



Zimbabwe
**AGRICULTURAL
GROWTH**
Programme



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The Newsletter for the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP)

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Multi-year Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP) Launched

The European Union, in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe, launched the multi-year Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP) on 11 June 2019. The programme will be implemented by EU partners over a four-year period and is worth USD45 million.

The Head of Delegation and Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Zimbabwe, Timo Olkkonen and Mary Mliswa-Chikoka, the Provincial Affairs Minister for Mashonaland West, gave remarks at the event, which was held at Chibero College of Agriculture in Chegutu district. The ceremony was attended by about 400 people including government officials, the EU Delegation, representatives of various non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector and the farming community. ZAGP is being implemented in Zimbabwe’s 10 provinces and is expected to boost the livestock sector, maximise smallholder farmers’ profits and improve competitiveness on domestic and international markets.

In his remarks, Ambassador Olkkonen noted that there should be no need for a country with the resources that Zimbabwe has to be dependent on outside food assistance. He called for more efficient ways to use resources and supply food for the population of Zimbabwe to ensure the country is self-sufficient in terms of food.

“I am certain that the growth of the agricultural sector is one of the keys to Zimbabwe’s future development and prosperity. I see no fundamental reason why Zimbabwe should not become again an agricultural powerhouse, it has the climate, it has the soil, it has the water, and it has the skills to make this happen.”

But to achieve a turnaround for growth in agriculture, Ambassador Olkkonen said this would require political willingness to address structural bottlenecks, such as security of tenure on land, which was crucial for any would-be investor, domestic or foreign.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Ambassador Olkkonen, noted that the growth of the agricultural sector is one of the keys to Zimbabwe's future development and prosperity.

Ambassador Olkkonen also noted that through the ZAGP, the EU is investing in five livestock based value chains (beef, dairy, poultry, pigs and goats), knowledge and innovation services delivered by agricultural education, extension and research, and animal disease control and in food safety. Additionally, the investment will also cover sector governance, especially sector coordination and policy advocacy.

“Our objective is that this investment will reduce risk perception in the livestock sector and will encourage more investment which will improve productivity and competitiveness in the domestic and regional markets.”

Speaking at the same occasion, Provincial Affairs Minister for Mashonaland West, Mliswa-Chikoka,

who was standing in for the Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement, Perrance Shiri, said ZAGP is in line with the Government of Zimbabwe thrust and commitment of transforming agricultural systems to increase agricultural production and create greater access to markets, and increase investments in livestock value chains.

Agriculture is not only necessary to Zimbabwe's agricultural recovery, but is sufficient to contribute to between 16 to 20% of the country's Gross Domestic Product and 40% to exports, while providing a source of livelihoods to about 67% of the country's population, said Minister Mliswa-Chikoka.

Minister Mliswa-Chikoka said that all stakeholders must work together to make this programme successful by strengthening collaboration between the Government of Zimbabwe and ZAGP so that the programme can effectively transform the livestock sector in Zimbabwe through increased and sustained agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness. ZAGP will address the weaknesses and gaps in livestock value chains that have prevented the sector from increasing productivity, production, and incomes.



Minister Mliswa-Chikoka, urged all stakeholders to work together to make the programme a success.

ZAGP LAUNCH IN THE PRESS

The Herald: 11 June 2019 - [Govt, EU launch US\\$45m livestock fund](#)

ZBC News: 11 June 2019 - [€40 million livestock programme launched](#)

The Sunday Mail: 16 June 2019 - [Livestock sector sheds skin](#)

THE LAUNCH IN PICTURES



The ZAGP implementing partners, the private sector and Chibero College of Agriculture showcased the type of interventions and investments that are going to be made by ZAGP.



Department of Veterinary Services Principal Director, Dr. Unesu Ushewokunze - Obatulu and Ambassador Olkkonen getting a brief on the Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST) project from Mark Benzon, the Project Manager.



Philip Mushayi, the Principal of Chibero College of Agriculture (L), Ambassador Olkkonen and Minister Mliswa-Chikoka visiting PROfeeds, one of the private sector exhibitions at the launch.

THANK YOU!

The Technical Assistance to the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (TA - ZAGP) wishes to express its gratitude to the following, for making the launch a success:

- The European Union Delegation to Zimbabwe.
- The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement (MLAWCRR).
- The Principal, staff and students of Chibero College of Agriculture.
- ZAGP Steering Committee Members and Observers.
- ZAGP grant holders (Action Aid Zimbabwe; COSPE; Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations - FAO; We Effect; Welthungerhilfe and World Vision Zimbabwe).
- ZAGP private sector partners.
- The electronic and print media.
- Cresta Jameson Functions and Sahwira Events.