



# Commercial Farmers’ Union of Zimbabwe Annual Congress 2018

## **75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONGRESS ART FARM, POMONA, HARARE**

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**THEME: BRINGING STABILITY TO ORGANIZED AGRICULTURE THROUGH CREATIVE IDEAS AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY**

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# 1. Agenda

## **COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION OF ZIMBABWE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONGRESS ART FARM, POMONA, HARARE**

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<b>THEME:</b>	<b>BRINGING STABILITY TO ORGANIZED AGRICULTURE THROUGH CREATIVE IDEAS AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY</b>
07.00-0800	Registration of Delegates and Pre-Congress Council Meeting
	<b>CLOSED SESSION</b>
08.00-08.30	Opening with scripture reading and prayer
08.30-09.30	Regional Chairman Annual Tabled Reports ARAC Annual Tabled Report AISD Annual Tabled Report Appointment of Legal Advisers Confirmation of Trustees CFU Financial Accounts year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018 Appointment of Auditors Resume of 2017 Resolutions Resolutions (a) Membership and License Fee Way Forward Debate
09.30-10.00	Tea
10.00-13.00	<b>OPEN SESSION</b>
10.00-10.30	Guest Speaker, Dr Theo de Jager, President of the World Farmers' Organization
10.30-11.00	Official Opening, Minister of Lands, Agriculture & Rural Resettlement etc, Honorable Chief Air Marshal Perrance Shiri.
11.00-11.15	Address to congress by the President of the Commercial Farmers' Union
11.15-12.30	Richard Pascall (BSc), Head Africa Business, Ag-Space Agriculture: "GRID- Building Trust at a Distance" - Innovative Technology to mitigate risk in agricultural finance. Andre Groenewald, practical farmer & CTO African Farmers' Network: "The Value of Data & Trust in Organised Agriculture." NED BANK: "Agricultural Financing in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century."
12.30-12.45	Debate/ Questions
12.45-13.00	Wishes of goodwill from visiting Agriculture Unions
	<b>CLOSURE</b>
13.00-13.30	Post Congress Council Meeting



**Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2018  
FINGER LUNCH AND CASH BAR**

- 13.30 CFU Farming Oscar and Honorary certificates to be presented during lunch
- 15.30 **END OF FORMAL PROCEEDINGS**

## **2. Rules of Debate**

### **Order of Debate**

- The Proposer will identify him/herself clearly.
- The Proposer will speak.
- The Seconder will speak.
- General Debate will take place.
- The Proposer will wind up the Debate.

*Note: If required, the Minister, Government representative or guest will be asked to reply at a time requested by the CFU President*

### **Length of Speeches**

Proposer of Resolutions	–	5 minutes
Seconder of Resolutions	–	3 minutes
Mover of Amendments	–	2 minutes
Other speakers	–	2 minutes

The proposer of a resolution may reply at the conclusion of debate, limited to three minutes. Government representatives and guests are requested to keep their speeches as short as possible. The President may at his discretion allow an extension of these limits.



### 3. Past Presidents of the Commercial Farmers' Union

1910 – 1914 HON R A Fletcher, MLA  
 1914 – 1916 E Wilson, Esq  
 1920 – 1923 C S Jobling, Esq  
 1923 S M Lanigan O’Keefe, CMG  
 1929 – 1931 H B Christian, Esq  
 1932 – 1935 G N Fleming, Esq

#### **RNFU**

1942 – 1944 John Dennis, OBE  
 1944 – 1946 Hon H V Gibbs  
 1946 – 1948 J M Caldicott, Esq  
 1948 – 1951 E D Palmer, Esq  
 1951 – 1954 J MacIntyre, Esq  
 1954 – 1956 M Chenells, Esq  
 1956 – 1963 E B Evans, OBE  
 1963 – 1968 T Mitchell, DFC  
 1968 – 1970 J W Field, Esq  
 1970 – 1972 R G Pascoe, Esq  
 1972 – 1974 M E Butler, Esq  
 1974 – 1976 C Millar, Esq  
 1976 – 1978 C J Strong, Esq  
 1978 – 1979 D R Norman, Esq

#### **Honorary Life Presidents**

A J Laurie, Esq  
 R G Pascoe, Esq  
 C G Strong, Esq  
 C G Tracey, ICD, Esq

#### **Honorary Life Vice Presidents**

C J Taffs, Esq

#### **CFU**

1979 – 1980 D R Norman, Esq  
 1980 – 1981 D B Spain, Esq  
 1981 – 1983 J M Sinclair, Esq  
 1983 – 1986 A J Laurie, Esq  
 1986 – 1988 J R Rutherford, Esq  
 1988 – 1990 J H Brown, Esq  
 1990 – 1992 A D P Burl, Esq  
 1992 – 1994 A J Swire-Thompson, Esq  
 1994 – 1996 P MacSporran, Esq  
 1996 – 1998 N Swanepoel, Esq  
 1998 R D Swift, Esq  
 1998 – 1999 N Swanepoel, Esq  
 1999 – 2001 T Henwood, Esq  
 2001 – 2003 C Cloete, Esq  
 2003 – 2007 D S Taylor-Freeme, Esq  
 2007 – 2009 T R Gifford, Esq  
 2009 – 2011 G S Theron, Esq  
 2011 – 2014 C J Taffs, Esq  
 2014 – 2018 P Steyl

#### **Trustees**

Dave Bouma, Esq  
 Colin Cloete, Esq



### *History of the Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe Farming Oscar Award*

*'The Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe Farming Oscar Award has a long and proud history having been introduced in 1961 by the late Mr C G Tracey during his term as Vice President to the Commercial Farmers' Union as an award in recognition of "those people who have generally done well for agriculture".*

*'This annual Oscar has become known as the "Farming Oscar" to be given to some person or persons who have given outstanding service to agriculture, and has been awarded to people who have contributed to the Industry in its widest sense.*

*Over the years winners have been chosen from the practical and scientific disciplines of agriculture, as well as from the administration and leadership roles with the winners selected in recognition of having contributed significantly to the agricultural progress in Zimbabwe.*



## 4. OSCAR Winners- Commercial Farmers' Union Award

### OSCAR WINNERS – COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION AWARD

1961 E B Evans, OBE	1988 J Brown
1962 A Rattray, OBE	1989 R K Harvey
1963 E R Campbell, CBE	1990 P Millar
1964 R Stockil, KBE, OBE	1991 Dr S Hargreaves
1965 A C Black	1992 R Ternouth
1966 Dr I McDonald	1993 Dr P Grant
1967 Dr H Pereira	1994 R Winkfield
1968 J R Southall	1995 D Smith
1969 W Margolis	1996 M Edwards
1970 H R Mundy	1997 H Smith
1971 The Hon J C Graylin, ICDCMG	1998 V Hurley
1972 C G Tracey	1999 N Swanepoel
1973 Dr R C Elliott	2000 P Lombard
1974 M E Butler	2001 Dr L T V Cousins
1975 N Spoel	2002 R Tattersfield
1976 R A Griffith, ICD, MBE	2003 Dr J Jackson
1977 J R Humphreys	2004 D Hasluck
1978 D K Worthington	2005 Dr J Grant
1979 C J Strong	2006 D S Taylor- Freeme
1980 Max Rosenfels	2007 A Masterson
1981 D R Norman	2008 D Drury
1982 J W Field	2009 R H Vaughan-Evans
1983 J M Sinclair	2010 Mike Campbell & Ambassador Xavier Marchel
1984 J W Hayward	2011 B Oldrieve
1985 H J Quinton	2012 Dr C Foggen
1986 John & Jill Laurie	2013 L R Bruce
1987 Dr R W Mupawose	2014 C J Taffs
	2016 Dr J MacRobert
	2015 Dr D Bruce
	2017 Mike Clark



## 5. Resolution: Farmers' License Fees and Rules

The Council of the Commercial Farmers' Union resolves and recommends to Congress the adoption of an Annual License Fee for the 2018/19 year commencing 1 October 2018 to become due and payable.

Council further resolves and recommends to Congress the adoption of a payment commencing 01 October 2018 and ending 30<sup>th</sup>September, 2019 applicable to all members as illustrated in the following schedule:

<b>CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER</b>	<b>FEE PAYABLE</b>
LARGE OPERATING MEMBERS	US\$1000 per annum or \$100 per month
OPERATING MEMBERS (STANDARD LICENSE)	US \$ 500 per annum or US \$ 50 per month
NON OPERATING MEMBERS (ARAC LICENSE)	US \$ 100 per title deed up to a maximum of 2
CORPORATE MEMBERS	US \$ 1000 per annum or US\$100 per month
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	US \$100 per annum



## 6. TABLED REPORTS

### REGIONAL REPORTS – 2018

#### MIDLANDS PROVINCE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018

This year has seen the closing of the Gweru regional office due to the financial restraints currently being faced by the union. Sadly it has resulted in the retrenchment of Shaku Deva and John Shunje, both of whom have been with the Midlands office for a long time and now face an uncertain future for themselves in this troubled time. As members of the Midlands C.F.U. we wish to say how sorry we all are for the need to take this route and want to thank them both for their hard work and dedication. They both have been cheerful and very pleasant every time a member asked anything and helped make meetings a most enjoyable experience. We wish you both well.

The year has once again been very difficult for members who have watched the changing political climate with hope for a better business and security environment for them to try and ply the trade they love. The shortage of cash has severely hampered the way employees are paid as due to the nature of the distance to banks and shops payment via plastic money has proved difficult and very time consuming for employees. This has resulted in loss of productivity as workers are demotivated and spend unnecessary time away from work. Payment via Eco cash has helped a little but is still expensive for small purchases.

The season proved for the second year running to be, in all, a wet one but the dry spell experienced in January did affect crop yields negatively. Viability in the maize industry has been greatly assisted by the Command scheme introduced by Government a couple of years ago. Although not perfect the inputs supplied by government have made it a lot easier on cash flows. Water resources are in a very good state thanks to the two previous wet seasons. We have seen a very cold winter for the first time in a long time and night time temperatures are only now starting to rise.

The dairy industry has seen a year of significant herd size increases with a couple of new commercial ventures starting up. Viability in the industry is against the small producer with production models showing herd sizes needing to grow in this sector before any reasonable viability is reached.

The poultry meat industry has seen a very difficult six months from January with over-supply in the commercial market hitting the large scale producers particularly hard. Prices fell dramatically and prices for inputs i.e. vaccines, stock feed and chicks rose steadily. It is only in the last couple of months that some relief has been seen and prices have risen slowly restoring some viability. The egg market has been firm with shortages across all markets helping viability in the industry. Recent significant price increases have eaten into this of late.





