

**ZNFU**

# AGRItech

EXPO  
**ZAMBIA**

## FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 8, 2018

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ZNFU/BoZ Confer
- BoZ reduces Policy Rate further
- Biosafety Clearing House in Offing

### IN DETAIL....

#### ZNFU/BoZ CONFER

The Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) and the Bank of Zambia (BoZ) today Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018 met to deliberate issues surrounding finance and banking and access to finance by the agriculture sector.

At a high-powered meeting led by ZNFU president Jervis Zimba and BoZ Governor Denny Kalyalya, the meeting agreed that the agriculture sector has slowed down over the past four years due to a myriad of impediments including challenges to accessing financing for agriculture investment.



The ZNFU president said it is worrying that policy inconsistencies have tended to impact negatively on the agriculture sector, leading to commodity prices going into free fall. He said the rainfall pattern over the last four years has also contributed to poor performance in the agriculture sector; but that banks that have lent money to sector instead of revisiting agreements have taken hard positions.

Mr. Zimba warned that if issues regarding financing are not addressed, this may lead to the country sliding back to the nineties when Zambian agriculture faced gloom. He said food security is also at risk and the country may revert to food imports.

Central Bank Governor Dr Kalyalya acknowledged the slowdown in agriculture but said the banking and agriculture sectors need to find a middle ground where both would operate profitably and have overall stability.

Dr Kalyalya noted that from 2005 to 2016 the agricultural sector's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) seriously declined from 16.2% in 2005 to 6.8% in 2016. He said this calls for serious work and less talk to post a turn around in the agriculture sector. He also raised concern over the levels of indebtedness of the agriculture sector, which he said was making the banking sector nervous.

He called for a stakeholders' meeting that would address the numerous challenges affecting growth of the agriculture sector.

## BoZ REDUCES POLICY RATE FURTHER

The Bank of Zambia (BoZ) has reduced the Monetary Policy Rate and also lowered the Statutory Reserve Ratio.

This announcement was made on 21<sup>st</sup> February by BoZ Governor Denny Kalyalya.

Dr Kalyalya said at the Meeting held on 19 – 20 February 2018, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to reduce the Policy Rate by 50 basis points to 9.75% from 10.25% and lower the Statutory Reserve Ratio by 300 basis points to 5.0% from 8.0%.

He said the MPC took into account the following factors a number of factors in arriving at the position, which included:

- Reduction in inflation to the 6% lower bound of the target range;
- Inflation projections which point to inflation remaining on the lower bound of 6-8% target range;
- High lending rates and subdued credit growth to the private sector;
- Elevated level of non-performing loans, which continue to pose risks to financial stability; and,

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- Weak economic growth.



In the fourth quarter, the Policy Rate was reduced to 10.25% from 11.0%. And in line with this, the overnight interbank rate declined to 9.94% from 10.2%, and was maintained within the Policy Rate corridor.

## BIOSAFETY CLEARING HOUSE IN OFFING

After acceding to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Zambia has made strides to set up a Biosafety Clearing House (BCH). The BCH is an international mechanism that exchanges information about the movement of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).

The National Biosafety Authority (NBA) held a two-day meeting where information on BCH was shared and also training on how to access and share information on the BCH is done. The meeting brought together various stakeholders in the agriculture and scientific areas who deliberated on its formation.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety established a BCH as part of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in order to:

- a. Facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and
- b. Assist Parties to implement the Protocol, taking into account the special needs of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition as well as countries that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity.

The BCH fulfils its mandate by providing a dynamic platform where information is registered through the Management Centre and where it can be easily searched and retrieved.

The BCH assists Parties, that includes governments that have ratified the Protocol and other stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding the importation or release of LMOs or GMOs. The BCH is a distributed system, and information in it is owned and updated by the users themselves through an authenticated system to ensure timeliness and accuracy.

## FROM THE REGIONS

### EASTERN

#### DROUGHT CONTINUES IN CHADIZA

The drought that characterized in five provinces of the country during December and January has continued to hit Chadiza District. This has caused damage to crop this farming season in the area.





