



ZIMBABWE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



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‘Agriculture the key to eradicating poverty, hunger’

**Permanent Secretary in the Ministry
of Lands, Agriculture, Water and
Rural Resettlement, Dr John Basera**

DEVELOPING agriculture remains the country’s most direct route to reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition especially in the rural areas where 84% of the 72% of people living in poverty in Zimbabwe reside.

These were the remarks made by the Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement Vangelis Haritatos at the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society team leaders cocktail, an event where the Agriculture Transformation Strategy 2020 - 2023 came under the spotlight.

The Agricultural Transformation Strategy is the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate and Rural

Resettlement’s guiding policy for the years 2020-2023, and it is a policy expected to dovetail with government’s Vision 2030 economic blueprint.

In a statement read on his behalf by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement Dr John Basera, Deputy Minister Haritatos said that, faced with an increasing population, climate uncertainty and meagre funding, Zimbabwe needed a strategy that dealt efficiently with such factors.

“The agriculture transformation strategy seeks to develop a robust agriculture sector capable



From left: ZFU Executive Director, Paul Zakariya; AMA board Chairperson, Alan Majuru; ZAS CEO, Dr AJ Masuka; Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary, Dr John Basera; ZAS Head Sales and Marketing, Ms Cynthia Tapera; Syngenta Marketing Manager, Nixon Mangisi; Intaba Trading Operations and Sales Manager, Talk Chinoda; Syngenta Country Head, Qa Khumalo; and Intaba Trading Sales Support, Norman Chihumo.

of steering Zimbabwe towards Vision 2030 by providing strategic responses to an increasing population; low agricultural production and productivity; poor and piece meal financing and climate change, among others,” he said.

Deputy Minister Haritatos praised the cooperation between various actors in the agricultural sector during the formulation of the Agricultural Transformation Strategy, as it was a sign that divisions of the past had been left behind.

“I have been reliably informed that your teams have undertaken analysis on 25 crops, livestock and horticulture value chains as a basis for assessing the potential of each value chain to contribute to bold, radical and sustainable transformation of the agricultural sector. Your interaction with key stakeholders in those value chains, and your direct involvement of Ministry officials, presents an important and useful departure from the “them” and “us” attitude of the past and augers well for stakeholder buy in for successful implementation of the various strategies,” he said.

Deputy Minister Haritatos said by strengthening the various links in the agricultural value chain, the sector could grow in a way that benefitted all players.

“The value chain approach will help in transforming the sector by increasing effectiveness and efficiency of the available resources; increase coordination amongst value chains actors that will allow efficient flow of information and products while finance and

margins are shared equitably at each stage of the value chain,” Deputy Minister Haritatos.

Speaking at the same event, Zimbabwe Farmers Union Executive Director Paul Zakariya said that he was pleased that farmers’ views had been considered during the drafting of the policy.

“There is need for people to air their views and input into decisions. Farmers have aspirations that nobody has asked about so it is important to consult the people affected by the decisions. The voice of the farmers is now being heard. We are very excited to be a part of this strategy without being dragged along but rather coming on our own voluntarily because the door has been opened,” he said.



Dr AJ Masuka shares some thoughts with Mr Nixon Mangisi and Mr Paul Zakariya

ZAS 2020 Theme

Putting the Rural Poor at the Centre and in the Forefront



ZIMBABWE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



THE Zimbabwe Agricultural Society's theme for 2020, "Synergies for Growth: Cooperate. Collaborate. Complement," illustrates the Society's desire to see the country's stated long-term economic goal, Vision 2030, transform the lives of the estimated 1.6 - 1.8 million households in mostly undeveloped rural areas.

Increased cooperation between the main pillars of the country's economy could bring relief to impoverished rural areas where basic needs like water and sanitation are still a pipe dream.

Explaining this year's theme, ZAS Chief Executive Officer Dr AJ Masuka highlighted that increased agricultural production was the only way of eradicating poverty in rural areas where 10-11million Zimbabweans reside. Agriculture, alongside mining and tourism, are expected to spearhead the recovery and growth of the country's economy for the attainment of Vision 2030.

"Over 70% of the population depends on

agriculture for survival and sustenance. A deliberate and national focus should, therefore, be given to this important sector. The majority of the 70%, 54% of them being women, live in poorly developed rural areas, where only 64% have access to clean water and less than 30% have access to suitable sanitation facilities.

"Their (rural people) only credible avenue out of poverty is increased agricultural productivity, yet there is a paucity of practically funded ideas about "what and how" to do this! The startling statistic that a mere 5% of rural households have surplus production to sell annually, must allow evidence - based policy making to take centre stage. With a focused, practical, inclusive and sustainable rural agricultural development paradigm shift, we see synergies for growth," Dr Masuka.

ZAS's theme for 2020 emphasises the need for cooperation and collaboration. It is with this in mind that Dr Masuka noted that industry and

manufacturing, two industries that are reliant on each other, should not seek to outdo one another but rather join forces in pursuit of common goals and interests.

“An estimated 60% of raw materials used in the manufacturing sector originate from agriculture, so a robust manufacturing sector, that is competitive in the local, regional and international markets, must, of necessity, be based on a vibrant, cost-efficient, profitable and sustainable agricultural sector. Yet the actors in this two sectors – agriculture and industry – both private and public, believe and act like they are in competition with little cooperation, collaboration and complementarity to yield the desired synergies for growth,” Dr Masuka.

