



Commercial Farmers’ Union of Zimbabwe Annual Congress 2017

“Coming Together for Successful Farming”

Table of Contents

- 1. Agenda 2
- 2. Rules of Debate 3
- 3. Past Presidents of the Commercial Farmers’ Union 4
- 4. OSCAR Winners- Commercial Farmers’ Union Award 6
- 5. Resolution: Farmers’ License Fees and Rules 7
- 6. TABLED REPORTS 8
 - REGIONAL REPORTS – 2017 8
 - COMMODITY ASSOCIATION REPORTS– 2017 19
 - AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT– 2017 30
 - LABOUR AFFAIRS AND ADVOCACY AND LOBBY REPORT– 2017 38
- 7. In Memorium 40
- 8. 2017 Congress Sponsorship 41



1. Agenda

74th ANNUAL CONGRESS AGENDA

VENUE: ART FARM

DATES: 20th of September 2017

Time	Activity	Presenter/Facilitator
1400-1430	Registration and Tea	All
1430	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Prayer 2. President’s Report to Members on behalf of Council of the Affairs of the Union 3. Adoption of President’s Report to Congress 4. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements 31st March 2017 5. Proposal for Adoption of Audited Financial Statements 6. Appointments of:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Auditors for the Union b) Legal Advisors to the Union c) Appointment of Trustees 7. Resolutions:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of License fees for 2017/2018 • Adoption of Crops Resolution on Joint Commodity Associations under Federation of Farmers Unions • Adoption of Cattle Resolution on Joint Commodity Associations under Federation of Farmers Unions 8. Discussion of Compensation Options 9. Snacks and Post Congress Council and Electoral College 10. Guest speaker and awarding of Farming Oscar 	CFU Council
21/09/17 0900	The open session will be shared with other Unions at the Launch of the Federation of Farmers Unions (FoFU) on Thursday 21st September at the Robbie Mupawose Centre, Exhibition Park, Harare.	All Farmers



2. Rules of Debate

Order of Debate

- The Proposer will identify him/herself clearly.
- The Proposer will speak.
- The Secunder will speak.
- General Debate will take place.
- The Proposer will wind up the Debate.

Note: If required, the Minister, Government representative or guest will be asked to reply at a time requested by the CFU President

Length of Speeches

Proposer of Resolutions	–	5 minutes
Secunder of Resolutions	–	3 minutes
Mover of Amendments	–	2 minutes
Other speakers	–	2 minutes

The proposer of a resolution may reply at the conclusion of debate, limited to three minutes. Government representatives and guests are requested to keep their speeches as short as possible. The President may at his discretion allow an extension of these limits.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

3. Past Presidents of the Commercial Farmers’ Union

CFU

1910 – 1914 HON R A Fletcher, MLA
1914 – 1916 E Wilson, Esq
1920 – 1923 C S Jobling, Esq
1923 S M Lanigan O’Keefe, CMG
1929 – 1931 H B Christian, Esq
1932 – 1935 G N Fleming, Esq

1979 – 1980 D R Norman, Esq
1980 – 1981 D B Spain, Esq
1981 – 1983 J M Sinclair, Esq
1983 – 1986 A J Laurie, Esq
1986 – 1988 J R Rutherford, Esq
1988 – 1990 J H Brown, Esq
1990 – 1992 A D P Burl, Esq
1992 – 1994 A J Swire-Thompson, Esq
1994 – 1996 P MacSporran, Esq
1996 – 1998 N Swanepoel, Esq
1998 R D Swift, Esq
1998 – 1999 N Swanepoel, Esq
1999 – 2001 T Henwood, Esq
2001 – 2003 C Cloete, Esq
2003 – 2007 D S Taylor-Freeme, Esq
2007 – 2009 T R Gifford, Esq
2009 – 2011 G S Theron, Esq
2011 – 2014 C J Taffs, Esq
2014-present P Steyl

RNFU

1942 – 1944 John Dennis, OBE
1944 – 1946 Hon H V Gibbs
1946 – 1948 J M Caldicott, Esq
1948 – 1951 E D Palmer, Esq
1951 – 1954 J MacIntyre, Esq
1954 – 1956 M Chenells, Esq
1956 – 1963 E B Evans, OBE
1963 – 1968 T Mitchell, DFC
1968 – 1970 J W Field, Esq
1970 – 1972 R G Pascoe, Esq
1972 – 1974 M E Butler, Esq
1974 – 1976 C Millar, Esq
1976 – 1978 C J Strong, Esq
1978 – 1979 D R Norman, Esq

Honorary Life Presidents Trustees

A J Laurie, Esq
R G Pascoe, Esq
C G Strong, Esq
C G Tracey, ICD, Esq

Dave Bouma, Esq
Robert Swift, Esq

Honorary Life Vice Presidents

C J Taffs, Esq



History of the Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe Farming Oscar Award

'The Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe Farming Oscar Award has a long and proud history having been introduced in 1961 by the late Mr C G Tracey during his term as Vice President to the Commercial Farmers' Union as an award in recognition of "those people who have generally done well for agriculture".

'This annual Oscar has become known as the "Farming Oscar" to be given to some person or persons who have given outstanding service to agriculture, and has been awarded to people who have contributed to the Industry in its widest sense.

Over the years winners have been chosen from the practical and scientific disciplines of agriculture, as well as from the administration and leadership roles with the winners selected in recognition of having contributed significantly to the agricultural progress in Zimbabwe.



4. OSCAR Winners- Commercial Farmers' Union Award

OSCAR WINNERS – COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION AWARD

1961 E B Evans, OBE	1988 J Brown
1962 A Rattray, OBE	1989 R K Harvey
1963 E R Campbell, CBE	1990 P Millar
1964 R Stockil, KBE, OBE	1991 Dr S Hargreaves
1965 A C Black	1992 R Ternouth
1966 Dr I McDonald	1993 Dr P Grant
1967 Dr H Pereira	1994 R Winkfield
1968 J R Southall	1995 D Smith
1969 W Margolis	1996 M Edwards
1970 H R Mundy	1997 H Smith
1971 The Hon J C Graylin, ICDCMG	1998 V Hurley
1972 C G Tracey	1999 N Swanepoel
1973 Dr R C Elliott	2000 P Lombard
1974 M E Butler	2001 Dr L T V Cousins
1975 N Spoel	2002 R Tattersfield
1976 R A Griffith, ICD, MBE	2003 Dr J Jackson
1977 J R Humphreys	2004 D Hasluck
1978 D K Worthington	2005 Dr J Grant
1979 C J Strong	2006 D S Taylor- Freeme
1980 Max Rosenfels	2007 A Masterson
1981 D R Norman	2008 D Drury
1982 J W Field	2009 R H Vaughan-Evans
1983 J M Sinclair	2010 Mike Campbell & Ambassador Xavier Marchel
1984 J W Hayward	2011 B Oldrieve
1985 H J Quinton	2012 Dr C Foggen
1986 John & Jill Laurie	2013 L R Bruce
1987 Dr R W Mupawose	2014 C J Taffs
	2015 Dr D Bruce
	2016 Dr J MacRobert



5. Resolution: Farmers' License Fees and Rules

The Council of the Commercial Farmers' Union resolves and recommends to Congress the adoption of an Annual License Fee for the 2016/17 year commencing 1 October 2017 to become due and payable.

Council further resolves and recommends to Congress the adoption of a payment commencing 01 October 2017 and ending 30th September, 2018 applicable to all members as illustrated in the following schedule:

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER	FEE PAYABLE
OPERATING MEMBER (STANDARD LICENSE)	US \$ 500 per annum or US \$ 50 per month
NON OPERATING MEMBER (ARAC LICENSE)	US \$ 100 per title deed up to a maximum of 2
CORPORATE MEMBER	US \$ 1000 per annum or US\$100 per month
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	US \$100 per annum



6. TABLED REPORTS

REGIONAL REPORTS - 2017

MIDLANDS PROVINCE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Crops

A dry and erratic start to the season in November and December led to generally excessive rain in January and February with earlier planted crops faring better than the later planted crops. On average yields were well above normal although some crops were lost to water logging.

Fall Army Worm (often confused with Chiloworm) caused major concern early in the season as control was difficult. Incidences of Hail and increased disease pressure led to some horticultural crops being written off with others suffering major yield losses.

The area under maize production increased dramatically with prospects of good prices and assistance from the Government's Command Agriculture Scheme, with area planted to Soya Beans being reduced as a result. A number of farms and ARDA Estates have been resuscitated and brought back into production as famers enter into Joint Venture Agreements with the current tenants on the land.

Persistent late rains delayed harvesting of the summer crop but with all dams full and plenty of water around, area planted to wheat and barley has increased on previous years. Although planted later than usual, projections are for good yields on well managed farms.

Cash shortages has often led to the shortage of Labour during peak requirements as they are reluctant to work for electronic payments.

With the large uptake of maize seed this previous season and projected increase in production this coming year, Seed houses have rushed around and planted additional seed maize during March in the warmer frost free areas.

Livestock

Grazing for beef has been plentiful and of average quality after the good rains, although the rampant and uncontrolled bush fires are putting this at risk. There has been some shortages of beef as small scale farmers resist electronic payments.

Dairy cattle suffered with the consistent wet and muddy conditions at the start of the year but once it dried up, milk yields improved.

