal health and food safety in Zimbabwe are outdated, some dating as far back as 1924, and are based on punitive and enforcement-focused measures. The SAFE project will therefore conduct relevant reviews of such policies and regulatory frameworks in line with current international trends and best practices. The reviewed frameworks will be implemented during the lifespan of the project and lessons learnt will be documented.

2. Institutional capacity strengthening: In this pillar the project is focusing on specific skills training and provision of key tools and equipment at the AHMCs, Government Analyst Laboratory (GA), Ventral Veterinary Laboratory (CVL), ports of entry and food handling sites. The project is working on building local capacity to produce essential vaccines for the priority livestock diseases as import substitutions to save foreign currency for the country.

3. Integrated information management system: The draft Zimbabwe government Livestock Policy proposes the

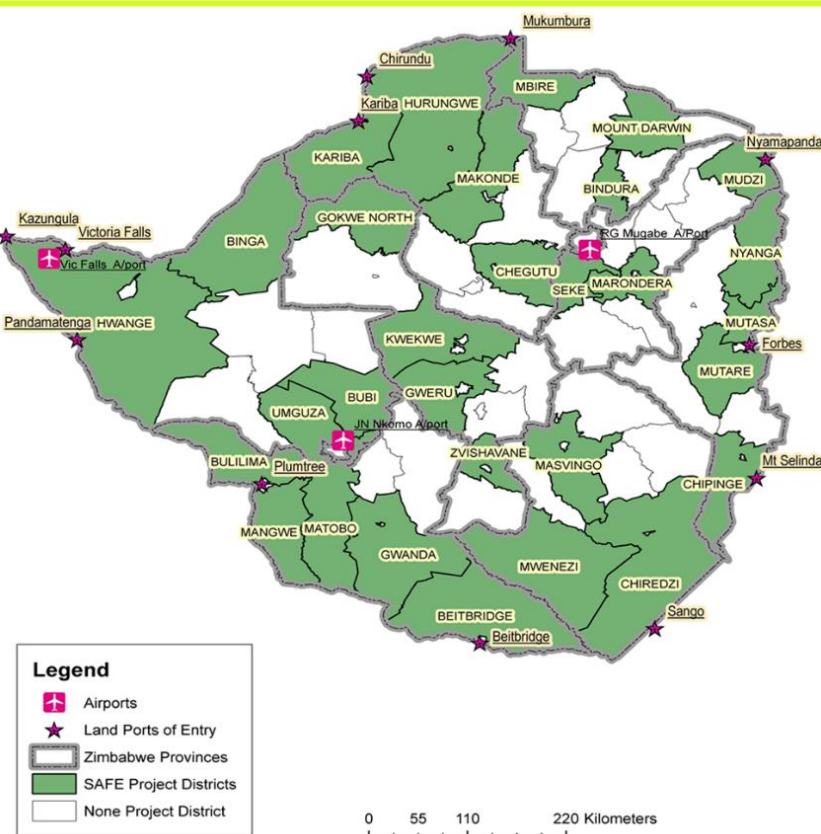
establishment of an efficient Livestock Information Management System (LIMS). Such a system will benefit several value chains and stakeholders, who will receive up-to-date information on disease outbreaks, rangeland monitoring, market regulations, prices, supply and demand, weather, advisory tips, credit risk management, financial management, etc. These support proactive decision making, promote commercialization of livestock products and serve as early warning. This activity will enhance disease surveillance and reporting as well as serving as the basis for the establishment of a comprehensive Livestock Identification and Traceability system (LITS).

4. Coordination and advocacy: The project acknowledges the significant differences existing between the capacities of the MoHCC and MLAWCRR when it comes to preparedness, real time surveillance and emergency response, creating vulnerabilities for both human and animals, as zoonotic diseases spread. SAFE will work on addressing these gaps.

The relevant sectors involved in the implementation of a One Health approach will be established. Currently there is no proper coordination of the various institutions supporting and regulating animal health and food safety.



An animal health delivery model centred on the AHMCs that involves private sector players will be implemented with full participation of key stakeholders.



Geographical coverage of the SAFE project. The project has a national coverage as well as specific sub-national sites for selected interventions.

