



ZAGP

Zimbabwe
**AGRICULTURAL
GROWTH**
Programme



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VALUE NEWS

TALKING GOATS AND PIGS

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FROM THE TEAM LEADER'S DESK

VALUE Project Team Leader **NEWTON CHARI**

I am pleased to present to you the 7th issue of the ZAGP VALUE news. In this issue we focus on some key achievements over the past 4 months including the official opening of two project sites in Rushinga and Chegutu, we also highlight some key achievements and interventions.

We are thrilled that some of the project interventions are beginning to bear fruit as the project thrives to achieve its target of catalysing the commercialisation of the goat and pork value chains for the small and medium scale producers.

Under the pork value chain, we recently launched a campaign to promote uptake of semen, we have also been working hard to increase uptake of essential veterinary drugs and vaccines and therefore kickstarted a bulk vaccine programme where farmers pool together in purchasing vaccines.

One of the key challenges small and medium scale producers have faced is accessing viable markets for their products. To address this challenge, the project has been piloting a direct marketing initiative in the Harare and Bulawayo urban meat markets under the goat value chain, resulting in a combined revenue realisation of USD 11 499.02.

AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE, WE CAN REFLECT WITH SATISFACTION ON THE PROJECT INTERVENTIONS AS WE THRIVE TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT AMONG SMALL AND MEDIUM PRODUCERS. I WISH YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY READING THIS IS ISSUE AND FIND IT INFORMATIVE.

Over the course of the year an average of 1413 goats were dipped monthly across the twelve goat improvement centres



CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE UPTAKE OF SEMEN IN PIG PRODUCTION LAUNCHED

The VALUE project has launched a programme to promote uptake of pig semen among small and medium pig producers. The campaign follows the successful launch of an artificial insemination station at Braford Farm in Chegutu district on 27 October 2021.

The campaign is running under the theme, Buy One and Get One Model (BOGOM) where farmers will get two semen doses for a price USD6.



Under the BOGOM campaign, we have set aside 2000 doses of semen from Grand Parent Boars imported from South Africa based at Braford Farm and the Pig Industry Board to cater for small and medium producers primarily in the Mashonaland East and West production corridors, said Project Team Leader, Newton Chari.

The project will set up a performance monitoring system to assess the performance of the artificial insemination technology as it bids to escalate delivery of top-quality genetics to producers at affordable prices.

The campaign is expected to boost interest in the use of artificial insemination especially among small and

medium who have been incurring huge costs of production by using breeding boars in small units.

Head of Training at the Pig Industry Board, Mr. Tamo Hove Muza said, “artificial insemination is a hygienic way of breeding which reduces transmission of diseases and guarantees the use of the best semen which is preselected and processed to give the best results.”

The PorkValueChain Private Integrator, Mr. George Mudanga urged farmers to adopt use of artificial insemination citing that the technology has vastly improved performance at Braford Farming.



At Braford we are running a 5-boar station from which we can get 200 doses of semen per week, we are encouraging farmers to take up AI. On our part we have realised that AI is giving us more uniform piglets and an increase in number born by four to four and a half piglets per sow.



Under the Buy One and Get One Model, two doses of semen are being sold for USD6 for the first 2000 doses produced

DIRECT MEAT MARKETING CHANGING THE FORTUNES OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE GOAT AND PORK PRODUCERS

The VALUE project is implementing the Direct Wholesale Meat Marketing Strategy, linking Goat Producer Business Associations (GPBAs) and Pig Producers Business Syndicates (PPBSs) with licensed butcheries and abattoirs, for the coordinated marketing of slaughter pigs and goats. The Action seeks to promote collective marketing of slaughter stock by farmers affiliated to GPBAs and PPBSs. The project is piloting the direct meat

marketing as an alternative pathway with potential to guarantee positive returns for goat and pig producers delivering slaughter goats and pigs to licensed butcheries operating in the Harare and Bulawayo urban meat market space.

As part of the process of piloting the Direct Meat Marketing Strategy, the project facilitated the profiling of

licensed butcheries operating in the high-traffic high-density locations of Harare and Bulawayo. Negotiations were brokered between GPBA Leadership and profiled butcheries for win-win Wholesale Goat Meat Supply Agreements.