Chickens and eggs are in a semi short supply at the moment, due to the lack of smuggled and grey imported chicken and eggs and outbreaks of Avian Flu in other areas. Local farmers are slowly returning to the industry. Self - sufficiency should be achieved this year due to stock feed abundance and lack of unfair imported competition. Egg prices firmed slightly but countered by



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

big price increases in any product with imported material, ie packaging, with delays getting these products as people wait for payment clearance from RBZ. Stock feed is plentiful except for soya's and soya meal which is imported. Cotton has yet to make it to the market for crushing. Brans are available with varied supply and prices.

Dr. Bill Moore

Midlands Province

MASVINGO REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017

“Farming is an honourable profession, and you and I need to live up to that fact. We should be known as hardworking and honest people. As farmers, we should also be grateful for having the privilege of working the land and feeding God's people.

Without farmers, people would go hungry; it's as simple as that. And every country, including South Africa should be aware of that. Society in general, and our leaders in particular, need to treat farmers with respect and help them stay on the land.

*Let us thank God for the profession of farming and pray that the Lord will give all of us who work the soil the strength to fulfil our honourable positions as custodians of the land.” Angus Buchan
28 July 2017.*

Even during this difficult year that has passed we must endeavour to look at all of the positives that occurred during that year. But right now though, this is extremely difficult as farmers who are again facing a constant barrage of insults, abuse and threat of eviction, which has become the 'normal' during any of the election campaigns.

This is why I have begun with the words of the renowned and respected South African evangelist to help and appeal to the powers that be see some reason that this constant subversive division of our people and disruption of farming operations must stop, immediately. It should never have been started in the first place, especially, in the form which subsequently developed into absolute lawlessness, which has destroyed our national economy.

For each single person employed in agriculture another 7 are employed in downstream industries. Since the collapse the majority have sought work outside our borders.

A small, once highly productive people who were an absolute credit to our young nation of Zimbabwe have been made fair game to all and sundry to loot and destroy private property that was developed through many years of hard work and at great personal expense.

Surely the people of Zimbabwe must soon realise what has happened by the support of this naked theft and racism?

The laws of Zimbabwe were twisted to 'legalise' the exercise of land acquisition. This was recently admitted in a speech given at the funeral of our late Chief Justice. Nothing can move forward until



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

this matter is fully resolved by fully respecting the Constitution of Zimbabwe; respecting property rights; restoring the rule of law; immediately paying full and fair compensation for seized property as set out in International Law.

The recipients of such stolen property need to understand fully that theft is a continuing offence and that, one day, when, the outstanding compensation bill is finally settled it will be the people of Zimbabwe who will have to pay for this treasonous offence that has literally destroyed our economy – and not the perpetrators themselves.

Furthermore, under the current untenable situation it is highly unlikely that the sons and daughters of the current occupants of the land will ever inherit the property from their parents.

We as a Union, together with the other Agricultural Unions and Civil Society have been working closely together to resolve this impasse and to get Agriculture back on track again to become fully productive. We owe this to the new generation of farmers who are so eagerly wanting to enter the industry. We need to be able to put the past behind us.

We appeal to the powers that be to stop playing such dangerous and damaging games with our nation's future. We urge them instead to reflect back to what happened following the encouragement of the **Reconciliation Policy** announced in a speech by President Mugabe at Independence, which heralded the greatest growth period that agriculture has ever seen in Zimbabwe.

This can easily be repeated, but we would need to work closer together to return the confidence to invest in the long-term and high-risk investment in Agriculture once again. Put the value back into the land through wise legislation and legalise the transfer through adequate compensation.

Please give us that trust to help turn the economy around once again. At very least we owe this to all the children of Zimbabwe in order to secure their future.

Obituaries

“Ian” Andrew John Dudgeon Stein passed away in **November 2016** in England. He was one of the original Lowveld sugar pioneers who later expanded and ventured into tea production in Chipinge. He was fortunately eligible for a pension in UK after, like so many others, he had lost absolutely everything here.

Daniel Drennan “Titch” de Waal passed away on **2 December 2016** in Pietermaritzburg after battling with cancer for many years. He was another of the Lowveld sugar pioneers who together developed the industry from virgin Mopani bushveld into one of the most productive areas in the country, which turned the country around from being a net importer of sugar, into its current state of self-sufficiency as well as exporting the product.

Samuel “Sam” Knott Cawood passed away in Musina on **20 March 2017**. This was one of the saddest losses to our community, which he never left. Sam and Janet became a huge part of our Lowveld institution playing such a prominent role in the Mwenezi farming community as well as on the centre stage of our national cattle industry. His name will never be forgotten and will no



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

doubt feature prominently in any future books written about the province as he was so caring about everyone in the small community, and far beyond.

Jan “Jannie” Petrus Schalk Meyer passed away suddenly in Harare on **6 May 2017**. Another of the real Lowveld characters and whenever one mentions his name one's face always lights up remembering some of the silly pranks he used to play and the jokes he used to tell. We would often wonder if he was ever able to take life seriously as it was always an absolute joy being in his company, especially around the camp fire as many of his safari clients will well remember.

Boytjie Bosman passed away on **18 July 2017** in South Africa. Although packing up farming shortly after the war and moving to South Africa after selling his ranches, he remains one of the Lowveld's most unforgettable characters. During his time he was probably the most eligible bachelor living in the Mateke Hills remaining so for many years until Vivian Adamson managed to snare him and lead him to the altar.

One of the most shocking events of this year was news of the savage murder of **Bob Gawler** recently in South Africa on **28 July 2017**. Of course we always remember Bob and his late brother Mike from their days as managers on the old Liebigs Ranch. Such lovely people. Such fine Brahman cattle they bred, with most of us in our province using their excellent weaner heifers as our foundation breeding stock. Those Liebigs sales were unforgettable as the quality of the stock was so high and the buyers were able to walk away with literally hundreds of head perfectly uniform weaners at a time.

All of the above were such special people, who will never be forgotten. May they now rest in peace.

This year we finally witnessed the completion of the new Tokwe Makorsi Dam, which has now overtaken Mutirikwi Dam as the largest inland reservoir in Zimbabwe – albeit about 60 years after it was sited and planned. One special feature is that it has a far greater catchment area than Mutirikwi so we saw it reach 72% capacity in its first year. At this level it is just below the total capacity of Mutirikwi. The other encouraging news was that it is intended not to draw water off Mutirikwi for at least 2 years to let it fully replenish. By that time the new planned irrigation projects may be in place to utilise some of the Tokwe Makorsi water to widen the Masvingo greenbelt.

So there is huge potential there and we all need to be encouraged get to busy without interference.

Sugar Industry

The sugar industry experienced a good season last year with the yield slightly higher than the previous year. Any reduction in yield due to the drought, late rains and water conservation management would only be seen once this year's crop has been harvested. Areas abandoned due to water shortages last season (2016) are in the process of being replanted and will start to yield in 2018.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

Sugar industry produced 453,000 tons sugar from 3,483,000 t/cane at an average cane to sugar ratio of 7.68 in 2016 an increase of 41,000 t/sugar on prior year.

There has been a bit of turmoil between the new farmers and the millers over the pricing arrangements but this can be resolved. There has also been a problem with new land claimants on Triangle expecting the millers to pay for their own cane. This was even despite instruction from the President that existing cane fields should be left alone and any new settlement should take place on undeveloped areas with the cooperation of Triangle. This followed a visit by the South African President and subsequent respect shown for the BIPPA between South Africa and Zimbabwe.

One great disappointment though has been the attempted acquisition and occupation of several of the (only) white owned Mpapa settlement sugar farms. These small irrigation farms were put out to tender in 1993, long after Land Acquisition had started. Farmers were then selected to give even distribution between employees of Nuanetsi Ranch and Triangle Limited on whose combined land the scheme was developed. An amicable solution is currently being sought.

The above are figures from **Stephen Schwarer** who is still hanging in there doing a remarkable job overseeing the sugar industry. Thanks Stephen.

Our sugar industry in our province has so much potential, which can be enhanced by the preferred use of green fuel worldwide. That huge potential needs to be allowed to be met without unnecessary interference.

Cattle Industry

The rains came later than usual but when they finally did come it seemed like they would never stop and record levels of rainfall were recorded all over the province. Being at the bottom end of many of the main river catchments many high-level bridges were washed away by water and silt on its way to the Indian Ocean. Fortunately, none of those damaged bridges were on the national highways so disruption was minimal.

For the crop farmers the heavy continuous rains gave mixed blessings and the cattle and wildlife were almost swimming in their flooded grazing areas for a while. The grazing only really took off once the rain slowed down after two months giving the Lowveld some of the best grazing in many years.

The area burnt by veld fires in Masvingo Province during the year 2016 dropped to 7 495,14 hectares as compared to 75 708,17 hectares burnt during the year 2015. This is a significant decrease in area burnt although property, forests, crops and livestock were affected in the process. This was probably caused more by the poor grazing last season caused by overgrazing and lack of management.

As our surviving famer numbers become less and less on the ground and those few remaining ones continue to have their areas cut even smaller, the commercial herd has therefore been considerably reduced. Of our 4 outstanding pedigree breeders, which were left we only have a single one left.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

Another one, not included in those 4 had long ago relocated elsewhere and is fortunately still able to run and improve the genetics in his top Brahman herd. Sadly though the others have now gone, together with most of their herds, which is a very sad loss to the cattle industry, losing such valuable and irreplaceable blood lines.

