

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 04, 2016

THIS Week's Highlights

- **FARMERS URGE ZESCO TO IMPLEMENT NEW TARIFFS IN PHASES**
- **ZAMPALM IN MPIKA TO EMBARK ON AN OUT GROWER SCHEME**
- **YOUNG FARMER RECEIVES A TRACTOR**

..... SEE DETAILED UPDATES BELOW.....

INDUSTRY UPDATES

FARMERS URGE ZESCO TO IMPLEMENT NEW TARIFFS IN PHASES

Choma and Kalomo farmers have called upon ZESCO to implement the new electricity tariffs in phases. This came to light during a meeting held with ZESCO in Choma at the ZNFU office on 19th January 2016. The exasperated farmers said the tariff increase of 250% for the Maximum Demand (MD) customers has affected their productivity, as production costs have more than doubled. Their main concern is the way the tariff has been implemented, as the increase was done at once. They expected gradual increase in acceptable percentages until the required percentage was reached. Farmers further said they did not oppose the increment but the manner in which the tariffs were imposed on them, which has not only impacted negatively on their production but is also likely to result in job losses.

ZAMPALM IN MPIKA TO EMBARK ON AN OUT GROWER SCHEME

ZAMPALM, a subsidiary of Zambef Group of Companies, is working in Mpika district Chief Kopa chieftdom growing palm trees and processing it into finished products. The company currently has 3,000 ha of palm tree plantation and is expanding steadily every year. The company wants to bring the local people on board in the chieftdom by embarking on an out grower scheme to help uplift the lives of the local people. This came to light during the consultative meeting with the relevant stakeholders which was held this week on the 20th January 2016 at the District Commissioner's office. Mr. Trusted Mwiinga, the plantation manager, said that the company intends to do 10,000 ha in the first phase and another 10,000 ha in the next phase.

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YOUNG FARMER RECEIVES A TRACTOR

A young farmer in Kasama has received a 75 horse power John Deere Tractor under the AFGRI, ZANACO, ZNFU and John Deere collaboration. Mr. Enock Simute, 23, becomes the first young farmer to benefit from the partnership with Afgri, Zanaco, ZNFU and John Deere. Mr. Simute has indicated that he now will be able to increase his hectare under crop production as well as assist other farmers in the surrounding area in land preparation.

ALERTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ZAMBIAN FARMER TV PROGRAMME

Don't miss next week's episode of the *Zambian Farmer TV* programme which will feature a programme titled **"Buy Local & the Potato Story"**

The *"Zambian Farmer"* is a ZNFU sponsored programme which is aired every Monday at 18:25hrs and repeated on Thursdays at 12:30 hrs on the ZAMBIA National Broadcaster Corporation, ZNBC TV1. You can also buy DVDs of your favourite *Zambian Farmer TV* program episodes from the ZNFU Head Office or you can make an order through your respective DFA office.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ZNFU/ZESCO COMMITTEE

The ZNFU/ZESCO Committee was established in 2011 by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions signed on 30th August 2011 in Lusaka. The purpose of the MoU is to promote meaningful exchange of information that facilitates for increased efficiencies in the operations of both parties and their respective stakeholders. In order to achieve this purpose, the ZNFU/ZESCO Committee has the following roles and responsibilities as enshrined in the MoU:

- ✓ ZNFU to use information availed by ZESCO to keep membership duly informed on developments at ZESCO that would likely impact their own operations.
- ✓ ZNFU to avail itself as a channel for feedback from members on all electricity related matters.
- ✓ ZNFU to use the forum to help ZESCO understand ZNFU members' business activities, allowing it to assist ZNFU members in the production of foodstuffs for the nation.
- ✓ ZESCO to recognize the strategic importance of agriculture and undertakes to prioritize supply of power to the sector in times of supply constraints including prioritizing trouble shooting/fault report response4s to all matters related to power supply and installations to the members of ZNFU.
- ✓ ZESCO to use ZNFU as an ideal forum to disseminate relevant information on all customer related matters.
- ✓ ZESCO to promote greater appreciation and understanding of its business by ZNFU members through initiatives such as presentations, tours of facilities, invitations to launch of new products etc.
- ✓ ZESCO to avail a comprehensive but brief three monthly report detailing the status and outlook of its activities pertaining to; power generation, distribution of electricity with specific reference on the impact to the consumers, forecasts to include months in which there would be constraints on supply and respond to specific problem areas identified by ZNFU members.

