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ZAMBIA



WEEKLY BRIEF

WEEK 13, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- ZFEA/Unions strike deal for farm workers' Wages
- ZNFU opens Dialogue with New Minister for Water Development, Sanitation and Environment Protection
- Demand for Game Meat outstrips Supply
- Annual Rate of Inflation Rises



IN DETAIL....

ZFEA/UNIONS STRIKE DEAL FOR FARM WORKERS' WAGES

After almost four months of protracted negotiations between the Zambia Farm Employers Association and the Unions, negotiations for the 2018/19 minimum wage scale were concluded Thursday 28th March 2018 at the ZNFU Secretariat in Lusaka.

The new wage scale will be effective from 1st April 2018 for one year.

The minimum wage scales have been increased by 10.3%, bringing the lowest basic wage to K25.96/day or K675 per month for casual and seasonal workers.

Group 1; permanent and fixed-term contract workers now have a minimum basic of K823 per month. The unions insisted on the same percentage increase for all categories, so 10.3% was settled on as a compromise on ZFEA's earlier offer of 14.4% for casuals and seasonal workers, and 6.1% for higher groups.

Although the Labour Commissioner has yet to approve the agreement, ZFEA expects its members to abide by the agreement from 1st April 2018.

ZFEA says that the agreed percentage increase only applies to the previous minimum wage for each job category, although employers who have been paying above the minimum scale are encouraged to continue to do so.

ZFEA has expressed gratitude to the ZNFU Secretariat, Mr. Muimui Mufana (KASCOL/Maz), Mr. Anton Staal (Kabwe), and Mr. Doug Badcock (Mkushi), for the support during the drawn-out negotiations.

ZNFU OPENS DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW MINISTER FOR WATER DEVELOPMENT, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

This morning, Thursday 29th March 2018, the ZNFU President in the company of the A/Executive Director and representation from farming areas from Mkushi, Mazabuka and Chisamba held a consultative meeting with the new Minister for Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection.

The Union presented water related issues from farmers and the ZNFU reaction to Statutory Instruments (SI)s Number 18 and 19 on the Water Resources Management (Charges & Fees) Regulations and the Water Resources Management (Groundwater and Boreholes) Regulations of 2018.

This was the ZNFU's first interface with the new Minister and it served its purpose in alerting the Minister of the issues that require immediate action. A follow up meeting will take place before the end of next week which offers an opportunity to resolve issues through a joint and consultative process.

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DEMAND FOR GAME MEAT OUTSTRIPS SUPPLY

The Wildlife Producers Association Zambia (WPAZ) has noted a shortfall of game meat on the Zambian market, saying demand currently outstrips supply.

The meeting, held recently at ZNFU noted that while the country produces some 300 metric tonnes of game meat per year, demand is in thousands of tonnes.

The meeting observed that there may be need to take measures that would help cushion the demand and pressure on the local market; such as the possibility of importing.

The meeting observed that with the looming ban of game meat from South Africa into the European Union (EU), this presents an opportunity to the local market because the South Africans would be looking for an alternative market.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Annual Rate of Inflation Rises

Zambia's annual rate of Inflation for March 2018 has risen to 7.1% from the 6.1% recorded in the previous month. The Central Statistical Office (CSO) has attributed this increment mainly to increments in prices of food items such as tomatoes, onion, dry kapenta and Fish. March monthly inflation rate was recorded at 1.4% from 1.25 recorded in February 2018.

Meanwhile, CSO data shows that the Zambian economy grew by 4.1% in 2017 with agriculture, forestry and fishing contributing 1.21 percentage points to this growth.

