

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 4, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reduced crop production Looms**
- **... As Expert recounts factors leading to reduced Crop**
- **Dekalb Compensates farmers on Chilala Insurance**

IN DETAIL....

REDUCED CROP PRODUCTION LOOMS

Zambia is likely to have a poor crop during 2018 due to adverse weather, the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD) has forewarned.

Giving a general outlook of how the rainfall picture look like and what effect this would have on the crop, the Meteorological Department has said continued suppression of rainfall accompanied by anomalously high temperatures throughout many parts of Zambia, especially over the southern half, has led to substantial moisture deficits and an increased likelihood for adverse crop impacts.

The ZMD says abnormal dryness has strengthened and expanded and is likely to continue for the rest of January through to March placing additional moisture stress on crops. The ZMD further states that the spatial and temporal rainfall distribution has been poor to support maize crop especially at critical stages of maturity.

... AS EXPERT RECOUNTS CHALLENGES LEADING TO REDUCED CROP

An agricultural expert says a myriad of challenges encountered during the past year remains a bigger factor in the crop outlook, especially maize production, for 2018.

Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (APRI) Executive Director, Chance Kabaghe has pinpointed the late delivery of farming inputs under a government subsidized program FIP e voucher, the dry spell being experienced in some parts of the country for close to a month, low maize price offered by the government in 2017 and the outbreak of armyworms as some of the factors that would have a negative bearing on crop production during 2018.



He says low maize prices have to large extent demoralized farmers, who have opted to cultivate other crops instead. He says the prolonged dry spell just adds to the misery and called for significant investments to be made towards mechanization and irrigation farming in particular. He says rain-fed agriculture has become archaic.

FROM THE REGIONS

EASTERN

DEKALB COMPENSATES FARMERS ON CHILALA INSURANCE

Farmers who bought Dekalb (DK)seed varieties and registered with Chilala insurance in Katete district have started getting compensation from the seed company. DK Seed regional office confirmed this to ZNFU. The farmers are being given back the seed variety of their choice on the same quantity bought after 21 days have lapsed after planting the seed. The District has not had rain in some areas since 11th December 2017 resulting in poor seed germination. Some farmers on e-voucher have been prompted to start asking whether they would be compensated as well seeing that they made contributions towards insurance for the 2017/2018 farming season. The farmers asked ZNFU to clarify what the position is on insurance for farmers on FISP e-voucher. When the ZNFU district contacted the district agriculture coordinator (DACO) over the issue, he promised farmers that government and the insurance company is looking at the matter and they would be monitoring fields via satellite imaging.

KATETE DISTRICT FALLS SHORT OF MEETING E-VOUCHER TARGET

Only 21, 400 farmers out of the targeted 26, 000 farmers in Katete District have managed to make the K400 deposits on the programme. The short fall could be attributed to a lot of reasons, with the common one being that some farmers failed to raise the prerequisite K400.

Other reasons include;

- ✓ Low market prices for all the crops during 2016/2017 season
- ✓ Delay by FRA to pay the farmers. By close of deadline FRA still owed farmers for the maize they supplied
- ✓ Government failure to load about 2 800 cards for farmers who deposited in 2016/2017 season, hence the general feeling that the programme would not benefit them.

CHONGWE

ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS FARMERS UNHAPPY WITH VAGUE CHANGES TO E-VOUCHER



Farmers in Chongwe say they are not happy with the new changes on the E-Voucher System.

Farmers are saying that the system just complicates issues. They say they should have let the system stabilize before effecting the new changes. The farmers complained that sensitisation was not done, and the new changes were effected rather belatedly.

Currently, not even 50% of farmers have received or redeemed for inputs. Other farmers had even expressed scepticism to deposit the K400 upfront fearing they could lose even the little money they have sacrificed to save. Farmers wondered why in the past two seasons the FISP has started late.

Meanwhile, Chongwe has not been spared by the dry spell and the unbearable heat resulting into wilted crops.

NORTHERN

FISP E-VOUCHER FLOPS IN MPULUNGU DISTRICT

The much publicized 2017/2018 FISP e-voucher system has not worked very well in Mpulungu District.

As at this week, only 5,000 e-voucher cards out of 9, 500 have been received in Mpulungu, but even these have not been activated. The Ministry of Agriculture through the Ass. DMDO Mrs. Beauty Mukonka was able to confirm to ZNFU that these cards will be used in the coming season as the distribution is almost coming to a close.

Farmers have resorted to accessing inputs through alternative systems put in place by the banks and the Ministry of Agriculture, working in collaboration with input suppliers.

Only three Agro dealers (Neria Investment, Mumocha and Better Changes) have participated out of eight (8) approved Agro Dealers.

About 7,125 packs have been distributed translating into 75% out of 9,500 packs of total allocation to the district, the distribution of these inputs is still an ongoing, the cumulative total number of pack issued will be known after the program comes to a halt, however the k400 pack deposits by farmers have since come to a close.

The other Agro dealers have failed to participate due to cited challenges of where to source for inputs on credit. The Ministry of Agriculture through the PACO Northern Province had written a letter (Dec 2017) requesting all Agro Dealers to start giving out inputs to farmers on credit, were as the Agro dealer is given a list of names of farmers from the DACO's office and the farmer provides an identity card and signs against their names on the list. Then the Agro Dealer gives out the inputs and waits for his payment from govt to be given to them after six weeks, this discouraged most Agro dealers who lacked enough capacity other agro dealers opted in withdrawing their inputs and man





power they had brought to the district, ZNFU had an opportunity to interact with a number of Agro Dealers who availed this information to them.

