



**Commercial Farmers' Union
of Zimbabwe**



70th

ANNUAL CONGRESS

2013



TABLE OF CONTENTS

70 TH ANNUAL CONGRESS AGENDA	2
2013 CONGRESS SPONSORSHIP	3
NOTICE TO COMMENCE THE 70 TH ANNUAL CONGRESS	3
RULES OF DEBATE	4
PAST PRESIDENTS OF COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION	5
HISTORY OF COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION FARMING OSCAR AWARD	6
OSCAR WINNERS – COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION AWARD	7
MIDLANDS REGION ANNUAL REPORT AND REPORT TO CONGRESS 2013	8
MASVINGO REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2013	10
MASHONALAND CENTRAL CHAIRMANS' ANNUAL REPORT 2013	14
ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT 2013	14
BUSINESS CHAMBER COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION 70 TH ANNUAL REPORT	17
ARAC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION 2013 AGM ...	18
AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS - 2013	20
COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION LEGAL AFFAIRS REPORT TO CONGRESS	27
RESOLUTION 1: FARMERS' LICENCE FEES AND RULES	32
RESOLUTION 2: PROPOSAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEDERATION BETWEEN CFU AND ZFU AGRICULTURAL UNIONS'	35
RECIPIENTS OF HONORARY AWARDS	36
TRIBUTES FOR LONG AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE	39
DR CLIVE LEVY: 16 OCTOBER 1957 – 11 AUGUST 2013	43
IN MEMORIUM	48

COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION OF ZIMBABWE

70TH ANNUAL CONGRESS AGENDA Wednesday 30th October 2013, Royal Harare Golf Club, Harare

THEME: ALL INCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE

07.00 – 08.00	Registration of Delegates and Pre-Congress Council Meeting	
08.00 – 10.00	CLOSED SESSION	
	Regional Chairmen Annual Reports	(Tabled)
	Commodity Chairmen Annual Reports	(Tabled)
	Business Chamber Annual Report	(Tabled)
	ARAC Annual Report	(Tabled)
	Legal Report	(Tabled)
	Labour Report	(Tabled)
	AISD - Vice Presidents Report	(Tabled)
	Appointment of Legal Advisor(s)	(Director)
	Confirmation of Trustees	(Director)
	CFU Financial Reports and accounts year end 31 March 2013	(Director)
	Appointment of Auditors	(Director)
	Resume of 2012 Resolutions	(Director)
	Resolutions	(Director)
	a) Membership & Licence Fee	(President)
	b) Proposal and implementation of the Federation between CFU and ZFU Agricultural Unions and the Way Forward	(Vice President)
	Debate	(Director)
10.00 – 10.30	TEA	
10.30 – 13.30	OPEN SESSION	
10.30 – 11.00	Guest Speaker 1 - Honourable Sithembiso Nyoni (MP), Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises and Co-operative Development – “Commercial Agriculture and the future thereof, as well as the necessity for Zimbabwe and its people to heal.”	
11.00 – 11.30	Guest Speaker 2 – Dr Evelyn Nguleka, Zambian National Farmers' Union President – “Role of Commercial Agriculture and the success of Zambian Farming.”	
11.30 – 12.00	Address to Congress by President of Commercial Farmers Union	
12.00 – 12.30	Wishes of goodwill from visiting Agricultural Unions	
12.30 – 13.00	Debate/Questions	
13.00 – 13.30	Post Congress Council Meeting	
13.30 – 14.30	LUNCH	
14.30 – 15.30	CFU Farming Oscar and Honorary Scroll Certificates to be presented	
15.30 onwards	Closure	



2013 CONGRESS SPONSORSHIP

The Commercial Farmers' Union would like to extend its sincere appreciation towards all those who have contributed in cash or in kind to the Union's Annual Congress for 2013.

Without the generous support of organisations, institutions, individuals and staff it would not be possible for the Union to host such an event.

Please accept our heartfelt appreciation.

**MR CHARLES TAFFS
PRESIDENT**

NOTICE TO COMMENCE THE 70TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

It was agreed at the Council meeting held on 19th June 2013 that Congress would be held at Royal Harare Golf Club, 5th Street Extension, Harare.

Notice to members was given on 24th July 2013 that Congress would commence at 08.00 hours at Royal Harare Golf Club on Wednesday 30th October 2013.

**MR HENDRIK OLIVIER
DIRECTOR**



RULES OF DEBATE

ORDER OF DEBATE

The Proposer will identify himself clearly.

The Proposer will speak.

The Secunder will speak.

General debate will take place.

The Proposer will wind up the debate.

Note: If required, the Minister, government representative or guest will be asked to reply at a time requested by the CFU President.

LENGTH OF SPEECHES

Proposer of Resolutions - 5 minutes

Secunder of Resolutions - 3 minutes

Mover of Amendments - 3 minutes

Other Speakers - 2 minutes

The Proposer of a Resolution may reply at the conclusion of debate, limited to three minutes. Government representatives and guests are requested to keep their speeches as short as possible. The President may, at his discretion, allow an extension of these limits.



PAST PRESIDENTS OF COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION

CFU

1910 – 1914	HON R A Fletcher, MLA	1979 – 1980	D R Norman, Esq
1914 – 1916	E Wilson, Esq	1980 – 1981	D B Spain, Esq
1920 – 1923	C S Jobling, Esq	1981 – 1983	J M Sinclair, Esq
1923	S M Lanigan O'Keefe, CMG	1983 – 1986	A J Laurie, Esq
1929 – 1931	H B Christian, Esq	1986 – 1988	J R Rutherford, Esq
1932 – 1935	G N Fleming, Esq	1988 – 1990	J H Brown, Esq
		1990 – 1992	A D P Burl, Esq
		1992 – 1994	A J Swire-Thompson, Esq
		1994 – 1996	P MacSporrán, Esq
		1996 – 1998	N Swanepoel, Esq
		1998	R D Swift, Esq
		1998 – 1999	N Swanepoel, Esq
		1999 – 2001	T Henwood, Esq
		2001 – 2003	C Cloete, Esq
		2003 – 2007	D S Taylor-Freeme, Esq
		2007 – 2009	T R Gifford, Esq
		2009 – 2011	G S Theron, Esq
		2011 –	C J Taffs

RNFU

1942 – 1944	John Dennis, OBE
1944 – 1946	Hon H V Gibbs
1946 – 1948	J M Caldicott, Esq
1948 – 1951	E D Palmer, Esq
1951 – 1954	J MacIntyre, Esq
1954 – 1956	M Chenells, Esq
1956 – 1963	E B Evans, OBE
1963 – 1968	T Mitchell, DFC
1968 – 1970	J W Field, Esq
1970 – 1972	R G Pascoe, Esq
1972 – 1974	M E Butler, Esq
1974 – 1976	C Millar, Esq
1976 – 1978	C J Strong, Esq
1978 – 1979	D R Norman, Esq

Honorary Life Presidents

A J Laurie
R G Pascoe
C G Strong
C G Tracey, ICD

Trustees

Dave Bouma
Pieter Henderson



History of the Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe Farming Oscar Award

The Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe Farming Oscar Award has a long and proud history having been introduced in 1961 by the late Mr C G Tracey during his term as Vice President to the Commercial Farmers' Union as an award in recognition of "those people who have generally done well for agriculture".

This annual Oscar has become known as the "Farming Oscar" to be given to some person or persons who have given outstanding service to agriculture, and has been awarded to people who have contributed to the Industry in its widest sense.

Over the years winners have been chosen from the practical and scientific disciplines of agriculture, as well as from the administration and leadership roles with the winners selected in recognition of having contributed significantly to the agricultural progress in Zimbabwe.



OSCAR WINNERS – COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION AWARD

1961	E B Evans, OBE	1987	Dr R W Mupawose
1962	A Rattray, OBE	1988	J Brown
1963	E R Campbell, CBE	1989	R K Harvey
1964	R Stockil, KBE, OBE	1990	P Millar
1965	A C Black	1991	Dr S Hargreaves
1966	Dr I McDonald	1992	R Ternouth
1967	Dr H Pereira	1993	Dr P Grant
1968	J R Southall	1994	R Winkfield
1969	W Margolis	1995	D Smith
1970	H R Mundy	1996	M Edwards
1971	The Hon J C Graylin, ICDCMG	1997	H Smith
1972	C G Tracey	1998	V Hurley
1973	Dr R C Elliott	1999	N Swanepoel
1974	M E Butler	2000	P Lombard
1975	N Spoel	2001	Dr L T V Cousins
1976	R A Griffith, ICD, MBE	2002	R Tattersfield
1977	J R Humphreys	2003	Dr J Jackson
1978	D K Worthington	2004	D Hasluck
1979	C J Strong	2005	Dr J Grant
1980	Max Rosenfels	2006	D S Taylor- Freeme
1981	D R Norman	2007	A Masterson
1982	J W Field	2008	D Drury
1983	J M Sinclair	2009	R H Vaughan-Evans
1984	J W Hayward	2010	Mike Campbell & Ambassador Xavier Marchel
1985	H J Quinton	2011	B Oldrieve
1986	John & Jill Laurie	2012	Dr C Foggen



MIDLANDS REGION ANNUAL REPORT AND REPORT TO CONGRESS 2013

I'd like to welcome everyone to this meeting and to thank you all for coming. A special thanks to our President Charles Taffs, Vice President Pete Steyl and CEO Hendrik Olivier for travelling all the way from Harare to join us.

Firstly I would like to convey our condolences to Shaku on the recent loss of her husband. This last year we were also shocked and saddened by the sudden death of one of our prominent members Grant Locke and our condolences go out to Carol.

WEATHER

The winter this last year saw Black Frost in areas causing the loss of some long term horticultural crops such as citrus. Then the rains were late and very sporadic, patchy with below normal rainfall for most areas in the province. There was little runoff resulting in Gweru's main supply dams being at their lowest level in 20 years. This has adversely affected dry land crops and resultant yields, with some complete crop failure in the province.

COMMODITIES

Very little commercial maize is grown in the province and with the low rainfall, yields will be down. Yields on small scale crops were low to complete failure in some cases.

Approximately 500ha of soya beans were grown in the Sherwood Block area with some good yields achieved.

It is estimated that 4-500ha of wheat and barley will be grown but area is lower than normal due to ZESA constraints.

A small hectareage of tobacco was grown in Midlands with good yields under irrigation although the style produced is not the most sought after.

There has been a steady increase of vegetable crops for local consumption and some yields of 140 tons/ha achieved on tomatoes. Relatively small amount of flowers are being exported.

There has been continued growth in the poultry industry however the shortage of local raw materials is impacting on margins.

Cattle - Whilst prices for slaughter stock have been good during the summer months the importation of cattle from Botswana has put pressure on prices now in the winter months. Generally grazing in the Midlands is fair to good, although bulk is short. Water in dams throughout the province is poor due to limited runoff.

The Provincial Veterinary Officers report a year of no serious outbreaks of disease in the Midlands.

As reported last year the lack of pedigree breeders in the province is forcing farmers to have to go further afield to source decent bulls.

