



# ZAGP

Zimbabwe  
**AGRICULTURAL  
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Programme



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# VALUE NEWS

TALKING GOATS AND PIGS JULY - OCTOBER 2022



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## FROM THE TEAM LEADER'S DESK

VALUE Project Team Leader **NEWTON CHARI**

I welcome you to the tenth issue of our quarterly newsletter – Talking Goats and Pigs. During the period July to October 2022, we continued with programming aimed at commercialising goat and pork producers mainly through direct meat marketing to licensed independent butcheries in Harare and Bulawayo.

The quest for providing platforms for competitive markets of goat and pork meat continues under the various Direct Meat Marketing (DMM) arrangements. To date a total of 2,223 goats giving a total of 24,430 kg of goat meat have so far been sold to 43 butcheries in Harare and Bulawayo by 661 farmers, generating revenue of USD76,000. Under the pork value chain, a total of 15,000kgs were sold to the markets including at the Meat Marketing centre in Kuwadzana Extension as a pilot.

As you may recall, in 2020 we imported pig (244) and goat (280) breeding stock to kickstart breed improvement programmes among small and medium producers participating in the project. I am delighted with the recorded increase in access

to top quality genetics by small holder farmers across the 20 districts of operation. In this issue, we present stories of change from farmers who have accessed the improved breeds.

Pursuant to the objective of enhancing the agribusiness environment, during the period July to October 2022, the project facilitated policy engagement meetings between goat producer associations and district stakeholders in Buhera, Mudzi and Mbire for immediate redress of bottlenecks in production and marketing.

In collaboration with the Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe, we organised the 2022 edition of the goat indaba which brought together various value chain players and policy makers.

I invite you to delve into our latest news edition as we share success stories, key project updates and much more.

**Happy reading**

Cover picture: Farmers who have accessed breeding stock from the improved genetics in the form of gilts and semen are reporting an increase in number of piglets born alive. Recently, a Murehwa farmer, Thomas Muchenje had 20 piglets born from the improved genetics

## BREED IMPROVEMENT AND DIRECT MARKETING BRING JOY TO CHRISTINE MUDZINGWA FROM BUHERA SOUTH



Christine is enjoying the benefits of breed improvement and direct meat marketing introduced by the project in her district.

Christine Mudzingwa of Buhera South in Manicaland project started goat production in 2008 and was hamstrung by various challenges in her hope of commercialisation. She was grateful to join the ZAGP VALUE project in 2019 as an anchor farmer. An anchor farmer leads a group of other farmers within their locality with technical expertise to enable growth towards commercialisation.

“Before the coming in of the project, my enterprise suffered from many challenges including disease outbreaks due to poor husbandry practices, absence of appropriate goat housing, malnutrition, as well as poor breeds,” says Christine.

“

*From the first cycle of cross breeding I received 10 kids whose birth weights impressed me a lot, other members of my group also received a sizeable number of kids.”*

With support from the project Christine, and her group of nine female farmers received a boer buck for breed improvement for breeding and slaughter stock to address the effects of indiscriminate breeding coupled with inbreeding. The impact of the breeding intervention has been notable with improved size and growth rate among the offspring, at 3 months the weight is almost equivalent to that of a grown indigenous breed.

“From the first cycle of cross breeding I received 10 kids whose birth weights impressed me a lot, other members of my group also received a sizeable number of kids.”

### Market linkages

For Christine and many other small-scale farmers, accessing competitive markets was a perennial challenge rendering the goat enterprise unprofitable. The direct meat marketing (DMM) initiative has since changed that status quo. Christine recounts her experience from the DMM.

“We used to sell goats at average USD15 to USD20 per live goat targeting middlemen, those requiring household consumption or performing some traditional rites. However, under the DMM I sent 11 goats to Harare butcheries profiled by the project and received USD480 an average of USD43 per goat. We were paid USD3.50 per kg, USD2.20 for offals and USD1 for goat sets. Despite the goats being small at average 12CDM, the benefit is very significant for us after deducting marketing costs.”

### Supplementary feeds

Christine is among farmers in Buhera South who attended a training on supplementary feed formulation using locally available materials. Using the experience gained, Christine has begun to formulate feed for her goats using material such as mulberry fruits, acacia pods, lablab and velvet bean. “There is a great change in the body score condition because of the adoption of the supplementary feeding in our production standards. We aim to increase the CDM for each goat for the market to above 15CDM from less than 12CDM,” said Christine.

## DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL GOAT BODY KEY TO GROWTH OF THE VALUE CHAIN SAY SMALL SCALE GOAT PRODUCERS



*We applaud efforts by the government and development partners in assisting goat producers towards commercialisation, however there is need for the government to set up an institution responsible for goat production and marketing issues similar to the pig industry board (PIB) for pigs,” said Mr. Katsande of Mudzi goat producers’ business association (GPBA).*

Goat producers who recently converged for stakeholder engagement meetings with district policy makers under the auspices of consultative meetings organised by the VALUE project called for government to establish a national goat institution to drive growth and goat specific policies.

The policy meetings were held in Buhera, Mudzi and Mbire districts with farmers presenting issues affecting their growth in the subsector. Key bottlenecks identified by the farmers include difficulties in obtaining animal movement permits from the various government departments, high cost of transportation from the districts to lucrative markets in Harare, access to water, shortage of inputs and grazing land.

In response to the loss of cattle mainly due to the outbreak of the January disease, farmers are resorting to goat production but are facing various challenges in commercialising the value chain especially in the absence of a clear goat policy in the country.

“We applaud efforts by the government and development partners in assisting goat producers towards commercialisation, however there is need for the government to set up an institution responsible for goat production and marketing issues similar to the pig industry board (PIB) for pigs,” said Mr. Katsande of Mudzi goat producers’ business association (GPBA).

## JOY AT ACCESS TO FORMAL FINANCING AND MODERNISED WATER DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR PIGSTIES, THE STORY OF CYRIL BAKO



*The quality of Cyril's pigs is improving because of the readily available water and the standard feed he is now providing thanks to the loan facility.*

Small and medium pig producers in Zimbabwe face numerous challenges in their quest for commercialisation and chief among these is the high cost of feed which constitutes upto 85% of production costs. For thirty-year-old Cyril Bako of Seke district, the high cost of feed and lack of easy access to water hampered the growth of his enterprise since starting in 2019.

“The high cost of feed was a big inhibitor to the success of my project as I did not have enough capital to purchase adequate feeds for a production cycle. This greatly affected the business performance and quality of pigs produced,” says Cyril.

To address the lack of access to formal financing to capitalise on production, the project facilitated formal loan facilities for registered pig producers to purchase feeds under a finisher programme. Cyril is among the farmers who successfully applied for the loan facility.

“I got a loan to fatten 11 porkers to the tune of ZWL 274,000 which was enough to purchase 2 tonnes of commercial feed that I managed to pay back after three months. This facility is life changing as for the first time I managed to attain an average cold dressed mass (CDM) of above 55 kilograms per porker at 22 weeks, much higher than less than 50CDM I used to achieve,” says a delighted Cyril.

To date, the 41 farmers under the facility have purchased 667,458 kilograms of commercial feed and produced and sold 211,200 kilograms of pork collectively in Mashonaland East and West.

Since starting his project in 2019, Cyril had faced perennial challenges in providing enough water for his pigs and for cleaning the pigsties. The project provided Cyril with modern nipple drinker water delivery system under smart subsidies program. Cyril had to rely on the traditional ways of drawing water



***Cyril Bako posing with the newly installed nipple drinking system in one of his pigsties. He has also accessed superior genetics, and feed loans which have greatly improved business performance.***

from a deep well using tins with ropes to fill in small water storage containers at the pigsties. As a result, the pigs did not get sufficient water which is reflected in their poor quality.

“I am grateful for the grant which provided 70% of the total costs in the form of a solar pump, five solar panels with a stand, 5000-litre tank, and a metal tank stand, water pipes, and a nipple water system. The support has transformed my enterprise; our pigs are now getting clean water from the nipple drinkers when they need it and it is now less burdensome to clean the pigsties,” revealed Cyril.

On his part, Cyril funded 30% of the total costs covering the trenching, procurement of river sand, pit sand, and quarry stones, as well as the payment of contractors.

In the future, Cyril is also looking forward to opening a butchery in the area.

He says, “there is a shortage of formal butcheries locally, and I hope to open one as there is a ready market. The butchery will help absorb our produce and that of neighbouring farms.”

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## KEY PROJECT UPDATES



**1292**

BREEDING STOCK (**WEANERS, GILTS, BOARS**) FROM IMPORTED TOP GENETICS PROGENY DISTRIBUTED TO SMALL AND MEDIUM PRODUCERS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES AND...



**8202**

SEMEN DOSES FROM IMPORTED GRANDPARENT BOARS PURCHASED FROM THE TWO BREEDING SITES IN MASHONALAND EAST AND WEST.