For the Bulawayo and Harare urban meat market, a total of 178 and 391 licensed butcheries respectively have been identified as potential off takers of pork and goat meat, 97 and 258 respectively exhibiting the greatest will, incentive, and drive to offtake goat meat from the GPBA and PPBSs on wholesale consignment stock arrangements. 61 licensed butcheries operating in Bulawayo and 51 in Harare have signed Wholesale Goat Meat Marketing Agreements with GPBAs.

Having slaughtered through Rainham and Grills, three (3) GPBAs, namely, Rushinga, Mudzi and Nkayi GPBAs, have collectively delivered 3,7 tonnes of goat meat to a total of 23 licensed butcheries and supermarkets operating in the Harare and Bulawayo urban meat market space, resulting in a combined revenue realisation of \$ 11 499.02. The goats were delivered via formal direct meat marketing channels, ensuring that consumers get access to quality meat meeting the minimum food safety and health standards. Among the off takers of the goat meat are SPAR supermarket and Servco Pvt Ltd.



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\$ 11 499.02

of revenue realisation in the Harare and Bulawayo urban meat market space



3,7 TONNES

delivered of goat meat to a total of 23 licensed butcheries and supermarkets operating in the harare and bulawayo

SMALL HOLDER PIG PRODUCERS COMING TOGETHER TO PROCURE EXPENSIVE VACCINES

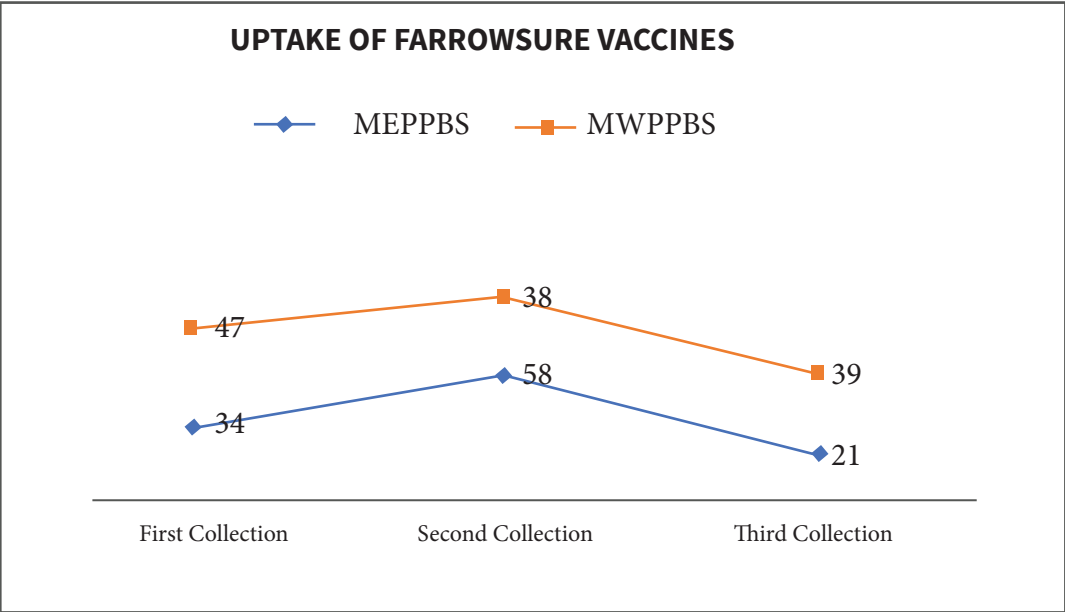
Small and medium pig producers have for a long time been failing to fully vaccinate their pigs owing to the high cost of the vaccines and the absence of packaging suitable for their small units resulting in low production owing to diseases such as parvovirus.

To reduce the cost of procuring the essential drugs and vaccines in pig production, pig producers registered under the Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West Pig Producers Business Syndicates are running bulk vaccine purchases for syndicate members & non-members at USD3 and USD3.50 per dose respectively. Instead of bearing the cost of USD123 for one bottle with 50 doses of either Farrowsure or Litter

guard, vaccine, farmers only pay for the dosage they require thus minimises costs, whereas before, farmers would use a few doses and dispose the rest.