The dairy industry is under pressure due to high input costs and shortage of raw materials. It is also disheartening to note that NADF have decided to go alone and are in the process of organising a new association.



MEMBERSHIP AND LAND

Due to the land reform programme our membership levels are very low and are mostly made up of non farming members. I appeal to you to pay your membership fees non farming or farming as it is in your best interests to keep the Union strong and to fight for your compensation and land tenure. No one else is going to do it for us. This last year saw the acquisition of Ian Smith's Gwenoro Farm, George Hundermark's Hillside Farm, and a reduction of size on Derek Shaw's' Wildebeeste farm and Graham Francey's Umhlali farm and constant harassment inflicted by resettlement people on John Anderson and Derek Shaw's farms.

Some A2 farmers would like to offer farms to lease but are reluctant to do so for fear of losing their land. The sooner land tenure is secured the sooner we can all get down to business.

FINANCES

Finance continues to be a major issue due to lack of land tenure and therefore no collateral. Any finance that is available is prohibitively expensive. Wages and NSSA have had increases in the last year.

CONCLUSION

The President, Vice President and Director have made tremendous efforts to keep your Union going under extremely difficult circumstances with a severe shortage of finance. This last year saw the sale of Agriculture House in an effort to downsize and rationalize to finance this Union. I believe the non confrontational pragmatic approach you are taking to put value back into land is the correct one and I applaud you for that. I certainly hope that you will be able to see this through to its conclusion during your tenure.

I wish to thank Starr and Shaku for all their support during the year. Thank you to Starr as well for the tremendous effort you have put into the ZFAT programme.

Finally to all our members, please support your Union, pay your fees, and all the very best for the rest of the year.

Thank you.

OWEN JARMAN
CHAIRMAN, MIDLANDS REGION
JUNE 2013



MASVINGO REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2013

The farming year of 2012/2013 has been yet another very difficult challenge, not only for our small number of remaining commercial farmers in our province, but also for our small-scale farmers.

Above all the other inhibiting factors the weather was definitely not on our side this year with the Lowveld areas being the hardest hit. It was a case of either feast or famine as far as the rain was concerned. It was initially very dry and suddenly in January there was a huge storm with torrential rain, and then nothing else. Many areas were hit by flash floods but the water drained away just as quickly and was only of any benefit to livestock and wildlife in some of the pans that filled.

Unfortunately, these quick floods only benefited a few smaller dams below Mutirikwi, which itself only reached a maximum of about 18%. With Mushandike Dam being all but empty this season, the irrigation scheme has collapsed. Most of the dams on the farms we have been abandoned, have been breached due to lack of maintenance and erosion caused by deforestation and hoof damage caused by unrestrained livestock.

Although the major sugar companies have been managing the very limited water resources as best they can, they face fierce competition from illegal users who continue to tap water from the canals before the water reaches its final intended destination.

Obviously the water situation has necessitated that they adopted a suitable cropping policy. Basically all re-planting was cancelled this season (this policy was adopted back in September/October), and there was an increased hectarage of 'fallow fields'. They could only irrigate 80% of the crop at 80% of its water requirement, subject to water availabilities. This may still have to be reduced further. So as they cut those fields due for plough out and re-plant, this season will simply be left as fallow.

The cane which has been cut was in a reasonable position – the spread of late rains was an absolute boon. It is these fields that will probably not be supported after cutting – but essentially one wants to maintain the best fields, and abandon the less productive fields – those on poorer soils etc. It's not the reduction in hectarage that will be the main problem. It's the reduced cane quality as a result of the 'water rationing' that will reduce overall yields.

Once cane receives less than 60% of its water requirement it becomes sub-economic – yields are negligible and much of the cane will struggle to survive. Also, if they do get good rains next season – they will have to have seed cane to re-establish these 'fallow fields'.

On the positive side I went to Tokwe-Makorsi Dam site to see for myself as there have been so many rumours about its construction. Unfortunately I went in from the Masvingo side but what I did see was that the 5 back-stop walls were all but completed and I then had a panoramic view from a mountain overlooking the wall. Although a lot of work still had to be done, when I viewed it on Election Day in July the locals reckon it could be complete in time for its official opening in November this year. If this is so then I see no reason why the water should not be available for the sugar industry next year – depending on the rains of course.

What was encouraging during this age of massive deforestation was the incredible natural forest area I drove through in the Chivi Communal Area where the dam is situated, which has somehow survived the onslaught.

The wildlife industry has for the second year running, for most hunters, been denied hunting permits which has been an absolute disaster for the industry as a whole. Not only have there been serious repercussions and loss of client confidence the huge loss of income has meant



a reduction in security personal. As a result of this the poaching has increased significantly as the remaining staff has been unable to cope.

What is of great concern is the number of hunters being lured in from South Africa to hunt on A2 allocated properties where all caution and controls are thrown to the wind. The allocation of the hunting permits in this sector needs to be thoroughly investigated as it is suspected that there is severe over hunting and suspected high level involvement. On the A1 allocated properties all forms of wildlife has been decimated.

However, the specialist team protecting the rhino appears to have had some better success this year with only (about) 3 rhino being killed. Unfortunately only limited information is being given out on these operations as most of the accused poachers have not yet come to court and there is hope of totally breaking the ring.

Clive Stockil has recently been awarded the Tusk Conservation Trust's first Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding work on the establishment of the Save River Conservancy and general game conservation and protection. The award was recently presented by Prince William who now runs the trust. We most sincerely congratulate Clive for his outstanding work he continues to do through the good times and bad. He is a real credit to Masvingo province and we are very proud of him and those who assist him in this field. In his own words, "The energy behind this is 'Failure is not an option'".

This year we also saw the translocation of wildlife from the Save Conservancy to Victoria Falls just before the recently held tourism conference. As far as we know this was funded by an NGO and was the first of its kind for a number of years now. It takes one back to the first wildlife auction held in Triangle so many years ago which was the forerunner of a short-lived industry which put a real value on the wildlife.

As you may be aware your Union is slowly moving towards the formation of a single union and have been working very closely with our partners, Zimbabwe Farmers' Union (ZFU) through the Zimbabwe Farmers Alliance Trust (ZFAT). Although we have only held a few meetings in Masvingo and Harare, I must sincerely thank the following volunteers who have assisted me at the meetings in the development of the joint commodity associations. They are Jaco Erasmus, Jannie Erasmus, Francois de Kok, Gary Warth and Benoit Lagesse.

In fact Jaco has gone even further in that he has been working closely through the LMAC on analysis of cost of compliance in the livestock and poultry sectors, which is a study of all the additional costs imposed on our industry through government/council levies, charges and taxes. This is extremely important work that he has done and the production models he has done will be used in our lobbying against these over burdening costs which are threatening our viability. We therefore thank him sincerely for his personal sacrifice and hard work.

The ZFAT meetings which we attended with delegates from ZFU have been very interesting and rewarding, particularly because we only talk about farming issues as farmers, albeit from different backgrounds. What was most interesting is that we all face the same problems in our farming, even property rights, although we mainly discussed farming issues devoid of political issues. With the genuine mutual interest shown by all parties at these meetings it should not be too difficult to move forward under the ZFAT structure, which is being developed. Unfortunately the elections did slow things down due to sensitivity but we hope to get back on track once new funding comes through from the EU to whom we are very grateful to for their support.

The crops grown by the small-scale growers were not much of a success this year but the farmers who planted sorghum had a successful harvest. The cotton crop was the poorest and smallest seen in our province for many years. This was firstly because of the uncertainty



caused by the late announcement of the price, and the low prices paid last season. Secondly the crop was planted too late and there was an early cut-off in the rains.

The mainstay of our province has always been the cattle industry which has continued to take a battering as the grazing land available to our commercial producers continues to get smaller as well as being deficient of any form of sustainable management practice. This has sadly also affected one of the major producers who had been able to keep their large herd fairly intact but has now been forced to reduce by at least one third. The one exception of course is Nuanetsi who through special circumstances have managed to hold onto their herds.

Both Rob Beverly and I have become involved in the Cattle Producers' Working Group Committee (CPWG) and have attended several meetings during the year. This has been part of an effort to bring the remaining cattle producers together for mutual advantage. The meetings have been very interesting and a few very good field days have been held.

Sadly though there is still that culture of fear of being seen to be associated with the CFU despite our ZFAT programme, financial and additional benefits. I firmly believe that we need to get back together as a team because we are useless when we remain divided and can easily be manipulated.

The land issue continues to be a very hot topic as the deforestation and looting continues. One more of our farmers sadly lost his home and business through a decision by the court, but it is on appeal. Several others were violently evicted. There are still a number of appeals against eviction waiting in the queue at the High and new Constitutional Court, where new arguments under the new Constitution will be tested. Of interest though is the application against a group of 19 'black' farmers, who hold title to their farms, by a politically motivated group who are trying to seize their land for resettlement. The case has been tactfully delayed and is yet to be heard.

Before the elections Charles, Hendrik, Rob and I managed to break away from the office here for a few days and tour the province to speak to farmers, both on the land and off. We spoke at four venues and it was so nice to be with you all again as you are all still so very close to our hearts. We were later flown down to speak to the Beit Bridge farmers, which was another eye opener and very hospitable trip. The amount of support and incredible hospitality we received was very encouraging indeed, although there was a notable absence of a few individuals who we had hoped would be there to hear the update of our work and to hear their advice.

We can only hope that our positive message got back to those few individuals and that some day soon they may take some time to hear our side from us personally, debate our issues and eventually come back as active members to support us in our quest to farm again under the respect of property rights and law and order.

The feedback we got from those who did manage to attend the meetings was very encouraging and supportive of the work that your hard working team is doing in Harare as they fully understood the benefits and rewards of their continued membership.

Although representing Masvingo Province from outside the province I have continued to keep communications and maintain contact with those still on the ground and also to give as much feedback as possible weekly through the CFU Calling, although we are a bit restricted in what we are able to say in this public document.

Late last year we had to make the financial decision to sell Agriculture House, invest the money and use the interest to supplement the much reduced income from licence fees. The



fact is that this would not have been necessary if all the 4,500 people we are still representing each paid in the region of only \$10 a month.

This is a small amount to pay, particularly when you consider all the work your team does up here on a daily basis. Because of the lack of payment of such a low subscription Rob and I, and your delegates at Congress may be forced to vote for another increase in subscription rates so that the hard work being done on your behalf may continue. The more people who pay, the less each of us would have to pay. We seek your support in this please.

In closing I must pay tribute to your team up here who have continued to throw everything they have in their attempt to find a sustainable solution for the resuscitation of the Agricultural Industry, which would lead to members to be able to either farm in peace or to be compensated for their loss. As you know working in the climate we are in, this has meant extremely long hours of work and attending literally dozens of sensitive meetings doggedly trying to encourage Government's participation in our Way Forward proposal.

Rob Beverley has once again been a key member of our team and I thank him most sincerely for his support.

I wish also to pay tribute to our late Plant Pathologist, Dr Clive Levy, who became a close friend after working with him for the last few years at your Union. His passing was a great loss to our team but his great work and valuable research lives on.

We must most sincerely thank the families of our leadership, as I do mine, for allowing us to keep at it for so long now in the hope that we will one day achieve the success we are after.