**6740**

GOAT FARMERS ACCESSING SERVICES AT THE

**12** GOAT IMPROVEMENT CENTRES COUNTRYWIDE.

A TOTAL OF

**2,223** GOATS GIVING A TOTAL OF

**24,430kg**

OF GOAT MEAT HAVE SO FAR BEEN SOLD TO

**43** BUTCHERIES IN HARARE AND BULAWAYO BY

**661** FARMERS,

GENERATING A REVENUE OF

**USD76,000**

THROUGH FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGIES OF VALUE PROJECT, APPROXIMATELY

**USD185,000**

WORTH OF LOANS HAVE SO FAR BEEN SECURED BY PORK FARMERS REGISTERED UNDER THE PROJECT.

**667,458**

KILOGRAMS OF COMMERCIAL FEED HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AND

**211,200**

KILOGRAMS OF PORK SOLD COLLECTIVELY IN MASHONALAND EAST AND WEST UNDER THE FIRST MUTUAL LOAN FACILITY.

ONE MEAT MARKETING CENTRE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PORK VALUE CHAIN WITH A COMBINED

**15,797.792 KGS**

OF MEAT SOLD DIRECTLY TO BUTCHERIES UNDER WHOLESALE ARRANGEMENTS AND VIA RETAIL. THE OTHER MEAT MARKETING CENTRE IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING OPERATIONALIZED.

## GOAT INDABA SETS THE TONE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOAT VALUE CHAIN IN ZIMBABWE



*A cross section of the participants at the goat indaba captured while listening to the presentation on direct meat marketing by the VALUE project Team Leader*

The 2022 edition of the Goat Indaba was held on 19 August 2022 at the Henderson Research Institute, in Mazowe under the theme, “transforming the goat value chain for the future”. The indaba was graced by the deputy minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural development, Hon. Vangelis Haritatos, farmer representatives, experts in goat production, input suppliers, financial institutions, market players and government departments.

In his keynote address, Hon Haritatos urged farmers to emulate the interventions by the VALUE project to grow their enterprises.

“I urge farmers to work collectively in groups to address goat production and market related constraints, as well as take advantage of the established Goat Improvement Centres (GICs) and Goat Holding Centres (GHCs) countrywide under the Zimbabwe Agriculture Growth Programme (ZAGP), to enhance productivity and offtake,” he said.

On challenges faced by farmers in marketing their goats, the VALUE project team leader Newton Chari urged farmers to continue taking the direct meat marketing

route which has significantly increased the participation of farmers in the governance of the value chain as well as their profit margins.

A farmer experience of the direct meat marketing was presented by Mrs Patricia Marambadoro, a member of the Buhera Goat Producers’ Business Association who has taken part in the marketing initiative from its inception by the project.

“We used to sell goats to local markets for less than USD20. The coming in of the direct meat marketing has transformed our lives, we are working as an association taking bulk consignments to butcheries in Harare. There was an average increase of about USD10 per goat after deducting related costs from the direct meat marketing sales as compared to selling locally or through middlemen,” says Patricia.

At the conclusion of the goat indaba deliberations, participants were taken on a tour of the goat holding centre, slaughter facilities and cold chain facilities established and upgraded by the project to stimulate corridor specific value chain activities.

# CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE ADOPTION AND UPTAKE OF PIG SEMEN FOR ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION STILL RUNNING



*A Braford Farming employee demonstrating how to do artificial insemination. Since the importation of the grandparent boars from South Africa, more than 8000 doses of semen have been sold to farmers across the country from Braford farm and the Pig Industry Board*

To enhance access to improved pig genetics among small and medium scale farmers, the project established a piggery artificial insemination plant at Braford Farming in Chegutu district and supported the PIB artificial insemination plant with five grandparent boars and accessories for semen production. Each AI station (PIB, Braford) houses 5 breeding boars imported from South Africa to support breed improvement efforts. The capacity of each

plant is 3000 doses of semen per month. Currently a promotional campaign to increase uptake of artificial insemination among small and medium pig producers under the “Buy One and Get One Model” (BOGOM). The promotion is running for both members and non-members of the project associations. AGRTIEX and selected farmer representatives from across the 8 districts of operation were trained as Inseminators to offer localized extension support to farmers.

For bookings in Mashonaland West contact the Business Development Coordinator, Bongani on +263 773109781 and for Mashonaland East contact Freddie on +263777080668

## CONTACT DETAILS

PHONE: **+263 772164449**  
EMAIL: **newton.chari@actionaid.org**  
**kevin.maenzanise@actionaid.org**  
TWITTER: **@ZAGPGoats\_Pigs**  
FACEBOOK: **@ZAGPGoatsandPigs**  
YOUTUBE: **Value Consortium**  
SOUNDCLOUD: **VALUE Consortium**

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