Expected Outputs for the SAFE Project

After the 3+ years of implementation of the SAFE project the expected outputs as follows;

- **Strengthened policies and regulatory frameworks for improved productivity and market access.** There will be effective institutional and regulatory framework e.g. functional updated policy/legislation, clear guidelines and standard operation procedures enhancing enforcement and service delivery on animal health and food safety systems.
- **Strengthened public and private sector capacity for animal health and food safety delivery systems that are aligned to international standards.** Improved animal disease diagnosis that support surveillance work at the required administrative level – e.g. ward, sub-district, district, provincial and national.
- **Integrated, efficient, livestock information management systems to support timely decision making.** Functional and effective animal health information system for improved surveillance, outbreaks control and productivity monitoring.
- **Functional multi stakeholder platforms for coordination, collaboration and advocacy established.** For example, the One Health operational group network. Functional relationships with clear roles and responsibilities on food safety and meat inspections at the abattoirs.



Key diagnostic and analytical laboratories to get ISO accreditation.



Biosecurity facilities to be established at selected ports of entry.

PROJECT UPDATES

GOAT PRODUCERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS TO DRIVE COMMERCIAL EFFORTS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SCALE FARMERS.



Lizzy Mwinde of Ward 1 in Lupane feeding some of her goats. She is looking forward to improving her breeds and accessing viable market.

Streams of sweat poured off her brow, the heat unrelenting and true to form during this time of the year in Matabeleland North's Lupane district. Her name is Lizzy Mwinde, she is clearly unbothered by the incessant heat, her attention is on feeding and caring for her bulging herd of goats comprising of indigenous and exotic breeds - the Boer goats.

Although this area is well known for goat production, Lizzy's passion and dedication to her goats is clearly evident in her comparatively excellent structures and impressive state of her goats. As she speaks about her project, her posture changes and her face glows, "I have a passion for goats, when I started it was difficult to convince people that goats had the potential to generate income that can sustain a family. This is so because most people consider goats as a poor man's cow that is unable to create meaningful income."

With a 17 doe-unit, Lizzy was selected to be one of the 1,000 anchor farmers in the 12 districts where the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Grading and Empowerment (VALUE) project is being implemented. The anchor farmers will be trained to cascade support to an approximately 9000 small and medium holder farmers.

Operations of small and medium scale farmers have been impeded by a number of challenges that the project seeks to address. "Some of the challenges we have been facing as goat farmers include accessing viable markets, lack of superior breeds, lack of coordination of small and medium scale farmers and lack of access to agro-financing," added Lizzy.

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Lizzy said that she was attracted to the project after learning of how the VALUE project sought to promote collective action by organising farmers into Goat Producers Business Associations (GPBAs). The GPBAs will drive the commercialisation efforts of the goat farmers in the various districts through the Goat Improvement Centres which the project will establish.

She added that the establishment of Goat Improvement Centres and the promotion of collective action was timely and appropriate to commercialise while addressing challenges that have bedevilled the goat farmers over a prolonged period. Farmers like Lizzy can apply for Smart Subsidies under the project to upscale their production through breed improvement and infrastructure development.

Goat Value Chain Initiative Launched at the Inaugural Goat Indaba in Mazowe.

The Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project's goat value chain initiative was launched at the inaugural Goat Indaba held at the Henderson Research Institute in Mazowe on 18 September 2019. The Indaba ran under the theme "Transforming goat production to commercialisation" which resonates with the objectives of the four-year VALUE project to upscale and empower the goat value chain in Zimbabwe.

Key topics discussed at the Indaba included breed improvement, goat value chain development, market linkages and trade opportunities, enhancing production and productivity, animal health and general management of goat farms.

The VALUE project Team Leader, Newton Chari informed goat value chain actors in attendance that the project was designed to address the prevailing bottlenecks to create a viable goat industry and upgrade the production and productivity of small and medium scale farmers.



Newton Chari, The VALUE Project Team Leader addressing the over 350 delegates at the Indaba while launching the Goat Value Chain upgrading and empowerment project.



A cross section of the participants at the Goat Indaba following proceedings of the day.

PROJECT UPDATES



HOPE RESTORED FOR MAKONI SMALLHOLDER FARMERS DURING FORMAL CATTLE SALES.

An ox sold for USD 250 during the Makoni cattle sales with PHI.

Smallholder farmers in Makoni district, Manicaland province, participated in a successful formal cattle sale event, the first in many years, which was conducted by PHI, trading as Tinotenga Mombe.

Lack of organised marketing of cattle in Zimbabwe is one of the bottlenecks affecting beef cattle production. As a result, smallholder farmers resort to the informal way of marketing their cattle, with middlemen arbitrarily setting prices and offloading the animals at cattle auction points and to abattoirs in towns often benefiting more than the farmers themselves.

