

Zambia's leading outdoor agriculture expo



## FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 3, 2017

### This Week's Highlights.....

- ZNFU URGES GRZ TO REDUCE THE COST OF BUSINESS IN THE AGRO SECTOR
- STAKEHOLDERS LAMENT THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW FEES FOR VET SERVICES
- HEIFER HANDLES OVER 114 GOATS

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

## INDUSTRY UPDATES

### ZNFU URGES GRZ TO REDUCE THE COST OF BUSINESS IN THE AGRO SECTOR

ZNFU President Mr Jervis Zimba has urged government to reduce the cost of doing business in order to encourage more investments into the sector. Mr Zimba said this when he appeared before the parliamentary committee on Education, Science and Technology at parliament building this morning. Mr Zimba also wondered why members of parliament were in the habit of approving legislations that make it difficult for farmers to operate as they add on to the cost of production. The ZNFU cited the example of 10% tax on maize exports, the 5% surcharge tax on imported fertilizers which has since been

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reversed after ZNFU intervened, new fees and charges on livestock, council levies, toll fees, as some examples of costs that are being piled on farmers.

Going forward, Mr Zimba appealed to members of parliament to ensure that they make laws that facilitate the growth of the agriculture sector as opposed to creating burdensome costs to farmers. To this effect, Mr Zimba requested members of parliament to zero-rate VAT on agriculture for the sector to grow and help diversify the economy.

The Union highlighted the importance of science and technology in enhancing productivity and bemoaned the lack of extension services to inform farmers on modern farming practices. On the other hand, recognition was given to the innovations surrounding production of maize seed by the private sector and that Zambia is a net exporter of seed.

### **STAKEHOLDERS LAMENT THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW FEES FOR VET SERVICES**

At a stakeholders meeting, members lamented the introduction of new fees for veterinary (Vet) services that were effected through the Statutory Instrument Number 105 of 2016. During the meeting, stakeholders complained that the increased fees for veterinary services will be passed on to the farmers by other value chain players and this will make livestock production costly and un viable. Further, there is fear that producers may turn to circumventing the correct procedures of animal or carcass movement which could lead to spreading of animal diseases. Some of the veterinary service fees that have been increased include: meat inspection fees, oral consultation fees, animal slaughter permit fee, semen importation permit fee, animal post mortem fee, stock movement permit fee, among others.

The meeting was attended by farmers, processors and government officials from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. Stakeholders were also not happy that government came up with new fees for various veterinary services without consulting the private sector and undertaking a regulatory impact assessment on business contrary to the provisions of the Business Regulatory Act of 2013.

Beef stakeholders agreed to engage government to ensure that the new fees were revised in order to promote growth of the livestock sector. The Beef Stakeholders Meeting was organized by ZNFU yesterday at ZNFU Head Office.

### **HEIFER HANDLES OVER 114 GOATS**

Last week on Thursday 12/01/17 Chadiza livestock co-operative received 114 goats from Heifer Zambia and which were distributed to the beneficiaries in farming area of the district. 26 households benefitted from goats, some of the members were given 4 goats while others received 5. After a year, the same farmers will pass on to their fellow farmers equal to what they received. It will be a continuous process not until all the members of the cooperative benefit from the same programme.

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**ALERTS!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**CONTACT THE ZNFU FOR ALL YOUR LOBBY ISSUES**

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For All Lobby Issues Affecting Members, please contact Mr. Humphrey Katotoka from the ZNFU Research and Economics Unit. Email: [humphrey.katotoka@znfu.org.zm](mailto:humphrey.katotoka@znfu.org.zm)

### **FARMLAND FOR SALE**

130 Hectares virgin land for sale along Nakonde – Mbala Road near Mbala Farmers' Training Centre, 1 kilometre from the Nakonde Road turn-off. About 10 hectares of the land is in a dambo area. Asking Price K2,000 per hectare. For enquiries, contact Mr. G.T Chikopela on 0977869916; EMAIL: [sichiko6@gmail.com](mailto:sichiko6@gmail.com)

### **TRACTOR FOR SALE**

Offers are invited for the sale of a Massey Ferguson Tractor 440 Xtra, 82HP; Model Year 2013. The tractor is being sold along with a Massey Ferguson Planter 106 (model year 2013) as well as an AGRION Disc Plough. Contact Dr Patrick Nkanza on 0977771243 or [pknkanza@iconnect.zm](mailto:pknkanza@iconnect.zm) for more details.



