



Commercial Farmers Union Of Zimbabwe Congress 2021



# Commercial Farmers' Union

78<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress – 2021





# Commercial Farmers' Union of Zimbabwe Annual Congress 2021

## 78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONGRESS

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VENUE: VIRTUAL & SABRE BUSINESS WORLD

**THEME:** Paving the Way for a Sustainable Revival in Agricultural Production

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## 1. Agenda

# **COMMERCIAL FARMERS' UNION OF ZIMBABWE 78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONGRESS**

## **VIRTUAL CONGRESS, 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

### **CLOSED SESSION**

09.30 – 09.35	Welcome and Opening Remarks
09.35 – 09.40	Appointment of Legal advisers and Confirmation of Trustees
09.40 - 09.55	CFU Financial Accounts year ending 31 March 2021 and Appointment of Auditors
09.55 – 10.05	Resolutions 2020 Resume and Membership & Licence Fee 2022 Confirmation
10.05 – 10.45	Compensation Update, Chairman Compensation Steering Committee Charles Taffs

### **TEA**

### **OPEN SESSION**

11.00 to 11.10	Welcome and Opening Prayer
11.10 – 11.25	2021 Report CFU President, Andrew Pascoe and Adoption of Report
11.25 – 11.40	Dr Anxious Masuka, the Honourable Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement
11.40 – 11.55	Question and Answer Session
11.55 – 12.10	Guest Speaker, President World Farmers' Organisation, Dr Theo de Jager Presentation of CFU Farming Oscar and Honorary Certificates Closure and Vote of Thanks



## 2. Rules of Debate

### Order of Debate

- The Proposer will identify him/herself clearly.
- The Proposer will speak.
- The Secunder 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
Secunder 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 Vice Presidents**

A J Laurie, Esq  
 R G Pascoe, Esq  
 C J Strong, Esq  
 C G Tracey, ICD, Esq  
 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 D S Theron, Esq  
 2011 – 2014 C J Taffs, Esq  
 2014 – 2018 P Steyl, Esq  
 2018- To date A Pascoe, Esq

#### **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	1992 R Ternouth
1962 A Rattray, OBE	1993 Dr P Grant
1963 E R Campbell, CBE	1994 R Winkfield
1964 R Stockil, KBE, OBE	1995 D Smith
1965 A C Black	1996 M Edwards
1966 Dr I McDonald	1997 H Smith
1967 Dr H Pereira	1998 V Hurley
1968 J R Southall	1999 N Swanepoel
1969 W Margolis	2000 P Lombard
1970 H R Mundy	2001 Dr L T V Cousins
1971 The Hon J C Graylin, ICDCMG	2002 R Tattersfield
1972 C G Tracey	2003 Dr J Jackson
1973 Dr R C Elliott	2004 D Hasluck
1974 M E Butler	2005 Dr J Grant
1975 N Spoel	2006 D S Taylor- Freeme
1976 R A Griffith, ICD, MBE	2007 A Masterson
1977 J R Humphreys	2008 D Drury
1978 D K Worthington	2009 R H Vaughan-Evans
1979 C J Strong	2010 Mike Campbell & Ambassador Xavier
1980 Max Rosenfels	2011 B Oldrieve
1981 D R Norman	2012 Dr C Foggen
1982 J W Field	2013 L R Bruce
1983 J M Sinclair Marchel	2014 C J Taffs
1984 J W Hayward	2015 Dr D Bruce
1985 H J Quinton	2016 Dr J MacRobert
1986 John & Jill Laurie	2017 Mike Clark
1987 Dr R W Mupawose	2018 Pete Steyl
1988 J Brown	2019 Nick Brooke
1989 R K Harvey	2020 Ben Purcell Gilpin
1990 P Millar	2021 TBA
1991 Dr S Hargreaves	



## 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 2021/22 year commencing 1 October, 2021 to become due and payable.

Council further resolves and recommends to Congress the adoption of a payment commencing 01 October 2021 and ending 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 applicable to all members as illustrated in the following schedule:

<b>CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER</b>	<b>FEE PAYABLE</b>
LARGE OPERATING LICENSE	US\$2000 per annum or US\$200 per month
MEDIUM OPERATING LICENSE	US\$1000 per annum or US\$100 per month
STANDARD OPERATING LICENSE	US\$500 per annum or US\$50 per month
ARAC SINGLE TITLE LICENSE	US\$100
ARAC MULTIPLE TITLE LICENSE	US\$200
CORPORATE (BUSINESS) MEMBERS	US\$2000 per annum or US\$200 per month
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	US\$500 per annum

***NB: RTGS rates will be available from the office on enquiry***

### NOTES

- Large operating license turnover greater than US\$ 1million
- Medium operating license turnover between US\$500 000 and US\$1million
- Standard operating license turnover up to US\$500 000
- Multiple site operators to be treated according to size of each operation





## 6. CONGRESS REPORTS

### REGIONAL REPORTS – 2021

#### **MASHONALAND WEST (NORTH) REPORT**

##### **Overview**

The 2020/21 season was characterised by reasonably good rains to produce crops but not so good for the filling of dams. The rain came regularly in light amounts with only a few big rains of 50mm or more. This meant that most farmers reported good yields of crops but also there were reports of large irrigation dams not filling completely. Mazwikadei and the large dams on the Angwa were such.

Last year I spoke of the commitment from the Government to pay compensation which had been welcomed by most farmers in the district. We hope that the delay in meeting commitments on payment that was attributed to Covid, will be sorted out to enable the rescheduled dates to be met. We now look to Government providing interested farmers with offer letters and 99-year leases so that farmers can produce food with security of tenure and the confidence to farm and invest. It needs to be understood that farming is a long-term business and needs years of planning and investment for the farm to be successful and productive. Although there have been some offer letters issued to farmers in Mash West, there are still several productive farmers that have been denied offer letters with the reason being “no land”. This must be addressed for the good of the Nation.

Further, the demands being made on those leasing land from offer letter holders are becoming totally unreasonable and is causing a lot of uncertainty for the future of farming. This makes long term commitments almost impossible thus jeopardising food security for the country.

Marketing and delivery of crops was a challenge in 2021. This was caused in part by the better yields that were achieved by most farmers and this in turn put the GMB under pressure to get the deliveries into silo without excess delay which unfortunately did happen in the peak maize and wheat delivery period with trucks sometimes sitting two days to be offloaded.

Command farming had a positive impact on farmers for the 2020/21 season with a large amount of those farming taking advantage of the inputs being made available. We are yet to see what inputs will be made available for the 2021/22 season as up to now there does not appear to be any available. This is worrying as those still farming should have already made their preparations for the season to come.

##### **Crops**

Generally, there has been positive reports with some particularly good, irrigated yields of tobacco and row crops reported. Dry land was good and as always, the timing of the onset of the rains was a critical aspect and the rains as said were better than the past three years. Winter crops are up in hectares with farmers choosing to move their irrigated land into wheat production as the dams are adequately full. There is a worry now with wheat harvest at peak that the price being paid by GMB may be eroded by devaluation that is presently taking place.

##### **Cattle**

The commercial herd is down significantly in numbers and there is a perennial challenge with running a herd due to fences being stolen, keeping grazing intact and fires under control. There are however a



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few cattle producers left in the district that are committed to keeping their herds running and there are also the pedigree herds that are so important to our future in beef production.

### **Other**

Unfortunately, there is very little, large scale commercial production of chicken, pigs, sheep and goats. Although there is good potential for growth in these sectors this is being held back by the fact that investment is needed to boost them, and the finance is not readily available.

### **Security**

Sadly, the theft of maize and soya's from the land this year was extremely serious and uncontrollable with little help from the authorities.

### **General**

In conclusion, 2020/21 has been a good season, with the farmers out there continuing production under less-than-ideal circumstances. There are large areas of unutilised and underutilised irrigated land that has the potential to produce this country hundreds of thousands of tons more food and exportable crops. Mash-West like the rest of the country should be looking at production as our primary goal and set aside the counterproductive rhetoric and policies that are hindering the progress of agricultural production in Zimbabwe. To the farmers in Mash West and the rest of the country, well done for the production and commitment to the past season and let's hope that 2021/22 is peaceful, productive and the good rains predicted materialise once again for all of us, whether Commercial, A2 or A1 farmers.

### ***Roy Linfield***

***Chairman, Mash West (North)***

### **MIDLANDS REPORT**

I wish to start this report with the thanks that we need to express to so many who have worked so hard for us all in different ways this past year. Firstly to Andy Pascoe (our president) who has once again worked alone at the head of the CFU without a vice president. Andy thank you so very much.

Mike Clark who has filled in for Ben Purcell-Gilpin and done an incredible job this past year. We are so grateful Mike. Louise, Stewart, Antoinette, Chrispen and the rest of the CFU staff who have done so much for farming this year. Wage negotiations and endless meetings all whilst keeping the CFU going has been an amazing feat. Thank you all.

Charles Taffs, Harry Orphanides, Nick Swanepoel, Pat Ashton, Wendy DeLafargue and their CSC and Valcon teams we thank you for the very difficult and long hours you have spent in the effort to secure compensation and interim relief payments for our farmers.

We have once again experienced a very difficult year with a number of major factors coming into play this year that have challenged us and forced us to put our heads down and work very hard to stay in business in a completely new working environment.