The most affected crops are maize, sunflower and beans, with farmers now fearing that they will not have a good harvest. Fields for tobacco have survived the drought and most farmers are expecting a good harvest.

A check conducted by ZNFU found good fields of tobacco. The District office is advising farmers to diversify their farming rather than depending on mono cropping.

## **NORTHERN**

### **NOW DROUGHT HITS MBALA**

A three-week dry spell has hit Mbala district sending farmers in panic mode.

A snap survey by ZNFU contact farmers of Kawimbe, Kaka and many other Information Centres (ICs) found traces of stressed crops in their fields. The farmers later took a report to the District Farmers Association (DFA) office over the occurrence.

Farmers in the district are now worried that if the dry spell continues their crop yields will be negatively affected.

### **ROSS BREEDERS TRAIN 42 FARMERS IN POULTRY MANAGEMENT**

Ross Breeders has trained 42 Farmers in Mbala District in poultry management.

The company trained farmers in broiler management techniques starting with the best brooding methods, litter management, ventilation, record keeping and marketing. Mbala Farmers were elated by the gesture by Ross Breeders saying this would help them improve poultry management skills and also be able to make good profits out of their livestock business ventures.

## **SOUTHERN**

### **MONZE FARMERS RELIVE EL NINO THREAT**

Before memories of El-nino winds of 2015/16 farming season, which led to poor rainfall and consequently poor harvest can even be erased, the 2017/18 farming has equally been characterized by poor rainfall distribution in Monze District and the region with many fearing for the worst.





The District did not receive any rains for one month two weeks (from mid-December to 31<sup>st</sup> January).

Most farmers that had sowed early have experienced crop wilting due to the prolonged dry spell. This may lead to the District being food insecure this year through to early next year.

However, rainfall improved in February and currently farmers are busy looking for legumes to sow as their last hope.

## **MONZE FARMERS ABHOR E-VOUCHER FISP**

The 2017/18 FISP E-voucher has been marred with numerous challenges and Monze farmers are furious calling the introduction of Zambia Integrated Agriculture Management Information System (**ZIAMIS**) a disappointment.

Some eligible farmers have been omitted or removed from the beneficiary list due to minor errors mostly arising from national registration card numbers.

Most farmers that visit the Zambia National Farmers' Union (**ZNFU**) District office expressed disappointment in the manner **ZIAMIS** has implemented the exercise saying **ZNFU** run it better the past two seasons and farmers feel the Union must be given the mandate to further facilitate the smooth running of the program so that the less privileged can benefit from the scheme unlike ZIAMIS which is removing people who are supposed to benefit.

To date redeeming statistics, indicate that Monze has only reached about 60% successful transactions while others have not had their cards credited.

## **MONZE GEARS UP FOR 2018 AGRITECH EXPO**

The Monze DFA is readying itself to attend the 2018 Agritech Expo. The DFA has since started working on modalities to ensure that its members attend the showpiece in Chisamba. Members are being reminded to renew their membership for 2018 as they await for Agritech.

## **NORTH WESTERN**

### **RAINFALL DRECNHES KASEMPA DISTRICT**

Chavuma District in North Western Province of Zambia has continued to receive above normal rainfall. The district has continued receiving rains for the past one week and for the past two days it is raining almost each time around the whole district.



## AGRO DEALERS LEFT FRUSTRATED

The Electronic Voucher system has been seen by many as a viable and efficient system for providing agricultural subsidies to farmers and agro dealers play a critical role in providing inputs to farmers. Therefore, when the system fails in one component, it then affects the whole process.

In relation to this, agro dealers have been left frustrated because the monies redeemed through the Pay Code system has not been reflecting in the agro dealer's accounts and this has brought undue pressure on the agro dealers from the suppliers of the inputs such as fertilizer and seed. One of the agro dealers Mr. Kitanda said that government did its part by crediting farmer's accounts and after redeeming, they are unable to access the monies because it hasn't been transferred to their accounts from Pay Code. He further said that farmers who are yet to redeem may be affected because suppliers want to be paid before giving more inputs.

Meanwhile, out of the 3000 farmers allocated to Chavuma 87% have so far redeemed their inputs.

