



# Commercial Farmers Union of Zimbabwe

71<sup>st</sup> Annual Congress  
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**Presented by Hendrik Olivier  
CFU Chief Executive Officer**

# Introduction

2013 / 2014 Overview

Current Overview

2014 / 2015 Objectives



# 2013 / 2014 Overview

- Decline in agricultural growth
- Decline in production of certain crops
- Gradual increase in maize production
- Substantial growth in tobacco industry
- Devastation to the indigenous timber sources
- Inconsistent policies

# Current Overview

## Current Situation

- Continued acquisition of properties
- Substantial decline in agricultural sector
- Lack of sound economic policy
- Zim Asset not working
- No or very little finance available for the agricultural sector
- Government of Zimbabwe introducing 99 year lease agreements / offer letters, collateral questionable
- CFU profile
- Cheap imports



# Setting Objectives for 2015

## RAISE PROFILE OF CFU AND SPREAD OBJECTIVE TO A GREATER AUDIENCE

- Engage the Government of Zimbabwe
- Engage membership
- Interact with Business, Diplomatic and International Communities

# Setting Objectives for 2015

## NEED TO FORMULATE AGRICULTURAL POLICY AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

- Work with the Government of Zimbabwe and visa versa
- Stop haemorrhaging of agricultural sector
- Formulate and establish form of security of tenure for all farmers
- Establish traditional funding mechanisms
- Address compensation and correct the past

# Setting Objectives for 2015

## INCREASE IRRIGATION POTENTIAL

- Expand and develop water resources
- Expand irrigation potential
- Develop favourable pricing system
- Stop conflicts with ZINWA and Sub-Catchment Councils over billing systems

# Setting Objectives for 2015

## JOINT PRESIDENTS COUNCIL

Principle function is to seek to ensure the best business environment possible for all farmers. This includes:-

- Following up on position papers on
  - RDC
    - Calling for reduction in land tax in regions 4 and 5
    - Removal of levies on cattle sales
  - ZINWA
    - Calling for reduction of raw water for irrigation and livestock
  - VAT
    - Removal of VAT on all primary commodities
  - Electricity
    - Special tariff for agriculture
  - Transport
    - Special dispensation for farmers





# Setting Objectives for 2015

## TOBACCO EXPANSION

- Regulate industry
- Create favourable environment
- Establish infrastructure
- Stop random destruction of environment

# Setting Objectives for 2015

## LABOUR REFORM

- Create a win-win for employee and employer
- Revamp of labour laws
- Job creation
- Participation on all levels
  - EMCOZ
  - NEC
  - Ministry of Labour



# Setting Objectives for 2015

## EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL FARMERS

- Need to uplift all classes of farmers in the category Commercial
- Diversify high value crops, especially in the small scale sector
- Establishment of rural economic hubs
- Establish growth amongst memberships
- Establish and strengthen current commodity association and their structures

# Setting Objectives for 2015

## CZU / ZFU FEDERATION STRUCTURE

- Continue working through structure of ZFAT
- Conform and align CFU constitution
- Develop new Federation Constitution
- Buy in from membership on district and provincial level
- Engage Government of Zimbabwe and other unions and commodity structures



# Setting Objectives for 2015

## LAND COMMISSION BILL

- Continue engagement and pursue to be included onto the committee
- Play an active role in developing framework for the future

***Important:*** Zimbabwe cannot deal with future if Zimbabwe does not resolve compensation from the past.

# Conclusion

- CFU has survived the pressure from the past and poised to play an active role for future agricultural policies and development
- Despite current challenges, CFU remains optimistic about the future
- The Secretariat is ready to assist the 72<sup>nd</sup> Council and new President of the Union in developing a framework



# Conclusion

THANK YOU