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Beef prices have remained firm for the whole year and with the introduction of the Command livestock we hope that this will help keep the market so. We also hope it will enable small producers to access this industry for the future. Foot and Mouth has proved very difficult to control with the region is seeing closure of a lot of market outlets and this is of great concern.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank President Pete Steyl for all his hard work for the union and wish him well for his future endeavours. Also our sincere thanks to Ben for his tireless efforts for the union. To Mike and Louise and all the rest of the office staff our sincere thanks.

*Kevin Franceys*

*Midlands Province*

### **MASVINGO REGIONAL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

The latter part of 2017 and going into 2018 has been an extremely interesting period, which saw a dramatic change in the leadership of our nation. For those of us who participated in the historic march through the streets of Harare on 18 November 2017, we have never seen the nation so united and euphoric. Many of us were close to tears.

After all those terrible, tortuous years that we were forced to endure we saw the prospects of real hope in the new popular administration that took over the reins of power in Zimbabwe, albeit without any national election being held. Because of what the country had been through with the previous regime everyone stood back and welcomed them into their new leadership roles.

There were such powerful words said during the initial speeches made as well as everything that was written in several documents, which were distributed to encourage investment in our desperate country, made us all feel that we definitely had a new future in our country. We had calls from many of our friends, family and many others who had left the country seeking a new life for their families during the bad days that we went through here. Many were on the verge of packing their bags there and then and returning home to Zimbabwe. But as the euphoria faded and as the reality of the situation became clearer the majority had second thoughts and remained exactly where they are.

There is real interest in the younger generation desperately wanting to get busy on the land and many tried to make application for the 99-year leases hoping that land would be made available from the vast pool of unutilised land that we see all over the country. We have also had a lot of interest from farmers in South Africa, who are now looking for a more secure investment following the very active discussions in their Parliament about land expropriation without compensation.



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However, although the talk by the powers that be was encouraging very little change in attitude of certain Lands officials was seen on the ground. Initially soldiers were brought in to get rid of 'illegal settlers' who were disrupting work on a few farms. Then orders seemed to go out that there would be no further evictions. One good thing is that no more farms were gazetted for compulsory acquisition. Unfortunately, our patient wait to get in to see our line minister came to nothing and to date no new land or new agricultural policy has been forthcoming.

Farmers in our province initially had great difficulty, or even outright refusal in many cases, to obtain the 99-year lease forms from Lands offices. To date only a few have handed in the completed application forms. Most were told that they could only apply for a small piece of their original property, which has already been subdivided and has proved totally unviable. Nobody is known to have received a 99-year lease at the time of writing.

We felt that with land, being such a politically sensitive issue, that there was no need to push the issue until after the Elections. It is now after the elections but unfortunately we are still adrift at sea without a rudder to steer us in the right direction. However, we still have a lot of confidence in the future of farming in Zimbabwe and particularly our own province, which has so much water now available from Tugwe Mukosi Dam for irrigation development.

We are fortunate to have the two largest dams in the country in our own province, which have massive irrigation potential, but much of which is not being utilised.

### Obituaries

It has been a very sad year for our Masvingo community with the passing of so many well-known and well-liked characters over the last 12 months. I certainly did not realise we had lost so many of our excellent farmers from our wonderful community. They all played an extremely important role in the development of the agricultural industry in our province, which is well recognised by us all. Several of them were literally the pioneers who turned virgin Mopani forest into a highly productive sugar industry. They will all be sadly missed but certainly not forgotten.

**Anne Paardenkooper**, my own loving sister-in-law and husband to John of 46 years passed away on **30 August 2018** after losing her brave battle with cancer. Her absolute faith and fortitude were an inspiration to us all.

**Henri Marc Souchon** passed away on **5 August 2018** at the age of 94 in Mauritius. He too was one of the original Mauritian sugar pioneers who came here in the 1950s and carved out the magnificent and highly productive sugar farms from virgin bush. He also bought and developed a coffee farm in Chipinge.



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**Monique Labat** who passed away on **3 August 2018** was the wife of the late Jacques Labat who was recruited in Mauritius to assemble the HVE sugar mill and then went on to develop his on sugar farm in Chiredzi. She was the daughter of Dr le Vieux who practiced medicine in Harare. She played a very active role in the Chiredzi community and was very popular indeed.

Although not strictly from our province **Ian Ferguson** as he was south of the Bubi River but he and the late Sam Cawood played a huge part in the development of water resources in the dry and hot Lowveld. Their work showed us how to extract the water under the sand in our main rivers that are dry during the winter months. Ian had a very strong character and was a fine example of never giving up in the face of adversity, in an extended battle to retain his farms right up until his passing on **21 July 2018**.

**John Tilma** was a past Chairman of the Masvingo Farmers' Association taking office during one of the most difficult periods of land acquisition. Despite a desperate and determined fight John lost everything he had ever worked for and spent his final days in South Africa living off a State pension scheme there until his passing on **20 July 2018** from cancer. He was an excellent farmer whose experience covered a wide range of different crops and livestock production and was very active in the community.

**Lyall Theodore Engels** was a farmer through and through. Once he lost his own farms and those others he worked in partnerships he started again completely from scratch in Mozambique. Farming was in his blood right up until the day he passed away on **14 July 2018**. He too was a sugar pioneer from Chiredzi but that was not enough to keep this energetic man busy as he was again one of the forces behind the development of the Save Valley Conservancy.

**Eddie (Eduan) Naude** came to the Lowveld from Bulawayo. He was a sugar producer from Chiredzi as well as a cattle and wildlife producer. He was one of those unforgettable characters who lived life to the fullest but keeping his cheery disposition despite any hardships. He was well-known for the tricks he played on people and his ability to look at the humorous side of life. He passed away in Bulawayo on **7 June 2018**.

**Guy Montague Hilton-Barber** originally farmed in West Nicholson then after selling that farm he bought two in Mwenezi where he did cattle. He then sold one ranch to concentrate on establishing the Bubiana Conservancy, building his lodges and relocating wildlife. Sadly with land acquisition this fine gentleman watched the decimation of the wildlife and deforestation of their habitat. He moved back to Port Alfred to retire after losing everything, where he passed away on **26 April 2018**. He was very active in organised agriculture in which he chaired many associations, boards and committees.



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**Carol Crowley** was married to Keith for 60 years. They were also Lowveld pioneers who moved there in 1964 to carve out their sugar plantation from virgin bush. She was very active in the community and once they lost their property they moved to retirement in Harare, where she passed away on **16 March 2018**.

**James Henry Edwards** sadly passed away on Christmas day, **25 December 2017**, after lunch on the Nyanga smallholding they were being leased after their Nyanga retirement home was also taken. James bought his Lowveld ranch after Independence after spending a few years in the butchery trade in Fort Victoria. He was one of the pioneers in domesticating eland, which were prolific on the ranch. After losing everything he moved to Nyanga to produce fruit, but sadly lost that home too.

**Derick Eugene Hattingh** sadly passed away on the Triangle Golf Course on **13 December 2017** whilst playing a game with his sons. Derick came to the Lowveld to develop a successful irrigation equipment and engineering business after marrying Mandy Style. He also ran cattle in his 'spare' time. He was a pioneer in water conservation techniques, which allowed the farmers to produce more from their controlled water allocations. He was very well-known and well-liked by the entire community.

**Sally Ann Beverley** sadly passed away on **9 December 2017** only a few days after Rob's return from an operation in India. She and Rob spent 55 wonderful years together raising their 3 sons. Although from England she adapted well to the Lowveld on Rob's ranch and became the life and soul of the community and a mother to everyone. After losing their property they first moved to Bvumba and then Harare to be closer to family.

Another Lowveld pioneer **Derek Marcus Henning** passed away in Harare on **4 December 2017**. He spent many years working on Devuli Ranch before buying his own ranch when it was subdivided. He was one of those instrumental in developing the Save Valley Conservancy. After he sold his ranch he moved to Bvumba, then to Louis Trichardt and finally to Harare where he passed away. He was certainly one of the Lowveld legends who will long be remembered.

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The rainy season this year was another unusual one. In some parts the rains came late followed by a deluge in January and February. Other areas experienced early rain in September and then a break. Then surprisingly we had heavy rain and even severe hail in April, which caused huge damage to any standing crops.

How will the rains be this season? The long-range forecasts are not out until a couple of weeks' time but there are indications of El Niño affecting the weather again. As we know anything can happen when this phenomenon affects the weather. Will it be less average rainfall or floods like in



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India at the moment, which are the worst in 100 years? We will just have to be prepared for all eventualities, until the more accurate forecasts are released.

Our dams were generally all spilling this year, with the exception of the two largest ones. Mutirikwi reached 54% and Tugwe Mukosi reached 77% which is only 6% higher than last year. No water is being taken from Mutirikwi for the Lowveld sugar to help it replenish. Instead water is being drawn from the lower dams as well as Tugwe Mukosi. What is surprising was that Tugwe Mukosi did not spill this year considering it reached 71% in its first year. Quite differently Mutirikwi has a poor catchment area and if my memory serves me right it took the dam 17 years after it was built to spill for the first time.

### **Sugar Industry**

The industry is predicting a crop of 456,000 t/sugar for the season. Production is progressing well with a little under 50% of the crop having been processed to-date.

The unusual climatic conditions experienced at the start of the season have caused the crop to flower extensively however this has minimal impact on the recoveries.

There are significant price increases on essential input being experienced. Most of these are by speculative suppliers profiteering from shortages cause by a shortages of nostro funds. Spares for tractors and machinery being the most significant increases.

The industry is still benefiting from the Tugwe Mukosi waters thereby assisting in the replenishing of reserves in the Mutirikwi System. There are two and a half years of water currently available to the industry.

Sales of sugar are firm and local sale volumes are covered for the ensuing year with surplus being exported.

### **Cattle Industry**

Looking back over the years the Cold Storage Company (CSC) was the institution that was the backbone of our cattle industry in the province. I remember the huge part Veterinary Department played in my days in the department. The CSC abattoir was virtually rebuilt to accommodate the strict requirements made by the EU for the export of our beef. The export contracts also required strict measures to control Foot and Mouth Disease as well as specific areas being fenced off within the wildlife areas. Movement control was also extremely strict especially with movement between specific FMD zones which had been established. Furthermore none of us would ever have been able to start cattle ranching without the commendable CSC finance scheme.



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We therefore follow with great interest the recent talk of reopening CSC in Masvingo. For sure it would create many jobs but do we have sufficient cattle, and markets, to get back to slaughtering 400 – 600 head a day again? It would be good to be positive to say that we could get there again but we have lost so much of the grazing land to the settlement of small-scale A1 settlers. Furthermore vast areas which experienced periodic droughts where cattle used to be run have since been turned into wildlife conservancies, where cattle are no longer permitted.