The Covid-19 pandemic has altered all of our lives and the way we live forever. This year has brought in the vaccination phase of how we handle this awful virus. All of us know someone who has succumbed to the disease and we now see it, no longer as numbers, but as the names of those we have



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lost. We are very grateful that the Zimbabwean Government has facilitated the number of vaccine doses the country has received to date and pray that soon all those willing will be vaccinated. Your vaccination certificate is now almost as important as your ID and passport.

Looking back on last year's report the phrase "the only constant is change" has to come to mind. We came into December 2020 where most of us were reeling from two very poor seasons and water shortages were at a desperate stage. When the rain started to fall there was a huge sigh of relief all round. For most of us our dams were full by mid-January and we started to hope for a dry spell. By the end of February as much as 1400mm had fallen in places and farms were flooded out. The dairy industry found these months particularly challenging as cows battled mud and disease milk production fell at an alarming rate. Water started to come up through floors and roads were almost impassable. It is a huge credit to our farmers that they survived all this and have somehow brought their businesses back to normal in a relatively short time.

Financially the industry has battled through another year of significant inflation with people trying to navigate the complexities of the official currency rate which was unable to satisfy the needs of all importers giving rise to the infamous black market. Exporters and local producers had to with stand the loss of some of their income to the official market while inputs were valued mostly against the black market rate. Recently we have seen a drop in the official to levels just over ZWL100:1 and the hope is that this will reach a level that is fair to those earning the foreign currency while allowing access for all producers to their currency needs on the auction.

A significant change for the good that has occurred this year is the receipt by many of their offer letters for the farms they are farming. There are still a few outstanding and we hope that these can be resolved and the farmers will receive them soon. These offer letters have provided some security for those that are on portions of their original farms. The move towards 99 year leases is also welcomed.

Maize and wheat crops have benefitted from the abundant rains received this last year and with dams still well supplied we look forward to even greater production of these and many other crops this coming year. Wheat farmers are experiencing issues of payment from GMB whereby they being told to get clearance from CBZ showing no Agro yield debts exist but CBZ proving very difficult in supplying this information.

Labour have once again had to face the hardship created by inflation and the inability of the general agriculture sector to remunerate them in foreign currency. This has led to shortages of labour as the more able-bodied chase the dream of gold.

The poultry industry has seen a shift from mainly commercial production to a stage where small scale production is the major player in the industry. Inflation also severely affects this industry and it desperately needs a period of stability to regain its ability to produce profitably.

May God bless you all in 2021 with normal rains and an environment for peace and prosperity for all.

***Kevin Franceys***

***Chairperson, Midlands Chairperson***



## **MASVINGO REPORT**

Once again, the year has been dominated by the adverse effects of the Covid-19 global pandemic to which we initially took lightly as we probably felt isolated and safe on the farms. The Third Wave then hit the country which suddenly affected our communities and our way of life. Thankfully the vaccines came to our rescue as well as Ivermectin, often from our veterinary medicine cupboards. Although both have definitely worked, we unfortunately lost a few of our members from Covid related secondary infections.

Although farmers were classified as Essential Services under the Lockdown Regulations doing business in some public sectors was slowed down completely as only skeleton staff worked in shifts. But thankfully only now is the situation getting back to almost normal.

The costs of inputs have continued to rise whilst the value of our products continues to drop against the US\$ thus cutting profit margins considerably. This has been a huge challenge to viability which has adversely affected any major developments on farms. In the absence of all rights over land the insecurity also has a very negative affect on the development of long-term projects.

The rainy season we had across the province was one of the best for years, but this did not necessarily result in good crops as with the rain came some flooding and also pestilence. The grass farmers profited the most but as it dried out during winter so the fires destroyed a lot of that lush grazing.

Both our entire province and many across the country joined in celebrating the 90th birthday of one of the most remarkable and highly esteemed men in our province, Dr Japie Jackson, who is still a practicing veterinarian. He continues with his evaluation of health, fertility and breed standards of most bulls put up for sale, both in his home province as well as all around the country.

### **Obituaries**

Sadly, it is time to bow our heads in remembrance and prayer of each of the below members of our communities who sadly passed away since our last annual report and Congress. This is not to forget the wonderful families who they have sadly left behind.

Each of these individuals made a huge commitment to their respective communities as well as leaving behind wonderful legacies and memories in their own individual ways, so will all be sadly missed yet never forgotten. The stories of their lives would literally fill many very interesting manuscripts which would go down in the annals of Masvingo history. We thank them all sincerely for sharing their wonderful lives with us in our province.

Our most sincere condolences to the families of all the above and may their dear souls now rest in eternal peace.

Pieter Bernhard Henning 28/11/2020

Aletta Maree Theron 25/6/2021

Hugo Alexander van Aarde 14/8/2021

Alexander Fraser 16/8/2021

Peter Southerton Hingeston 19/8/2021



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Digby Sean Nesbitt 20/8/2021

Allan Jones 1/9/2021

Coert Erasmus 20/7/2021

Rose Whitehead 16/10/2021

### **Weather**

This year we were blessed with the most remarkable rainy season with the recorded amounts almost doubling the averages in most areas. Sadly, the runoff was very early mainly due to erosion, abuse and lack of conservation measures like contours etc. Mutirikwi went down to below 18% but quickly filled. It is debatable whether it actually spilled or not because if it was leaking below the additional 1-metre gates at the spillway. This water is being held in reserve and the Lowveld water is being drawn off the Tugwi Mukosi, which spilled for several months. Most other dams in the province spilled. A reassessment needs to be done on water allocations and drawings as many of the smaller dams were drained dry by new irrigation schemes thus leaving no reserves in case of droughts.

Known recorded annual rainfall in the province:

Muirlands in Gutu – 900mm

Hammond in SVC – 754.2mm

Senuko in SVC – 732mm

Benjani in Mwenezi 775mm

Runde SS in Mwenezi – 1100mm

HVE Farm 26 Chiredzi – 826mm

### **Livestock**

For Masvingo province the highlight of the year was when Dirk Odendaal shared the highest price for a bull on the National Bull Sale in Harare. This was an incredible achievement indeed.

Following the dissipation of a large commercial breeding herds in our province, during the early days of Land Reform remarkably, some 20 years later, a few dedicated stockmen, and women, are slowly but surely rebuilding their herds once again, albeit on leased land and joint ventures. With the incredible rainy season which we had the grass has grown like we have come to know how only the Lowveld grasses can do.

Thus, in controlled areas the cattle have benefitted tremendously. Like all agriculture ventures this is a very long-term investment which would benefit and increase tremendously with a more secure form of land tenure. Without this 'hit and run' farming seems to have taken over which invests almost no investment for development to the detriment of the industry.

Although the prices of beef have been increasing in ZWL they have unfortunately lost their real value against the mighty US\$. Furthermore, there is a limited market for high quality beef due to the erosion of the spending power of the man in the street. The smaller abattoirs are now working in conjunction with other NGOs to construct feedlots to feed cattle for the small-scale ranchers and develop the industry.

### **Poultry**



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*(By Helen Mitchell)*

This year, the market for day old broiler chicks in Masvingo has been buoyant and long may it last, so too has there been a growing demand for commercial layer chicks and point of lay indicating that the egg market is having a revival.

The live bird market has had a few ups and downs, especially because of the shutdown of the markets caused by the Covid Restrictions, however I believe that the informal sector is actually doing very well in meeting demand and making money.

The demand for “road runner” type chicks is also strong as more people are enjoying the benefits of using the commercial road runners to improve their existing “kamusha” birds and because of their ability to be used for meat as well as egg production.

The cost of stock feed has steadily increased over the months in ZWD because of the exchange rates but not always because of any great increase in the actual stock feeds. Soya prices have gone up recently, but maize prices have come down. I looked at the price of starter crumbles at the beginning of this year and it was US\$24.00 /50kg bag and it still is that price roughly, just a few more cents but nothing huge.

The excellent maize harvest has also increased the demand for chicks of all types as the farmers are able to add value to their production chain by using it for stock feed.

There are several farmers now enjoying benefits from group purchasing and help from the EU sponsored outreach programmes.

On the other hand, I don't believe that the commercial broiler growers had a very good start to this year with many tonnes of frozen birds still in their freezers after last Christmas but I imagine they should be making up for it as we head towards this December. All in all, I believe that the poultry industry has been very lucky to have survived this year as well as it has with all the problems that Covid has brought let's hope we can all go into 2022 with a smile.!!

### **Wildlife**

Bubye Valley Conservancy

*(Blondie Leatham)*

All good here and we have only had 27 confirmed cases of Covid out of over 500 employees. Of these only 2 had symptoms for more than 5 days and none needed oxygen supplement. We treated them with Ivermectin, Doxycycline, Zinc and vitamin supplements, which appears to have done the trick. Very few of our workers or managers chose to be vaccinated – less than 20%.

Poaching has been at its lowest in the last 10 years, both meat and commercial (rhino). There have been a few attempts from rhino poaching syndicates, but the incursions were detected early and no losses so far this year. The added number of scouts, regular integrity testing of our staff, added vehicles and the close working relationship that we have with the CID MFFU and Parks personal have been the main reason for the improvement and not Covid lockdowns as some people think.

We are still running a yearly selection / training course for scouts but only getting around 25 – 30 finishing out of the 200 + original participants who attend the initial selections.



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The grazing and surface water throughout the conservancy is the best since the 2000 cyclone, and the second best in the last 34 years – the period that I have been on this property. There was damage to a few of our dams and large weirs, but we were able to get them repaired, so they are all set and ready for what is said to be another above average rainy season.