The bulk vaccine procurement programme is aimed at reducing the cost of the drugs thus increasing uptake among small and medium scale producers. To date, we have sold 237 doses of Farrowsure to farmers in Mashonaland East and West production corridors,” said the Mashonaland East Pig Producers Business Syndicate’s Business Development Coordinator, Takudzwa Gondo.



LEVERAGING ON COLLECTIVE ACTION TO SURMOUNT PIG PRODUCTION CHALLENGES - THE STORY OF NYENGETERAI RWENYU

Nyengeterai Rwenyu is a woman pig farmer based in Ward 23 Chegutu district, in Mashonaland West province working with other farmers under the Mashonaland West Pig Production Business Syndicate, a business organisation formed under the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project to facilitate collective action and integrations of small to medium producers in the pork value chain.



Buffeted by several viability challenges such as unviable markets, low productivity of breeding stock, and high cost of purchasing critical inputs such as feed and drugs, Nyengeterai considered quitting pig production as solutions to these challenges seemed farfetched.

The coming in of the project brought new wind to the sails of her enterprise, the prospect of reducing cost of production through collective action, though new to Nyengeterai is one she quickly embraced and is beginning to bear fruits.



Over the years, we had been accustomed to working individually and struggling to overcome the numerous challenges we were facing with limited success in that regard. That has now changed, working in groups we are now able to purchase inputs in bulk and enjoy discounts as a result, said Nyengeterai Rwenyu.

ACCESS TO BREEDING STOCK

In April 2020, the project imported 244 pig breeding stock for propagation at the breeding centres to facilitate access to superior genetics by pig producers through sale of semen, breeding stock and weaners.

Together with other members of her group, Nyengeterai bought 20 pigs in the form of gilts, boars, and weaners to undertake fattening for markets and select breeding stock

for revitalizing her genetics. Cumulatively, a total of 638 pig breeding stock has been sold to farmers in Mashonaland East and west production corridors.



I registered interest to purchase breeding stock though our district group with the intention of replacing my old genetics with the new imported breeds. I had initially bought weaners for finishing but having noticed that the new genetics grow much faster than the pigs I had owned, I selected some for breeding and they are performing well.

COLLECTIVE ACTION

To address logistical challenges faced by farmers, the project imported two ten-ton trucks for the two provincial business syndicates for input procurement and bulk marketing. Farmers like Nyengeterai who are registered into associations established by the project, are hiring the trucks at subsidized rates to procure bulk inputs at discounted rates.

One of the challenges that small and medium scale farmers face relates to procurement of veterinary drugs which are available in high quantities, as such most farmers were no longer administering the drugs. Most of the drugs are available in fifty dose packages and therefore inappropriate for small and medium who have small herd sizes. To overcome this, farmers are coming together to purchase the drugs collectively.



Working as a collective has been a game changer for us, for instance, we are procuring feed basemixes as a group, which means that the quantities are big thus ensuring that we get upto 5% discount on purchases, said Nyengeterai.



Nyengeterai said

We are now vaccinating our pigs having started joint procurement of drugs, so instead of buying the whole 50-doses and throwing away what I don't use, I now pay for the doses I need, and we share the 50 doses as per farmer needs.



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Pig breeding imported for propagation



50 DOSES

Shared as per farmer needs



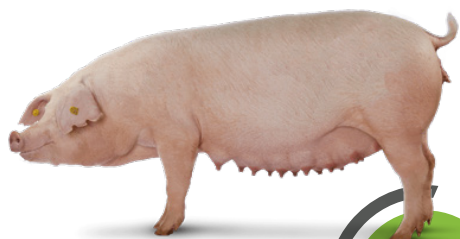
PIG BREEDS AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT INTEGRATOR FARMS



Duroc

Characteristics of the Duroc:

- **Super daily gain**
Progenies have superior daily gain from birth to slaughter and the best feed efficiency
- **Easy to handle**
Progenies are easy to handle and highly social, leading to higher animal welfare
- **Exceptional meat quality**
Finisher carcasses have exceptional meat quality: pH, colour and IMF
- **High survival rates**
Produce litters with high survival rates and vigorous piglets