On the positive side we could probably do it again, if there was the political will. We are fortunate to still have a couple of pedigree herds in the province and I commend those breeders for keeping this valuable seed stock alive. Initially though, we may have to import large numbers of weaners and breeding stock from say Namibia. Looking at the extremely high price of any quality females available at the moment it may well be cheaper to import.

Unfortunately, at the moment, most of those ranchers still on the ground are into speculative deals, buying and selling, or feedlots due to the limited areas on which they can operate. We can only hope for change, soon to get the industry back on track again, which we are confident we can do.

### **Wildlife Industry**

With help from the EU, Save Valley Conservancy are slowly making progress toward restoring the southern part of the Conservancy that was badly redefined by settlement and Parks interference over the last eighteen years. SVC must redefine boundaries between humans and wildlife, re-erect fences, and attract investment to reinvigorate tourism businesses in the South. Assisted by loyal donors, SVC have strengthened our successful efforts to protect the 170 rhino in the SVC, and are hiring a Chief Operating Officer to manage the wildlife and other aspects of the Conservancy. So, they are moving forward, if a bit slowly.

Bubye Valley Conservancy had very late rains and although it ended up an above average total, the veld is not as good as it would have been if the showers were a bit more spread out – a case of all or nothing. The high lion densities continue to take their toll on other species and there has been a noticeable drop in most prey species, along with Leopard, Cheetah and Wild Dog. There has been a noticeable increase in Spotted Hyena, Brown Hyena and Jackal, which is obviously also as a result of the high lion densities.

The planned move of 25 lion from BVC to Coutada 11 in the Zambezi Delta area fell through as they were denied export permits because of an export moratorium imposed by Cabinet earlier last year. The operation went ahead but with the lion coming from a few areas in S.A.

Hunt bookings are once again down this year but there appears to be more interest being shown for the 2019 season – fingers crossed.

The rhino poaching syndicates continue to be the biggest problem in BVC and because of high price being offered for horn and a constant flow of information from some of their staff members



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it is difficult to get on top of, despite constant changes in the modus operandi. BVC are busy recruiting extra scouts from the communities around the conservancy and now have selection / training courses to improve the standard of the scouts on rhino protection operations. After salaries/wages and diesel, anti-poaching is the next highest overhead. However the rhino population has managed to remain static albeit due to births cancelling out the losses.

On general wildlife matters, the most encouraging development is the introduction of a points system based on age of leopard harvested to control quota allocations. A number of the operators and members of ZPHGA have been pushing for this for many years now and there will be an obvious improvement in the quality of leopard coming out of Zimbabwe from now on – a far more sustainable and defensible way of controlling sport hunting quotas.

Richard Peak must be congratulated for the amount of effort that he has put into getting the leopard control systems in place, purely out of his passion for wildlife and without any remuneration for his time spent on it ... we need more like him in the wildlife industry.

### Masvingo Region and CFU

Being stuck in Harare, which sometimes makes communication difficult with our fellow farmers in the province, many of whom are also now spread around the world, it was decided to venture into establishing a WhatsApp group. Being novices at this new form of communication it has been amazing how successful the group has been. It all started with the Christmas message being sent out and has grown from there.

Although we do see a number of our Masvingo farmers coming through the CFU office in Harare, sadly the only time we seem to get together as a group has been at the far too numerous services held to commemorate the lives of those who have passed away. But, together with all the other forms of communication we have been kept well briefed on what is happening in the province and vice-versa.

One thing I have been very proud of is the large number of our Masvingo members who have been paying CFU subscriptions to keep your Union running. Many thanks indeed as we really need it.

At CFU Headquarters in Harare we have shrunk in size even more this year in order to cut our coat according to the cloth available. I must thank and congratulate **Ben Gilpin** on how he has managed to withstand the pressure of work and particularly how he has managed to deal with the financial problems emanating from our investments. He is always a pleasure to work with in this small office of ours.

**Rob Beverley** experienced one of the most difficult years of his life, both health wise and family with the loss of his dear wife Sally. However, he has continued to be of great assistance especially with his wise head from which I have always had great inspiration from.



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**Peter Steyl** has completed his final year as President and we must thank him particularly for agreeing to remain at the helm for those extra two years. During his 4-years as President it is notable that he has not drawn a salary from your union for which we truly thank him. This has enabled us to keep going a bit longer on the finances which we have.

**Andy Pascoe** should be taking over after Congress and Peter has been slowly giving him more and more responsibilities during the year so he is now more than ready to move up the ladder. Like Peter he is always a pleasure to work with and both Rob and I look forward to working with him as President.

**Patrick Ashton** has done a sterling job once again together with the Compensation Steering Committee by constantly engaging with Government and other interested actors to keep the compensation debate alive. Valcon have also been working overtime this year opening their doors to hundreds of farmers to check if all their data is in place for possible compensation. Patrick and the team at Farm Families Trust have also committed a lot of their time looking after those in dire need of assistance to help pay medical bills.

This year we welcomed back past President **Colin Cloete** back as a Trustee to assist **Dave Bouma**. He always has very wise advice and new ideas to add to our council debates. We are lucky to have such dedicated Trustees.

So for me, whilst continuing with my human rights project at your Union I am constantly assisting at the coal face as well as communicating through our weekly CFU Calling e-bulletin. This way both Rob and I have been able to also look after the best interests of our Masvingo farming community in all of our discussions on the way forward as well as the much needed compensation.

During these uncertain times it is very interesting to see how some of the younger famers have literally taken the bull by the horns managing to move forward and find places to farm productively. Hearing about their new exciting ventures is always very encouraging. Our two main focuses here are to make the compensation a reality as well as to prepare the playing field for our next generation to be able to farm in security and peace. Whoever comes in with the new government we will be working closely with them to achieve this.

It has been a pleasure for Rob and I to represent you all this past year but we need to thank our families for their constant support as well. Last year Rob celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in office and next year it will be my 70<sup>th</sup>.

We certainly hope that this year will be the one that will be better for commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe. But we all have a lot of work to do. We need to rebuild a good working relationship with Government and to re-establish farmers' associations and commodities in order to begin the development of organised agriculture once again. Hopefully there is some strong and energetic leadership waiting in the wings out there to accomplish this. We will be there to advise and assist where we can.





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Keep strong and united.

God bless you all.

*Mike Clark*

*Chairman Masvingo Regional*

### **MASHONALAND CENTRAL 2018 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Over the past year there have been several members from our district who have passed away. I would like to convey my sincere condolences to all those who have lost loved ones at this time.

The farming environment has remained challenging during the past farming season. The positive changes in government from November last year which showed much promise and optimism have been slow in translating into results on the ground. Farmers remain facing the same financial constraints, lack of access to loans, high interest rates, a depreciating Bond Note currency, escalating input prices, uncertain land tenure and a complex and time consuming business environment. On a positive note during the run up to the 31<sup>st</sup> July elections, security was not adversely affected by intimidation and interference into farming activities during campaigning was minimal and election rallies were orderly and caused very little disruption to farming productivity.

For a second season running, relief was felt by the La Nina weather conditions prevailing over most of the country, which saw above average rains falling in most areas, this positively impacted grain crops in the province. The favourable season in combination with the Governments Command input scheme saw large areas of maize and soya planted by A1 and A2 farmers, often on land which had not been in cultivation for some years. Due to good rains, dry land maize crops planted very late, have achieved reasonable yields. Dam levels remain good with most spilling this season.

GMB so far have had the required funding to pay fully and on time for deliveries of maize and soya into their depots, much improving farmers cash flows. They have however been very strict on grain moisture content and quality, and many loads have been returned to farm, for these reasons. A shortage of combine harvesters has been a serious problem for farmers without their own equipment; most contractors have aging machinery with poor access to spares, resulting in reduced efficiency and numerous break downs and stoppages. GMB continue paying commodity prices way in excess of regional norms, however with the devaluing Zimbabwe currency and the shortage of availability to foreign currency, producers need to be at the top of their game to remain viable.

Most commercial farmers are entering into JV's with the resettled land holders which generally is problematic and short termed. With the new political environment it is hoped that the Zimbabwe Government will start to re-establish property rights, which will allow genuine Zimbabwean



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farmers of all colour, creed and back ground the opportunity to get serious about productivity and job creation. Investors, both local and international, need real security and stability on the land before they make much needed long-term investments, especially with fixed improvements and high value export crops. Farmers also need to be made proactive in preventing environmental degradation in the form of deforestation, veld fires, siltation of dams and water systems and damage to rural infrastructure, which is taking place in our communities.

Power supplies from ZESA have been relatively reliable allowing irrigators the ability to run pumps when necessary. ZESA has however got serious issues with maintaining dilapidated equipment and the distribution grid, with the current resources and man power they have at hand. The wheat crop is marginally larger, but due to the large maize crop planted late in the summer season, much of the irrigated land still had un-harvested maize in place, making it too late for winter production.

It remains for me to thank the CFU team for all the hard work they put in behind the scenes, to keep current farmers and compensation issues relevant in Zimbabwe today, and to pray God's blessing on all farmers and their families for the coming season.

*Angus Guthrie*

*Mashonaland Central*

### **MASHONALAND WEST – NORTH AREA REPORT 2018**

#### **Overview**

The 2017/18 farming season had late rains and farmers experienced a very dry period for 5 weeks from end December to the end of January which affected the yield of crops enormously, especially the early planted dry land crops. There is an ever increasing amount of white commercial farmers making deals with the current offer letter holders and farming. A lot of the farmers are embarking on satellite farming and travelling great distances to tend to their crops which is not ideal. There is an increasing amount of complaints being raised in dealing with the offer letter holders whereby they change their mind about land usage, they are demanding unreasonable price increases and there are cattle roaming unattended into commercial crops causing a great deal of damage. With these problems emerging a number of commercial farmers have expressed the fact that it is becoming difficult to continue with the present system. A great deal of irrigable land is still idle. The Lions Den Silo had a very unfortunate disaster where sadly, lives were lost and rendering the silos unusable. This puts a great deal of strain onto the nearby silos especially as the wheat is about to be harvested. With the late rains most of the dams spilled and this has enabled a reasonable wheat crop to have been planted which is generally looking good with some potential for above average yields.



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### Commodities

**Soya bean.** There was a small increase of soya grown this year. Yields on dry land were poor but were good on irrigated lands in the commercial sector. There is room for much more soya beans to be grown. A price of \$780 per ton was paid by GMB

**Maize.** There were meaningful areas grown to maize. Yields were same as the soya beans, good in irrigated areas and poor on the dry land areas. The GMB price of \$390-00 per ton remained. There also remains great opportunity for increased maize production on irrigated land that is lying unproductive.

