



ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

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EDITORIAL

We welcome you to the 15th issue (July 2020) of ZAGP News, giving you an update of the programme's activities.

This month, the focus is on women and youth, exploring how ZAGP is targeting them to address the challenges they encounter in effectively participating in Zimbabwe's agriculture sector.

Women and youth constitute at least 50% and 62% of the country's population respectively. Implementing innovative ways to increase their participation in agricultural production is a priority for Zimbabwe.

The bottlenecks they face in participating in agriculture include: limited access to land and improved agricultural inputs and technology, difficulties in securing credit, poor transportation and rural infrastructure, poor market access and gender inequalities.

According to Dr Josphat Nyika, the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), Director, agriculture offers vast opportunities for employment and business opportunities to women and young people.

"The youth are the future of the country whilst women are the backbone of the country, particularly in rural areas. It is therefore critical that they be empowered. As government, we welcome the initiatives by ZAGP in empowering this demographic and the programme's ultimate goal of creating a modern, prosperous livestock and agriculture sector in Zimbabwe. These initiatives can contribute significantly towards the attainment of Zimbabwe's Vision 2030", said Dr Nyika.

He encouraged the women and youth across the ZAGP projects to continue working with the veterinary and livestock officials in their respective districts to benefit from the wealth of experience on the ground.

In this issue, we profile the various interventions being implemented by [BEST](#), [IPVC](#), [TranZDVC](#), [VALUE](#) and [ZAKIS](#) to empower women and youth in their target areas.

(Cover photo: Siphathisiwe Ndlovu a lead farmer involved in fodder production in Mwenzezi district, Masvingo province).

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INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND YOUTH

IPVC Facilitates Women Empowerment through Poultry Business Associations

Despite an uncertain economic climate, characterised by unstable pricing of feed and other inputs, Zimbabwe's domestic poultry market continues to grow gradually.

In its latest update, the Livestock and Meat Advisory Council (LMAC) noted that there has been a recovery in pricing of layer chick mash and pullet grower feed, suggesting improved uptake of layer chicks on the market. Further, poultry production has shown to be a very important income generating activity in Zimbabwe, predominantly run by women. The [Inclusive Poultry Value Chain \(IPVC\)](#) project is facilitating women empowerment by assisting women poultry farmers to grow their poultry businesses to be profitable, through the establishment of the Poultry Business Associations (PBAs).

Many poultry farmers are facing a challenge of accessing viable markets. With the establishment of PBAs, women farmers are now able to come together as farmer groups and negotiate market linkages through the PBA.

"As a female poultry farmer, I had a challenge of accessing markets, which led to selling my birds at unprofitable prices. But now through the PBA, we will be sure to negotiate and find safer and rewarding market channels". Nora Dendere, a member of the Manica Poultry Association in Mutare said.

Female poultry farmers play a vital role in food production and food security and as such they are the backbone of the development of rural and national economy.

More than 60% of IPVC members are women involved in small scale farming. Even though their challenges are not unique to poultry farmers in the country, women poultry farmers have difficulties accessing inputs and feed.

Grace Danda a farmer based in Masvingo rears broilers and dual purpose chickens in batches of 300 at a time. She sells her birds using the local currency as most of her clients do not have access to the United States dollar. Due to the country's inflation rates, by the time she goes back to



Some of the members of Golden Poultry Association, the PBA operating under the Masvingo Cluster.

purchase more stock, her money has lost value and she is forced to fork out more from her own pocket.

As a member of the Masvingo Golden Poultry Association, the PBA established under the Masvingo cluster, Grace has managed to buy day-old-chicks at a lower price and negotiate a profitable market for her chickens.

"Now I can see that my future is bright, because if I continue to buy my day-old chicks at a discounted price through the PBA, I will be able to save more and in-turn, grow my business. My vision is not to just end up as a poultry farmer, but i want to be a big producer who owns her own hatchery and formulates her own feed, making me competitive in the market".

The Masvingo Golden Poultry Association is helping farmers purchase day-old chicks at US\$0.52 as compared to the market price of US\$0.60. To date, the PBA members in Masvingo have purchased at least 5,000 day old chicks through this scheme.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- [Inclusive Poultry Value Chain Project Animated Video](#)



[IPVC on Facebook](#)



[IPVC on Twitter](#)

TranZDVC Empowering Women and Youth Farmers

One of the objectives of the [Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future \(TranZDVC\)](#) project is to promote the participation of women and youth in the dairy value chain.

