



# DO NOT ENTER

ZAGP  
News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

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## EDITORIAL

We welcome you to the 16th issue (August 2020) of ZAGP News, giving you an update of the programme's activities. This month, the focus is on **Biosecurity and Biosafety**.

A number of the problem diseases in the country are transmissible to humans through direct contact with sick or dead animals or consumption of animal source foods coming from infected animals.

Putting in place proper biosecurity and biosafety systems is therefore central to all the interventions being undertaken under ZAGP.

ZAGP is working with the Department of Veterinary Services under the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement and the Department of Environmental Health within the Ministry of Health and Child Care to transform Zimbabwe's animal health and food safety systems.

Dr Josphat Nyika, the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Chief Director noted that the collaboration with ZAGP is designed to work on improving the environment and service delivery for the

livestock value chains so that they are able to increase the productivity of quality animal products for domestic and international markets.

"Through the SAFE project, DVS is working across the ZAGP projects to tackle the various challenges on biosecurity and biosafety in Zimbabwe. These are key for ensuring public health, animal health and welfare, and animal productivity. Importantly this will also improve market access. Critical to all this is also ensuring protection", he said.

In this issue, we provide highlights of the biosafety and biosecurity initiatives being implemented by [BEST](#), [IPVC](#), [SAFE](#), [TranZDVC](#), and [VALUE](#) to reduce the spread of infections, livestock mortalities and to ensure the consumption of safe products by consumers.

We welcome your feedback on this and other issues of ZAGP News. Stay Safe!

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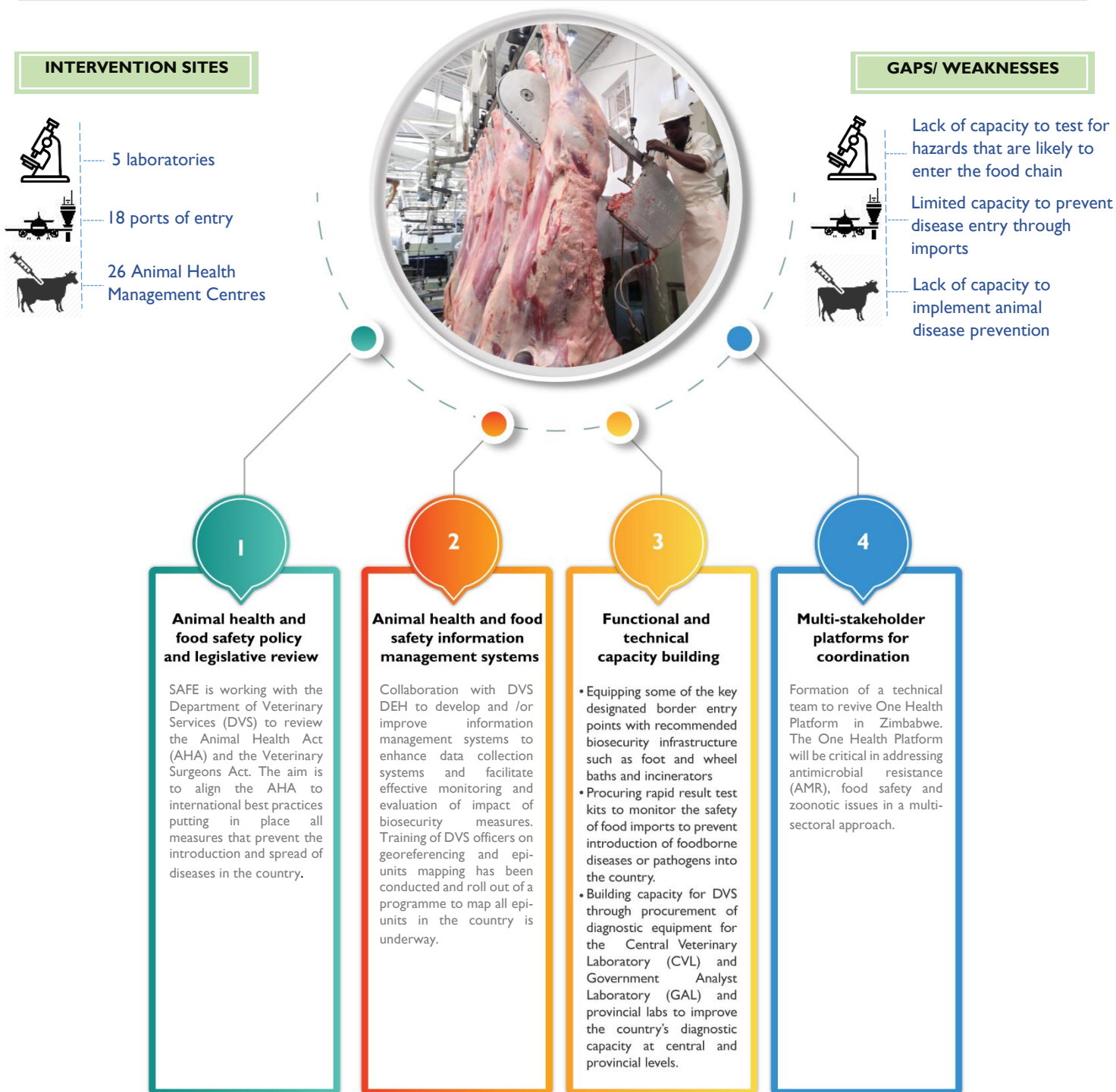


