

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 37, 2016

This Week's Highlights.....

- NEWS ALERT TO MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS ON KPMG REVIEW OF SPECIAL AUDIT ON ZNFU
- ZARI URGED TO MAKE RESEARCH FINDINGS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO FARMERS
- MAZ DECLARES MAIZE BRAN AVAILABILITY
- BOZ PUBLISHES COMMERCIAL BANKS' INTEREST RATES AND BANK CHARGES

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

INDUSTRY UPDATES

NEWS ALERT TO MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS ON KPMG REVIEW OF SPECIAL AUDIT ON ZNFU

TO ALL MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS,

You must have by now heard or read about our Cooperating Partners Press Statement on the KPMG Finland review of the special Audit which was conducted by EMM late last year. The Union received this report on Tuesday this week and the ZNFU Board is yet to come up with a comprehensive response on the KPMG Report and the proposed way forward of resolving the raised Audit Findings. An urgent special Board meeting has since been called for early next week to come up with a compressive statement on how the Union proposes to resolve the audit findings and on how to deal with alleged incidences of corruption.

May I take this opportunity to assure all ZNFU members, the farming community, industry Players and the nation at large that the ZNFU Board is actively attending to this matter of great concern and will without fail come up with all required measures that will ensure that all matters are dealt with in accordance with the ZNFU Constitution, our Joint and Bilateral Financing Agreements with our Cooperating Partners and in accordance with the Zambian laws. The Union will keep you updated on the progress on this matter.

Richard Lisimba
ACTING ZNFU PRESIDENT

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ZARI URGED TO MAKE RESEARCH FINDINGS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO FARMERS

The Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) has been urged to make its findings easy to access by farmers and stakeholders. And stakeholders said that easy access to research findings will improve utilization and awareness creation of improved and new technologies on the market. This came up during the on-going ZARI Review and Planning meeting in Chongwe district. In response, ZARI management indicated that works are underway to streamline information packaging, storage and sharing within the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers and other stakeholders. This will include implementation of the ZARI Information Management System (IMS).

Meanwhile, ZARI has unveiled a number of research work that is both on-going and new protocols that will form part of ZARI's Research agenda. The research works range from Farming Systems, Tree and Plantation crops, Oilseeds, Root and Tubers to Grains.

Among the protocols presented so far, is on *Tuta Absoluta*. That is, in order to enhance understanding and the fight against *Tuta*, a research protocol has been developed and presented in the on-going review and planning meeting entitled "Laboratory And Screen House Assessment Of Tomato *Solanum Lycopersicum* L Insecticide Products Against *Tuta Absoluta* Meyrick".

MAZ DECLARES MAIZE BRAN AVAILABILITY

The Zambia National Farmers' Union is in receipt of a letter from the Millers Association of Zambia (MAZ) indicating that millers are currently holding 34,560MT of bran and are requesting to export 10,000MT of it due to low local demand for the commodity. The union is appealing to all farmers who are in need of maize bran and/or has been failing to access the commodity to get in touch with the ZNFU Secretariat.

BOZ PUBLISHES COMMERCIAL BANKS' INTEREST RATES AND BANK CHARGES

In its quest to protecting consumers of products and services offered by banks, on one hand, and promoting market discipline and competition among market players in the banking industry, on the other hand, the Bank of Zambia has published the bank charges, interest and lending rates for all commercial banks as at 30th June, 2016.

This is done pursuant to Section 121A(I) of the Banking and Financial Services Act, Chapter 387 of the Laws of Zambia, which gives the Bank of Zambia power to publish any data or information it may determine to be in the public interest.

The ZNFU membership is encouraged to visit the Bank of Zambia Website (www.boz.zm) to view the different interest rates and bank charges for retail and other personal accounts by the various commercial banks as at 30th June 2016. The publication was released on 7th September 2016 under the title "Public Notice on Interest Rates & Bank Charges". This information may be beneficial in the financial decision making process.

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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.

