



ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

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EDITORIAL

A warm welcome to the 17th issue (September 2020) of ZAGP News, giving you an update of the programme's activities. In this month's issue, the focus is on capacity building of government extension officers within the departments of Agritex and the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) under the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement.

ZAGP is collaborating with the ministry and is riding on government frontline public extension services, particularly the DVS and Agritex. Through this collaboration, ZAGP is implementing training programmes for frontline staff with the aim of improving research, agricultural extension and advisory services.

Currently in Zimbabwe, the delivery of effective extension and advisory services is hampered by, among other issues, limited financial resources, poor logistical support and lagging technical knowledge.

The six projects under ZAGP are working towards strengthening both the institutional structures and the capacity of personnel working within those institutions to carry out their functions.

Training and technical assistance are a critical part of the program for enhanced human capacity in multiple areas and is key to transformational development. Collaboration with relevant government departments and private sector partners in offering technical assistance and other support services to farmers.

In this issue, we highlight how projects are addressing technical knowledge gaps to ensure that government extension staff play a pivotal role in imparting practical knowledge and skills to the farmers and are one of the key drivers of agricultural growth.

So far, the training programmes under ZAGP have covered areas such as fodder production, feed formulation, biosecurity, digital knowledge management, Standards Operation Procedures (SOPs) formulation and artificial insemination (AI).

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

(Cover photo: Fodder production training in progress under BEST)

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CAPACITY BUILDING TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

SAFE - Building Technical Capacity for the Adoption of International Best Practices

One of the key pillars under [SAFE](#) is institutional capacity strengthening of public and private sector for implementation of animal health and food safety systems. Under this pillar the SAFE Project aims to build technical capacity for the adoption of international best practices that will improve productivity of the different livestock value chains and deliver products that are wholesome, safe and can compete on the local and international market. To this effect the SAFE project started by focusing on the public sector regulatory authorities and facilitated a number of trainings for government officers for adoption and implementation of international standards.

Standards Operation Procedures (SOP) Formulation



Problem identified

Absence of SOPs for key animal health and food safety interventions

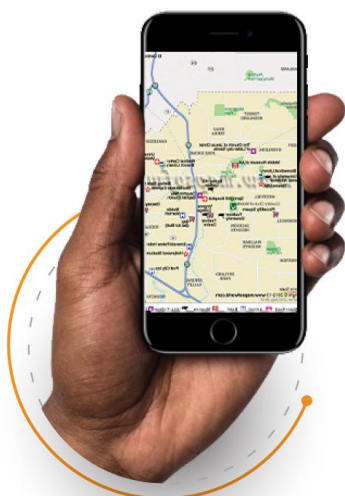
Objectives of SOP training

- Equipping key technical resource persons with skills to develop SOPs
- Standardising service delivery by implementing officers and minimise errors in service delivery.

Training outcomes

- 35 officers from the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) and Department of Environmental Health (DEH) trained on SOP writing.
- 30 SOPs and 5 checklists developed for identified key procedures to be used to deliver services.
- SOPs under review paving way for revision and final adoption.

Geo-referencing and Epi Units Mapping



Problem identified

Lack of comprehensive geo-referenced database to support animal health and food safety surveillance

Objectives of training

Equipping officers from DVS head office and provinces with skills to use Q-GIS and ODK data collection tools to collect different types of data in surveys.

Training outcomes

- 20 officers trained on collection of geo-referenced data for locations important for disease surveillance and control which includes dip tanks, farms, sale pens etc.
- Officers trained 2 to 3 officers at subdistrict level to conduct a nation-wide exercise to collect coordinates of all animal health epidemiological units in the country.
- This dataset of epidemiological units is required for the upgrading of the current DVS information management system

Training of Government Analyst Laboratory Staff for ISO 17025:2017 Accreditation



Problem identified

DVS and DEH laboratories have limited systems in place to produce credible results that are internationally accepted for trade purposes as evident by lack of ISO 17025 accreditation.

