

LAUNCH OF ZIMBABWE FEDERATION OF FARMERS UNIONS (FoFU)

Facilitator: Mabel Ndaka Hungwe (PhD)

21 SEPTEMBER 2017

ROBBIE MUPAWOSE HALL, ZIMBABWE EXHIBITION PARK



COVER PHOTOGRAPH: *From left: Mrs M Jiti (Trustee and Vice President ZCFU; Mrs M Chinamasa (Trustee and President ZNFU), Mr R J Chitsiko (PS MAMID), Mr W Chabikwa (FoFU Chairman and ZCFU President), Mr P Steyl (FoFU Trustee and CFU President, Mr D Mutsemi (Trustee and ZNFU Secretary General)*

FEDERATION OF FARMERS' UNIONS (FoFU)



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ABOUT ZIMBABWE FEDERATION OF FARMERS' UNIONS (FoFU)



VISION

- A strong progressive and sustainable agriculture sector in Zimbabwe

MISSION

- To organise, unite and empower farmers for sustainable agriculture.

OBJECTIVES

1. Effectively organise farmers and build consensus amongst them on the required policy to take agriculture forward in Zimbabwe;
2. Unify farmer representation by strengthening the voice of all farmers, improving their ability to advocate and lobby for favourable laws, regulations and policies;
3. Capacitate the farmers Unions' service responsiveness through improving communication, collaboration and co-operation amongst all the farmer organisations;
4. Lobby for suitable operational and regulatory environment and effectively mobilise resources to ensure sustainable development and growth.

5. Have a solid and consistent voice and contribution to the sector for its development and growth.
6. Bring together all commodity associations for better coordination in production, fund raising, research and development, lobbying and advocacy efforts;
7. Bring Women, Youths and the physically challenged and Visually Impaired into mainstream farming.
8. Eliminate multiple levying of farmers through centralised management of membership and subscription fees.
9. Promote the growth of the sector through farmer contribution towards research and development efforts by government and private sector.
10. Promotion of good corporate governance and accountability in the management of resources for the benefit of the farmer.

Introduction

The Zimbabwe Federation of Farmers Unions (FoFU) is made up of the following national farmers' unions namely Zimbabwe National Farmers Union (ZNFU), Commercial Farmers Union of Zimbabwe (CFU) and the Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers Union (ZCFU). These farmer's unions agreed to form a federation in which they would federate into a single Farmers' Union representing farming and business interests in the country. This initiative

has been spearheaded by the Joint Presidents' Council (JPC) of the aforementioned organisations which had been chaired on a rotational basis by each union's president. The stated objective of the newly formed Federation is to enable them to jointly address common issues in the agricultural sector. On 21 September, 2017, FoFU was launched at the Harare Showgrounds. About 100 people attended representing farmers from the various unions, private sector, development partners and researchers.

Opening by the President of FoFU: Mr. Wonder Chabikwa

The President of Federation of Farmers' Unions (FoFU) Mr Wonder Chabikwa welcomed the guests to the memorable event that of the Launch of the Federation of Farmers' Unions under the Theme; *"Coming Together for Successful Farming"*.

He explained that the four farmers Unions of Zimbabwe had been working hard to find common ground to speak as a unified voice since 2005 when a loose apex platform named the Joint Presidency Council was put in place. Engagements with government and private sector stakeholders on issues to better farming had been largely communicated through position papers emanating out of these efforts. Notable successes had been posted though the Council was not entirely satisfied with the ground covered. The Council then decided on a more formal and legally binding arrangement which led to the formation of the Zimbabwe Federation of Farmers' Unions Trust through a Deed of Trust. The Trust was registered in September 2016 and thereby ensuring the celebration and its official launch. Mr Chabikwa explained that he was the first Chairman of the Federation. Each union has 2 Trustees seconded to this body. The Vision, Mission and objectives of the Federation were shared and provided to all guests present at the launch. All these

efforts are meant to benefit the farmer. Mr Chabikwa quoted saying *"The world has changed, and we must change with it-Africa doesn't need strongmen. It needs strong Institutions!"- Barack Obama.*

In the same vein he noted that the Zimbabwean Farming landscape needed strong Institutions and in the Federation he believes that there is great potential. Mr Chabikwa implored the need for tremendous support from the various stakeholders for it to succeed. As Zimbabwe's economy is largely agro-based and farming is a very important cog in driving this economy, agriculture therefore is a very important cluster (Food Security and Nutrition) under the country's economic blueprint, ZIMASSET. Increased production and productivity hinges on low production costs, the extent of mechanisation and good management practices at farm level. Viability of productive operations has been persistently under threat from high cost of inputs; utilities, high cost of compliance with regulations, punitive lending and high interest rates on loans to name just a few. The FoFU President expressed gratitude to the Honourable Guest, Minister of Agriculture Mechanisation and Irrigation Development (MAMID) and Government in particular for the

Command Agriculture interventions. This brought he explained had the relief to the farmers who were torn between **borrowing** from financiers (at the scary and retrogressive interest rates) and **not farming**. He was optimistic that as a result of this investment, the economy was poised to grow by 3.7% owing largely to the bumper harvest and overall improvements in performance of the agricultural sector. Mr Chabikwa explained that:

- Farmers were grappling with debts that arose due to bad seasons and punitive interest rates and appealed to the office to help address this;
- Action was needed on unscrupulous officers working in institutions that service farmers to conduct honest work that benefit them and the nation at large.
- The Farming community were grateful about the Ease of doing business and urged government to speed this up for immediate implementation.