UPCOMING AGRICULTURAL HOLIDAYS

Independence Day 24th October
Christmas Day – 25th December

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. 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

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

NORTHERN REGION

MUSIKA CONDUCTS E-VOUCHER TRAININGS IN NORTHERN AND MUCHINGA

Musika and the ZNFU Northern Region Office this week conducted trainings for selected Agro-dealers on the use of the electronic voucher (e-voucher) system in accessing inputs under the Farmer Input Support Programme(FISP).

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The trained Agro-dealers will be responsible for supplying agricultural inputs to farmers during the 2016/17 farming season in both Northern and Muchinga Provinces. The objective of the trainings was to enable the Agro-dealers get acquainted to the procedures and processes involved when using the e-voucher under the FISP.

The Agro Dealers were also trained on how to use Point of Sale machines when administering inputs to farmers. Among the other participants who participated in the training are banks such as Barclays and Bank ABC.

FARMERS PLEASSED WITH ZUNDU NATURAL MEDICINES FOR CHICKENS

Mpulungu farmers are excited by the coming of Zundu natural medicines for chickens to the district. The farmers said Zundu natural remedy will help alleviate poultry diseases which have been difficult to cure in the past as most of them faced challenges in accessing conventional livestock drugs.

The farmers said this at the annual general meeting for Mpulungu DFA held on 30th August, 2016.

During the AGM, ZNFU Regional Manager for Northern, Hendrix Kabwe, further encouraged farmers to buy Zundu products as they help prevent poultry diseases more especially in indigenous (village) chickens and ruminant animals. Mpulungu DFA is working with a company called Zundu in providing natural medicines for local chickens and ruminant animals.

SOUTHERN B REGION

SNV SUPPORTS FARMERS WITH BIOGAS DIGESTERS

The Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) has embarked on a project aimed at helping rural farmers in Namwala to construct biogas digesters for provision of power for cooking and lighting. The organization has so far constructed 9 biogas digesters in the district. The types of biogas digesters constructed have a versatile advantage for small holder farmers as the by-products from the digester (slurry) can be used as manure and as an insecticide to control aphids.

The SNV staff in charge of the project in Namwala has disclosed that the organization will support farmers in groups of 10 to 20.

SOUTHERN A REGION

DACO WARNS AGAINST SMUGGLING OF SUBSIDISED FISP INPUTS

Sesheke District Agricultural Coordinator, Peter Kamusaki, has warned against smuggling of agricultural inputs supplied to the district by the government under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). The DACO said this when he addressed Agriculture Camp Extension Officers in a meeting held this week. During the meeting, the DACO mentioned that his office is aware of some farmers who sell subsidized FISP inputs to briefcase businessmen who later sell the inputs to neighbouring countries and other districts outside Western Province. The DACO urged the camp extension officers to caution the farmers selling government subsidised inputs, adding that all FISP inputs the farmers receive should be utilized within the district.

COPPERBELT REGION

COPPERBELT EXPERIENCING MAIZE PRICE FLUCTUATIONS

The price of maize grain on the Copperbelt has been fluctuating between K80 and K110 per 50kg bag for the second week running.

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This has been observed mainly at marketing depots run by Millers where the price of the commodity has reduced from K2.20 to k1.85 per kg. This trend has also made other buyers on the market to reduce the price further to as low as K1.70 per kg, citing the high cost of transportation from farms to their various storage depots. This development has forced some of the farmers to start selling their maize to the Food Reserve Agency (FRA).

NORTH WESTERN REGION

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE MEETS AGRO DEALERS IN SOLWEZI

The Ministry of Agriculture, Musika and the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) yesterday met all Agro-dealers and some national input suppliers who have been selected to participate in the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) in the next 2016/17 farming season. The meeting was aimed at sensitizing Agro-dealers on the code of conduct during the inputs distribution exercise. The meeting was attended by the Provincial Agriculture Coordinator, Derrick Simukanzye; the FISP National Coordinator, Mrs. Kagoli and other Ministry of Agriculture officials. The ZNFU was represented by the Field Facilitator for Solwezi district, Kasalo Fumbani.