PHI won the contract to manage the Cattle Business Centre (CBC) in Makoni district. Under the CBC model, private sector players will provide services to the community. Services will include bulling, feeder finance, extension and technical services, drug and feed sales, heifer/steer exchange, and fodder feeding for a fee.

A total of 17 cattle were bought out of a total yarding of 33 animals, at an average price of USD200.00 per beast. The lowest price was USD130, while the highest animal fetched USD450.

It was noted that there is a big variance between farmers' price expectations and what the market is willing to offer. This is caused by market distortions, farmers' lack of market knowledge and suppressed beef prices.

The distortions are emanating from the RTGS\$ and USD exchange rate variations, for both cash as well as electronic transfers.

Sixteen cattle were rejected for sale because of poor body condition. Despite this, the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) and the Makoni Rural District Council commended the high prices on offer by the private partner, and it was hailed as a good start.

The Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST) project will ensure that farmers are trained on good animal husbandry practices to ensure highest possible returns from selling cattle.

PHI is dissatisfied with the proposed council levy of 3% of the value of animals bought. Currently the BEST team is facilitating discussions between PHI and the Makoni Rural District Council to negotiate an acceptable cattle levy. Various different options will be explored, including using an agreed figure per animal bought or an annual buying license which is paid for at the beginning of every year.

BEST project in collaboration with Livestock and Meat Advisory Council (LMAC) will advocate and lobby for reduction of costs of compliance and removal of multiple levy systems.

PROJECT UPDATES

SAFE Project Embarks on Scoping Missions.

As part of benchmarking and situational analysis, the SAFE project team conducted scoping missions to selected potential project sites in Harare, Mashonaland East, Manicaland, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central Provinces. The sites included Robert Mugabe International Airport, Government Analyst Laboratory, Central Veterinary Laboratory, University of Zimbabwe Veterinary Science Department, Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC), abattoirs and Grasslands Research Station in Marondera. The mission also covered the Forbes and Chirundu border posts, provincial veterinary Laboratories, municipal health departments, milk collection centres, Animal Health Management Centres (AHMCs) and the Mazoe Veterinary College.

The main objective of these scoping missions was to gather first-hand information on the current status of the project sites and use the information to refine the key sub-activities that ensure project delivery, refine TORs for the baseline study and proper prioritization of SAFE Project intervention areas.

INTERVENTIONS IDENTIFIED FOR REFINEMENT

Pillar 1: Strengthening Policies and Regulatory Framework

- The need to review the Animal Health Act and the Veterinary Professionals Act so as to meet the requirements of World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was emphasized by stakeholders during the scoping missions.
- Prepare and or review regulations in line with the new Public Health Act.
- Production of regulations should be preceded by education and awareness for the officers and the public/consumers.



Learning the importance of good animal health and meat hygiene for production of quality and safe meat at the Surrey Group abattoir.

- Local authorities to harmonize their by- laws on animal health, hygiene and food safety standards.

Pillar 2: Capacity Strengthening

- The project will capacitate government laboratories to be able to effectively carry out their mandatory duties. The project will however go a step further to develop sustainability models.
- The project will facilitate training programs for different categories of officers who participate in delivering animal health and food safety.

Pillar 3: Development of Efficient and Integrated MIS

- It was observed that government departments responsible for ensuring good animal health and food safety have information systems which are working in silos, or they have incomplete systems or some don't have anything functional on the ground. However, it was also observed that the Ministry of Health and Child Care have a functional information system on epidemiology from which other departments can learn or can be integrated.
- Animal health and food safety information systems to be developed during the project intervention activities will be interoperable to encourage sharing of vital information.

Pillar 4: Coordination and Advocacy

- The project will work on reviving the One Health platform meetings to encourage a systematic approach to management of zoonotic diseases as well as information sharing on meat inspection, pests and other such challenges.
- The project will also spearhead efforts to encourage trans-border collaborations in order to effectively manage issues to do with animal health and food safety.



The SAFE Team Engaging with Department of Veterinary staff at an AHMC in Watsomba in Mutasa District of Manicaland province.

PROJECT UPDATES



ZAKIS FACILITATES FORMATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS LEARNING UNIT (CLU).

Members of the Communications Learning Unit with the web development consultants from The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESSA).

