

ZNFU

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FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 12, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- A Fresh Start
- First Cut; Katambo Meets Farmers
- 4th Mobile Service Provider enters Market
- Wheat & Barley Farmers Cry for More Engagement with

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WARMA



IN DETAIL....

A FRESH START

The Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU) has called on farmers and other agricultural stakeholders to put challenges that besieged the agriculture sector during the 2017 marketing season and the 2017/2018 farming season behind them and seek a fresh beginning.

ZNFU president Jervis Zimba made the call during the 2018 Pioneer DuPont National field Day in Magoye on Thursday, saying yes there were problems when commodity prices crushed, when FRA only paid farmers in February, when drought and Fall Army Worms struck, while others were man-made problems; but it was time to look for “a fresh start.”

The ZNFU president decried that farmers have continued being poor in spite of being primary producers of food and called on the Minister of Agriculture, Michael Katambo, to help end the exploitation of farmers at the pleasure of subsidising the ‘unproductive’ elite.

He wondered how the cost of a bag of maize, which costs a leg and arm to produce, could be equated with the cost of a village chicken saying this was absurd. He said this was leading to farmers continued living in squalor and abject poverty and failing to educate their children.

He impressed on Honourable Katambo that as farmers look to a fresh start, government should also play its role by implementing consistent policies, including the enhancement of free market policies and fluid export markets.

He said farmers would like to see good prices for their produce in 2018.

FIRST CUT; KATAMBO MEETS FARMERS

Minister of Agriculture Michael Katambo's first encounter with farmers after his appointment was during the Pioneer DuPont National Field Day on Thursday, and goodness was he received.

Close to 1000 farmers thronged Mr. Richard Nakeyee's farm in Magoye who beat the odds, including the partial drought and army worms, to produce a healthy crop on a sprawling 120 hectares.

Mr. Katambo acknowledged challenges faced by the agriculture sector, but promised that his ministry would soon call for a stakeholders' meeting to thrash out challenges that have dogged the sector including the e-voucher and access to inputs, marketing and late payments to farmers.

He called for public/private partnerships and collaboration to grow the sector.





He said the agriculture sector has huge potential to contribute to the growth of the country's economy, saying government has also recognised this hence deliberately structuring policies that would propel growth. He pinpointed policies such as; the Second National Agricultural Policy implementation plan and the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy of 2016.

He lauded Pioneer DuPont and its partners for complementing government by providing extension services and adaptative research in most rural parts of the country.

The Minister pledged to improve e-voucher and timely access of inputs by farmers.

4TH MOBILE SERVICE PROVIDER ENTERS MARKET

The Zambia Information and Telecommunications Technology Authority (ZICTA) on Monday 19th March 2018 issued a notice to award a licence to a fourth Mobile Service Provider; UZI Zambia Limited.

According to ZICTA, UZI Zambia Limited was identified after the Authority conducted comprehensive market reviews between 2015 and 2017, which among other things was the need to deepen competition on the market with a view to attain improvements in the quality of services offered on the market, attain more competitive pricing outcomes, as well as enhance the levels of investments in the market.

UZI Zambia Limited has pledged to invest over US\$350 million and create over 450 direct employment opportunities to support its operations in Zambia.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Wheat & Barley Farmers Cry for More Engagement with WARMA

The ZNFU Wheat and Barley Commodity Committee met on 22nd March 2018. Farmers noted that the agricultural sector was in turmoil with the ever-rising costs of production and reducing returns. The farmers emphasized on the need for government to ensure that pitfalls in accessing international markets, such as Angola and DRC, are addressed so that the country can fully benefit from the signed Trade agreements. Farmers further highlighted on the need to attract more investors in Barley production given the good prospects in demand for the commodity. However, it was also resolved that farmers would benefit greatly by investing in a barley malting plant to de-monopolise the industry and increase competition. And that farmers should consider engaging in value adding processes going forward for most commodities especially as they diversify into other commodities be it citrus, stevia, etc.

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Furthermore, farmers highlighted that there was need for further engagement on farmers representation on the Board of Water Resources Management Authority



(WARMA). Also, of immediate importance is for Water Users Association to be recognized and given legal mandate so that Board decisions are based on full information from the grass root structures. Thus, WARMA needed to quickly begin its consultative meetings on the pending General Water Resources Regulation and speed up the formulation and enactment of the pending Statutory Instrument.

Finally, the Union was requested to have the draft land policy reviewed by an expert and engage farmers for consultations.

