

Zambia's leading outdoor agriculture expo



FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 12, 2017

This Week's Highlights.....

- **GOVT PRODDER TO REPOSITION AGRICULTURE IN THE REGION**
- **FRUITS AND VEGGIES STAKEHOLDERS MEET**
- **SCCI NODS THREE SEED VARIETIES**
- **AGRIC MINISTER CALLS IMPROVED SEED VARIETIES**

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

INDUSTRY UPDATES

ZAMBIA PRODDER TO STAMP ITS PRESENCE IN REGIONAL AGRICULTURE

A regional think-tank has called on Zambia not to be complacent with the agricultural successes the country has scored in recent times, but re-energise itself to produce more food, Head: International Trade and Investment Intelligence at the Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz) of South Africa, Tinashe Kapuya has said.

Making a presentation coined Agricultural Commodity Markets: Global and Regional Dynamics, Mr. Kapuya during the **Omnia Fertilisers Farmers' Day** in Lusaka on Friday 24th March, said policy makers have become relaxed because Zambia has established itself as the only country across sub-Saharan Africa that is able to produce enough food and feed itself.

Mr. Kapuya said: "Policy makers have not embraced the fact that Zambia has become the bread basket of the region, and are not exploiting this to the fullest."

He said there is a general reluctance, not only by policy makers, but also by most agriculture stakeholders and are failing to implement aggressive policies that would make the country stamp its agricultural presence on the continent.

"Zambia cannot afford to sit back. There is a danger that Zambia can fall to its own sense of being food secure. We need to start thinking outside the box," Mr. Kapuya said.

FRUITS AND VEGGIES STAKEHOLDERS MEET; AGREE TO BUY LOCAL PRODUCE

Fruits and Vegetable Stakeholders have committed to buying local products in order to support growth of the local industry and to achieve government drive to diversify the agriculture sector.

This happened during a Fruits and Vegetable Stakeholders Meeting that took place at ZNFU Head Office in Lusaka on Thursday 23rd March 2017.

The meeting was attended by all value chain players including government, farmers, traders, technical support institutions, and Chain Stores operating in Zambia.

Chain Stores indicated that they are ready to buy fruits and vegetables produced locally and only import to meet the deficit when production in Zambia is out of season.

Stakeholders also agreed that there was need to take into account the seasonality of the different fruits and vegetables to ensure that the country only imports the deficit.

After a long discussion, the meeting made the following resolutions;

1. Establish a Working Group Committee to work with government on mapping of the whole country and linking the different zones to off-takers.
2. The Working Group should be composed of key value chain players (such as farmers, traders, training/capacity building institutions, government, Chain Stores) and should develop Term of Reference to guide their operations.
3. Establish a Committee on Imports to vet requests for fruits and vegetable imports before issuance of import permits by Ministry of Agriculture.
4. Any importation of fruits and vegetables should be approved by the Committee on Imports and then recommend to Ministry of Agriculture for import permit.
5. Chain Stores to submit data/statistics to ZNFU on their requirements/volumes and when they need the particular supplies.
6. ZNFU to circulate the requirements by Chain Stores to farmers so that they can align their production.

SCCI NODS THREE SEED VARIETIES

The Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) has approved the launch of three seed varieties on the market that include, two potato seed varieties and one wheat.

The approvals came through after assessment the seed trials by a committee comprising seven agriculture stakeholders at the SCCI offices at Mt. Makulu in Chilanga on 7th March, 2017.

The seed included two Irish potato varieties from Buyabamba; Georgina and Madison and one wheat variety from, Triticum Aestivum from Sensaka PTY of South Africa.

AGRIC MINISTER CALLS FOR IMPROVED SEED VARIETIES

Minister of Agriculture Dora Siliya has called for seed companies to invest in research and technological advancement to enhance improved agriculture production and productivity in the wake of climate change effects.

Speaking during the SEED-CO National Field Day in Lusaka on Tuesday 21st March, Ms. Siliya said one of the key features in the Second National Agricultural Policy is the promotion of agricultural research and technology to ensure that the country produces varieties that yield high quality agricultural products.

She lauded SEED-CO for releasing an early maturing maize seed variety SC647, which is tolerant to cob rot with potential to produce 10 metric tonnes per hectare and another ultra-early maturing variety SC303, able to mature within 100 days, among other seed varieties.

