



ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

ISSUE 11: MARCH 2020

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the March 2020 issue of **ZAGP News**.

In this issue, we focus on business enterprises being implemented across ZAGP. The enterprises profiled include;

- Goat Improvement Centres (VALUE).
- Cattle Business Centres (BEST)
- Poultry Business Units (IPVC).
- Commercialisation of Local Production of Essential Vaccines; Veterinary Drugs and Remedies Retail at Animal Health Management Centres (AHMC); Full Cost Recovery for Commercial Laboratory Tests (SAFE).
- Milk Collection Centres; Milk Cooling Centres; Dairy Hubs; Milk Zones/ Cow Hotels; Dairy Lab; Dairy Centre of Excellence (TranZDVC)

We also share updates from the other projects under ZAGP. From the VALUE project, we cover an inspiring story of how a smallholder goat producer in Mudzi district in Mashonaland East province is shifting towards commercialisation of his production activities.

International Standards Association (ISO) certification of the Government Analyst Laboratory and the Central Veterinary Laboratory is one of the key activities under the SAFE project and in this this issue, we also cover the progress made to date.

We also feature updates from the TranZDVC on their recent mission to Cape Town, South Africa to procure in-calf heifers to boost the country's dairy herd.

We welcome feedback on this, and future issues of the publication. Thank you, and enjoy reading!

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Goat Improvement Centres (GICs)



A Goat Improvement Centre (GIC) is a physical hub providing primary business support services such as hands-on training for farmers, demonstrations, breeding services, aggregation or marketing and input sales. A GIC is set up on average of 1 to 1.5 hectares of land with facilities such as goat pens, mating pens, goat dip tank, loading ramp, water supply, fodder plot and a vet drug shop among other facilities. The [Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment \(VALUE\)](#) project will set up 12 GICs in 12 districts in Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Manicaland, Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central. Income will be generated through the services offered at the GICs.

Services

- Centres of excellence.
- Training by extension and research personnel.
- Demonstration of management practices, e.g., castration and dipping.
- Marketing and aggregation of goats enroute to market centres.
- Breeding services (improved and farmers' indigenous breeds) at a fee.
- Improved breeds sales.
- Fodder production training, processed fodder feeds and seed sales.
- Storage of locally manufactured feed, commercial feed and veterinary drugs and medicine (bulk purchase).
- Access to veterinary drugs and stock feed.
- Fairs for suppliers to showcase their products.

Follow the links below to get the perspectives of the Goat Value Chain Anchor Farmers.

- **Ndodana Gwebu:** Lupane district, Matabeleland North province
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaglyKCEvbg>
- **Lizzy Mwinde:** Lupane district, Matabeleland North province
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndOI76DFGWA>
- **Anthony Mutenda:** Mudzi district, Mashonaland East province
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=203C1jyAPzA>
- **Oliver Chimwendo:** Mudzi district, Mashonaland East province
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRaPW9c7qYA>

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Cattle Business Centres



The [Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation \(BEST\)](#) project revolves around the cattle business centre (CBC) model, a livestock agribusiness hub. The BEST project is constructing 10 main CBCs and 50 satellite CBCs in Gokwe, Shurugwi, Kwekwe, Mount Darwin, Makoni, Buhera, Mwenezi, Chiredzi, Umguza and Lupane districts. CBCs are owned by the community but managed by private sector partners. Farmers will access extension, marketing and financial services, artificial insemination, pen fattening, input and output markets services among others. Physical infrastructure that is currently being constructed at the CBCs include solar powered borehole irrigation systems, 60 cattle capacity feedlots, and biogas digesters. In Umguza and Mwenezi districts, two centre pivots have been erected to irrigate 50 and 35 hectares of cattle pastures respectively. At least 24,900 farmers are expected to benefit from the various services offered at CBCs.