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## BIOSECURITY AND BIOSAFETY

### SAFE Improving Animal Health and Food Safety

SAFE is working with the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) and the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) in building Zimbabwe's institutional capacity for effective and proper management of animal disease and food safety risks. SAFE Project interventions are designed to have biosecurity as the central link to production of products of good quality that are safe and enhance competitiveness in the trade arena.

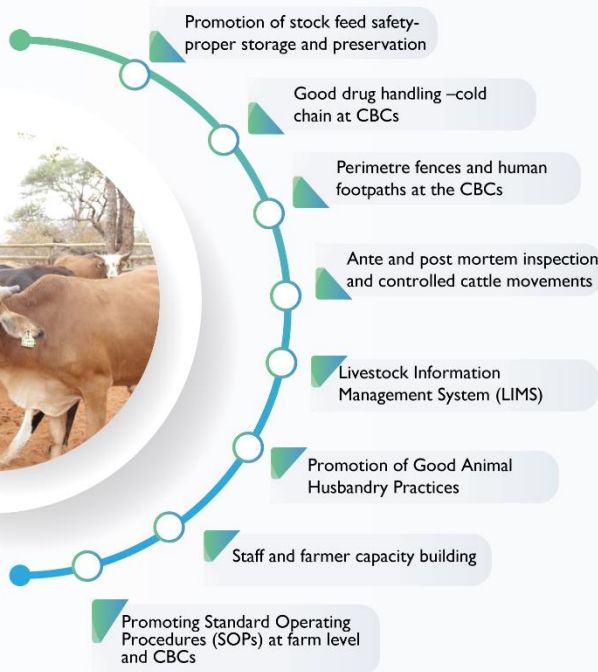


## Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST) Biosecurity Measures



Construction of the Mhanguleni Cattle Business Centre underway in Chiredzi district, Masvingo province.

### BEST Biosecurity Solutions



BEST is currently constructing Cattle Business Centres (CBCs). Through the guidance of the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), the project is putting appropriate biosecurity measures in place, such as foot/wheel baths; procurement of spray races for cattle dipping, erection of double fenced perimeter fence, and proper observation and inspection of cattle before entering CBCs among others.

Through the pluralistic extension approach, the project has sensitized lead farmers and CBC management committees about proper biosecurity measures they can adopt. This has mainly been done in Masvingo province where CBC construction is now at an advanced stage. The information is periodically disseminated to farmers via SMS and WhatsApp platforms.