**Cattle.** There was no substantial change in this area and remained the same as last year. There are a number of herds that remain in the area but most have been reduced due to grazing constraints. Production is difficult but there are still a few producers that are maintaining their herd quality and some good bulls are still available from these breeders. There is room for growth and opportunity in this sector.

**Wheat.** Wheat has seen an increase in area grown but this still falls short of national requirements and will need constant growth for some years to attain self-sufficiency. The strategic nature of wheat means that much more effort needs to be made to bring irrigated land back into production and get the volume produced back to over 300 000 tons per year as in the past. There is no announced price at time of writing.

**Other Crops.** There are a few other crops being grown by members and these include Potatoes, Sugar beans and small grains. Potatoes have become an important crop to producers that have some irrigation and are able to maximise returns off diminished areas by growing high value crops. Good yields of +50 tons per ha and fair demand have given potato production a boost.

### Conclusion

Apart from the problems commercial farmers are currently enduring with the offer letter holders there is a positive air in going forward. Particularly after the general elections and the announcement of the Cabinet. Security of tenure on land to enable commercial farmers to grow their crops unhindered is crucial and needs to be addressed urgently as the next season is upon us. If this is dealt with urgently and efficiently there will be some substantial volumes of crops produced in Zimbabwe. There is an El Nino predicted for the 2018/19 season so the sooner security of tenure on irrigable lands is prioritised the better. Until the financial situation in Zimbabwe is sorted out we will endure the same problems for the coming season whereby inputs will increase in price and will be even more difficult to procure. It is hoped that this is also dealt with urgently so there will not be a negative impact on future production.

*Roy Linfield*

*Mashonaland West - North*



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### MANICALAND PROVINCIAL REPORT FOR CFU 2018

It is indeed sad that Manicaland does not have an elected member sitting at CFU Council representing Manicaland. I have spoken to several farmers and potential members, and have tried to encourage them to attend meetings and elect a person to represent them but have failed dismally. It would seem that many were keeping “below the radar” so to speak, for fear of treading on toes and facing disruptive repercussions. However, the national leadership has changed and the State President has encouraged our constituency to come forward and engage and the hope is that our younger farmers will step up and represent the Province of Manicaland, moving forward.

Other excuses have been that they felt that the CFU was stuck in the past and could not do much for them. How much further from the truth could they be? I have stated on many occasions that “it was no good complaining whilst attending the various social events and braai gatherings and convincing each other that there was no future in the CFU.” I have invited many youngsters to attend the CFU open forum meetings, to hear for themselves what is being done on their behalf or more so on the behalf of their “fathers” who wait patiently for news of “compensation”. Indeed, if the feelings of our young farmers are not heard, how do they expect the CFU to attend to their needs or to represent them at higher levels of Government where it is hoped that their views, fears and plans are heard and taken cognisance of. One thing is for sure, and that is if their voices are not heard, how do their ideas and aspirations move forward? It is simply not possible to go it alone. I do feel that the CFU needs to become more representative by finding inventive ways of attracting these young voices out there into its ranks or risk a generational rift should the status quo remain....your choice!!

#### Commodities

It will be difficult for me to deal with the Province on a district to district level, so much of what I say will be a generalized observation. Manicaland is blessed with most likely the most diverse range of cropping and products compared with any other in the country.

**Forestry:** The two major players in this industry are Border Timbers and The Wattle Company. Both are facing huge challenges, the major being the settlement of people on once highly productive forest estates ranging from Chimanimani to Inyanga with scatterings in between. Some are legally settled whilst others are simply squatting. The mass destruction of trees being cut down prematurely is a sight to behold. Worse still is the fact that forest fires indiscriminately lit for hunting purposes or of clearing land on prohibitively steep slopes for crop production is inexcusable. Credit must be given to those foresters who soldier on regardless and who are trying their best to reestablish these destroyed forest estates and plantations.

**Bananas:** Bananas continue to be grown with a reasonable amount of success. New plantations are being established in the lowveld area around Middle Sabi, Chipinge and the continuation of production in the Burma Valley area. Most of the new plantations are the work of Matanuska



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pioneered by the Hilderbrands and with investment from Malaysia. Small Scale participation and investment is also very encouraging.

**Potatoes:** This crop has expanded considerably over the years as a “go to” crop which can be seen for sale on the road sides throughout the country. However, potatoes deserve a mention here as most of the seed potatoes are grown in Inyanga which of course is Manicaland Province.

**Fruit:** Apples are the major fruit grown here with stone fruit following close behind.

**Maize and Wheat:** Although not the country’s major maize producing province, Manicaland does however have a large amount grown. An indifferent rainy season has achieved mixed results in maize yields throughout the province. Mention must be made of the large stocks of maize seen at the Mutare, Manica and Macheke GMB depots. This is most likely a direct result of the high prices being paid through the “Command Maize Production Program”. I have never seen these depots so full. Much needs to be done to ramp up the production of wheat as the country is way below its potential in the production of wheat.

**Tobacco:** Once again, an indifferent rainy season has produced varying results. The Highveld areas of Headlands and Macheke seem to have done reasonably well achieving good yields and reasonable prices for the commodity. Lower areas of Odzi, Nyazura and to some extent Rusape, have had very mixed results.

Of major concern though, is the deforestation of our indigenous trees in these tobacco areas. Soon there will be vast areas of no trees at all as wood is the fuel of choice for curing the “Golden Leaf”. A major reforestation plan needs to be implemented or legislation passed, the sooner the better. Small areas of reforestation can be seen along the main Mutare/ Harare road, but one cannot help feeling that this is window dressing. Much more is required and in larger areas if Zimbabwe is to recover from this travesty. The instances of tobacco re-growth/non stalk destruction are of major concern. The powers seem to be powerless in their ability to bring this under control. Years and years of strict control by ICA’s and institutions like the TRB are coming to nothing now as these strict laws are indiscriminately ignored. This will be to the peril and the demise of the tobacco industry.

**Cattle:** One no longer sees the large herds of commercial cattle grazing in paddocks along the main highways, rather, we see small herds of cattle grazing along the road verges where some green grass may be seen, whilst the rest of the country side is a mass of burnt out grazing. Fires have been some of the worst encountered this year and once again, this needs to be brought under control.

### **Dams and Water**

Major dams throughout the province have recovered well. Osborn Dam from nearly empty last year due to deliberate draining of the reservoir to carry out repairs recovered to 80% of capacity



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by the end of the season. Lesapi Dam looks full from the road but is likely to be dropping rapidly due to the release of irrigation water to the lowveld sugar estates. Most other smaller dams seem to be full mainly from lack of usage.

With the threat of a strengthening EL NINO this year, farmers need to take necessary measures to counter these “droughty” effects on their crops. Potholing and wet ripping will surely become household words if the effects of this threat become real.

### **General**

The Province seems to have settled down since the new administration have taken over. This is not to say that we have seen the end of land disruptions but sincerely hope that common sense prevails, and that those who are trying as best as possible to heed the call of the Government to become productive, be left alone to do what they have been trained to do best.

### **Summary**

It remains for me to wish all the farmers throughout the country bumper harvests, peace and stability.

### ***B.A. Hacking***

### ***Manicaland Province***

## **MATABELELAND REGIONAL REPORT 2018**

Matabeleland region received good rains in the North but the South received average to below average rainfall, the most affected area are along the Botswana border and along the South African border. These areas received late rains resulting in below average crops and very little grass.

Matabeleland North farmers reaped good crops and the dam water levels are adequate to see the season through but the regions have been having huge veld fires resulting in areas having very little grazing for their livestock. Fortunately the Hwange National Park has so far been spared. The Matabeleland South farmers in areas which have had poor rains have moved their livestock up into the resettled area's which has caused overstocking on those farms.

Of concern is the reports of a below average rainfall for the next season. If the South has a drought it will result in large numbers of deaths in the region amongst the livestock.

Bulawayo's supply dams have sufficient water to supply Bulawayo, but the Council are preparing in event of having to reintroduce water rationing.



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**Cattle:** Prices have basically remained steady throughout the year but slaughter stock is down and butchers have reported shortages. The young stock market is firm but the question of viability and the long term return on investment due to the prices being paid for young stock.

**Maize:** Most local producers have sufficient carry over maize from last year and this season and no report of shortages.

### **General**

Morale is low and most people are tired of the shortages of money and the high cost of things. The elderly are the most vulnerable and suffering the most. People are hoping this time around that the President can turn things around with the new Cabinet.

*Gay Wilde*

*Matebeleland*

## **COMMODITY ASSOCIATION REPORTS- 2018**

### **ZIMBABWE CROP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018**

#### **Association Matters**

As was reported at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting which was held in August 2017, the operational capacity of the Zimbabwe Crop Producers Association has been drastically affected by a lack of human and financial resources. The number of active members in our Association has dwindled to less than a handful and for them the operating environment continues to be one of great uncertainty and daily challenges. The small number of members coupled with the inability to raise finances to fund our operations means that our capacity is almost non-existent. Whilst the lack of capacity has meant that we have not been able to be active in the public arena, it does not mean that we have not been working behind the scenes. We have continued through the Commercial Farmers Union and Federation of Farmers Unions structures to take an active role in trying to highlight the measures that need to be taken to bring about an environment in the nation that is conducive to profitable crop production. In this regard I would like to express my gratitude to the CFU President Pete Steyl, the staff and in particular the Director Ben Purcell-Gilpin for the amount of time that they have put into attending meetings and other events that have directly benefitted our members.

Having highlighted our small membership base and our lack of capacity, we now have to ask the question where to from here? Agriculture was the engine that powered the economy of Zimbabwe and our economy will never really recover until agriculture recovers. All farmers whether large or small scale face similar challenges and it is imperative for us to join hands and work together



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to find answers to these challenges and to influence the policy makers so as to ensure the creation of a conducive environment for agriculture in Zimbabwe.

In this regard, the momentous changes that have occurred in the political landscape of our nation during the last year appear to offer us an opportunity that has possibly never existed before. It is my firm belief that we as Zimbabweans now have a unique opportunity to address the unresolved issues so that we can join hands and together begin the process of rebuilding agriculture and see Zimbabwe returned to its “bread basket of the region” status.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, whilst none of us know what the future holds, there is someone who does. He is Almighty God, our creator. In the Bible in verses 18 and 19 of Isaiah 43 He says the following: “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not be aware of it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert”. His Excellency, President Mnangagwa quoted these verses recently at the commissioning of a tomato paste plant in Bulawayo and stated in his address that he believes that they apply to our nation at this time. I agree with him and firmly believe that our future is bright.

