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**AGRICULTURAL
GROWTH**
Programme



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ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural
Growth Programme (ZAGP)

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Welcome to Issue 2 of ZAGP News, the monthly newsletter for the European Union (EU) funded, Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP). There are six projects under the ZAGP. The newsletter is one of the channels for the sharing of programme information and updates of activities across the different provinces of Zimbabwe. Each newsletter will have a specific focus on one of the projects.

In this issue, the focus is on the Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS) project. ZAKIS is one of the six projects being implemented under the ZAGP and promotes the essential working links between agricultural stakeholders to ensure relevant and up to date market-oriented knowledge for farmers and the private sector.

The ZAKIS project brings on board participatory research priority setting, bringing together farmers and unions, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement, private sector service providers and value chain processors and aggregators.

We also feature updates from the ZAGP's implementing partners working on different value chains and projects within Zimbabwe's livestock sector.

This issue of the Newsletter comes against the background of a launch to be held at the Chibero College of Agriculture, in Chegutu District, Mashonaland on the 11th of June 2019. We welcome your feedback on this and other issues of ZAGP News.

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CONTACT DETAILS

Technical Assistance to the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme

18 Borrowdale Road, Harare, Zimbabwe | Tel: +263 242 790 904 | E-mail: nqorchardson@zagp.co.zw;
tnyathi@zagp.co.zw; admin@zagp.co.zw; projects@zagp.co.zw



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ZAGP NEWS FOCUS

ZAKIS: Linking Agriculture Research, Education and Extension.



Background



Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mr. Vangelis Haritatos (second from left, front row) together with stakeholders from ZAKIS, Government and Private Sector at the project launch at Gwebi College.

The agriculture sector has the potential to be a key driver of economic growth in Zimbabwe. Therefore, there has been no greater time to have a modern Agriculture Knowledge Innovation service in place that will ensure that the best practices in agriculture are employed for a better future.

The Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP) is an answer to this call, with the Zimbabwe Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation services (ZAKIS) project being the synergistic link between Agriculture Research, Education and Extension. The initiative brings together public and private institutions with a focus on improving farmers' productivity and income through the delivery of well researched modern knowledge and extension.

The overall objective of the ZAGP and ZAKIS project is to enable farmers and value chain actors to improve their lives and contribute to agricultural growth and rural green-economic development.

The project is implemented primarily through three flagship Agricultural Centres of Excellence (ACE): Chibero College of Agriculture in Mashonaland West province, serving the northern region and Matopos Research Institute in Matabeleland South province, serving the southern region. A digital/virtual ACE (VACE) which will be accessible to everyone in the agricultural space.

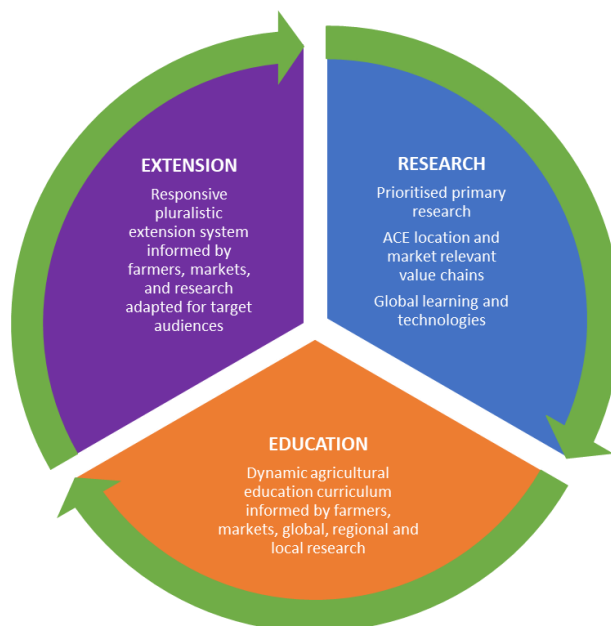


Figure 1: The three interlinked sectors of the Zimbabwe Agriculture Knowledge Innovation System (ZAKIS).

ZAKIS: Linking Agriculture Research, Education and Extension.

What are the Agricultural Centers of Excellence (ACEs)?

The ACEs are institutions where crop and animal husbandry research is conducted, good agricultural practices are demonstrated, and modern farming technologies are showcased and developed. The physical ACEs will be administered by the Department of Agricultural Education and Farmer Training (DAEFT) in collaboration with the Department of Research and Specialist Services (DR&SS) and the Department of Agricultural Extension (AGRITEX). The private sector is involved in ensuring that viable business models are applied within the activities of ACEs to ensure they are sustainable and up to date with current market needs. Several revenue streams will be developed and implemented, leveraging on both crop and animal husbandry. The ACEs have a further role to cascade the knowledge they have attained to other educational centres within the country. This will be kick-started by cascading initially to two selected district satellite ACEs in Insiza and Matobo districts in Matabeleland South province.

