

Zambia's leading outdoor agriculture expo



## FRIDAY BRIEF

**WEEK 9, 2017**

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

- **WARMA TO CONSULT FARMERS ON WATER PRICING STRATEGY**
- **... AS FARMERS BRACE FOR CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS**
- **LUMPY SKIN & ANAPLASMOSIS BREAK OUT IN MAZABUKA & CHIKANKATA DISTRICTS**
- **COPPERBELT IN IRISH POTATO SHORTAGE**

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

## INDUSTRY UPDATES

### **WARMA TO CONSULT FARMERS ON WATER PRICING STRATEGY**

The Water Resource Management Authority (WARMA) is currently undertaking stakeholder consultations on the draft Water Pricing Strategy for Zambia.

According to the draft Water Pricing Strategy, 45% of Water Resource Management Costs will be recovered from agriculture users, while 40% and 5% will be recovered from hydropower users and

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mining companies respectively. Other players such as water utilities and bulk suppliers, and industry users will each account for 5% of Water Resource Management Costs.

Members are encouraged to read the draft Water Pricing Strategy document and submit to ZNFU by close of business on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017. To download the draft Water Pricing Strategy document and add you comment, kindly click on the following link. Press and hold on the control button of the computer key board and then click the link to download.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B9tFVX4gvL5rTnV3N2FVNnM0bXM>

In addition, WARMA has also issued a draft Water User charges and fees document which members can access by clicking on the link shown below. Press and hold on the control button of the computer key board and then click the link to download.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B9tFVX4gvL5rV0gwWkNuLWZjOG8>

### **.....AS FARMERS BRACE FOR CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS**

Farmers in Mkushi district have commended Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) for inviting ZNFU members to a consultative water pricing meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The farmers are looking forward to the meeting as stakeholders' consultation is the right way to go before implementing critical decisions. Meanwhile, Mkushi DFA chairperson Mr. Nico De Kock has urged all Mkushi farmers to take keen interest in the proposed consultative meeting and be party to coining the decision on water pricing. The meeting will be held at the Country Club starting 14:30 hours.

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### **ALERTS!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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

For ALL burning lobby issues affecting members, kindly contact Mr. Humphrey Katotoka from the ZNFU Research and Economics Unit. Email: [humphrey.katotoka@znfu.org.zm](mailto:humphrey.katotoka@znfu.org.zm)

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## **NEWS FROM THE REGIONS**

### **COPPERBELT REGION**

#### **COPPERBELT IN IRISH POTATO SHORTAGE**

Copperbelt has in the recent past recorded an acute shortage of Irish potatoes for almost three months running.

Mpongwe which began production of Irish potatoes two years ago did not produce for both local or export consumption this season. According sources, the farmers avoided to produce Irish potatoes because of the high cost of planting materials (potato seed) which was coming mostly from South Africa. A farmer in Mpongwe also attributed this to the bad roads leading to the market, which was pinpointed as a major contributing factor to the high cost of production.

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Meanwhile, traders have taken advantage of this shortage and are supplying the commodity from Nakonde and Tanzania and selling a 10kg pocket of potatoes at between K60 and K80 at almost all green markets around the Copperbelt. Chain stores have also hiked the prices to around K70 per 10kg pocket.

## **NORTHERN REGION**

### **NIRAS CONDUCTS CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR FARMERS**

NIRAS Zambia has conducted a five-day capacity building training programme for farmer organisations from Northern, Luapula and Muchinga Provinces.

Among farmer organizations that underwent the training include Kasama, Luwingu, Mwense, Mansa, Mpika and Nakonde District Farmers' Associations (DFAs).

Others are District Cooperative Unions from Northern, Muchinga and Luapula Provinces. The objective of the training is to strengthen farmer organisations in various aspects of group management. The topics covered included; group formation, group dynamics and conflict management, strategic planning, Business management, constitution making and leadership skills. The programme is under the Small production and productivity programme (S3P). Also selected Information Centres (ICs) in the three provinces are being trained in various districts.

### **FARMERS URGED TO SAFEGUARD FARM PRODUCE**

Mbala DFA Chairperson Mr. Hector Chonya has advised farmers in Mbala to safeguard this year's produce to avoid hunger at household level.

This came to light during a membership mobilization meeting held at Kalola Information Centre. Mr Chonya was happy with this year's rainfall pattern, which the district has received. He further said that the favourable rainfall would enhance a good harvest hence the need to safeguard the produce for future use. Farmers in the district have expressed optimistic that the harvest will be good and appealed to the DFA Chairperson to find reliable market for the produce.

### **CEEC HOLDS YOUTH EXHIBITION IN KASAMA**

The Citizen Economic Commission (CEEC) on Friday last week held a youth exhibition in Kasama.

The exhibition was meant for the youths to showcase their skills and what they can offer to the community. Youth farmers were also showcasing their skills in Agriculture produce.

CEEC exhibition Manager Mr. Walusungu Banda was impressed with the response from youth farmers and other stakeholders who came to exhibit. Most youths talked to expressed happiness with the exhibition and appealed to CEEC to conduct such activities quarterly and involve other youths in various districts of Northern Province. This was the first youth exhibition to be held in Kasama.

Mr. Walusungu appealed to other stakeholders to come on board and try to help uplift the skills of the youths in the Province.

## **SOUTHERN REGION**

### **LUMPY SKIN & ANAPLASMOSIS BREAK OUT IN MAZABUKA & CHIKANKATA DISTRICTS**

The department of Livestock has confirmed the outbreak of Anaplasmosis (Heart water) and Lumpy skin disease, which has so far affected some animals in Chikankata and Mazabuka Districts.

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Farmers in both Districts are in a panic mode as they seek to control the diseases before they lose more animals. Both Districts have received normal to above rainfall which has resulted in the outbreak of diseases, which are associated with heavy rains.

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