Whilst the powers that be still boast that Masvingo province has the highest number of cattle in the country it would be very interesting to know what the percentage of the herd is that are marketed each year. With the new ownership and management of the cattle herd in the province the whole marketing strategy has changed. Gone are the days where one can go to a sale and pick up a few hundred perfectly uniform weaners or feeders like before. This is because cattle are sold individually rather than in groups or pens.

For cattle ranchers, of which we have only a very few left, the lack of control over livestock movement from neighbouring properties has continued to be a problem. As has also been the cost of compliance to the payment of numerous taxes, levies and for services rendered. Probably the latest one being the land rentals and development levy has been the last straw that broke the camel's back. The imposed fee of \$5.00/ha is a huge problem for cattle (and wildlife) ranchers whose profit margins were already so small. This is especially in agricultural regions IV, V and VI, which can only safely accommodate 1 LSU to about 15ha. = ± \$75.00 per LSU per annum.

I would like to again recognise the considerable and significant work, which **Jaco Erasmus** has done on behalf of the cattle industry. And for all the meetings and workshops which he has attended at which his knowledgeable input is always considerable, as well as being well respected and very much appreciated. It is with people like this that we can make our industry great again. Unfortunately he was forced off his farm, which is a huge loss to the industry. Thank you Jaco and we wish you and Nicky all the best for the future, whatever you may now decide to do.

Furthermore we owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Dirk Odendaal** who has continued to chair the Brahman breeders association to keep up the high standards of the breed. Witness to this was recently seen at this year's Annual Bull Sale where the prices were 50% higher than last year. Well done and thank you Dirk.

There is huge potential for growth in this industry and it needs to be allowed to be exploited to its fullest potential.

Wildlife Industry

Our wildlife industry also benefitted hugely from the wonderful rains we received. Zimbabwe still remains one of the most popular hunting destinations in Africa by overseas safari clientele. The industry also received a boost from the new American administration who lifted bans on certain animals this year, which had restricted the hunting and export of trophies from certain animals last year.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

Unfortunately the situation in some conservancies has still not been resolved with the essential game fencing still being torn down and mostly going unrepaired. The straying wild animals are therefore a continued problem for the surrounding neighbours as are the livestock continually straying into the conservancy areas.

Whilst some foreign investment properties covered by BIPPA are to some extent protected those covered by the South Africa/Zimbabwe BIPPA are glaringly excluded. Furthermore the Zimbabwean properties have all been taken over by National Parks with the absurd situation of the safari operators having to buy their own animals back from National Parks. When many of the conservancies first started they were quite empty of some of the more popular species of wildlife which hunters most want to hunt. Massive restocking exercises were therefore undertaken at huge expense but with the operator now unable to take advantage of his original massive investment.

Although some of the rhino figures are not being divulged for security reasons, in our southern conservancy nine rhino have been poached. For the first time in two years the births have been slightly higher than the deaths. The protection of the rhino is a huge chunk of the management costs, which many are having difficulty in maintaining.

The rhino poaching syndicates are continuing to grow in number as well as in size and the involvement of a few of the ranchers' ex scouts, and members from various law enforcing agencies, is making it very difficult to get on top of. Although many of the alleged 'kingpins' have been arrested this year the poaching just continues.

The general poor shape of the economy has caused the taxman to be trying to look for any opportunity to broaden their income base, in some cases even if it means their own interpretation of the tax laws. The latest idea seems to be trying to get operators to pay withholding tax on the commission that foreign agents deduct at source, i.e. the agents add a percentage onto hunt prices and this is retained by them before they pay the net amount to operators/outfitters here. If nothing is remitted from Zimbabwe how they can withholding tax be claimed?

The NEC Tourism also gave a \$15 increase across all grades which, in one case, equated to 14 % as most of their employees fall within Grade one. This has resulted in them having to trim 40 jobs to remain viable.... not great for the unemployment stats!

In our southern conservancy the lion population is still a huge concern and where they continue to notice the adverse effect that the high lion numbers are having on some of the herbivore species.... eland, giraffe and wildebeest being the most noticeable.

The division of within the conservancies between Zimbabwean and BIPPA protected operators brought about by government policy is causing an unsustainable situation, because the game is shared as there are no fences in between. The sharing of resources discussions seem also to go on and on without any final resolution as new players and new rules keep being played.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

We congratulate and sincerely thank **Weldon Schenck** for continuing the difficult task as Chairman of the Save Valley Conservancy this year.

This industry has huge potential but needs to be freed to expand to its fullest without constant interference.

Masvingo Region and CFU

Sitting on the inside here at CFU HQ in Exhibition Park it has been a difficult but very interesting year. Of course our downsizing exercise has left the Union very shorthanded but we are all doing our best to keep it going, although of course I am not officially employed by the Union. My main work here is on the human rights side for which I am fortunate enough to have a sponsor for. But

Rob and I keep pushing from behind the scenes and on CFU Council ensuring the best interests of our Masvingo farming community are well looked after.

I have been very fortunate to have had **Rob Beverley** to continue supporting me as our very capable Vice Chairman and parting with some of his incredible wisdom for which I thank him most sincerely. Rob is also on the ARAC committee where he keeps a keen eye on the best methods of valuation of cattle and game ranches for compensation.

In the CFU Office here we lost **Marc Carrie Wilson** who moved on to greener pastures. He was always a breath of fresh air constantly coming up with new ideas and we certainly miss him. **Ben Purcell-Gilpin** took over as Acting Director after Marc left and has now been promoted to Director. This was a well-deserved promotion as he is well qualified for the difficult task ahead of him. He is an absolute pleasure to work with. **Mel George** was welcomed to our team and very ably assists Ben with the accounts as well as with the work I do.

Benoit Lagesse has also had his work cut out on the Audit Committee for part of the year until he stepped down to spend more time with his personal business, which are taking up more of his time. His work on Audit Committee and sound guidance has been very greatly appreciated by all. Thank you Ben!

Working with **Peter Steyl** has again been an absolute pleasure as he shares my enthusiasm of bringing all four of the Agricultural Unions to work together. This is initially under the Federation of Agricultural Unions of Zimbabwe within which each union will retain their own identity. The inaugural joint Congress will be held after ours later this year. He is probably one of the greatest rugby player our Union has ever know as he loves passing the ball!

On the compensation side I would like to recognise the difficult work, which has been continued behind the scenes by **Patrick Ashton, Mac Crawford, Alan York, Charles Taffs** and **John Laurie** on the Compensation Steering Committee. They have made a huge amount of progress this year. **Wynand Hart** has, amongst many other interests also looked after our South African citizens' interests, which we greatly appreciate.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

Although we are a small team at your Union we still need your support to keep our doors open. Both Rob and I would like to thank you all for your incredible support over the last year, especially those of you who have dug deep through the difficult times to find money to pay your CFU subscriptions. Thank you.

I once again thank my family for allowing me to continue to use up so much of my time to carry on with this work on your behalf.

We pray for our farmers and their families and for the full recovery of the agricultural industry in the very near future.

Thank you and God bless.

Mike Clark

Masvingo Regional Chairman

MASHONALAND CENTRAL 2017 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to welcome everyone to this meeting and thank you all for making the effort to attend. Over the past year there have been several members from our district who have passed away. I would like to convey my sincere condolences to all those who have lost loved ones at this time.

The farming environment has remained extremely challenging during the past farming season, as financial constraints, politics and land tenure have all reached havoc on the once vibrant industry.

Some relief was felt by the La Nina weather conditions prevailing over most of the country, which saw heavy and well above average rains falling in most areas, which positively impacted grain crops in the province. The favourable season in combination with the Governments Command maize input scheme saw large areas of maize planted by A1 and A2 farmers, often on land which had not been in cultivation for some years. Due to these good rains, even dry land maize crops planted very late, were able to achieve fair yields. Dam levels are at an all-time high, as seen by Mazowe Dam which filled this season and which last spilled in 2001.

GMB so far have had the required funding to pay fully and on time for deliveries of maize and soya into their depots. They have however been very strict on grain moisture content and quality, and many loads have been returned to farm, for these reasons. With GMB paying commodity prices way in excess of regional norms, there has never been a better time to maximize returns from grain crops, for those few remaining commercial producers.

Liquidity has been tight with banks demanding off farm immovable collateral, making it inaccessible, and high interest rates, ranging from 14 -20%. Most farmers were forced to take up



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

contract farming arrangements in order to access inputs on credit, which further ate into the viability of their operations.

Political interference and jambanjas, have continued despite assurances from the Zimbabwe Government that the Fast Track Land Reform process has come to an end. Investors and especially exporters have no real security and no incentive to run the risks associated with agriculture in Zimbabwe. Furthermore, environmental degradation in the form of deforestation and veld fires, in addition to theft remain an unrelenting problem.

On a positive note, power supplies from ZESA were relatively reliable allowing irrigators the ability to run pumps when necessary. ZINWA prices for water have been reduced marginally from \$8.88 to \$7.06 per mega litre. The wheat crop is marginally larger, but due to the massive maize crop most areas were planted for summer and were too late for winter production.

I am very encouraged that a number of new young farmers (and some older) are taking the plunge by entering into JV's with the resettled land holders in the province. I wish you all the success in commercial agriculture and encourage you to become members of the CFU.