Training outcomes

- 24 Government Analyst Laboratory (GAL) officers trained and have gained knowledge and skills to develop ISO documents in fulfillment of requirements of ISO 17025:2017 standard. The trained officers are currently working on compiling the Policy Manual and Procedures Manual for the Government Analyst Laboratory.
- 21 GAL officers (internal auditors) trained on ISO 17025:2017 Internal Auditing and 16 of these officers successfully passed the examination to become competent internal auditors.
- The laboratory will be able to get and maintain ISO 17025 accreditation and set up a system that will produce credible results accepted internationally.



SAFE Project aims to build technical capacity for the adoption of international best practices that will improve productivity of the different livestock value chains.

The ISO trainings on Document Development and Implementation, Internal Auditing and Root Cause Analysis and Problem Solving have transformed our knowledge and competencies on implementation of ISO 17025:2017. The whole team is motivated that this time around the GAL can get the much-needed ISO accreditation. Getting the laboratory ISO accredited comes with a lot of advantages such as improved efficiency, and international recognition of test results.

Huggine Shoko - Quality Manager at Government Analyst

IPVC Engages Government Stakeholders in Feed Formulation and Biosecurity Trainings

Biosecurity Trainings for Agritex Officers

1 CHALLENGES

- Poultry producers are not implementing biosecurity, resulting in high mortality rates through the rapid spread of diseases Newcastle disease
- Cost of production is very high, due to buying vaccinations and chemicals for preventable diseases whose spread can be combated by implementing bio security measures.

2 OBJECTIVES

- Sensitising farmers on bio security measures
- Providing detailed explanations for different bio security measures for poultry and how to implement them

3 OUTCOMES

- 6 Agritex officers trained in Marondera and Chihota districts.
- 45 poultry producers trained on biosecurity by the trained officers



Feed Formulation trainings for Agritex officers

1 CHALLENGE

Most small scale poultry producers are downsizing due to the continuous rise in prices of chicken feed

2 OBJECTIVE

Provide knowledge on how to cut costs on feed by demonstrating how to formulate own feed using available resources at the homestead.

3 OUTCOMES

- 10 Agritex officers trained in Chegutu and Zvimba district
- 10 poultry producers trained in feed formulation in Chegutu ward 14
- 10 poultry producers trained in feed formulation in Zvimba ward 25



“After the training, I have since trained farmers in the district There has been a major improvement in poultry hygiene, and farmers are now installing biosecurity structures on their farms. Farm security has improved, no theft of poultry has been recorded and farmers are now practising separating different breeds. Biosecurity trainings are going to turn around the fortunes of the poultry producers.”

Caroline Kambudzi - Agritex Extension Officer, Chihota district, Mashonaland East province



Feed formulation training for poultry producers under the Bulwayo Poultry Business Association (PBA).

ZAKIS in Capacity Building of Government Extension, Education and Research Staff

In order to facilitate the sustainable growth of a market driven modern agricultural sector, [ZAKIS](#) has in the past year hosted a series of learning events for Government staff across education and extension and research. The training workshops are designed to ensure that staff members are equipped with the right skills to provide priority services for improved crop and livestock production and that they adapt to the changing needs of farmers.

Fish Production and Export Marketing Capacity Building



CHALLENGES

- Farmers have a desire to venture into aquaculture but extension officers are not sufficiently trained on the subject.
- Production gaps locally and internationally. Extension officers require exposure on opportunities for local farmers in terms of export and domestic market gaps.



OBJECTIVE

To improve the knowledge of district extension officers in fish production to enable them to have demonstrations through the District Agricultural Centres of Excellence (DACEs) and to ensure they are informed of the export market and what gaps locally exist which are being exploited by importers.



OUTCOMES

- 30 district extension officers from Mhondoro-Ngezi, Chegutu, Insiza and Matobo districts trained in fish production and export marketing.
- Mhondoro Ngezi DACE fish ponds being constructed to train 2000 farmers in the district.

