



Zimbabwe  
**AGRICULTURAL  
GROWTH**  
Programme



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# VALUE NEWS

TALKING GOATS AND PIGS

April-June 2021



Co-funded by the CIPS Foundation



## FROM THE TEAM LEADER'S DESK

VALUE Project Team Leader **NEWTON CHARI**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to another issue of our quarterly newsletter, the VALUE News -Talking Goats and Pigs. In this issue we highlight key achievements during the second quarter of 2021, inspiring stories of change from one of the pig farmers we are working with and other project news.

During the period, April to June 2021, we upscaled our interventions to ensure that the concept of commercialisation takes root within the goat and pork value chain producer associations that we have established in the 20 districts of operation. The fluidity of the markets continues to pose a challenge for the small and medium producers, we however remain focused on delivering on our mandate of establishing viable market driven systems for the small and medium producers in the goat and pork value chains.

We remain cognizant of the negative impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on enterprises of small and medium producers and the nation at large. The increase in cases during the month of June resulted in sterner measures being put in place by the government to curb the spread of the contagion. As a result, we have maintained high fluidity in aligning our programming to the changing external environment as induced by the pandemic.

As always, the message is mask up, wash your hands frequently, adhere to the regulations as shared by the government of Zimbabwe and WHO on COVID-19 protocols.

**I hope you find this issue informative.  
Happy reading**

Cover image shows a sow with her piglets in the newly installed state of the art farrowing crates at Braford farming in Chegutu, this technology greatly reduces piglet mortalities caused by crushing

# PROJECT UPDATES:

The project supported the PIB with some biogas technologies for heating and lighting of pigsties

## YOUTH AND WOMEN PIG PRODUCERS TRAINED ON WEANER TO FINISHER BUSINESS MODEL

A total of 99 youth and women pig producers were trained on Weaner to finisher business model at the Pig Industry Board. The training is meant to kickstart operations for youth and women who had access to pig sties but lacked the knowledge to undertake pig production and upscale pig enterprises for those who were operating at nominal levels of production.

The participants were trained on topics such as low-cost housing, feeding and water, biosecurity and health, daily health checks, artificial insemination, essential veterinary tools, marketing, transporting pigs, record keeping, gross margin analysis and

environmental consideration when running a pig enterprise.

Under practical sessions, the participants were trained on aspects such as treating sick pigs, accurate record keeping, deworming, spraying against mange mites, feeding, teeth clipping, ear notching, tail docking, navel cutting, gilt selection, AI and natural services were demonstrated.

The project is targeting to train a total of 600 youths and women farmers under the weaner to finisher business model by December 2022.

## GOAT IMPROVEMENT CENTRE UTILISATION SUMMARY



# 12

**GOAT IMPROVEMENT CENTRES (GICS)** offering mating, veterinary drug sales, and dipping services in Beitbridge, Binga, Buhera, Chipinge, Chikomba, Gwanda, Lupane, Matobo, Mbire, Mudzi, Nkayi, and Rushinga districts.



# 4,086

**GOATS DIPPED MONTHLY ACROSS ALL GICS**



# USD 734

SALES VOLUMES OF VETERINARY DRUGS  
sold within the GICs.



# 45

IMPROVED GOAT BREEDS distributed by goat  
integrators to smallholder farmers.



## CAPACITY BUILDING OF GOAT PRODUCERS' BUSINESS MANAGEMENT UNITS

Two capacity-building workshops were held for Business Management Unit (BMU) members representing the twelve (12) Goat Producer Business Associations (GPBAs) to forge pathways for optimum service delivery among affiliate members, catalyse sustained income and service delivery for goat producers in their respective districts.

The BMUs represent the business arms of the GPBA, and this workshop was meant to induct newly

appointed BMU members who will take a lead in driving the backward and forward logistics of the association. This will include organizing dipping sessions, ensuring consistent supply of animal health and nutrition products, promoting aggregation and diverse marketing arrangements that allow goat farmers to increase their profit margin.

## ANNUAL LEARNING EVENTS

Localised learning platforms were organised at the Goat Improvement Centers in Beitbridge, Chikomba, Buhera, Chipinge, Mudzi, Rushinga, Gwanda and Matobo districts where goat producers received practical trainings on silage making, fodder harvesting and processing, deworming and how to effectively cross breed exotic and local goats.

Under the pork value chain, a learning platform for 35 representatives from the Mashonaland West Syndicate representatives was held at the Pig Industry Board. Discussions centred around pig enterprise profitability, performance tracking, localising feed production and minimum performance guidelines for pig producers' groups.

The learning events were organised to share knowledge on emerging best goat and pig husbandry practices and business innovations.