It remains for me to thank the CFU team for all the hard work they put in behind the scenes, to keep current farmers and compensation issues relevant in Zimbabwe today, and to pray God's blessing on all the members for the coming season.

Angus Guthrie

Mashonaland Central

MASHONALAND WEST CONGRESS REPORT 2017

Overview

The 2016/17 farming season was blessed with good rains and fairly stable conditions. An emphasis on production seemed to be the general idea and large areas were put under the plough again throughout the district. This resulted in the GMB silos in Banket, Lions Den, Karoi and Magunje being filled to capacity and bag stacks required for surplus. With the good rains all but a very few dams spilled and this has enabled a reasonable wheat crop to have been planted which is generally looking good with some potential for above average yields.

Crops

Soya bean. There was a fairly small area grown to soya this year. Yields were good in the commercial sector and prices were firm at the start of marketing and weakening as deliveries progressed.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

Maize. There were meaningful areas grown to maize. Yields were generally good with a number of lands reportedly achieving in excess of 10 tons per hectare. The GMB price of \$390-00 per ton had a positive impact on the size of the crop.

Cattle. There are a number of herds that remain in the area but most have been reduced due to grazing constraints. Production is difficult but there are still a few producers that are maintaining their herd quality and some good bulls are still available from these breeders

Other Crops. There are a few other crops being grown by members and these include Wheat, Potatoes, Sugar beans and small grains. Potatoes have become an important crop to producers that have some irrigation and are able to maximise returns off diminished areas by growing high value crops. Good yields of +50 tons per ha and fair demand have given potato production a boost. Wheat has seen a large increase in area grown but this still falls short of national requirements and will need constant growth for some years to attain self-sufficiency.

Conclusion. It has generally been a good farming year with most farmers expressing satisfaction at yields achieved and prices received. Inputs for the coming season seem to be going up rapidly in price and are becoming more difficult to procure. It is hoped that this will not have a negative impact on future production. The farmers in Mash West generally are positive going forward and if the correct environment prevails there will be some substantial volumes of crops produced in seasons ahead.

Roy Linfield

Mashonaland West - North

MATABELELAND REGIONAL REPORT FOR CONGRESS 2017

The past season was for Matabeleland, probably one of the best in terms of rainfall with some areas recording over 1500mm, most of the provinces dams taking 100% capacity. Bulawayo catchment dams taking between 75% to 100% inflow, but reports of widespread dam breach's due to neglect of dams on resettled properties and in commercial areas being reported.

Most areas reports of good maize yields with stocks to carry forward into next year. Cattle condition good due to good grass cover and water due to the rains. Prices are down and farmers reluctant to sell on transfer opting for cash only, shortages of heifers being reported as most producers holding on to female stock.

Bull sales and pedigree stock prices have been strong with producers very happy with prices at Auction. Outbreaks of foot and mouth in the south being reported. Vet. Dept. closing down areas to try and control fresh outbreaks. Stock feed companies reporting shortages of cotton seed and cake and hulls for stock feeds (reports of a small crop).



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

Farmers are also concerned at supplies of veterinary products at suppliers which appear to be diminishing rapidly off the shelves due to forex shortages.

No cases of Bird flu being reported in Matabeleland but due to outbreaks, broiler chicks and chicken products are in shortage. Farmers struggling to cope with the cash shortages as it impacts on the general population leaving very little buying power to the man in the street. As is a three tier pricing i.e US\$ Bond and swipe with as much as 40% difference.

Farmers also worried over the forth coming election as they read statements in the press fermenting racial tensions and attacking farmers and threatening fresh farm invasions. Most people concerned as the country seems to be slipping back to the 2008 level. Many young families looking into immigrating as unable to afford high cost of schooling and health care.

Gay Wilde

Matabeleland

COMMODITY ASSOCIATION REPORTS- 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Review of the Past Season

Thankfully as predicted by the weather forecasters the 2016/17 summer season turned out to be one of the wettest experienced in Zimbabwe for many years. Although the predicted early start to the rains did not materialise in most places, once the rains did come they were consistent and widespread, with all regions of the country receiving above average and in some cases more than double their annual average rainfall. The good rains meant that in many areas there was an almost perfect growing season and almost all dams were filled, including the Mazowe Dam which last spilled in 2001.

This however does not mean that it was an easy season in which to farm. The ongoing and increasingly severe foreign currency shortage in the country meant that the reliable and consistent supply of inputs that we have enjoyed over the last few seasons was disrupted. At different stages through the season, diesel, crop chemicals and fertilizers were all in short supply. These shortages resulted in extra stress for farmers, in delayed planting and in many cases they also hindered weed, disease and pest control programmes. In some areas the continuous rains made it impossible for planting programmes to be completed.

The sudden and unexpected arrival in the country of the "Fall Army Worm" gave many maize farmers sleepless nights, especially as the weather was not conducive to controlling it and the chemicals that were available in many instances were ineffective. The continuation of the rains through March and into April whilst ensuring that the yields of late planted crops were good and in some cases better than those of early planted crops, caused major problems with the harvesting of the soya and maize crops. The major shortage of reliable combine harvesters also seriously



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

affected those farmers who rely on contract combine operators to harvest their crops. Many soya bean producers suffered major losses because they were unable to harvest on time and the quality

of maize, especially the early crop was seriously affected by the delays in harvesting. The shortage of grain drying facilities also resulted in major delays in the harvesting of maize and as a result many farmers had to reduce their wheat plantings. The general feeling amongst crop farmers is that it was a very long and tough season.

Thankfully however, for the majority, it was not a season without reward. The challenges were overcome, and the effect of the Fall Army Worm on yields appears to have been far less severe than many farmers were expecting, especially when at knee height some of their crops had an almost 100% infestation. Maize yields have been good in all areas of the country. This coupled with the high price has pushed the profitability of maize production to levels that we have not seen for many years. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for soya beans. Whilst yields have generally been very good, and the market price was initially acceptable, it has now as a result of cheap imports from neighbouring countries crashed to levels where even with good yields, the costs of production cannot be covered.

Estimates of the size of the national maize crop range from 2.1 million tonnes down to 1.3 million tonnes, plus carryover stocks of around 2 hundred thousand tonnes. Whichever figures are correct, Zimbabwe will be self-sufficient in maize this season. The national soya bean crop however has declined to levels which are almost insignificant. National production has decreased from 50 thousand tonnes in the 2015/16 season to around 35 thousand tonnes in 2016/17. This is slightly more than 1 month's requirements. The greatly reduced soya bean crop is a direct result of the high price being paid by the GMB for maize and the Government's commitment since the 2015/16 season to ensuring that the GMB is adequately funded so that payments are timely. We hope and pray that this commitment continues especially as the Government is actively discouraging private sector purchases of maize and the GMB is effectively the sole purchaser.

2017 Winter Season

I would like to turn now to the current winter crop. As I indicated earlier, many farmers had to reduce the area of wheat planted because they were unable to harvest maize in time. According to official figures, an area of 37 thousand hectares has been planted and whilst this is short of the Government's target of 60 thousand hectares it is a massive increase from the 14 thousand hectares planted in 2016 and the 10 thousand hectares planted in 2015. At this stage the bulk of the crop is looking good and the ZESA supply has generally been good.

Command Agriculture

This report would not be complete if I did not mention the Government's programme to stimulate local agricultural production, better known as Command Farming. Whilst this programme has its critics and in the past season it did have some areas of weakness, it undoubtedly made a significant contribution to maize production during the just ended summer season and is mostly responsible for the large increase in wheat production this winter. It has also resulted in price stability and order in the marketing of maize and wheat which is of great benefit to all our members whether



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

they are producing for the Command Programme or not. We look forward to the inclusion of soya beans in the Command Programme for the 2017/18 season.

Association Matters

I would like to now turn your attention to the activities of the Zimbabwe Crop Producers Association during the past year. The capacity of any association is determined by the number and commitment of its members and its ability to raise finances to fund its operations. Our Association like its umbrella body the Commercial Farmers Union has since the start of the Fast Track Land Reform Programme suffered a huge loss of members and those few members who have managed to continue operating are doing so in an environment of great uncertainty and daily challenges. We have also completely lost our ability to raise finances to fund our operations. The result is that our capacity is almost non-existent. Whilst the lack of capacity has meant that we have not been able to be active in the public arena, it does not mean that we have not been working behind the scenes. We have continued to take an active role in trying to bring about an environment in the nation that is conducive to profitable crop production. We have been represented by members of the CFU team and elected members of the ZCPA management committee at a number of forums and meetings. I would like to express my gratitude to the CFU President Pete Steyl for the amount of time that he has put into attending meetings and other events that directly benefit our members. I would also like to thank the Director Ben Purcell-Gilpin for his efforts on our behalf. They are greatly appreciated.

Having highlighted our small membership base and our lack of capacity, we now have to ask the question where to from here? Agriculture was the engine that powered the economy of Zimbabwe and I firmly believe that our economy will never really recover until agriculture recovers. All farmers whether large or small scale face similar challenges and now is the time for us to join hands and work together to find answers to these challenges and to influence the policy makers so as to ensure the creation of a conducive environment for agriculture in Zimbabwe. I do not believe that agriculture in Zimbabwe will achieve its full potential until we join hands and build together.