I still believe that we do have a future in agriculture in Zimbabwe and during the next 12 months I would like to see a lot of movement towards the re-establishment of our commodity associations and a single representative body working on the ZFAT model. We have over 90 NGOs working in our province, many of whom are doing our work in agriculture and wildlife. I truly believe we need to either band these together to work for a common cause, or else to take charge completely and work closer with our communities instead of individually in this fragmented form.

I thank you for your continued support and pray for God's guidance and wisdom to resolve the conflict in agriculture in Zimbabwe so that we can all work together and feed our nation again. We need to hold our heads up high and move forward as a proud and committed team, as we most certainly have nothing to be ashamed of.

Thank you.

MIKE CLARK
CHAIRMAN, MASVINGO REGION
AUGUST 2013



COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION OF ZIMBABWE
AGM 2013
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I'd like to welcome everyone to this meeting and ask that you fill in your contact details on the form being passed around so that we can all try to stay in contact.

This season has been exceptionally hard, hardest so far but we keep saying that don't we! Cash to put the crop in was scarce and expensive although there was some cheaper finance available. Inputs were also readily available in the earlier part of the season. Weather was very patchy again, as were yields. Some farmers had three to four ton soya crops while others could only manage one ton. Prices were strong for early crops tapering off towards the end of the selling season.

As far as viability goes, we are on a knife edge. Finance is expensive, livestock prices are low and wheat prices are still very low. It seems that we are in a catch twenty two, our country can't produce the food we need and so have to import but the importation is damaging production as we have no protection from outside influences on supply and demand and hence prices.

Some preparation has begun for next season but very limited. It seems that unless you are farming with your own cash then the only alternative is contract farming. The weather outlook is for normal to higher than normal rainfall which is a good thing.

Our Union needs as much support as we can get so we need to speak to the people around us and encourage them to become members and if they are not willing then we must find out why, so that we can address these issues. We also need to let people know how much work the Union is actually doing on their behalf already and build support.

The report doesn't sound too positive but we have to have faith because without a vision the people perish. If you're digging your way out of prison with a spoon, you need to be focused on freedom – not the spoon! Focus on the spoon and you're doomed!

GRANT TAPSON
CHAIRMAN MASHONALAND CENTRAL
AUGUST 2013



ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION **CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT**

Good morning invited guests, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to present the 2013 chairman's report for this the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Zimbabwe Crops Producers Association. The Association has continued to gain momentum and relevance over the past year by assisting farmers under the capable leadership of our Crops Manager Richard Taylor and his dedicated team, Dr Clive Levy, Debbie Mylroie and the other CFU staff members.

THE PAST CROPPING SEASON

The weather has once again thrown farmers a curved ball this rainy season. Having started well in most areas, the season progressed to being excessively wet in December and the early part of January, when the bulk of the rain fell. Followed by a dry period for round six weeks in late January and February, which is the critical time for pollination and grain fill, rain resumed in March which was too late for most crops to recover, resulting in many of the late planted crops being almost a total right off. Once again the country has not been able to take full advantage of the huge irrigation potential available to farmers, to alleviate times of drought. Most of the countries dams remain full and irrigation systems lie idle due to the poor maintenance and up keep of equipment and the erratic supply of ZESA.

Once again wheat plantings are down, mainly due to erratic supply of electricity. The early part of the season saw many areas receiving a fairly constant power supply assisting with irrigation however recently in the grain fill stage power supply has been extremely erratic with periods of 10 days or more with huge power outages which will affect yields.

Although there have been sufficient agricultural inputs for the production of grain crops this season, most farmers are unable to finance their cropping operations on their own, due to the inability of agricultural land, to be used as collateral with the banks to raise finance. The issue of secure property rights and title deeds must be addressed by Government, in order for agriculture to go forward, so that long term investment in farming can once again focus on production. Most farmers are reliant on contract farming organisations to support their operations. This situation does not allow the farmer to sell their crop to best advantage, and adds another middle man to the marketing chain, thus further decreasing the viability of our farming businesses.

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

The major change which has occurred in the past year is the sale of Agricultural House in Marlborough and the move by CFU to rented offices at 42 Bates Street in Milton Park. Although this was a mammoth undertaking, it has fitted in well with the restructuring and downsizing of the Union, and has reduced the overheads for CFU and its commodity associations.

ZCPA has been instrumental in managing the contract farming deal signed between CFU and the International Export Trading Company (IETC) where farmers have contracted to produce maize, soybeans and wheat. The summer program contracted a total of 3,350Ha. The first year has been a huge learning curve for both CFU and IETC with problem areas being constantly improved on. Such as systems for acquiring inputs and wages, these will assist farmers in accessing their inputs far more timorously, in the coming season.

Through our partnership with IETC, it has allowed CFU to employ a few ex-farmers as mentors who have visited growers and assisted with their farming practices and record keeping, and have reported on the status of the crops.



I would like to thank the contract farmers whom have been on this scheme for your patience and for the levies that you have paid to ZCPA which will go a long way in helping to run our office.

In the last year ZCPA has become far more active in getting out and visiting farmers around the country offering technical expertise in agronomy and pathological advice. Several field days at ART Farm have been set up to discuss and share ideas on production, marketing and viability issues, which have been well attended by both farmers and the agricultural trade. We look forward to seeing many more farmers attending these field days. CFU continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes on a number of issues from property rights, VAT, ZINWA, ZESA, wage negotiations, labour disputes, EMA and AMA. Some of these topics we will be briefed on later in the program.

CONCLUSION

The world is looking at Africa, with its abundant and underutilized arable land to produce extra food. The winds of change are blowing, no longer can Zimbabwe with the potential of being the bread basket in the region; remain unable to feed its self. Everyone from small scale farmers to big exporters, and across all levels and value chains, are facing the same problems. Common ground is found on issues regarding land tenure, finance, markets, aging infrastructure, corruption and labour issues. We need the power of optimism and the willingness to make things work for the betterment of all. Agriculture in Zimbabwe despite all the obstacles it faces needs to take its place in the sun.

Finally a quote. What is the secret of a long and happy life "Fill what's empty, empty what's full, and scratch where it itches."

It remains for me to thank the Crops Management Committee, for their commitment and for taking the time out from their busy schedules to attend meetings and keep the association alive. Also to Richard, Clive and Debbie who have run the day to day issues of the Association. I would like to thank Debbie especially as she leaves the CFU, and moves to be closer to her family, for all her unwavering support. Finally to President Charlie Taffs, Vice President Pete Steyl and Director Hendrik Olivier and their small but motivated compliment of staff. Thank you for your continued support and leadership in these most challenging times, your hard work is most appreciated and an inspiration to us all.

ANGUS GUTHRIE
CHAIRMAN, ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION
25 JULY 2013



BUSINESS CHAMBER **COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION 70TH ANNUAL REPORT**

Good morning invited guest, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to present the 2013 Business Chamber report for this 70th Congress of the Commercial Farmers' Union. The Business Chamber has continued to look for finance options that will assist farmers and generate income for the Union.

THIS PAST YEAR

Previous to the 2012 – 2013 year, we had been negotiating over a two year period with the African Export Import Bank, for finance that would be placed with NMB. This would be a seasonal facility and African Century which would be for capital development over a 3 year period. This finance facility was eventually signed in November 2012.

Initially we were negotiating for \$70,000,000 which ultimately ended up at \$20,000,000 which was split between NMB and African Century being \$15,000,000 and \$5,000,000 respectively. NMB has drawn done in tranches and with each tranche, we have received a commission of 0.5% as a finder's fee.

In October 2012 we negotiated a management contract with the International Export Trading Company (IETC), where farming members are contracted to IETC for the production of Maize, Soybeans and Wheat.

The summer program contracted a total of 1117ha's maize and 2220ha's of soybeans, with the winter wheat crop being a very small hectareage of 131ha's. The first year has been a huge learning curve for both CFU and IETC with problem areas being constantly improved on. Through our partnership with IETC, it has allowed CFU to employ a few ex-farmers as mentors who visit the various growers, assisting with their farming practices and record keeping, reporting back on the status of their crops. This has allowed CFU to deduct levies from those farmers on the scheme and for this, a huge thank you must go to those farmers, as these levies will go a long way in helping ZCPA to run their office.

The Business Chamber continues to look at various finance options and various deals that will assist in reducing farmers running costs.

CONCLUSION

Firstly I would like to thank all our farming members and non farming members who continue to support their Union. To all the corporate company members, your support and sponsorship towards functions over the year is greatly appreciated. Many thanks. To those companies that are not members of the Union but have dug into their finances to help sponsor our various functions this past year, again it is greatly appreciated, many thanks.

Without the support from the above our Union would not exist, which would be a huge loss to agriculture in this country. We look forward to continuing working with you, your support and membership in the coming years.

To all of the team at CFU, many thanks for all the support and assistance you have given to the Business Chamber over the past year, it is greatly appreciated.

RICHARD TAYLOR
MANAGER, BUSINESS CHAMBER
AUGUST 2013



ARAC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION 2013 AGM

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow displaced farmers. It's hard to believe that yet another year has passed by and still sadly, we seek resolution to our farm compensation issues.

An AGM gives us the time to pause and reflect back upon our year's term in office, to weigh up achievement or lack thereof. It provides and opportunity for you the membership to voice your opinion and for changing of the guard.

Changing the guard is essential, it allows for a flow of fresh enthusiasm, ideas and most importantly energy, to guide and steer this body into the future. So I appeal to those of you out there who are able and have a little time, please step forward and be counted.

Your ARAC Chairman sits on both the CFU Council and EXCO Committees; as such he is afforded a full and direct insight into the workings of the Union, where he is able to play a major supportive role in these decision making bodies which guide the Union's leadership and safeguards our membership's interests.

The sale of Agricultural House, essential as it may have been, has as predicted, turned out to be a double edged sword. Financial issues continue to haunt the organization; sadly these consume large amounts of the President's time and capacity. The opportunity to down size and live according to budget, based on income from membership subs; albeit severely depleted, and invested capital from the sale of the building was not looked upon favourably by Council. At that time this decision was influenced by the Director's disclosure of potentially huge gratuities due to CFU staff members; with figures ranging from a low of around \$400,000 to a high of around \$1,200,000. Furthermore there was and is a fear that downsizing will lead to reduced capacity resulting in obscurity. This status quo remains.

Legal issues concerning the raiding of our organizations resources by Nelma Holdings, Liz Black and NADF continue to have a draining effect on our capital asset and staff time. The chances of getting full financial settlement and an injection of money back into the system at this point in time in our country's judicial history has to be viewed as being remote at best!!

Lack of funding for the ARAC office has sadly resulted in Rose Brent being laid off. However Wynand, Ben and I gave the final presentation of The ARAC Compensation Claims Document to Chairman Mitch Green and Manager Hamish MacClean of THI Trust on Tuesday of this week, along with a further request of funding for our office. They were suitably impressed with both the project presentation and our request for funding. We wait in some anticipation of a positive response from them on this.

