

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 35, 2016

This Week's Highlights.....

- **ANNUAL INFLATION RATE DIVES TO 19.6%**
- **SOUTHERN AFRICA IN OVER 7 MILLION MAIZE DEFICIT**
- **AFLATOXINS LIMITING GROUNDNUTS MARKETING**
- **ZAMBIA PREPARES TO RESTRICT IMPORTATION OF KEY PRODUCTS FROM ZIMBABWE**

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

INDUSTRY UPDATES

ANNUAL INFLATION RATE DIVES TO 19.6%

Zambia's August 2016 annual rate of inflation has reduced to 19.6% from the July record 20.2%. The Central Statistical Office has attributed this decline to mainly a reduction in prices of food items.

SOUTHERN AFRICA IN OVER 7 MILLION MAIZE DEFICIT

The Southern African region has a deficit of over 7.3 million metric tons of Maize for the 2016/17 marketing season. This came to light during A stock monitoring Committee held today, 26th August 2016 at the Ministry of Agriculture Offices in Lusaka. According to FEWSNET, the estimated Deficits for Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and South Africa are 953,000, 2.25 million tons, 1.75 million tons and 2.39 million tons respectively. The meeting noted that the high demand of maize in the region has increased Zambia's informal trade especially in the Eastern Province. The meeting further noted that there was active participation of private players during the current marketing season. Concern was however raised on the continued inconsistencies in the national maize marketing policies which was affecting the planning of the private sector. It was therefore proposed that a sub-committee convenes next week to propose a marketing strategy that would ensure sustained and expanded production to not only meet the national requirements but also increase Zambia's exports of maize into the region.

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It was further noted that purchases of maize by the Food Reserve Agency had been slow and proposed that government quickly pays farmers it owes over their supply of maize to FRA as this might trigger additional supplies from farmers. In attendance was representation from the Food Reserve Agency (FRA), farmers, traders and millers among others.

AFLATOXINS LIMITING GROUNDNUTS MARKETING

The Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) has expressed concern on the levels of aflatoxins in peanut butter currently permissible in Zambia. This came to light during a ZABS Technical Committee on Legumes, Pulses and Derived products meeting that was held on 25th August 2016. The committee proposed that the permissible limit of aflatoxins in peanut butter be reduced from 15ppb (parts per billion) to 10ppb in line with international standards. The higher than internationally acceptable aflatoxin levels have been a major hindrance in Zambian groundnuts and groundnuts products accessing international markets. The committee further proposed that there was need for farmers to improve their management of groundnuts so as to prevent fungal growth and aflatoxin production so has to increase the nutritional benefits of groundnuts and exploit fully the available market for groundnuts and groundnuts products.

ZAMBIA PREPARES TO RESTRICT IMPORTATION OF KEY PRODUCTS FROM ZIMBABWE

Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry convened a stakeholders meeting on Thursday, 25th August 2016 to consult on possible options for government to counter the banning of Zambian exports into Zimbabwe. The meeting was as a result of the different measures implemented by the Zimbabwean authorities to ban Zambian exports into their country. Some of the exports from Zambia that are banned in Zimbabwe include soya cake, and other manufactured products. According to the Zimbabwean authorities, banning of Zambia's exports was due to the economic challenges Zimbabwe is currently going through. Going forward, Government of the Republic of Zambia will implement measures to retaliate against the banning of Zambian exports by Zimbabwe.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (APPSA) HOLDS A BASELINE REPORT VALIDATION MEETING

APPSA project conducted a baseline survey between October 2015 and March 2016, for all its technology dissemination subprojects. The objectives of the survey included;

- (i) To assess the awareness levels of improved technologies and new management practices, particularly the ones promoted by the project;
- (ii) To assess the use of improved technologies and new management practices, including the ones promoted by the project, and;
- (iii) To assess agricultural productivity for certain crop varieties and management practices.

With this background APPSA held a baseline report validation meeting on 25th August, 2016 in Chongwe district where ZNFU participated. Out of the total of 33,893 expected beneficiaries (1,717 LFs and 32,176 FFs) in seven provinces of Zambia, the sample size was 2,575 of which 816 and 1,759 were Lead and Follower

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farmers respectively. In addition, a total of 40 FGDs were conducted (20 for men and the other 20 for women), as well as 13 agro-dealers KIIs and 22 KIIs involving institutions.

One key revelation from the baseline study is at the time of data collection, two thirds of the communities surveyed had no APPSA activities initiated even though the programme implementation started in 2013. However, project management cited delays in start-up activities including late disbursement of finances to the project.

The Agricultural Productivity Programme for Southern Africa (APPSA) is an initiative which seeks to improve technology generation and dissemination within and among participating countries in Southern Africa by building capacity within national Research & Development (R&D) systems and enhancing regional collaboration. The APPSA programme currently involves the participation of three countries—Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia and it focuses on the following three commodity production systems: i) maize production system, ii) rice production system, and iii) legume production system. Zambia focuses on the food legume-based cropping systems. Against a target of 46, APPSA is currently facilitating implementation of 45 R&D sub-projects that are aimed at generating and disseminating technologies based on three commodities which are maize, rice and legumes.