Services

- Management, training and knowledge transfer
- Contract grazing—pastures/ feedlots/ supplementary feed/ hay bales, licks.
- Bulling services; artificial insemination; embryo transfer.
- Market information and access to markets Feeder finance schemes and auctions.
- Access to finance through Zimbabwe Agriculture Development Trust (ZADT), Nurture Finance and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)
- Heifer replacement schemes.
- Demonstrations (fodder crops, biogas etc.)
- Linkages to input suppliers.
- Collaboration with the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS).
- Private sector participation and management.

Benefits

- Improved access to feed, resulting in improved animal husbandry and cattle condition especially during the winter months.
- Improved condition of cows and heifers resulting in better conception rates.
- Improved average daily gain of steers through pastures and feedlots.
- Better quality cattle for markets with improved genetics and grading scores resulting in higher market prices.
- Improved calving rate and genetics.
- Improved herd size and condition.

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Poultry Business Units



The [Inclusive Poultry Value Chain \(IPVC\)](#) project is establishing poultry business units (PBU) in five clusters around Bulawayo, Harare, Gweru, Masvingo and Mutare. These will act as administration and coordination units for collective action for small to medium scale poultry producers (SMPs) in the respective clusters. The PBUs enable poultry organised farmer groups to gain economies of scale and scope to access extension, inputs, financial and market services in a more convenient and profitable manner.

PBUs are owned and managed by the farmers and provide services to the members. Each hub on average, comprises of 1000 farmers, with an average flock size of 200 birds, targeting five cycles in a year giving a total output of one million birds in a year. The hub operational costs are expected to be fully met from percentage contributions by the SMPs, savings from bulk purchase arrangements organised by the PBUs and token subscription fees. In the first year of the project, IPVC will provide finance to support its establishment and operational costs, but gradually scale down support to zero within 18 months as a sustainability gauging strategy.

Services

- Organising SMPs for collective action.
- Overseeing the running of the poultry business business hub.
- Policy advocacy through the Zimbabwe Poultry Association for SMP interest.
- Centre for business service delivery.
- Market linkages and coordination for aggregation models and innovation platforms.
- Delivery of technical services such as trainings.
- Industry policy advocacy.

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SAFE Project



Commercialisation of Local Production of Essential Vaccines

The Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) has done research on a number of animal vaccines over the years which have proven to be effective in field trials. The CVL is currently producing a number of these vaccines for sale to farmers under special permission from Medicine Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ). The continuous production of these vaccines has in the recent past, been affected by a number of challenges, which include lack of proper maintenance of infrastructure used to house animals that are used for vaccine production, outdated equipment and skills flight of experienced staff.

As a result, some of the vaccines urgently needed to resolve current animal health challenges are no longer being produced or where production is still ongoing, the quantities produced cannot meet the demand. The [Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety Systems for the Future \(SAFE\)](#) project is therefore going to support production of two essential vaccines required by farmers using two different approaches as follows:

- Resuscitate production of one tick borne disease vaccine (Theileria vaccine) which is on high demand from farmers to resolve the ongoing January disease crisis affecting the country.
- Facilitate commercialisation of one of the vaccines currently being produced by CVL by facilitating a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement with the interested private sector partners.

Veterinary Drugs and Remedies Retail at Animal Health Management Centres (AHMC)

The SAFE project would like to reintroduce the retail of veterinary drugs and remedies at identified strategic AHMCs using the following approaches:

- Installation of infrastructure at the identified AHMCs that will ensure continuous solar power supply for cold chain maintenance
- Rehabilitation and or building of drugs, remedies and vaccine storage facilities.
- Engage private sector partners interested in going into a (PPP) arrangement with the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) in utilizing the installed capacity to assist farmers to access essential services within their communities.

Full Cost Recovery for Commercial Laboratory Tests

SAFE will, in collaboration with identified private sector players, support laboratories under the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Department of Veterinary Services to sustainably functionalise identified tests that are of a commercial nature to service local industries and reduce the cost of doing business for the commercial entities.