The project is also working to ensure continuous adherence to biosecurity and biosafety standards such as quarantine of imported heifers, thorough inspection of cattle before entering CBCs, isolation and treatment of infected animals.

BEST is also promoting Good Animal Husbandry Practices such as dipping and de worming, engagement with SAFE project and DVS to train staff and stakeholders on biosecurity issues and promote artificial insemination which reduces transmission of venereal diseases.

In collaboration with SAFE, the project, is currently working on the establishment of a computer based Livestock Information and Management System (LIMS) which will promote sharing of real time data on cattle movements as well as disease reporting, tracking and surveillance. This will enable timely decisions and responses from the value chain actors to protect the national herd.



[BEST on Twitter](#)

#### VALUE Spearheading Adoption and Implementation of Biosecurity Measures and Protocols in the Goat and Pork Value Chains

Biosecurity is an integral part of efforts by the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment project to commercialise small and medium goat and pork enterprises.

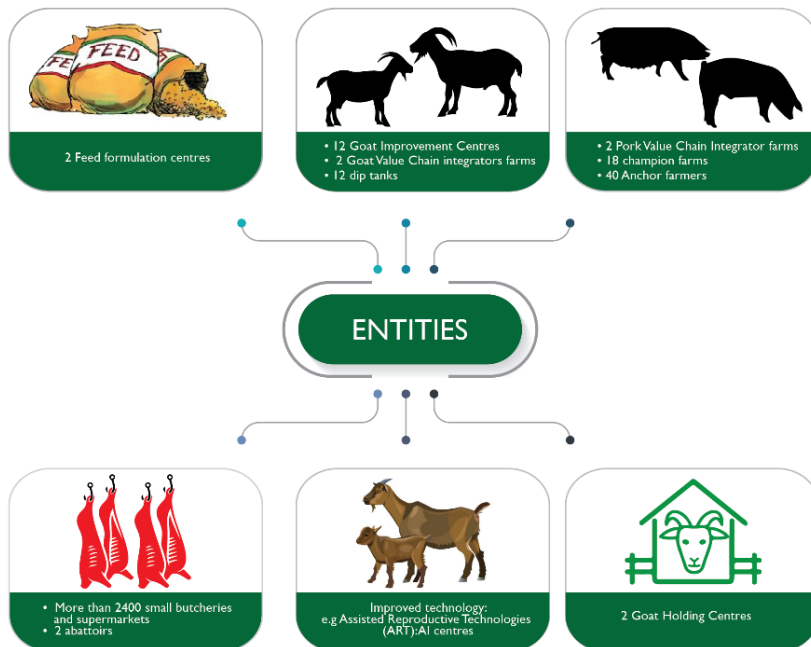
In its engagements with farmers and frontline extension staff, the project is spearheading the implementation of measures that reduce the risk of introduction and spread of disease agents by imbuing a set of attitudes and behaviours to reduce risk in all activities undertaken at the farms.

To date, the project has conducted trainings on biosecurity with focus on establishment and adherence to measures that protect farms from both entry of new pathogens and internal transfer among different areas of the farm. Training manuals on biosecurity protocols are also being developed.

In addition, the project has developed a database with relevant demographics of farmers registered in order to deliver messages using bulk SMS on key value chain information and updates as well as alerts and early warnings concerning animal diseases.

“Biosecurity is an important aspect of our project. On our part we made sure that protocols such as quarantine and vaccinations were duly followed when we imported top-quality goat and pig breeding stock. As a project we continuously encourage our farmers to prioritise the issue of biosecurity,” Newton Chari, VALUE Team Leader.

Adhering to biosecurity measures such as quarantine, segregation, cleaning and disinfection, vaccinations among others is key in reducing disease introduction, disease spread, and reduction of costs associated with outbreaks responses.