Digital Knowledge Management Capacity Building



CHALLENGES

- No structured systems of knowledge management within the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement.
- Lack of skills in developing and managing a knowledge management portal.



OBJECTIVE

To create a sustainable knowledge management working structure which encompassed research, education and extension.




OUTCOMES

- 13 representatives from research, extension and education have been trained in digital knowledge management
- The Zim Agrihub Virtual Agriculture Centre of Excellence (VACE) to benefit at least 4700 extension workers and other agricultural sectors.



Chibero College of Agriculture staff receive training on operating hay bailing equipment

“ ZimAgriHub is a vital platform for information and knowledge sharing that has come at the right time given the covid 19 pandemic. The Communications and Learning Unit (CLU) is currently collecting and uploading diverse content to meet the target users' knowledge needs. We expect that the platform will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative work, taking into consideration the huge costs associated with running separate departmental websites. Also, the website will be a one-stop-shop for stakeholders and it will provide a sharing and discussing platform for the real-life issues that affect the farming community. ”



Dr. Dorah Mwenye
Research Officer at the Department of Research and Specialist Services (DR&SS)

VALUE: Capacity Building of Government Staff Key to Optimising Production and Enterprise Efficiencies in the Goat and Pork Value Chains

The **VALUE** project is working in close coordination with government line ministries namely the Ministry of Women Affairs, Cooperative and Small to Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED) and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement (MLAWRR), Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) and AGRITEX, to ensure capacity development initiatives reach intended target groups.

In order to achieve this, the project has prioritised the capacity building of government staff through trainings on various topics including on animal husbandry, production, business planning, financial literacy, record keeping and marketing.



“The capacity building trainings we have received have had a tremendous impact on our work as extension staff enabling us to offer relevant support to farmers in our areas. As a result of the cascading trainings, most farmers have improved their goat housing structures, adopted fodder production and had a decrease in kid mortalities.”

Sudden Muchadenyika - Agritex Extension Officer, Lupane district, Matabeleland North province

BEST Improves Capacity of Agriculture Extension Workers on Fodder Production, Processing and Utilisation

One of the key outcomes under **BEST** is to increase production and productivity of the beef value chain. To achieve this, the project relies on timely and factual extension messages. The project rides on government extension workers to cascade standard beef cattle management practices to farmers.

In addition, lead farmers have been co-opted in a peer to peer extension strategy using farmer field schools. Fodder production has been seen as a game changer in livestock production, thus there is the need to capacitate extension workers on fodder production, processing and utilisation.



Pluralistic Extension Model Adopted by BEST



CHALLENGES

- Perennial cattle poverty deaths as a result of feed shortages in the dry season.
- Lack of skills and knowledge in extension personnel on fodder production and utilisation.

OBJECTIVE

To improve the capacity of ward based extension staff on the production of different types of fodder, identification of fodder species, and assessing fodder suitability for different areas, based on soil requirements and rainfall.