In this regard I am excited to inform you that the formation of the Zimbabwe Federation of Farmers Unions is a reality and the official launch of the Federation will take place in a couple of months. Under this umbrella we have a major role to play in the formation of a combined Crop Producers Association that will represent all crop producers, both large and small scale.

Conclusion

In conclusion, as we look to the future and contemplate the many challenges and difficulties that lie ahead, there are many positive signs that should encourage us as crop producers. We live in a nation that is still short of the commodities that we produce. We also live in a world that has a rapidly growing population that will have to be fed and we are living on the continent that has the most underutilised land.

Finally, whilst none of us know what the future holds, there is someone who does. He is Almighty God, our creator. In the Bible in verses 18 and 19 of Isaiah 43 He says the following: “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I will do a new thing, now it



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

shall spring forth; shall you not be aware of it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert”. I firmly believe that these verses apply to our nation at this time. Our future is bright.

*Thank you and may God Bless you all.
Andy Pascoe*

CATTLE PRODUCERS’ REPORT TO CFU CONGRESS 2016

General Overview of the Cattle Industry:

The past rainfall season has been above normal, which has resulted in an excess of grass especially in the South of the country, this bulk and surface water is very welcome after the many years of below normal rainfall. The excessive continual wet periods during the breeding season in the Highveld lead to lower conception rates across many herds.

National slaughtering are much the same as 2016 at “250 000” in government monitored abattoirs. Deliveries of live animals to feedlots, abattoirs, and auction sales have decreased significantly with the shortage of cash and devaluation of bond notes. Producers would rather hold their animals back and sell them only as funds are required. This has resulted in a further shortage of slaughter stock, causing producer prices to firm by 20% in the last month.

Female demand and prices are very firm especially for quality stock. This is a good indication that producers are confident in the cattle industry and are willing to invest.

Prices at the National Bull Sale for top quality Bulls and Heifers was up 48% over the previous year. This was a welcome relief for pedigree breeders who have exhibited faith and invested in the very long term stud breeding industry. Stud breeders are at the apex of the cattle production triangle, a strong stud breeding industry filters down to cattle producers which results in an improved National Herd and thus poverty alleviation.

Foot and Mouth (FM) has become a real challenge for the Veterinary Department, who face financial challenges for the importation of FM vaccines, the erection of FM boundary fences and other consumables needed to fight the disease. FMD is still contained in its traditional provinces, but there are more cases been reported. The illegal movement of cattle and corrupt government officials policing this movement aggravates the volatile situation.

Tick Borne diseases are becoming prevalent throughout the country. Many producers are reporting Blue Tick resistance to most local dips. Dips, drugs, worm remedies and vaccines are becoming critically short. If this shortage is not addressed urgently the positive increase in the National Herd which has been witnessed over the last 2 years could be nullified.

Veld Fires –Man Made Droughts-The National Stock Thief.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

This destruction of our National Herds cheapest feed source is costing the producers and Zimbabwe tens of thousands of potential calves a year. The authorities do not seem concerned about the destruction of the veld and our cattle grazing. Statistics show the National herd to be 5.5million. Suppose 2.5million are cows. If the veld was not burnt and cows could graze throughout the winter, we could lift the national calving percentage by 5%. Zimbabwe would produce an extra 125 000 calves per annum, these extra calves when grown out would mean we could start exporting beef again. Producers are pleading with Government to take the wanton burning of the veld seriously and introduce stiffer penalties for arson, even as high as stock theft penalties.

In conclusion, I have just skimmed over four issues which affect cattle producers: marketing, diseases, availability of veterinary products and destruction of the veld our cheapest food. I beg the question, do you feel we could resolve these issues as individual cattle farmers, or could we address them as a united Zimbabwe Cattle Producers Association? Is it not time Ladies and Gentlemen to join together for the better of all producers to form one Zimbabwe Cattle Producer Association?

Mark Hook

Cattle Commodity Chairman

AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY AND COMPENSATION (ARAC) REPORT 2017

There are those who will tell you that no compensation will be forthcoming. This dismal attitude is wrong. Not only is compensation for Permanent improvements including Land dealt within our Zimbabwean constitution; but also, messages from the Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement, assure us that the GOZ is serious about arriving at consensual values. Once these values are agreed, the value of LAND and PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS combined over all the titles will allow for the easy calculation of the “GLOBAL FIGURE”.

Undoubtedly the resolution of the Compensation, due for the assets that have so cruelly been taken from us, is not only well overdue it is one of the foremost reasons our country is in such a depressing financial crisis. Respect for property rights (which particularly includes compensation for our taken assets), is foremost amongst the many important issues that the authorities will have to come to terms with. However cynical you maybe, eventually this will come about. We have at last achieved a serious dialogue with Government to this end. It is now my pleasure to report back to you on the workings of your ARAC committee up to August 2017

First, I would like to acknowledge the ARAC committee members. Those present here today and those who are unable to be here. They have all, always taken a keen interest representing you, our



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

former farmers, who are now well overdue your payments for assets. In particular, committee members have taken part in many robust exchanges, airing a variety of views which have covered several issues. Inevitably, and particularly amongst formally independent entrepreneurs, there are frustrations and divergent approaches to our issues; but I wish to congratulate our committee for arriving at a consensus concerning our approaches. Effectively we are all after the same GOAL, “Effective fair compensation.” May I also take this opportunity to thank Jim Barker (retiring due to age) and Dave Sole (retiring due to work load in Mozambique) for their contributions over the years? Jim and Dave as you retire from the committee I know you will still keep a keen interest in our affairs.

I propose to explain in brief the up to date situation as of today, and will welcome questions and discussion directly after this report.

Firstly The CFU our parent body.

The CFU has, at last, resolved the uncertain financial crisis it found itself in last year and has settled down (albeit in a significantly smaller structure) to dealing with the issues concerning us all here today. This time last year our parent body was in crisis. The CFU’s assets were tied to a single property, which at the time appeared to be unsalable at anything but a give-away price in the then environment, there was also an internal dispute concerning our bookkeeping. The consequence of this was that service to our membership failed, membership fell and staff went unpaid for months on end.

However after an exhaustive and seemingly endless trail the CFU has been able to liquidate its interest in the industrial / commercial property, which after paying exorbitant taxes and settling an unfortunate staffing dispute, has left our union with sufficient funding that should keep us afloat and which together with your membership support, should last for the next few years.

The CFU has downsized significantly and is now directed by Ben Gilpin. He has been the lynch pin for the continued existence of the CFU since the resignation of Marc Carrie-Wilson, the former Acting Director. He has shouldered the additional burdens with calm professional expertise. Ben, a “big thank you” from us all here today; this for your unflagging loyalty and for the many ways in which you have assisted so many of us.

I should also like to acknowledge the efforts of our President, Pete Style, garnishing support for a federation of other agricultural unions culminating in a joint Congress due to be held on the 22nd September this year. This is a significant development for the future of General Agriculture in Zimbabwe and compliments ARAC’s vision encompassed in our acronym ARAC Agricultural “**Recovery**” And Compensation.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

Turning to the Compensation Steering Committee (CSC)

A year ago it became clear, that in order for farmers to engage with Government regarding Compensation, an entity was needed to draw all the farmer stakeholders together, to co-ordinate a unified front to engage Government. At last year's ARAC AGM there was verbal acclamation for such a body. Your ARAC committee submitted this desire to CFU Council requesting a suitable mandate. After in-depth consideration, the terms of reference were agreed, identifying and parameters under which the CFU Council mandated the CSC. SACFA followed suit the following month. ValCon and Agri Africa together with 8 other Civil Society organisations have all lent their support to the CSC.

ARAC is directly represented on the Compensation Steering Committee by the *Ex Officio* Chairman of ARAC. In addition I am pleased to tell you that each of the persons you acclaimed last year, now form this committee. They are Mr John Laurie, who surely needs no introduction, Charles Taffs (appointed CFU consultant for Compensation), Mac Crawford representing *ex officio* Chairman of SACFA for Matabeleland, Allan York representing Matabeleland and Agri Africa (who directed the successful "Dutch farmers challenge") and finally myself as Chairman of ARAC. John Laurie is our elected Chairman and does a wonderful job. John has recently written a CSC newsletter which is to be published in this week's CFU Calling. In this newsletter John explains that The CSC met with the Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement at a Symposium in early April this year. The outcome of this meeting was that an Ad Hoc Tech Committee of Valuers from the Ministry and ValCon would convene to establish a consensual value for the Compensation, and report back to the Symposium. We are in this process now.

To date the Ad Hoc Tech Committee has held one meeting which was chaired very professionally by a Lady lawyer Mrs. Sumowah. ValCon presented their "Look-up" list of values for assets which the Ministry was instructed to match with their list. We are awaiting the next meeting. Again sensibly, The Chair insisted that the ownership of the Title is clearly established. Valcon will have most of this information but of course "time marches on" and farmers are requested to ensure that their credentials to the ownership are unambiguous and upto date. In particular, many titles are held by Private Companies and even corporate bodies. Please make sure shares are not muddled, pledged or encumbered inextricably somehow. We are trying to establish the precise legal position for Companies that have been deregistered or perhaps have been sold on as shelf Companies. As Graham Mullet has said in past ValCon newsletters "generally most accountants say that companies holding title should be maintained and continue to put in their annual returns, however cynically, some may say this is how they make the living". There are alternate views but the onus must be on you to decide. In some cases it will be an expense that is unaffordable.