COMMODITY UPDATES

Maize Updates

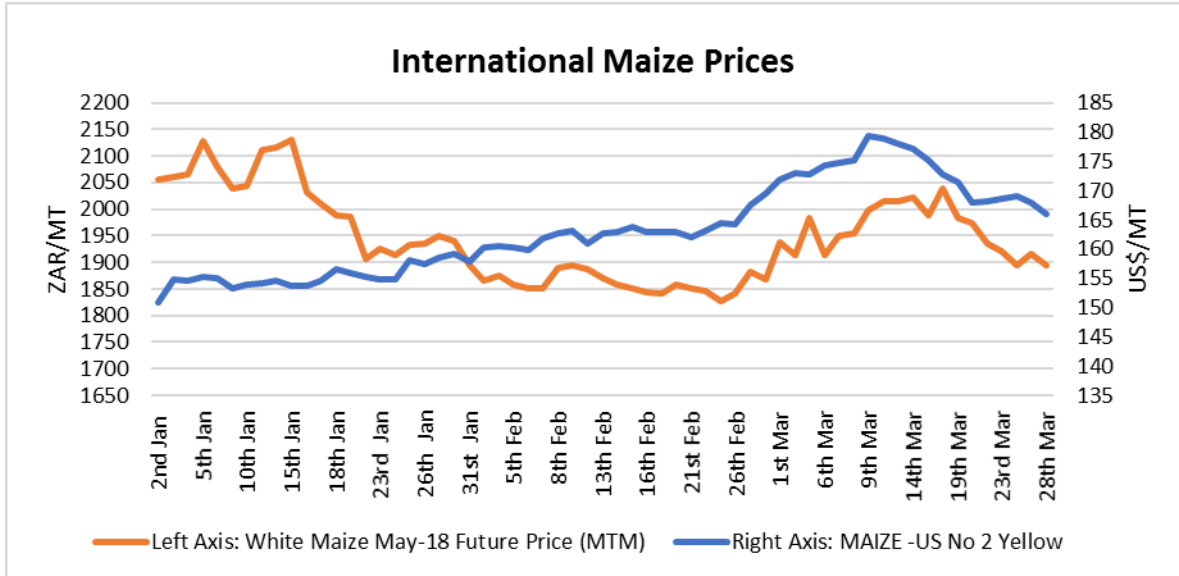
- South Africa, in its 2nd forecast estimate, raised its expected maize harvest to 12.42 million tons. This is mainly due to improved harvest prospects of white maize from the earlier forecast of 6.1 million tons to 6.36 million tons. Last year, the country harvested 16.82 million tons of maize.
- According to RATIN, Tanzania and Uganda's maize whole prices were about US\$133.39/ton and US\$177.47/ton respectively on 28th March 2018. The Prices in Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi on the other hand were pegged at US\$380.34/MT, US\$307.84/MT and US\$400-487/MT respectively.
- Locally, maize sale offer prices are still in the range of US\$170-200 (≈K1,700 - 2,000/MT). During the week beginning 26th March 2018, 6 more offers and a bid for white maize were recorded on Zamace. The maize bid has been pegged at K1650/ton (≈US\$165/MT).

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International Price Trends

The U.S gulf spot prices of yellow maize was pegged at US\$165.87/MT on 28th March 2018 while the white maize futures for May delivery on Safex settled at ZAR 1989/MT (\approx US\$1681.97/MT).



Data Source: Safex, 2018

Soya beans updates

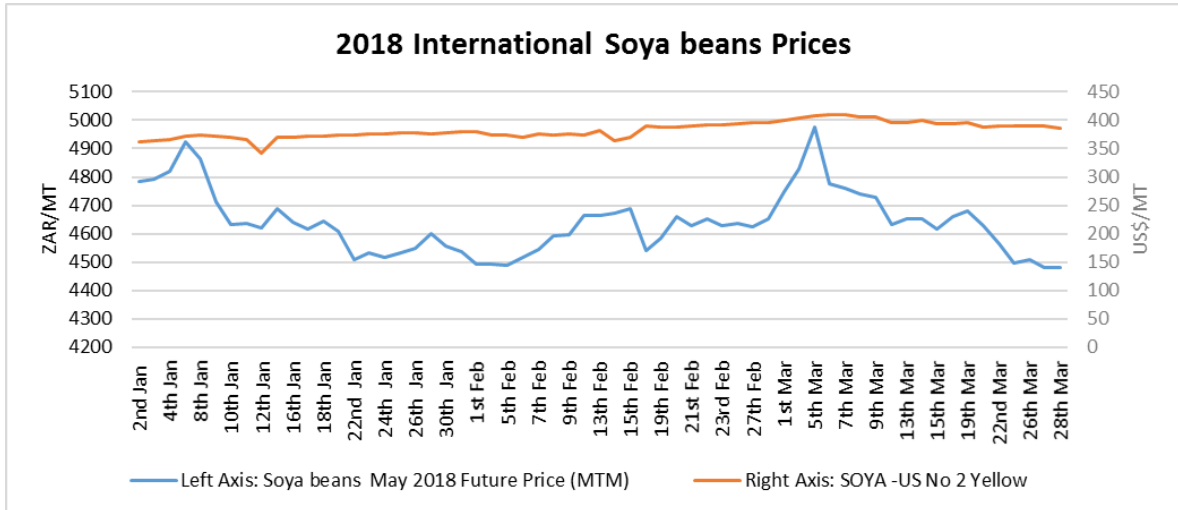
- Soya beans production estimates for south Africa have been revised up to 1.93 million tons for the current 2017/18 production season. This is about 5% higher than last year’s output. With over 50% of the world’s soya genetically modified, Zambia still has a viable niche market to explore in country’s such as South Africa where most of the crop is GM. Critical to this however is a consistent export policy.
- Locally, Trader offer prices for the purchase of the oilseed are around US\$ 404/MT (\approx US\$4080/ton). the average offer prices have moved a notch downwards from the Mid-March average offer price of US\$408/ton.

