



ZAGP News

The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

ISSUE 5 SEPTEMBER 2019

Welcome to Issue 5 (September 2019) of ZAGP News, the monthly newsletter for the European Union (EU) funded, Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP). The newsletter is one of the channels for the sharing of programme information and updates of activities across the different provinces of Zimbabwe.

This month, the spotlight is on the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project, led by ActionAid Zimbabwe.

VALUE seeks to build the capacity of smallholder farmers to improve their goat and pig breeds and mobilise themselves to access viable markets as well as production and organisational efficiencies in partnership with private sector players.

Goat Value Chain: Goat production in Zimbabwe is mainly practiced by smallholder farmers and the national goat herd is estimated at 3.3 to 3.4 million.

The majority of the smallholder farmers rarely breed goats on a commercial basis, despite the demand and potential to export goat products. Challenges that hinder the growth of the sector include; lack of good animal husbandry practices, lack of access to breeds that improve quality and quantity; unstructured marketing; low commercialisation, lack of integration and poor networking and institutional frameworks.

Pork Value Chain: The pork value chain is also facing a multitude of challenges including increasing regulatory cost of compliance, poor nutrition, lack of good quality breeds, poor husbandry skills due to lack of extension services, diseases and lack of access to lucrative markets.

The newsletter provides details of how VALUE seeks to counter these challenges in 20 districts of Zimbabwe. We also provide updates on the other projects being implemented under ZAGP across the different value chains and support projects in various provinces of the country.

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Improving the capacity of smallholder farmers to improve their goat and pig breeds, production and productivity and facilitate access to viable markets.

ZAGP NEWS FOCUS

Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE)

The Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) is focusing on transforming and promoting the goat and pork value chains in Zimbabwe. VALUE will be implemented in 20 districts (12 for the goat value chain and 8 for the pork value chain) from six provinces namely Manicaland, Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West.

ActionAid Zimbabwe is collaborating with Mercy Corps and COSV together with four livestock private sector players - Braford Enterprises, Shamiso Farms, Michview Enterprises and Zvikomborero Farm in implementing the project. Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement departments namely AGRITEX and the Department of Veterinary Services will lead project implementation in respective districts. The project seeks to improve the capacity of smallholder farmers especially women and youths, to improve their goat and pig breeds, production and productivity, facilitate access to viable markets and organisational efficiencies.

VALUE seeks to scale-up and upgrade the value chains to supply safe, quality-assured livestock and meat products

along the six targeted transport/production corridors feeding into in Zimbabwe's two major meat markets of Harare and Bulawayo.

Key project components:

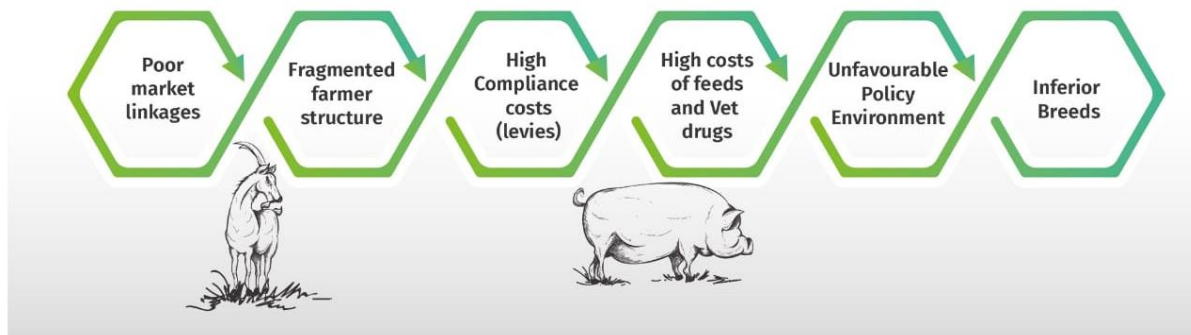
GOAT VALUE CHAIN

Goat Improvement Centres (GICs)

A Goat Improvement Centre (GIC) will be established in each of the 12 districts in the five corridors where the project is targeting the goat value chain (GVC). The GICs are physical hubs, which will act as "One Stop Service Centres" for goat farmers. They are designed to provide primary business support services including a demonstration farm offering hands-on training for goat farmers and a goat Breeding Service Unit (BSU). The GICs will have a dip tank, feeding pens, auction facilities, offices and drug stores. The GICs will also assist the farmers in the collective marketing of goats.

