



Zimbabwe
**AGRICULTURAL
GROWTH**
Programme



Funded by the European Union



VALUE NEWS

TALKING GOATS AND PIGS

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2020



FROM THE TEAM LEADER'S DESK

VALUE Project Team Leader **NEWTON CHARI**



I welcome you to the fourth issue of Talking Goats and Pigs, the quarterly newsletter of the VALUE Project. As we wind up a very eventful 2020, I am very grateful for the project partners' resolve to ensure that objectives were met

During this last quarter of 2020, we implemented a number of activities including look and learn visits, operationalisation of the Lupane Goat Improvement Centre, farmers initiated several collective action efforts and we witnessed an extraordinary feat where one of our champion farmers in Marondera district had a sow that farrowed 31 piglets.

As we end this turbulent year rocked by the COVID-19 pandemic we will take this festive season as an opportunity to recharge our batteries and come back stronger in our bid to transform the goat and pork value chains for Small and Medium Producers.

I invite you to dive into our latest offering as we continue with our efforts to contribute to the development of the goat and pork value chains in Zimbabwe.

I wish you happy holidays and a prosperous 2021.

(Cover photo: Imported goat breeding stock housed at Zvikomborero Farm in Chikomba district)





PETER MUSAVHAYA CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE FOR COMMERCILISATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM PIG PRODUCER

Peter Musavhaya is a man on a mission, based in Ward 29 of Chegutu district, the Champion pig farmer was recently elected to lead the Mashonaland West Pork Producer Business Syndicate. Musavhaya has a palpable passion for ‘hogs’ that has seen him grow in leaps and bounds.

Having ventured into pig farming just over seven years ago with a boar and five sows, Musavhaya has through hardwork and sheer determination grown to a 60 sow unit serviced by 2 boars.

“With the formation of the producer syndicates, we are now in a position to come together and drive the commercialisation of small and medium pork producers in our district and province,” said Musavhaya.

Over the past couple of years, small and medium pig producers have been faced with several challenges including droughts, shrinking markets and unreliable access to drugs and vaccines. In response to this, the pig producer syndicates will ensure collective action in backward and forward logistics to ease the pressure on individual farmers.

“As a syndicate we are pushing for breed improvement, for better yields, undertaking collective action through bulk input suppliers especially drugs such as farrowsure and marketing of slaughter stock and working to address bottlenecks along the whole value chain,” added Musavhaya.

In addition to this, the syndicate is working to lower the cost of production mainly driven by feed costs

which constitute between 60 to 85% of all production costs. One of the ways being explored and encouraged is on-farm feed formulation.

Musavhaya grows maize and soybean which he processes using a grinding mill on the farm.

“On farm feed formulation has to potential to cut feed costs by upto a third, I would urge pig producers to grow own maize and soybean and then buy premixes”

Besides being a well established pig producer, Musavhaya is a fully fledged livestock farmer with interests in cattle ranching and goat rearing and he is currently running an experiment with Saneen and local goats to venture into goat diary

He is also in the process of establishing a slaughter house with cold chain facilities, which will be accessible to other pig producers under his leadership in the district.

LUPANE GOAT IMPROVEMENT CENTRE ROARS INTO LIFE

It was a hive of activity at the Lupane Goat Improvement centre on 11 November 2020, when the facility opened its doors to goat farmers in the district for the first time. The GIC is a facility where farmers get primary business support services which include plunge dipping, animal health products, aggregation facilities, breed improvement services, animal nutrition (fodder seeds and crops) as well as hands-on training on commercial goat farming.

The centre held its first dipping session with a total of 1643 goats being dipped on the day.

“Dipping is a game changer because the challenges we had with troublesome tick-borne diseases is now a thing of the past,” said Orchard Ncube one of the members of the Lupane District Goat Producers Business Association.

In addition to dipping their goats, farmers were able to procure drugs and vaccines locally when in the past they had to travel to Lupane town or Bulawayo which resulted in many of them foregoing vaccination and treating their goats.

“As an association, we are working closely with the Department of Veterinary Services to ensure that we maintain good health for our animals through provision of drugs and vaccines at competitive prices. Farmers do not need to travel long distances to access drugs and vaccines,” said Thulani Shoko, the Treasurer of the association.