The President of FoFU was quite optimistic that with the blessing of the stakeholders this Federation would be able to bring farmers together, tackle farmers' problems and engage with value chains and government for sustainable farming solutions which promote production

and productivity. He noted that farmers had fallen victim to scams perpetrated by dishonest people who took advantage of farmer unions' defragmentation. The Federation would work to mitigate these. He explained that farmers had been short-changed particularly in commodity markets, and had fallen prey to cartels and monopolies relegating them to cyclical debt traps. As farmers, Mr Chabikwa admitted that they had been lacking a unified and consistent voice. As a result, with the launch of FoFU they will now work differently. The various issues irrespective of the scale of operations, the various farmer unions backgrounds were cross-cutting and as FoFU they were now confident in dealing with various issues at Federation level. This included fatiguing stakeholders with requests on same issues. Unions would maintain their complexions for a period until the remaining anomalies were addressed. The Federation would also help fight malpractices on the environment and land use mis-management for preservation of the ecosystem and bio-diversity. The indiscriminate cutting down of trees, veld fires and land degradation that is going on unabated is an area of concern for the Federation. Mr Chabikwa explained that the Federation will work

towards strengthening and establishing linkages with domestic, regional and international markets for the country's commodities. The Federation has taken on board Young farmers to mentor them as they hold the future of the nation. FoFU has also been responsive to gender and youth issues to the extent

of allocating quotas in leadership positions in the structure of the federation. The FOFU thanked again guests including the Guest of Honour for blessing the occasion and looked forward to a successful working relationship at Federation level.

Dr Mungai Lenneiye, Founder & Trustee, Udugu Institute for a Better Innovated Africa

FIVE REASONS WHY ORGANIZED FARMERS BUILD SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISES - Lessons For the "Federation of Farmers' Unions" in Zimbabwe



Dr Mungai Lenneiye, Founder and Trustee of Udugu Institute for a Better Innovated Africa and former Country Director of the World Bank, made a key challenge to FoFU through providing global lessons on how Farmers' Organizations succeed. Dr Lenneiye explained that Farmer Organisations succeed when:

- 1. They are large**
- 2. They meet some minimum operating conditions**
- 3. They provide specialized services to their members**
- 4. They share and learn from common challenges**
- 5. They successfully tackle unique local issues**

In September 2017, Farming Unions in Zimbabwe attained an important milestone on the journey towards an all-inclusive Federation of Farmers' Unions (FoFU – hereafter referred to as The Federation) was launched and is expected to become a driving force for

making sure that farmers succeed in their core business to not only make Zimbabweans food secure at the household and national levels; but also contribute to the nation's economic security by integrating agriculture in the myriad of value chains that develop an integrated and sustainable economy.

The sharing of regional and international experiences with The Federation was very much informed by the African proverb that says “one who does not travel thinks his mother is the best cook”; and the farmers of Zimbabwe got a glimpse of the work of “mothers” elsewhere have tried to tackle feats similar to what The Federation has so bravely set out to do.

The Federation has a historical task, aptly captured by a quote by Rashid Pertev in a paper presented at the International Federation of Agricultural Producers: -

“If there is one principal lesson farmers can draw from history, it is the following: that when farmers are not strong, many sections and sectors of society are ready not only to tell the farmers what they should do, but even worse, to speak on their behalf... Farmers’ voice cannot be obtained without farmers’ organizations... their representative organizations, structured from grassroots to the international level as their legitimate voice. In short, an effective farmers’ voice is not only the basis of mutual respect and democracy, but it is also the true basis for agricultural and rural development”.

That sums it up. It basically summarizes the historical responsibility The Federation has to all the farmers of Zimbabwe, their families, and others

who make up the nation. The rest is elaboration, in this case using a few observations from select Farmers’ organizations from around the world.

For a network of such global magnitude, it is difficult to select from all the pertinent issues farmers and their organizations face and deal with, but five themes on successful farmers’ organizations have been identified as characteristics that are relevant to the Zimbabwe Federation of Farmers’ Unions at this early stage, and could be used in the coming early formative years.

1. They are large

- The International Federation of Agricultural Producers brings together 82 national level farmers’ organizations from 57 countries, and represents over 500 million family farmers (with a population of nearly 2.5 billion individuals).
- The Philippines Federation of Free Farmers was established in 1953 and has over 200,000 members from 50 provinces representing fishermen, agricultural labourers, agricultural tenants, owner-cultivators, and settlers.
- The Eastern Africa Farmers Federation was formed in 2001 and represents over 20 million farmers (a population of over 100

million) in Eastern and Central Africa.