These activities will be implemented in partnership with private sector integrators (Michview and Zvikomborero Farm), with support from the Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe (GBAZ) and Livestock Research Stations at Matopos and Grasslands Research Institutes.

Binding Constraints in the Goat and Pork Value Chains



Goat Holding Centres (GHC)

Grasslands and Matopos Research Institutes have set aside land to establish the Goat Holding Centres (GHCs) for aggregating stocks of goats brought from district Goat Producers Business Associations (GPBA). This will enable abattoirs, supermarkets and the consumers to buy goats in bulk conveniently and without incurring exorbitant transport costs.

The GHCs are part of the broader effort to develop strategic infrastructure for goat marketing which will facilitate a transition from individual goat sales to bulk marketing by farmer groups. It is envisaged that large meat wholesalers will offer higher prices to participating farmers for long-term forward contracts for guaranteed bulk deliveries of quality assured goat from the GHCs.

Goat Producers Business Associations (GPBA) and Business Management Units (BMUs).

Goat farmers in the five participating provinces will be organised to form 12 district-level GPBAs targeting a potential 10,000 goat producers.

The GPBAs will be structured to coordinate and drive the commercial interest of goat farmers to access value-adding business support services and previously unaffordable

technologies through collective action strategies.

Each GPBA will have a Business Management Unit (BMU) with an average of 10 members drawn from the 1,000 anchor goat farmers.

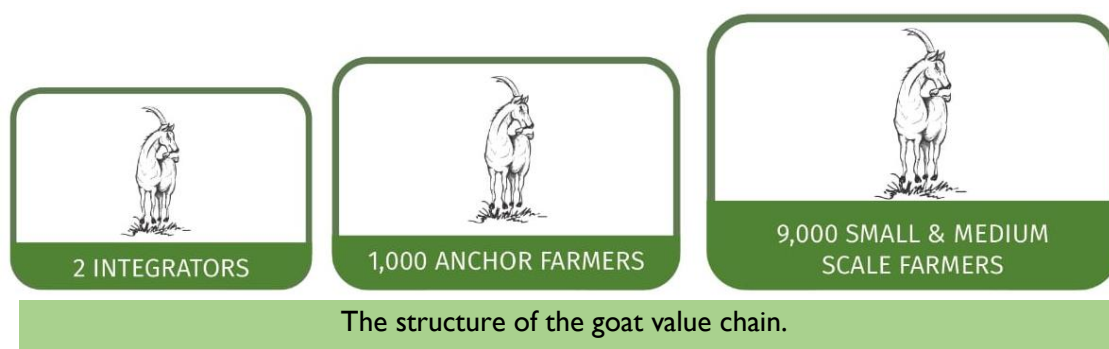
Together with the Goat Improvement Centre (GIC), they will provide the nucleus of support to small to medium goat farmers. Through this intervention, the project seeks to enable farmers to sell their produce directly via GPBAs, avoiding middlemen and selling at wholesale prices.

PORK VALUE CHAIN

Pork Production Business Syndicates (PPBS)

The project will work with the two private sector integrators and the Pig Industry Board (PIB) to formalise the establishment of two Pork Production Business Syndicates (PPBS) in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland West provinces for efficient delivery of value-adding business services to members through collective business strategies.

VALUE will facilitate a strategic planning meeting of the value chain development with all participating pig farmers in the two provinces.



The structure of the goat value chain.



Women and young pig farmers will be supported with weaner to finisher programmes through the Pork Production Business Syndicates.

Support to women and young pig farmers

Under the VALUE project, the PIB will coordinate the integration of 600 motivated youths and women small-scale farmers across all targeted districts to enter the pork value chain. The project will offer trainings on weaner-finisher business operations and linking them to suppliers of weaner stock in the PPBS.

As the trained young farmers and women gain experience in weaner-finisher pork production business, they will receive on credit, a starter pack of breeding stock consisting of pregnant sows and a boar, feeds and medications for one production cycle to kick-start under the mentoring and supervision from members of their local PPBS.

Fair Value Farm Branding

VALUE will encourage adoption of a Fair Value Farm Branding where farmers will grow high-quality products through building sustainable long-term relationships with key service providers through public-private-community partnerships.

Protocols on good agricultural practices, fair distribution of value along the chain, good environmental management as well

as animal and social welfare will be developed for both the goat and pork value chains.