Landrace

Characteristics of the Landrace:

- **Good conformation**
Strong animals with solid legs and high longevity
- **Good mothering abilities**
High nursing capacity and weaning rates of own piglets
- **High fertility**
Produce large litters of vigorous piglets
- **Excellent feed conversion**
Continuous improvements in genetic gain for feed conversion



Large White

Characteristics of the Large White:

- **Excellent feed conversion**
Documented improvements and progress for efficient feed usage
- **Good conformation**
Strong animals with high longevity and lifetime productivity
- **Exceptional meat quality**
Traits contribute to high-quality pork production
- **Good mothering abilities**
High nursing capacity and weaning rates of own piglets
- **Large litters**
Produce uniform litters of robust and vigorous piglets

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION STATION AT BRAFORD FARMING

On 21 October 2021, the project officially launched the Artificial Insemination station at Braford Farming in Chegutu district.

QUOTES FROM THE LAUNCH EVENT:



Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Rural Development Hon Vangelis Haritatos

Doubtless, the output from the AI station will go a long way in boosting production in the pork value chain and augers well for the development of the value chain, especially the small and medium players who have hitherto had limited access to improved breeds, yet this is an important cog for farmers to improve their production, productivity, and market competitiveness.



Minister of Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Mashonaland West Province-Hon Mary Mliswa

Given that most of the livestock is in the hands of small and medium producers, the effort to bring them together under the pork producers business syndicates can only have positive results in the short to long term. With such investments in the pork value chain, I am confident that the target of 18000 MT of pork products by 2025 is achievable.



ActionAid Zimbabwe Country Director and Project Board Chairperson

The completion of the Artificial Insemination station for the Mashonaland West production corridor will witness an increase in semen uptake thus boosting production and improving access to these supreme genetics among the pork producers. We are indeed primed for a positive transformation of the value chain in the near future.



Managing Director of Braford Farm, George Mudanga

I am also a testament of the efficiency of these genetics, I have witnessed excellent genes in the herd, increased growth rate of the herd, improved uniformity of the pigs, improved quality of the pork. Of significance we used to attain Cold Dressed Mass of 60kg at 23 weeks of age but with the new genetics we have started attaining Cold Dressed Mass of 64.5 – 65kg at 22weeks.



GOAT PRODUCERS IN RUSHINGA PRIMED FOR GROWTH AFTER LAUNCH OF THE RUSHINGA GOAT IMPROVEMENT CENTRE

Completed at a cost of USD24000 the Rushinga Goat Improvement Centre was officially launched in 10 November 2021 by the Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Rural Development, Hon Vangelis Haritatos. Hon Haritatos made a clarion call to the goat producers in Rushinga district to take full utilization of the centre, which is offering services such as breed improvement, dipping, sale of veterinary drugs, animal nutrition and aggregate sale of slaughter stock.



I would therefore like to urge farmers participating in this project, to fully maximise the opportunities that have been presented to them by working tirelessly to change the goat landscape in province and set alight the flames of the goat production revolution in Zimbabwe. Said the deputy minister.

A representative of the goat producers' association, the Business Development Officer, Mr. Regis Kasako spoke passionately about the challenges facing the small and medium scale producers in their quest to commercialise their enterprises.



As goat farmers we are grateful to the European Union and the VALUE project for the establishment of the goat improvement centre which has uplifted our businesses. We are appealing to the government to assist in addressing challenges we still face such as high costs of compliance, absence of a robust goat marketing infrastructure, predation, disease outbreaks and lack of value addition in the value chain.

ActionAid Director and Project Steering Committee Chairperson Joy Mabenge said the project has managed to address some of the teething challenges within the goat value chain through provision of essential services at the Goat improvement Centres and by facilitating direct market linkages between goat farmers and butcheries and supermarkets.

In her remarks, the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Mashonaland Central province, Hon Monica Mavhunga said, "Mashonaland Central is a key contributor in small ruminant production and the goat improvement centre has become a hub of business for goat producers contributing positively to the economy

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