- The Zambia National Farmers' Union has countrywide coverage representing the agriculture industry (including small and large-scale farmers as well as agribusinesses).
- The National Farmers' Federation of Australia was formed in 1979 and brings together presidents of 31 state-level farmers' organizations into a policy-making Council.

In Zimbabwe, The Federation plans to bring together around 1 million farmers spread out in over 70 Rural Districts and Urban Centres; with the majority of these farmers being smallholder operators with limited capital, poor access to markets and knowledge, but with a big passion for farming. The Federation also has in its midst a small and highly experienced group of farmers who need an opportunity to get back to the business of farming. These are both challenges and opportunities for The Federation to tackle and exploit, respectively.

2. They meet some minimum operating conditions

- As member organizations, they allow people to subscribe and to pay a membership fee (a subscription).

- They are mostly non-political, not-for-profit, and democratic.
- They have a particular purpose and connect people with common interests – in this case farming.
- They often have commercially-run membership subsidiaries separate from the core organisations. The Philippines Federation of Free Farmers owns self-managed cooperative projects and runs consumer stores on their own.
- They typically rely on their membership network to provide services to their members.

In Zimbabwe, the Federation will meet these minimum conditions, but it has to work hard to develop some of the required new competences so that The Federation can serve **all** its members and not just the few. Opportunities exist to run commercial entities that not only serve all members, but to also tap into their market potential – as buyers of inputs, equipment, and insurance, as well as being savers. These are all areas where The Federation would serve its members while building a formidable commercial network to ensure long-term sustainability of its operations.

3. They provide specialized services to members

- The Philippines Federation of Free Farmers helps its members with subsidized training and

financial audit services; and also administers a life insurance program for individual members.

In Zimbabwe, there are many agencies that could partner with The Federation to initially provide subsidized services as a path to helping farmers become customers of the future. Whether these are corporates, NGOs, Development Partners or Philanthropists partners, there is much interest and potential. This is not to mention Government departments that although short of money have enormous expertise and knowledge that if appropriately tapped could help members of the Federation get on the road to successful farming.

4. They share and learn from common challenges

- Good farmers' organizations nurture and advocate for farmers on such issues as markets, productivity, capacity building, information, global and regional trade, among others.
- They foster linkages with other private sector players (over inputs and outputs markets).

In Zimbabwe, opportunities exist to lobby various players to support members of the Federation, but it might require an adjustment in strategies and a reminder that when any one of The Federation's organizations lobbies, it

does so for all and not for partisan interests based on past alliances and interests. The interests of all federation members would need to be above individual union interests even if it means sharing resources and influence that an individual union has had access to in the past. This will be hard, but a necessary condition for building a single federation from the many parts that have come together to make it. This coming together of four Unions to form a federation is very much part of the "philosophy of unity in action" captured by an African proverb: "one finger cannot kill a louse".

5. They successfully tackle unique local issues

The Eastern Africa Farmers Federation was championed by national farmers' organizations from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and DR Congo to enhance regional cohesiveness and socio-economic status of farmers

In Zimbabwe, the Federation will continue to be faced by issues from the past as well as current concerns occupying the minds of farmers. Without much elaboration, just a few critical issues that The Federation might find itself tackling, and where many countries around the world are also still looking for answers; but somehow are determined to find ways to make progress. Critical questions include:

- The issue of **who** owns land that in Zimbabwe goes back to nearly two hundred years and disentangling it will continue to be difficult but not impossible – be it over reparations, compensation, national identity, and international linkages, among others.
- The issue of **how** land is owned has historically generated conflicts everywhere as instruments of ownership, governance and accountability, transparency, and others are tackled at different times and through different means around the world.
- The issues around **why** anyone owns land are at the heart of economics, social, cultural, and political discourses. The creation of efficient ways to make land productive, to distribute it to those who need it as well as to those who can use it, are particularly important in these discourses. Investments, taxes, land holding sizes, and other issues come to the fore in many societies across Africa and they all demand solutions.

In Zimbabwe, a federation that can become an effective voice for all its members can play a critical role in helping various stakeholders find workable solutions to what appears as intractable problems of (1) **who** owns

land, (2) **how** they own it, and (3) **why** they own it; so that the Zimbabwe of 2030 could have put to bed issues that have dogged land issues for nearly two hundred years – during which time the country saw major movements of populations from the South in the early 1880s, from Europe in the late 1880s and early 1900s, and internally from marginal to more productive land after 2000: with each movement compounding issues from the previous era. By bringing all farmers’ unions together and agreeing on a common strategy, the Federation can be an important player in resolving some of these issues to the benefit of the whole economy and society at large.

It is difficult to do justice to the breadth of experiences from around the world and regionally, but these few ones point to specific elements and experiences that The Federation could learn from. Examples abound on country-level experiences where farmers have worked together to achieve both big and small things, and The Federation will in future have its own successes to share with others.