## CHONGWE

### FARMERS SADDENED BY OF RUMOURS OF CLOSING OF E-VOUCHER

Farmers in Chongwe are shocked by rumors that the e-voucher swiping will come to end before some cards are even loaded. They are questioning why the programing has changed from the time ZNFU started the program. Farmers were very optimistic when the program started, but different statements have raised a lot of doubt over the future and success of the e-voucher system.

"Some cards have not even been loaded and yet they are saying that they want to close, how realistic is it," Said a disappointed farmer.

**ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!**



## LABOUR UPDATE

The conciliation process for the collective dispute on the ZFEA minimum wage scale has yet to begin. So, the previous wage agreement which was effective from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016, remains in force.

## SELLING MAIZE?

Farmers with stocks of maize available for sale should consider placing parcels on the ZAMACE Platform. We have been informed that procedures have been simplified. For more information contact:

Jacob Mwale  
Executive Director  
ZAMACE Limited  
Plot No. 26592 Kafue Road  
T: +260 960 432 266  
M: +260 977 988 897  
E: [jmwale@zamace.co.zm](mailto:jmwale@zamace.co.zm)  
[info@zamace.co.zm](mailto:info@zamace.co.zm)

In addition, there are millers interested in buying maize. For full details of the millers involved, contact:

**Dr. Harrison Banda**  
**Millers Association of Zambia (MAZ)**  
**C/o Harrison & Associates Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors**  
Tel: +260 211 845 541  
Cel: +260 977 654 599 / +260 966 800 606  
E-mail: [harrison.associates@microlink.zm](mailto:harrison.associates@microlink.zm) Website: [harrisonandassociates.com](http://harrisonandassociates.com)

## MAIZE BRAN SALE

Parrogate Ginnery Ltd in Chipata is selling Maize Bran. They are currently producing Zamgold Mealie Meal in Eastern Province and have availability of Maize Bran on offer.

Interested, kindly call;

Rohit Verma  
Sales & Marketing Manager  
Zamgold Mealie Meal  
+260-971768339

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## INDEGINOUS LIVE FISH SALES AT KALIMBA FARMS

As farm dams are finally filling and the focus of Government moves towards aquaculture, Kalimba Farm is pleased to announce that they have available limited supplies of INDEGINOUS live fish for sale in breeding units of 1 male to 3 females.

The species available are *Oreochromis andersonii* (three spot bream) and *Tilapia rendalli* (red breast bream). One is an omnivorous eater and one is vegetarian to clean up weedy dams. Countrywide live travel conditioning and packing can be arranged.

Call Kalimba on 0967-474849 or 0211-847190 for further details.

## ZASTI HOLDS AGROMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP

The Zambia Air Services Training Institute (ZASTI) is offering three-day training session (28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> March 2018) for agriculture stakeholders as a measure to mitigate the impact of Climate Change.

The purpose of the training is to equip participants with basic introductory knowledge and skills to interpret meteorological data and prevailing meteorological conditions, and also with the skills to correctly convey meteorological information to farmers.

Some of the topics to be covered will include;

- Conventional rain-fed agriculture practices
- Climate Change and variability
- Pests and Meteorological conditions
- Cloud Types and associated rainfall
- Agricultural meteorological measurements
- Crop diversification in relation to Climate Change and variability

Participants are required to pay a participation fee of K1, 800. Kindly confirm participation with the Principal; Mr. Billieard Shingalili on Telefax: +260 211 271 293 or Email: info@zasti.ac.zm

## WEATHER

### SEVEN DAYS WEATHER FORECAST: 24/02/18 TO 02/03/18

#### GENERAL SITUATION

The Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is oscillating about the central parts of Zambia with a continental deep low-pressure system over Angola resulting in likelihood of moderate to heavy falls over the western half of the country.





# ZNFU

Forecast for the Period 24<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 Western, Southern and North-western Provinces: Cloudy with heavy rains and thunderstorms in many places. The rest of the country will be cloudy with moderate to light rains in places.  
Cumulative rainfall for the period 24<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018

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

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