With the financial support of the European Union, the project supplied the centre with breeding bucks of the



Part of the 1643 goats that were dipped during the first session taking a plunge in the newly constructed dip tank



Some of the boer bucks purchased by the project for the GIC for breed improvement services

boar type for breed improvement. Farmers wishing to have their does serviced will pay a fee which will be channelled back into maintaining the centre.

To address the challenges caused by high cost of goat feed, the centre has a half a hectare of fodder crops such as Lablab, Velvet bean and Sunhemp under solar-powered drip irrigation.

“We sell fodder for the equivalent of USD1 per kilogram and fodder seed for USD1 per 500g.” Tepi Ncube an association member.

There are more goat improvement centres in 11 other districts namely Nkayi, Binga, Matobo, Gwanda, Beitbridge, Mudzi, Rushinga, Mbire, Chikomba, Buhera and Chipinge



SERVICES ON OFFER AT GOAT IMPROVEMENT CENTRES

- *Dipping facility for goats*
- *Animal nutrition services (Fodder crops and seeds)*
- *Veterinary supplies*
- *Breed improvement*
- *Demonstration of Green Technologies (Solar powered borehole)*
- *Aggregation of bulk slaughter stock*
- *Provision of Training and extension*



GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE OF THE SERVICES

- *Twelve districts namely Nkayi, Lupane, Binga, Matobo, Gwanda, Beitbridge, Buhera, Chipinge, Mbire, Chikomba, Rushinga and Mudzi*



NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES CURRENTLY AND TARGET

- *The primary target is the 10 000 registered small and medium goat producers in the twelve districts. The services are open to other goat farmers in the districts and in surrounding areas.*



THE ADVANTAGES/ BENEFITS OF THE SERVICE(S)

- *Improving animal health by dealing with external and internal parasites*
- *Increasing share value of meat products for the farmers by ensuring bulk aggregation which attract better markets*
- *Accelerating and decentralising animal feed nutrition and feed supplementation concept to small holder farmers*
- *Localising action learning and information exchange*
- *Demonstrating best production standards (e.g. animal health, treatment, improved breeds, feed supplementation, training)*
- *Increasing interface between farmers and value chain service providers on win-win business services*
- *Decentralising breeding support for farmers in partnership with private sector players*





LOCALISING KNOWLEDGE OF COMMERCIAL GOAT AND PORK PRODUCTION THROUGH LOOK AND LEARN VISITS

A practical demonstration by Zvikomborero technical team during the look and learn for Chikomba district

During this third quarter of the year, the project held look and learn visits for pig and goat producers to facilitate interaction between integrators, farmer leaders, veterinary and feed supplies as well as government extension staff on pig and goat commercialisation activities.

Under the pork value chain, farmers from Mashonaland East and West visited the Pig Industry Board where they were taken on a tour of the board's commercial

unit. Under the goat value chain, exchange visits were held in Mudzi, Gwanda, Matobo and Beitbridge while farmers from Buhera, Chikomba and Chipinge attended a look and learn at Zvikomborero Farms.

The exchange visits from farmer representatives was essential to ensure that they receive specialized hands-on expertise to promote scaling-up of good practices in pig and goat production.

WHAT THEY SAID

"I have learnt a lot during this PIB tour especially on ear-notching, I used to do it after some days but we were taught on the importance of notching soon after birth when we do the other procedures to reduce stress on the piglets." **Sarah Mabika – Marondera West Champion Farmer.**

"I am very happy with what I saw here at Zvikomborero Farm, I gained a lot of knowledge regarding breed improvement and standard goat housing. From here I am going to implement these lessons." **Angeline Sibiya, Chipinge Ward 16 Anchor Farmer.**





GOAT DIPPING: THE UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE OF 64-YEAR-OLD MANTOMBI MPOFU

UMantombi Mpofo uleminyaka engamatshumi ayisithupha lane ohlala eSibomvu Village ku ward 9 eLupane. Ugogo olembuzi zakhe ezine, kenelisanga ukungena ehlelweni lwe VALUE project. UMantombi umatasatasa unqanda imbuzi zakhe ziqeda kubhudlukela edibheni. Wayekade efisa ukugezisa imbuzi njengezinye izakhamizi, kodwa wayesehlulwa ngamandla angasekho okuphakamisa imbuzi inye ngayinye eyjikela ebhavini. Ukungenelisi kwakhe bekubuhlungu ngoba ubelahlekelwa zimbulawa yimikhuhlane ebangelwa zintwala lemikhaza.