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***Please note that the ZNFU members of the ZNFU/ZESCO committee do NOT negotiate electricity tariffs as this is not part of their mandate.**

FARM FOR SALE

500 HECTARES – VIRGIN LAND AT OFFER LETTER STAGE

MUPAMADZI FARM BLOCK – MPIKA – CONTACT PERSON – MR. MUTALE MUKUKA, PHONE 0966 593930- EMAIL – mutalemukuka@gmail.com;

EXCITING NEW FINANCE SOLUTION FOR FARMERS & AGRIC CONTRACTORS

John Deere Financial a wholly owned subsidiary of Deere & Company, Zanaco, Zambia National Farmers' Union and AFGRI closed an alliance which is marked as a milestone in Zambia enabling access to finance for emerging farmers. We are pleased to introduce John Deere Financial as a dedicated solution to meet your finance needs for the acquisition of John Deere equipment.

This collaboration provides customers of AFGRI Zambia, (your authorized John Deere Dealer in Zambia) a unique finance solution to acquire John Deere equipment.

Benefits of John Deere Financial:

- Access to professionals who understand John Deere equipment and the various business segments John Deere serves. This is now combined with a financial solution to suit your specific business needs.
- Access to a broad range of financial structures, flexible payment options, and competitive rates through our alliance with Zanaco.
- Competitive interest rates subsidized with up to 3%*
- Access to exceptional service from a dedicated team of professionals at Zanaco and AFGRI providing a one-stop shopping experience. We will also visit your business to discuss your finance requirements.
- Immediate access to required assets
- Release of working capital
- Asset backed finance (additional collateral not necessarily a requirement).

Finance your complete planting package for this season and receive a free fertilizer spreader*

We would be eager to meet with you to discuss your equipment financing needs. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact any of the undersigned companies.

Zanaco Agri Business Unit

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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

CENTRAL PROVINCE

STAKEHOLDERS DISCUSS THE DRAFT NATIONAL LAND POLICY

The Technical Committee spearheading the drafting of the National Land Policy held a one day workshop to get input from various stakeholders in Central Province. The workshop, which attracted Chiefs, Government official, private sector interest groups inclusive of ZNFU, heard that the Government of Zambia through the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MLNREP) was consulting with various actors and stakeholders to come up with a comprehensive land policy that would enhance land administration for poverty reduction, strengthen good governance and the rule of law and accountability in land administration. Once completed, the policy will among others help achieve the following;

- Minimize the occurrence of land grabbing and corruption practices.
- Enhance equitable access and secure tenure to land for all citizens.
- Ease poverty reduction through an economically sound, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable allocation and use of land.
- Easy to operate effective and well-organized systems for delivery of land administration and management services.

The workshop participants observed that more time should be given to them to properly analyze the draft document and that a number of contentious issues in the draft be harmonized properly. The workshop was held on Monday 18th January, 2016, in Kabwe district.

UNEVEN RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION WORRIES CHIBOMBO FARMERS

Farmers in Chibombo are worried about the uneven distribution of rains. From the onset, rains have been covering the district unevenly leaving some areas dry for longer periods. Recent field visits by ZNFU staff in the district revealed an ugly situation. Areas such as Mwachisompola and Kalola last received rains on 23rd December 2015, resulting in most farmers failing to apply basal dressing fertilizer. For most farmers, the crops are now wilting. The farmers have since appealed to the insurance companies to start having preliminary checks.

EASTERN B REGION

ENTREPRENEURS BEMOAN THE HIGH COST OF ZESCO COMMERCIAL TARIFFS

The small and medium entrepreneurs who are trading in milling and oil processing in Petauke district have bemoaned the high cost of ZESCO commercial tariffs. The business community convened a meeting on 21st January 2016 where stakeholders met to discuss issues affecting the performance of businesses in the district. Among the critical issues that came out was the high cost of commercial electricity tariffs.