Mr. Poena van Nierkerk of Mkushi was chosen as interim Chairperson of the Wheat & Barley Commodity Committee in the absence of an AGM.

COMMODITY UPDATES

Maize Updates

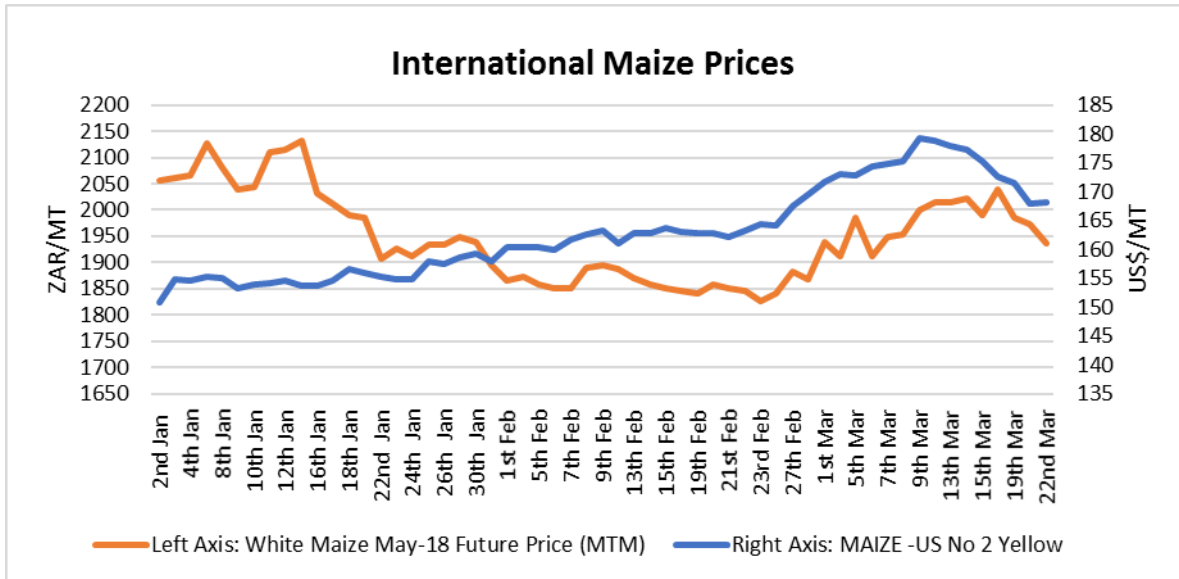
- The Famine Early Warning System Network in Mozambique's noted a 64% increment in maize prices in Tete district between January and February, much higher than the 38% increment observed in the previous month. This hike has been linked to poor prospects for the 2017/18 harvest. Prices may however begin to fall seasonally fall in April after reaching their pick in March. Price falls are however likely to be temporal as supplies from the new harvest are expected to deplete quickly due to crop failure and low yields. Tete, is Mozambique's bordering town on the Eastern side of Zambia.
- Locally, maize sale offer prices are still in the range of US\$170-200 (≈K1,700 - 2,000/MT).

International Price Trends

The U.S gulf spot prices of yellow maize was pegged at US\$175.23/MT on 15th March 2018 while the white maize futures for May delivery on Safex settled at ZAR 1989/MT (≈US\$168.42/MT).

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Data Source: Safex, 201

Soya beans updates

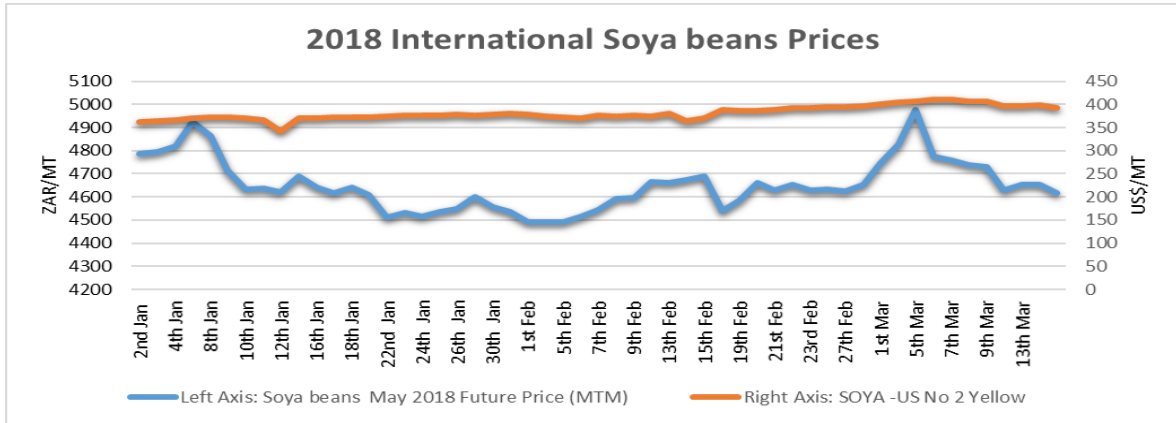
- Malaysia is expected to resume the export tax on palm oil on 1st April 2018 after a 3 months suspension. The second largest palm oil producer had suspended its export tax in January to boost its exports as it expects its stockpiles to rise in 2018. The April CPO export tax has been set at 5%.
- There is much anticipation in the soya beans industry on whether the current trade war between China and the US will include soya beans. China, the world’s largest consumer of the oilseed, accounted for over 50% of the United States of America total soya beans exports last year. The U.S has in the recent past imposed a number of import tariffs on products supplied to the Western States mainly by China and the markets are yet to see China’s reaction.
- Locally, Trader offer prices for the purchase of the oilseed are hovering around US\$ 410/MT (≈US\$4100/ton). two more bids to purchase soya beans were recorded on ZAMACE this week.