After the latest CSC meeting I reported to the ARAC committee as follows.....



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

“Generally, we (The CSC) are a-waiting the reconvening of the Ad Hoc Tech committee (AHTCom) to confirm or otherwise the values to be applied to assets. You will remember ValCon handed their “Lookup table” of values of assets to the Ministry valuers. Once the ministry have accepted these values they can be applied universally to the asset lists of each taken farm which will lead us to a consensual value for improvements. Mrs. Sumowah (The lady lawyer Chair) has been on leave. On her return we expect her to call the next meeting of this ad hoc committee and hopefully for the Ministry to accept these value assessments. There may be some queries, in which case the “Market” will be consulted to establish the true. This is a crucial stage towards reaching a consensus; so we will be examining the table minutely.

The CSC discussed the valuation of Land and have instructed ValCon to complete this exercise soonest. ValCon told us that they have identified over 150 categories of land which have to be overlaid on the central data MAP. Accepting that there may be some tweaks, the land value is weeks away.

The two values (Permanent improvements **AND Land**) added together form the GLOBAL value, which will be disclosed once the consensual “Lookup” values are reached. We have been assured from various sources that GOZ wishes dispossessed farmers to be confident that they are serious about achieving a just consensus as soon as possible.....

ValCon has been in Bulawayo this last week and they reported that they have successfully attended to the queries that were brought to them (about 40). In most cases farmers had remembered assets they had hitherto not mentioned or verified and thus ValCon was formerly unaware of these assets. It is important that all Title holders verify their information and not assume that So-and-So Estate Agents Pvt Ltd. took their information fifteen years ago, and now say “that should be enough”!!!

It is important that we get the message out to all farmers that the Compensation Steering Committee will not sanction or recommend any consensual “GLOBAL” figure without combining the values for Land and Permanent Improvements. We are tackling the position of Game ranchers as a special category. This is a subject particularly appropriate to our colleagues in the Southern areas of our country.

It was emphasised that it is of the utmost importance that we maintain UNITY OF PURPOSE and not split our goals. In this respect a) let me make it absolutely clear that we completely support the alternate fallback drive to explore the so called Legal route, b) the whole country is well represented on the CSC and welcomes any unique enterprises for inclusion provided that they are brought to the table. If needed we can create a special sub-committee.

We discussed the consequences of the land grab of the Mazoe dam!! Also the dreadful expulsion of the Smarts in Rusapi/Headlands. I gather the Mazoe grab is being denied; nevertheless the



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

damage this does to the Country is fathomless. There can be no doubt that without a complete turnaround of the current disastrous policies pursued by the authorities, there can be no sustainable economic recovery for the country. However this does not mean we should throw in the towel but rather be prepared for the time change will come about. This means urgently arriving at a Global figure.

The CSC has repeatedly requested a copy of the minutes of the APRIL 17 Ministry of L&RR meeting. None has come to hand as yet.

John Laurie continues his lobbying, indefatigable as always. It is not always an agreeable exercise particularly when there seems nothing exciting to report. I can tell you however that he has amazingly secured funding for ValCon and a small amount for CSC which should last through till the end of the year. In particular I know you will all join me in commending him for his determination and perseverance this last year and this despite his losing a leg at the end of last year.

It is hoped to subscribe to our own Face Book page in the near future. This we believe will improve our communications with our constituents. (For some time now we at the CSC have felt that our messages are not getting disseminated adequately.)

We just have to be patient; surely we are well on the way.”

Regarding the release of ASSET LISTS to the Ministry, the CSC has requested, both in the CFU Calling and the ValCon Newsletter, that Farmers who wish to have their asset declarations withheld from the Ministry they should please inform ValCon. To date there has only been one such request, which of course will be honoured, but I might ask “why would anyone not wish their correct list to be shared?” Presumably these lists will be the basis by which Permanent Improvements are actually valued once they are verified by The Ministry.

Property Rights are paramount and we are the key. This is why the resolution of our compensation issue is so important to the welfare of Zimbabwe. The Government of Zimbabwe will have to eventually discharge its debt to those who have been so cruelly dispossessed of their livings, homes, businesses, pensions, and in many cases their health and even their very lives.

I would remind you that despite the advent of the 2013 Constitution the GOZ has consistently disregarded its own legislation and declared it has no money to fund the FTLRP but continues to acquire land and evict title holders without any budgetary provisions for fair and timely compensation. Significantly our New 2013 Constitution:-

- Denies dispossessed commercial farmers the right to approach our own Zimbabwe courts regarding the unfair acquisition under **Chapter 2, Clause 72 Section 3 (b) and (c)**.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

- Despite provisions of **Chapter 16 Clause 289 setting out the principles under which the Land Commission will be guided** allowing access to land to ALL Zimbabwe citizens Section (b) “...**regardless of race or colour**” and section (f) “No person may be deprived arbitrarily of their right to use and occupy agricultural land” and under Property Rights (Chapter 2 Clause 72 (2) (c)), which speaks to the relocation of persons dispossessed as a result of the utilisation of land for settlement under the conditions of compulsory purchase, and Clause 56 regarding Equality of Rights, the GOZ has not responded to over a 800 applications from evicted farmers for alternative land.
- Details clear directions in the new Zimbabwe Constitution, regarding requirement to pay compensation, (**Chapter 16, Clause 295 1, 2, 3, 4**) and further, regarding the Fundamental Human rights and Freedoms Chapter 4 part 2 Clause 71 regarding Property Rights (Property being defined as “property of any description or any right or interest in property”), and (**Chapter 4 part 2 Clause 71 section 3 (c), (d) and (e)**), which states that the GOZ is required to pay fair and adequate compensation....**within a reasonable time**; The GOZ simply ignores such provisions. So far only around 250 titled property owners, out of 6,000 titles have been paid something for their permanent improvements during this entire period.
- Further discriminates against local non indigenous farmers. The fact that indigenous Farmers (**Chapter 16, Clause 295 section i**) and Farmers protected by Bi-lateral International agreements (Chapter 16, Clause 295 section ii) may be paid for land, does not exempt the GOZ from its responsibilities to, at least, pay for permanent improvements to non-indigenous or non-BIPPA covered farmers and nowhere does the constitution disallow farmers assessing the value of Land to establish a “GLOBAL FIGURE” for the total of these assets taken.
- It is pertinent to note here that under **Chapter 16 Clause 297 of** our New constitution the functions of the Land Commission are set out and include Section A “The elimination of all forms of unfair discrimination, particularly gender discrimination;” and Section B (vi) “Fair compensation payable under ny law for agricultural land and improvements that have been compulsorily acquired.”

I hope you have noticed when we came in today that I have posted an account of all our paid up members. This for two reasons. Firstly to ensure that if you have paid your membership you can be certain it has been recorded and if not please let us know and we will follow it up. SECONDLY, the membership has been classified by district. So you will notice if your fellow former farmers are absent from the lists and discretely ask them to contact us if they have paid and not been listed OR MORE IMPORTANTLY please bring their membership up to date. Of course



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

if they have no interest in compensation and are **unwilling to contribute to the it's resolution** you might suggest they cede their title deeds to the FARM FAMILY TRUST who will put it to very good use?

My request to you all today, is to **insist all** our friends and colleagues unify behind our elected leaders in the CFU /SAFCA and discuss and lobby for any of their different points of view within the established structures. The doors are always open for reasoned debate and suggestions.

It remains for me to thank you all for attending today. Your support is so appreciated.

To Mike Clark for the unenviable task of compiling endless input data and publishing the CFU calling each week. What a fine job you are doing albeit behind the scenes.

To Barry Munroe, the new Chairman of Farm Families Trust, I wish to thank you and your committee for all your efforts in supporting and helping our elderly and less fortunate members in their time of need. Particular mention must be made of those generous people who so kind-heartedly donate to this fund trust. Bob Swift has handed over the Chair to Barry, but remains on the committee. Thank you Bob for your years of service.

To the few remaining staff at the CFU, who each in his or her own way contributes to the smooth running of your Union a particularly big thank you.

And of course to John and Charlie... to which I must now include Mac and Allan. Thank you for your continued persistence and dedication, much of which is unsung.... a deep expression of gratitude.

I would just mention Wynand Hart. He contributes regularly to the compensation debate and we at ARAC wish him well in his exploratory work.

It only remains for me to thank you, our ARAC members and the committee of Pete Steyl (our Ex officio Vice Chairman), Byron Dardagan, Rob Beverley, Jim Barker, Kerry Kay, Rod Swales, John Perrot, Dave Sole and Harry Orphanides for your time, consistent effort, support and dedication to the cause, all for no financial reward yet.

Thank you.

Patrick Ashton

Chairman ARAC



AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT- 2017

INTRODUCTION

This paper serves to give developments that have occurred in the economy and the agriculture sector since the last Congress in October 2016. It also contains production data for the 2015/16 season and estimates of agricultural output for the current 2016/17 season

THE ECONOMY – OVERVIEW

GDP

Zimbabwean economy is expected to grow by 3.7% in 2017 an increase from last year's GDP growth of 0.7%. The growth is attributed to a good agricultural season and improvement in mineral prices.