A footbath is a very simple form of biosecurity that helps prevent the potential spread of disease. Picture taken at the Pig Industry Board

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

Video: [Bezel Chikondowa, Buhera district goat farmer](#)

Video: [Nemia Ushoma Makonde district anchor farmer](#)



#### Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC) Begins Biosecurity Trainings for Farmers.

“Biosecurity has two major benefits for farmers. Firstly, it reduces production costs in the sense that if installed well, the farmer will incur less costs on drugs and chemicals as contamination will be low. Secondly, biosecurity reduces the chances of severe losses at farm level if hit by a disease outbreak” said Engelbert Dzimbahete from IPVC.

Biosecurity is the use of different measures and approaches to reduce the spread of diseases from one location to another. In poultry, the spread of disease from one bird to another can be rapid due to close confinement. Biosecurity further reduces the chances of flock mortality due to other agents that move diseases from other locations, such as; humans including employees and visitors, a new batch of chickens, improperly cleaned poultry houses and vectors including rats, pets or contaminated feed and water. Biosecurity trainings are ongoing in all clusters, including poultry business associations.

“As IPVC, we will be rolling out trainings on biosecurity across the projects five clusters in Bulawayo, Gweru, Harare, Masvingo and Mutare. The trainings will target farmers, and private and public sector service providers”, Dzimbahete added.

IPVC will also develop and disseminate guidelines on good agricultural practices.



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#### Biosecurity Measures for Poultry

**Fencing:** Controls traffic to the fowl run. It keeps humans and animals out of the fowl run area. It is important to never mix different breeds in one fowl run

Give the chicken house a resting period of 2 weeks after every batch. Disinfect the house to make sure there is no disease residue from the previous batch. Farmers are encouraged to remove all equipment, clean, and sanitize the house immediately after every batch.

Do not mix different batch sizes. The vulnerability of small chicks to diseases is high

**Foot bath:** This is installed at the main entrances of the farm and fowl run

**Car dips/baths:** The are bigger baths meant for cars to dip their wheels as they enter the farm, since diseases can also attach on vehicles

**Spray-race:** This is usually for larger farms where it is installed at the main entrance. It sprays and disinfects the whole car.