Thank you and may God Bless you all.

*Andrew Pascoe*

*Crop Producers Association Chairperson*

### **CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION REPORT FOR 2018.**

In general the weather for the 2017/18 season was kind to cattle producers throughout the country; there is good surface water and grass/bulk, except where there have been rampant fires.

Officially recorded slaughters have been slightly down on last year. Two reasons have been put forward; one is the restricted movement of cattle due to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). New outbreaks of FMD have been recorded in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central. The affected areas have been put under quarantine, therefore cattle cannot move out to sale. The other is that the producers have realized the value of holding onto their stock and are only selling them when necessary. A national herd census would help us confirm actual numbers of cattle in Zimbabwe.

Cattle producers are benefiting from the above. Prices for slaughter stock have risen approximately 30% and for commercial breeding stock approximately 40%. The National Bull Sale also reflected breeder confidence in the cattle industry. The top Brahm bull was bought for \$24000 and two top Boran heifers for \$5000 each. Overall, pedigree breeders were happy with the 40% increase in





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prices over 2017. The Stud industry is the apex of cattle production in any country and I am glad to say the animals on the National Bull Sale seem to improve annually.

FMD, has been mentioned above, unfortunately it is has reared its ugly head in Mashonaland East, Central, and West Provinces, which were traditionally green zones. The FAO paid for Dr. Gavin Thompson to carry out a FMD strategy paper a couple of years ago, unfortunately cattle producers have not been privy to this yet. I would suggest we look at countries to the north of Zimbabwe to understand how they manage their FMD.

Tick borne diseases are also occurring where they have not traditionally been a problem. Communal producers are reporting losses of livestock. Dip, drugs and preventative vaccines are critically short. CPA appeals that funds are made available to suppliers to ensure there are adequate stocks of these in the country.

There are a number of long-standing issues that need to be addressed to provide an enabling environment to encourage investments in the cattle sector, including:

- The review of the carcass grading system which remains in abeyance despite issues being raised over 20 years ago: the current system penalises smaller and larger framed carcasses;
- A review of the punitive costs in the regulatory framework which simply tax the industry and provide no support: these include the Rural District Council levies, the Agricultural Marketing Authority Statutory Instrument 129 of 2017 and recently the promulgated National Biotechnology Authority Statutory Instruments 157, 159 and 160 of 2018. Importantly, these instruments were introduced without stakeholder consultations or social impact assessments. These initiatives go against Rapid Results Initiative to reduce costs and improve the ease of doing business. Unfortunately, these costs end up been being borne by the producer as they cannot be passed on to the consumer;
- There is a need for a guiding Livestock Policy Framework including clarification of the role of the public sector in marketing and pricing of livestock;
- There is a need for strengthened animal health delivery - both public and private. There is also a need for clarity on rapid response systems and protocols for containing diseases;
- The unavailability of affordable medium to long-term finance remains a major challenge to the growth and investment in the cattle sector;
- There is a need of improved technical support and coordination of production systems from breeding, rearing, finishing to marketing, including the optimal utilisation of the latest technologies and different production capacities that exist across the farming system;
- There is need for stakeholder consultations to review the Livestock Identification and Traceability System being independently introduced by the Department of Veterinary Services. Sadly, this process has ignored wide-based donor funded stakeholder consultations, chaired by the DVS, to discover a practical, affordable and effective LITS.



### **Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2018**

In conclusion Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank the LMAC for championing the Cattle Producers and consumers cause whether they be Stud, Commercial or Small Scale producers. The time is now for Cattle Producers (especially younger producers) to join hands and form a representative producer body to take the above issues forward to our Government.

I would also like to commend the Government of Zimbabwe for recognizing that economic recovery has to start at the grass roots with the producers. I thank them for including the Livestock Sector in their Command Agriculture inputs scheme. I now appeal to them to help us reduce our costs of production, one of them being the annual burning of our cheapest food source, THE VELD.

***Mark Hook***

***Cattle Commodity Chairman***

### **AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY AND COMPENSATION (ARAC) REPORT 2018**

There are those who will tell you that no compensation will be forthcoming. This dismal attitude is wrong. Not only is compensation for Permanent improvements including Land dealt within our Zimbabwean constitution; but also, messages from the Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement, assure us that the GOZ is serious about arriving at consensual values. Once these values are agreed, the value of LAND and PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS combined over all the titles will allow for the easy calculation of the “GLOBAL FIGURE”.

Undoubtedly the resolution of the Compensation, due for the assets that have so cruelly been taken from us, is not only well overdue it is one of the foremost reasons our country is in such a depressing financial crisis. Respect for property rights (which particularly includes compensation for our taken assets), is foremost amongst the many important issues that the authorities will have to come to terms with. However cynical you maybe, eventually this will come about. We have at last achieved a serious dialogue with Government to this end. It is now my pleasure to report back to you on the workings of your ARAC committee up to August 2017

First, I would like to acknowledge the ARAC committee members. Those present here today and those who are unable to be here. They have all, always taken a keen interest representing you, our former farmers, who are now well overdue your payments for assets. In particular, committee members have taken part in many robust exchanges, airing a variety of views which have covered several issues. Inevitably, and particularly amongst formally independent entrepreneurs, there are frustrations and divergent approaches to our issues; but I wish to congratulate our committee for arriving at a consensus concerning our approaches. Effectively we are all after the same GOAL, “Effective fair compensation.” May I also take this opportunity to thank Jim Barker (retiring due to age) and Dave Sole (retiring due to work load in Mozambique) for their contributions over the



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years? Jim and Dave as you retire from the committee I know you will still keep a keen interest in our affairs.

I propose to explain in brief the up to date situation as of today, and will welcome questions and discussion directly after this report.

Firstly The CFU our parent body.

The CFU has, at last, resolved the uncertain financial crisis it found itself in last year and has settled down (albeit in a significantly smaller structure) to dealing with the issues concerning us all here today. This time last year our parent body was in crisis. The CFU's assets were tied to a single property, which at the time appeared to be unsalable at anything but a give-away price in the then environment, there was also an internal dispute concerning our bookkeeping. The consequence of this was that service to our membership failed, membership fell and staff went unpaid for months on end.

However after an exhaustive and seemingly endless trail the CFU has been able to liquidate its interest in the industrial / commercial property, which after paying exorbitant taxes and settling an unfortunate staffing dispute, has left our union with sufficient funding that should keep us afloat and which together with your membership support, should last for the next few years.

The CFU has downsized significantly and is now directed by Ben Gilpin. He has been the lynch pin for the continued existence of the CFU since the resignation of Marc Carrie-Wilson, the former Acting Director. He has shouldered the additional burdens with calm professional expertise. Ben, a "big thank you" from us all here today; this for your unflinching loyalty and for the many ways in which you have assisted so many of us.

I should also like to acknowledge the efforts of our President, Pete Style, garnishing support for a federation of other agricultural unions culminating in a joint Congress due to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September this year. This is a significant development for the future of General Agriculture in Zimbabwe and compliments ARAC's vision encompassed in our acronym ARAC Agricultural **"Recovery"** And Compensation.

Turning to the Compensation Steering Committee (CSC)

A year ago it became clear, that in order for farmers to engage with Government regarding Compensation, an entity was needed to draw all the farmer stakeholders together, to co-ordinate a unified front to engage Government. At last year's ARAC AGM there was verbal acclamation for such a body. Your ARAC committee submitted this desire to CFU Council requesting a suitable mandate. After in-depth consideration, the terms of reference were agreed, identifying and parameters under which the CFU Council mandated the CSC. SACFA followed suit the following



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month. ValCon and Agri Africa together with 8 eight Civil Society organisations have all lent their support to the CSC.

ARAC is directly represented on the Compensation Steering Committee by the *Ex Officio* Chairman of ARAC. In addition I am pleased to tell you that each of the persons you acclaimed last year, now form this committee. They are Mr John Laurie, who surely needs no introduction, Charles Taffs (appointed CFU consultant for Compensation), Mac Crawford representing *ex officio* Chairman of SACFA for Matabeleland, Allan York representing Matabeleland and Agri Africa (who directed the successful “Dutch farmers challenge) and finally myself as Chairman of ARAC. John Laurie is our elected Chairman and does a wonderful job. John has recently written a CSC newsletter which is to be published in this week’s CFU Calling. In this newsletter John explains that The CSC met with the Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement at a Symposium in early April this year. The outcome of this meeting was that an Ad Hoc Tech Committee of Valuers from the Ministry and ValCon would convene to establish a consensual value for the Compensation, and report back to the Symposium. We are in this process now.

To date the Ad Hoc Tech Committee has held one meeting which was chaired very professionally by a Lady lawyer Mrs. Sumowah. ValCon presented their “Look-up” list of values for assets which the Ministry was instructed to match with their list. We are awaiting the next meeting. Again sensibly, The Chair insisted that the ownership of the Title is clearly established. Valcon will have most of this information but of course “time marches on” and farmers are requested to ensure that their credentials to the ownership are unambiguous and up to date. In particular, many titles are held by Private Companies and even corporate bodies. Please make sure shares are not muddled, pledged or encumbered inextricably somehow. We are trying to establish the precise legal position for Companies that have been deregistered or perhaps have been sold on as shelf Companies. As Graham Mullet has said in past ValCon newsletters “generally most accountants say that companies holding title should be maintained and continue to put in their annual returns, however cynically, some may say this is how they make the living“. There are alternate views but the onus must be on you to decide. In some cases it will be an expense that is unaffordable.

After the latest CSC meeting I reported to the ARAC committee as follows.....

“Generally, we (The CSC) are a-waiting the reconvening of the Ad Hoc Tech committee (AHTCom) to confirm or otherwise the values to be applied to assets. You will remember ValCon handed their “Lookup table” of values of assets to the Ministry valuers. Once the ministry have accepted these values they can be applied universally to the asset lists of each taken farm which will lead us to a consensual value for improvements. Mrs. Sumowah (The lady lawyer Chair) has been on leave. On her return we expect her to call the next meeting of this ad hoc committee and hopefully for the Ministry to accept these value assessments. There may be some queries, in which case the “Market” will be consulted to establish the true. This is a crucial stage towards reaching a consensus; so we will be examining the table minutely.



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The CSC discussed the valuation of Land and have instructed ValCon to complete this exercise soonest. ValCon told us that they have identified over 150 categories of land which have to be overlaid on the central data MAP. Accepting that there may be some tweaks, the land value is weeks away.