Although women and youth are noted to be doing most of the daily chores associated with dairy farming including, feeding cows, ensuring a clean environment for them to stay healthy and productive, their participation remains largely unrecognised.

To support gender equality and increase youth participation, TranZDVC rolled out a youth and gender champion initiative at the Milk Collection Centres in the project's catchment areas.

The identified gender champions (mainly men) and the youth champions are meant to act as catalysts to encourage the participation of these two groups by giving exemplary peer awareness creation among fellow farmers.

“Previously women were not recognised as dairy farmers. Whenever there was a dairy targeted program, women were not included.”

So far, a total of 120 gender champions and 120 youth champions have been identified and training on gender equality concepts and how to increase youth participation in the dairy value chain has commenced.

The trainings are proving to be effective as reports from some farmers indicate that behavioural changes are being recorded.

“Previously women were not recognised as dairy farmers. Whenever there was a dairy targeted program, women were not included. The man would just do their business and not involve us. But, after the TranZDVC Gender training programme we attended in Mutare things have changed,” said Mrs Sibula, a female dairy farmer from Chipinge district in Manicaland province.



Milking in progress at Wonderklip Farm

Washington Sagonda, is a 35-year-old farmer from Mutasa district in Manicaland province involved in dairy production. He delivers at least 200 litres of milk per day to the Tsonzo Milk Collection Centre (MCC) in the district.

Washington highlighted the challenges youths face in trying to get recognition and be part of the governance of Milk Collection Centres (MCCs).

“Most of the times we are competing with established farmers for recognition at MCCs, no one looks at you when you are still small, very few youths have leadership positions at the MCCs thus our voice is not heard and we lack representation.

Washington also highlighted the challenges in accessing loans for productive assets for youths as they lack collateral security.

“We are grateful to the project for linking farmers to micro-finance institutions. Issues of collateral security have always been a sticking point for youth farmers, but thanks to TranZDVC, at least we now have a chance to invest in assets to increase our production and incomes through the matching grants facility,” said Washington.

Michelle Viviers is a female farmer who has benefitted from Window 1 of the matching grants facility and is the co-owner of Wonderklip Farm in Chikomba district in Mashonaland East province. The farm is one of the Integrators under TranZDVC.

As an Integrator, Wonderklip Farm is working with 11 neighbouring small-scale dairy farmers to train them in dairy production, assist in heifer acquisition and bulking of milk to supply to Dairibord Zimbabwe.

The small-scale farmers' stock is predominantly indigenous breeds with low milk output. As an integrator, Wonderklip Farm will improve the breeds through heifer acquisition and artificial insemination, aiming to increase production to at least 10 litres per day per cow for the farmers.

Under the matching grants facility, the Wonderklip Farm has acquired a tractor, planter, silage cutter and irrigation equipment. “As a dairy enterprise, we are excited about the acquisition of these productive assets which will result in improved production for us and the small-scale farmers we are working with”, she said.

Within the Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers membership, 86.6% are male headed households and the average age is 60 years old. TranZ DVC is making efforts to increase participation from the “silenced” group and transform the dairy value chain were everyone is a winner.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future Video Explainer](#)



[TranZDVC on Facebook](#)



[TranZDVC on Twitter](#)

VALUE Project Championing the Inclusion of Women and Youth in Goat and Pork Value Chains

In implementing the pork and goat value chains, the [Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment \(VALUE\)](#) project is cognisant of the structural challenges facing women and youths in the two value chains. The project is thus promoting strategic alliances with private sector integrators and Value Chain core actors to create market-based solutions to enhance performance, production, productivity, market linkages, opportunities for employment creation and a viable agribusiness environment.

Under the pork value chain, the project registered 600 women and young farmers to benefit from training on pig production, smart subsidies and a weaner to finisher scheme which is being supported by private integrators (Shamiso farm, Braford farm and the Pig Industry Board) to upscale domestic production.

“We are working to correct ownership patterns to ensure that women and youths are visible and have decision making roles within the value chain. Through the weaner to finisher programme, opportunities will be created to help women and youth from production to right up to marketing hence nurturing their skills in agribusiness,” said Shamiso Chauruka the Managing Director of

Shamiso Farm – the Mashonaland East Integrator.