International Price Trends

- International prices have maintained their downward steep with the US Gulf prices quoted at US\$386.54/TM on 28th March 2018 while South African prices for May delivery were pegged at ZAR 4400/MT (\approx US\$382.9/MT).

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Data Source: Safex, 2018

Egypt, the world’s largest importer of wheat, is expected to import at least 12 million tons of wheat this year, similar to what was imported last year according to data from the USDA. Currently, the major sources of Egypt’s wheat are Europe and the Black sea region. The Egyptian government lowered its minimum wheat import protein requirements early in February to increase competition after international prices. This was after prices rose by about 25% between January 2017 and January 2018, USDA data shows.

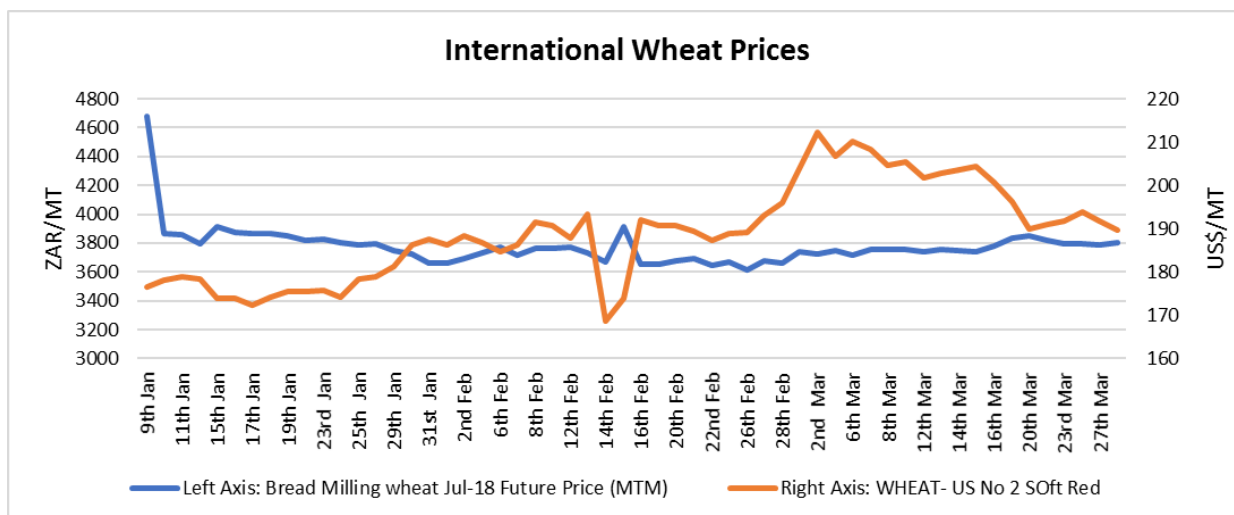
- Local wheat offer prices have edged upwards to US\$430/ton from the Mid-March average of US\$422/ton. the Grain Traders Association of Zambia has pegged the average trader selling price at US\$445/ton.

International Price Trends

The South African bread milling wheat for July delivery averaged ZAR3800MT (≈US\$325/ton) on 29th March 2018. The US gulf fob spot prices of soft red wheat were on the other hand hovering around US\$189.78/ton on the same day.

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Data Source: Safex, 2018

FROM THE REGIONS

NORTHWESTERN

PANNAR/PIONEER DUPONT BRACES FOR FIELD DAYS

The Twenty-Five (25) **Field days for PANNAR/Pioneer DUPONT** have successfully been set beginning Thursday 29th March 2018 to 31st April 2018, under the theme; **“Benefits of integrating crops and aquaculture”** and the DC will be the guest of honour.