The project will also support development of regulatory framework for business units for both laboratories to allow them to run commercially with minimum interference under a PPP arrangement

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TranZDVC Project



Milk Collection Centres (MCCs)

This is a site where milk is collected/ or bulked for transportation to a milk cooling centre. Currently, there are 35 Milk Cooling Centres in the 33 districts it is targeting and will set up 20 new MCCs where necessary. MCCs provide milk bulking, cooling and micro processing services. The [Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future \(TranZDVC\)](#) project will transform the MCCs into dairy hubs to increase efficiencies, milk intake and income. The dairy hubs will provide services such as milk bulking, cooling, micro processing, veterinary supplies, hardware, biogas, feed production, extension services, village bank, transport and farm services.

Milk Zone/Cow Hotel

The project will establish centres where small scale farmers can bring their dairy animals to be centrally kept and managed by an experienced person. The farmer may surrender their animals in exchange for shares in the cow hotel or may keep their animals but contribute to the feeding and management of the milk zone. Services to be provided will include dairy production, breeding, milk cooling and training on dairy production techniques.

Enterprise Development under the Matching Grants Finance (MGF)

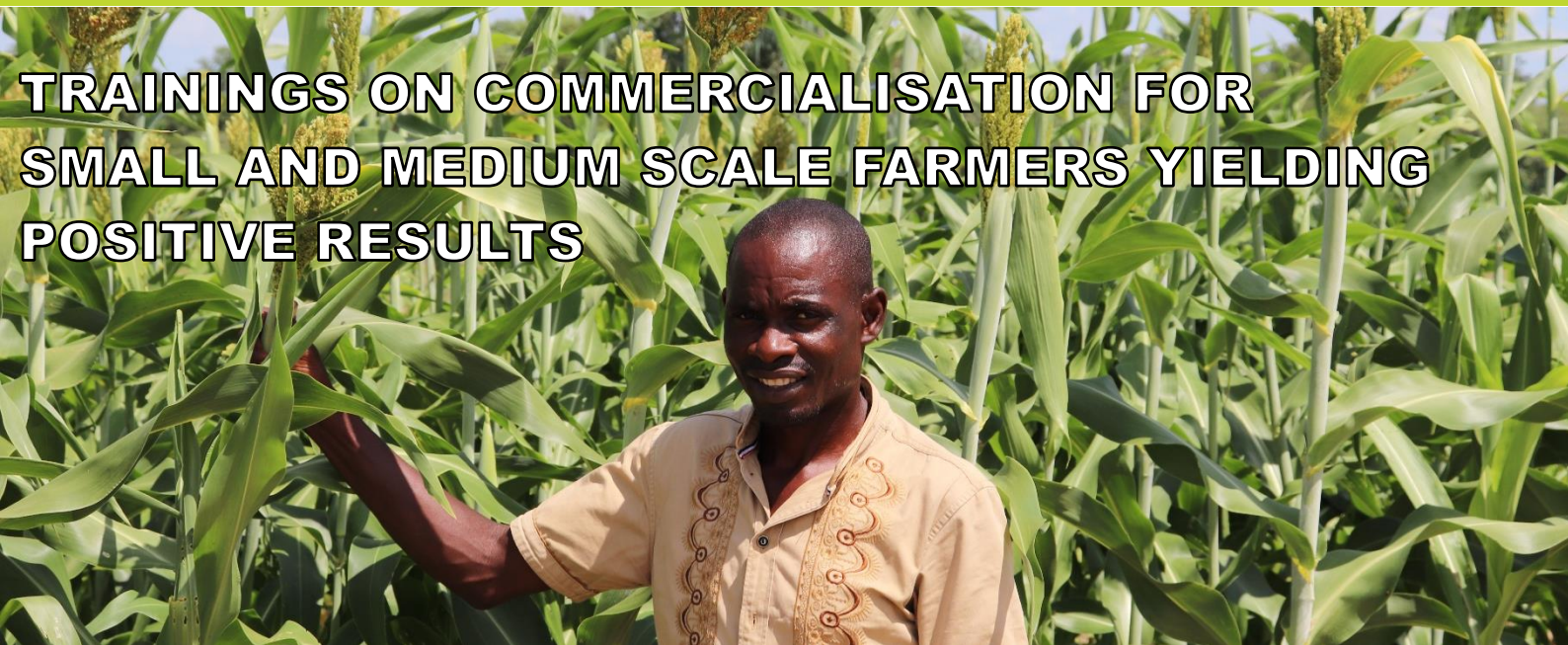
TranZDVC is implementing a matching grants facility for investments in productive assets to improve the performance of the dairy value chain in Zimbabwe. The purpose is to support investments to increase milk production and milk sales, participation by small-scale farmers in the dairy value chain, greening of manufacturing and production processes, decent job creation and local production of affordable feed. The matching grants have been characterised into the following windows:

- Out-grower schemes (MGF Window 1) – 20 Enterprises (Minimum of 10 farmers).
- Small-scale processors and feed entrepreneurs (MGF Window 2)- 30 Enterprises.
- Small-scale farmers (MGF Window 3) -500 Small-scale farmers.

Dairy Laboratory

A dairy laboratory will be established specifically to analyse raw milk samples, processed milk samples, dairy feed samples, water and soil samples for dairy farmers.

PROJECT UPDATES



Oliver Chimwendo showing the sorghum crop he has grown as supplementary feed for his goats.

Revelling in his blossoming goat herd, Oliver Chimwendo of Mudzi district, Ward 2 in Mashonaland East province is a man on a mission. With just over a year since he began goat rearing, it is a marvel that Chimwendo has already grown to be one of the leading goat farmers in the district. He speaks of his journey so far with pride and great expectation for the future.

“I have always had a passion for goats and began this project in 2018 and I now have a 208-goats consisting 152 does and three bucks. I recently sold 50 in December 2019 and used the proceeds to erect a fence around the goat pens and also bought vaccination drugs. My greatest desire is to see the growth of goat producers in my area.”

Chimwendo was selected to be one of the 1000 anchor farmers under the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project and will have an opportunity to contribute to the growth of goat production by leading small and medium scale goat producers in his area towards the goal of commercialisation. In an area like Mudzi, a drive towards commercial goat production is not without its challenges, due to rampant retreating of veld, scarce water sources and unviable markets.

“Since embarking on goat production, one of the challenges I have faced is struggling to find adequate forage, supplementary feed for the goats coupled with shortages of water, use of inferior genetics and lack of access to viable markets as well as high costs of veterinary drugs” says Chimwendo.

On the back of these binding constraints in goat production, the project comes in as a breath of fresh air, raising the hopes and expectations of farmers like Chimwendo across the target districts.

In a bid to commercialise goat production for smallholder farmers, the project has begun undertaking commercialisation trainings at district and ward levels. At the onset of the 2019/20 farming season, Chimwendo participated in trainings on commercialisation where various topics such as accessing viable markets, good farm management and fodder production were conducted.

For the first time in his goat enterprise, Chimwendo planted over three hectares of fodder plants for the purpose of providing supplementary feeding for his goats. The plants consist of sunflower, sorghum, sun hemp, velvet bean and cow peas.

Having already purchased a grinding mill, Chimwendo is looking forward to supplementing his goat herd to improve their live weights. He has made a commitment to cascade the trainings he has received and invite other farmers in his producer group to learn and benefit from his experience.

“I am grateful for the trainings that I have received and am looking forward with hope and expectation to fully commercialising my goat enterprise through participation in the VALUE project”, added Chimwendo.

