



ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

EDITORIAL

A Happy New Year to our readership and a warm welcome to the 21st issue of ZAGP News, the newsletter for the European Union funded Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP). The newsletter brings you updates of project activities across Zimbabwe.

In this issue, we focus on the key highlights for the year 2020, covering the achievements by the six projects under ZAGP to date. Since the inception of the programme in 2018, the thrust has been to create a modern and prosperous agriculture and livestock sector ultimately leading to increased productivity, production, and incomes.

We track where we are in achieving the ZAGP outcomes on increasing production and productivity of the livestock sector, better access to markets, increased public and private investment in targeted livestock value chains; improved agricultural education systems and extension services and strengthening of institutions to develop and implement institutional and regulatory frameworks.

Without a doubt, 2020 was a challenging year due to the continued drought like conditions during the 2019/20 agricultural season.

The prolonged dry spell decimated pastures and water sources across the country, leading to the death of over 10,000 cattle.

The year also saw the onset of the Covid -19 global pandemic, leading to economic and social disruption. This has brought challenges to all sectors of the economy including agricultural production systems. At the time of writing, Zimbabwe is under a 30-day national lockdown after experiencing a surge in the number of Covid 19 infections and deaths (31,320 infections and 1,005 deaths).

These challenges did not seriously hamper the programme activities, instead, like many other organisations, we adjusted the ways of working to meet set targets whilst adhering to set guidelines. As we start the new year, ZAGP is geared to continue working in our quest to transform Zimbabwe's livestock sector.

Happy reading and please, stay safe!

Cover Photo: An early morning poultry live market under the Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC) project in Ruwa, Mashonaland East Province.

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Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE)

February - October 2020

Goat Producer Business Associations

Formed by producer groups in 12 districts. The purpose of the association is to look into issues of standardisation, formalisation, productivity, efficiency, profitability, enterprise development, fund raising and encourage collective action for better economies of scale.



March 2020

Training of Pig and Goat Producers

Completion of the first round of capacity building and cascading training of pig and goat producers in business planning, pig production systems, herd health and nutrition, financial literacy, collaboration through collective production and marketing.



April 2020

Breeds Importation

Completed the importation of 245 top quality pig breeds from South Africa. These consisted of Duroc, Landrace and Large white grandparent and parent stock. The breeding stock is housed by the Integrators, Braford Farming and Shamiso Farm for breeding.



April 2020

Smart Subsidies

First-Window Financial Support Availed to a total of Forty-Three (43) Pork and Goat-oriented, farmer-led/managed enterprises in the form of smart subsidies/sub-awards with a matching contribution component. Funding supported animal housing, breed improvement, water reticulations, green technologies amongst others.



August/December 2020

Pig Breeding

Pig breeding activities were accelerated at Shamiso Farms, Braford Farming and Pig Industry Board following delivery in May 2020. Key activities undertaken include pig sties renovation and construction of new houses, heat detection, servicing, farrowing, feeding, piglet management, boar semen tapping training in preparation for Artificial Insemination and semen delivery to farmers.



Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE)

September 2020

Pork Producer Business Syndicates

Eight District Pig Producer Associations (DPPAs) were established in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West provinces in collaboration with key stakeholders namely the Pig Industry Board (PIB), Agritex, Department of Veterinary Services, Ministries of Women's Affairs and SMEs, Youth, Rural District Council (RDC) as well as local government representatives.



October 2020

Meat Market Studies

Completed in 42 Districts jointly with other ZAGP Grantees which mapped independent licensed butcheries and abattoirs that will potentially form the bulk of the output market for goat and pig producers in the goat and pork value chains



November 2020

Lupane Goat Improvement Centre

Lupane Goat Improvement Centre (GIC) commissioned. The GIC started offering services such as dipping, fodder and fodder seed sales and access to veterinary drugs. 1,000 households are expected to benefit from the GIC.