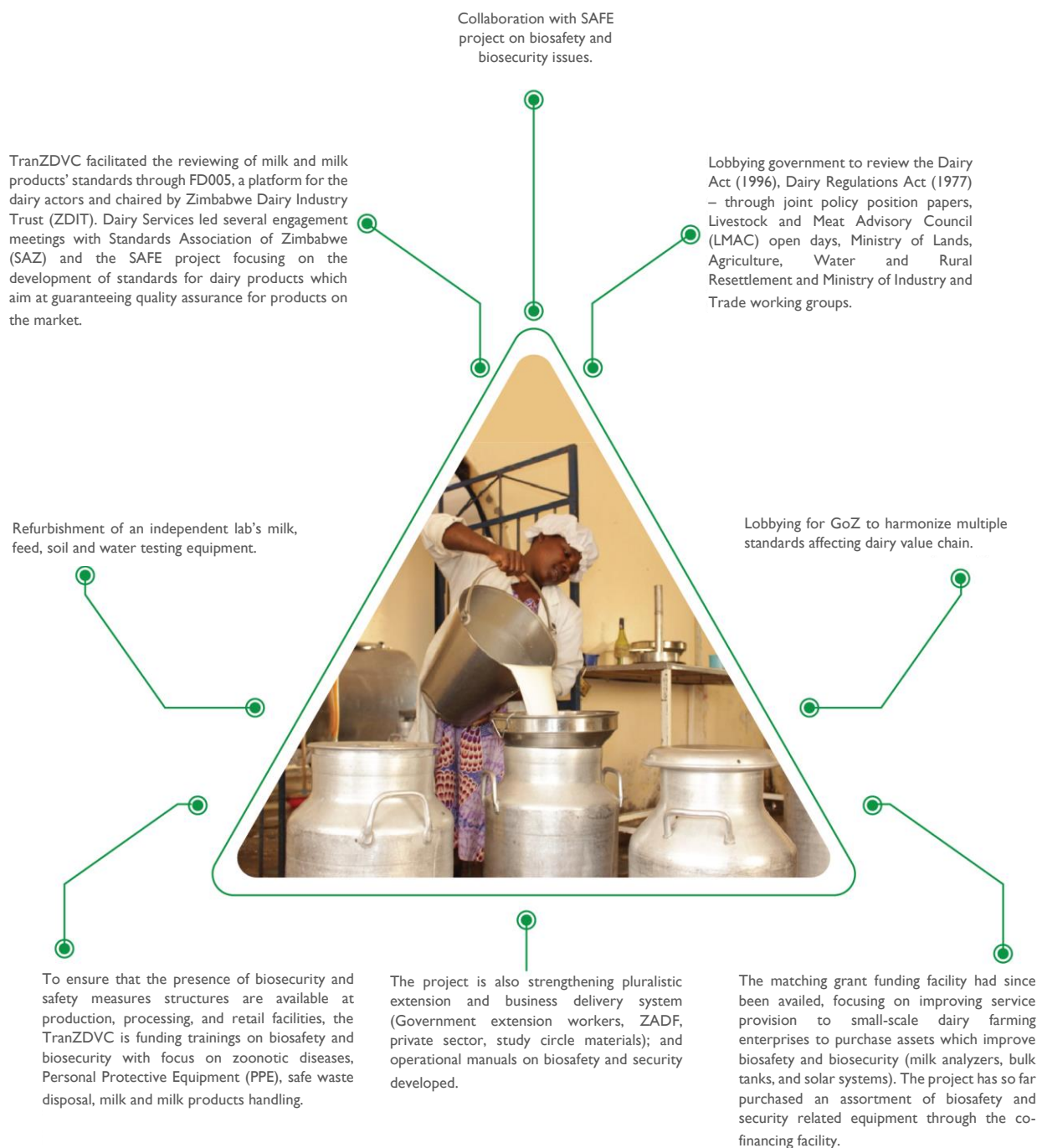
[IPVC on Facebook](#)



[IPVC on Twitter](#)

#### Biosecurity Measures to Boost Milk Production

The Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future (TranZDVC) project is tackling biosecurity gaps and weaknesses at the farm, feed entrepreneur, retail and processor levels. Lack of adherence to effective biosecurity measures can be devastating for the dairy value chain in terms of animal welfare, profitability and human health. The graphic below, outlines TranZDVC's biosecurity interventions.



## PROJECT NEWS

### New European Union Project to Improve Agricultural Productivity in Zimbabwe

A new European Union-funded 'Livestock Production Systems in Zimbabwe' (LIPS-Zim) project (previously DeSIRA) is working to increase agricultural productivity in the country's agro-ecological Zones IV and V. It is promoting the adoption of climate-relevant innovations in livestock production systems and improving surveillance and control of livestock diseases.

Launched on 1 January 2020, the LIPS-Zim project is implemented by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) – lead agency, the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the University of Zimbabwe's Faculty of Veterinary Science and the government of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement. It will be working in the semi-arid agro-ecological regions IV and V of Zimbabwe namely, Matabeleland South (Beitbridge and Gwanda districts), Matabeleland North (Binga, Hwange and Nkayi districts), Midlands (Gokwe North district), Masvingo (Chiredzi and Zaka districts), Manicaland (Buhera district) and Mashonaland East (Mutoko district).

Read more about the LIPS-Zim project: <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/desira/wiki/lips-zimbabwe>

### ZAGP in the Media

- [Farmers target 180 million litres of milk](#)
- [Focus Shifts to Export Marketing for Agritex Officers](#)
- [Scheme Gives Small Dairy Farmers Heifers](#)
- [Zimbabwe will only meet local milk demand in 2030](#)
- [Four organisations team up to boost Zimbabwe's milk production](#)