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

WAGE NEGOTIATIONS GO FOR CONCILIATION

The trade unions rejected ZFEA's latest offer on 17 January. The wage dispute will proceed to conciliation. The previous 2016/17 wage agreement remains in force until a new agreement is made.

SALE OF ZNFU MOTORBIKES BY PUBLIC TENDER

ZNFU is inviting sealed bids from the public to purchase eighteen (18) motor bikes.

Bidding form should be obtained from ZNFU head offices after paying a non-refundable fee of K50. The bids must be clearly marked **“Sale of motor bike by Public Tender”**, and addressed to ZNFU, Plot No. 2374 Tiyende Pamodzi Road, Show grounds. Telephone: +260 211 252649/254431

Kindly bring the bids in sealed envelopes and deposit them in the Tender box stationed at the Reception of ZNFU offices on plot No. 2374 Tiyende Pamodzi Road, Show grounds.

The closing date for receipt of bids is Friday 9th February 2018 at 16:30hrs. Successful bidders will be notified before or by Monday, 12th February 2018. Payment must be made by cash or bank certified cheque to ZNFU before collection of the motor bikes.

Viewing of the motor bikes will be from Monday 29th January 2018 to Friday 9th February 2018

Kindly note that:

1. ZNFU will not accept late bids and /or bids sent by email.
2. ZNFU will however, accept bids sent by registered mail provided they reach ZNFU office before 16:30hrs on Friday 9th February 2018
3. ZNFU reserves the right to accept or reject bids without assigning a reason thereto.

BAMBOO SEEDLINGS ON SALE

Bamboo is an alternative to traditional timber. It's a renewable resource, it matures in 3-4 years and has 1500 recorded uses and benefits.

ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS

Competition for timber is getting tougher, trees resources are becoming scarce and opportunities to plant are more limited. Farmers can use bamboo for erosion control and





regeneration of land. Free falling bamboo leaves can be used to obtain humus of between 20-25 tons per acre.

Bamboo is an excellent substitute for making of briquettes and charcoal and thus reducing deforestation by making use of idle land. Bamboo seedlings are available for sale.

Please contact: Bwalya Lumbwe on 0966 755980 Or by email: bwalyalumbwe@yahoo.com

CCPC SEEKS VIEWS ON PROPOSED 90% SHAREHOLDING ACQUISITION IN ZAMPALM BY IDC

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is currently assessing a transaction where the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), an investment wholly owned by the Zambian Government, is applying to acquire 90% of shares in ZamPalm, a subsidiary of the Zambeef Group of companies.

CCPC is seeking views and comments from the Zambian public on this transaction, its impact on the production and processing of Crude palm oil, and what would be the benefits of such a transaction to the country.

Those willing to make contributions on this matter can write to Mr. Chilufya Sampa, the Executive Director, or Mrs. Luyamba Mpamba Kapembwa, Director Mergers and Monopolies on Tel: 0211 222 787 or 0211 222 775 or Fax 0211 222 789 or email: zcomp@ccpc.org.zm before or on 26th January 2018.

LAND FOR SALE: MKUSHI

A Zambian family based in the United Kingdom is selling 562 hectares of land for sale in Mkushi. Interested parties can contact Kabulo Ruth Chalwe on +260979763596 or ruth@8tofive.com.

WEATHER

GENERAL SITUATION

A weak Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is oscillating about the Central and Southern parts of Zambia.

RAINFALL REPORTED AT 08:00 HRS: FRIDAY (25/01/2018) IN MILLIMETERS.



ZNFU

Chinsali FTC 26, Lusaka City Airport 23, Serenje 21, Kasama and Kafironda 15, Magoye 10, Mt Makulu 9, Misamfu 8, Samfya and Mkushi Agro 6, Mongu and Kafue Poder 5, Choma and Mumbwa 4, Ndola, Mfuwe, Senanga and Sesheke 1, Kawambwa, Mpika, Petauke and Kabwe had less than a millimeter (Trace).

Voluntary Rainfall Stations

Sikwale 28, Mambwe Boma and Bukupa 25, Susumaamba 20, Sichibunde 19, Halyapota 18, Mukumwa and Kasyongo 14, Sibajene 13, Cheelo, Mukumba and Jalila 8, Habuya and Hang'amba 6, Mukopi and Japi 5.

FORECAST FOR TONIGHT: FRIDAY (26/01/2018)

Western, Northwestern, Copperbelt, Luapula, Northern and Muchinga Provinces: Cloudy with rain and thunder in places.

The Rest of Zambia: Partly to Cloudy and warm with rain and thunder in few places.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEKEND: SATURDAY & SUNDAY(27 & 28/01/2018)

Lusaka and Southern Provinces: Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance of morning rain, afternoon showers and thunderstorms in few places.

The rest of Zambia: Cloudy and mild with morning rain, becoming warm with afternoon showers and thunderstorms in many places.

OUTLOOK TO MONDAY (29/01/2018).

Increased rainfall activities across the country

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

ZNFU CORPORATE SPONSORS