On the positive side, President Charlie Taffs and his team have been outstanding in their efforts to fully support all farmer issues; it has been my very real privilege to be a part of this team. The President's drive, commitment and enthusiasm in the search for a solution to "Property Rights" and "Full and Fair Compensation" are second to none. Furthermore this initiative has helped bridge the divide with not only our Matabele contingent but many others who once belonged to the Union. Unity of purpose is strength, may we never lose sight of this and may we never be divided as we once were, it only helps others!

The President's personal effort and foresightedness' in a quest for financial security and stability led to the creation of the "Business Chamber", an initiative to develop alternate income streams to support the running of the Union. There have been perhaps more downs



than ups to date, but the current farming initiative under the IETG structure has not only provided work for some of our members, but will in time generate a meaningful income for the Union as well. Hopefully this will stem the tide of outflow of resources.

Vice President Pete Steyl in his supportive role has been a constant tower of strength within the Union. He is to be commended for his efforts in initiating and developing the ZFAT program. This program allows for the various farmer unions representatives to meet and discuss commodity issues. It is also venue which has allowed our issue of "Property Rights" to find a broader platform, acceptance and understanding. I have little doubt that once the "Property Rights" issue has been fully addressed by a sound and level Government that this will form the foundation of a single Zimbabwe Farmers' Union along similar lines as the farmers union in Zambia.

To Wynand Hart and Rose Brent, a huge vote of thanks must go for their immense undertaking of collating and compiling the THI sponsored Compensation Claims project. This piece of work will be of immense value in time to come, with data already being used in the SADC case still awaiting judgment.

To Bob Swift, Chairman of Farm Families Trust, I wish to thank you and your committee for all your efforts in supporting and helping our elderly and less fortunate members in their time of need, with the medical care and attention they otherwise would not be able to access.

A special vote of thanks must go to Ben Gilpin for his calm, level headed and consistent presence in managing the affairs of ARAC. He now not only runs our office single handedly, but provides considerable support and input on behalf of the Union's leadership.

It only remains for me to thank you our members and my remaining committee members Byron Dardagan, Rob Beverley, Jim Barker and Patrick Ashton for their time, consistent effort and support in dedication to the cause.

I include this report in the AGM minutes for adoption.

R. J. SWALES
CHAIRMAN ARAC
JULY 2013



AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS - 2013**

INTRODUCTION

This report briefly covers the developments that have occurred in the economy and the agriculture sector since the last Congress in August, 2012. It also contains production data for the 2011/12 season and estimates of agricultural output for the current 2012/13 season.

OVERVIEW OF THE ECONOMY

According to the statistics from the Ministry of Finance, Zimbabwe has been experiencing sustained economic growth since dollarisation recording 8.1% GDP growth in 2010 and 9.3% growth in 2011. However, growth slowed down to 4.4% in 2012 due to poor performance of the agriculture and tourism sectors. The Ministry of Finance expects GDP to fall to about 3.4% this year due to the underperformance of the key sectors of agriculture and mining.

The multicurrency regime has been successful in restoring price stability since 2009. This feature together with exchange liberalization has resulted in improved production efficiencies and growing output in some sectors and the restoration of limited capital inflows. However, there are vulnerabilities currently affecting the economy, of which some began in 2012 and still apply. The main ones are:

Declining world commodity prices; with agricultural and mining exports driving the growth of the economy mainly being affected. Global demand trends, particularly emerging out of Asia, will continue to have a significant bearing on our economic performance.

An unpredictable banking sector with several banks on the brink of collapse. Poor loan management and the volume of bad debts are a threat to financial stability.

Political uncertainty has to a large extent been eliminated by the general elections held in July. At the time of writing, firm policy directions on matters such as re-introduction of a domestic currency, indigenization, and various promises made during the election campaign that involve substantial outlays of public funds have still to be established. Until clarity is forthcoming speculation over potential outcomes will continue to hold back Foreign Direct Investment inflows and other investment activities.

Potential wage overruns; following the trend that began in 2011 civil servants continue to demand further salary increments which may be awarded due to election promises. Many workers' unions in the country are currently involved in wage negotiations. This will apply upward pressure on operating costs and affect the competitiveness of local products.

Agriculture

Agriculture, which normally contributes more than 15% of GDP, is expected to only make up 13% in 2013. In the initial 2013 budget statement, agricultural output was projected to grow by 6.4% in 2013. However, this was revised down to 5.4% in the recently published Macroeconomic Framework Report following the drop in output for some crops. In addition tobacco output failed to reach the 170 million kg target that had been set by the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB). [See Section 3 on Agricultural Production for more detail].



Mining

Mining sector growth had initially been projected at 17.1% in 2013, but was revised downwards to 5.3% in the 2013 Mid Term Budget Review statement. This is even lower than the growth of 8.21% registered in 2012. The significant drop is as a result of reduced earnings from the production of key minerals like gold and diamonds.

The under-performance of gold has arisen from the continued decline in international gold prices and rising production costs which together have reduced gold production. Owing to these challenges, the gold output projection for 2013 has been revised downwards from the initial 17,000 kg to 15,000 kg. The decline in diamond output is attributed to diamond producers shifting from alluvial mining to conglomerates which are relatively costly to produce. Following this development, the diamond output target for 2013 has been revised downwards from 16.5 million carats to 12.5 million carats. Platinum production is expected to remain in line with the initial 2013 projection of 12,500kg.

Despite these negative developments mining is expected to contribute 15% of GDP in 2013 and this level is much higher than the 5% to 8% that was regularly prevalent in past years.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector decline is illustrated by its expected 12% contribution to GDP in 2013 which is substantially down from the 25% to 30% levels applicable in the 1980's. Furthermore the sector has experienced subdued growth since dollarisation, and in this regard the sector's growth is expected to fall to 1.5% in 2013 from 2.3% in 2012. The foremost problem faced by the sector is fierce competition from imports, mainly from South Africa.

The perennial constraints affecting the manufacturing sector remained unresolved during the first half of 2013. These challenges include liquidity problems which lead to high cost of borrowing; lack of competitiveness due to obsolete machinery; high utility charges; and inflexible labour laws resulting in high employment costs against low productivity. As a result manufacturing activity remained subdued in struggling sub sectors such as cotton ginning and textiles, clothing and footwear, paper printing and publishing, as well as in chemical and petroleum products. Agro-industrials' performance has been hampered by supply shortages as local agricultural output continues to fall short of national demand.

Financial sector

The adoption of the multiple currency system in 2009 brought stability to the economy and has led to a marked improvement in deposits in the banking sector. Banking sector deposits grew from US\$703 million in 2009 to US\$4.43 billion as at 31 May 2013. Loans over the same period grew from US\$263.5 million in December 2009 to US\$3.6 billion as at 31 May 2013. Loans to individuals accounted for 22% of total banking sector loans as at 31 May 2013. This was followed by Services 18%, Manufacturing 16% and Agriculture 15%. The level of non-performing loans (i.e.: bad debts) has accelerated greatly from 1.8% as at December 2009 to 13.78% as at 31 March 2013. Non-performing loans present a significant threat to financial depth in 2013, with a number of indigenous banks facing failure. Financing is expected to remain a key constraint to growth in the economy.

Regarding the Stock Exchange, market capitalization, which was US\$3.96 billion at the beginning of 2013, reached US\$5.97 billion by the end of July. However due to perceptions of future negative developments the capitalization fell to US\$5.34 billion soon after the announcement of election results. Whilst taken as a whole the statistics show positive



growth, the exchange continues to have challenges which include; minimal corporate actions, absence of new listings, and many struggling companies. Some of the listed companies are struggling due to lack of working capital and an inability to meet the continuing obligations of listed companies.

Inflation

With respect to the first half of 2013, annual inflation was 2.5% in January, rising to 3% in February before slowing down to 2.8%, 2.5% and 2.2% in March, April and May respectively. In June 2013, inflation stood 1.87%. The low inflation during this period was attributable to a number of factors. These include the depressed aggregate demand due to liquidity challenges; depreciation of the rand and the associated low inflation in our major trading partner, South Africa; stiff competition in goods market as a result of the liberalized pricing system; and decreasing international oil prices. Following these developments in the first half of 2013 the Minister of Finance revised down the annual average inflation for the year 2013 to 3% from the original Budget projection of 4.5%.

Trade and Balance of Payments

According to the recent Midterm Budget Review statement for the period January to May 2013, exports stood at US\$1.301 billion compared to US\$1.328 billion realized during the same period last year. By the end of 2013, exports are projected to reach US\$4.5 billion compared to US\$3.88 billion realized in 2012. However, significant recovery of exports will be constrained mainly by limited foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, structural rigidities in the economy as well as declining international commodity prices for gold, platinum and diamonds.

Imports amounted to US\$3.205 billion for the period January to May 2013 compared to US\$2.601 billion recorded in the corresponding previous year. This represents a 23% increase in imports. Consequently, imports are projected to reach US\$7.6 billion by the end of the year compared to US\$7.4 billion realized in 2012.

The current account deficit is expected to marginally decrease as a result of the slight improvement in exports performance. The current account deficit to GDP ratio is projected to drop slightly from 21% in 2012 to 18% by the end of 2013.

Since 2009, the country has failed to attract significant capital inflows as result of the perceived country risk, which lowers investor confidence. Reflecting this, foreign direct investment, portfolio investment and grants inflows have been volatile over the past few years. Net direct investment this year is expected to fall to US\$334million from US\$354million in 2012. The country has taken a number of FDI-unfriendly measures, like expropriating mines and threatening to nationalize the banks through its Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act. Net portfolio investments are expected to increase slightly from US\$99million in 2012 to US\$100million in 2013.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Weather Update

Information from the Meteorological Department shows that the 2012-13 agricultural seasons was not good and associated with poor rainfall distribution and mid-season dry spells. The onset of rains in most parts of the country was late and towards the end of November. Rainfall distribution across most provinces was erratic both in space and time. In the northern and central provinces the first rains were followed by a dry spell in most



districts. This was then followed by a period of continuous heavy rains that led to leaching and also made it difficult for farmers to control weeds. Poor growth of crops was the result. In some areas the rains left early before crops reached maturity and crops suffered from lack of moisture. The southern half of the country experienced drought conditions with rains arriving late and then extended dry periods from January to March. In most southern areas food crops wilted beyond recovery.

Agricultural Output Estimates -2012/13

The projected production outturn for 2012/13 is shown in Table 1 (Appendix). Decreased production for some commodities was mainly the result of the late onset and uneven distribution of rainfall, an outbreak of Armyworm, poor and late distribution of inputs, and the unavailability of Ammonium Nitrate. Poor liquidity, high input costs, high cost of credit, high water and electricity charges, and unreliable services are some of the other challenges that farmers faced during the season.

The Second Round Crop and Livestock Assessment Report from the Ministry of Agriculture indicates that 798,600 tons of maize will be realized in 2013, down from an initial estimate of 1,100 000 tons. This is also a reduction from the 833,000 tons produced in 2012. The negative factors described above led to more than one third of the maize crop being written off which affected the overall targeted agricultural output for the year.

Sorghum output is this year expected to increase from 64,700 tonnes recorded last year to about 69,200 tonnes in 2013. However, output for small grains (millets) is expected to decline to 41,000 tonnes this year from 43,700 tonnes harvested in 2012.