Fair value farm branding is an approach taken to build mutually beneficial and respectful relationships between businesses and producers, by fairly distributing benefits and involving producers in decision making processes leading to premiums for high quality outputs.

Promoting Financial Inclusion

One of the major constraints identified during the design of the VALUE project is access to finance for the actors at the different nodes of the goat and pork value chains. Most of the value chain actors are excluded from or are underserved by the formal financial service providers such as registered banks and micro-finance institutions. It has been observed that it is expensive to be poor; yet poor and underserved populations frequently have limited financial options and are usually perceived to be high risk.

Very few financial service providers are offering tailor-made and flexible financial products for the smallholder farmers and other bottom of the pyramid value chain actors.



2 INTEGRATORS



18 CHAMPION FARMERS



40 ANCHOR FARMERS



400 SMALL-SCALE FARMERS



600 WOMEN AND YOUTH

The structure of the pork value chain.

The available, supply-led models do not meet the needs and priorities of poor market segments.

Evidence from the pork and goat value chains has shown that poorly resourced clients have limited ability to meet the institutional or legal requirements stipulated by the Financial Service Providers. VALUE is looking at different financing options for the small to medium-scale farmers and other value chain actors with a view to upgrade their activities and ultimately contribute to national economic development.

Value Chain Financing Options for PVC and GVC Initiatives

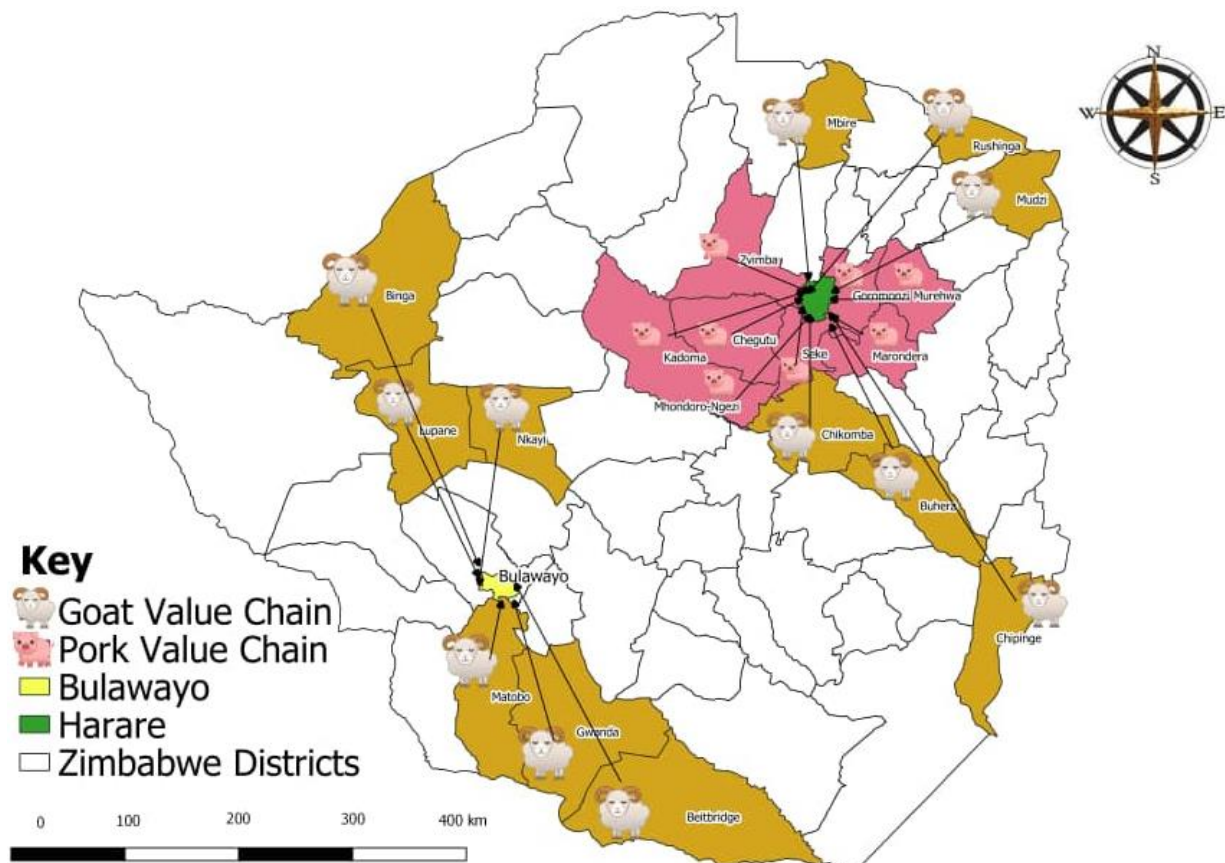
There are a number of opportunities available for the project to pursue in an effort to raise finance and these include Direct Project Investments on Infrastructure and Equipment, Smart Subsidies, Loans from formal Financial Service Providers (FSP) and Internal Saving and Lending Schemes (ISALS). The VALUE Project will assess the suitability of the different financing options and promote tailor-made products for the value chain actors at the different levels and in diverse geographical locations.