Opening and Sharing Zimbabwe Agricultural Research and Information through the Virtual ACE.

For years, research in agriculture within Zimbabwe, has been carried out in isolation, either by the public or private sector. As such, results have never been widely shared, publications are difficult to find and research has seldom been made open to the public. The virtual ACE is an online portal that provides anyone with an agricultural interest with the opportunity to access or supply research findings, project queries and content adapted for specific audiences including farmers, educators, extension or researchers. This portal brings together not only materials from the private and public sector, but also journals and manuals from civic society and academic tertiary institutions, including university masters and doctoral theses. The Virtual ACE therefore provides a platform set to be the go-to-site for sharing agricultural knowledge.

All ZAGP projects will be encouraged to use the Virtual ACE for sharing and seeking information as the platform develops.

Development of Ground Breaking Digital Agricultural Innovations.

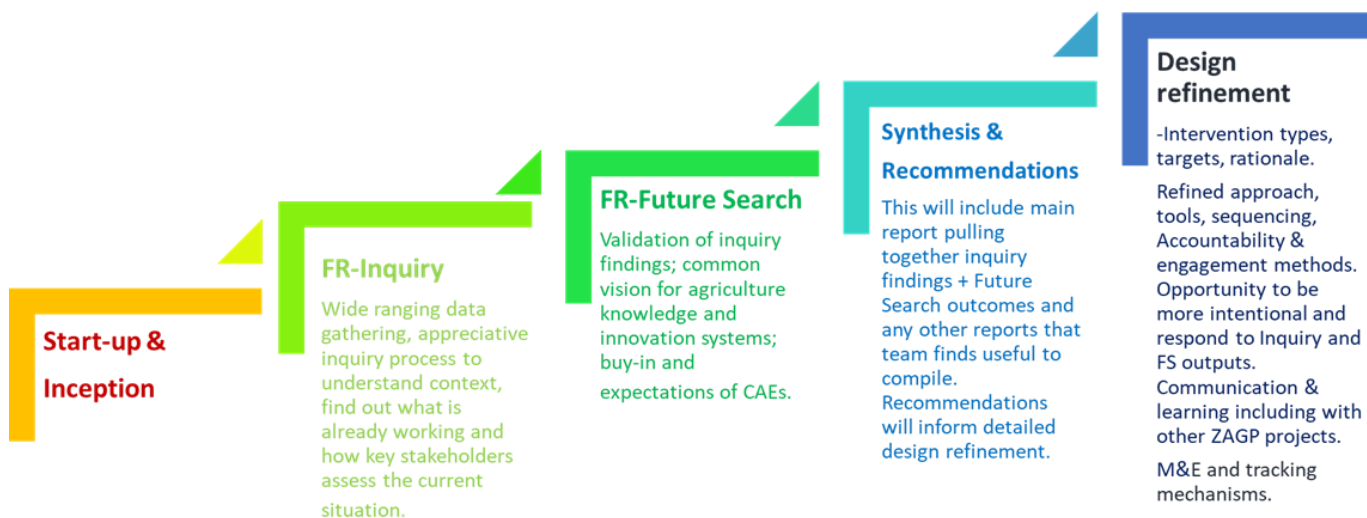
The agricultural centres of excellence will also be at the forefront of developing digital innovations such as innovative software applications (apps) and communication tools where farmers can access mobile based extension which is digitally interactive and pluralistic. An example is the Kurima Mari mobile application where Agritex has already taken a leading role in content development and management for the greater good of Zimbabwean extension.



Students at Chibero College of Agriculture being trained on installing a drip irrigation kit earlier this year. In turn, they will use these skills to train farmers.

ZAKIS: Linking Agriculture Research, Education and Extension.

Project Progress to Date



A depiction of the project build to date.

- After an inception meeting held at Gwebi College of Agriculture in Mashonaland West province, the project embarked on a formative inquiry process to have an in-depth understanding of the historic and current status of Research, Extension and Education within Zimbabwe. The objective was to ensure the designed intervention would speak to the needs of all three sectors in a sustainable way.
- In January 2019, a multi stakeholder gathering explored what an ideal future in research, extension and education might look like and how the project could work towards realising this.
- In April 2019, the work plans for the Agriculture Centres of Excellence were agreed and activities began in earnest.



The ZAKIS team meeting to develop the work plans.

