

## FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 44, 2017

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Banks receiving FISP farmer deposits
- 1, 200 agro dealers to handle FISP
- Bayer assists CFU
- Off to a slow Start!

### IN DETAIL....

#### Banks receiving FISP farmer deposits

Financial institutions enlisted to transact on the 2017/2018 FISP e-voucher were by Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 ready to start receiving farmer deposits of K400.

Smart Zambia, the company working with the Ministry of Agriculture to handle the 100% FISP e-voucher roll out has announced at a media briefing in Lusaka, Thursday, that farmers that have been captured on the FISP e-voucher and have resources, can readily make their deposits.

The participating banks include; Zanaco, Barclays, United bank of Africa (UBA), Bank ABC; Eco banks; Indo Zambia Ltd; and two mobile money service providers; PayCode Ltd and Mobile Payment Solutions (MPS) Ltd.

A total of 1 million farmers have been targeted for the 2017/2018 FISP, which list was finalised this week.

The list of the screened farmers has been given to the contracted banks and other service providers who have already started producing and distributing cards.

Farmer registration has been undertaken nationwide and is expected to continue into next year until a universal, electronic farmer register is achieved.

#### 1, 200 agro dealers to handle FISP

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# ZNFU

A total of 1,200 agro-dealers have been registered as input suppliers for the 2017/2018 agricultural season, government says.

Minister of Agriculture Dora Siliya in her address to the media on Thursday in Lusaka said this is a record leap from the 500 agro dealers registered during the 2016/2017 farming season.

Ms. Siliya said agro dealers registered in the 2016/2017 season will also continue to participate on the 2017/2018 programme.

She said a catalogue of all participating agro-dealers and the type of inputs they will stock has been created and introduced on the Zambia Integrated Agricultural Management Information System (ZIAMIS) platform.

## Bayer assists CFU

Bayer has equipped the Conservation Farming Unit (CFU) field officers with insect traps to monitor the Tuta absoluta and Fall Armyworm in various farming areas of 30 Districts.

The donation comes a month after Bayer trained all CFU staff on various pest management solutions.

Making a donation, Bayer representative Paul Kapapula said his institution has taken the pest challenge seriously hence the partnership with the CFU and other institutions in providing workable solutions.

Bayer has a strong Fall Army Worm program for farmers, especially small holder farmers in very small affordable pack sizes, but more importantly, is getting the right data from the field.

“We are very confident that this relationship with CFU will help support over 300,000 small holder farmers with the right knowledge to counter the challenges of fall army worms,” Mr. Kapapula said.

And CFU Chief Executive Officer Collins Nkatiko thanked Bayer for the support and pledged that his field team would lead the farmers in putting up a good fight against pests.

The CFU is currently conducting a series of weed and pest management trainings for farmers in all its operation areas. Pest scouting is being prioritised.

## FROM THE REGIONS

### EASTERN

~~ZNFU REGIONAL REPORT~~  
Off to a slow Start!



Agro dealers in Petauke District have expressed concern over the slow rate at which input sales for the 2017/18 farming season have started.

Many agro dealers have expressed their readiness in terms of stocking inputs for this season although they have seen a drastic reduction in sales as compared to the same period last season. They have attributed the slow rate of sales to the poor commodity prices that characterised the marketing season this year as one of the major contributing factors to farmers not having enough disposable income to acquire the farming inputs.

Agro dealers also expressed concern over the delayed payment to farmers that supplied their maize to the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) fearing that if the situation does not improve then most of the farmers will be forced to use recycled seed for their production this season.

## SOUTHERN

### PACRA conducts Workshop on Movable Property, registry system for FSPS and SMEs

The Patents And Companies Registration Agency (PACRA) in conjunction with the Bank of Zambia (BoZ) held a sensitisation meeting on movable property (security interest) Act No. 3 of 2016. The Act seeks to promote the use of movable property as collateral in financial transactions and there by ease access to credit particularly by Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The workshop was intended to sensitize banks and financial institutions on the operationalization of the registry and how they may benefit from the movable property Act. The workshop also covered the concept and operations of the credit reporting systems in Zambia. PACRA invited ZNFU staff and 20 farmers from information centres. The movable property (security interest) Act No. 3 of 2016 was enacted into law on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## NORTHERN

### FRA barely meets half its Mpulungu target

While the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) announced having mopped its targeted grain for the season, the Agency has so far purchased about **91,081 x 50kgs** of maize out of **210,000 x 50kgs** target translating into **43.4%** of the total purchases and despatches in Mpulungu district.

~~Out of 15 satellite depots, 11 were active and 4 were closed. However, the District Assistant marketing officer has attributed the failure by the Agency to reach its target to~~



factors of competition posed by private buyers who were offering a higher price than FRA. This marketing season has seen a lot of farmers desperately in search of a better buying price, as the FRA was reluctant in taking heed to cries of farmers. This forced many to ferry their maize from as far as Kasama to Mpulungu in the hope of finding a better price from the foreign private buyers from Burundi and Tanzania.

## ZIAMIS reluctant to extend Farmer Registration

There are no indications of the Zambia Agriculture Management Information System (ZIAMIS) extending the registration period of farmers on the E-voucher program.

This came to light after government issued a circular to all Agriculture District Offices to close registration of farmers on 25<sup>th</sup> October, but went on up to 27<sup>th</sup> October.

However, some camps still have farmers that are yet to be uploaded into the ZIAMIS due to logistical challenges faced by camp officers in capturing all farmers in good time. On the other hand, there are reports from the DMDO's office that as a district about 75-80 percent of farmers have been captured, translating into 9,500 selected farmers and at least 7,000 have been uploaded.

## ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

### ZFE invites members to leadership training Workshop

The Zambia Federation of Employers (ZFE) will be running a workshop on Leadership and Supervisory Development Skills on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Lake Safari Lodge in Siavonga.

The objective of the workshop is to equip participants with knowledge on how to build supervisory skills and solid principles using tools, techniques and practical experience.

The ZFE, hence, wishes to invite your organization to nominate a participant to this workshop.

Participants are expected to make confirmation together with payment of fees by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

For further details, contact Mildred Mukuma on Tel: 0211 295969 or cell: 0977 825 112 or email: [zfe.training@aol.com](mailto:zfe.training@aol.com)

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## ZAM'S 6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Manufacturers' Week

The Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) will be holding its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Manufacturer's Week from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11 November 2017 under the theme; Solutions for Zambian Manufacturers.

A number of activities have been lined up during this period, which include;

1. The Manufacturing Solutions Seminar; to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> November at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre
2. The Buy Zambia Expo; to be held at Manda Hill Mall in Lusaka from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November
3. The Prestigious Manufacturers Gala and Awards Ceremony; to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November at the New Government Complex Banqueting Hall.

For more information, contact Mrs. Chipu Mtonga on Cell: 0977 927 914

## Deadline for Ground Rates Payment Nears

The Union wishes to inform members that Ground Rent payments deadline has been set for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. All those that have not made good of this statutory requirement are asked to do so in good time to avoid penalties.

The Union also wishes to inform members that the SI 41 of 2015 has not yet been availed, but will circulate it once it is made available or is accessed.

However, herewith the ground rate schedule;

Annual ground rates for small holdings and farms;

Category A; land within Lusaka, Copperbelt, Central and Southern Provinces:

Up to 1 hectare = K83.10

Above 1 hectare = K5/ha Cumulative/additional charge

Category B; land within Eastern, Western, Muchinga, North-Western, Luapula and Northern Provinces:

Up to 1 hectare = K83.10

Above 1 hectare = K4/ha Cumulative/additional charge

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