Readily available are the Smart Subsidies which will be disbursed to an average of 90 sub-grantees through a competitive bidding process. The Smart Subsidies have been introduced to nurture the development of inclusive agri-business models with potential to generate net positive financial and social returns to market actors and resource-constrained farming households. \

Sub-grants are a flexible, affordable and easily accessible funding mechanism for resource constrained goat and pig enterprises.

They will stimulate greater market participation and catalyse goat and pig production for sustained and accelerated growth through improved access to technologies and economic resources.

They are part of a broader action to promote the development of resilient and inclusive goat and pig value chains, making such value chains more rewarding in the long term.



VALUE is targeting the transport/production corridors feeding into in Zimbabwe's two major meat markets of Harare and Bulawayo.

PROJECT UPDATES

Matching Grants set to Transform Zimbabwe's Smallholder Dairy Sector.



Elias Chiweshe is one of the top small-holder dairy producers in Gokwe South district.

The Technical Assistance Team to the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (TA-ZAGP) visited Milk Collection Centres in Chikomba and Gokwe districts to get an appreciation of their operations and also to meet dairy farmers.

Elias Chiweshe leafs through his farm records file as he proudly shows his dairy farming records which he has meticulously kept and updated for the last 24 years. Describing himself as a “Milk Veteran”, the 66-year-old farmer has been involved in dairy farming since 1995.

Pointing to his dairy herd grazing in one of the paddocks, Chiweshe says, “This has been my passion since 1995, when I ventured into dairy production. Currently, I have a herd of six milking cows and I get at least 70 litres of milk per day”.

Operating from his smallholder plot located about 10 kilometres north of Gokwe South Centre in Midlands province, Chiweshe is one of the top milk producers in the district, a record he has maintained for years. He is one of the 60 members of the Gokwe Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society who operate the Gokwe Milk Collection Centre (MCC). Only 34 of the members are actively supplying milk to the MCC.

“I deliver the milk to the Gokwe Milk Collection Centre where I sell for RTG\$6.00 per litre (USD0.60). Per month, I earn at least RTG\$1,100 (USD110)”.

Chiweshe is one of the 4,500 smallholder farmers in

Zimbabwe who are participating in the Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future project (TranZ DVC), which aims to address the root causes of underperformance in the dairy value chain in Zimbabwe by strengthening linkages between production, processing and inclusive financing.

One of the project's key components is the matching grants facility to leverage private sector funding applications, focusing on improving service provision to small-scale dairy farming enterprises. The facility pushes for investments in dairy productive assets and infrastructure and to address some of the bottlenecks and or underlying challenges within the dairy value chain in Zimbabwe.

Part of the matching grants facility targets small-scale farmers, breeders and feed entrepreneurs. This window has a 70% - 30% split. TranZ DVC provides 70% of the funding and the applicant matches that with 30%.

The matching grants seek to tackle some of the challenges in the dairy value chain which include: high costs of feed; shortage of inputs; limited access to water, limited access to animal vaccines, dipping facilities and chemicals, milking equipment and transport.

PROJECT UPDATES

Matching Grants set to Transform Zimbabwe's Smallholder Dairy Sector.

With the current intermittent supply of energy in the country, the facility is also promoting the use of green energy technology at production and processing nodes of the dairy value chain and also luring of new entrants – youth, men and women towards a sustainable dairy value chain

Chiweshe has made an application on the matching grants to improve water supply at his farm by drilling a solar powered borehole. Currently, there are two shallow wells that service his homestead and farming activities and the water is not adequate and portable.