The two values (Permanent improvements **AND Land**) added together form the GLOBAL value, which will be disclosed once the consensual “Lookup” values are reached. We have been assured from various sources that GOZ wishes dispossessed farmers to be confident that they are serious about achieving a just consensus as soon as possible.....

ValCon has been in Bulawayo this last week and they reported that they have successfully attended to the queries that were brought to them (about 40). In most cases farmers had remembered assets they had hitherto not mentioned or verified and thus ValCon was formerly unaware of these assets. It is important that all Title holders verify their information and not assume that So-and-So Estate Agents Pvt Ltd. took their information fifteen years ago, and now say “that should be enough”!!!

It is important that we get the message out to all farmers that the Compensation Steering Committee will not sanction or recommend any consensual “GLOBAL” figure without combining the values for Land and Permanent Improvements. We are tackling the position of Game ranchers as a special category. This is a subject particularly appropriate to our colleagues in the Southern areas of our country.

It was emphasised that it is of the utmost importance that we maintain UNITY OF PURPOSE and not split our goals. In this respect a) let me make it absolutely clear that we completely support the alternate fall-back drive to explore the so called Legal route, b) the whole country is well represented on the CSC and welcomes any unique enterprises for inclusion provided that they are brought to the table. If needed we can create a special sub-committee.

We discussed the consequences of the land grab of the Mazoe dam!! Also the dreadful expulsion of the Smarts in Rusape/Headlands. I gather the Mazoe grab is being denied; nevertheless the damage this does to the Country is fathomless. There can be no doubt that without a complete turnaround of the current disastrous policies pursued by the authorities, there can be no sustainable economic recovery for the country. However this does not mean we should throw in the towel but rather be prepared for the time change will come about. This means urgently arriving at a Global figure.

The CSC has repeatedly requested a copy of the minutes of the APRIL 17 Ministry of L&RR meeting. None has come to hand as yet.

John Laurie continues his lobbying, indefatigable as always. It is not always an agreeable exercise particularly when there seems nothing exciting to report. I can tell you however that he has amazingly secured funding for ValCon and a small amount for CSC which should last through till



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the end of the year. In particular I know you will all join me in commending him for his determination and perseverance this last year and this despite his losing a leg at the end of last year.

It is hoped to subscribe to our own Face Book page in the near future. This we believe will improve our communications with our constituents. (For some time now we at the CSC have felt that our messages are not getting disseminated adequately.)

“We just have to be patient; surely we are well on the way.”

Regarding the release of ASSET LISTS to the Ministry, the CSC has requested, both in the CFU Calling and the ValCon Newsletter, that Farmers who wish to have their asset declarations withheld from the Ministry they should please inform ValCon. To date there has only been one such request, which of course will be honoured, but I might ask “why would anyone not wish their correct list to be shared?” Presumably these lists will be the basis by which Permanent Improvements are actually valued once they are verified by The Ministry.

Property Rights are paramount and we are the key. This is why the resolution of our compensation issue is so important to the welfare of Zimbabwe. The Government of Zimbabwe will have to eventually discharge its debt to those who have been so cruelly dispossessed of their livings, homes, businesses, pensions, and in many cases their health and even their very lives.

I would remind you that despite the advent of the 2013 Constitution the GOZ has consistently disregarded its own legislation and declared it has no money to fund the FTLRP but continues to acquire land and evict title holders without any budgetary provisions for fair and timely compensation. Significantly our New 2013 Constitution:-

- Denies dispossessed commercial farmers the right to approach our own Zimbabwe courts regarding the unfair acquisition under **Chapter 2, Clause 72 Section 3 (b) and (c)**.
- Despite provisions of **Chapter 16 Clause 289 setting out the principles under which the Land Commission will be guided** allowing access to land to ALL Zimbabwe citizens Section (b) “...**regardless of race or colour**” and section (f) “No person may be deprived arbitrarily of their right to use and occupy agricultural land” and under Property Rights (Chapter 2 Clause 72 (2) (c)), which speaks to the relocation of persons dispossessed as a result of the utilisation of land for settlement under the conditions of compulsory purchase, and Clause 56 regarding Equality of Rights, the GOZ has not responded to over a 800 applications from evicted farmers for alternative land.
- Details clear directions in the new Zimbabwe Constitution, regarding requirement to pay compensation, (**Chapter 16, Clause 295 1, 2, 3, 4**) and further, regarding the Fundamental Human rights and Freedoms Chapter 4 part 2 Clause 71 regarding Property Rights



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(Property being defined as “property of any description or any right or interest in property”), and (**Chapter 4 part 2 Clause 71 section 3 (c), (d) and (e)**), which states that the GOZ is required to pay fair and adequate compensation....**within a reasonable time**; The GOZ simply ignores such provisions. So far only around 250 titled property owners, out of 6,000 titles have been paid something for their permanent improvements during this entire period.

- Further discriminates against local non indigenous farmers. The fact that indigenous Farmers (**Chapter 16, Clause 295 section i**) and Farmers protected by Bi-lateral International agreements (Chapter 16, Clause 295 section ii) may be paid for land, does not exempt the GOZ from its responsibilities to, at least, pay for permanent improvements to non-indigenous or non-BIPPA covered farmers and nowhere does the constitution disallow farmers assessing the value of Land to establish a “GLOBAL FIGURE” for the total of these assets taken.
- It is pertinent to note here that under **Chapter 16 Clause 297 of** our New constitution the functions of the Land Commission are set out and include Section A “The elimination of all forms of unfair discrimination, particularly gender discrimination;” and Section B (vi) “Fair compensation payable under any law for agricultural land and improvements that have been compulsorily acquired:”

I hope you have noticed when we came in today that I have posted an account of all our paid up members. This for two reasons. Firstly to ensure that if you have paid your membership you can be certain it has been recorded and if not please let us know and we will follow it up. SECONDLY, the membership has been classified by district. So you will notice if your fellow former farmers are absent from the lists and discretely ask them to contact us if they have paid and not been listed OR **MORE IMPORTANTLY** please bring their membership up to date. Of course if they have no interest in compensation and are **unwilling to contribute to the it’s resolution** you might suggest they cede their title deeds to the FARM FAMILY TRUST who will put it to very good use?

My request to you all today, is to **insist all** our friends and colleagues unify behind our elected leaders in the CFU /SAFCA and discuss and lobby for any of their different points of view within the established structures. The doors are always open for reasoned debate and suggestions.

It remains for me to thank you all for attending today. Your support is so appreciated.

To Mike Clark for the unenviable task of compiling endless input data and publishing the CFU calling each week. What a fine job you are doing albeit behind the scenes.

To Barry Munroe, the new Chairman of Farm Families Trust, I wish to thank you and your committee for all your efforts in supporting and helping our elderly and less fortunate members in



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their time of need. Particular mention must be made of those generous people who so kind-heartedly donate to this fund trust. Bob Swift has handed over the Chair to Barry, but remains on the committee. Thank you Bob for your years of service.

To the few remaining staff at the CFU, who each in his or her own way contributes to the smooth running of your Union a particularly big thank you.

And of course to John and Charlie... to which I must now include Mac and Allan. Thank you for your continued persistence and dedication, much of which is unsung.... a deep expression of gratitude.

I would just mention Wynand Hart. He contributes regularly to the compensation debate and we at ARAC wish him well in his exploratory work.

It only remains for me to thank you, our ARAC members and the committee of Pete Steyl (our Ex officio Vice Chairman), Byron Dardagan, Rob Beverley, Jim Barker, Kerry Kay, Rod Swales, John Perrot, Dave Sole and Harry Orphanides for your time, consistent effort, support and dedication to the cause, all for no financial reward yet.

Thank you.

*Patrick Ashton*

*Chairman ARAC*

## **AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT- 2018**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This paper serves to give developments that have occurred in the economy and the agriculture sector since the last Congress in September 2017. It also contains production data for the 2016/17 season and estimates of agricultural output for the current 2017/18 season

### **THE ECONOMY – OVERVIEW**

Global economic activity continues to firm up. Global output is estimated to have grown 3.7% in 2017, which is ½ percentage point higher than in 2016. The pickup in growth has been broad based, with notable upside surprises in Europe and Asia. Global growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019 have been revised upwards by 0.2 % points to 3.9 % according to the IMF projections.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, growth is expected to pick up from 2.7% in 2017 to 3.3% in 2018 and 3.5% in 2019. The World Bank anticipates this growth to depend on a firming of commodity prices and implementation of reforms.





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The Zimbabwean economy is projected to grow by 4.5% in 2018 buoyed by an expected growth in agriculture of 10.7% on the backdrop of good rains, electricity (28.5%) and mining (6.1%). Stronger tobacco harvests is expected to push up the growth rate. The bullish economic outlook is also anchored on policy and economic reforms spearhead by the new dispensation. The African Development Bank (AfDB), in its African Economic Outlook report projects the Zimbabwean economy to grow by 1% in 2018 and 1.2% in 2019 dampened by political changes. The World Bank also projected 0.9% in 2018 and 0.2% in 2019. The IMF has revised its growth forecast for Zimbabwe to 2.4 percent this year, from an earlier forecast of just below 1 percent. The economy is expected to pick up to 4.2 percent in 2019 and 5 percent in 2020.

Although all the forecast show positive growth it is important to take into considerations some factors that may slow growth in Zimbabwe. Slower growth may be due to a worsening liquidity crisis. The Zimbabwean government's fiscal position will remain under intense pressure as recessionary economic conditions continue to constrain revenues. While increasing exports will offer a boost to government tax intakes in 2018, this will be insufficient to clear outstanding arrears with multilateral creditors, keeping the door shut on important lines of concessional credit.

### **Inflation**

The annual inflation rate hit 4.29% in July 2018 from 2.91% in June 2017, an increase of 47.48% in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), driven mainly by food and non-alcoholic beverages. After three years of deflation since February 2014, Zimbabwe experienced a resurgence in inflation in February 2017 after year-on-year inflation for the month rose to 0.06% from the January rate of -0.65%.

The annual inflation opened the 2018 year at 3.52% and tumbled to 2.68% in February and March before gaining to 2.71% in April and May.

The gain was pushed by persistent government deficits, and worsened by unbudgeted wage cost adjustments for civil servants' salaries. The salary increases were not backed by production and created additional demand at a time when producers are struggling to get adequate foreign exchange to recapitalize and import critical raw materials to enhance capacity. Government expenditures in preparations for elections, resulted in the excessive demand for foreign currency required to replenish stock against limited supply. Market distortions and the proliferation of the 3 tier pricing systems are responsible for the spike in inflation. Speculative and profiteering tendencies; pass-through effects of parallel market premiums on foreign exchange; shortages of some imported basic commodities as well as some external factors such as firming South African rand and strengthening oil prices are putting pressure on prices. A general observation show that official inflation figure underestimated the level of price increases as they do not take into account the black market activities. The annual inflation rate is expected to reach 6% by year-end.