The Pannar/Pioneer DuPont North western region sales manager arrived on Wednesday for the meetings. The ZNFU/DFA, SEEDCO, DACO’s office and some other stakeholders have not been left out. The farmers’ field days are being held from farmers’ fields whom they gave improved seed varieties as a way of encouraging them to be using certified seed varieties in form of **DEMOS**.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FOREST COMMEMORATED

Kasempa District joined the rest of the world on 21st March 2018 to commemorate international day of Forests under the theme: **“FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES”**. This was commemorated at **Kalusha Primary School**.

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The DC, who was the guest of honour in his speech encouraged sustainable management of forests and other natural resources. All government, Non governmental and Parastatal heads of departments were invited and given either a fruit tree or an orchard tree to plant. ZNFU was also invited.

FOREST SI SIGNED

The long-awaited forest Statutory Instrument (SI), which allows transfer of rights to manage forests by communities from the central government was finally signed on 23rd February 2018, by the Director of forest and the President.

This has cheered Kasempa community forest management groups as they will now be able to manage their forests including licensing. In the new SI, community forests can either be in a Game Management Area (GMA)s or an open area. Most cheering is that the launch of the SI to be held in April 2018 will be done in Kasempa district where senior government officials as well the finish embassy representatives will be present. ZNFU will also be part and parcel of organizers/facilitators as the Union has actively been involved since inception of the project in 2015.

SOUTHERN

ZATP CONDUCTS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

The Zambia Agribusiness and Trade Project (ZATP) under the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry conducted an outreach campaign in Livingstone on 27th March 2018.

The objective was to introduce the project of productive alliances in Zambia and how farmers can get involved in order to solve the deficient market access, support small scale emerging farmers to integrate into value chains. The aim was also to link emerging and poor farmers as well as small medium enterprises to markets and strengthening agribusiness and trade regulations, enhancing the capacities of related institutions to better support agribusiness market linkages with the support from the world bank. Farmer groups will be supported financially upon successfully writing and completing their business plans.

The meeting took place at Chrismar Hotel, facilitated by Ms. Jere, the Agribusiness specialist from ZATP.

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JCTR CONDUCTS SENSITISATION MEETING ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION BILL

The forum was aimed at increasing capacity for the participants to engage in advocacy for enactment of the Law and to discuss reasons why it has taken so long for the law to be enacted and what can be done for stakeholders to access the document.

The meeting took place on 28th march, 2018 at kazmeen lodge.

BoZ CONDUCTS STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

The bank of Zambia in conjunction with the Livingstone chamber of commerce and industry conducted a stakeholders' meeting on 29th march, 2018 at Protea Hotel.

The purpose of the meeting was to enhance the process of dialogue between the bank and the business community in general. Bank of Zambia Governor Dr. Denny Kalyalya was the main speaker and did a presentation on the background to the current monetary policy framework, monetary policy decisions, which he highlighted on the Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) and the challenges it identified such as lack of financial services in rural and peri-urban areas, limited public awareness to financial products and services, high bank charges and account requirements.

He also touched on the Global economic developments.

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

20% DISCOUNT ON AGRO- EQUIPMENT

Shacman is offering 20% discount on all of its agro-equipment currently available in stock.

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SOLID BAMBOO (*oxytenanthera abyssinica*)

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Ideal for tomato staking, fencing posts (droppers) and construction, among other uses.

Posts available at Arulussa Farm in 2m, 2.5m and 3m.

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Malambo Mukwa on +260975174692

WEATHER

ZAMBIA EVENING WEATHER FORECAST: THURSDAY (29/03/2018)

GENERAL SITUATION

Moist and unstable winds from the North-east continue affecting most parts of the country.

RAINFALL REPORTED TODAY AT 08:00 HRS (29/03/2018) IN MILLIMETERS

Kawambwa 27, Mongu 23, Solwezi 13, Kabompo 12, Kasempa 11, Kalabo 6, Kasama 4, Senanga and Petauke 2, Mansa Met and Mpika 1, Isoka,



ZNFU

Zambezi, Msekera, Mfuwe, Mkushi Agro, Mt Makulu, Kafue Polder and Choma had less than a millimetre (trace).

FORECAST FOR TONIGHT: THURSDAY (29/03/2018)

All areas: Partly cloudy with isolated rain and thunder.

FORECAST FOR TOMORROW: FRIDAY (30/03/2018)

All areas: Mostly cloudy with a chance of morning rains, isolated afternoon showers and thunderstorms.

OUTLOOK TO SATURDAY: (31/03/2018)

Isolated rainfall activities to continue over most parts of the country.

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



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