Below are a few examples from where farmers and their organizations have worked with various players like Governments, the private sector, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and others to record notable successes in

agriculture while playing a critical part in economic and social development.

- In Western Europe, North America, and Japan, farmers have worked with Governments and other stakeholders to ensure that targeted agricultural subsidies provide an industrial foundation that has made these countries dominate world food markets.
- In China, farmers worked with government and others to turn failed collective farms into successful privately-owned farming enterprises.
- In parts of Brazil, farmers have worked with State Governments and other stakeholders to support a land reform program that is making Brazil a global player in food markets.
- In Australia, the National Farmers' Federation tackles critical policy issues in productivity, access to markets, digital connectivity, natural resource management, biodiversity, health and welfare, education and training, and workplace relations; a process that has made a great success of agriculture in a particularly hostile physical environment.

Coming closer to home;

- In Malawi, NASFAM has over the years successfully supported a large number of small to medium

scale farmers in securing inputs on time and at reasonable costs.


- In Zambia, farmers have overcome the death of critical parastatals and restored effective grain production and distribution through commercial channels.
- In Botswana, farmers have survived being weaned off heavy government subsidies associated with food self-sufficiency and successfully concentrated on areas of comparative advantage like livestock.
- In Namibia, farmers have successfully deployed modern technology to give the country the badge of being the only country in Africa whose beef gained access to the lucrative US market.
- In Kenya, farmers have managed to own and successfully manage the tea industry using a membership-owned parastatal-like body (the KTDA).
- In Uganda, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, farmers have successfully taken advantage of Government liberalization of the coffee industry to ensure that farmers get "a fair price" from the international community (having learnt from several coffee-producing countries in Latin America).
- In Kenya and Ethiopia, farmers have successfully responded to the international market for flowers and fresh produce in the Northern hemisphere by meeting

stringent supply and quality standards.

- In South Africa, farmers have successfully responded to rising purchasing power inside the country and across the African continent by increasing production at competitive prices.
- In Ghana, farmers have successfully organized to produce organic cacao for the production of fair trade chocolates that compete with the best in the world.
- In several countries across Africa, farmers have successfully tapped

into agricultural expertise developed in Zimbabwe over the last one hundred years and adapted it for local production in the last decade.

There are enough experiences from around the region, Africa, and the world at large for The Federation to learn from, then copy, adapt, improve, innovate and then share with others faced with similarly difficult issues around land, agriculture, and development.



MUNGAI N. LENNEIYE, FOUNDER TRUSTEE, UDUGU INSTITUTE: FOR A BETTER INNOVATED AFRICA. UDUGU INSTITUTE PROMOTES INNOVATION IN INSTITUTIONS, SYSTEMS, AND TECHNOLOGY (IST). THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION CAN BE APPROACHED IN A PARTICULARLY COMPLEX SECTOR.

SOLIDARITY MESSAGES

Food Agriculture Organization (FAO): Regional Representative for Southern Africa and Zimbabwe Representative: Dr David Chimimba Phiri

“On behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, I wish to extend warm congratulations to the Zimbabwe Federation of Farmers Unions on the occasion of its launch. FAO takes great pride in having forged close collaborative relations with the different Farmers Unions as we provide technical and financial support in the implementation of different projects in

the rural communities. We are hopeful that the Federation of Farmers Unions will have stronger advocacy to influence policy to enhance profitability and sustainability of agriculture. We sincerely wish that the Federation will grow from strength to strength in its influence for a vibrant agricultural sector. We believe that the collaboration between FAO and farmer unions will

continue to develop and strengthen in the future, we once again extend our strong solidarity with the Federation of Farmers Unions in its just cause and

struggle for a common and stronger voice for all the farmers in Zimbabwe.

I THANK YOU!"

Mr. Matthew Chimbghandah: President of EMCOZ

" THE CELEBRATION:

1. The launch of the Federation of Farmers' Unions is a cause for serious celebration and EMCOZ is honoured to have been invited to say a few words.
2. Firstly, Congratulations to the Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers' Union, the Zimbabwe National Farmers' Union and the Commercial Farmers' Union for being able to see beyond the superficial issues that divide us and focus on the fundamentals that unite us.

THE LESSONS

5. The Agricultural community has taught Business rich and valuable lessons. We know that the Business Council of Zimbabwe has gone into quiet hibernation. It is back to Business as usual as each Sector reinforces the laager and fortifies the silo walls. The result is that we end up celebrating policies that are at

3. It is a given that Agriculture is the anchor of the Zimbabwe economy. When you have one federal body articulating the issues that are impeding the development of Agriculture, the rest of the Nation has no alternative but to sit up and take notice.

4. When each of you was operating in your own silo, you made it easy for whoever you were engaging to trivialise your issues. This will now be a thing of the past as together you now carry the necessary gravitas to make anybody listen to your concerns.

direct odds with the interests of other Business Sectors.