International Price Trends

- The International Soya beans prices eased off their steam a little over the last week with the US Gulf prices quoted at US\$393.06/TM on T15th March 2018

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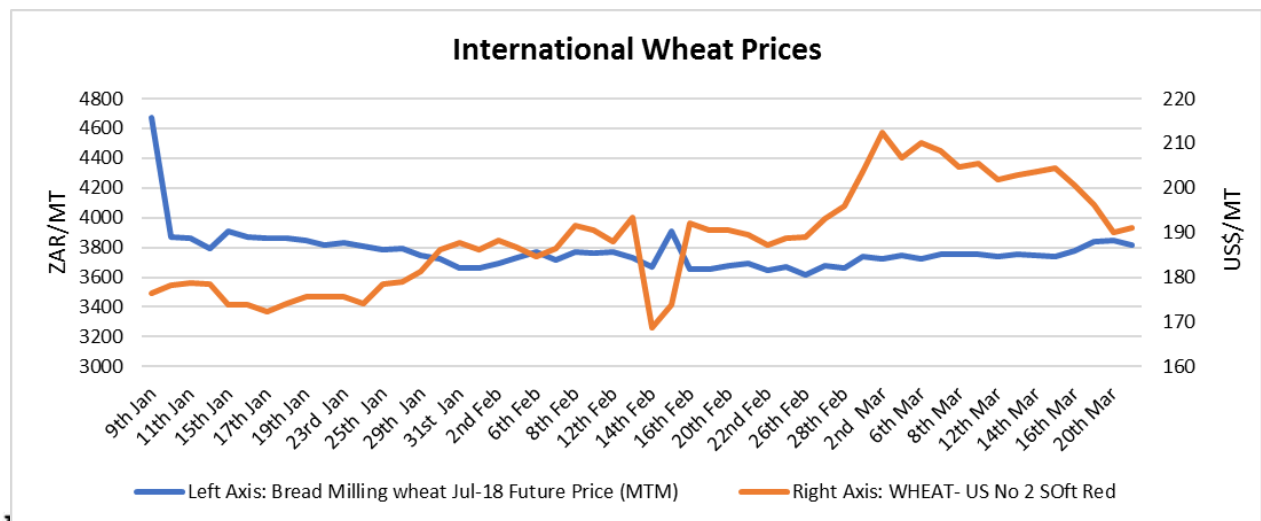
Data Source: Safex, 2018

Wheat Updates

- The Latest U.S GAINS report on Mexico has forecast a 2.7 million tons reduction in Mexico’s 2018/19 marketing year wheat output. The farmers in Mexico’s major producing area reduced their plantings by 20% on the back drop of low water levels and pessimisms on the wheat price. Mexico’s wheat imports are thus expected to rise by 5.7% to 5.5 million tons in the 2018/19 marketing year.
- Local wheat offer prices are averaging K422/ton (≈US\$422). Government officially granted the millers a wheat import quota of 100,000MT last Friday and processing of import permits begun this week. Last year, only 32,000MT of the 150,000MT import quota was utilized.

International Price Trends

The South African bread milling wheat for July delivery averaged ZAR3743MT (≈US\$316.93/ton) on 15th March 2018. The US gulf fob spot prices of soft red wheat were on the other hand hovering around US\$204/ton on the same day.