The Zimbabwe Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS) seeks to strengthen linkages in Agricultural Research, Education and Extension and promote a sustainable, modern and thriving agricultural economy in Zimbabwe. The three pillars of agriculture (research, education and extension) have been operating in silos, and to bridge these, ZAKIS facilitated the formation of a Communications and Learning Unit (CLU) within the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement (MoLAWCRR).

Membership of the CLU comprises of representatives from the Department of Research and Specialist Services (DR&SS), Department of Agriculture, Education and Farmers Training (DAEFT), and Agritex. The unit will facilitate synergies and collaboration among the MoLAWCRR stakeholders and the academic, public, private, and development sectors. These stakeholders will participate by sharing and contributing to the wealth of agricultural knowledge that exists in Zimbabwe and beyond.

The key mandate of the CLU is to collect and collate content for the Online Research Library, from the Centres of Agriculture Excellence and facilitating easy access and flow of knowledge and resources to support a sustainable agricultural growth across the country.

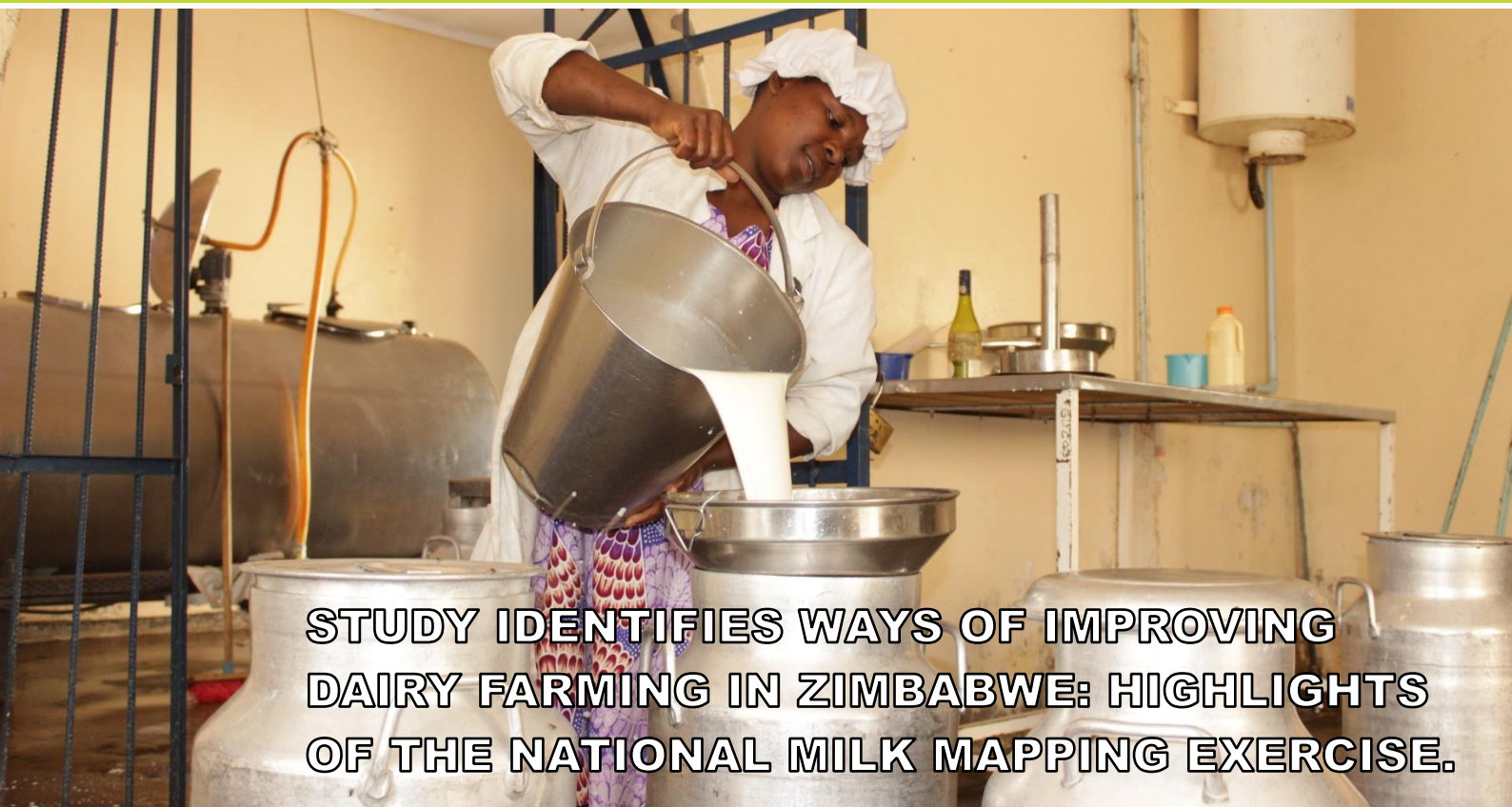
The CLU will champion content gathering, content development and content management for the ZimAgriHub portal and ensure that the existing knowledge and researches are collected, collated, uploaded and disseminated to the target audience. The ZimAgriHub portal consolidates all agriculture related information to enable collaboration between research, education and extension.