6. We end up celebrating sectoral successes at the expense of the whole economy.

7. We have been given a shining example to follow and if we, as the Business Community choose to ignore that which is self-evident, at least we will not be able to blame ignorance.

8. Let us now turn our attention to not only feeding the Nation but providing the means for it to express its full potential. It is not just a question of filling the Grain Silos, it is about filling them at competitive prices so that we are able to export.

IN CONCLUSION

9. Director of Ceremony, Hon. Minister Made, Ladies and Gentlemen, EMCOZ is proud to have been invited to this event. We pledge our solidarity to the

great men and women who are carrying the Nation on their stakeholders, the farmers, and wish them the very best for the future.

10. We look forward to benefiting from a united voice for Agriculture in the Business voice at the Tripartite Negotiating Forum.

11. God Bless the farmers of Zimbabwe and thank you all for your kind attention.”

SOLIDARITY MESSAGE BY MR DENIAS ZARANYIKA: PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICA SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ZIMBABWE SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION AT THE LAUNCH OF THE FEDERATION OF FARMERS' UNIONS

” **On** behalf of the Zimbabwe Seed Trade Association it is a great honour and privilege to join you today on this very important auspicious occasion. Attendance at this event by representatives of various stakeholders is of significant importance, today’s event and its **concept of unity** and what can be achieved if we all work together.

The importance of farmers is highlighted by the fact that when we wake up; go through the day and retire in the evening, we are heavily dependent on the farmer. The companies that process and pack the food items that we require for breakfast, lunch and dinner pale into

insignificance without famers. Hungry, we would have no energy to go through the day.

The plates, the forks, spoons and glasses that we use during meal times are made by well fed, healthy workers the basis of which are the unsung heroes - the farmers-without whom commerce and industry and other spheres of our daily lives would grind to a halt.

In short, everything that we eat or do starts on a farm. I could go into this more but I think you get the idea so instead I will share with you one very illustrative

quote (wish I could remember who said it).

“At least once in your life you will need a doctor and a lawyer. You need a farmer three times a day.”

This statement amply shows the importance of farmers. While we are celebrating the work that our farmers do in our lives, today however, is a celebration of the unity of our heroes. Unity means individuals coming together to do some work as a unit without sacrificing individual interests. Unity refers to the feeling of oneness, togetherness and harmony for a common goal. The result of unity is achievement and accomplishment of a much bigger outcome. Whenever people act in unison with one another their strength increases a thousand-fold.

This is akin to little drops of water that make the mighty ocean and little drops of sand that make this vast world.

I speak from an informed point of view because through the work that we do at ZSTA; within AFSTA and at the International Seed Federation, we are seeing what can be achieved when we collaborate.

As a united seed industry at local, regional, continental and international levels we are reaping the benefits of unity that has seen us working on common goals and objectives that include promotion of trade in quality seeds; promoting activities aimed at

harmonisation of regulations to facilitate movement of seed among members; collectively developing and sharing statistical databases on seed production and trade; as well as speaking with one voice and enhancing our interaction with regional governments, NGOs and other stakeholders to promote the interests of the seed industry.

Through collaborative working relationships, we are seeing greater opportunities to resolve challenges affecting the food value chain. In this respect, where others see increasing hunger, we are now seeing opportunities to contribute to increasing food production and feeding our growing populations through improved access to better seeds. Where others see the challenges of climate change, we are seeing opportunities to make our research, breeding, production, extension support and market fit for purpose and relevant to the felt-needs of farmers.

Where others see governments as stumbling blocks, we are now seeing our governments as partners that we can proactively engage in agriculture policy and trade dialogue.

It is in this vein that I wish to applaud you, the Zimbabwe farmers for coming together and realising that there is strength in unity.

I have no doubt that venerable former leaders of our various farming unions

such as the late Gary Magadzire and *Sekuru* Silas Hungwe; and John Brown and Alan Burl would have marveled at the unity of purpose that is being ushered in today. Equally I have no doubt that some of our former leaders such as Mr. Thomas Nherera and Wilson Nyabonda had and will continue to have some input in growing and strengthening this federation of farmers we are launching today.

On behalf of ZSTA, let me assure you that we stand ready to work with the federation to fulfil commitments by the African Heads of State to end hunger and reduce by halve poverty in Africa by 2025. We also stand ready to work with the federation for the common good of our nation and pledge our support to buttress the adage: UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL - or is it FAIL!!! I THANK YOU."

Mr Tafadzwa Musarara: Grain Millers Association of Zimbabwe

"**Congratulations** on this great achievement FoFU! We are ready for more **cooperation** between our organisation and farmers. As GMAZ we require close to 100 000 Tonnes of popcorn and our challenge is for farmers to meet this. In addition, consumers now

demand healthy foods such as millets and rapoko and GMAZ is challenging farmers in FoFU to discuss market needs and how the relationship can become even stronger. We look forward to a fruitful relationship."