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

TUTA ABSOLUTA!!!!

Attention Farmers!!! Be informed that there is a pest attacking tomatoes, called **Tuta absoluta** or leaf miner. *Tuta absoluta* is a serious pest of tomatoes causing losses of up to 100% by mining the leaves and burrowing into the fruits. Since the first detection in Zambia, the pest has spread fast causing very high levels of damage to tomato crops. Tomato growers are therefore advised and encouraged to visit their nearest Agro-chemical supplier or Ministry of Agriculture office for professional advice on how to contain, control and prevent it. You can also contact the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) Entomologist- Mr. Chipabika on 0977633750.

ROUND BALES OF HAY FOR SALE AT YORK AND KASHIMA FARMS

York Farm: Contact Lister Nyemba 0967349203 ZMW 175 / bale. ZMW 170/bale over 100bales

Kashima Farm: Contact Belly Mainza; 0977471708 ZMW 155/ bale, ZMW 150/bale over 100 bales

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCOUNT OFFER ON EMPTY GRAIN BAGS UV TREATED

The Zambia National Farmers' Union has negotiated for a discount on bulk buying of empty grain bags from Wonderful Group for members. ZNFU members can now buy a bale of 500 by 50kg bags (brown) at K1,000 or K1,600 for white bags. All interested members can contact with ZNFU Head Office.

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UPCOMING AGRICULTURAL HOLIDAYS

Independence Day 24th October
Christmas Day – 25th December

SALE SALE SALE!!!!

Irrigation

4 x sideroll systems 15ha each, 2 used, 2 brand new 30,000

Machinery

Amazon Boom Sprayer, mounted, 1000litre, 16m, hydraulic boom	5,000
Staalmeester 540 Double chop silage harvester - almost new	10,000
6 row 90cm maize head John Deere 693	15,000
4m Moore Drill - no-till wheat/soya drill	4,000

Please contact a.and.c.moffat@gmail.com

SUNHEMP SEED!!!!!!!

Looking for sunhemp seed, we have red sunhemp for sale. This is the small seeded variety. It is a vigorous grower and outcompetes weeds. It also suppresses eel worm and nematodes. It can be established at 20-25kg per ha. Please contact a.and.c.moffat@gmail.com

VIP INVITATION

The *Zambian Herdbook Society* would like to invite you to the prestigious "Battle of the Bull Breeds" at its annual **Stanbic Bull Sale on Saturday 17th September 2016 at the Lusaka Showgrounds**. Last year the top selling bull was a Brahman bred by Willy Franklin of Ayrshire Stud. What will it be this year? Angoni, Boran, Brahman, Santa Gertrudis or Tuli? Come, see and buy! There will also be a few Boergoats and Dorper's on sale.

The 2016 Stanbic Bull Sale "The Battle of the Bull Breeds" – Put the date in your diary: Saturday 17th September. Don't miss it! Come and join in the fun. On the day viewing of the animals starts at 8am with registration at 10 am and the auction starting at 12pm. Stock movement permits will be available on the day.

Kindly contact the *Zambian Herdbook Society* for any further information on email: herdbookzambia@gmail.com or Tel: 0211-256954 / 0211-3235125

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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

EASTERN B REGION

NYIMBA DC REAFFIRMS GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE

The District Commissioner for Nyimba, Peter Kunda, has assured the farmers in Nyimba district that government is committed to addressing their challenges and supporting the agriculture sector in the district and the country at large. Speaking during the Nyimba DFA annual general meeting which attracted over 250 farmers and held on 23rd August 2016, the DC said that government valued agriculture as one sector that would contribute significantly to the growth of the economy in the country. The DC cited a number of activities that government has embarked on in the district such as the construction of the Farmer Training Institute (FTI), support towards the agriculture credit and finance program and the food security pack under Community Development and the FISP program. The DC further thanked ZNFU for their continued effort in helping the farmers and supplementing government's efforts through various activities being implemented through the Nyimba District Farmers' Association.

ZARI CONDUCTS PREPARATORY TRAINING FOR FARMER INNOVATION CONTEST WORKSHOP

The Zambia Agriculture Research Institute this week on 25th August 2016 conducted a preparatory training session for farmers in Petauke district for a program called Farmer Innovation Contest. The objective of the training was to explain to farmers on the procedures and conditions required for them to take part in the upcoming innovation contest workshop. The innovation contest will involve identifying farmers who are doing unique agricultural practices that have proved to be working at their farms. The farmers were informed that outstanding farming innovations will be selected and shall be subjected to scientific research in future so that they can be used by farmers across the world to help improve household food security. Petauke DFA was represented by 20 Contact Farmers who will in turn disseminate the information to their fellow farmers in various ICs.

SOUTHERN REGION

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON FARMER INNOVATION CONTESTS HELD IN CHOMA DISTRICT

Following a preliminary meeting involving three institutions namely the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) and the ZNFU in May this year, the planned training workshop meant to introduce the concept of farmer innovations was this week held in Choma district.