Winter wheat production continues to suffer numerous challenges which threaten production feasibility. In 2013 the main negative features included low dam levels due to poor rains, intermittent power supplies, rising production costs and reluctance of financial institutions to fund production. Given the above there is strong resistance from farmers to growing the crop and wheat output is projected at 17,000 tonnes in 2013, down from the 22,000 tonnes realized in 2012.

A decrease in output of cotton has occurred this year following diversification out of this crop due to very poor prices being received by cotton growers in the 2011/12 season. The projected harvest is around 150,000 tonnes of cotton this year which is less than half of the 342,000 tonnes achieved last year.

Statistics from the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) show that the cumulative volume of tobacco sales for 2013 rose to 164.1 million kgs sold at an average price of \$3.69 up from 2012 where 144.5 million kgs of tobacco were sold at an average price of US\$3.65. However, tobacco farmers failed to meet this year's target of 170million kgs that had been set by TIMB. Tobacco output has been on an upward trend since dollarisation. TIMB said more than 65,000 farmers registered to grow and sell the flue cured tobacco in 2012/13 season compared to 34,673 last season. Of the 65,000 growers who registered 43,000 were small scale farmers while 22,000 were commercial farmers. It is the contribution of this crop that is primarily responsible for the growth in overall agricultural output projected for 2013.

Horticultural production is anticipated to marginally increase in 2013. However, future prospects are being threatened by cheap imports particularly from neighbouring countries that have flooded the market and crowded out local producers; deteriorating irrigation infrastructure; and lack of technical skills and expertise by local farmers in handling fresh and highly perishable produce in line with best practices.



Regarding livestock, a moderate increase in milk production is forecast for this year and the number of beef cattle slaughtered is projected to fall slightly.

Inputs Report

Total maize seed supplies were estimated at 54,000 tonnes for the 2012/13 season and this was adequate to meet demand by all farmers during the season. However, seed houses say they have registered a low uptake of maize seed as compared to previous seasons. Statistics show that the only about 35,000 tonnes of seed were sold. This was because most farmers did not have funding whilst others shifted to growing cash crops such as tobacco. Farmers had a variety of seed types to choose from different seed houses ranging from hybrid seed to open pollinated varieties, long, medium and short season varieties. The quantities of seed available through the formal channel for secondary crops such as sorghum, groundnuts and millets were low in comparison to the area which was put under these crops. This could be because farmers generally rely on retained seeds and farmer to farmer exchanges.

According to fertilizer companies, fertilizers were readily available during the 2012/13 season. However, uptake was very low since prices are relatively high. The local manufacturers produced about 140,000 tonnes of both Compound D and Ammonium Nitrate. The sole local producer of Ammonium Nitrate, Sable Chemicals, is still facing challenges in form of high electricity tariffs, power outages, and constant equipment breakdowns. Hence the company could not meet local requirements resulting in nitrogenous fertilizers being imported from other countries to cover the shortfall.

Stock feeds, dips, and crop chemicals were generally available on the market. However, usage was limited because high prices resulted in affordability problems.

The power supply situation in Zimbabwe has not been favourable during the 2012/13 season. This arises from the fact that the installed power generation capacity in the country is less than demand and the 600 MW gap has to be met through imports and load-shedding. When payments to external suppliers become problematical ZESA is forced to ration supplies to both commercial and domestic users. In agriculture, the resultant power cuts negatively affect irrigated crops and other farm operations that are dependent on electricity.

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

These have remained largely unchanged for several years, and are repeated here.

- Unresolved land reform issues continue to seriously undermine productivity in commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe.
- There is an acute under-utilisation of land and resources in the commercial farm areas.
- There is still no security of tenure. Without security and confidence most farmers are unwilling to undertake any medium to long term investments.
- The absence of a land market prevents financial institutions from granting loans to all farmers because there is little or no collateral to support loans.
- Lack of collateral and the liquidity crisis results in insufficient finance for short term working capital and medium to long term finance for equipment purchase and capital development.
- High input costs and uncompetitive costs of production for many agricultural commodities
- Poorly functioning and generally inefficient agricultural markets which sometimes result in late or non-payment for produce sold by farmers.



- Trade barriers as well as liquidity challenges have remained major constraints for agricultural markets to perform efficiently and effectively.
- Unfair competition from cheap and sometimes genetically modified imports.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

After the July election this year it is imperative that the new political dispensation should adopt strategies that result in actions taken to resolve the issues listed in the section above if the agricultural sector is to prosper. Growth and development are contingent on a stable production environment that provides incentives for farmers to expand their business operations. Opportunities for productive farming must be offered to all persons interested in taking up a career in agriculture.

PETER STYLE
VICE PRESIDENT
COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION
29th AUGUST 2013



TOTAL PRODUCTION OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS in ZIMBABWE (000 tonnes)														
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*
Grains and Cereals														
Maize	2,043.20	1,476.24	498.54	754.00	950.00	750.00	945.00	697.00	417.10	781.25	819.25	895.00	833.00	798.60
Wheat	250.00	314.00	186.50	120.00	121.65	134.00	170.20	64.55	25.55	18.05	11.30	26.00	22.00	17.00
Sorghum	61.91	60.74	23.82	59.56	124.00	111.00	108.40	81.50	103.00	113.50	73.60	50.54	64.70	69.20
Barley	32.00	32.00	58.00	50.00	36.40	43.00	53.50	32.00	24.50	33.15	40.50	30.00	35.00	44.00
Small Grains (millets)	31.00	43.20	14.20	41.50	71.70	30.60	72.30	49.90	55.00	43.32	50.90	36.10	43.70	41.00
Traditional Export Crops														
Tobacco Flue Cured	236.13	202.54	165.84	81.81	69.00	73.39	54.25	73.39	48.72	57.00	123.00	132.00	144.50	164.10
Tobacco Air Cured	8.16	4.60	3.99	1.99	1.00	0.34	0.27	0.09	0.06	0.15	0.23	0.31	0.48	0.51
Cotton	353.00	280.50	195.67	159.50	364.20	196.30	207.90	255.00	223.02	210.09	149.90	195.00	342.00	150.00
Oilseed Crops														
Soya beans	149.94	175.08	72.41	70.26	71.00	54.00	54.80	67.60	51.20	43.30	57.30	59.00	70.50	76.90
Groundnuts	190.89	171.78	58.56	86.50	64.10	57.80	83.10	126.80	116.55	44.46	136.70	97.50	108.20	86.90
Sunflower	9.20	30.30	4.63	16.90	20.20	7.40	16.70	31.10	33.40	16.25	11.80	8.23	6.90	17.00
Plantation and Industrial Export Crops														
Tea	21.80	21.73	22.88	22.54	20.72	16.87	15.43	15.11	13.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	10.50	9.50
Coffee	6.54	7.26	6.60	5.52	7.20	3.96	2.70	1.86	1.32	0.50	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.50
Paprika	7.30	8.80	9.80	14.20	10.80	3.20	3.80	1.01	0.74	0.26	0.34	0.69	0.81	1.00
Flowers	17.86	17.86	21.89	22.80	20.17	16.27	14.33	10.17	8.00	5.00	7.50	7.50	5.00	7.00
Citrus	39.32	39.32	33.64	43.19	47.77	34.23	26.31	26.45	19.00	15.00	29.75	30.00	30.00	32.00
Fresh Produce	10.22	10.22	7.51	9.64	10.24	7.28	4.95	5.33	4.00	3.00	3.20	4.50	5.00	8.00
Sugar	538.00	515.00	581.00	502.74	422.30	400.00	446.65	400.00	380.00	280.00	300.00	333.00	372.00	370.00
Livestock														
Dairy	187.05	176.77	153.13	114.08	97.64	94.55	92.50	87.36	47.72	37.00	47.00	56.00	50.50	55.00
Beef Slaughters (nos)	605.00	630.00	720.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	300.00	250.00	200.00	180.00	200.00	220.00	220.00	215.00
* Estimates														



COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION **LEGAL AFFAIRS REPORT TO CONGRESS**

INTRODUCTION

From the outset I must note that what guides my work at the CFU is my understanding that the membership of the CFU has a vision of a vibrant, diverse and highly productive agricultural industry which is the cornerstone of Zimbabwe's national economy. It therefore follows that the CFU must have as one of its core missions to lobby and advocate for an optimal business environment for farmers in Zimbabwe. This is because only an optimal business environment for farmers, and the value chains in which they participate, can deliver the vision. To define a farmer's optimal business environment is not easy but I would hazard to suggest that it requires the following fundamental elements regardless of what type of farmer you may be:

- Secure long term bankable land tenure,
- Easy access to affordable and competitive credit facilities for long, medium and seasonal terms,
- Adequate infrastructure in terms of roads, rail, water storage and electricity supply,
- Robust research and development and high standards of control of pests and diseases,
- Access to and information about cutting edge technologies in terms of seed varieties, chemicals, improved techniques and methods,
- Regionally competitive costs for electricity and water,
- Good cost effective service delivery from local authorities,
- Fair standards of labour which strike an appropriate balance between workers' rights and farmers' competitiveness and viability,
- A progressive taxation regime which stimulates growth in the agricultural sector,
- Removal of trade barriers and access to all markets,
- Fair trade practices and protection from monopolies and cartels.

This is not an exhaustive list but these requirements are what I believe farmers want and need in order to have successful businesses. So with this in mind my report will focus on strategies employed by CFU in the past 12 months to lobby and advocate for an improved business environment including the following issues: Electricity, Water, Rural District Councils, The Agricultural Marketing Authority, Value Added Tax on certain Primary Agricultural Commodities, The Environmental Management Agency and Labour Affairs. A brief mention will also be made of the work the Union must do in the year ahead with regard to each one of these issues.

However, before I begin, I must note that any report relating to Legal and Policy Issues in Zimbabwe must allow for mention being made of the coming into being of the new Constitution. It remains to be seen whether our new Constitutional dispensation will have the effect of creating a more favourable business environment for farmers, but a reading of some parts of the document is very encouraging. Most notably:

JOINT ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING INITIATIVES

The Union appreciates that farmer representation in Zimbabwe is highly fragmented, therefore the ability of any one Union or Farmers Association to lobby for reforms to the farmers business environment on their own is limited. Consequently the CFU has made great efforts to form inclusive alliances with other Farmers Unions. The two most important initiatives are mentioned below:



THE JOINT FARMER'S UNION PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

This is a loose structure providing for the monthly meeting of the Four Farmers' Union Presidents or their approved representatives. The idea is that areas of common interest and joint lobbying initiatives can be discussed and action plans made. Chairmanship rotates amongst the four registered Unions. A reminder of which Farmers Unions are registered is as follows: the Zimbabwe National Farmers Union (ZNFU), the Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers' Union (ZCFU), the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union (ZFU) and ourselves.

THE ZIMBABWE FARMERS ALLIANCE TRUST

Most members will be aware of the alliance between ZFU and CFU which provides a vehicle for a formal working relationship and joint projects.