*Part of the goat producers who attended the Rushinga annual learning event inspecting some of the does inducted for mating with the Boer and Kalahari Red bucks procured by the project*



*A female goat producer learning buck castration techniques during the Rushinga learning platform*

## RESEARCH ON ALTERNATIVE AFFORDABLE CROPS FOR GOATS AND PIGS UNDERWAY

In both the goat and pork value chains, feed constitutes between 80 to 90% of production costs. Without viable alternatives to feed, farmers' profitability margins are significantly compressed. In this regard, the VALUE project is finalizing a research into alternative affordable crops for on farm feed formulations. The formulars offer alternatives for small to medium famers and those in weaner to finisher business regarding on farm feed formulation based on availability of feed materials.

Under the pork value chain, the formulars were developed after an experimental research conducted at the PIB. The formulars involve utilisation of diverse feed material which will widen farmer formulation options. Key material used include maize, Pearl millet, white sorghum, red sorghum, maize bran (for energy) and soy cake, sunflower cake (for protein).



*We were mainly focusing on traditional grains as alternative sources of energy which can fair better in drought seasons compared to maize. We applaud the policy measures by government to boost production of the traditional grains, which from our preliminary results make very good alternatives to maize in formulating pig feeds,*

*said Mr. Andrew Shoniwa, Director of the PIB.*



*We are hoping that the outcomes of the alternative feed research will reduce production costs by 30% thus improving the profitability of small and medium goat and pig enterprises,*

*said Newton Chari, the project Team Leader.*

For the Goat Value Chain trials, feed trials are also underway at Matopos Research Station and goats have been placed on their respective diets for the induction period. The research is on track and consolidation of data relating to live weight gain, feed consumption and incidental occurrences are being observed in the experimental protocols.

# PORK VALUE CHAIN POLICY DIALOGUE

As part of efforts to enhance the policy framework governing the pork value chain, the pig producers' business syndicates are working with farmer unions to engage policy makers to address their key policy concerns. In line with this drive, a pork value chain policy consultative meeting was held in Harare on 29 May. The meeting was attended by farmer representatives from the Mashonaland East and West pig production syndicates, the PIB, Zimbabwe Farmers Union, Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers Union. The Meeting prioritised policy related constraints and drew advocacy actions. As a result of the meeting, two engagements have been done with relevant authorities to present the issues and lobby for reviews that would enable farmers to be more productive.



Chairperson of the Mashonaland West Pig Production Syndicate, Mr. Peter Musavaya giving his opening remarks during the policy dialogue

## SUMMARY OF THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

1

Restrictions on cereal movement and high pricing structure.



2

Inaccessibility of veterinary drugs in smaller packaging suitable for small and medium pork producers. For instance, Farrowsure is available in 50 doses only.



3

The time allowed for moving pigs was noted to be a challenge, farmers indicated that the current limit on movement would need to be reviewed to go beyond 6 PM to avoid daytime movements which cause stress on the animals.



4

On slaughter fees, it was noted that abattoir fees are very high and multiple in nature resulting in increased cases of on farm slaughters and informal marketing.



5

Access to finance- Farmers noted that they currently have limited access to lines of credit at profitable interest rates.





## YOUNG ZVIMBA PIG PRODUCER IS BREAKING NEW FRONTIERS

Dumisani Ndlovu from Ward 10 Zvimba district in Mashonaland West province is a youth farmer who got into pig production after learning about the ZAGP VALUE project. He got acquainted with pig production when he joined the Zvimba pig producers' group as part of the youth and women farmers who would be trained under the weaner to finisher scheme. Having successfully participated in preliminary trainings on commercialisation and pig husbandry, Dumisani proceeded to purchase 3 sows from the Mashonaland West integrator, Braford Farming.

“

*“I was always passionate about piggery but lacked the requisite knowledge to start the project. The coming in of the ZAGP VALUE project gave me the impetus to start the project as we were capacitated through trainings on commercial pig production,”*

*said Dumisani.*

Dumisani participated on a weeklong training on the weaner to finisher business model at the Pig Industry Board, during the training, he also learnt how to do artificial insemination and on farm feed formulation.

With youthful zest, he did not waste time in putting to work the new knowledge he gained from the training programme, he has been imparting the same to pig producers in his area.



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“I am formulating my own feed using a grinding mill that I purchased in May 2020, I have trained other producers in our locality on feed formulation and artificial insemination. Since my training at PIB, I have been invited by several farmers to do artificial insemination for them,”

added Dumisani.

Dumisani standing next to use grinding mill which he purchased to assist in on farm feed formulations and during the weaner to finisher training at the PIB

As part of efforts to share knowledge, Dumisani has trained over 10 youths and done artificial insemination for 5 farmers in his area.

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