He noted the biggest challenge to his operations: “The high cost of feed is one of the challenges I’m facing which is hampering production and reducing my farm margin. However, with access to a reliable source of water, I intend to grow fodder such as giant rhodes, velvet beans, and lab-lab to produce mixed crop silages for my dairy herd. With access to feed I can increase the milk yield to at least 100 - 120 litres per day”, said Chiweshe.

Increased milk yield from providing high protein diets at a lower cost will not only help Chiweshe increase his incomes from dairy, but it will also allow him to expand into other areas of farming. I also intend to install a biogas digester and

use the slurry to expand my organic garden and reduce the use of artificial fertilisers. This sort of diversification reduces his exposure to external shocks.

At the Nharira-Lancashire Milk Collection Centre in Chikomba district in Mashonaland East province, Esther Marwa (58) is one of the 34 active members of the 60-nominal member Lancashire Dairy Co-operative.

Marwa maintains a dairy herd of five milking cows and has been involved in dairy production since January 2019. A newcomer in dairy production, within this period, Marwa has risen to be one of the top milk producers within the cooperative, producing at least 95 litres of milk a day.

“Despite the strides I have made, we have a challenge of water at the farm as Chikomba district is a very dry area. I have tried drilling a borehole three times without success.

From the matching grants facility, Marwa intends to establish a weir dam on the nearby river less than a kilometre from her farm.

“Securing funding to establish a weir is my priority. With access to a reliable source of water, my plan is to double the milking herd to at least 10 heifers and significantly increase my milk output.”



Esther Marwa posing with part of her dairy herd. In less than a year since venturing into dairy farming, she is a top milk producer at the Nharira-Lancashire Milk Collection Centre in Chikomba district.

PROJECT UPDATES

Matching Grants set to Transform Zimbabwe's Smallholder Dairy Sector.

At a neighbouring farm, Sibusisiwe Madyangove (67) has been involved in dairy farming since 1991. From her herd of six cows, she produces at least 50 litres of milk per day which she supplies to the Nharira-Lancashire Dairy MCC.

"Supplementary feeding is a critical component of managing your dairy herd to increase productivity. We currently use manual and often tedious methods to produce silage usually from snap corn and velvet beans", says Madyangove. 'Dairying was not profitable when I relied on the much more expensive commercial feed,' she says. Madyangove is delighted with the difference legume-based feeds have made for her milk production. "It's no longer business as usual for me," she adds.

Through the matching grants facility, Madyangove plans to invest in a chopper grinder to mechanise silage production. The farmers will also be trained to grow forages, produce hay and to make home-based feeds.

"Our biggest impediment currently is the high cost of feed. With a chopper grinder, I will be able to mechanise the processing of feeds using snap corn and velvet beans and increase my milk yield". I will also improve the hecterage of my lurcene and sell to other farmers since its on demand.

Mangodye also operates a biogas digester which provides gas for cooking and bio-slurry effluent for pasture fertilisation. TranZ DVC promotes climate smart innovations, technologies and practices that improve dairy productivity while contributing to climate resilience.

Looking ahead, there is already high demand for the dairy matching grants as farmers seek to optimise production through procurement of dairy productive assets and infrastructure.

For the MCCs, matching grants facility will work to counter some of the challenges in their operations such as: low milk intake, high overheads costs, limited energy access, governance and poor cold chain development. The project aims to transform the MCCs into a dairy hub providing services to the members and the market.



Mangodye showing part of the biogas system. In the background is the fodder crop fertilised by bio-slurry waste from the biogas digester.



She uses the fodder for the supplementary feeding of her dairy herd.

For more information about the matching grants, farmers are encouraged to contact Rudo Zenda on rudo.zenda@weeffect.org or Dr Edson Chifamba on edson.chifamba@weeffect.org

PROJECT UPDATES

BEEF ENTERPRISE STRENGTHENING AND TRANSFORMATION (BEST)

Dry Season Preparedness: The Key to Lowering Beef Production Feed Costs and Maintain Productivity.