[Watch Oliver Chimwendo's video on YouTube.](#)

PROJECT UPDATES

Government Analyst Laboratory and the Central Veterinary Laboratory Set for ISO Certification

One of the Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety Systems (SAFE) project's key activities focuses on building and strengthening public and private sector capacity for implementing animal health and food safety systems that comply with international standards. As part of this, the project has initiated processes to facilitate the (International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electro-technical Commission (IEC)) accreditation for the Government Analyst Laboratory (GAL) and Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL). The Central Veterinary Laboratory has been working on getting Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) accreditation as far back as 2015, but progress has been stalled by lack of funding. The Government Analyst Laboratory once attempted to get ISO accreditation but the project failed to take off due to lack of funding as well. The SAFE project, will facilitate accreditation of these two critical laboratories so that results they produce are internationally recognised.

The SAFE project is exploring opportunities for private sector involvement for collaborative work that ensure sustainability of the accreditation status and operations. In addition, the respective laboratories are being assisted to develop small business units that operate on a commercial basis to support their operations and reduce reliance on the fiscus.

After attaining ISO accreditation, the Government Analyst Laboratory and the Central Veterinary Laboratory will be highly regarded both nationally and internationally as technically competent sources of reliable laboratory results. Exporters who were sending samples outside of Zimbabwe to South Africa and countries in Europe for laboratory testing will now utilise the two laboratories after their accreditation.

Progress to Date

- The two laboratories have developed the action plans for the accreditation processes that are being implemented. Two workshops have been organised for the CVL with the first one in March focusing on ISO 17025. 2017 accreditation transition meant to align all documentation and protocols to the ISO requirements. The second workshop in April is on document review to prepare for the submission of the accreditation application by 31st of May 2020.
- For the GAL, a consultant has been engaged to lead the accreditation program that is running from the 1st of April to the 31st of December 2020. The process involves conducting GAP analysis, appropriate ISO accreditation serial trainings, document development and accreditation applications to SADCAS.
- A total of 40 experts (20 each from CVL and GAL) will undergo these processes. This will ensure that there is a sizable pool of trained experts for continuity.



ISO accreditation of the Government laboratories will enhance their technical competency, acceptability and marketability.

PROJECT UPDATES

Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future (TranZDVC)

TranZDVC Acquires 200 in-calf Heifers from South Africa

This month TranZDVC sourced 200 in-calf heifers from Eastern Cape in South Africa to help improve the project's livestock genetics. The project dispatched a team of experts to Cape Town, who visited the heifer source and selected the 200 animals.

Tests are being conducted (bled and veterinary laboratory tests) for disease control. Fifty percent of the heifers have been paid for. Delivery of the heifers to a Zimbabwe quarantine site is expected in April this year.



Part of the heifers purchased by the project in Cape Town, South Africa.

Equipment Purchase to Boost Livestock Productivity

Purchase of equipment for Windows one, two and three of the Matching Grants Facility has been undertaken, as follows:

- **Window One:** All five beneficiaries have provided their 50% match and procurement of the project's 50% match is in progress. Productive assets such as forage harvester, irrigation equipment and milking equipment have already been bought with the rest still in ongoing procurement. Part procurement for Window One is now 30% done. Tractors and centre pivot tenders for some of the beneficiaries advertised, evaluated and awarded. The actual payment and deliveries will be advertised in March.
- **Window Two:** Procurement in progress for beneficiaries who had supplied their match.
- **Window Three:** 125 beneficiaries were approved during the month and the selected farmers will be notified shortly.

Farmer Trainings, Mobilisation and Registration

TranZDVC partnered with K2, a private seed company to establish 48 demonstration sites at lead farmers' sites. The seeds consisted 240kg (maize), 96kg (Lab lab), 96kg (Sun hemp) and Velvet bean, 48kg. This month, the fodder demonstration plots were used for continuous farmer to farmer training in fodder production technologies. On farmer mobilisation and registration, 77% were registered of year one target.

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