

SEPTEMBER
2021
ISSUE

maricho

A resource for Agribusiness

6

Unscrupulous farmers bleed
Command Agriculture

19

TIMB INTERVIEW - We will improve to-
bacco growers' viability'

23

Worker-peasants and peasant-workers:
new labour regimes in rural Zimbabwe

31

ZADF targets 50% increase in raw cow
milk production by 2023 end

3
e
r
s
o



Table of contents

Editor's note and contacts	II
About the publisher & contributors	III
Creating the tomorrow that we want	4
Unscrupulous farmers bleed Command Agriculture	6
Promote healthy eating	8
From The Match Commissioner Jaidi Izah.....	10
CREDSURE- For your survival when bad debts hit the cash flow	12
Export Credit Insurance- A vital tool for exporters of agricultural products	14

Management Of Hail Damaged Tobacco Crop To Minimize Losses	16
TIMB INTERVIEW - We will improve tobacco growers' viability'	19
Worker peasants and peasant workers	23
'We've kicked poverty good bye'	25
How to fight malaria during a pandemic	27
Poultry health - what and where to check when examining your chicken	29
ZADF targets 50% increase in raw cow milk production by 2023	31
Stunting: Effects, causes and solutions	33

Editor's note and contacts

Hello

“Stop being afraid of what could go wrong, and start being excited of what could go right”
Tony Robbins

These are exciting moments for Zimbabwe's agriculture sector.

The month of August came with some very interesting developments in the agricultural sector.

We saw the launch of the commissioning of the US\$15 million cattle ranching project in Mhondoro. The dairy parlour is part of the government's efforts to boost the national herd under the Livestock Growth Plan.

Private players - Zimplats and Palmine Investments are fronting the cattle project. The third stage Food Systems Pre-Summit dialogue, the final at national level ran

under the theme: "Transforming Production and Food Systems in Zimbabwe", as a countdown to main UN Food Systems Summit to be held in September 2021, was also held.

Also launched were the online lead farmer training, Zim Agric in-service training app and Zim-AgriHub by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement in conjunction with Zimbabwe Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS). Zim-AgriHub is a virtual agricultural centre of excellence that aims to complement agricultural training while Zim-Agric extension in-service training app is largely for extension staff to upgrade their skills.

These developments seek to position agriculture on a trajectory that will ensure growth and prosperity.

What part are you playing in these developments? Share with us.

In this edition, we carry a revealing question and answer with the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board chief executive officer, on the industry's perspective. We also carry an article on Domestic Credit Insurance proudly supported by our partners, CredSure.

Maricho "all-weather friend", Tobacco Research Board publish an informative piece on Management of hail-damaged tobacco to minimize losses. Be sure to read that.

Another exciting development recorded in the agricultural sector in the recent past was the launch of the E-Livestock Global's Mastercard Blockchain-Based Solution to bring visibility to Zimbabwe's cattle industry. Traceability of animals has become a priority to ensure consumer confidence. Also under the livestock section, General Bevan Munda talks about poultry health - what and where to check when examining your chicken.

Follow us on our platforms as we continue to bring evidence based content for your benefit.

Editor

Conrad Mwanawashe
mwanawashe@gmail.com



Published by:

Maricho Media – on behalf of Five Talents (Pvt) Ltd

13 Brailsford Crescent, Hillside,
Harare, Zimbabwe
Mobile: +263 713 111 292

Advertising:

Conrad Mwanawashe +263 772 424 997

Email: info@marichomedia.com

Subscribe: subscribe@marichomedia.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarichoMedia>