Both of these initiatives, it is hoped, will provide stepping stones to the eventual formation of a strong united and effective farmers' union or federation of farmers' unions to strengthen representation and influence. In all of the issues discussed below, where possible, the CFU has tried to engage the other farmers unions in joining forces to lobby for reform.

ELECTRICITY ISSUES

The most important points are:

- The Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) has continued in the last year with its "wheat farming cluster" scheme which prioritizes certain clusters of wheat producers as being fully or partially load shedding exempt. On the whole this scheme has been successful.
- The installation of pre-paid meters in particular is in urban areas but plans are to roll out pre-paid billing for agricultural customers.
- Feedback from most farmers is that the current tariff of USD 0.14 per kilowatt hour (inclusive of VAT and the Rural Electrification Levy) is a significant contributor to the high costs of production.

In the coming year the thrust of our lobbying will continue to be the prioritization of farming as a load shedding exempt sector of the economy and the reduction of farmer tariffs to foster greater competitiveness.

WATER ISSUES

In 2011 and 2012 the Union made substantial efforts to lobby both the Ministry of Water and Water Resource Development together with the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) to reduce the cost of "Agreement Water" to Commercial Farmers and Large Estates. We were pleased to note that the national blend price for raw water was lowered from USD 12.19 to USD 6.82 per mega litre of allocated water.

In the past month we have heard reports that ZINWA intends to increase this price to in excess of USD 18.00. This will be absolutely unsustainable and clearly lowering this fee will be the thrust of our lobbying activities. In addition we would seek to work with ZINWA to partner in the production of a pamphlet for farmers which explains what is expected of them and how raw water charges are calculated.



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES

The ongoing issues that are reported by farmers are that:

- The Land Unit Rates in regions IV and V are too high and are not cognisant of the business of extensive cattle and/or game ranching which are the main, and most suitable, activities in these areas.
- The proposed model by-law imposing a substantial levy on private sales of cattle will destroy the viability of cattle production.

CFU and ZFU under ZFAT have prepared a joint position paper. We have also engaged with the Livestock Meat and Advisory Council (LMAC) to seek their input. This paper has been submitted to the Ministry of Local Government.

In addition we have participated with the Joint Presidents' Council to lobby for farmers in respect of the above issues. A joint press statement by the four unions was given to the media. No firm decision has been made by Ministry as yet. The current situation is that the model by-law has not been adopted and that some of the Rural District Councils continue to raise invoices for high land unit rates. In the year ahead it is planned that the four unions will follow up with Ministry and engage with the Association of Rural District Councils.

THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AUTHORITY (AMA)

The most significant development with regard to AMA is the attempt to regularize the contract farming of grains, cereals and oilseeds. The CFU and other farmers' unions have been engaged by AMA to input into a statutory instrument which will give greater protection to both contractors and farmers under contract farming arrangements.

This has culminated in the promulgation of SI 140 of 2013 which, amongst other things, requires all contractors to register with the Authority and criminalizes respectively:

- Contractors, for late supply of inputs and non-payment of agreed purchase price and
- Farmers, for side marketing and diversion of inputs supplied under a contract.

VALUE ADDED TAX ON CERTAIN PRIMARY COMMODITIES

The main issue here is the uncollected VAT for soya bean and white sugar sales between February 2009 and the 1st of August 2012 resulting from the generally held erroneous impression that these items were zero rated for VAT.

The CFU has submitted a request to the Ministry of Finance that the zero rating of soya beans for VAT be back dated to February 2009 which is analogous to the position with sales of contract grown Tobacco. No response has yet been received. We have also been in discussions with Triangle Estates and their lawyers to explore the opportunities of a combined court action covering both soya beans and white sugar.

In the coming year it is planned to resume engagement with the Ministry of Finance on this issue.



THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AGENCY

There are two main issues in this regard:

- The ambiguity in the regulations makes it unclear whether farmers are required to obtain and pay for a License to store fuel on their farms. The License fees are, relatively speaking, very high being in excess of USD 600 per year.
- The high license fee for the discharge of effluent from Dairy parlours.

I have successfully dealt with a number of cases where large spot fines have been raised against farmers in a very high handed manner.

In the coming year it is proposed that through the Joint President's Council proposals will be made to the new Ministry of Environment and Water Resource Management.

LABOUR AFFAIRS REPORT

I am very happy to report that in the last year we have made a breakthrough in the area of labour relations and minimum wage negotiations. The National Employment Council for the Agricultural Industry (NEC) invited us on the back of substantial lobbying at the Ministry of Labour, to participate in all future wage negotiations.

Our inclusion, together with the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association (ZTA), has had a significant impact. We were able to resist the trade union demands and keep close to our position of increases being on an annual basis in line with the annual rate of inflation.

In addition we have applied in the name of CFU to be registered as an employer's organisation in terms of the Labour Act which automatically entitles us to a seat on the NEC.

We were saddened by the departure of Tongai Marodza who has been a great asset to both the Agricultural Labour Bureau and the CFU for many many years. We wish Tongai well in the future.

We are adamant that the services Tongai offered were crucial and we must continue to offer them. We are therefore delighted to announce that we have an excellent service to offer to members and non member clients. We have engaged the services of Mr Luxmore Nhutzve, a very experienced retired GAPWUZ Agent and Labour Relations Consultant. Luxmore will work closely with me and we will endeavour to provide you with the best and most competitively priced service possible. Our service fees and charges are set out in the Table below:



Service Fees for Standard and Corporate CFU Members	Service Fees for ARAC members	Service Charges for non members
<p>No charge for the first 10 hours of advice or representation thereafter: A nominal fee of USD 10.00 per hour or USD 80 per day will be raised.</p>	<p>A nominal service fee of USD 20.00 per hour or part thereof will be raised. Historical Issues relating to Labour and farm displacements will be raised at USD 10 per hour or part thereof. No charge will be raised for SI 6 Clearance Certificates.</p>	<p>A service charge of USD 30.00 per hour or part thereof will be raised.</p>
<p>For on farm visits or out of Harare Conciliation and Arbitration hearings a further charge for mileage will be raised at USD 0.40 per kilometre unless the client provides transport.</p>		

We are also very pleased to inform you that we are in the process of comprehensively updating the old ALB Hand Book. The new look “Agricultural Employer’s Handbook, 2013 Edition” will hopefully be available, depending on the cost of printing, at no charge to Standard and Corporate members and will be provided on payment of their subscription/license fee in the forthcoming licensing year. It will also be on sale to the general public at a price to be confirmed later.

In addition we are preparing a calendar of planned half day seminars and refresher courses on labour relation regulations, essentially, “What *the law requires of employers.*” Aspects covered will include Health and Safety in the work place, and getting to the bottom of NSSA. Apart from these activities in the coming year we plan to engage more with the NEC and other agricultural employer representative bodies to ensure that all employers are organized and represented to the highest possible standard.

OTHER LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVING THE CFU

Finally, mention must be made of the litigation in which the Union is involved in particular the ongoing Nelmah Holdings Case. You will recall that the Union entered into a scheme for the supply of subsidized fertilizer to its members back in the 2009/2010 season. The scheme began well but midway through the supplier, Nelmah Holdings (Pvt) Ltd breached the contract and left the Union and its members exposed. As a consequence the Union was forced to give financial guarantees to Windmill (Pvt) Ltd to continue supply of fertilizer to the members who had already paid the subsidized price.

The Union has subsequently obtained judgment, a writ of execution and most latterly an order for liquidation against Nelmah Holdings. Other creditors include Seed Co, Pioneer and CBZ Bank. We have had a number of assurances from Nelmah Holdings that they are at an advanced stage in arranging a means of paying the Union the amounts it is owed together with interest and legal costs. However until something substantial materializes we will proceed with the liquidation process.

MARC CARRIE-WILSON
MANAGER: LEGAL, POLICY AND LABOUR PORTFOLIO
SEPTEMBER 2013



COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION OF ZIMBABWE

RESOLUTION 1

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO THE 70th ANNUAL CONGRESS: FARMERS'
LICENCE FEES AND RULES**

The Council of the Commercial Farmers' Union resolves and recommends to Congress the adoption of an Annual Farmers' Licence Fee for the 2013/2014 licensing Year commencing on 01 October 2013 to become due and payable on 01 October 2013.

Council further resolves and recommends to Congress the adoption of a payment commencing 01 October 2013 and ending 30 September 2014 applicable to all members as illustrated in the following schedule.

CLASSIFICATION	LICENCE FEE PAYABLE
Farming operators	USD 800.00 (for Cash) USD 1000.00 (for Terms)
Associate members	USD 1500.00
Non operators (ARAC) under 70 years	USD 200.00 (Recommended Fee)
Non operators (ARAC) Pensioners 70 years & over	USD 50.00 (Recommended Fee)

In the event of a member wishing to pay for only a part of the year the full amount as indicated will be applicable.

Further Council resolves and recommends to Congress that all producers of commodities as recognized by the Unions' Constitution pay a levy on the crop or livestock product to the Union at the disposal of the crop or livestock on a percentage as determined by the Executive Committee of the Union.

Finally, Council resolves and recommends to Congress that approval be given to the granting of a mandate to Council to raise any additional fees to provide for the financing of the Commercial Farmers' Union during the 2013/2014 Licensing Year.

Note 1: Non operators are defined as members who are not engaged in any **farming activities whatsoever** and are not farming by reasons not of their own choice, have been disposed of their farms and are not leasing any other agricultural land, have relocated into towns or cities, and are either generating another source of income other than farming or are pensioners.

Note 2: Associated and/or Extended Membership is defined as persons, companies, firms, trusts and other bodies or persons that have previously been involved with the Commercial Farming Industry in Zimbabwe, other farmers' unions or members of the Commercial Farmers' Union, other farmers' unions or associations that are based in Zimbabwe or in other countries within Africa, and persons or bodies that are seeking the opportunity to enter the Agricultural Industry anywhere in Zimbabwe or Africa, and who will actively seek support of the Union and its objectives, or any person wishing to be



association with this Union and abide by its principles but not necessarily deriving any income from agriculture, and are prepared to pay the subscriptions stipulated for this class of membership as fixed by Council from time to time.

Note 3: Farming operators are defined as members who are engaged in farming activities, be it fully or partially, and deriving an income from agriculture land within Zimbabwe.

Note 4: The above fees are inclusive of VAT. Please quote your VAT number when making payments. Failure to do so will render your VAT receipt invalid for claiming input tax.

NEW MEMBERS

New members are defined as members eligible to join the Union for the first time during the course of the year commencing on October 2013.

RULES FOR PAYMENT OF FARMERS' LICENCE

Preamble

In terms of Clause 7.3 (xii) of the Union's Constitution the Council has the power to pass rules for the regulation of business provided such rules are submitted to the next ensuing Congress of the Union for approval.

Accordingly the Council of the Union has adopted the following rules for the regulation of the terms and conditions under which it will issue Farmers' Licences to members. These rules are in concert with the provisions for membership in terms of Clause 4 of the Union's Constitution.