To promote participation of women and youth along the goat value chain, the project has ensured that women constitute at least 50% of the target group and have representation in the Goat Producer Business Associations and the commercially oriented Business Management Units which are vehicles spearheading the vertical integration of small and medium producers.

“Our approach is informed by our desire to have women and youth at the forefront of addressing their challenges, we have done this through targeted interventions including ownership of key infrastructure such as the goat improvement centres where women have particularly taken a leadership role in the construction of the facilities,” said Lindani Ncube the Managing Director of Michview Enterprises the Matabeleland goat value chain integrator.

Ncube added that the Goat Improvement Centres(GICs) being established under the project were essential as they would ensure that women and youth that have undergone training on commercialisation, have access to appropriate animal nutrition, animal health services, improved genetics, market aggregation points, as well as linkages to private sector players along the value chain.



VALUE has established strategic alliances between integrators and value chain actors to create opportunities for employment creation and increased opportunities for women and youth.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment \(VALUE\) Video Explainer](#)

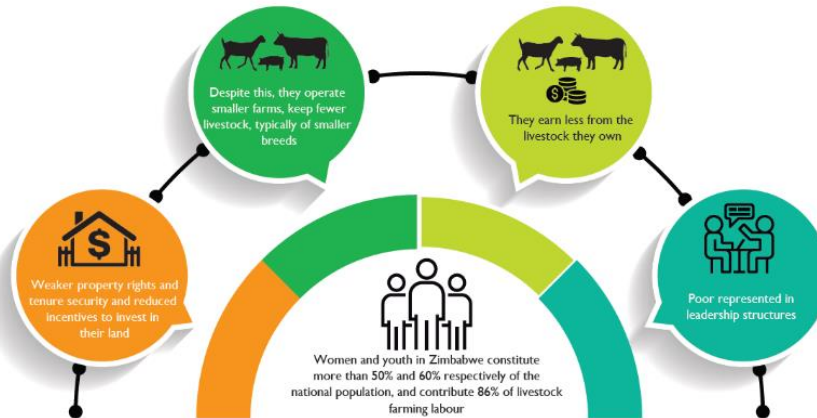


[VALUE on Facebook](#)



[VALUE on Twitter](#)

Women and Youth Inclusion under the BEST Project



Cattle production is perceived as a male and elderly dominated enterprise, thus women and youth participation in the [Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation \(BEST\)](#) project has been low. In comparison to other livestock value chains, the return on investment in cattle production is perceived to be low and therefore not lucrative for youths, who are attracted to "quick return" business ventures.

To increase women and youth participation, BEST has intentionally targeted these groups by having a minimum of 30% representation in leadership roles such as lead farmers and Cattle Business Centre (CBCs) Management Committees.

The project is also working closely with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development to identify existing women and youths farming groups to develop them into cattle marketing groups.

During the 2019/2020 agricultural season the project targeted women and youths to grow fodder crops such as velvet beans, sun hemp and lab-lab among others, through establishment of fodder demonstration sites. A total of 101 lead farmers (69 males, 28 females and 4 youths) successfully established fodder demonstration sites during the season.

Women Lead Farmers Embrace Fodder Production



Sibisiwe Gulu packing hay bales in her shed for cattle supplementary feeding during the dry season.

Sixty-five-year-old widow, Sibisiwe Gulu of Merry Land Village in Umguza District in Matabeleland North province, is one of the few women who is working on commercialising her livestock production unit. Faced with the daunting challenges of poor grazing lands, lack of livestock marketing knowledge and recurring droughts, Sibisiwe is still very determined to make her livestock enterprise a success.

Sibisiwe owns a herd of 51 cattle and she has leased grazing for them on a rented plot for the purposes of winter feeding. The farmer has been working with Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST) project as a lead farmer since August 2019, and as a result of what she learned in several livestock technical trainings, she set out a 0.2-hectare fodder plot in her own field. From the fodder plot she harvested 94 bales of dry herbage with which she will supplement feeding of her cattle during the dry season.

Looking ahead, she intends to buy a hammer mill for the processing and milling of stover and other locally available livestock pods for the production of improved nutrient low cost feed meals. The project will assist the farmer with financial linkages to acquire the loan as well as to competitive markets to make her cattle business unit more viable.

In Ntabeni I Village in Ward 14 of Kwekwe district, Midlands province, Leticia Ndebele is a 52-year-old small-scale commercial beef farmer with 8 children. The family owns 161 cattle.