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The workshop was convened by FARA in collaboration with ZARI. The workshop was attended by participants comprised of the ZNFU, the Conservation Farming Unit, the Ministry of Agriculture, ZARI and contact farmers drawn from selected ZNFU Information Centres.

During the workshop, the team leader from FARA, Dr. Justice Tambo, presented key highlights on the main goals of the program, the concept of farmer innovation contests and how the contest will be implemented. Dr. Tambo further mentioned that farmer innovations will include technologies or practices which can be applied along the agriculture value chains and are supposed to be different from common traditional practices and are supposed to be developed by a farmer or a group of farmers without external assistance. The workshop participants were also informed that the Farmer Innovation Contest is a new concept being introduced in Zambia and is being piloted in three districts namely Choma, Petauke and Katete.

APPROVAL OF SAPP MATCHING GRANT FACILITY APPLICATIONS EXCITE COOPERATORS

Farmers belonging to Tusoole and Musopelo cooperatives in chief Hanjalika's chieftom in Mazabuka district are excited over the approval of their proposal applications to the matching grants facility under the Smallholder Agribusiness Promotion Programme (SAPP). The co-operators applied for feed stock production and village chicken production projects. The matching grant facility under SAPP was designed to support agribusiness development within selected value chains targeting small scale farmers. The cooperative members who did not hide their joy upon receiving the good news have greatly appreciated and commended the Ministry of Agriculture and the ZNFU for guiding them.

NORTH WESTERN REGION

FARMERS BEMOAN POOR PERFORMING SEED VARIETIES

Farmers in Chavuma district have complained over the poor performance of some certified seed varieties which are given to them under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). This came to light during the Annual General Meeting for Chavuma District Farmers' Association held this week in Chavuma. Joseph Chiseya, one of the farmers who attended the AGM explained on behalf of the other farmers that maize plants from some seed varieties fail to grow and that the farmers have since reported the matter to their respective Agriculture Camp Extension Officers. The farmers further called upon the ZNFU and Ministry of Agriculture to help scrutinize the seed companies that were supplying seed under the FISP programme so that such problems don't recur.

In response to the farmers' complaint, a representative from the District Agriculture Coordinator's office, Peter Maseka advised the aggrieved farmers to take samples of the alleged seed to the DACO's office and officially lodge a complaint so that seed companies supplying fake seed can be banned from participating on the FISP program.

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CENTRAL REGION

KAPIRI DC LAUDS THE ZNFU COMIC RELIEF PROGRAM

Kapiri Mposhi District Commissioner, Peter Mwiinde, has commended ZNFU for the Comic Relief Program which he said has uplifted the plight of women and youths who have now gotten involved in farming activities because they were able to access inputs on loan through the program. Gracing the Kapiri Mposhi DFA Annual General Meeting held on 24th August, 2016, the DC said most women and youths actively participated in farming because they easily accessed inputs through the help of the ZNFU. Additionally, he urged the ZNFU to intensify the Land Survey Program as most farmers will easily access loans.

And during a corresponding Annual General Meeting for Chibombo DFA held on the same date, the guest of honor Joseph Pakati, who is also the District Agriculture Coordinator, hailed the ZNFU for the progressive programmes such as the Women Innovation Fund, Bunjimi Asset Loan, and the Lima Credit Scheme which have enhanced crop production and agricultural diversification in the district. Meanwhile various stakeholder who attended the meetings thanked the Union for facilitating viable linkages to farmers.

EASTERN A REGION

AGRI PROFOCUS HOLDS 2016 AGRIBUSINESS FINANCE FAIR IN CHIPATA

AgriProFocus is this week hosting a Financial fair in Chipata from the 25th to 26th August 2016 at Chipata Golf Club. AgriProFocus Zambia, an organisation which is hosted by SNV Netherlands Development Organisation in Zambia, is a network for agriculture professionals initiated by Dutch NGOs, finance agencies and knowledge institutes with the aim of promoting farmer entrepreneurship. Among other participants, the event is hosting financial institutions, farmers, input suppliers, processors and the media. The event is intended to link small and medium agribusinesses to financial institutions. The fair will also consist of match making sessions where agribusinesses will have an opportunity to have one on one discussions with financial institutions, input or technology service providers with possibilities of closing a deal. The ZNFU Regional office are among the other institutions present at this event.

CONFLICT EMERGES AMONG COTTON COMPANIES IN LUNDAZI

Poor and declining yields in cotton production has resulted into commodity purchase disputes amongst cotton companies in Lundazi. This prompted the District Agricultural Coordinator (DACO for Lundazi, Philemon Lungu, to call for a meeting with all players in the cotton industry to solve the said conflicts. During the meeting it was discovered that most cotton companies are finding it difficult to meet their seasonal crop purchase targets because of the low yields their farmers are currently experiencing. The DACO advised the companies present in the meeting to invest more in extension for good cotton management practices unlike the current situation were cotton companies just distribute seed without educating the farmers on the agronomical aspects.

Meanwhile Manjeet Zambia Limited, one of the cotton companies operating in Lundazi will soon introduce a hybrid cotton variety to combat the low yield challenges faced by cotton farmers.

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