Lion numbers are still much higher than they should be, and the effect is being seen by a notable decline in most prey species. We are waiting for the results from an extensive Camera Trap Survey that our researchers did in conjunction with WildCRu (Oxford University). We combined BVC's and WildCru's Camera traps and were able to run 103 sites for 50 days. Passive Camera Trap surveys are gaining popularity as a more accurate and precise method of monitoring predator populations, so we anticipate valuable information regarding the predator population status on BVC once the results are out.

Our 'In House' annual call-up survey estimated our overall lion density to be 8.8 /100 sq. kms, which is the 4th highest in Eastern and Southern Africa – after Masai Mara (Kenya), Ngorongoro Crater (Tanzania) & Kruger (South Africa) and likely still the highest density of any viable, wild lion population in Zimbabwe. Our aerial survey has just started and is likely to confirm the decline in prey species mentioned above.

BVC is donating a founder population of lion to Nuanetsi Conservancy, but it is going a bit slower than expected. We are struggling to find suitable groups of young females with no dependent cubs to move as a unit. This is proving a nearly impossible task as most females of suitable age are either lactating or have young cubs with them.

It was good to get back to hosting a reasonable number of hunts, although we are still only 60 % of what we put through in 2019.

### **Sugarcane Industry** *(Stephen Schwarer)*

The 2020 milling season ended with a total production of 408,518 tons sugar from 3,453,771 tons cane. The 2021 season is predicted to close on 402,000 tons sugar from 3,318,620 tons cane.

This is a drop in the yields from an industry average of 79 tons hectare to 76 tons a hectare despite the very good rains which arrived at principally the mid peak growing period. The yield decline has been experienced by both Miller cum Planter and the outgrowers so a general industry decline which needs interventions especially on the outgrower side with yields averaging 58 tons per hectare. Yields below 80 tons hectare are deemed unviable in normal economic times so the indicators are that a large number of farmers are sub economical in their operations.

Both mills are expected to complete the season crush before the end of November and hopefully before significant rains which are expected to be normal to above normal for the period.

Having had such a good rainy season (2020/2021) the supply dams to the industry all currently have in excess of 3 years' worth of irrigation water with the exception of the Manji-Siya system which has 21 months' worth of water available.



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Fertilisers and chemicals have generally been available and power although an issue has been stable and manageable. Labour has been short this season especially on the cutter front and labour costs have been significantly rising along with the demands for US\$ linked remuneration. Railage has been constrained and NRZ although making great effort have been unable to compete with the road haulage of Cane both in terms of price (now more expensive than road) and delivery times due to lack of locomotives coupled with continuous breakdowns and wagon availability.

Covid has imposed challenges, as we are such a labour-intensive industry, however both industry and government initiatives seemed to have provided sufficient protection and there has not been a situation of having to curtail operations due to Covid. Vaccination of staff in the industry and its players is at an advanced stage which it is hoped will mitigate some of the risk going forward.

In addition to the day-to-day happenings the industry is, through the Ministry, undertaking a review of the Sugar Control Act, a recalculation of the Division of Proceeds and a renegotiation of the Milling Agreements between farmer and Miller. All of this is being conducted under the purview of the Zimbabwe Sugar Association. Sugar has been declared a strategic crop and it is hoped that this will assist in availing a more stable environment ensuring input supplies at reasonable cost to bring growing costs back in line with recoveries from the market.

The Tugwi water is what's holding the system together. Without it the industry would be in dire straits. Basically, Kyle has become the reserve dam.

Kilimanjaro development project has not really moved as far as cane is concerned but it has been used to produce maize. It is so politicised there that I don't believe anyone actually knows what's going on other than its not progressing as a cane supplier. There is a lot of competition for land allocation and maybe after the next round of votes we may see a way forward.

### **Access to Land**

With the majority of us unable to farm any more in our home country, Zimbabwe, since we lost our farms during the FTLRP many of our young farmers, and some older and experienced farmers have left the country to follow their dreams elsewhere, which is a great loss.

We have all been through a very difficult period over the last 21 years since we lost our homes and investments, but at last we do see hope since the signing of the Global Compensation Deed (GCD) on 29 July 2020. However, in April this year Government admitted they had been unable to attract the necessary funds, so it was agreed to extend the time for a further 12 months. This caused massive depression amongst the elderly who had little else to look forward to in their lives but their much-delayed compensation which still seems to be just a mirage or fantasy.

Both the Compensation Steering Committee and the Joint Resource Mobilisation Committee (JRMC) have been extremely busy in seeking the compensation and the resuscitation of agriculture. In particular, Charlie Taffs, Harry Orphanides and Andy Pascoe have spent an inordinate amount of their own time coordinating the process and holding many often very difficult meetings a very short notice on our behalf. Chairman of ARAC Patrick Ashton does an incredible job too particular with the flow of information to his constituents as well as being a very useful backup man to the team. We owe them and numerous others unmentioned, a huge debt so thank them all most sincerely.





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Very recently we have brought in a very experienced team of international arbitrators and financial advisors under Arent Fox, who are our only real hope of achieving our aims on the long outstanding compensation issue. We just pray for their success and that it will not take too long as we are all getting very much older every day.

The Interim Relief (IR1) payments to our members, which whilst greatly appreciated has once again been an absolute bureaucratic nightmare, with many still being unpaid many months later. We all need to sincerely thank Wendy de la Fargue, her team and Patrick Ashton for their massive efforts in keeping the wheels turning in their constant push for the payments.

Although we were encouraged with the gazetting of Statutory Instrument 62 of 2020 early in the year, which apparently gave access to land and return of title to farmers covered by their respective Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPAs) and indigenous owners, we still await clarification on whether our Mauritian and South African farmers fall into this category. Of course, the word “indigenous” remains very contentious with our Zimbabwean farmers whose have historically been here for many generations.

We only heard recently that the South African BIPPA is not being accepted which is in complete contrast to the beginning of the year when it was. The apparent argument is that the properties were compulsorily acquires long before the BIPPA was signed in 2009.

Our Save Valley Conservancy case was put forward as a group last year in order to resolve quickly and show intent. Sadly, one year later nobody has received an offer letter, a 99-year lease or a BIPPA resolution.

We can only hope that with the new initiative that secure land with property rights will be made available to all Zimbabweans in terms of the Constitution, for long term and thus meaningful investments.

### **Masvingo Region and CFU**

Once again, we have been keeping in contact with all the farmers in Masvingo Province via the very useful WhatsApp platform and I sincerely thank you all for your contributions. Being a farming group, I am pleased to say that we have generally managed to stay out of politics completely sticking more to farming and topical issues. Another Masvingo group has been set up externally which covers the chatter and more sensitive issues.

One day a week up here in Harare for me is devoted to the production of the CFU Calling, which for those who do read it, would have been kept fully informed on what your CFU team in Harare has been doing. It has been an extremely busy and very exciting year indeed under President Andy Pascoe who I have been an absolute pleasure working with. I have had absolute admiration and huge respect for him and wonder how he managed to do all that he does. Ben Gilpin sadly left last year so there is a huge void there. I have stood in as Acting Director, which has certainly not been a career choice at my age. I certainly hope to be able to retire from that position and hand over to an as yet appointed substantive Director.



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Thank you for electing Rob Beverley as my Vice-Chairman again as he is always a fund of very wise information and out of the box thinking and who keeps me on my toes. With us just being on Council is a constant reminder to every one of the different compensation requirements for cattle and wildlife ranchers in the Lowveld, whose main investment is in land, and development thereof. Although we have held no meetings in the province we certainly appreciate all the emails, phone calls and personal visits to the office to keep us updated with your needs etc.

Patrick Ashton is another solid member of the CSC team, as well as heading ARAC and also being part of the incredible Farm Families Trust (FFT), who do their best looking after the medical requirements of the needy.

Once again to mention Andy Pascoe who has spent so much time working towards the GCD and now on the JRMC, as well as running our Union, I often wonder just how he finds any time to keep running his own farming operation. His optimism for the continuation of your Union through the growth of the commodities has gained us far more membership from the younger farmers out there who have avoided us in the past. Again, it has been an absolute pleasure working with him. We sincerely thank his wife Louise and their family, for their consideration of putting up with the disturbances to their family life, which are caused by his solid commitment. I sincerely thank my own wife and the wives of the other dedicated personnel for allowing us to continue with our commitments on your behalf.

We can only pray for a better year next year and that we can all move forward together as farmers and a stronger united nation.

Keep strong and united.

God bless you all.

*Mike Clark*

*Chairman, Masvingo Region*

### **MATEBELELEND REPORT**

The past year has been a difficult year as most displaced farmers and members still farming, struggled to survive the harsh financial situation they encountered. During the past year the elderly displaced farmers received very little or nothing in the way of interim relief payments from government and had to rely on family to try and survive.

Members still farming struggled as interest rates at banks made it almost impossible to fund their farming activities. Matabeleland farmers, mostly cattle producers saw the price of stock feeds soar due to the shortage of raw ingredients. Government banned the importation of cheaper raw feed ingredients making it impossible for farmers to feed their livestock. The shortage of foreign currency has also had a huge impact on consumers as most items have doubled in price in the last year. This has led to workers demanding large increases in wages and cost of living allowances. BUT Farmers have seen the prices of their produce, be it market gardening, chicken, pork or beef, less than last year.

The Compensation for Improvements to farmers also seems to be going nowhere, the final dates for payments as per the agreement draws closer and is unlikely to be extended by the farmers as they can see no movement on the governments side to honour the agreement.