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### Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

A report by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), show that foreign investment inflows into Zimbabwe continue on a downward trend. FDI inflows dropped from \$421 million in 2015 to \$372 million in 2016 and further dropped to \$289million in 2017. The latest figure compares unfavorably with the country's neighbours such as Mozambique and South Africa which registered \$2.3billion, and \$3.8 billion FDI inflows respectively. Lack of policy consistency, indigenization law, disregard for property rights and the unwillingness of authorities to deal with corruption have often being identified as factors dissuading investors from a country which boasts of vast mineral deposits. Given the new government dispensation there are hopes that FDI will start to recover as the new dispensation is expected to revive investors' confidence.

### *Below are the key challenges affecting the economy;*

- Land tenure security and lack of confidence remains a major obstacle to attracting investment.
- Depressed international commodity prices, marginal local and regional viability and competitiveness remains a problem.
- Liquidity and foreign currency challenges associated with high production cost still make agriculture an attractive venue of investment.
- Relative strengthening of the US dollar (anchor currency) against currencies of major trading partners, which adversely impacted export competitiveness.
- The growing fiscal deficit which is impacting on the liquidity of the financial system, as well as on business activity
- High import dependency, which has contributed to de-industrialization and the drain of money from the economy.
- The multi parallel rates that exist within the economy has been causing inflation as we notice a price increase of commodities, every fortnight.
- Overall fall in disposable incomes and weakening of domestic aggregate demand
- Production and productivity levels still remain constrained in Zimbabwean agriculture with very low yields being achieved by farmers.

### **Agriculture**

The agriculture sector is projected to grow by 10.7% this year. Government extended the \$500 million Command Agriculture programme, which aims to produce two million tonnes of maize on 400 000 hectares of land after participating farmers are given inputs, irrigation and mechanized equipment and mechanized equipment. The country's maize production for the 2017/18 agricultural season is forecast to fall below the 2016/17 season's figure of 2.15 million tonnes, due to the dry spell that was experienced in most parts of the country from November 2017 to January 2018. Moreover, the infestation of Fall Armyworm, which wreaked havoc to maize crop which is



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estimated to have affected 20% of the crop especially in the Midlands Province also poses a further risk to this year's maize output.

### **Mining**

The sector is expected to grow by 6.1% in 2018 with mining receipts projected at US\$2.5 billion up from US\$2.3 billion recorded in 2017. In 2017, mineral output grew by 8.5% on the back of a surge in output of gold (14%), Diamond (44%) chrome (231%) and coal (16%).

### **Manufacturing**

The manufacturing sector is estimated to grow by 2.1% in 2018 on account of improvement in agro processing value chains in foodstuffs, drinks and ginning. Capacity utilisation in Zimbabwe's manufacturing sector declined from 47.4 % in 2016 to 45.1 % in 2017. Capacity utilisation has been constrained by high production costs and shortages of foreign currency which has triggered systematic increase in the prices of local commodities.

### **Financial sector**

The economy entered in 2018 amid several challenges ranging from chronic cash shortages, illegal multi-tier pricing, foreign currency shortages, and termination of some services that required foreign currency and company closures. In this regard, negative performance in the sector is expected for the year end. Decreased investments and lending practices have significantly reduced non-performing loans. Low levels of confidence in the country's banking system have ignited a high appetite to keep cash outside the banking system thus promoting the informal economy.

### **External Sector**

The national statistical agent indicated that the country's trade deficit is widening and cumulative and has reached over \$20billion since adoption of the multicurrency regime in 2009. For the first 6months to June this year the country imported goods and services worth \$2.87billion against exports of \$1.62 billion which remains heavily skewed towards consumptive products. The gap is widening as the country's imports stood at \$2.25billion against exports of \$1.31 billion during the same period in 2017.

### **Agriculture and Weather Update**

In the 2017/18 season, the country experienced a mid-season dry spell in January which reduced area planted to crops and also negatively affected productivity of most crops. The 2018/19 seasonal rainfall predictions shows in with the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum's recent prediction of normal to below-normal rains for much of the sub-region, including Zimbabwe. The local Met-Department also forecasts a normal to below normal rainfall season for 2018/19 bias towards below normal throughout the season and the likelihood of an EL NINO phenomenon. History indicates that a normal season taking a below normal bias can mean trouble. In its own



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analysis the Met-Department expects the 2018/ 19 rainfall season to be erratic in space and time. The department has advised farmers to put in place measures for early cloud seeding programme in light of the expected erratic rainfall season throughout the country. In view of the moisture availability and suitable temperature thresholds, those with irrigation facilities should not wait for the main rains to fall. They can plant any time now, taking into account the high temperature needed for germination. The department also says violent storms, prolonged dry spells, flash floods and tropical cyclones cannot be ruled out as the season progresses. The department also advise on the need to continue with water harvesting programmes.

### **AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT ESTIMATES -2017/18 SEASON**

#### **Maize**

The Government estimates maize production this year at 1.7million tonnes (t) from a total planted area of 1.9million hectares. The estimated production is 21% less than the 2016/17 season output of 2.1million tonnes. The country experienced a mid-season dry spell in January which affected the Zambezi valley, southern and south eastern parts of the country therefore compromising production in affected areas. Maize average yield was low, from 1.15 t/ha in 2016/17 to 0.99 t/ha in 2017/18. Fall armyworm mostly affected the late- planted maize crop.

#### *Maize Imports*

Government has banned maize importation.

#### *GMB deliveries and payments*

The Grain Marketing Board (GMB) has so far received 980 000 tonnes of maize and 21 750 tonnes of small grains as the parastatal has come up with measures to ensure smooth deliveries of the grain to its depots. During the same period last year, the parastatal had received 797 916 tonnes of maize and 21 873 tonnes of small grains.

#### **Soya beans**

Soya bean output is estimated at 59 772 tonnes (t) this season, a 67% increase from 35 744t harvested during the 2016/17 season. This is due to increased input supply and improved rainfall from February 2018. The area under soya beans during the 2017/18 season was 40 479ha and the average yield stood at 1.66 t/ha.

#### **Sorghum**

The total area put under sorghum was 180 625ha down from 321 490 hectares in the 2016/17 season. Sorghum production is expected to be 77 514 tonnes.

#### **Sugar beans**

The total area under sugar beans this season was 36 999 hectares and the estimated output is 21 320 tonnes a 39 % increase from 15 356 tonnes in the 2016/17 season.



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### **Groundnuts**

Output of groundnuts is estimated at 127 202 tonnes, a 9% decrease from 139 503 tonnes in the 2016/17 season. .

### **Wheat**

Wheat production this year is projected to reach 100 000 tonnes from 30 000 hectares planted. This is an increase from the 20 000tonnes produce in 2017, due to command agriculture-related investments. The increase is still less than a third of national wheat/flour demand estimated at 350 000tonnes and just about 30.8% of peak output of 325 000MT in 2001. Over the years, yields averaged 1.5 tonnes per hectare due to a myriad of challenges facing farmers.

### **CASH CROPS**

#### **Tobacco**

The production of tobacco in Zimbabwe has hit its highest this year, when it produced 252million in kilograms beating the all-time high of 236 million kg sold in 2001. Currently, Zimbabwe holds 4th place among world' tobacco producer of flu cured tobacco. Farmers this year delivered 252million kg of tobacco worth\$736.9 million. This was an increase for the 188.7million kg of tobacco valued at \$558.7million delivered at the same period last year. The average price dropped from \$2.96 in 2017 to \$2.92 this year. Zimbabwe has so far exported 81.3million kg valued at \$341.7 at an average price of \$4.20. This is a downward movement from the 93.4million kg exported during the same period last year valued at \$405.3million. Last year's average price was \$4.34.

#### **Cotton**

National cotton output is expected to grow by 89% from 74 000tonnes produced last year to 140 000 in 2018. This rebound in production has been largely as a result of the Presidential Cotton input scheme which provided inputs.

#### **Other Crops**

Area planted to sunflower increased by 83% Sunflower increased from 8 928 hectares in 2016/17 to 16 322ha in 2017/18. Sunflower yields still remain very low at 0.43t/ha. Cowpea production decreased by 54% from 35 895 tonnes in the 2016/17 season to 16 380 tonnes in the 2017/18 season. Cowpea yield also decreased by 31% from 0.45t/ha to 0.31t/ha

### **LIVESTOCK**

Cattle off take remains generally low at 6.4% against a national target 10%. Total cattle slaughters in 2017 at formal abattoirs was down to 243 635cattle from 288 707 slaughtered in 2016. Outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease in the southern parts of the country continued to be a major



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challenge owing to shortage of vaccines to ensure effective control and this possibly led to the disease spreading into Mashonaland West and East provinces.

The National average calving rate stands at 47% against a target of 60%, ranging from 34% in communal areas to 52% in the large scale commercial farming sector.

Total national milk production increased by 1.56% from 65.4 million litres in 2016 to 66.4 million litres in 2017. Total milk production continues to increase, volumes rose by 13.6% from 57 million liters in 2015 to 65 million liters in 2016. The efforts to rebuild the dairy herd by milk processors and dairy revitalization programme through importation of dairy animals will help improve production further.

### **PRODUCTION VIABILITY AND INPUTS AVAILABILITY**

#### *Fertilizer*

Last year government allocated \$130 million to the industry for the importation of finished fertilisers and raw materials. The main fertilizer manufacturer Sable Chemicals received only \$2 million from the \$130 million allocated to the fertiliser sector by government. The lack of foreign currency has strained Sable Chemicals' operations, such that between January and July 2018, Sable produced 27 000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, against a target of 50 000 tonnes. There is likely to be a serious shortage of both AN fertiliser and Compound D this season if the Forex situation does not improve. Meanwhile AN fertiliser is currently priced at \$740/tonne while a tonne of Compound D is priced at \$700/ tonne (Windmill Pvt Ltd). The local fertiliser industry continues to struggle mainly due to competition from imports, liquidity crisis, poor production history of farmers and high costs of production which affect viability.

#### *Maize Seed*

Seed Co has reported reporting lower levels of seed production this year as some yield was lost due to disease pressure, poor pollination due to high temperatures experienced during the mid-summer drought in January and excessive moisture as crops were reaching maturity. However, the group is optimistic that the inventory available will be able to meet anticipated demand for the coming summer season.