The CLU will provide the public, private and development sector with easy to use agricultural knowledge, facilitate a culture of interaction and feedback through various channels of communication within the agriculture sector. The unit will inform the general public on new agricultural developments, innovations and events.

The CLU is in the process of collecting content for the ZimAgriHub portal from research and academic institutions, individual authors, extension, education, public, private and development organisations to develop a balanced collection that meet user knowledge needs.

For more information and to contribute content towards the development and setup of the ZimAgrihub contact the ZAKIS team: Waddilove.Sansole@welthungerhilfe.de

PROJECT UPDATES



STUDY IDENTIFIES WAYS OF IMPROVING DAIRY FARMING IN ZIMBABWE: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATIONAL MILK MAPPING EXERCISE.

The Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future (TranZ DVC) project conducted a milk mapping study in May and June 2019. The study, conducted in 60 districts of Zimbabwe, examined information base on milk densities, dairy infrastructure (functional and none functional), viability, knowledge, practices, breeders, feed entrepreneurs, and markets. Investigators also set out to understand the level of support services against which to monitor and assess the project's progress and effectiveness during implementation and after project completion.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

A. Farmer Level

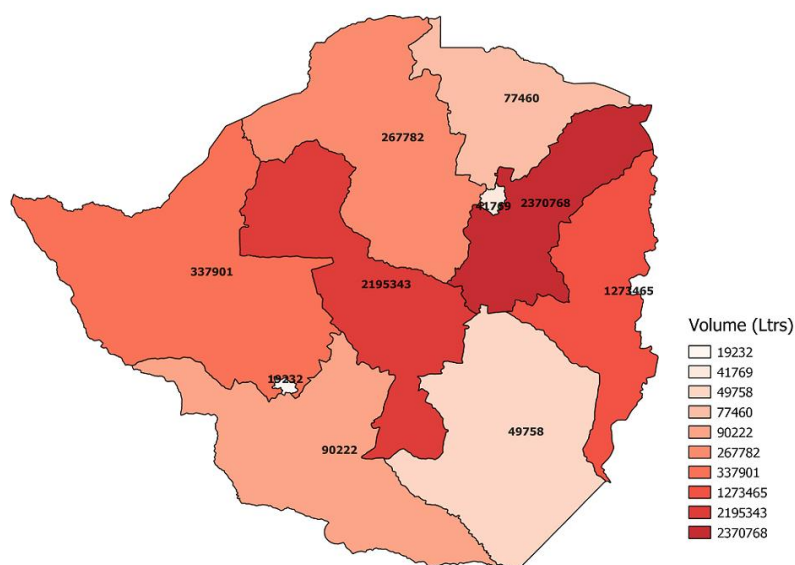
- A total of 1,935 farmers across the seven farming sectors in Zimbabwe were interviewed during the milk mapping survey. 23% were females while 77% were male farmers while those above 35 years were 92% and 8% were youths in the dairy sector at production level.
- The monthly milk production varied across the seven farming sectors in Zimbabwe with 5,020.034 litres highest being produced monthly from 168 dairy farmers in the large- scale farming sector from 18,969 pure dairy animals and very few indigenous animals.

- The lowest milk output 76,819 litres was being produced in the old resettlement farming sector from only 293 pure dairy animals. Large-scale farming sectors contributed 75% of the national milk production output while 13%, 3%, 2%, 1% and 1% was contributed by the A2, peri-urban, communal, old resettlement and A1 farming sectors respectively.
- From the 1,935 dairy farmers mapped based on milk output classification, a total of 57 farmers produced above 500 litres or raw milk per day representing 3% and contributing 84% to the national milk production output. Twenty-eight farmers produced between 200-500 litres of milk per day representing 1% and contributing 4% to the national milk output while 1,852 farmers representing 12% and contributing the bulk as 96% of the national milk production.