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### **Weather**

The rains last season saw both North and South Matabeleland receive above normal rainfall and most dams had an intake of 75% to 100% of capacity. The indicators show another good season this year.

### **Crops**

Small scale communal farmers produced enough maize and small grains to carry them through to the next season, this resulted in poor sales for millers.

### **Conclusion**

The spending power of the average Zimbabwean is at an all-time low which has had a huge impact on sales which has caused businesses to downscale or close. This has resulted in an increase in crime from petty theft to armed robberies and stock theft, the police lack transport to respond which is a great concern to all.

*Mac Crawford*

*Chairperson, Matabeleland*

## COMMODITY ASSOCIATION REPORTS– 2021

### **CROPS REPORT**

The 2020-21 season was characterised by further control and collectivization of commodities, although on the positive side there was a heartening increase in food production, particularly maize.

### **Maize**

SI 145 remained in operation and GMB remains the sole approved buyer of maize outside the contracting system. The question was raised as to how and when commercial users of maize (e.g., stock feed companies) would be able to source maize from GMB, but this appeared to be less of a problem than in 2020.

Deliveries for 2021 are expected to total 1.0 million MT by end of year. The balance of the bumper harvest is said to be being “retained for domestic and on-farm consumption”.

The price of ZWL 32,000 seemed almost overpriced to begin with (being above import parity) if converted to USD, even at non-official rates. The same ZWL price was however maintained throughout the delivery season, so inflation of the local currency eroded the value, and the later in the season the farmer was paid, the greater the loss of return.

The high commercial maize price had the effect of making seed maize financially unattractive, although seed growers found comfort in the fact that their crop was less subject to SI 145. Seed prices have increased for the 2021-22 season, which is an unforeseen consequence of perceived (in early season at least) high maize prices.

A new yellow maize variety SC710 was approved for release by Seed Services. The gives stock feed sector higher-yielding yellow variety to match the yield of the 7 series whites.



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Sorghum was priced at ZWL 38,000 to encourage small scale farmers to grow such crops in drought-prone and drier areas but had the effect of making stock-feeds expensive, as it was no longer a cheap alternative to maize. GMB announced a Popcorn price (\$42 000) which is a small niche market.

### **Soya and Oilseeds**

Maize had been the more attractive prospect, so soya planted Ha were down in 2021.

The new SI 97 controlling the sale of soyabeans came out end of March, giving growers an unpleasant surprise. The intention was to prevent side-marketing, and make sure GMB received 100% of the crop funded by CBZ Agro Yield (Command). In theory, the SI protected contractors, but in practice contractors were also undermined by side-marketing, and by some estimates only received two thirds of the volume of product they expected.

Early government figures claimed a crop of 70,000 MT were produced in 2021. But by September, only 11,870 MT soyabeans delivered to GMB, although inputs for 30,000 MT were given out by CBZ AgroYield. In many cases, contracted soyabeans were delivered direct to processors, so these figures are not included in the GMB total. In the end, the tonnage soyabeans produced through CBZ AgroYield was very disappointing to government. Side-marketing was rampant, despite the need for movement permits and Covid curfews. The Stock feeds Manufacturers Association estimated that soya production in 2021 was 40,000 – 50,000 MT.

Price of ZWL 48,000, which was low compared to the price of maize. Traditionally soya price is twice that of Maize, so it should have been \$64,000. GMB hoped to ensure deliveries through the use of the SI, but in ultimately deliveries to GMB were very low.

Soya crop of harvested in 2021 estimated to be 40,000 – 50,000 MT (Stockfeed Manufacturers Assoc.), demand >200,000 MT

Officially, no import permits were issued for GMO soya.

The soyabean sector has an effect on wheat hectarage: this will only approach sustainability if tied to soya rotation. See comments under Wheat below. Government recognised the need mid-year to stimulate soyabean production, but appeared to become discouraged after their experiences with CBZ AgroYield.

Because of the SI and the need to obtain movement permits for soyabeans, the crops is being pushed increasingly into the realm of contractors, who provide inputs, finance and obtain the necessary permits for their farmers through GMB. However, it is still possible for an independent farmer to grow soyabeans, provided he / she is registered as a farmer with AMA, and effectively “becomes his own contractor”. Stockfeed manufacturers should offer contracts to growers in order to trade within the SI, but in practice most of them cannot support the grower by offering to provide inputs.

It would make sense for soyabeans to have been de-regulated in time for 2021-22, but this had not yet been supported at Ministry level at time of writing. If the official attitude to soyabean production was to allow market forces to operate, there would be a positive effect on wheat production, and the point has been made to Ministry of Agriculture.

A Livestock Business Forum was started by LMAC, as a forum for farmers’ organizations, buyers and regulators to come together. Its aim is to look at pricing, imports / exports and “issues affecting whole value chain”. Soyabeans would be a main focus, but it will encompass sunflowers, sorghum, & other crops that make up diversified cropping.



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Soyabeans and the Commodities Exchange: the launch of ZMX was delayed several times. The end of March 2021 and end of April dates passed, due to certain licences not being granted by government. Launch was then planned for June, although the SIs on soya and Wheat and Barley had their effect. By September, in order to mop up any possible soyabeans still in storage on farms, it was mooted that the crop could be sold through ZMX. Meetings were held and government approval seemed imminent. Permission to pay half in forex was sought from RBZ. This however appeared to stall the process and the expected press announcement 21 Oct 2021 that soya would be allowed to trade on ZMX following week did not happen, and to date soyas have not been allowed to trade on ZMX.

### **Canola**

The intended planting of 500 Ha of canola for 2021, starting in April was delayed to July due to delays in arrival of seed from Germany. Yields were consequently disappointing at 2.0 – 2.5 MT/ha. Not much has been done to popularize the crop so far, although a Maize – Canola rotation has theoretical merits. But historically canola has not shown much promise in local conditions. It would be good to see formal Maize – Canola rotation trials being conducted, in addition to the normal agronomic trials for Canola.

### **Sunflowers**

Government is turning its attention to Sunflowers as an Oilseeds source in drier areas, possibly withdrawing some support for “Command” soya. This may make soya the preserve of larger mechanized farms, which is a surer route to better production.

Sunflowers could be pushed for Communal and A2 production in lower rainfall areas. However, seed is short, will have to be imported. There has been very limited production of local sunflower seed, though this is set to change in the 2021-22 season.

The current price of sunflowers (ZWL 40,000 from GMB) does not encourage large sale commercial farmers.

### **Wheat and Winter Cereals**

An SI applying to Wheat and Barley along lines of SI 145 or 97 (Maize, Soya) was released mid-year. Around 62,000 ha was planned under Agro-Yield, but final planting was probably not more than 30,000 ha.

15,500 ha wheat planted by Private Contractors (part of the Food Crop Contractors Association, FCCA). There was a small hectareage of privately – funded wheat. Most wheat was grown either through FCCA or CBZ Agro Yield. With the latter, there were the familiar problems of late access to inputs.

Quelea posed more of a threat to Wheat and Barley than in previous seasons. Quelea built up to alarming levels in Kwekwe, parts of Chinhoyi and surrounding areas. The bird repellent Bird Shield was adopted by environmentally-conscious growers but was said to work for only 1 or 2 days. Government was short of the normal avicides Shiritox / Queleatox and Falcolan at the critical time. National Parks applied the available stock using backpack mistblowers. Government procured avicides and good quality backpack and tractor-mounted mistblowers, but these arrived after the peak of the crisis. Aerial spraying could not be carried out due to lack of aircraft, but in many cases growers were worried about the impact on the non-target wild bird fauna by this method of application.



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One careful analysis (done by a Kwekwe barley grower using a combine harvester yield monitor) showed that heavy quelea damage can reduce the yield of an 8.2 tonne crop to about 3.0 tonnes / ha in heavily attacked, localized areas. In the worst areas, yield loss was estimated at USD 490 per Ha due to the birds. Heavily attacked areas stay green longer and slow down the harvest. This is a good reason to have stocks of quelea chemicals on hand from mid-year, preferably earlier.

Producer prices were announced in September: Premium grade: ZWL 66,621.22 (which equated to USD 416.00 at 160:1). Standard grade was priced at ZWL 55,517.69 (which equated to USD 347.00 at 160:1). Import Parity was around USD 460 – 475; it was initially thought the price would be closer to import parity, but pressure from the millers and bakers ultimately drove the price down.

Grading played a much more central role in the 2021 season. GMB equipped more depots (13) with testing equipment and compared to previous seasons, more attention was paid to protein content, falling number and extraneous matter. There were effectively only 2 grades, Premium and the rest. There should have been a separate price for Standard grade, but as it was Standard was paid the same as Undergrade, which left growers feeling unrewarded. Ideally, each grade should have its own price. The difference between Standard and Premium grade was too great (over ZWL 11,103.53), it should have been ZWL 3,000 to 3,500 (USD 20).

Wheat Quality Issues and GMB: There were several reports of dissatisfaction with the wheat grading process at GMB. Some growers had loads downgraded from expected Premium to Standard Grade, then effectively paid as Undergrade. This year, there was no formal co-operation between GMB and SIS – Socotech, with GMB having spent money on its own testing equipment. SIS continued to offer neutral sampling for those who needed a check on GMB results. SIS did provide a useful check on GMB results, flagging problems with some initial GMB results, but also confirming results that were thought to be wrong.