#### *Stock Feeds and Veterinary Products*

Grazing condition ranged from fair to good across all farming sectors but some communal areas are likely to face challenges as the dry season progresses. Livestock watering sources have adequate amounts in all areas across the country but shortages are likely in traditionally dry areas towards the end of the dry season. Dipping was reported to have been inadequate throughout the season; however the most affected farmers were in the communal areas as in other sectors farmers



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have other dipping initiatives. Shortages of dipping chemicals resulted in high incidences of tick-borne diseases with Theileriosis (January disease) accounting for more than 2 000 cattle deaths

### Chemicals

Most crop chemical suppliers import their products and they have been finding it difficult to meet demand as they always fall short of the much needed foreign currency. However, uptake is very low because they are expensive and some farmers cannot afford them. 20Litres of Paraquat is being sold at \$340 compared to \$85.50 of 2017

### Power Supply

Most Farmers reported that power supply this season has greatly improved with a few load shedding exercises being experienced by farmers in Matabeleland. However farmers raised concern regarding the delay in attending to faults by ZESA.

## **CONCLUSION**

The challenges and constraints that members face have remained largely unchanged since the new century began. They all centre on unresolved land reform issues that continue to seriously undermine productivity in commercial agriculture. There is hope that with the new dispensation these issues will be resolved so that Zimbabwe can once again become a country that achieves food security as a matter of routine.

Zimbabwe has enormous potential given its generous endowment of natural resources, an existing stock of public infrastructure, and comparatively well skilled human resources. However, realizing this will require prompt action to correct fiscal policies, re-stabilize the monetary system, and resolve arrears to international lenders that would allow for a resumption of development financing. It will also require the renewal of capacity in the public sector, and investment reforms.

Thank You

***Antonnette P Chingwe***  
***Economist***



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TOTAL PRODUCTION OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS in ZIMBABWE (000 tonnes)																			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*
<b>Grains and Cereals</b>																			
Maize	2,043.20	1,476.24	498.54	754.00	950.00	750.00	945.00	697.00	417.10	781.25	819.25	895.00	833.00	798.00	1,200.00	742.20	511.82	2,100.00	1,700.00
Wheat	250.00	314.00	186.50	120.00	121.65	134.00	170.20	64.55	25.55	45.00	41.00	48.00	33.70	24.00	58.70	60.00	62.00	75.00	100.00
Sorghum	61.91	60.74	23.82	59.56	124.00	111.00	108.40	81.50	103.00	113.50	73.60	50.54	64.70	76.00	105.00	39.70	36.30	182.01	77.50
Barley	32.00	32.00	58.00	50.00	36.40	43.00	53.50	32.00	24.50	33.15	40.50	25.80	37.70	46.20	18.70	18.00	18.00	11.00	18.00
Small Grains (millets)	31.00	43.20	14.20	41.50	71.70	30.60	72.30	49.90	55.00	43.32	50.90	36.10	43.70	43.00	45.00	45.00	40.15	106.77	120.00
<b>Traditional Export Crops</b>																			
Tobacco Flue Cured	236.13	202.54	165.84	81.81	69.00	73.39	54.25	73.39	48.72	57.00	123.00	132.00	148.00	166.60	216.40	199.00	202.20	188.90	252.00
<b>Cotton</b>																			
Cotton	353.00	280.50	195.67	159.50	364.20	196.30	207.90	255.00	223.02	210.09	149.90	195.00	342.00	133.00	114.00	105.00	32.89	74.00	140.00
<b>Oilseed Crops</b>																			
Soya beans	149.94	175.08	72.41	70.26	71.00	54.00	54.80	67.60	51.20	43.30	57.30	59.00	70.50	76.90	80.00	57.90	47.83	35.74	59.77
Groundnuts	190.89	171.78	58.56	86.50	64.10	57.80	83.10	126.80	116.55	44.46	136.70	97.50	108.20	130.00	132.00	88.90	73.71	139.50	127.20
Sunflower	9.20	30.30	4.63	16.90	20.20	7.40	16.70	31.10	33.40	16.25	11.80	8.23	6.90	10.00	12.00	21.00	3.26	10.39	8.00
<b>Plantation and Industrial Export Crops</b>																			
Tea	21.80	21.73	22.88	22.54	20.72	16.87	15.43	15.11	13.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	10.50	24.50	24.00	14.00	10.17	7.83	8.00
Coffee	6.54	7.26	6.60	5.52	7.20	3.96	2.70	1.86	1.32	0.50	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.45	0.50	0.50
Paprika	7.30	8.80	9.80	14.20	10.80	3.20	3.80	1.01	0.74	0.26	0.34	0.69	0.81	4.50	5.00	5.50	5.50	7.00	7.00
Flowers	17.86	17.86	21.89	22.80	20.17	16.27	14.33	10.17	8.00	5.00	7.50	7.50	11.00	11.00	12.00	15.00	14.10	12.00	14.00
Citrus	39.32	39.32	33.64	43.19	47.77	34.23	26.31	26.45	19.00	15.00	29.75	30.00	35.50	37.00	39.00	43.00	193.76	198.06	198.06
Fresh Produce	10.22	10.22	7.51	9.64	10.24	7.28	4.95	5.33	4.00	3.00	3.20	4.50	6.50	7.00	8.00	11.00	10.00	13.00	14.50
Sugar	538.00	515.00	581.00	502.74	422.30	400.00	446.65	400.00	380.00	280.00	300.00	333.00	372.00	420.00	445.00	412.00	544.00	490.00	556.20
<b>Livestock</b>																			
Dairy	187.05	176.77	153.13	114.08	97.64	94.55	92.50	87.36	47.72	37.00	47.00	56.00	55.90	54.60	56.00	57.00	65.00	57.00	66.40
Beef Slaughters (nos)	605.00	630.00	720.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	300.00	250.00	200.00	180.00	200.00	261.00	256.00	242.20	245.00	261.69	288.71	285.00	243.64
<b>* Estimates</b>																			





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## LABOUR AFFAIRS AND ADVOCACY AND LOBBY REPORT- 2018

### Introduction

Legal and labour issues are dynamic and are not divorced from the entire economy. Zimbabwean economy is faced with a plethora of challenges in all spheres, this has adversely impacted the Labour affairs in the Agricultural sector. The CFU has walked through the path mixed with positives and negatives. The inconsistent and inadequate support for farmers has further led to problems in the labour affairs in the country. Having faced with some problematic areas and issues the Labour Department has managed to do some activities which cultivates industrial harmony and peace. The CFU during the course of the year has been involved in wage negotiations, training, and provision of advice, education and representation of members in their areas of need.

The Labour Affairs Department has been involved in various activities. In the year that we have passed, it is important to note the following issues:

#### 1. Remuneration:

Every employer is required by statutory law to remunerate his/her workforce in accordance with the law. The CFU together with other employers’ association members has been involved in negotiating meetings pertaining to adjustments of wages. Regrettably the horticultural sector is settled with a back pay issue and producers are required to seek exemption if they are unable to meet the agreed wages. Also General Agriculture wages were increased to \$80 effective 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. Wages have increased across all sectors excluding Timber. The minimum wage trends are given in the table below:

Sector	Previous wage	Current wage
Horticulture	\$ 82	\$ 89
General Agriculture	\$ 75	\$ 80
Kapenta	\$ 143	\$ 153
Tea	\$ 83	\$ 88
Timber	\$ 150	\$ 150
Agro	\$ 95	\$ 105

#### 1.1 Affordability of wages:

It has been one of the biggest challenge to meet the set minimum wages due to business viability and prevailing harsh economic challenges. The employers in the agriculture sectors are faced with myriad challenges which have incapacitated them to pay such minimum wages. In comparison to productivity and agriculture business viability, the wages remains unaffordable for many farmers in Zimbabwe. There are challenges on affordability in wages that are agreed in retrospect as in the case of Horticultural Sector.



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### 2. Disputes:

Notable cases of disputes related to labour have been recorded and resolved, with a special mention to the disputes of rights which involved underpayment of wages, non-payment and underpayment of allowances.

#### 2.1 Dispute resolutions:

The Labour disputes referred to CFU were in some instances resolved with domestic remedies. In worst scenario cases some disputes were referred to NEC and some referred to the Ministry of Labour where the CFU legal affairs department was going to represent farmers at conciliation where most cases were then settled *in toto*.

### 3. Training:

Knowledge is power and it has been of paramount importance that farmers should also be equipped by information. Four Workshops were conducted, where the issues of non-compliance and women employees in Agriculture sector were dealt with, such workshops were conducted by CFU in collaboration with **Hivos**. We have been working with HIVOS for the past year on women at work project. The detailed report will be posted on our website in due course.

### 4. Advisory Role:

The enquiries from the members were continuously trickling in through telephoning, Whatsapp messages, emails and visits by the members. All enquiries were dealt with, all the members being advised accordingly and satisfactorily in accordance with the provisions of labour law.

### 5. Compliances:

Compliance has its root from legal positions that is the Constitution, Labour Act and relevant labour legislations. It has been noted with concern that some of farmers are non-complying with labour related regulations.

### 6. Revision and editing of the CFU Farmers' Handbook:

Based on the ever changing labour regulations the Legal affairs Department was and is involved in revising and editing the CFU Farmers Handbook to keep pace with the changing regulations. This is being sponsored by Hivos under the Women at Work Project. The alignment process to the prevailing regulations is being done periodically in terms of the constitution e.g. rights of workers and their relationships with their respective employers.

## **Recommendations:**

- Labour trainings and workshops should be intensified
- Labour inspections be done by CFU to assess members' state of affairs regularly.
- Cluster educational meetings in labour law with all members countrywide should be organized.



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- Recruitment of new members through farm to farm visits by CFU representative
- More workshops related to women workers' rights be organized and conducted.

#### **Conclusion:**

In a nutshell, the Legal affairs has been performing its mandated duties so as to service its members, through various activities. It has been noted that there is progression on understanding the legal issues affecting farmers, however the progression is no near smooth as number of challenges are experienced in the process, since there is no adequate enabling environment to run things smoother. There is need for employer representatives to take a much stronger role in the NEC Agriculture for wages and working conditions to be sustainable and improved.

*Luxmore Nhutsve*

*Labour Consultant*



## 7. In Memorium

The Commercial Farmers' Union remembers those members that have passed away during the last year and extends its heartfelt condolences to their next of kin.

### **Psalms 116:15**

*Precious in the sight of the LORD [is] the death of his saints.*



## **8. 2018 Congress Sponsorship**

The Commercial Farmers' Union would like to extend its sincere appreciation towards all those who have contributed in cash or in kind to the Union's Annual Congress for 2018. Without the generous support of these organisations, institutions, individuals and staff it would not be possible for the Union to host such an event.

Please accept our heartfelt appreciation.

MR PETER STEYL

PRESIDENT