B. Dairy Input Suppliers (109)

- The milk mapping survey recorded only 20% of input suppliers and agro-dealers engaged in input and supply arrangement schemes. The low figure was mainly attributed to the prevailing unstable local currency which has resulted in most input suppliers requiring payment up front from the dairy farmers.

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National milk production densities.

- Only 10% of the interviewed input suppliers who were in agro-dealer schemes were in consignment stock and or out-grower networks with farmers as suppliers of key raw materials as ingredients for the production of concentrates and finished meals. Very few input suppliers were engaged in consignment stock arrangement with dairy farmers except some Milk Collection Centres.
- Financial access is also very limited due to the stringent requirements from financial lending institutions which require among other things collateral.
- Input suppliers indicated that their major markets of 53% are individual dairy farmers, 9% farmer groups, 12% institutions and 26% others.

C. Dairy Breeders

- A total of 20 breeders were identified with only a few registered pedigree breeders. The identified breeders included government research institutions with a mandate to breed different livestock species, among them dairy cows.
- The prices of dairy animals from the breeders vary according to the breed, age and stage of the animal. Weaner calves' prices range from between USD500 to USD1,000. Bulling heifers are priced between USD800 and USD1,500. In-calf heifers are generally the most priced dairy animals due to demand with prices ranging from USD1,200 to USD2,400.
- Only 16% of the breeders indicated that they were accessing financial services. Financial services access in the dairy sector was generally low due to financial institutions who were reluctant to offer long-term loans suited for this sector.
- From the 19 dairy breeders, only six breeders were only using and providing artificial insemination services for dairy breeding. The majority were promoting the use of dairy bulls with very few breeders undertaking both practices.
- Breeding policy was examined across farmers in dairy. Only 4% of farmers were using artificial insemination for breeding, with 85% using bulls for breeding. 11% were using both breeding policies. This breeding practice could be due to the limited capacity, skills and knowledge on artificial insemination among the majority of the dairy farmers.

D. Feed Entrepreneurs

- 35 feed entrepreneurs were identified during the survey ranging from small-scale farmers to large-scale farmers with others outsourcing land for forage production and silage production for sale. The highest number of entrepreneurs were identified in Mashonaland West (11) and only one entrepreneur in Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East province and no identified feed entrepreneurs in Bulawayo and Harare.
- The total cost of feed to the total expenditure is 84% in the large-scale commercial sector, 80% in the A2, 77% peri-urban and 40% in the A1 farming sector respectively. The variations were mainly due to differences in dairy production systems with more intensification in the large-scale farming sector as indicated by the use of purer breeds requiring a higher plane of nutrition and use of feed technology and equipment.

For the more detailed report, please contact Dr Edson Chifamba on: edson.chifamba@weeffect.org

PROJECT UPDATES

IPVC CELEBRATES WORLD EGG DAY.



The Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC) has completed its inception phase and the inception report has been finalised. To date, the project has mapped more than 11,000 poultry farmers and farmer registrations are still on-going in the project's target areas. During October, IPVC plans to map at least 1,000 butcheries.

World Egg Day 2019.

The IPVC project joins the world in celebrating World Egg Day on the 11th of October 2019. World Egg Day was established in Vienna in 1996 to raise awareness of the benefits of eggs and their importance in human nutrition. Today, the event is celebrated right across the globe, as countries continue to promote the importance and health benefits of eggs.

The health benefits of eggs will be hailed across the globe on Friday 11th October 2019, as we celebrate one of the

original superfoods on World Egg Day.

This World Egg Day, the project will focus on raising awareness on the nutritional qualities of eggs (high quality protein). As part of the campaign, IPVC will be using radio (Star FM and Radio Zimbabwe) and newspaper adverts in The Herald and Sunday Mail during the week leading to World Egg Day.

Learn more about eggs and different egg recipes by following the IPVC social media sites:

Facebook: [Inclusive Poultry Value Chain](#) and on **Twitter:** [@IPVC](#)

Join in the celebrations and spread the message!

For more information about World Egg Day, contact: communication.zimbabwe@cospe.org

Online Resources

Social Media

Follow the ZAGP projects on social media and get updates of project activities as well as interact with the project teams.

Twitter: VALUE: [@ZAGPGoats_Pigs](#) **Facebook** [ZAKIS](#)

Videos

VALUE has produced a series of videos outlining how the project will work with integrators in the pork value chain.

- [Shamiso Farm, Mashonaland East Integrator.](#)
- [Braford Farm, Mashonaland West Integrator.](#)