December 2020

Goat Breeding Stock Imported

86 goat breeding stock imported from Namibia consisting Boer, Kalahari Red, Saneen and Toggenburg.



December 2020

Market Facilitators

35 Market Facilitators (MFs) selected from cluster-level leadership structures to Facilitate market research and share marketing information with pig producers on a regular basis. These will also coordinate bulk inputs purchase and collective output market interactions (supply chain coordination) initiatives.



Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST)

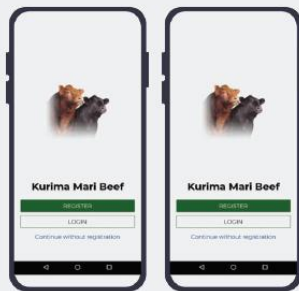


MAY

Establishment of 106 (54 hectares) fodder demonstration plots. A total of 30 metric tonnes of highly nutritive stock feed was harvested and utilized by farmers to feed their cattle, while 3 tonnes of seed was harvested as a seed bank for the 2020-21 agricultural season. More than 1,000 farmers benefitted across 10 BEST operating districts (Gokwe, Shurugwi, Kwekwe, Mt Darwin, Makoni, Mwenezi, Chiredzi, Buhera, Lupane and Umguza).

Completed construction of two main Cattle Business Centres (CBCs) in Mwenezi and Chiredzi, while construction of the remaining 8 main CBCs is still in progress

NOVEMBER



NOVEMBER

Pilot version of Kurima Mari Beef mobile application (a farmers E-extension hub) launched. A total of 298 farmers have so far registered on the platform including non-project beneficiaries. The project is rolling out the application targeting at least 20,000 users across the 10 districts where BEST is operating.

17.5 hectares of irrigated pastures (Rhodes Reclaimer grass) were grown, harvested and sold at Lapache. 4,422 hay bales were harvested with an average mass of 10 kg. A total of 3,760 hay bales were sold at US\$1/hay bale to project beneficiaries and US\$ 2/hay bale to non-project beneficiaries grossing US\$ 4,798 to cover production costs.

DECEMBER



DECEMBER

A total of 223 cattle belonging to 72 farmers went through pen fattening cycles at CBCs. Total sale value of cattle was US\$ 117,002, cost of feed was US\$ 35,270, so net income realized was US\$81,732. The average sale value per head was US\$525, and farmers received an average of US\$366 per head after feed cost deductions, compared with average pre-induction value of US\$150 to US\$200 per head.

Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST)



DECEMBER

More than 7,000 farmers received training and technical extension via pluralistic extension services. Training topics included Good Animal Husbandry Practices, policy and advocacy, financial literacy, Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D), production of higher nutrition animal feed, mitigation of animal health issues and business management.

A total of 107 extension staff received capacity building in the areas of fodder production, formulation and processing of highly nutritious stock feeds, post-harvest management of fodder and Good Animal Husbandry Practices. Twenty-five motorcycles were distributed to Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) and Agritex for use by extension staff.

DECEMBER



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One of the strategic pillars of the BEST project is breed improvement. Through private sector partnerships, small holder beef producers now have access to bulling services for a fee at the Cattle Business Centres (CBCs). Bulling services are now on offer at the Lapache CBC in Mwenezi district.

Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC)



February 2020

- First feed formulation training for Harare conducted with 16 participants who included extension officers and lead farmers.
- Financial Literacy and Business Development Services training conducted for Harare and Mutare to a total of 160 farmers



May 2020

At least 86% of selected lead farmers achieved good harvests for the Soya and Maize that was given to them for feed formulation.