“selokhu ngathwetshulwa yingwe, angikaze ngibone isimanga esinje, imbuzi zidibha kwelazo idibha njalo zinengi kangaka” kutsho uMantombi eqakeza. Elokhe ethandele imichilo abophanise ngayo imbuzi zakhe walinda esebukele ezabanye zidibha ekhuza laye ebancedisa. Bakhona ababezisa edibheni lenkomo

imbuzi zisiya dibha kodwa kungumango. Bekunzima ukuMantombi ngoba idibha lenkomo belikhatshana, loba ebelesifiso bekumehlula. Kuphuzile ukusa kuMntombi eqaphele ukuba ngowokuqala ukuzadibhisa

Mantombi Mpofo is a female goat farmer aged 64 who resides at Sibomvu village in ward 9 Lupane. She has 4 goats which was below the minimum threshold required to participate in the project, hence she did not qualify to be a beneficiary or participant in the VALUE project. However, that did not hinder her from benefiting from services rendered at the GIC. Mantombi had never seen a goat dip tank in her lifetime, this was the first of its kind. She took her goats for dipping after paying what is due for her goats to be able to be dipped for a year. Now that the dip tank is closer to her homestead, she will not miss a dipping session.

“WONDER SOW” FARROWS 31 PIGLETS IN MARONDERA DISTRICT



One of the VALUE project’s Champion farmers based in Marondera district Ward 23, Mr and Mrs Nyatanga broke records when one of their sows farrowed 31 piglets in a single farrowing.

The ‘Wonder Sow’ was purchased from the Pig Industry Board as breeding stock and serviced through natural mating by a boar also purchased from the board.

“We have always been very careful with the genetics we select for our farm thus the decision early on to work with the PIB in procuring quality breeding stock,” says Mrs Kimberly Nyatanga.

The decision to purchase top quality genetics has certainly paid off for the Nyatangas who are working closely with the PIB, the Department of Veterinary Services and Agritex to manage the piglets.

Since joining the pig producer business syndicates, the couple has been actively involved in training programmes and meetings on commercialisation.

“The trainings on commercialisation we have participated in have been helpful to hone our skills in pig production. Our commitment now is to ensure that we harness the genetics for breeding to ensure that more farmers especially those we are working with in the syndicate have access to them,” Nyatanga.

This record-breaking farrowing speaks volumes of the production efficiencies being observed at Tarara farm. “This record breaking and epoch-making feat speaks to productivity and production efficiencies that the project is encouraging to Small and Medium Producers.” Said Samson Chauruka, Mashonaland East integrator.

“Usually we expect between 12 and 16 from these breeds, but what we have seen here is evidence of what the breeds are capable of. In addition to having good breeds, it is essential for farmers to provide adequate feed and vaccinate their breeding stock with the requisite drugs such as FarrowSure and LitterGuard,” said Tamo Muza, the PIB Head of Training.





CAPACITY BUILDING OF PORK VALUE CHAIN MARKET FACILITATORS HELD

The project held two capacity building workshops for the Mashonaland East and West pork producer business syndicates in Marondera and Chinhoyi, respectively. The workshops were organised to build capacity of the district market facilitators to interact with markets, undertake market research, negotiate for favourable business arrangements with other market actors, coordinate bulk input procurement and supply of pork products.

Smallholder farmers face significant barriers to accessing formal markets and have traditionally sold most of their products at the farm gate to intermediaries at low prices. The workshops were organised to catalyse a process that will result in a system that will develop smallholder farmers' capacity to gainfully participate in viable and inclusive markets.

“The Market Facilitators will be the link responsible for developing and improving commercial relationships between producer farmers and other market players,” said Alex Nyakatsapa, the project Value Chain and Markets Development Specialist.

Armed with understanding of their role in facilitating access to viable markets for farmers in the syndicates, the participants developed workplans to initiate work on accessing lucrative markets.

“I really benefited a lot from the training and am geared up to begin my market facilitation for our pig producer group using the expertise and knowledge gained,” said one participant 22-year-old Tanaka Bara of Chegutu district.

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This publication has been produced with the financial support of the European Union and the CIPS Foundation, its contents are the sole responsibility of the VALUE project.