Return of trucks with adverse grading results was not allowed in the 2021 season, except for moisture content. This meant that on-farms improvement of parameters such as extraneous matter or blending to improve protein content was not possible. This was not a popular move and GMB was made aware of growers' objections.

There were questions as to why falling number and protein content were below expectation in the 2021 season. Possible reasons could have been: frost damage early in the season, crops planted too early (some as early as mid-March), pivot lands becoming too large (resulting in marginal areas at circle edges) and quelea damage adding to "extraneous matter".

Wheat sustainability: it was suggested to Ministry that this will only be achieved if tied to soya rotation. With Maize – Wheat rotation, the nitrogenous fertilizer demands are much higher than for Soya – Wheat and fertilizer costs are by far the largest aspect of budget cost.

Water charges for wheat, were as per Q2 2020 with a statement that the same charge would be held for the duration of the wheat season. (Z\$ 590.00 / ML for commercial farmers). Prices were increased in November.

### **Medicinal Cannabis and Industrial Hemp**

There is still a lot of basic work that needs to be done before this becomes a mainstream crop. There is the basic division between medicinal cannabis (the more regulated, intensive, and higher – paying



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market) and industrial hemp (fibre crop, extensive or “ranched”). There is still much basic agronomic work to be done- development of good agricultural practices, planting dates, varieties, etc.

For medicinal cannabis, provision of agronomic information will probably be provided by private sector in liaison with Min of Agriculture.

For industrial hemp a seed certification scheme is under development, by Seed Services working with TRB. It will be 1 – 2 years before industrial hemp varieties are released. Some are in 2nd year of testing. Industrial Hemp will require good fibre markets to be developed. For paper or textile or other fibre options. Zimbabwe is bound to have particular strengths and these need to be discovered. AMA issues licences for Industrial Hemp.

MCAZ (Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe) regulates and licences medicinal cannabis – 16 licences granted so far. There is a Cannabis Industry Association of Zimbabwe (CIAZ).

*Stewart Wilson*

*CFU, Commodities*

### **HORTICULTURE REPORT**

#### **Brief**

Much progress has been made in the horticulture sector on various fronts this year but the overwhelming factor of a poor economic model as a direct result of the 40% liquidation on the back of a diverging official rate vs. market rate and COVID implications on supply chain, freight cost and logistics has adversely effected the sector.

Up until 2019 the horticulture sector had various value propositions and many farmers of all models and backgrounds aspired to become an export horticulture farmer. This cannot be said today and we are finding it a very hard sale to get new farmers into the sector as well as encouraging growth by existing farmers.

#### **Progress in 2020/21 farming season**

We have found the RBZ Governor very approachable and understanding of our plight for economic survival. Dr. Mangudya and his team readily engage and are exploring opportunities to preserve value for exporters.

A special concession was put in place after negotiation to allow members of the HDC to service foreign loans prior to liquidation. This has been a saving grace for heavily borrowed exporters.

A fuel facility was established for hort farmers who are members of the HDC to access fuel in ZWL at reasonable rates. Unfortunately this did not last long and the facility is currently in a state of flux.

The HDC successfully held their first Annual Investment Forum at Wild Geese which was very well supported. The two day workshop focussed on challenges facing the industry and we explored solutions to create an improvement in policy and regulatory environment. We were fortunate enough to have the Dep Min of Agriculture, Honourable Haritatos, and the Dep Minister of Finance, Honourable Chiduwa, the Reserve Bank Governor Dr Mangudya and the Permanent Secretary in the office of the VP Retired Major General Chanakira who also heads the National Horticulture Working Group tasked with implementing The Horticulture Recovery and Growth Plan.



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The investment forum was well supported by our banking sector with a special thanks to CBZ, Stanbic, FBC, Ecobank for sponsoring the forum.

The head of Agro Yield CBZ outlined that they are piloting a horticulture finance scheme modelled similar to the row cropping solution offered.

The dignitaries appreciated the candid presentation and discussion. Participants felt that we are on the right path albeit a difficult path to travel currently. We look to the various Ministries to continue to support the industry and encourage growth through policy review.

The climatic season has been good to the sector with the exception of heavy frosts which took a toll on the blueberry production not under protection.

The power supply was initially considered to be good until July when there was a notable drop in supply to the sector.

### **Towards 2022**

The sector will continue to build on the engagements with the GOZ to fight for the improved policy and regulatory environment required to grow the sector. We are currently sitting at a 75million dollar annual export sector with the target set at one billion dollar sector by 2030 and this will require 30% annual growth. This is achievable should a few key policies be implemented. The most important requirement is considered security of tenure for investors both local and abroad. The sector requires vast investment and investors are in the wings waiting for the GOZ to address their concerns. The second most important policy to address is the 40% liquidation for the horticulture sector.

We look forward to working with our various partners to achieve the desired outcome, ZIDA, AMA, and ZIMTRADE as well as the various Ministries.

I would like to pay special tribute to the CFU team who have all been very supportive of the horticulture sector. Much work is done behind the scenes. Thank you one and all for the tireless commitment to our Agriculture sector at large!

*Liam Philp*

*CFU, Horticulture Representative*

## **CATTLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION REPORT**

### **Overview**

The Cattle industry in Zimbabwe is dualistic in its production model. The A1 and small scale owning approximately 4.8million head and the A2 and commercial approximately 640 000 head. The small scale herd is used for meat, milk, transport and draught power, the commercial breeders for beef production.

Formal beef slaughtering have stabilized over the last 2 years even with the challenges of Covid 19. Slaughter stock, are in short supply due to a number of factors, including heavy taxes involved with the movement and sale of slaughter stock. These extra costs have encouraged an increase in informal slaughtering.





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Animals bought to slaughter are still dominated by old and thin animals. Over 50% of carcass grades are made up of economy and manufacturing. Super carcass; have declined to 17%, which is a reflection of Covid 19 affecting the restaurant and hotel industry, plus the high cost of stock feeds.

### **Zimbabwe Herd Book: (ZHB)**

The ZHB, is still the highly respected keeper of our national Pedigree Registry. Pedigree breeder registration is still on the increase and now stands at 165 breeders, which augers well for the seed stock industry.

ZHB hosted the 53rd National Breed Sale. The sale average was 52% higher in real terms over 2020. This is very encouraging for the breeders, and shows that commercial cattlemen and women realize the value improved genetics can add to their herds.

### **Concerns:**

National Herd numbers have remained stagnant if not decrease over the last 5 years for the following reasons.

Tick borne diseases, led by Theileriosis, have resulted in high stock losses. These can all be prevented by regular dipping. The G.O.Z. have recently legislated compulsory dipping throughout the country. This is a welcome and bold commitment to reduce tick borne diseases and stock losses.

Losses of animals are also caused by stock theft, predators, and miners leaving holes in paddocks

By far the biggest problem hampering the expansion of the National Herd is the destruction of our cheapest natural food source, the veld. I had the pleasure of attending a cattle field day in the Macheke area in October. I travelled 50kms through the area but did not come across any evidence of the environment been burnt. I asked the community “how have you prevented veld fires?” their reply was “we have a very strong, progressive EMA office that travels the area educating people and enforcing the law.” Congratulations to the Mash. East EMA office, what an example to the rest of the country. Cattle Producers plead to EMA and the GOZ to help protect our natural resources throughout the whole of Zimbabwe. Grass is the cheapest food for cattle. Fat healthy cattle are more disease resistant and produce more healthy calves.

### **Conclusion:**

Cattle production is a long term business for commercial producers, but more importantly it is a way of life for small scale produces, which rely on cattle for food, milk, transport and draft power. Cattle producers will contribute to vision 2030. This can be speeded up and achieved if the above concerns are addressed.

**Mark Hook**

***CFU, Cattle Producers Representative***



## AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY AND COMPENSATION (ARAC)

### Salutations

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen members of the ARAC Sub Committee of the CFU and those members connected on “ZOOM.

This past year has been one that has been difficult to predict in so many ways. The ongoing scourge of the global “COVID” epidemic has not passed Zimbabwe by. Sad to relate, we will all be well aware of the toll it has taken on our constituency. Nor is that toll restricted to those we might feel most at risk. Otherwise healthy people have succumbed, often inexplicably, and as such, a terrible shock to those left behind. To all the families and friends who have lost precious loved ones, may we extend our deepest condolences? Few of us will have been left untouched.

May I call for a few moments silence while we remember so many of our colleagues who contributed so much to Zimbabwe’s Agricultural successes and who have sadly passed away over the past year?  
Thank You

Ladies and gentlemen

There’s an Old Jewish saying which goes something like this.....

**“If you want to make God laugh .... tell him your plan!!”**

This maybe a suitable introduction to the plans and strategies related to the Global Compensation Deed developed last year, and which has been postponed. Varying regulations attempting to restrict the spread of the virus have disrupted much of normal business. In particular Face to Face meetings are replaced by the unfamiliar “Zoom” conferences. These are not particularly satisfactory arrangements, but perhaps the best we can manage in these current restricted times.

A further consequence of the pandemic has been that ARAC has held no Open Farmers Meetings this past year. However, your committee is grateful to the C F U Council for sharing their meetings with the ARAC Committee on four separate occasions. At these meetings the ARAC committee members have had the same Report back and Update from the CSC that Council has. This has had the dual advantage of keeping us informed with exactly the same information and, in addition, reducing the extra time required for our representatives having to repeat their report-backs at separate meetings. I am most grateful to Andy Pascoe, our president, for facilitating these joint meetings and apologise if we monopolised the discussions. At these meetings Andrew Pascoe allowed a full expression of all views. Let there be no doubt about it; all Councillors and ARAC Committee Members were fully briefed and were given the opportunity to ask questions and air their views.