Inflation rates

The annual headline inflation rate, which had been in deflation since September 2014, moved into positive territory from -0.65% in January 2017 to 0.31% in June 2017 as a result of the expansionary fiscal policy stance which saw fiscal deficit rising to US\$1.4 billion in 2016. The fiscal deficit which emanated mainly from drought related expenditures, legacy debt and agricultural expenditures was mainly financed from domestic sources through the issuance of Treasury Bills (TBs) and reliance on the Reserve Bank overdraft facility. Inflation outturn in the remaining half of 2017 will be influenced mainly by domestic fiscal developments, foreign exchange availability, international oil prices and the US dollar/South African rand exchange. Overall, inflation is expected to remain in the positive territory in 2017, with annual average inflation projected at between 2% and 3%, which is in line with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) inflation benchmark of between 3% to 7%.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

A report by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), show that foreign investment inflows into Zimbabwe stood at \$387 million in 2011 stagnated at \$400 in 2012 and 2013 and then reached an all-time high of \$545 million in 2014 before declining to \$421 million and \$319 million in 2015 and 2016 respectively. The latest figure compares unfavorably with the country's neighbours such as Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia which registered \$3 billion, \$2.3 billion and \$469 million FDI inflows respectively. Lack of policy consistency, indigenization law, disregard for property rights and the unwillingness of authorities to deal with corruption have often being identified as factors dissuading investors from a country which boasts of vast mineral deposits.



Below are the key challenges affecting the economy;

- Depressed international commodity prices, particularly for our minerals;
- Limited domestic and foreign direct investment, also associated with the country's debt overhang
- High import dependency, which has contributed to de-industrialization and the drain of money from the economy
- Worsening cash crisis which has seen banks continuously limit withdrawal limits and long queues
- Relative strengthening of the US dollar (anchor currency) against currencies of major trading partners, which adversely impacted export competitiveness.
- The growing fiscal deficit which is impacting on the liquidity of the financial system, as well as on business activity
- Overall fall in disposable incomes and weakening of domestic aggregate demand.

Agriculture

In 2017 agriculture sector is expected to grow by 21.6% as compared to a negative growth of 3.7% in 2016. Growth is mainly driven by a good agricultural season and support given to farmers under command agriculture. The agricultural sector however, continues to face challenges resulting from poor policy alignment, limited access to funding, high cost of production, poor infrastructure among others.

Mining

In 2016, the mining sector realised output gains across most minerals with the exception of coal and diamonds, underpinning overall growth of 8.2%. In 2017, the mining sector is expected to grow by 5.1%, driven mainly by output in gold, platinum, chrome, coal and nickel.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector grew by 0.3% in 2016. The Statutory Instrument 64 of 2016, domestic financial system export incentive arrangements by the Reserve Bank, as well as supportive duty rebates on imported capital equipment has significantly contributed towards revival of the manufacturing sector. Weighted average capacity utilisation improved from 34.3% to 47.4% in 2016 in sub-sectors such as foodstuffs, textiles and ginning, clothing and footwear, non-metallic mineral products and metals and metal products. In 2017, activity in the sector is expected to improve on account of strong agricultural performance, implementation of SI 64 of 2016, the use of plastic money and the ongoing doing business reforms to reduce cost structures.

Financial sector

The RBZ Governor assured that the Multi-Currency System will continue and the central bank will extend the export incentive scheme by \$300million under a new standby liquidity support



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

facility from Afreximbank. This is expected to ease the current cash crisis. Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe Asset Management Corporation (ZAMCO) has reduced non-performing loans (NPLs) in the banking sector from 20.45% in 2014 to 7.98% as at 30 June 2017 through the acquisition, management and restructuring of NPLs. The reduction in NPLs is gravitating towards the Bank's desired benchmark of between 5% and 7.5%. ZAMCO has significantly stabilized the banking sector after acquiring NPLs of \$568.3 million from all banks as at 30 June 2017.

The total market capitalization increased by 42.1% to US\$5.70 billion as at 30 June 2017, in line with the increase in both the industrial and mining counters.

Interest Rates

Banking institutions have reduced their lending interest rates and bank charges to promote provision of affordable banking services and access to credit. As at 30 June 2017, the average maximum effective lending rate was 11.94% compared to 15.7% as at the end of December 2016.

External Sector

The external sector is characterised by unsustainable trade and current account imbalances, reflecting declining exports, low foreign direct investment flows, and limited offshore lines of credit, against high current account outflows, primarily in the form of imports. Total merchandise exports stood at US\$1 130.2 million for the period January to May 2017, about 19% higher than the US\$948.6 million realized in the comparable period in 2016. Merchandise imports increased by 4% from US\$2 071.2 million recorded during the first five months of 2016 to US\$2 149.9 million during the same period in 2017. The developments on merchandise trade resulted in an improvement in the country's trade balance from a deficit of US\$1 019.7 million in the first five months of the year, compared to a deficit of US\$1 123.6 million for the same period in 2016.

Agriculture and Weather Update

2016/17 agricultural season has been a good one receiving normal to above normal rains. Although the season was characterised by a mid-season dry spell and floods overall it was good. Floods were experienced in parts of Matabeleland North and South, Midlands and Masvingo provinces. The Met-Department forecasts a normal rainfall season for 2017/18. However mid-season dry spells are expected in the first half of the season (November- December 2017) and some floods in the second half (January to March 2018). Farmers are urged to prepare their land for planting with the onset of the first rains.

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT ESTIMATES -2016/17 season

Maize

The Government estimates maize production this year at 2 155 526 tonnes (t) from a total planted area of 1 875 297 hectares. This is an increase from the 511 816t harvested last year. Maize average



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

yield improved to 1.15 t/ha from 0.44t/ha achieved in the 2015/16 season. However this could be an exaggerated estimate, although the season was good, challenges such as late delivery of command inputs, the fall armyworm and armored crickets have affected crop yields. Floods were also experienced in parts of Matabeleland North and South, Midlands and Masvingo provinces which resulted in 8% of the area under cereals being written off. More over post-harvest losses due to lack of harvesting equipment and poor handling could also result in failure to hit the targeted output.

Maize Imports

Government has banned maize importation.

GMB deliveries and payments

Grain Marketing Board reports show that, 880 969 tonnes of maize had been delivered by the 7th of September 2017. The bulk of the deliveries are coming from Mashonaland West and Central provinces. Payments for deliveries are being done through bank transfers and usually takes a fortnight to receive them.

Soya beans

Soya bean output is estimated at 35 744t this season down from 47 832t last season. The area under soya beans this season was 21 561t and an average yield of 1.66 t/ha is expected.

Sorghum

The total area put under sorghum was 321 490 hectares and is expected to yield 182 012t.

Sugar beans

The total area under sugar beans this season was 25 751 hectares and the estimated output is 15 356t.

Groundnuts

Output of groundnuts is estimated at 139 503t in the 2016/17 season.

Wheat

Only 37 000 hectares of wheat have been planted against a target of 60 000 hectares (Ministry of Agriculture stats). This is an increase from 14 000 hectares planted in the 2016/7 season and 10 000 previously. Most farmers missed the winter wheat planting deadline after failing to harvest their summer crop in time to make way for the new crop. Power supply availability during the season is good except that ZESA is taking so much time to attend to reported faults.



CASH CROPS

Tobacco

The total area put under tobacco was 110 216 hectares. This is expected to produce 206.2 million kg of tobacco which is an improvement from the 2015/16 season's 201.2million kg. The average yield is estimated at 1.8t/ha. However the rapid decline in auction sales this year could result in failing to meet the targeted output. The incessant rains that brought a bumper harvest in maize, could have negatively affected the country's tobacco crop.

Meanwhile farmers have delivered 188.7million kg of tobacco valued at \$558.7million so far. This is a decline from the 202.3million kg that had been delivered at the same time last year valued at \$595.9million. The average price has slightly improved from \$2.95 to \$2.96 this year.

Zimbabwe has so far exported 92.2million kg valued at \$399.1million at an average price of \$4.33. This is an upward movement from the 70.2million kg exported during the same period last year valued at \$350.5million dollars. Last year's average price was \$5.00.

Cotton

The total planted area under cotton was 207 786. Cotton output is estimated at 126 995t in the 2016/17 season at an average yield was estimated at 0.60t/ha.

Coffee and tea

Coffee output is estimated at 500t and tea was at 7 830t. The production of both crops has been decreasing lately due to high cost of production.

Other Crops

Banana production is estimated at 252 376t, citrus at 198 058t, apples at 3 250t, mango at 95 475t, macadamia at 5 721t and sugarcane at 5 562 674t.

Livestock

Cattle herd decreased by 0.69% from 5 528 242 in 2016 to 5 489 720 in 2017. National calving rate decreased from 46% to 45%. Cattle off take ranged from 5% to 11% across all farming sectors. However the national average cattle off take remain around 6% but the national target is 15%. Total cattle slaughter in 2016 at formal abattoirs was 288 707 up from 261 658 in 2015 which is a 10% increase. The average carcass weights for beef animals dropped from 170 kg in 2015 to 165 kg in 2016. This can be attributed to the poor body condition as a result of the drought. Also this was most likely related to poor season where grazing was not adequate in most areas due to drought caused by the 2015/16 El Nino effect.

Total milk production continues to increase, volumes rose by 13.6% from 57 million liters in 2015 to 65 million liters in 2016. The efforts to rebuild the dairy herd by milk processors and dairy



revitalization programme through importation of dairy animals will help improve production further.