On completion and signing of the Farmer Licence Application form and payment of the appropriate fee, the Union shall issue a numbered Farmers' Licence to persons, companies, firms, trusts or other bodies eligible for full membership, valid for such period as Council may determine but not exceeding 12 months, commencing 01 October each year subject to the following rules:

Rules

1. One Farmers' Licence is required per Farmers' Association in which a member, who owns or leases property, provided that in the case of multiple property ownership the properties are in the name of the same person or company.
2. Where a member owns or leases two or more properties in the same Farmers' Association that are operated in different companies a Farmers' Licence is required in respect of each company.
3. Where a member owns or leases two or more properties that are located in different Farmers' Associations or regions, an additional licence fee is required for each Farmer's Association in which the member owns a property.
4. Where a property or multiple properties are bisected by a Farmers' Association or Commercial Farmers' Union Regional boundary the location of the member's



principle residence shall determine the Farmers' Association or Region to which that member belongs.

5. One membership card to any person, company, firm, trust or other body as determined under Associated and Extended Membership as determined and approved by Council.
6. Any member who is dissatisfied with the manner in which the rules are applied to his particular situation may appeal to the Finance Committee of the Union, which shall have the authority to relax or vary the application of the Rules to affect an equitable licence fee payable by the member on good cause shown. The Finance Committee shall not be obliged to grant any relief and any relief that is granted shall be reported to the Chairman of the Farmers' Association within whose area the property or properties or the member may be situated.

PROPOSED: C. TAFFS

PRESIDENT

SECONDED: P. STEYL

VICE PRESIDENT



COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION

RESOLUTION 2

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO THE 70TH ANNUAL CONGRESS:-
PROPOSAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEDERATION BETWEEN CFU
AND ZFU AGRICULTURAL UNIONS'**

The Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) and Zimbabwe Farmers' Union (ZFU) are currently in a joint partnership with each other regarding the upliftment of both Union's membership in general.

Both Unions are also involved with the Zimbabwe Farmers Alliance Trust (ZFAT). This Trust focuses mainly on the livelihoods and capacitation of farmers at grass root level.

This mutual agreement between ZFAT, CFU and ZFU has been successfully functioning and in operation for the last two years. The CFU has participated in this forum and the participation has now shifted focus to the next level, where the need to explore and find ways of implementing a Federation between CFU and ZFU that will represent the interest of both commercial, large and small holder farmers within Zimbabwe is created.

Council further resolves that this Federation must be based on the similar pillars as currently functioning with the Zambian National Farmers' Union (ZNFU). At all times the existing assets of both CFU and ZFU must not be included within this Federation.

To this end, Council therefore requires the mandate from Congress to pursue and fully investigate the possibility of forming this Federation structure. In the event of this Federation structure being ready to be implemented before the next Congress, Council will call for an Extra Ordinary Special meeting, whereby a report back will be given to the membership and the progress made and final authority be obtained from the membership to proceed.

Proposed – Vice President Peter Steyl

Seconded – ARAC Chairman Patrick Ashton

RECIPIENTS OF HONORARY AWARDS

SAM AND JANET CAWOOD The Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe hereby pays tribute to one of most incredible relationships in commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe.

Sam and Janet Cawood began their farming operations in the driest area of the Southern Lowveld after getting to know and love the area whilst surveying a huge area which had been subdivided off the huge Nuanetsi Ranch.



They later acquired Kleinbegin Ranch which has been their home for over 40 years. Sam and Janet became fluent speakers of the Venda language which is spoken by the local people in the area with whom they developed an incredible relationship over the years.

Sam is a Chartered Surveyor and Janet a Chartered Accountant and together they developed a successful cattle ranching operation that was the envy of many. They were meticulous in everything they undertook and their success was due to their incredible partnership which incorporated the latest scientific methods of farming based on sound economic principles.

Surviving in this extremely dry and drought prone area meant discovering unique methods of tapping into the underground water resources of the area. They became pioneers in the development method of drilling into and drawing water from the sandy river beds. They also used their geological knowledge to discover water in the deep Karoo sands in areas that were previously considered waterless.

As their cattle business and number of ranches grew they found that whilst the northern part of the country was benefiting hugely through the export of beef to the EU countries through the Lome Agreement, the Lowveld cattle producers were getting a raw deal.

It was then that Sam was elected onto the Cattle Producers' Association through which he tirelessly pursued the introduction of price parity for cattle slaughtered at the Cold Storage Commission in the southern areas which were hindered by Foot and Mouth Disease movement restrictions. With these exports the zoning of Foot and Mouth Disease prone areas was introduced and Sam ensured that the export zones would slowly be increased to cover the restricted areas.

Sam and Janet also spent hours and days working on how the meat grading systems at the CSC could be improved and therefore benefit producers. A complex new grading system was introduced which was a real credit to their incredible teamwork.

On their own ranches their own breeding programmes were improved to cater specifically for the requirements of the beef exports as well as being based on very sound economic principles. They built up the largest pedigree herd of top quality Brahman cattle which numbered over 900 head. The superior genes from their bulls have significantly improved the quality of many herds in Zimbabwe.

Sam and Janet had a deep affinity and caring attitude towards their fellow farmers of all ethnic backgrounds and should they see a man falling they are always the first to offer assistance. They have always been more than willing to share their knowledge and incredible experience with any new farmers in the area.



It is for these above reasons and their totally selfless attitudes which has lead us to recognise one of the most amazing and successful family partnerships in Zimbabwean agriculture.

Awarded with thanks during the Commercial Farmers' Union 70th Annual Congress on Wednesday 30th October 2013 at Royal Harare Golf Club, Zimbabwe.

ALEXANDER JOHN LAURIE The Commercial Farmers' Union has noted the efforts in particular of JOHN who constantly promotes and supports all aspects of recording infrastructure development and land holdings on all the farms throughout Zimbabwe onto a national database and his desire to assist in the verification of those properties recorded and valued by the valuation Consortium (Valcon) over the last 10 years.



The endeavours of John to represent the interests of all farmers and the Union under prevailing difficult circumstances and without any financial support, so as to enable a fair valuation and ultimately find an amicable solution in the compensation and restitution to the farmer and which must be acceptable to all parties including the Government of Zimbabwe and International Community are exemplary.

The Commercial Farmers' Union therefore wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to John Laurie for his dedicated and unselfish services.

Awarded with thanks during the Commercial Farmers' Union 70th Annual Congress on Wednesday 30th October 2013 at Royal Harare Golf Club, Zimbabwe.



DR CLIVE LEVY The Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe hereby pays tribute to DR CLIVE LEVY for his incredible contribution to commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe.

Sadly, Clive unfortunately passed away suddenly on 11th August 2013 before this recognition of his work could be bestowed on him personally.

He was probably the most experienced Plant Pathologists in the country, who specialised in Soya Bean diseases, although his advice covered many other fields and diseases affecting numerous other crops as well.



He was a true scientist and was in fact a world authority on many subjects within his field. He was quite sought after by fellow scientists around the world and in fact spent much time in the United States of America both during his tuition and after. As a result he delivered and published some 20 scientific papers.

Whilst some have queried why such a highly qualified and internationally recognised scientist had not continued with his research and lecturing, Clive was passionate about Zimbabwean farmers and his work. He was happiest when his boots were in the field investigating disease and advising on the control thereof.

During his time with the CFU he was invited to attend and speak at numerous scientific meetings in a number of countries around the world, which included – West Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, USA, Zambia and South Africa and of course Zimbabwe.

Being the quiet and incredibly hardworking man that he was we are only slowly getting to know more about his life but the more we hear the more impressive the nature of the man becomes.

Above all, though we grieve at the loss of such a talented and industrious person who had devoted all of his life towards his fellow man and in particular the increased productivity of Zimbabwean agriculture we hereby fully recognise his thorough work and absolute commitment.

There is nobody in the industry more worthy of such recognition at this time and we wish to include this together with several other awards he has already received.

Awarded with thanks during the Commercial Farmers' Union 70th Annual Congress on Wednesday 30th October 2013 at Royal Harare Golf Club, Zimbabwe.



TRIBUTES FOR LONG AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE

MICHAEL ANTHONY CLARK The Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to **MIKE** for his dedicated and outstanding service in representing and promoting the interests of the Commercial Farmers' Union.



At all times over the last 16 years in your capacity as Masvingo Regional Chairman you have represented the farmers at Council with distinction. You have showed yourself to possess an in depth knowledge of all developments that might affect the Union and the membership which you represent.

The Commercial Farmer's Union also wishes to acknowledge the invaluable contribution you have made in capturing and collating all the relevant information and available data on all farms throughout Zimbabwe into a recognised database worthy of mentioning.

The Commercial Farmers' Union therefore wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to **MICHAEL CLARK** for his dedicated and exemplary services.

Awarded with thanks during the Commercial Farmers' Union 70th Annual Congress on Wednesday 30th October 2013 at Royal Harare Golf Club, Zimbabwe.

TREVOR GIFFORD The Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to **TREVOR** for his dedicated and outstanding service in representing and promoting the interests of both the Commercial Farmers' Union and its membership.



It is worthy of mentioning that through **TREVOR'S** leadership as Chairman of the Coffee Growers Association, member on the Zimbabwe Coffee Mill Board, Coffee Grower of the Year, Vice President and President of the Commercial Farmers' Union he at all times showed to possess an in depth knowledge of developments that affected his membership which he so ably represented and that of the Union which he defended.

The Commercial Farmers' Union wishes also to acknowledge the considerable efforts made by him in his term of office as President in restoring relationships and uniting the farming community in all forms of both large and small holder farmers.

The Commercial Farmers' Union therefore wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to Trevor Gifford for his dedicated and exemplary service.

Awarded with thanks during the Commercial Farmers' Union 70th Annual Congress on Wednesday 30th October 2013 at Royal Harare Golf Club, Zimbabwe.



BENSON KALI The Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to **BENSON** for his dedicated and outstanding service in representing and promoting the interests of the Commercial Farmers' Union.



It is further worthy of mentioning that **BENSON** has 35 years of uninterrupted service with the Commercial Farmers' Union.

At all times and in all ways, your service to the Union in your capacity as a loyal staff member in various portfolios and at times under very difficult circumstances proved to be exemplary. You have proved beyond doubt that you possess an in depth knowledge and understanding of both the Council and members you have serviced so well.

The Commercial Farmers' Union wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to **BENSON KALI** for his dedicated services.

Awarded with thanks during the Commercial Farmers' Union 70th Annual Congress on Wednesday 30th October 2013 at Royal Harare Golf Club, Zimbabwe.

PHILLIP MARODZA The Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to **PHILLIP** for his dedicated and outstanding service in representing and promoting the interests of the Commercial Farmers' Union.



It is further worthy of mentioning that **PHILLIP** has 46 years of uninterrupted service with the Commercial Farmers' Union.

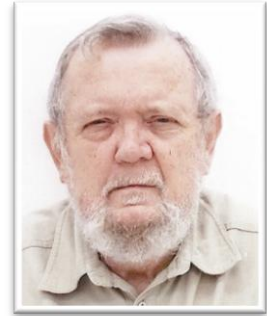
At all times and in all ways, your service to the Union in your capacity as a loyal staff member in various portfolios and at times under very difficult circumstances proved to be exemplary. You have proved beyond doubt that you possess an in depth knowledge and understanding of both the Council and members you have serviced so well.