Yet again this most serious of infective disruptions has caused huge anxiety for dispossessed farmers. The inability of GoZ to meet its G C Deed obligations to fund the Compensation deal by March 2021 for payment in July 2021 is deplorable. This has been the cause of much anguish for us all. In the event, an amendment was negotiated with Government which effectively delays the implementation of the deed’s timelines by twelve calendar months, although the Final Payment date remains the same. The amendment acknowledges the reality of the situation. It was not possible to credibly argue that



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the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) had had every opportunity to arrange the funding under these circumstances.

The Joint Resource Mobilisation Committee (JRMC) got off to a grand start immediately after the Global Compensation Deed was signed in late July last year. Significant momentum was built up with a combined understanding, indeed a consensus, on the Way Forward. A road map was established. It was agreed that BIPPAS and Offer Letters would be honoured. This was important because it would show GoZ's sincerity of intent, honouring and implementing International agreements, indeed also the deed itself, which would give confidence to possible funders.

All former Farmers are naturally anxious to see the completion of the compensation as set out in the GCD, as soon as possible. Fundamental to the whole exercise is GoZ's ability to acquire the funding to pay the debt they acknowledge is owed to us. Arranging that funding was never going to be "a walk in the park" and so it has proved to be. As with any Funding agency, Terms and Conditions need to be met.

The ball is entirely in the Government's court.

Earlier this year, while reluctant to grant the additional year to the GCD's timelines, our Representatives recognised that to some extent the GoZ did have a credible argument to delay/extend the terms of the GCD. Reviewing the extension request, from Government, drew our attention to the slow and difficult advance of the well respected and experienced UK expert financial advisers (New State Partners). The Government of Zimbabwe had engaged these experts to advise and assist them raising the funding. These experts have been developing a credible structured plan for our Government, in order for them to fulfil their obligation to fund the Permanent Improvements on all the farms they have acquired. However, whereas New State Partners have proposed such plans, they are finding it difficult to manoeuvre around the political relationships, to permit Zimbabwe to be put firmly back on the International stage and thus allow for the payment of our compensation to take place.

To assist our Government, our Representatives have engaged, on a "No foal no fee" basis, a separate agreement with an American Company, Arent Fox. Arent Fox is a leading firm of Attorneys in the area of international arbitration and dispute resolution. To this end, Arent Fox spent a week in Zimbabwe in late September. They arrived with a high powered team and have explored the possibility of resolving the negotiation stagnation. They have already presented alternate proposals to Government in order to fund our compensation.

During the First Republic little progress towards compensation was achieved. With the advent of the second Republic and with the encouragement of His Excellency's often expressed determination to prioritise resolution of the compensation for our former farmers, our Representatives signed the historic GCD, confident in the GoZ's sincerity. This remains the case despite a few difficulties which should and can be amicably resolved with the "good faith" within the Joint Resource Mobilisation Committee. For instance; as part of the GoZ's drive for international recognition, BIPPAs should be honoured as International agreements and thus be sacrosanct. This together with the agreement to



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extend offer letters and 99 year leases to current farmers will go a long way to project GoZ's sincerity, and in real terms cost very little. Although progress has been slow, be assured this is work in progress.

We would appeal to all our Former Farmers and Government officials to support the GCD. They should not be swayed by those, whose agendas are often hidden and not in the best interests of a middle income economy being developed in the next 8 years. In particular, to officials within the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water & Rural Resettlement (Min of Ag), we offer "our every assistance" to help improve efficiency. Whether by design or lack of resources, the Ministry's performance has been poor, particularly in carrying out the wishes of the Executive Presidium, which is so often publicly enunciated. We understand the difficulties of staffing during the Covid lock downs, but communicating, meeting deadlines and adhering to targets must be the order of the day.

May we assure you, our colleagues, that we, your Representatives, are resolutely determined to pursue the funding for the Global Compensation Deed in UNITED STATES DOLLARS, lodged in an account of your choice where ever, as per the agreement in the deed (It is absolutely NOT true that there has been any talk of ZWL or RTGS in our discussions despite what some fake news social media have mischievously put forward).

We pray the fulfilment of the Deed will bring about a satisfactory outcome for all the people of Zimbabwe, Farmers, and the Government.

The key players acting on behalf of farmers are honourable men who have dedicated the last decade or so, to finding a solution, in the best way they can.

No farmer "stole his farm", in point of fact, the vast majority of farms' ownerships were transferred after our independence and with the particular approval of the Government of Zimbabwe through the issuance of Certificates of no present interest!!

### **Interim Relief**

I R 1 2019 is virtually complete. There are just a few loose ends to resolve

I R 2 2020 has had its issues. Wendy de la Fargue and Shallon Bester have battled manfully to resolve issues but have been stymied by delays in payments between treasury and the Min of Ag. For ValCon it has been a nightmare. ValCon's perseverance must be applauded. There remain, perhaps a hundred, farmers who are yet to receive the second part of this tranche.

I R 3 2021 Is on the cards but as yet we are to persuade the Stakeholders that this time the payments from the Min of Ag can be embarked upon in an easily audited manner and thus to move forward with I R 3 while a small portion of the I R 2 is still in to be resolved.

While on the topic of Valcon, it is appropriate to commend all who work there on the amazing presentation they made to Arent Fox. Arent Fox commented that it is quite the best presentation they have ever seen in their vast experience of compensation claims. Well done ValCon We are truly grateful for the professional manner in which Tony Purkiss, Shallon Bester, Wendy De la Fargue and their team have managed over the past few years.



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However what ValCon cannot do, without your vigorous assistance, is to declare who **precisely** is to receive the proceeds. When the time comes, and it will, distribution of the funds will only take place after a meticulous audit of the recipients identity be they individuals, Company's shareholding or Trusts Etc. Title deed holders may have complications and delays if this is not clear to all stakeholders (especially the funders).

**THE TIME TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES IS NOW.** For example perhaps the title holder is a company that has failed to amend its shareholding (with the Registrar of Companies) and perhaps one or more of the Shareholders is deceased intestate, or sadly subject to family feuds of some kind.”  
**SO PLEASE BE PREPARED**

Again Arent Fox were very impressed that two conflicted parties were able to come together and produce a document such as the G C Deed. They said it was an amazingly good reconciliatory document. They were most impressed that two hitherto divergent groupings could merge. I would particularly wish to express our gratitude to John Reid-Rowland for his expertise and tireless efforts negotiating on our behalf and producing such a well-conceived workable deed. It was never going to be easy. We are aware there are some shortcomings but regardless of the tight legal clauses some people would have preferred....

...if there was no will to see it through then it will amount to nothing.

After twenty years, I do not have to remind any of you that, John Laurie has been and still is actively lobbying on our behalf. He is an example to us all, showing all the undiminished tenacity and diplomacy as he has done throughout this period. You, John, may not be directly at the coal-face any longer, but you still handle your shovel very effectively. Thank you so much for your dedication, which I am certain is echoed throughout our constituency.

We were sorry to lose Ben Gilpin as director at the end of December. He served us for ten years with loyalty and with great energy in the CFU. Ben has now joined the Farm Family Trust as Deputy Chairman. The success of his son, Peter, in the 2021 Olympics will have been followed by most of us here, and will have given you and Sue great pride in the way he presented himself and represented the best of Zimbabweans.

In January of this year, Mike Clark stepped in as Acting Director of CFU. We could not have asked for a better man. It is as though, you Mike, were designed for the task. You have done an amazing job and we all owe you a great debt of gratitude. You are a steady hand on the tiller, unruffled as you help guide the ship through these turbulent waters. Despite very reduced circumstances you and the CFU staff have performed exceptionally. Well done to you all. You deserve far greater support for your work from very many more farmers both on and off farms. Come on Guys.....this should not be Freebee.

Taking over at the helm of the CSC, Charlie Taffs a former CFU President, has along with John Laurie served us all for a very long time. Intuitively and persuadably, edging closer to the goal, he has led from the front. Ably assisted by Harry Orphanides, the two have complimented each other. There will



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be few here today who can appreciate the numerous meetings that they, together with our current president Andy Pascoe, have had to attend. All these meetings cannot be “off the cuff”; they have to be prepared for. They do not just turn up; they spend an infinite time preparing scripts, lobbying, considering strategies, giving updates and report backs, seeking advice and of course everywhere they visit they are asked the question “Where are we now?”. Your patience is immense.

So often formal meetings are called off, or postponed, or stakeholders are late or they even fail to arrive, or if they do arrive then they are often unprepared. Mostly timelines are not kept and promises remain unfulfilled. Ad hoc meetings are often needed to clarify situations and appointments arranged late into the evenings with little notice. So to our representatives and those working behind the scenes ... A very great THANK YOU for all you do for us. You truly have our gratitude.

I must also include our wives in my thanks for their patience and support. They ensure that we are able to return home each day to a place of sanity and tranquillity.

It only remains for me to thank you, our ARAC members and my committee members Andrew Pascoe (our Ex officio Vice Chairman), Byron Dardagan, Harry Orphanides, Robin Wryly-Birch, Rob Beverley, Kerry Kay, John Perrot and Richard Harvey, Adrian Hosack, Richard Taylor, Ian McKersie and Tok Arnold for their time, consistent effort, support and dedication to the cause; all for no financial reward. Thanks are due to Allan York also, he represents the Lowveld on The CSC while Cedric Wilde and Mac Crawford are so far away.

