

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 41, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- ZNFU Gears Up for 112th Annual Congress
- Roll out E-Voucher with Caution
- Aquaculture takes Root
- October rains worry Farmers

IN DETAIL....

ZNFU GEARS UP FOR 112TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

October 26, 2017 brings together farmers from all 76 District Farmers' Associations (DFAs) to celebrate the Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU)'s 112th Annual Congress under the theme; **Sustaining Agriculture in Shrinking Markets.**

Farmers, agribusiness players, Government representatives and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to get insights on developments that have taken place in the agriculture sector and also farmers and agro-sector stakeholders' views on agriculture development going forward.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu will grace the 112th Congress where he will interface with farmers on issues pertaining to the growth of the country's agriculture.

ROLL OUT E-VOUCHER WITH CAUTION

ZNFU has called on Government to tread carefully as it fully rolls out the E-Voucher during the 2017/2018 farming season.

The Union says care need to be taken to ensure the e-voucher migration is timely and is devoid of all teething challenges experienced during the 2016/2017 farming season.

The Union stated this during a Presentation to The Expanded Budget Committee: Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for The Financial Year Ending 31st December 2018, On October 9, 2017.

The ZNFU said: "More ICT based innovations are also needed to help improve further value for money under the e-voucher system. The shift from conventional FISP to the e-voucher mode of delivering the inputs subsidy has created an opportunity for Government to categorize current e-voucher beneficiaries based on productivity, market participation and ability to contribute more than the current farmer contribution level."

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ZNFU said once this is done, FISP e-voucher could have the following beneficiary categories:



- **Category A Beneficiaries:** this could be tier 1 beneficiaries at the current 81%:19% cost sharing ratio (i.e. K1,700 GRZ subsidy and K400 farmer contribution) for a 1/2ha subsidy package. This category could account for 50% of total beneficiaries covering more of the women and youth farmers during their year 1-2 aboard FISP e-voucher;
- **Category B Beneficiaries:** this could be tier 2 market-oriented beneficiaries at 50%:50% cost sharing ratio (i.e. K1,700 GRZ subsidy and K1,700 farmer contribution) for a 1ha subsidy package. This category could account for about 25% of total beneficiaries at any given time covering farmers on their year 3-4 aboard e-voucher;
- **Category C Beneficiaries:** this could be tier 3 beneficiaries on their final year - 5 of being aboard e-voucher at 40%:60% cost sharing ratio (i.e. K1,700 GRZ subsidy and K2,550 farmer contribution) for 1.8ha subsidy package. This category could account for about 25% of total beneficiaries at any given time.
- **Category B and C Beneficiaries** could also be given off-take contracts by FRA to enable them have ready market for their produce. Such a system will enable farmers graduate out of FISP after being empowered as opposed to the current system where some farmers have been on subsidies in perpetuity.

FROM THE REGIONS

NORTHERN

AQUACULTURE TAKES ROOT

In the quest to help farmers diversify their enterprises, and in line with government policy of promoting Aquaculture as an alternative source of income, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has jumped on board in order to help actualize this desire.

FAO, in-conjunction with Better Changes and the Ministry of Agriculture held a training in aquaculture production attracting farmers from Mungwi, Kasama and Mbala. The project aims at creating demonstration fish ponds which will be learning tools for the farmers.

Implementation involves the distribution of 2000 fingerlings (1000 males, 1000 females) to a single farmer amongst several participating farmers who will then create 4 tests; 500 females and 500 males will be grown using commercial feed separately while the rest will be grown traditionally. At the end of the experiment, farmers will be able to determine which demonstration yields the best results.

FAO will provide the material support to the farmers while the technical support will be provided by Ministry of Agriculture through the department of fisheries. It is hoped that this yields the desired results for the farmers

OCTOBER RAINS WORRY FARMERS





The recent rains experienced in Mungwi has worried farmers with the Mungwi DFA taking the lead. The wariness emanates from the fact that farmers who sold their produce (maize/ soya) to FRA have not been paid to this day and hence unable to purchase farming inputs on time in order to plan and prepare for the farming season ahead.

Further, farmers depending on FISP through the E-voucher may be delayed because the modalities of farmer registration are still going on. The Mungwi DFA chairperson Mr Ng'andu hopes that the challenges highlighted will be quickly resolved so that farmers continue doing what they do best; which is food production.

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

ZNFU CREATES LAND/GROUND RENT HELP DESK

Following the amendment to the Lands Act (Laws, Volume 12 Cap.184) through Statutory Instrument (SI) No.106 of 2016, which changes came into effect on January 1, 2017, farmers may have experienced variances to costs of Ground Rent, Fees and Charges.