The Commercial Farmers' Union wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to **PHILLIP MARODZA** for his dedicated services.

Awarded with thanks during the Commercial Farmers' Union 70th Annual Congress on Wednesday 30th October 2013 at Royal Harare Golf Club, Zimbabwe.



NEIL WRIGHT The Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to NEIL for his dedicated and outstanding service in representing and promoting the interests of both the Commercial Farmers' Union and its members.



At all times over the last 30 years in your capacity as Senior and Chief Economist you have been an indispensable member of the team, having represented the farmers especially the Agricultural Information Services Department at Council with distinction. You have shown yourself to possess an in depth knowledge of all developments that might affect the Union and the membership which you represent.

The Commercial Farmer's Union also wishes to acknowledge the invaluable contribution you have made in capturing, collating and documenting all the relevant information into documents giving an overview of Zimbabwe's economic and agricultural position. These documents are recognised both locally and internationally,

The Commercial Farmers' Union therefore wishes to acknowledge and pay tribute to NEIL WRIGHT for his dedicated and exemplary services.

Awarded with thanks during the Commercial Farmers' Union 70th Annual Congress on Wednesday 30th October 2013 at Royal Harare Golf Club, Zimbabwe.

Dr Clive Levy



16/10/1957 - 11/08/2103



OBITUARY

DR CLIVE LEVY: 16 OCTOBER 1957 – 11 AUGUST 2013

Clive passed away suddenly on Sunday morning from a fatal heart attack, following a very short illness.

This has come as a huge shock to us all at your Union as he was a highly respected, hard working and dedicated member of our team.

He remained a bachelor as he never married and is survived only by his 3 nephews, who live outside the country, to whom we send our most sincere condolences.

Clive was one of those people who put everything he had into his job which he carried out in a scientific manner and with absolute dedication, putting in many, many hours of his own time outside normal office hours. Any work that was done was performed meticulously and with absolute accuracy and he would not submit anything that could later be questioned. He was a pleasure to work with, thoroughly trustworthy and a good team player.

Clive was born and brought up in Salisbury (as it was then) and, apart from his time at university, lived in the same house in Belvedere all his life. He was educated at Belvedere Junior School and Prince Edward Boys' High School. In 1980 he did his B.Sc in plant pathology and microbiology at the University of Natal where he qualified with an Honours degree.

In 1982 to 1986 he studied further and carried out more plant research work at the University of Zimbabwe before studying further at the University of Illinois in the United States of America through which he received his Doctorate after completing his D.Phil. on "Aspects of morphology, cultural and pathogenic characteristics of the fungus, *Pyrenochaeta glycines*, causal agent of red leaf blotch of soya beans". This work was completed at the University of Zimbabwe under the supervision of Dr D L Cole and Professor J B Sinclair of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Clive first came to your Union in 1987 as a consultant research officer to COPA on soya bean diseases and later as an Extension Executive (Plant Pathology) for both COPA and ZCPA. Part time he was also a lecturer to M.Sc. Crop Protection students at the University of Zimbabwe. He became full time Plant Pathologist at the CFU from 1993 onwards.

During this time he was a well respected member of staff at your Union and was very popular with farmers, right from Zambia down to South Africa and was often called to consult in America on Soya bean Rust in which he was recognised as a world authority. He was deeply interested, and well qualified in his field and delighted in either lecturing on the subject at field days or talking to farmers about combating crop diseases in the field.

He also received a number of scholarships, grants and awards in recognition for his outstanding and dedicated work. Below are a few of the awards, but his list of scholarships and grants would cover several pages:-

- COPA Oscar for soya bean disease research
- Bayer Coffee Award for "outstanding contributions in research and production for the improvement of coffee bean standards in Zimbabwe".

The farming community was blessed to have such a highly qualified and interesting man to help them with their crop production and he will be sorely missed. Fortunately, he has only



recently updated the ZCPA production handbook, which is now up to date with the latest information.

He was also regularly called to discuss and judge on applications for new seed varieties on the Government Crop Breeding Institute at R&SS.

As a scientist, Clive was passionate about Zimbabwean agriculture and what happened to the commercial farming sector over the past decade deeply affected him. He tried to do everything in his power to assist the remaining farmers where he could and to work towards a positive solution.

Clive was a perfectionist in everything he did and during his spare time he had a great interest in philately and medals and was a very active member of the Zimbabwe Philately Society. He has an incredible stamp collection and is a recognised authority on Rhodesian stamp history.

Clive – you will be greatly missed by many and may God be with you.



CLIVE LEVY EULOGY

16 OCTOBER 1957 – 11 AUGUST 2013

Thank you John and thank you all for being here. It is with sadness, but also tremendous pride and privilege that I am here today to say farewell to Clive on behalf of all my family.

I want to begin with some thanks to a few special people who have helped me enormously in the last few weeks. Firstly to Marc, Ben and Sheila who painstakingly tried to contact me while I was on holiday on the other side of the world, and who have been an enormous support while I have been in the country over the last few days. Thank you so much for being so patient and helpful. Secondly, to John Bell, Hendrik Olivier, Charles Taffs and all the others who have organised this memorial. It certainly wouldn't have happened today without your efforts. Finally, I want to say thank you to Vengai, Clive's domestic worker for the last thirteen years, and his family. Vengai, I saw for myself what a great relationship you and Clive had. Clive considered you a good friend, as I know you did him. I cannot imagine how difficult it must have been for you and your family to witness his death. Thank you very much, not only for your long, dedicated service, but also for all your efforts in Clive's last few days and hours.

And now to Uncle Clive. Clive was not good at everything. He was very bad at DIY, and I can say beyond any doubt that he made the worst fish curry ever to have passed my lips. Clive was also no athlete, particularly as an adult. Like every young man who went to Prince Edward School, he ran and he swam, amongst other sports – and his mother, Margaret, was a champion swimmer and his father, David, a very accomplished cricketer, so it would have been impossible to escape all sport – but it was definitely not his forte.

But beyond those few areas of relative mediocrity, Clive was an incredibly outstanding individual. His love of science and nature was very evident from a young age. He entered numerous science competitions, often winning first and second prizes, and he was involved with countless school excursions into the bush. He was an extraordinary artist from a young age and had a particular fondness for sketching and painting birds.

In fact, it was only about five years ago that I realised the beautiful sketch of a pigeon in his home was his own, from when he was a just seventeen. Over the course of his life he went on to develop an extensive knowledge of Southern African birds, for no reason other than his own intellectual curiosity.

During three holidays aged fifteen and sixteen, Clive worked in various departments at Harare Central Hospital, a job he had secured by simply writing to the hospital manager. It was more evidence of his unquenchable thirst for knowledge and intellectual stimulation. Clive was also a good and keen poet. He entered many poetry competitions during high school and continued to write poetry throughout his life. I have found many examples in the last few days.

Clive was a keen amateur astronomer with a particular interest in the measurement and observation of the universe, and his strong links with Prince Edward School as an adult revolved primarily around the Astronomy department. Later on in his life, Clive developed a real interest in UFOs, a subject on which he was very well read. I have a very happy memory of spending New Year's with Clive a few years ago. We spent hours and hours discussing UFOs while doing a jigsaw puzzle by candlelight thanks to a power cut. Obviously the jigsaw puzzle was Stamps of the World, and therein lies his greatest extracurricular interest. I know little about stamps, but my very earliest memories of Clive are of him sitting at his desk carefully peeling stamps off old envelopes. John will tell us much more about it, but from my



little understanding, his stamp collection is vast and is an astonishing example of his passion and attention to detail.

Clive began his professional career with National Service in 1976 aged 18 or 19 as a member of the British South Africa Police. He was not a military man, but he served with commitment and was very proud of his time with the police. His service was interspersed by spells at the University of Natal, on his way to becoming a very highly accomplished agricultural scientist.

The vast majority of his professional life was spent with the CFU in its various guises, so it is very fitting that we are here today. Many of you here know far more about Clive's work than I do, and I know Hendrik is going to say a little more about that, but I do want to make a few comments about it from my perspective.

It was only about ten years ago that I really appreciated the extent to which Clive was a world expert in soya bean rust. I was enormously proud to find out that my uncle was often invited abroad, even as far as the US, to speak and consult on his area of expertise. It came as no surprise to me thereafter, that he was such a highly valued member of the CFU and there is no doubt in my mind that he was a world expert. And he was a world expert who loved his work, despite often working 14-16 hours a day. Charles Taffs, you will be pleased to know that Clive wrote me an email when you were appointed President of the CFU, telling me how thrilled he was with the appointment and how much he was enjoying his work.

Like many people, Clive was aggrieved by the deterioration of the Zimbabwean agricultural sector, yet in my opinion, he remained enormously positive about the future and always believed that Zimbabwean agriculture could and would surpass the brightest days of its past. He spoke passionately and rationally about the ways in which this could be achieved, and it is clear to me that his decision to remain with the CFU through all these years, was more indicative of his passion and enthusiasm for Zimbabwean agriculture than it was for his pay check.

In recognition of his professional career, just this morning, I have discussed with a few people, the possibility of creating an annual award in Clive's name for the person who makes the biggest contribution to the knowledge pool in Zimbabwean agriculture. I am delighted by the positive response, and I will work hard to make sure that this idea transpires.

I want to speak briefly about the person Clive was. Many of you from the CFU will know that Clive had a very short temper at times. As a young boy growing up, I often found myself on the wrong side of that temper, partly because I was a naughty child, and partly because his interest in art, stamps, scientific devices and the like, were not particularly child friendly. You can imagine how much I laughed, therefore, when I found a school report from when he was seven years old. Under "conduct", it said, "Clive is very highly strung and gets agitated easily". He was also a man for frank talking. On my most recent visit to Zimbabwe, I came with a girlfriend and after about a day of knowing her, Clive said, in exactly these words: "She's awful, she's not the girl for you, you should get rid of her". He was delighted when I told him a few months later that the relationship was over.

It is my guess that these qualities, while occasionally difficult for those around him, were representative of the concentration, attention to detail, the honesty and perfection with which he applied himself to his work and his interests. And to a large extent, they were balanced by extreme humility about his abilities and talents.

Clive was particularly close to his mother and his little sister, Ann, who was my mother. When Ann died suddenly aged 26, he was distraught and it took him many years to come to



terms with the loss. Likewise, when his mother died in 1997, he suffered a great loss and missed her enormously right up until the end of his life. He had an often explosive relationship with his father, but there is a great deal of evidence to suggest a strong mutual bond between the two of them. A good example is their work designing the City of Harare and Duke of Montrose Coats of Arms, both of which are still in use today. Clive's family were certainly a huge positive influence on the person he became, and he was very aware of that. Furthermore, despite the common image of a bachelor, the uncle I knew was extremely loving and caring.

So it is obvious to me that despite his awful fish curry, Clive was an extraordinary person and he will be missed by many people, especially his colleagues at the CFU and the stamp society, where he spent the majority of his time. I want to finish by reading one of his poems, entitled The Passing of Day:

IN MEMORIUM

The Commercial Farmers' Union remembers their members that have passed away during the last year and extends their heartfelt condolences to their next of kin.

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Romans 14:8