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The business community demanded for the immediate reduction of electricity tariffs saying that if no action was taken their businesses risked shutting down because they are no longer making profit to service the bills and also pay the workers.

LUAPULA REGION

CHIENGE FARMERS BEMOAN LATE DELIVERY OF FISP INPUT

Farmers in Chienge district have bemoaned late delivery of this season's farming inputs under the Farmer Input Support Programme. This came to light on 10th January, 2016 when farmers from Kalungwishi Agricultural Block confronted ZNFU staff to register their disappointment. The farmers have since called on the Ministry of Agriculture to expedite the roll out of the e-voucher program in order to address the delays in the coming farming season. Several farmers groups have not yet received either basal or top dressing fertilizers.

In a related development, Mansa farmers have appealed to the Ministry of Agriculture to push Nyiombo Investment Ltd to deliver the outstanding balance of top dressing fertilizer. Mr James Banda, the acting DMDO for Mansa, when contacted for comments, expressed displeasure at the snail pace at which the delivery of the said inputs were being done.

LUSAKA REGION

CEEC HOLDS SENSITIZATION MEETING

The Citizen Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC) held a sensitization meeting in Kafue district, where they explained that they will be accepting applications for the Beef and Fish farming value chains. The applications to be submitted and considered have to be business ventures along the two identified sub sectors. Commending the CEEC, the Senior Agricultural officer, who is acting District Agricultural Coordinator, Mrs. Monica Mulenga, urged the farmers present at this meeting to take advantage and submit as many applications as possible so that they tap on this facility. Speaking during the same meeting, the District Commissioner for Kafue, Mr. Patrick Moyo, thanked the staff from CEEC for holding the sensitization meeting and urged the farmers to make applications.

NORTHERN REGION

ZNFU AND WE-EFFECT CONDUCT RESULT ASSESSMENT FOR CSP II

The Zambia National Farmers' Union in conjunction with We-Effect conducted a survey for the ZNFU Core Support Programme (CSP) II in Kasama District. The results assessment was conducted in order to establish the progress which has been achieved in comparison to the 2014 baseline. The farmers who participated in the survey were also given results of last year's assessment which, to their delight, indicated high farmer development and appreciation of the services rendered by ZNFU. This assessment is conducted every year in order to assess farmer progression in relation to services that the ZNFU is providing to its members. The Assessment was conducted on 18 and 19th January, 2016.

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MUCHINGA REGION

MAFINGA FARMERS LAUDS ZNFU

Farmers in Mafinga district have expressed happiness to ZNFU for the fertilizers they received under Lima Credit Scheme. Farmers are also happy with good rains the area is receiving on daily basis as it will help their crops get enough moisture for maturity so that they can have a good harvest that will enable them payback their Lima loan balances on time. This came to light when ZNFU staff paid a visit to some information centres this week that participated on Lima for 2015/2016 farming season.

WESTERN REGION

APPSA PROJECT NOW IN WESTERN PROVINCE

The Ministry of Agriculture will be the implementing agent in the new project which has been introduced by the Agriculture Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA) and will promote the growing of Legume Crops in Zambia. Some of the major objectives are: to scale up the production of leguminous crops in Zambia; to improve soil fertility; and compare the performance of the inorganically and organically grown crops. The project will initially be implemented in Kaoma district, the most productive district in the province for now and will be concentrated in four agricultural camps namely Kaoma central, Kalumwange scheme, Kalumwange and Chitwa.

FARMERS WORRIED OVER CROP YIELD

Farmers in Mumbwa are worried about the expected yield of maize and soybeans this season. The district has experienced a prolonged dry spell that has led to crop failure in most parts of the district, forcing farmers to start replanting or diversifying to a crop varieties that are early maturing.

A visit to Big Concession, Nkulumazyiba, Mankumaulwa, Kanyemu, Chibangabwe and Malundu ICs have shown that the rains being experienced in different parts of the district have not covered these areas. Farmers in these areas are being advised to switch to early maturing varieties of maize and legumes as alternative crops.

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