The ZNFU has continued receiving numerous queries as regards the effected changes. To help farmers address the challenges they may be encountering, the ZNFU has set up a Help Desk on Land and Ground Rent matters.

For any queries and or clarifications, kindly call ZNFU Head Office on;
+260 211 254 431 or Florence Phiri on 0977434312 or Grace on 0977984219
Email: grace@znfu.org.zm

HAVE YOU TRIED MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI, AND MYCOAPPLY?

Hi Zambian Friends and Farmers!

If you are excited about possible early rains in Zambia, awesome! Have you prepared for the season by protecting your crop from drought should the rains stop short and ensure they have the best chance to bring you a good return, reduce inputs, help the soils and increase your yields?

If you have not heard of mycorrhizal fungi, and MycoApply, it is time for you to hear!

See our website at www.mycozambia.com

AKTC TRAINING ON OFFER

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Upcoming workshop:

HOW FARMERS CAN SAVE DIESEL

Prof. Dr. Volk from Germany will conduct three training sessions, which include:

- soil fertility,
- economics of the tractor,
- importance of tractor maintenance and tyre pressure for diesel saving.

Date	Target Group	Course
1. Tuesday, 17th October 17:	Lecturers of universities, colleges and Agricultural Extension Workers	Trainer of Trainers Course
2. Wednesday, 18th October 17:	Emergent farmers, small to medium commercial farmers, tractor service providers and staff of farms, organizations and research institutes	Small to medium tractors
3. Thursday, 19th October 17:	Large scale commercial farmers, agric. machinery dealers and farm input supply companies	Large tractors

There is a maximum of 30 slots per training on a first comes first served basis available. Please register by mentioning your course and date with innocent.maphango@aktczambia.com. In case you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact or WhatsApp Innocent under: +260 979 8806 74.

To find out more, visit our website www.aktczambia.com.

Venue: GART Chaloshi Farm, along the T2 between Lusaka and Kabwe
Fee: Free of charge
Time: 09:00 to 15:00

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ATTENTION VEGETABLE GROWERS!

AKTC Upcoming Training on:

Weed, Disease, Pest Management and
Knapsack Sprayer Usage

For:

**Emergent Farmers
Small Scale Farmers
Extension Staff.**

Entrance Fee: Free of Charge

Date: **Monday, 16th October 2017**

Time: 09:00-16:00

Venue: AKTC at GART Chaloshi Farm.
Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust
(GART) 65 Km North of
Lusaka along the Great North Road.

Please register by sending an email or WhatsApp:

Innocent

Email: Innocent.maphango@aktczambia.com

Call : (+260)97988074



The number of participants is limited to 50. First come, first served.
www.aktczambia.com



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WEATHER

ZAMBIA EVENING WEATHER FORECAST: THURSDAY (12/10/2017)

GENERAISITUATION

Relatively dry airflow from the Southeast is affecting southern parts of Zambia leaving the rest of the country under the influence of moist and unstable Congo airflow.

REPORTED RAINFALL IN (MM): THURSDAY (12/10/2017): Samfya 42, Kasama and Ndola 10, Mansa and Kawambwa 9, Misamfu 4, Mpika 3, Mpulungu 2, Kabompo, Mfuwe and Serenje 1, Chinsali FTC, Kabwe Agro and Kabwe had a trace (less than a millimetre).

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY (13/10/2017): **Western, North-western, Copperbelt and Luapula Provinces:** Partly cloudy and warm with morning rains becoming cloudy and hot in the afternoon with thundershowers in some places.

The Rest of Zambia: Partly cloudy, hazy and warm becoming hot in the afternoon with a chance of thundershowers in few places.

OUTLOOK TO SATURDAY (14/10/2017)

Hot weather to continue.

FORECAST MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURE IN DEGREES CELSIUS (°C) FOR FRIDAY (13/10/2017)

STATION	MAXIMUM (12/10/2017)	MINIMUM (12/10/2017)	MAXIMUM (13/10/2017)	MINIMUM (13/10/2017)
CHIPATA	39	21	38	21
CHOMA	33	17	34	17
CHINSALI	33	18	33	18
KASAMA	31	17	32	17
KABWE	34	25	34	21
LUSAKA	35	19	35	21
LIVINGSTONE	36	16	37	18
MANSA	32	17	31	18
MFUWE	41	22	42	23
MONGU	37	21	36	20
NDOLA	32	18	31	17
SOLWEZI	34	-	34	17

Produced by the Zambia Meteorological Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications.

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