Thank you, Dandara, for the use of your facility and many thanks to Ian McKersie for setting up the “Zoom” for our out of town followers.

Your support is so appreciated as will be your updated subscriptions.

On which topic I would remind our overseas members that their subs can easily be forwarded by either WORLD REMIT or MUKURU very easily. Details are easily accessed on the CFU web site or in CFU Calling.

Thank you for your time and for your attention.

***Patrick Ashton***

***Chairman, ARAC***



## AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SERVICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

### **Introduction**

This paper serves to give developments that have occurred in the economy and the agriculture sector since the last Congress in October 2020. It also contains production data for the 2020/21 season.

### **Economic Developments**

#### ***COVID-19 Pandemic***

2021 has been a slow and difficult year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was also a very sad year as we continued to lose our loved ones from the deadly pandemic. Business has been slow and access to markets continued to be a challenge. Business was severely affected due to the lockdown restrictions and delays caused by police check roadblocks. Prices continued on an upward trend both at a local and international level. The latest economic analysis for the country says the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts disrupted livelihoods, expanding the number of extremely poor citizens by 1.3 million, and increasing extreme poverty overall to 49%. The pandemic further disrupted provision of basic public services in health, education and social protection, which were strained prior to the pandemic, affecting poor citizens the most. It shows that about 500 000 Zimbabwean households have at least one member who lost his or her job, causing many households to fall into poverty, and worsening the plight of the existing poor. Things are however expected to improve as more people are getting vaccinated which is likely to lessen the effects of the pandemic.

#### ***Economic Growth***

Global economy is this year projected to grow by 6%, an upward review from the initial forecast of 0.5%. The growth is on account of additional fiscal support and monetary accommodation by major economies as well as the global vaccination programme. Although the Sub Saharan region was not severely affected by the waves of the pandemic than other regions, it is expected to recover rather slowly compared to the rest of the world in 2021 owing to the region's limited fiscal policy space and access to vaccines as well as growing risk from debt burden. The region is projected to grow by 3.4% an upward review from the initial projection of 3.1%. The recovery will mostly be supported by firm international commodity prices, spill-overs from global growth and to some extent, supportive fiscal and monetary interventions.

Our local GDP growth for the year 2021 is projected to remain strong at 7.8%, slightly above the 2021 National Budget growth target of 7.4%. The strong rebound of the economy is anchored on better 2020/21 rainfall season, higher international mineral commodity prices, stable macroeconomic environment and managed COVID-19 pandemic. Higher growth rates are projected in agriculture, electricity generation, manufacturing as well as financial services.

Agriculture in 2021 is estimated to grow 36.2% from the initial projection of 34%, on account of higher-than-anticipated performance of tobacco, wheat and livestock, particularly beef, poultry, pork, sheep and goats.



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### ***Inflation***

Global inflation has been surging since 2020, having risen since the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic in both advanced economies and emerging and developing economies. Inflation in the United States of America accelerated to higher levels of 5.4% in June 2021, a peak since 2008 during the global financial crisis. The rise in inflation is mainly resulting from supply disruptions, food shortages, stimulus interventions and currencies depreciation induced by COVID-19 pandemic. Global inflation is projected to continue on the rise over the remainder of this year, but within targeted ranges in most countries.

Zimbabwe's central bank revised its year-end inflation outlook three times this year. End of year inflation is now projected to as high as 53%, up from the revised targets of between 25% and 35%. A rise in global commodity prices, a planned increase in power tariffs and a weakening of the local currency against the U.S. dollar on the black market are the main drivers. Annual inflation rose in September to 51.55%, up from 50.24 percent recorded the previous month and the first increase in eight months.

### ***Exchange Rate***

Currency woes have been the centre of farmers' challenges. The proliferation of illegal foreign currency trading, which has detrimental effects to the economy and prices tends to track the speculative nature of the system. The country in June 2020 adopted the foreign exchange auction trading system to foster transparency and efficiency in the allocation of foreign currency. Just over a year after its introduction the system seems to be collapsing and is no longer serving its function. The system is failing to stabilise the currency and to converge the official rate and the parallel rate. The parallel market rate is moving at a much faster pace and has resulted in rapid increase in prices as most traders are pricing based on the parallel market rate. Commodity prices mostly priced in RTGS have not been able to follow the pace which has reduced viability of operations significantly. As at the 31st of October 2021 the Official Foreign Exchange Auction rate stood at US\$1: ZWL\$97.14 against a black market rate of between ZWL\$180 and ZWL\$185.

### ***Commodity Prices***

International commodity prices continued on an upward trend since end of last year with those for metals, oil and agriculture surpassing their pre-pandemic levels. They are expected to remain close to current levels throughout the year based on global recovery from 2020's recession, improved growth prospects, and commodity specific supply constraints. Agricultural prices are projected to rise by 14% during 2021, and stabilize in 2022. Production shortfalls in some food commodities, such as soybeans, palm oil, and maize, have resulted in steep price increases.

### **Industry Developments and 2021 Summer Season**

#### ***Commodity Exchange***

This year in August an agricultural commodity exchange was launched in a bid to offer transparency, efficient and fair pricing mechanism in the marketing of agricultural commodities. The platform was launched by the Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange (ZMX) which is joint venture between Financial Securities Private Limited (FINSEC), TSL Limited and CBZ Holdings supported by the Government of Zimbabwe.





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The commodities exchange is based on an automated Warehouse Receipting System and Spot Market Trading Platform for convenience and efficiency in the marketing of agricultural commodities. Prices are market based thus according to supply and demand.

Commodities to be traded on the exchange include the country's strategic grains such as maize and wheat, sorghum, rapoko, soya beans, sugar beans, ground nuts, round nuts, macadamia nuts, rice, oats, barley and coffee among others. The development is expected to mitigate challenges in the sector which includes lack of access to pre-planting and post-harvesting finance, post-harvest losses, poor agriculture marketing infrastructure, inappropriate warehousing facilities, underdeveloped logistics for the movement of agro-products from farm to markets and poor price discovery system.

### ***Agriculture Finance Corporation***

In September 2021 AGRIBANK rebranded to Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) to become a one stop shop for all farmers financing needs. AFC holdings became the parent company to four subsidiary companies namely AFC commercial Bank, AFC Insurance Company, AFC Leasing Company and AFC Land and Development Bank. Not much changes have been noticed so far but we look forward to a great improvement in agriculture financing specific for each farming cluster.

### **Summer Season Outlook**

#### ***Weather Forecast***

The meteorological department has informed that Zimbabwe is likely to receive normal to above-normal rains in the October-November-December (OND) period as well in the last half of the 2021 - 2022 cropping season ; January – February – March (JMF) (2022) phase. However they have warned of mid-term dry spells and early seizure of the rains. The department has said that violent storms, flash floods are more likely to occur. The occurrence of tropical cyclones is a possibility during the season. Given the current forecast, there is need to improve stocks of seed and fertilisers. There is a higher risk of leaching during the season. High rainfall may mean increase in livestock disease therefore farmers should stock up on dipping chemicals and ensure consistent dipping. There is need to invest in water harvesting programmes and conservation agriculture practices.

#### ***Power***

The Zimbabwe Power Company has reported that the Hwange Expansion project is now 72.18% complete. This is expected to improve the power situation in the country. In addition power supply is expected to improve as government has entered a deal with Zambia. Zambia will export 330MW to Zimbabwe. However this is in contrast to what is happening on the ground, there has been increase in load shedding over the past month with other areas going for more than 24 hours without power. Farmers have been struggling to irrigate their crop and had to use generators for longer periods. We encourage farmers to invest in alternative power sources such as solar irrigation systems to avoid inconveniences.

#### ***Fuel***

Fuel has been readily available but in US\$ which has been very expensive for farmers. Farmers have raised concern and have asked Government to make RTGS fuel available for the season. The farmer Unions, Ministry of Lands, AMA and ZERA have worked on modalities for farmers to access RTGS



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fuel. Applications by farmers to access the fuel were sent to AMA and they are doing the verification process and once the logistics are in place we will inform farmers. It is our hope this will work out for the good of the farmers.

### **Inputs cost and availability**

#### ***Fertiliser***

Costs of fertilisers have increased significantly in both US\$ and ZWL\$. A tonne of AN is averaging US\$840 up from US\$550 last season. A tonne of compound D fertilizer is averaging US\$740 up from US\$540 last season.

#### ***Seed***

Maize seed is readily available but prices have also gone up. A 25kg bag of seed is averaging US\$165 up from US\$78 last season

#### ***Crop chemicals***

Most chemicals are readily available but very expensive most farmers may not afford them.

### **Looking Forward**

There is hope for Zimbabwe's economy to rebound in 2022 as the country shrugs off the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. However, there is need for Government to find lasting solutions to the currency question as it increases cost of doing business and affect viability of all businesses. For the agricultural sector, Government should enable the Commodity Exchange which has been set up, to operate freely. At the moment it is being hampered by various Statutory Instruments such as that on trading of Maize, Soya, and wheat. The putting in place of tradable, secure land tenure instruments on all classes of farmers is needed. Processing of offer letters and processing of bankable and transferable 99year leases is taking so long which hampers investment. Major threats ahead relate to political instability that may result as we move into the 2023 elections.