She said it is absolutely important that the country introduces seed varieties that are responsive to changing climatic conditions.

“As you may have noticed, some rainy seasons have shortened due to climate change effects. Therefore, the need has arisen that we develop early maturing varieties in order for us to mitigate this,” Honourable Siliya said.

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

CALLING ALL CATTLE FARMERS/BREEDERS

The 2017 Agritech Expo is just around the corner and ZNFU is inviting all Cattle Farmers/Breeders who are interested in showcasing their animal breeds to register with the Union before the end of March, 2017.

The ZNFU will arrange a Veterinary Officer with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock to be stationed at the Show site for purposes of issuance of stock movement permits.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to showcase your genetics!

Those interested should contact Mr. Godwin Mumba at the ZNFU Secretariat;

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ECONOMIC BRIEFS

KENYA TO IMPORT HALF A MILLION TONS OF UKRAINIAN CORN

According to the Agriculture Ministry of Ukraine, the government of Kenya has decided to purchase 450,000MT of yellow corn in March-May 2017. The main requirements to corn deliveries to Kenya are the absence of GMO therein and the presence of an EU certificate or the compliance with the Kenya Bureau of Standards' requirements.

COST OF MAIZE IN KENYA ALL-TIME HIGH AS IMPORTS DRY UP

Kenya's dry maize prices have hit a record high of US\$44 per 90kg bag as cross-border imports from Uganda and Tanzania nearly dry up. The last time prices were at nearly such a level was over 10 years ago, when East Africa's biggest economy suffered a dry spell, as it is happening now. But besides the dry spell and low imports, the current price surge has been blamed on farmers and traders hoarding stocks they have in search of higher prices. The cost of the commodity is highest in lakeside city of Kisumu, where a 90kg bag is going for US\$44. In the capital, Nairobi, a 90kg bag is retailing at US\$40 while in the coastal city of Mombasa is going at US\$42.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

COPPERBELT REGION

COPPERBELT FRUITS & VEGGIES FARMERS READY TO SUPPLY CHAIN STORES

Farmers on the Copperbelt are optimistic that they will be able to supply chain stores with quality fruits and vegetables timely and consistently.

Vegetable farmers spoken to in Ndola and Luanshya expressed gratitude to government for restricting importation of certain fruits and vegetables which are produced locally. The move is welcome and will bring about increased production and productivity among local farmers, a Ndola based vegetable farmer has observed.

Meanwhile, farmers have called upon all stakeholders in this subsector to come up with deliberate programmes to sensitize most of the smallholder fruits and vegetable farmers on

packaging and choice of quality products which conforms to international standards and acceptable by these chain stores.

CENTRAL REGION

AMATHEON AGRIC TO EXTEND ITS SERVICES TO CHIBOMBO

Amatheon Agric is a European agribusiness and food company, headquartered in Berlin and operating in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Focusing on farming, trading and food processing, Amatheon integrates its activities along the agricultural value chain. As a triple-bottom-line company, it acts as an anchor investor in rural areas to uplift neighbouring communities economically, socially and environmentally.

This came to light when Amatheon held an inception meeting program for Chibombo district. The meeting was graced by the District Commissioner, Mr. Barnabas Musopelo who thanked the company for considering Chibombo for their investment and assured them of success in the district. The meeting was attended by various stakeholders in the district including the Ministry of Agriculture, ZNFU, CFU and World Vision, among others. The core project will include input loans, mechanization, business education such as financial literacy, seed banks and buying depots for produce. The company also intends to build capacity by offering training to farmers.

The District commissioner in his closing remarks urged Amatheon to help the community in different areas through cooperate social responsibility by putting up a school or clinic.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER URGES FARMERS TO TAKE FARMING AS A BUSINESS

Agriculture minister Honourable Dora Siliya has encouraged small scale farmers to work hard and take farming as a business. This came to light when she graced the SEED-CO National Field Day held on 21st March 2017 in Lusaka west.

Ms. Siliya further urged farmers to graduate from FISP and not to overly depend on it.

Farmers from Chibombo DFA thanked SEED-CO and ZNFU for according them an opportunity to see the performance of all SEED-CO varieties together with different chemical combinations. In addition, farmers acknowledged having learnt a lot and pledged to make positive changes during the coming season.

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