Small to medium cattle producers depend on rangelands for their livestock nutritional supply. Rangelands offer the cheapest source of feed for the animals, as essentially what they produce is free. However, the rangelands offer variable nutritional supply during the year due to seasonality. Food for cattle is abundant in the summer/rain season, also referred to as the growing season and deteriorates in winter during the dry months making up the lean season, at which time there is also high demand for draft power, so animal condition becomes key in determining early crop establishment and hence food security. Beef cattle farmers should therefore prepare for this unproductive season by growing and harvesting their own cattle food to optimize production, minimize costs, maintain condition and avoid losses through animal deaths and infertility. Farmers need to have on farm dry season fodder preparedness plans which can meet the animals' nutritional needs and not rely on expensive bought in feeds, which are beyond the reach of many. Traditional practices need to be augmented with timely planting of fodder crops, harvesting and storage of rangeland grass, treatment of stover with urea and supplementing with blocks and molasses.

Dry season preparedness strategies under the Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation project (BEST) include;

- Preparing the animals for the dry season and aligning/timing of activities to suit nutritional supply
- Setting aside and preserving pastures for winter
- Planting and preserving fodder crops which can be used as a reserve
- Harvesting, processing and storage of hay and crop residues
- On farm feed mixes
- Having mitigation measures -priority feeding, relief grazing and timely sale of unproductive cattle



Traditional untreated stover reserved for cattle.



A cow scavenges for grazing in the dry season in Shurugwi.

PROJECT UPDATES

ZAKIS Integrated into the National Agriculture Policy Framework (NAPF) under Pillar 2 Agriculture Knowledge, Technology and Innovation Systems (AKTIS) under Ministry of Lands Agriculture Water Climate and Rural Resettlement (MLAWCRR)

The Ministry of Lands Agriculture Water Climate and Rural Resettlement (MLAWCRR) embarked on an inclusive policy development process to harmonize sector and subsector policies, resulting in the National Agriculture Policy Framework (NAPF 2019-2030). The new policy is in line with the Zimbabwe Vision 2030 Agenda, of attaining “upper middle-income status” by 2030.

The overall objective of the NAPF is to provide policy guidance and direction on how to promote and support the sustainable flow of local and external investment and resources necessary to transform the agriculture sector through increased and sustained agricultural production, productivity, and competitiveness.

ZAKIS received a Collaboration Letter from the MLAWCRR to enable the policy component to begin its collaborative work on developing agriculture education, extension and research policy formulation as part of the NAPF process under the AKTIS Pillar 2 (see Figure E1 below). This will enable ZAKIS to lead on coordination of the development of an agriculture education, extension and research policy document to be gazette.

This was explained at an Inception workshop held at Cresta Oasis in Harare hosted by ZAKIS.

The objective of the policy component under ZAKIS project, is to undertake policy review, to strengthen, harmonize and rationalize the education, extension and research for the three components to be more effective on service delivery so as to achieve the overall objective of the ZAKIS project to establish an integrated, dynamic, market oriented, and farmer centric agricultural knowledge and innovation service system that meets the needs of modern agriculture in Zimbabwe.

The key deliverables of the policy component include development of an issue paper which will lead to its approval or rejection by the authorities. Furthermore, ZAKIS will carry out wide consultations with the relevant stakeholders to have their input into the draft policy on agriculture education, extension and research. This collaboration has enabled ZAKIS to work closely with the DFID funded Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP) partners Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI).

National Agricultural Policy Framework

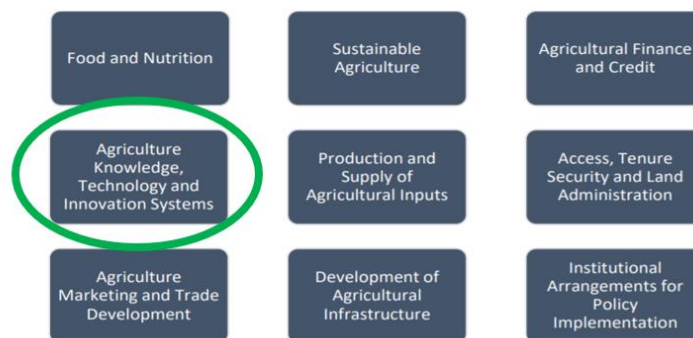


Figure E1: NAPF Pillars



Participants at a recent AKTIS Inception workshop facilitated by ZAKIS.



Regis Mafuratidze ZAKIS lead on policy component walks participants through the intended ZAKIS policy road-map.