July 2020

- The first Bulk buying agreement reached with National Foods resulting in 2000 farmers under the 5 clusters receiving subsidized feed. Harare, Mutare, Masvingo, Gweru and Bulawayo PBAs established and fully functional. At least 7,500 farmers are expected to be reached and benefit from these PBAs



Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC)

October 2020

- Construction of dual chicken housing completed at Chibero Agricultural College. Lucerne grass planted and irrigation works installed. Procurement of Dual-purpose chickens for pilot trials commenced.
- Structural design and final plan for market shed approved by Mutare City Council. Construction of market shed commenced.
- Chicks and equipment sales at the PBA Masvingo 15,223 chicks sold, Gweru 2500 chicks and BYO 5594 chicks sold.
- Launched the Kurima Mari Poultry mobile application and 594 farmers registered.
- Rolled-out SMS extension platform. Reaching 2500 farmers weekly. The platform provides technical poultry farming tips and messages/alerts for farmers.
- Establishment of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association (ZPA) regional chapters for Masvingo, Gweru and Bulawayo. The aim of the chapters is to raise regional concerns for representation in discussions and advocacy platforms at national level, amplifying the voice of SMPs to influence policy and industry development.
- Word Egg Day commemoration and promotions across all PBAs and on IPVC social media platforms reaching over 1,670 and 2,260 people on Facebook and Twitter respectively



November 2020

- Registered Beneficiary Independent small to medium producers (SMPs): Target 7,500 current 5,442
- Total feed received for bulk purchases for all PBAs: 10,226 tons, sold 9,062 tonnes.
- 38,994 day –old chicks purchased and sold in all PBAs
- Conducted Kurima Mari Poultry App trainings to 100 lead farmers and Agritex officers from all clusters. The goal was to equip the lead farmers and extension workers on knowledge of the app so that they go and train other farmers.
- Approval from Kwekwe and Masvingo City Councils to build a live bird markets
- Solar incubators piloted on four farms in Masvingo and another three farms in Bulawayo. The incubators were installed, and farmers are already hatching using solar technology.



Have you downloaded the Kurima Mari Poultry mobile application yet? The application has different features meant to address challenges faced in the poultry business. Do not miss out! Download it now on Google Play Store!



Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future (TranZDVC)



April - July 2020

Procurement of 200 in-calf heifers from South Africa. These were handed over to Dairibord Zimbabwe Limited, ProDairy, Dendairy, Kefalos, and Nestle for distribution to farmers. The 200 heifers were matched on a 1:1 basis by these processors.

May 2020

Assessment and selection of the Window 1 Matching Grants Finance (MGF) beneficiaries. Assets were procured and distributed to the following beneficiaries.

- Portlet Farm – silage cutter, drilling and solarizing three boreholes under the same grant to facilitate Pasteur Irrigation Scheme in Chitomborwizi.
- Magure Farm (Hwedza) – Tractor, boom sprayer, disc plough, milking cans and drilling and solarizing one borehole.
- Barry (Tsonzo) – Centre pivot for Pasteur irrigation.
- Red Dane Farm – Two tractors.
- Wonderklip Farm – Silage cutter, solar panels, irrigation equipment and tanks, bailer, plough and planter.

March-December 2020

Identification and trainings of Gender and Youth Champions: A total of 258 (132 males and 126 females) were trained as gender champions.

A total of 178 (76 males and 102 females) were trained as youth champions.

As a result:

- Two youths were elected to Milk Collection Centre (MCC) committees in Rusitu and Marirangwe.
- The Nharira MCC is now being chaired by a female farmer and the committee of 8 comprises of 4 males and 4 females.
- Manicaland female farmers and youths benefitted from the MGF.

December 2020

- Joint policy conference held: In an effort to lobby and advocate against policies that hinder progress in the dairy sector, TranZDVC consortium partners, Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) and Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) held a policy conference in December 2020.
- The conference presented four position papers on: Land Rights, Cost of Compliance, Institutional Framework for small scale dairy and Reducing cost of feed in the dairy industry.

Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge Innovation Services (ZAKIS)

April 2020

Completed Needs Assessment/Mapping for Extension

Building on the 2017 Extension Issues Paper, a participatory extension needs assessment/mapping to identify the critical gaps and needs for a relevant and accessible extension was conducted. Results of the Needs Assessment/Mapping for Extension were further synthesized into a journal article published in the International Journal of Agricultural Science, Research and Technology in Extension and Education Systems (see link below):

[http://ijasrt.iau-](http://ijasrt.iau-shoushtar.ac.ir/article_678013.html?fbclid=IwAR3nu2uhqNQU3KDaiq2wIWwMQhSy3IMX6ZUtwNYGJ_cg)

[shoushtar.ac.ir/article_678013.html?fbclid=IwAR3nu2uhqNQU3KDaiq2wIWwMQhSy3IMX6ZUtwNYGJ_cg](http://ijasrt.iau-shoushtar.ac.ir/article_678013.html?fbclid=IwAR3nu2uhqNQU3KDaiq2wIWwMQhSy3IMX6ZUtwNYGJ_cg)



Chibero College of Agriculture ACE (ChACE)

- Five hectares of land dedicated to ZAKIS activities were fenced to facilitate the establishment of crop trials and demonstrations
- A new borehole was drilled in the animal section
- Poultry housing and cattle fattening pens were refurbished
- A solar power system was installed on the administration block. This also covers the two lecture theatres to enhance student learning.
- Key farming equipment such as tractors were refurbished to enable smooth flow of activities at business ventures and enhance student learning.
- Fish ponds were refurbished
- Hay baling equipment for student learning as well as income generation through selling hay bales was procured

August 2020

Matopos Research Institute ACE (MACE)

- A 5kva solar system was installed on the administration block
- A 330watt solar panels and a 1.5 horse-power submersible pump was installed for the borehole in the fields.
- A drip irrigation system was installed
- The laboratory was refurbished, and new equipment was installed
- The refurbishment of the cattle pen fattening structure was completed



Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge Innovation Services (ZAKIS)

Private Sector Investment and Support Secured

ZAKIS has managed to facilitate linkages between the ACEs and the following private sector players:

- **Fish Feeds** – the partnership facilitates the establishment of commercially viable aquaculture business units at the ACEs and DACEs. This will allow commercial fish production, training for students, and research, education, and extension staff. Fish Feeds supported ChACE with 3000 fish fingerlings and feed. In addition, Fish Feeds facilitated a fish farming training workshop for research, education, and extension staff.
- **PrimeSeedCo** - supported ChACE and MACE with vegetable seeds and provided the technical backup for the horticulture business ventures. The agreement entails the establishment of commercially viable horticulture demonstration plots. It has a research component that allows PrimeSeedCo to evaluate and promote new horticulture crop varieties. In addition, this provides learning opportunities for farmers, students, and research, education, and extension staff.
- **National Foods Limited** – an MoU that involves the establishment of a livestock feed testing and evaluation centre at ChACE covering poultry, piggery and cattle pen fattening at MACE was drafted.
- **Seed houses** - Klein Karoo (K2), SeedCo, Dupont Pioneer/Pannar, and AgriSeeds partnered with the ACEs and DACEs in establishing crop demonstration and trial sites. The companies provided seed for on-site and farmer hosted trials and demonstrations.



August 2020

Digital Repository for Research Established

ZIMAGRIHub
Virtual Agricultural Centre of Excellence

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November 2020

The ZimAgriHub website and In-service training prototype were developed, and presentations were made to Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement stakeholders. The domain, www.zimagrihub.org.zw, was created and registered, the prototype was tested, amendments were made and the portal now awaits launch.

Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety Systems (SAFE)



December 2020

Drafting of Food Recall Regulations

- Drafting of Food Recall Regulations**

A review of the legal system was conducted in relation to food recall and traceability in case of a food related threat along the food chain in the country. A legal review report was produced and following its findings and recommendations work is now ongoing on drafting of food recall regulations that food safety competent authorities will use to systematically withdraw from the market or the food chain any food suspected to be injurious to the public.

- Commissioning of the Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a Food Safety Board**

Consultations with stakeholders were initiated in December by a hired consultant who is conducting a feasibility study on the establishment of the food safety board.

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