Mr Phillip Sewera, Chairman: Federation of Young Farmers Clubs Zimbabwe

"**Congratulations** parents and leaders! **Young people** this is for us! Our Future! We promise to submit under the Federation and look for guidance, mentorship, capacity building and

training. We will shortly be celebrating Young Farmers Awards – celebrate with us. Farmer Organisation are critical. We need to stay together and ensure this leads to closer and more rewarding relationships."

Dr Sanderson Abel: Bankers Association of Zimbabwe (BAZ)

"**We** believe that the Alliance is for betterment of farmer organisation in Zimbabwe. This will make lives easier for bankers to **negotiate** as previously we

were spending time negotiating with various demands and issues but now FoFU will allow for consolidated concerns. Banks – remain amenable to support agriculture as they had

committed 20% of their credit to agriculture. Coming together will allow

for **better advocacy**. Congratulations Famers!"

Dr. Andrew Matibiri: Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB)

"Of the 14 million people in Zimbabwe 70% are non-smokers. There are only 100 000 smokers in the country. That means 99% of tobacco is for **export** and therefore generates

the necessary foreign exchange. The key for the Federation is on how farmers can take advantage of this so as to ensure the industry generates more revenue for the country. As TIMB we wish FoFU all the success"

Dr Anxious Masuku: Zimbabwe Agricultural Society (ZAS)

"As the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society we invited the farming unions to take up office space We welcomed their coming to ZAS as the "Agriculture Park", so as to facilitate and encourage a **culture of**

dialogue and shared vision for a common agricultural future among farmers. Being a Federation is a step in the right direction congratulations FoFU!"

Mr. Emmanuel Nhema: Crop Life Zimbabwe

"Although Crop chemicals constitute a relatively small portion of the cost of farming compared to other expenses, **improper use or non-usage** of these can lead to total crop failure hence the need for our industry to work closely together

with the farmer unions. The pesticide industry (Croplife Zimbabwe) is ready to work with FoFU just as it did with the individual unions in the past. Congratulations to the 3 unions for coming together to form FoFU"

Blessing Ndoro, Livestock Meat and Advisory Council (LMAC) – Vice Chairman

"We believe the coming together of farmers' unions signifies the start of a natural relationship. In the livestock

sector, the challenge for FoFU and its members is more on the production of livestock to feed into **beneficiation**. We

need to venture into new business models that will ensure increased farmer incomes.”

Mrs Matanga: Agricultural Medical Aid Society

Mrs Matanga congratulated the Federation and noted that with their coming together, their large numbers

would matter. In addition, she noted the importance and relevance of **One Big Voice** in Agriculture.

Mrs Nancy Zitsanza: Acting CEO Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA)

Mrs Nancy Zitsanza explained the importance of AMA in agriculture in order to advocate for orderliness and fairness. Coming together as FoFU would make it easy for AMA to make

consultations to reach out to many farmers. There was potential to foster closer relations. She noted that as AMA they expected FoFU to encourage membership to ensure **compliance**.

Mr Godfrey Buka: Cotton Ginners Association (CGA)

Mr Buka challenged FoFU on **productivity** issues in the cotton sector and the need to put heads together to ensure that the cotton sector rebounds

again. He welcomed the federation and hoped to discuss and find ways to ensure productivity and profitability in the sector.

Mrs Flora Ngwenya: Zimbabwe Energy Regulation Authority (ZERA)

As the Energy regulator, ZERA meets quarterly with various farmers’ unions. This had resulted in **coordination**

challenges. As ZERA they were excited to have central point of communication with FoFU. Mrs Ngwenya wished the very best to the Federation!

Mr. Calisto Chihera: European Union

Mr Chihera speaking on behalf of the European Union congratulated FoFU on the launch. He noted that the European Union had been working with Farmer Unions in Zimbabwe. He explained that there was excitement on the

development and welcomed the Federation. Mr Chihera challenged the Federation to remain forward looking and keep pace on developments in the agricultural landscape so as to be of **value to its constituents.**

Pioneers of Farmer Unions

“As pioneers of various farmer unions in the country, we are very pleased by this development. We are grateful and

happy to stakeholders and the team of **negotiators** who sat together to come up with the product of FoFU. We therefore congratulate us all for this achievement.”

Dr Theo de Jager – President, SACAU & WFO (World Farmer Organisation)

“Can I hereby congratulate the farmers of Zimbabwe and the leadership of their organisation on this wonderful initiative and the example they set in the Southern African region. Each one of our countries in SADC can learn something from the Zimbabwean experience as **unity** in agriculture is key to the core function of all national farmers organisations: to do advocacy.

Only by speaking one voice can farmers ensure that they are being heard. Only by approaching the policy makers in a

united front can we ensure that those policies cover all our interests. Zimbabwe is really setting the standard and the pace!

I am so sorry I cannot attend the launch in person as I am currently representing WFO at the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York but you can be sure that my heart is in Harare today! I pray God’s blessings on your farmers, leaders and your country!

Together we can do so much more!”

Pictorial Highlights



OFFICIAL LAUNCH CEREMONY

OFFICIAL OPENING BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MECHANISATION AND IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT: HON. DR JOSEPH MADE M.P.