Data Source: Safex, 2018



FROM THE REGIONS

SOUTHERN

MAZABUKA AGM SUCCESSFULLY HELD

Mazabuka District Farmers Association on Wednesday 21st March 2018, held its Annual General Meeting with turnout out of both Small scale and large-scale farmers. ZNFU was represented by the president Mr. Jarvis Zimba and Mrs. Florence Phiri. The former DFA Chairman Mr. Raymond Strover chaired the meeting, elections were conducted, and the new Chairman is Mr. Henry Robison, who replaces Mr. Strover.

In another development PIONEER DUPONT in collaboration with CFU held its regional field day which was hosted by Mr Richard Nakeyee. The field Day which took place yesterday at Mr Nakeyee's farm in Magoye was officiated by Honourable Minister of Agriculture Mr. Michael Katambo and in attendance were five local chiefs, PACO, ZNFU president Mazabuka DC among other dignitaries.

Over 1000 farmers turned up for the field Day, where use of Conservation Farming technics was emphasised and also planting the seed that makes a difference to the farmer in terms of higher yield per area was also emphasised.

PENSIONS AND INSURANCE AUTHORITY (PIA) CONDUCTS SENSITISATION MEETING IN LIVINGSTONE

The Pensions and Insurance Authority (PIA) held a sensitisation meeting in Livingstone on Friday 23rd March 2018 to among other things give stakeholders insights on their insurance rights and duties.

Among topics covered were health insurance, property insurance, motor insurance, life insurance, Agriculture insurance and household insurance.

PIA also sensitized the stakeholders on where to take Insurance complaints and complaints handling procedure stating that consumers should be aware of rights and duties concerning insurance policy coverage and claims.

The meeting took place at Fairmount Hotel.

FARMERS' HOLIDAYS

The following are Public/Farmers' Holidays coming up during the year and members should observe **THOSE MARKED IN YELLOW**;



January 1 (Monday) – **New Year's Day**

March 8 (Thursday) – **International Women's Day**

March 12 (Monday) – **Youth Day**

March 30 (Friday) – **Good Friday**

March 31 (Saturday) – **Easter Saturday**

April 2 (Monday) – **Easter Monday**

May 1 (Tuesday) – **Labour Day**

May 25 (Friday) – **Africa Freedom Day**

July 2 (Monday) – **Heroes Day**

July 3 (Tuesday) – **Unity Day**

August 6 (Monday) – **Farmers' Day**

October 18 (Thursday) – **National Prayers' Day**

October 24 (Wednesday) – **Independence Day**

December 25 (Tuesday) – **Christmas Day**

Kindly note that the ones **NOT MARKED YELLOW** are **NOT FARMERS' HOLIDAYS!!!!**

ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS! ALERTS!

CALLING ALL GOAT, SHEEP AND CATTLE FARMERS/BREEDERS

The 2018 Agritech Expo is just around the corner and we are inviting all Goat, Sheep and Cattle Farmers/Breeders who are interested in showcasing their animal breeds to register with the ZNFU before 5th April 2018.

The ZNFU will arrange a Veterinary Officer with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock to be stationed at the Show site for purposes of issuance of stock movement permits.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to showcase your genetics!

Those interested should contact Mr. Godwin Mumba at ZNFU Secretariat;

Telephone +260 211 254431/252649;

email: info@znfu.org.zm / mumba@znfu.org.zm

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John Kimani on +260966849187 or

Malambo Mukwa on +260975174692

WEATHER

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR THE PERIOD 23RD TO 29TH MARCH, 2018

GENERAL SITUATION

The period from 23rd to 24th March 2018 relatively moist but stable airflow from the south-east will be affecting the southern half of Zambia leaving the rest under the influence of moist and unstable winds from the north-east. From the 25th to the end of the forecast period relatively moist and warm winds from the east will start affecting much of the country resulting in warm weather and reduced rainfall activities across the



country. The Detailed Forecast for the period: 23rd – 24th March 2018 Western, North-western, Copperbelt, Northern, Luapula and Muchinga provinces: Cloudy with isolated morning rain, afternoon showers and thunderstorms. The rest of Zambia: Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance of afternoon showers and thunderstorms. Nights will have isolated rain and thunder over the northern parts leaving the rest of the country with warm weather tending to be mild by dawn. The Detailed Forecast for the period: 25th – 29th March 2018 All areas: Mainly sunny progressively becoming cloudy with isolated afternoon showers and thunderstorms. Nights will be mainly warm becoming mild by dawn.

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



**12 - 14
APRIL 2018**

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