PRODUCTION VIABILITY AND INPUTS AVAILABILITY

Fertilizer

232 500 tonnes of Ammonium nitrate (AN) and 285 000 tonnes of Compound D fertilisers will be required for crop production in the 2017/18 season. The country currently has 90 000 tonnes of top dressing and 240 000 tonnes of Compound D fertiliser in stock which are sufficient to start the agricultural season. The balance will be met through additional fertilizer productions by local companies and also through imports. AN fertiliser is currently priced at \$640/tonne while a tonne of Compound D is priced at \$560 (Windmill Pvt Ltd). The local fertiliser industry continues to struggle mainly due competition from imports, liquidity crisis, poor production history of farmers and high costs of production which affect viability.

Maize Seed

According to the Zimbabwe Seed Trade Association the industry has enough maize seed for the 2017-18 summer cropping season, with indications that over 45 000 tonnes are in stock. Last year farmers used 35 000 tonnes of seed which means the available seed is enough to meet demand. The industry has 7 000 tonnes of soya bean seed, 2 500 tonnes of sorghum and 2 300 tonnes sugar beans. The industry also have 500 tonnes of groundnuts and 8 000 tonnes of seed cotton.

Stock feeds

Stock feeds are readily available. Water and grazing for livestock is currently adequate and likely to get to the next summer season in most parts of the country, however grazing remain poor. National calving rate decreased from 46% to 45%, the optimum rate is above 60%. Diseases associated with heavy rains were a major challenge. Stock feeds are available on the market and prices have been stable.

Chemicals

Crop chemicals are readily available. However, uptake is very low because they are expensive and some farmers cannot afford them. 20 Litres of Paraquat is being sold at \$85.50, Stellar Star is costing US\$54/liter, Frontier Optima is at US\$30 per liter while Shumba Super costing US\$2.50/kg (Agricura Pvt Ltd).

Power Supply

Most Farmers reported that power supply this season has greatly improved with a few load shedding exercises being experienced by farmers in Matabeleland. However farmers raised concern regarding the delay in attending to faults by ZESA.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

Future Prospects

The challenges and constraints that members face have remained largely unchanged since the new century began. They all centre on unresolved land reform issues that continue to seriously undermine productivity in commercial agriculture. Concrete actions should be taken to quickly resolve them so that Zimbabwe can once again become a country that achieves food security as a matter of routine.

Thank You

Antonnette P Chingwe

Economist



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Table 1																		
TOTAL PRODUCTION OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS in ZIMBABWE (000 tonnes)																		
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Grains and Cereals																		
Maize	2,043.20	1,476.24	498.54	754.00	950.00	750.00	945.00	697.00	417.10	781.25	819.25	895.00	833.00	798.00	1,200.00	742.20	511.82	2,155.53
Wheat	250.00	314.00	186.50	120.00	121.65	134.00	170.20	64.55	25.55	45.00	41.00	48.00	33.70	24.00	58.70	60.00	62.00	75.00
Sorghum	61.91	60.74	23.82	59.56	124.00	111.00	108.40	81.50	103.00	113.50	73.60	50.54	64.70	76.00	105.00	39.70	36.30	182.01
Barley	32.00	32.00	58.00	50.00	36.40	43.00	53.50	32.00	24.50	33.15	40.50	25.80	37.70	46.20	18.70	18.00	18.00	11.00
Small Grains (millets)	31.00	43.20	14.20	41.50	71.70	30.60	72.30	49.90	55.00	43.32	50.90	36.10	43.70	43.00	45.00	45.00	40.15	106.77
Traditional Export Crops																		
Tobacco Flue Cured	236.13	202.54	165.84	81.81	69.00	73.39	54.25	73.39	48.72	57.00	123.00	132.00	148.00	166.60	216.40	199.00	201,261.00	206,212.00
Cotton	353.00	280.50	195.67	159.50	364.20	196.30	207.90	255.00	223.02	210.09	149.90	195.00	342.00	133.00	114.00	105.00	32.89	127.00
Oilseed Crops																		
Soya beans	149.94	175.08	72.41	70.26	71.00	54.00	54.80	67.60	51.20	43.30	57.30	59.00	70.50	76.90	80.00	57.90	47.83	35.74
Groundnuts	190.89	171.78	58.56	86.50	64.10	57.80	83.10	126.80	116.55	44.46	136.70	97.50	108.20	130.00	132.00	88.90	73.71	139.50
Sunflower	9.20	30.30	4.63	16.90	20.20	7.40	16.70	31.10	33.40	16.25	11.80	8.23	6.90	10.00	12.00	21.00	3.26	10.39
Plantation and Industrial Export Crops																		
Tea	21.80	21.73	22.88	22.54	20.72	16.87	15.43	15.11	13.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	10.50	24.50	24.00	14.00	10.17	7.83
Coffee	6.54	7.26	6.60	5.52	7.20	3.96	2.70	1.86	1.32	0.50	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	455.00	500.00
Paprika	7.30	8.80	9.80	14.20	10.80	3.20	3.80	1.01	0.74	0.26	0.34	0.69	0.81	4.50	5.00	5.50	5.50	7.00
Flowers	17.86	17.86	21.89	22.80	20.17	16.27	14.33	10.17	8.00	5.00	7.50	7.50	11.00	11.00	12.00	15.00	14.10	12.00
Citrus	39.32	39.32	33.64	43.19	47.77	34.23	26.31	26.45	19.00	15.00	29.75	30.00	35.50	37.00	39.00	43.00	193.76	198.06
Fresh Produce	10.22	10.22	7.51	9.64	10.24	7.28	4.95	5.33	4.00	3.00	3.20	4.50	6.50	7.00	8.00	11.00	10.00	13.00
Sugar	538.00	515.00	581.00	502.74	422.30	400.00	446.65	400.00	380.00	280.00	300.00	333.00	372.00	420.00	445.00	412.00	5,440.56	5,562.67
Livestock																		
Dairy	187.05	176.77	153.13	114.08	97.64	94.55	92.50	87.36	47.72	37.00	47.00	56.00	55.90	54.60	56.00	57.00	65.00	57.00
Beef Slaughters (nos)	605.00	630.00	720.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	300.00	250.00	200.00	180.00	200.00	261.00	256.00	242.20	245.00	261.69	288.71	285.00
* Estimates																		



LABOUR AFFAIRS AND ADVOCACY AND LOBBY REPORT- 2017

There were numerous labor cases reported from different provinces. We have successfully assisted many members through services of our experienced labour consultant Luxmore Nhutsve. The cases mainly dealt with nonpayment of allowances, under payment of wages and unfair labor dismissals. In most situations disputes were settled by conciliation or arbitration based on the evidence of signed written agreements.

One of the cases we had a settlement agreement were the employee was claiming through her Union Representative amount totaling US\$ 750 and the employee through settlement got US\$ 82 and in the other preceding case the employee lost the case due to lack of merit.

In the Midlands cases which had been incorrectly referred to the Ministry of Labour were resolved after consultation with the National Employment Council (NEC) for Agriculture Industry. We also highlighted to the Ministry of Labor in the Midlands province that primary jurisdiction for Agricultural Labour matters fall under the NEC Agriculture in terms of section 63 (3) (B) of the Labour Act.

In Mashonaland province most of the issues were related to alleged unfair labor dismissals, which we managed to resolve through conciliation proceedings through the NEC. In Mashonaland East province several labour disputes were settled through the NEC. Several cases were also resolved through the NEC Chinhoyi Office.

Wage negotiations

CFU has continued to make representation on behalf of employers at NEC in all related wage negotiations. We believe that the input has helped minimize the adverse impact of unsustainable high wage demands from employee representatives.

General Agricultural wages were increase by 4.16% giving a basic wage increase from \$72 to \$75. The increase followed a three year period with no increase and concerns that resort to arbitration would result in a far greater increase. Initial demands from the union were for a basic wage over \$90 and a hamper.

The Kapenta Industry basic wage went up 6% from \$135.00 to \$143.00. Tea and Coffee was settled through a Ministry of Labour a brokered agreement at\$83 which was above the \$77 sought by employers and below the \$95 in place at the time Tea and Coffee broke from the Agro Industrial sector to form their own sub sector.

Horticulture sector and Agro Industrial wages are yet to be settled. Consultations with employers to get agreement on a common position paper have taken place. We would like to see an end to the separation and fragmentation of wages into sub sectors within Agriculture as this continues to be a problem on farms with enterprises that span general, horticulture and agro industrial classification.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

General matters.

Several employers have experienced harassment and threatened labour disruptions following the involvement of one of the more recently registered Labour Unions. Invariable unreasonable promises are made to workers and membership is recruited on the basis of such. In all instances it is advisable to employers to ensure their own compliance with the law. NEC have proved helpful in most cases to avert disruption.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

7. In Memorium

The Commercial Farmers' Union remembers those members that have passed away during the last year and extends its heartfelt condolences to their next of kin.

Psalms 116:15

Precious in the sight of the LORD [is] the death of his saints.



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2017

8. 2017 Congress Sponsorship

The Commercial Farmers' Union would like to extend its sincere appreciation towards all those who have contributed in cash or in kind to the Union's Annual Congress for 2017. Without the generous support of these organisations, institutions, individuals and staff it would not be possible for the Union to host such an event.

Please accept our heartfelt appreciation.

MR PETER STEYL

PRESIDENT