SOLWEZI DFA HONOURS HIGH PERFORMING ICs AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The Solwezi District Farmers Association has given awards to some of its high performing Information Centres (ICs) and individual members for hard work and exemplary attitude. This happened during the Solwezi DFA annual general meeting held last week. Speaking during presentation of the awards to 3 ICs and two members, Solwezi District Agriculture Coordinator, Muyobo Shimabale, urged other ICs to emulate the 3 who got rewarded. And two members received awards for always being the first to pay membership fees.

CENTRAL REGION

LIVESTOCK THEFTS ON THE INCREASE IN CHISAMBA

Farmers in Chisamba have reported an increase in cattle rustling activities in the district. The farmers have reported thefts of more than 15 huge cattle and a number of poaching cases in a period of less than one month. The farmers have further said that the situation is becoming worse as goats, sheep, center pivots motors, car batteries besides other farm produce are been stolen almost on a daily basis. The farmers have bemoaned the fact that not much is happening to contain the situation and they have kept losing a lot on their investment. Some farmers have indicated that there is less of security patrols around farming areas. The affected farmers have since appealed to authorities to beef up security in the farms before more animals are stolen.

WESTERN REGION

MUMBWA DFA USHERS IN A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mumbwa District Farmers Association (DFA) last week ushered in a new Executive Committee during its Annual General Meeting held on 2nd September, 2016. The new office bearers will be headed by Austin Shinachize who was elected as chairperson while Mary Sakala was voted in as vice chairperson.

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EASTERN B REGION

WORLD VISION ZAMBIA HANDS OVER AN OIL EXPELLER TO NYIMBA DFA

World Vision Zambia (WVZ) last week handed over an oil expeller to Kabvuma Information Centre of Nyimba District Farmer Association. The gesture is part of WVZ's cooperate social responsibility meant to help vulnerable farming communities.

Speaking during the hand over, World Vision Nyimba ADP Manager, Kamangala, thanked ZNFU for supporting farmers through various activities. He further urged the beneficiaries of the oil expeller to use the machine prudently and profitably and increase the production of both sunflower and groundnuts so that households with vulnerable children are able to benefit from the business.

NYIMBA FARMERS BEMOAN THE DECREASE MAIZE PRICE

Farmers in Nyimba District have bemoaned the decrease in the maize price in recent weeks. Maize grain which was previously trading at over K2 per kilogram in the last two months has now come down to k1.7 and k1.6 per kg. Most farmers in the district were hording their maize in anticipation of a further price increase but are now disappointed as the situation has turned out to be the exact opposite leaving them more vulnerable as they prepare for the next farming season and others have loan obligations to settle.

SNV TRAIN FARMERS IN INTEGRATED SOIL FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

The Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) this week conducted trainings for farmers on Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) in Katete district. Over 105 lead farmers drawn from three agricultural camps of Katete district were trained. The objective of the training was to orient and impart knowledge in the lead farmers on the possible solutions of sustainable soil and land management through use of leguminous crops such as soya beans, beans and groundnuts in improving the soil fertility. The lead farmers who were trained are also expected to replicate the trainings in their respective camps.

EASTERN A REGION

CHIPATA DC CALLS FOR MORE INVESTORS IN THE DISTRICT

The District Commissioner for Chipata has called for more investors in the District to set up plants for processing primary agro-products into finished products. The DC has observed that Chipata and the Eastern Province as a whole has huge potential for development of agro related industries as the District and Province produces a lot of farm produce but the produce is sold out of the province in form of raw materials without adding value to them thereby depriving the local people of job opportunities. This came light during the Annual General Meeting for Chipata District Farmers' Association which was held this week on 8th September, 2016 at New Crystal Springs hotel in Chipata.

TUTA ABOSOLUTA SPREADS CHIPATA

Horticulture Farmers in Chipata District have been hit by a devastating and vicious pest called *Tuta Absoluta* or leaf miner which has attacked a lot of tomato fields. The office of the District Agriculture Coordinator and Chipata District Farmers Association has been receiving a lot of complaints from tomato farmers from all the 8 agriculture blocks about the spread of the pest.

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