PROJECT UPDATES

Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST)



Private Sector Engagement

Private sector participation is a key ingredient in the success of any value chain. To provide this, the Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST) project is partnering with private sector players for input provision, extension services and output markets. The project has engaged Koala Park, Montana Carswell, Surrey Abattoirs, Sabi Meats, and Balu Pecan Estates as key actors from the start to provide market services to 24,900 small to medium beef producers.

The project also advertised for the registration of other private sector actors such as inputs suppliers and off takers to widen the participant pool. The idea is to tailor production to the end market's expectations (market led production). In the past, farmers have been disappointed when sales of unsuitable livestock led to poor prices offered and, in some instances, rejection.

The project's Cattle Business Centre (CBC) model will revolve around the expectations of the market with the private sector playing a key role in extension provision and day-to-day management of the CBC sites as well as additional services such as bulling and provision of disease and pest control remedies in a fee for service model, in collaboration with local government extension agents.

Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future



National Milk Mapping Commences

We Effect in partnership with Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF), Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) and Zimbabwe Dairy Industry Trust (ZDIT), is implementing the Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future project under ZAGP. The project aims to address the root causes of underperformance in the dairy value chain in Zimbabwe by strengthening linkages between production, processing and financing.

In April 2019, a Dairy Sector Indicators Information Needs workshop was conducted in preparation for the baseline survey and national milk mapping exercise to explore the Zimbabwe milk production competitiveness requirements and to explore the milk production value chain. It is also expected to collate data on how to transform the Zimbabwe dairy industry and production value chain.

To facilitate this process, the project trained 40 enumerators and milk mapping commenced in May 2019. To date, milk mapping data collection has been completed in the provinces of Bulawayo; Harare (Harare peri-urban and Seke); Matabeleland North (Binga, Hwange, Lupane and Nkayi) and Matabeleland South (Gwanda, Insinza, Mwangwe, Beitbridge).



BEST conducting a Cattle Business Centre Assessment with Koala Meats in Mt. Darwin District.

PROJECT UPDATES

Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC)



The project is working on the inception phase, focusing on introductory meetings in the target districts.

The private sector integrators have been identified and now understand the different challenges and market interventions in the project target areas. They are also engaging the potential IPVC aggregators in the five project clusters (Harare, Mutare, Masvingo, Gweru and Bulawayo). The integrators will include agro-dealers, suppliers of inputs and the private sector.

The Department of Veterinary Services and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement are now involved in value chain mapping and sharing information about the Small and Medium Producers (SMPs) in the cluster hubs. The extension staff have been mobilized to identify the SMPs, out-grower schemes and other value chain actors who will be involved in the Value Chain Baseline Survey in the five clusters.

AT A GLANCE:

Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE)



Goat Value Chain

- Setting up of 12 Goat Improvement Centres in each district to provide primary business support services such as hands-on training for goat farmers and goat breeding services.
- Establishment of 12 District-level Goat Producers Business Associations in the 5 provinces.
- Identification and training of 1,000 anchor goat farmers to support the small-scale farmers in 12 the districts.
- Establishment of two Goat Holding Centres at Grasslands and Matopos Research Stations to enable abattoirs and supermarkets to buy goats in bulk.



Pork Value Chain

- Establishment of two region-specific Pork Production Business Syndicates (PPBS) in Mashonaland West and East in partnership with private sector integrators and the Pig Industry Board.
- Selection of 100 small to medium producers as primary members with shareholding status and investments in PPBS.
- Identification and training of 400 pig producers by the anchor farmers.
- The project target at least 60% women and 40% youth.

ZAGP Launch: Chibero College of Agriculture.

The Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP) will be launched at Chibero College of Agriculture in Chegutu district, Mashonaland West Province, on 11 June 2019. The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement and the Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Zimbabwe will officially launch the programme. The diplomatic community, programme partners, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and the media are expected to attend the event.

There will also be stalls at the launch, where the implementing partners, government and the private sector will showcase the type of interventions and investments that are going to be made by ZAGP.

Press Article: [European Union to launch livestock programme](#)

Project Contacts:

Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST).	Mark Benzon mark_benzon@wvi.org
Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC).	Cosimo Tendi cosimo.tendi@cospe.org
Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)/ Food Safety Systems for the Future.	Basil Mugweni Basil.Mugweni@fao.org
Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future.	Edson Chifamba edson.chifamba@weeffect.org
Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE).	Newton Chari Newton.Chari@actionaid.org
Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS).	Regina Feindt Regina.Feindt@welthungerhilfe.de

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ZAGP NEWS



In the July issue of ZAGP News, the focus will be on the Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future project being implemented by We Effect, in partnership with Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF), Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) and Zimbabwe Dairy Industry Trust (ZDIT).

The newsletter will delve deeper and highlight how the project is addressing the root causes of underperformance in the dairy value chain in Zimbabwe.