During the dry season she finds it difficult to feed her cattle as most grazing lands would have dwindled, and cattle need to move long distances to access food and water.

During the 2019/2020 farming season Leticia was selected with other lead farmers in Kwekwe to demonstrate growing of fodder crops. She planted velvet beans, sorghum, sun hemp and Katambora Rhodes grass on a 0.2-hectare plot. Despite the poor rains Leticia managed to harvest 30 hay bales of velvet beans.

Currently BEST project and AGRITEX is training Leticia and other lead farmers on feed formulation methods using locally available resources and urea treatment of stover. The farmers will use the high nutrient feed they have stockpiled to feed their cattle during the dry season. The successful story of Leticia is an inspiration to other women, and will help increase their participation as the project progresses. The project also intends to organise women into fodder entrepreneur groups who will grow fodder to sell to other cattle owners.

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation \(BEST\) Video Explainer](#)



[BEST on Twitter](#)

Chibero Centre of Excellence Provides a Real Commercial Enterprise Development Experience

Traditionally, agriculture students in Zimbabwe have tended to learn agricultural enterprise development from a theoretic point of view, due to resource and capacity limitations at their institutions. In response to this, [ZAKIS](#) established the Chibero Agricultural Centre of Excellence (CHACE).

The centre allows students to participate in real-world commercial agricultural activities while providing them with the much needed pre-industry experience. In addition, the activities are designed to generate revenue for the institution. As a result, the students have become the active drivers of the fish and horticultural enterprises established at the centre over the last nine months.

Commenting on the project, Mr. Taruwona, the CHACE's coordinator said, "Before the project, it was hard giving students the necessary hands-on experience as getting seed funding to run some the ventures seemed impossible. Thanks to the ZAKIS, we can now take these youths through the full spectrum of commercialisation starting from planning, production, and finally marketing".



Dr Shingi Munyeza, CEO of Raizecorp, Mr Taruwona and students at CHACE. ZAKIS is working with RAIZCORP, a social enterprise actively engaged with the CHACE to establish agribusiness incubation facilities for dairy and other livestock value chains. This will enable ACEs and DACEs to demonstrate agribusiness best practice and also to incubate smallholder farmers and develop them into commercially viable farmers.

Redefining Livestock Research and Extension Capacity Building



Grace Tambo (R) emphasizing an important point to fellow animal health research workers.

The subject of livestock breeding, commercial pen fattening and animal science has for years been associated with men due to cultural prejudices. Though this might discourage young girls from pursuing a career in animal science, this has not been the case with Grace Tambo, a leading voice in the animal science research section at the Matopos Agricultural Centre of Excellence (MACE) under Matopos Research Institute in Matabeleland South province.

Grace is championing the establishment of new commercial entities and initiatives at the centre. These include the creation of the soon to be launched artificial insemination business unit and the establishment of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) platforms through which farmers can easily access livestock research.

In an interview recently, Grace said, "For years, a lot of livestock research has been done in Zimbabwe, but this has not always benefited the farmer, as our information dissemination systems were too rigid and formalised to impact the farmer. I am changing that through the ZAKIS project by creating captivating content on video, podcasts, and e-pamphlets; which not only serve the extension workers as has been the norm, but can also be accessed by farmers. This ensures that the work being done at MACE can quickly impact smallholder farmers who are spread throughout the country".

ONLINE RESOURCES

[Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge Innovation Services \(ZAKIS\) Video Explainer](#)



[ZAKIS on Facebook](#)



[ZAKIS on Twitter](#)

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Handover of equipment procured under matching grants to the Watershed Dairy Association, in Wedza district, Mashonaland East province.



The 8th Steering Committee meeting in progress at Monomotapa Hotel - Harare, on 15th July 2020.



Devine Ndhukula from Zvikomborero Farm making a presentation at the 8th Steering Committee meeting.



Centre pivot in operation at the Lapache Cattle Business Centre. 17.5 hectares of Rhodes Reclaimer grass have been planted.



Construction in progress at the Mahlanguleni Cattle Business Centre in Chiredzi, Masvingo province.



Siphathisiwe Ndlovu, a lead farmer from Mwenezi district, show casing hay bales. She harvested 102 velvet bean hay bales during the 2019/20 season.



Clever Chirapasi, a farmer from Chiredzi district preparing fodder for silage making with family members.