OUTCOMES

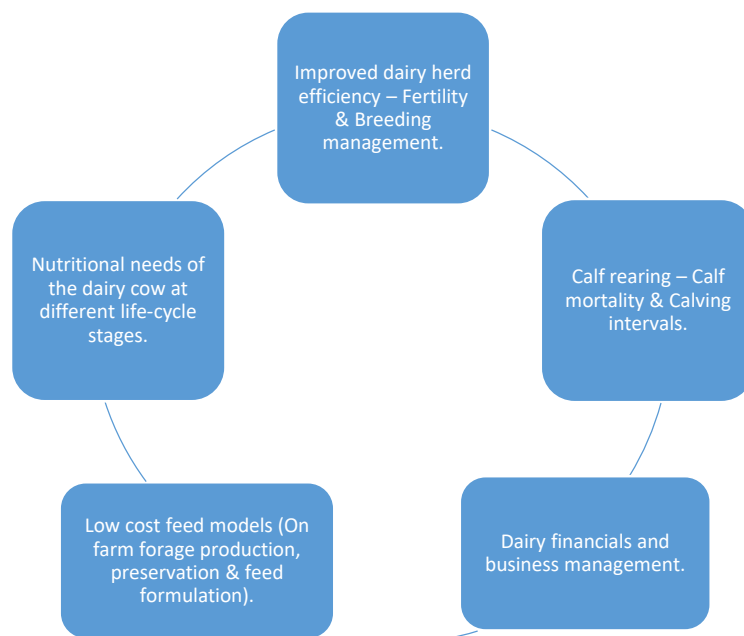
- 76 officers from DVS and Agritex trained
- 855 farmers trained on fodder production
- 341 farmers adopted fodder production during 2019/20 agricultural season



On-farm fodder production efforts promoted by BEST. Farmers are growing fodder crops such as velvet beans, sun hemp and lab among others and produce low cost feed formulations.

TranZDVC Capacity Building Initiatives to Boost Milk Production in Zimbabwe

A pluralistic extension approach using a public sector, private and community-based extension system is being used under [TranZDVC](#). The initial training was for dairy technical extension staff from each of Zimbabwe's six dairy farming zones. This covered:



TranZDVC is addressing the root causes of underperformance in the dairy value chain in Zimbabwe by strengthening production, processing and financing. Good production coupled with good reproduction are two essential elements for a profitable dairy farming enterprise. A number of new reproductive technologies have been implemented for enhancing reproductive performances of dairy animals. Artificial Insemination (AI) is one of the most important reproductive technologies implemented by the dairy industry.

At least 25 AI technicians from the Department of Veterinary Services, the Dairy Services Unit, Agirtex and the Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) received training on AI techniques to ensure effective service. Thirty more technicians are set to be equipped with similar knowledge and skills this September in preparation for the semen Matching grant facility and 2020/21 breeding season.



Extension staff getting an appreciation of the precision pasture-based system as part of their training.

PROJECT NEWS



Rhodes Reclaimer grass planted at the Lapache Cattle Business Centre in Mwenezi district, Masvingo province. The harvesting of the pastures is a timely intervention to reduce hunger related cattle deaths.



Poultry Direct, the Harare cluster Poultry Business Association (PBA) receiving their bulk feed purchase. Bulk feed purchase has started bearing fruit as it reduces poultry farmers' production costs by between US\$60 and US\$80 per every tonne of feed.



The Goat Holding Centre at Matopos Research Station is nearing completion. This formal goat aggregation facility will ensure that off-takers are able to access large volumes of goats at competitive prices.



First harvest at Chibero Agricultural Centre of Excellence (ChACE) aquaculture business unit. This is allowing practical lessons and generation of income for ChACE.

ONLINE RESOURCES

ZAGP in the Media

- [Ministry formulates policy to develop agricultural education](#)
- [Matopos goat holding centre nears completion](#)
- [Promoting climate-smart agriculture](#)
- [National herd move towards six million](#)

Videos

- [Growing my Goat Enterprise](#)
- [Mralasi Farm - Zvimba Champion Farmer \(Pork value chain\)](#)

This year, IPVC joins the world in honouring the multitude of benefits eggs provide by celebrating World Egg Day on Friday 9 October 2020. As we approach World Egg Day. Join IPVC in celebrating the benefits of eating eggs!

EGGS
much more than
the perfect protein!

Eggs have been recognised as a protein powerhouse for many years as they contain the highest quality protein naturally available. However, the benefits of eating eggs are far more wide-ranging than protein alone, with eggs offering a healthy and sustainable source of essential nutrients needed for all stages of life. The egg plays a valuable role in supporting the growing global population.

Let us honour the multitude of benefits eggs provide by celebrating World Egg Day.

world egg day

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