“It is my pleasure and honour to officiate at the launch of the Federation of Farmers’ Unions. It is pleasing to note that you managed to put aside your differences and embrace one another for the good of the farmers and the nation at large. As government, this has been our call for many years to have such a body bringing cohesion and direction to farmers for the smooth and efficient conduct of their business in an organised manner.

Your theme is *“Coming Together for Successful Farming”* and successful farming is what this economy has been known for. We do appreciate the diversity of scale and operations of our farmers and would want to stress that this body operates as mandated by the constituencies it represents. The challenges being faced by the agricultural sector cannot be left to Government alone, but it can be effectively addressed if we move together. You have been crying about the challenges that bedevil your operations and profitability, and I urge you to effectively use this body in pursuance of your listed objectives. Farming is a business and business is war. Fight this

war with intent and purpose. I also urge you to work in harmony with the suppliers of agricultural inputs, machinery and equipment on affordable terms to enhance your capacity to produce more. Government is working on programs to capacitate you and equip your operations with the appropriate machinery and equipment. Organised farming is good for economic growth.

Farming produces the raw materials for our industries and reduces the pressure on the fiscus by reducing or eliminating imports. This frees foreign currency for the importation of things which are critical to the nation that we cannot produce locally. The economy is poised to grow by 3.7% on the backdrop of a very successful agricultural season, and to maintain this momentum, farmer organisation is critical.

I would want to share my conviction with you that our industry is definitely on the mend. Let me thank all farmers who participated in productive work last season and urge you to continue in that mode for the coming season. If these levels are sustained we are bound to reclaim the bread basket status of yesteryear.

Service provision to farmers is critical and this body has to ensure that there is excellent migration into modern systems of communication to promote information dissemination, research and development. Government supports this initiative by the farmers unions and I would like to congratulate you on this achievement.

At this juncture, I do congratulate you on this noble initiative and wish you the

SESSION 2

The Facilitator gave a task in plenary for stakeholders to discuss their expectations of the FoFU. Each table

best. This leaves me to happily and officially launch the Federation of Farmers' Unions.

I THANK YOU."

Permanent Secretary (MAMID) Engineer Chitsiko read the speech on behalf of the MAMID Minister Hon Dr Made M.P.

provided issues they hoped the Federation would champion.



SESSION 2: Group Expectations of FoFU

Table 1

- Coordination
- Collaboration
- Market research

- Work towards embracing

Table 2

- Productivity – improvement

- Policy – influencing government
- Conflict resolution – ability

Table 3

- Single more powerful voice
- International best practise
- Finding common grounds

Table 4

- Transparency of the unions
- Coordination of farmer voices

Table 5

- The FoFU must last and grow from strength to strength
- Government and stakeholder must support it
- Promote interest of farmers and labour
- Must have a strong voice

Table 6

- A stronger voice for farmers to lobby on key issues affecting productivity on key areas which are:
 - (i) Input prices
 - (ii) Finance
 - (iii) Market price of produce
 - (iv) Government policy contribution
 - (v) Representation in marketing
 - (vi) Redefinition of

- Community amongst the unions and farmers
- Benefits from uniting the federation and the farmers
- Equitable distribution of available land and inputs
- Results improved productivity

Table 7

- Reduce cost of input on all commodities
- Harmonisation of farming sector
- Enhance farmer training
- (vii) Ensure training of farmers

Table 8

- United voice for all farmers
- Facilitate availability of reasonable priced inputs and implements
- Participate in farming research so as to avail technology to farmers
- The union to ensure guaranteed markets
- Facilitate ease of movement of produce from farm to markets

Table 9

- To be Zimbabwean's most vibrant farmer representation organisation
- To spearhead or revitalise the age or era of organised agriculture in Zimbabwe

- To play a key role in finding a workable solution to the issue of land tenure – it must champion sustainable and climate smart agriculture
- To be involved in the negotiations for farmers to access affordable finance with favourable terms
- Inclusive membership of serious farmers (rural, urban, youths, women etc)

Table 10

- Strengthened ability as FoFU to mobilise resources and not only that but to facilitate in forming similar crop based unions e.g. guava producers association or mango etc.
- It has to be market led
- FoFU - lobby for better policies to spur productivity.

Table 11

- Unity of Purpose for successful farming in Zimbabwe through a single force – FoFU
- Creative farming value chain business linkages

Table 12

- Unity as farmers
- Share information, resources, skills
- Lobbying for funding, for all agricultural programs

- To be involved in the lobbying and advocacy of an enabling agricultural policy in Zimbabwe
- It must be the new and true effective voice of farmers in Zimbabwe
- It must be the new frontier, for effective farmer representation in Zimbabwe.