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## **NEWS FROM THE REGIONS**

### **NORTH WESTERN REGION**

#### **FARMERS CONTINUE REDEEDEMING INPUTS THROUGH E-VOUCHER CARDS**

Farmers in Solwezi district have continued redeeming their inputs from Agro-dealers using the e-voucher. This follows the activation of e-voucher cards after most of them managed to deposit their equity contribution towards the acquisition of inputs. A check conducted by Ministry of Agriculture and ZNFU staffer on Wednesday. Selected Agro-dealers were checked and the team found most of them

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busy serving farmers and farmers were accessing inputs without difficulties. Farmers have however appealed to government through the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to start the e-voucher program early to avoid late planting as farming input are accessed late.

### **ZAMBEZI DISTRICT RECIEVES 49% OF TOP DRESSING FERTILIZER**

Zambezi District Agricultural Coordinator (DACO), Mr. Emmanuel Ndonyo says the district has so far received close to 49% of the total allocation of Top Dressing Fertiliser. Speaking when he visited ZNFU Regional Office in Kabompo on Wednesday this week, Mr. Ndonyo said all the received inputs have since been distributed to beneficiaries who made this deposits on time. Mr. Ndonyo said the distribution exercise has so far gone on smoothly and that other farmers will wait for the delivery of remaining Top Dressing for them to access their share. Mr. Ndonyo further said 7,000 X 50Kg bags of Top Dressing Fertilizer has so far been Received from the total expected of 15,000 X 50kg bags. Mr. Ndonyo further said all the expected Compound D and Seed Maize have been received in the District.

## **SOUTHERN A REGION**

### **ZNFU TO COLLABORATE WITH NAIS**

The department of National Agriculture Information Services (NAIS) in Sesheke district has pledged to work hand in hand with ZNFU office. This came to light when Mr Cheelo Mulongo who is the new district agriculture information office visited the ZNFU offices on his district familiarization tour. He stated that were information dissemination is concerned ZNFU should not hesitate to bring NAIS on board. Mr cheelo Mulongo also cited that for the farmers to improve their production, information was key factor.

## **SOUTHERN B REGION**

### **NATSAVE BANK APPROVES BUNJIMI LOAN**

The National Credit and Savings Bank (NATSAVE) has approved a loan under the Bunjimi Asset Plus. The loan is worthy K65, 184.70 (Sixty-Five Thousand One Hundred and Eighty-Four Kwacha, Seventy Ngwee), is meant to purchase the Forage chopper to be used in preparing stock feed. This loan was among the 4 applications waiting for approval from the bank.

## **EASTERN REGION**

### **FARMERS URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN BEEF VALUE CHAIN ACTIVELY**

Farmers in Lundazi have been encouraged to participate in the beef value chain actively by taking up Livestock farming. Speaking to farmers present at a meeting for stakeholders in the beef value chain organized by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Chisoni Mumba a Lecturer at the University of Zambia, School of Veterinary medicine said that farmers need to consider Livestock farming a as business unlike the current situation were farmer are keeping cattle for draft power purposes only. He also said that the current statistics indicate that on average farmers in Zambia sell two animals per year, which is too low for farmers to actively be involved in the beef value chain.

Meanwhile, Mr Dunga Nkhata Chairperson for Lundazi Butchery Fraternity complained the Livestock Service Centre constructed in the province under ADB have never been operational to enhance Livestock marketing.

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### **WORLD VISION TRAINS TOTs IN GROUP SAVINGS**

World Vision Zambia under the Area Development Programme (AP) operates in four (4) wards; Mtilizi ward, Nyimba central, Ndake and Luezi ward. In the quest to improve livelihoods of the people in these wards, World Vision is training TOTs in Group Savings. These TOTs will in turn roll out the training in the community. The trainings were attended by officers from Ministry of Agriculture, Village agent, Community Development and ZNFU. The reason for forming group saving is to encourage farmers to have the habit of saving. This will help them to invest in small businesses, when they make money they will be able to be reinvest in farming. The buying of farming inputs (fertilizer and seed) at planting time will no longer be a problem as farmers will be able to use their savings.

### **FISP DISTRIBUTION IN CHADIZA DISTRICT**

The Ministry of Agriculture in Chadiza has distributed 22,100 packs of farming inputs under FISP to various co-operatives, Clubs and Groups out of the allocated 22,100 packs for maize. This meant that the district attained a 100% distribution for maize and the only remaining inputs to be distributed are for cotton and groundnuts whose distribution starts next week. Chadiza district is among the rest of the districts in the country, apart from the 39 e-voucher districts, still using the conventional method of input distribution under the FISP.

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