***Best Wishes!!!***

***Antonnette Goora (Chingwe)***

***CFU, Agriculture Information Services Department***



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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	2019	2020	2021*
<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	776.00	1100.00	2700.00
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	80.00	100.00	250.00	300.00
Sorghum	61.91	60.74	23.82	59.56	124.00	111.00	108.40	81.50	103.00	77.00	73.60	50.54	64.70	76.00	105.00	39.70	36.30	182.01	77.00	40.00	103.00	244.00
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	11.00	11.00	11.00	35.00
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	56.00	34.00	48.00	103.00
<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	259.00	184.00	210.00
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	130.00	67.00	101.00	195.00
<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	59.00	60.00	47.00	71.00
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	127.00	70.00	87.00	208.00
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	6.00	9.00	14.00
<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	46.00	38.00	40.00	38.00
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	0.56	0.60	0.58	0.61
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	8.00	10.70	11.00
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	16.00	18.00	21.00
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	200.00	240.00	256.00	280.00
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	15.00	17.00	18.50
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	600.00	750.00	787.00	795.00
<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	75.40	79.00	76.40
Beef Slaughters (nos)	605.00	630.00	720.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	300.00	250.00	200.00	266.00	200.00	261.00	256.00	242.20	245.00	261.69	288.71	263.00	266.00	285.00	235.00	250.00
* Estimates																						



### Embracing Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Covid 19 has presented opportunities in the technological space. Farmers and the population at large were caught unaware such that technologies that had been anticipated would be implemented 5 years from now are already being implemented. However, the human intelligence has proved to be advanced as platforms such as Zoom had been developed a decade ago. These technological applications are now very useful in conducting day to day business. Technology predictions in primary agriculture and agribusiness are now ahead of our time such that we urge farmers to adopt the frequent use of mobile applications and other technological appliances that deliver increased production and productivity. As a strategy I urge farmers who have not found it easy to live in our new normal to invite their grandchildren for holiday so that they can get some free technology lessons or spend Sunday afternoons with the youthful people.

The pandemic has taught us that when there are push factors in play there may be technological drivers and motives which may reach confluence with human advances and predictions, such that digital technology grows exponentially. This could be the beginning of a new beginning hence we have to brass for more pandemics that we would need to quickly adapt.

In conclusion we advise farmers to cautiously adopt the technology that gives them maximum output. The farms should be data driven with digital communication key to informed decision making. The 21st century is full of surprises and for increased competitiveness farmers and value chain players need to adopt the use of ICT and the connectedness that comes with the internet of things.

*Chrispen Mununga*  
*CFU, Economist*

### LABOUR AFFAIRS AND ADVOCACY AND LOBBY REPORT

#### **1. Discipline management**

The Labour Department provided many farmers with the technical assistance in handling disciplinary processes against employees who committed various acts of misconduct. All these cases were concluded at enterprise level, and none of the determinations were appealed against at the National Employment Council (NEC) or the Labour Court.

#### **2. Enquiries**

In August 2021, CFU recruited an Agriculture Labour Consultant. Farmers were immediately advised of his role. Since August, he has processed numerous enquiries through different media such as e-mail, WhatsApp, and voice calls.

#### **3. Collective Bargaining**

The NEC implemented quarterly collective bargaining which resulted in a greatly congested collective bargaining calendar. Further to that, it made the wage trends greatly unpredictable throughout the year, as the minimum wages in most of the sectors were increased up to four times throughout the year.



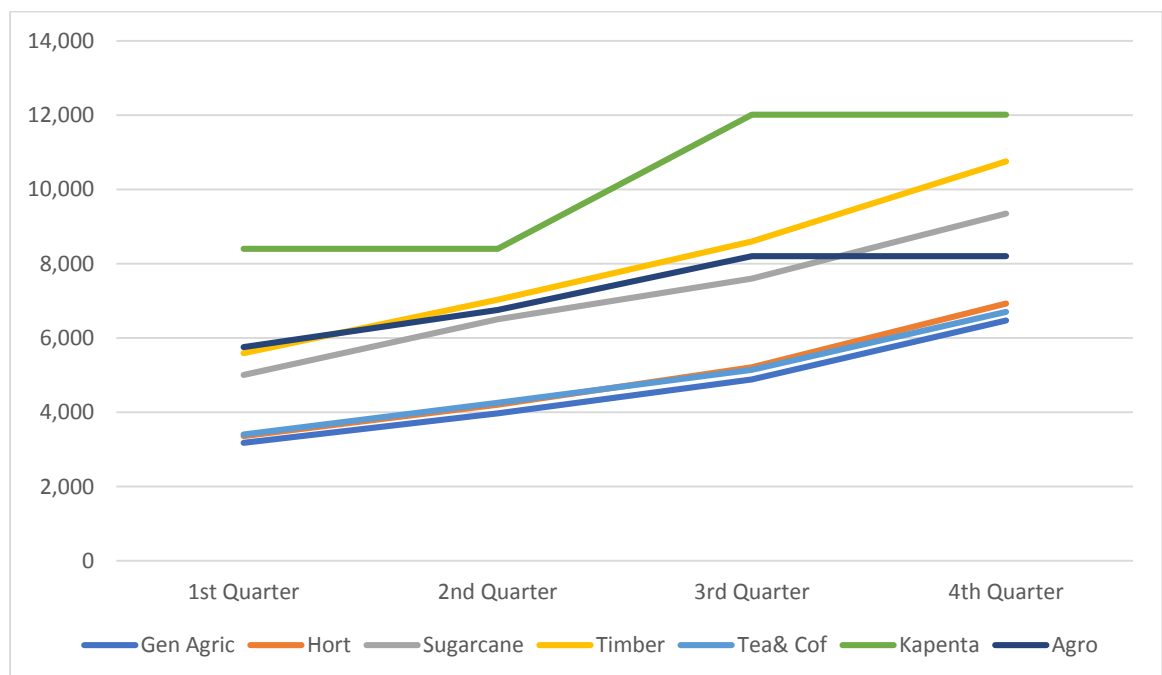
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There are several options being considered to make collective bargaining more systematic, and to generally improve the power of CFU and its sister farmers associations to bring reforms at the NEC.

### 3.1. Tabular Illustration of Wage Trends for 2021

Sector	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Average Quarterly Increase
Horticulture	ZW\$3,360	ZW\$4,200 (25%)	ZW\$5,208 (24%)	ZW\$6,927 (33%)	27%
Gen Agri	ZW\$3,175	ZW\$3,969 (25%)	ZW\$4,882 (23%)	ZW\$6,469 (32.5%)	27%
Kapenta	ZW\$8,400	ZW\$8,400	ZW\$12,012 (43%)	ZWL 12,012 (0%)	14%
Sugarcane	ZW\$5,000	ZW\$6,500 (30%)	ZW\$7,600 (17%)	ZW\$9,348 (23%)	23%
Tea & Coffee	ZW\$3,401	ZW\$4,251 (25%)	ZW\$5,144 (21%)	ZW\$3500 plus USD20 (30%)	25%
Timber	ZW\$5,856	ZW\$7,027 (20%)	ZW\$8,600 (22%)	ZW\$10,750 (25%)	22%
Agro	ZW\$5,750	ZW\$6,750 (17%)	ZW\$8,201 (21.5%)	Pending	19%

### 3.2. Graphical Illustration of Wage Trends for 2021





#### 4. NEC

##### a. Formation of Eighth Sector (Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector)

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, the NEC announced that the formation of another sector (Fisheries and Aquaculture) was at an advanced stage. This would bring together the number of sectors in the agriculture industry to eight (8)! The new sector will cater for farmers involved in fish and crocodile farming.

However, this development has not been without controversy, as it was driven by only two big organizations and was initiated without wider consultations among all producers in both fish and crocodile farming. Farmers in the fish industry are already contesting this development which they feel is ill-advised as crocodile farming is totally different to fish farming such that the latter may not match the high wage demands associated with the former.

Farmers will be advised of the developments in this regard.

##### b. Amendment of the principal Collective Bargaining Agreement (SI 116 of 2014)

This is an ongoing exercise as the parties (employers and the trade unions) are still negotiating. Farmers will be informed in due course.

The updating of The Agricultural Employers' Handbook has therefore been put on hold, awaiting the changes that will result from the amendment of SI 116 of 2014.

#### 5. Legislative developments

##### a. Labour Amendment Draft Bill 2021

In October, government announced that Cabinet had approved a draft amendment to the Labour Act, to be tabled in parliament during the current session of parliament. Some of the areas covered in the Draft Bill include;

- Restrictions on the duration of fixed term contracts
- Regulation of labour broking
- Increase in the scope of workplace sexual harassment and gender violence
- Removal of the current limitations on maternity leave
- Regulations of allocation of seats among employers' organizations and trade unions at the NECs
- Further restrictions on the power of employers to terminate contracts on notice
- Changes to the dispute settlement procedure to revert to the conciliation and arbitration process.

Some changes may be done on the draft as it goes through debate in the National Assembly and the Senate. CFU, and other employers' organizations have presented concerns regarding some of these amendments on behalf of members, through deliberations organized by EMCOZ. EMCOZ undertook to present these concerns to government through the Tripartite Negotiating Forum.

*Gabriel Kwaramba*

*CFU, Labour Affairs*



## 7. IN MEMORIAM

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. 2021 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 2021. Without the generous support of these organizations, institutions, individuals and staff it would not be possible for the Union to host such an event.

Please accept our heartfelt appreciation.

**ANDREW PASCOE**

**CFU, PRESIDENT**