- Expert help resolve land tenure issues, land ownership title, land sizes
- Help with fences along the highways (enforcing some laws and to be abided by)
- Speak with one voice and help the organisation to survive
- Common markets for farmers produce
- Enforce laws on veld fires, prosecution of offenders
- God-fearing and God lead union organisation
- Able to resolve problems
- Lobby for reasonable bank interest rates
- Farmers calendar to be available for all seasons

Table 13

- As farmers we need protection by
 - (i) Timely information dissemination before we get misinformed

- (ii) From policy inconsistencies which affect productivity
- (iii) Market instability and from middle men and speculative pricing

Table 14

- Stabilising long term tenure – to enable capacity investment
- One voice for Zimbabwe farmers for agricultural policy and pricing
- Research and development agricultural sector.
- Promoting single purpose for farmers by securing:
 - (i) Finance
 - (ii) Wages
 - (iii) Inputs
 - (iv) Labour
 - (v) Land tenure
 - (vi) Dissemination of information.
- Opening up opportunities for all graduates from agricultural colleges and institutions to get into farming.

Table 15

- Genuine partnerships i.e. (one voice)
- A breakthrough into the world market
- Sharing experiences i.e. learning sharing ideas.

- Fast growing economy
- Improved subsidy and soft loans.

Table 16

- Land Tenure – bankable
- Compensation – fair play
- Common purpose to produce developmental strategies
- Develop markets especially exports and local markets infrastructure developments
- To create and not destroy “UNIFIER”
- Establish systems of data collection

Table 17

- One strong voice
- To work on the reduction of costs of production
- Reduce imports costs – bulk buying
- More trainings to farmers (combined) sharing ideas exchanging ideas
- Land tenure – bankable
- Protection of the farmer from banks
- Ethical and value driven union
- Representation in government
- Markets of crops and livestock
- Collection and administration to improve – levy collection and administration to be easy & for the farmers.

CLOSING SESSION

CLOSING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS: FoFU VICE PRESIDENT, MRS MONICA CHINAMASA

Mrs Chinamasa quoted *Eccl 3:1*: ...To everything there is a season. As FoFU she noted that they were aware that there was still a lot of work to do. FoFU was pleased by the challenges that came from the stakeholders on their expectations of the Federation and would do all they can to ensure that they respond to such needs. FoFU promised to stay focussed

to work together for the good of agriculture and the good of the nation. Mrs Chinamasa thanked FoFU members who had made the launch to happen. She was excited by the various packages on offer for farmers. Mrs Chinamasa thanked sponsors who had assisted in ensuring the launch was successful and wished everyone a safe trip back.

FINAL WORDS FROM FACILITATOR: DR MABEL HUNGWE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING UNDER THE UMBRELLA

The Umbrella body that FoFU has launched means that the farmer organisations who are signatory to this agreement have agreed to go under an umbrella. When it rains, the rest of the country would like to see FoFU under an umbrella; when it is hot and sunny, stakeholders would like to see FoFU

under the umbrella. In sickness, difficulty, happiness or good health, stakeholders would still like to see FoFU under the umbrella. May FoFU have success always.

Lunch and refreshments were served to mark the launch.

FEDERATION OF FARMERS' UNIONS LAUNCH

21ST SEPTEMBER 2017 ROBBIE MUPAWOSE CENTRE

HARARE AGRICULTURAL SHOWGROUNDS



COMING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESSFUL FARMING

PROGRAMME.....Director of Ceremonies- Dr Mabel N. Hungwe

TIME	ACTIVITY	BY
0830-0900	Registrations	FoFU Secretariat
0905-0910	Prayer	Rev. Chikeya
0915-0930	Welcome remarks & Introductions	Dr M.N.Hungwe
0930-1000	Rationale behind Federation	FoFU Chairman –W.Chabikwa
1000-1030	Health Break	All
1030	Solidarity Messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pioneers of Farmers' Unions • Zimbabwe Seed Traders Association • Crop Life • Fertilizer Manufacturers • ADMA • Grain Millers Association of Zimbabwe • LMAC • NEC-Agriculture • Bankers Association of Zimbabwe • EMCOZ • European Union • Food & Agriculture Organisation • Zimbabwe Agricultural Society • Permanent Secretary(MAMID) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr T. Nherera • Mr. D. Zaranyika • Mr T. Pilime • Mr. M. Kachere • Mr M. Garazio • Mr T.Musarara • Mr F. Mungate • Mr S. Jera • Dr . C. Jinya • Mr J. Mufukare • Mr T. Opperer • Dr Phiri • Dr A. J. Masuka • Mr R.J. Chitsiko
1100		
1105-1110	Introducing Guest of Honour	Mr. R. Chitsiko
1115-1130	Guest Speech	Hon .Dr. J. Made
1135-1145	Federation Launch	ALL
1145-1150	Presentation of Guest's Token	FoFU Trustees
1155-1205	Vote of Thanks	Mrs M. Chinamasa-
1210-1220	Closing Prayer	Rev. Chikeya
1230-1330	Lunch	All
1330-1400	Exhibition Stands Tour & Departure	All

FOFU LAUNCH - STAKEHOLDERS ATTENDANCE REGISTER

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