PROJECT UPDATES**Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC)**

The first phase of mapping and the baseline survey of small to medium-scale poultry producers (SMPs) in the Mutare cluster commenced during the month of August 2019. Under the Mutare cluster IPVC mapped 2500+ farmers (ongoing process) and conducted a baseline on 351 farmers.

Mapping and baseline activities for the Harare cluster also commenced in Mashonaland East during the same month, following the inception workshop on the 19th of August 2019 in Marondera. As of the 5th of September 2019, 2000+ SMPs have been mapped and baseline was conducted on 172 out of a target of 350. In total, under the Mutare and Harare clusters, 4500 SMPs have been mapped and a baseline conducted on 523 SMPs.

Mapping was carried out in Vhungu district in Midlands province while inception meetings were carried out in Umguza, Umzingwane, Gutu and Chivi districts.

Financial services providers have been mobilized and project awareness meetings with financial sector players (both commercial Banks and Microfinance Institutions (MFI)s), input credit companies and representatives of community based financial service providers such as Community Share Ownership Trusts and SACCOs, have been held.

Meanwhile, the initial evaluation of submissions to the Private Sector Call for Expression of Interest to be Value Chain Integrator has been conducted. Follow ups have been made with the entities and IPVC awaits their responses. Deadline is set for 3rd September 2019 following which all entities which have passed initial evaluation process will move onto the next stage of interactions.

SAFE Project Contribution to the Goat and Pork Value Chains

The Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety Systems for the Future (SAFE) project is focusing on four result areas that are designed to support efforts of the ZAGP projects. Specifically, the VALUE project (goats and pork value chains), will be supported in the following specific activities:

- a) Operationalization of the country's PPR (Goat Plague) strategy that seeks to carry out intensive surveillance work for this deadly small ruminants disease that can cause mortalities of up to 90% in sheep and goats. Although Zimbabwe is currently free from PPR it has been identified as one of the countries at high risk due to the porousness of its borders. The disease is present in Zambia, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Implementation of the PPR strategy will help the country gather data to prove absence of the disease and facilitate attainment of World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recognition for disease freedom and at the same time, strengthen surveillance systems for early detection and rapid response in the event of an incursion. PPR is also known to be a major technical barrier to export trade in small ruminants and associated products.
- b) Strengthening surveillance systems for African swine fever, a deadly disease affecting pigs that has potential to destroy the value chain. Although the disease is not endemic in the country, sporadic outbreaks are witnessed from time to time especially in the smallholder sector along the north-eastern border with Mozambique. Two outbreaks have been reported in the current year, one of which is still ongoing in the Mukumbura area of Mt Darwin district in Mashonaland Central province. The project will look at increasing awareness of the disease along the north-eastern border and put in place effective systems for disease prevention, early detection, rapid response and prevention of disease spread to other areas. Exports of fresh pork have been suspended following the latest outbreak in Mukumbura.

These efforts, together with other efforts on strengthening policies and legislative frameworks, putting in place an effective real time information management system and strengthening capacity for Department of Veterinary Services and the Department of Environmental Health (DEH), will assist the growth of the goat and pork value chains and facilitate access to local and export markets.

EVENTS

Zimbabwe Agricultural Show (ZAS) 2019

ZAGP successfully participated at the 2019 edition of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show, showcasing the work and innovations being implemented by the six projects under the programme. The event which ran from 19 to 24 August, provided ZAGP with opportunities to interact with a wide spectrum of visitors to the exhibition stands, establish linkages and also disseminate widely, information about the approaches and innovations under each project. Below are highlights of the event in pictures.



The ZAGP team that took part in the exhibition with Irene Giribaldi, the EU's Head of Cooperation.



From left, Hon. Douglass Karoro, Hon. Vangelis Peter Haritatos, (Deputy Ministers of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement) and Timo Olkkonen, the EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe, visiting the exhibition stands.



Visitors to the stands had an opportunity to learn more about the programme's approaches and activities.



As a side event, training sessions were offered to farmers on various livestock production topics across different value chains.

Goat Indaba and Launch of the VALUE Project

Date: Wednesday 18th September 2019

Venue: Henderson Research Institute, Mazowe.

Cost: ZWL 100, inclusive of teas and lunch and an information pack

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**IN THE NEXT
ISSUE OF
ZAGP NEWS**

The October issue of ZAGP News will focus on the Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Food Safety Systems for the Future (SAFE) project. We delve deeper into how SAFE aims to transform Zimbabwe's animal health and food safety systems.