With the number of small scale to medium miners swelling around the country, Dr Masuka said this was a chance to create a dual farming-mining based economy in rural areas, a development that could lead to the rapid development of areas that were so far lagging behind the country’s urban areas.

‘A vibrant agricultural sector leads to a vibrant and competitive manufacturing base, and breeds opportunities for growth in infrastructure, tourism, and services . . .’

“The exodus of young Zimbabweans from farming communities, often in rural areas, lured by mining for gold, chrome and other metals is revealing. With coordination and formalisation, a dual agricultural and mining economy can be a source of their success and could spur accelerated rural development as proceeds are spend in local communities. These are synergies for growth for which cooperation, collaboration and complementarities are required among actors in agriculture, in mining, in tourism – the resource sectors, primarily,” he said.

A rebound of the agricultural sector, ravaged over the past few years by drought, could lead to growth in other industries.

“A vibrant agricultural sector leads to a vibrant

and competitive manufacturing base, and breeds opportunities for growth in infrastructure, tourism, and services, while complementing resource exploitation activities, as the majority of miners, by head count, are actually agriculturalists first.

“We, therefore, must seek out “Synergies for Growth” and “Cooperate, Collaborate and Complement” with each other, at individual and collective levels, and in household, community and national spaces, to accelerate national socio-economic transformation,” he said.

With ZAS emphasising the need for a united effort across the board to confront the threat posed to agricultural production by climate change, Dr Masuka noted that looking back was not an option, as the country was in desperate need of a new policy direction to tackle these new adverse conditions.

“We should shy away from statistical pitfalls of projecting lost potential but instead focus on a more realistic assessment of opportunities. Perhaps the biggest impact on agricultural production will be a combination of policy directing behaviour and rewarding outputs that “climate proof” agriculture. A new water philosophy should guide our thinking, our planning and, consequently, our actions,” he said.



ZIMBABWE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Zimbabwe Agricultural Society membership update

The Zimbabwe Agricultural Society is inviting all its members to send updated contact information to the **Head-Programmes and Public Affairs** on **ppa@zas.co.zw** ahead of its 118th Annual General Meeting in January 2020.

The required information includes full names, email address and contact phone number, and any other relevant information.

For any clarification, kindly contact the Head- Programmes and Public Affairs on **0242 780963-5** or **ppa@zas.co.zw**

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Defying the Odds

ABOVE: Mrs Matingo stands in one of the maize fields. INSET: His Excellency President ED Mnangagwa presents a prize to the Agriproduce overall winner, the late Mr Michael Matingo and his wife. BELOW: ZAS Agriproduce Section Chairperson, Mr Ivan Craig poses for a picture with Mrs Matingo and Agritex officer Mrs Dawanyi

DESPITE the passing on of Mr Michael Matingo, the winner of the Agriproduce Section at the Inaugural Zimbabwe Agricultural Show, his family has continued the good work he started, with their crop showing promise despite a dry spell.

Manicaland farmer Mr Matingo was rewarded with farming assistance for three years, which included land preparation, harvesting and inputs provision, courtesy of Agricon (Southern Region). He was also awarded a maize sheller by Boltgas and a motorbike by Seedco. After his passing, his wife and children are now the beneficiaries.

Speaking after a visit to the family's home recently, ZAS Agriproduce Section Chairperson, Mr Ivan Craig, said that he was pleased by the quality of the maize crop that was being produced by the Matingo family.

"The maize is growing very well despite the dry spell that was experienced. The crop was actually performing very well from the time I visited. It was clean and well-weeded despite the other crops in the area being heavily infested by the Fall Army Worm. The maize crop is quite clean, but I advise them to prevent infestation by Fall Army Worm by keeping the sprays," he said.

Mr Craig said various stakeholders had come together to assist the family, and encouraged them to diversify into other crops. "Agritex is always very supportive. They're always on the ground checking what's happening. Windmill has also visited and has given advice on pest and weed management. During the last visit, Agriseeds donated cowpea and sorghum



seed so that there is diversification and spread of the season's risk," he said.

Mr Craig said the success of the Matingo family should encourage other farmers in the community to produce better crops, as their field is the site for the season-long farmers' field school attended by over 50 farmers in the ward periodically.

In coming up with the concept of a three year business plan and financial and technical support for the Agriproduce winner, the Agriproduce Section and the Society hope that this could spur motivation to improve production and productivity at communal level, while encouraging participation at Shows.



SECOND EDITION

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR SURVEY

2019 - 2020

| ULTIMATE SPONSOR (Option 1) | Investment |
|---|------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Unlimited event branding rights ➤ Media publicity in build up to the survey launch and after ➤ Sponsor publicity in survey magazine ➤ Sponsor Recognition at the survey launch ➤ Access to full event database ➤ Full incorporation into event planning committee ➤ Presentation slot to attending stakeholders | \$600,000 |
| SHARED PACKAGES (Option 2) | Investment |
| ➤ Platinum Sponsor | \$300,000 |
| ➤ Gold Sponsor | \$200,000 |
| ➤ Silver Sponsor | \$150,000 |
| BRONZE PACKAGES (Option 3) | Investment |
| ➤ Harvest Sponsor | \$100,000 |
| ➤ Insurance Sponsor | \$100,000 |
| ➤ Automotive Sponsor | \$100,000 |
| ➤ Livestock Sponsor | \$100,000 |
| ➤ Social Security Sponsor | \$100,000 |
| ➤ Communication | \$100,000 |

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#GetInvolved

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