Twitter: @MarichoMedia

Website: www.marichomedia.com

Designer: Julius Kazomba: +263 774 009 860



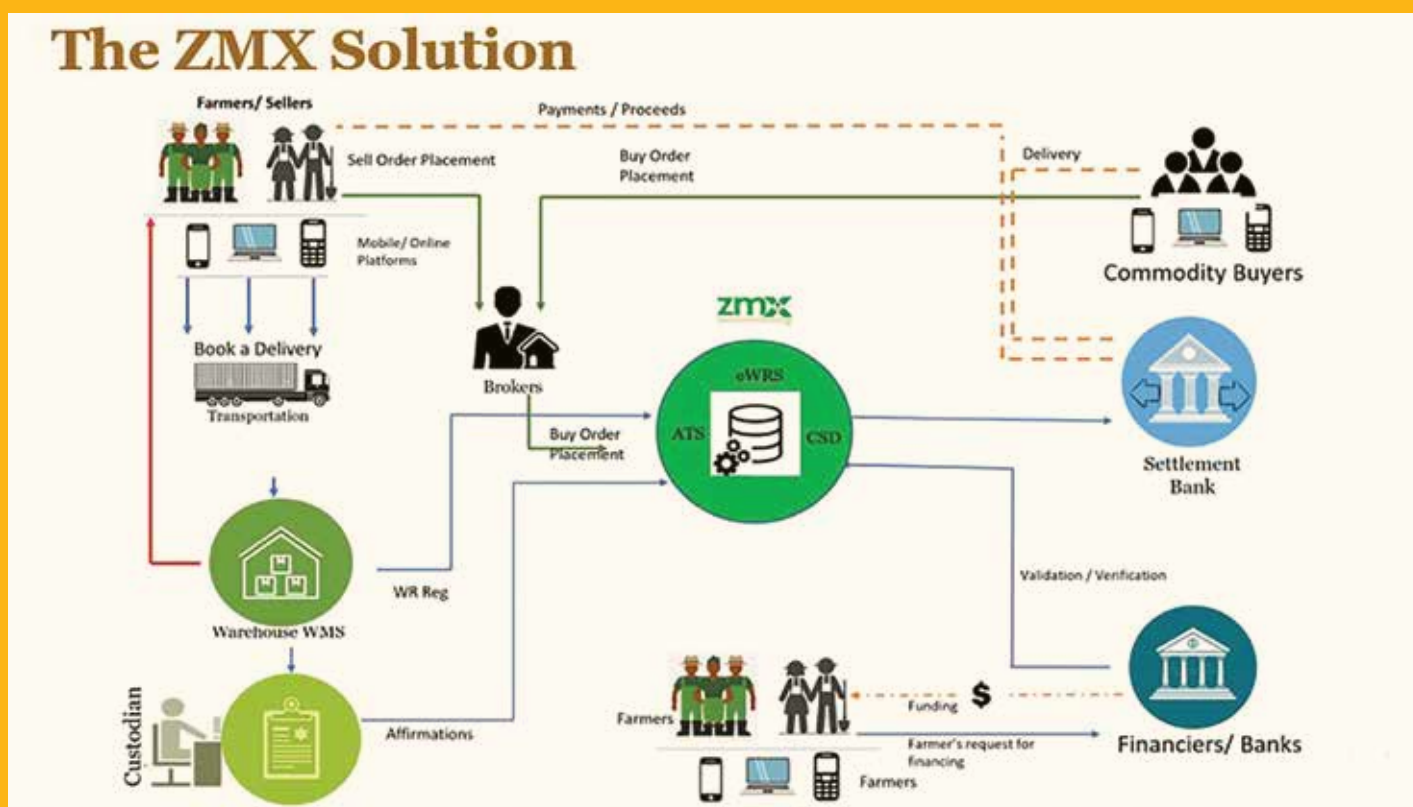
About the publisher & contributors

CONTRIBUTORS

1. Jaidi Izah
2. Chinaniso Chibudu
3. Ian Scoones
4. Charles Dhewa
5. Conrad Mwanawashe
6. Bill Gates
7. By General Beven Mundida
8. Angeline Zengeya

'Creating the tomorrow that we want'

Embrace innovation, cooperation and development as key drivers of the agricultural sector



By Maricho Reporter

The recently launched Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange (ZMX), an initiative which is expected to support the seamless trading of agricultural commodities, will encourage formalisation of small-scale farmers to ensure sustainability of farming activities, according to Finance and Economic Development Minister Professor Mthuli Ncube.

Ncube said the country's Commodity Exchange platform will increase farmers' access to credit facilities through collateralisation of agricultural produce and enhance farmers' contribution to employment creation, environmental conservation and economic development.

The Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange, will be based on a Warehouse Receipt System and is designed to support agricultural development in Zimbabwe. It will provide convenience and efficiency in the marketing of agricultural commodities which will ensure enhanced profitability, access to markets, finance and credit for farmers.

"The infrastructure that has been developed is suitable for both commodities classified as strategic grains such as maize, wheat and soyabeans, as well as any other agricultural commodities including the likes of barley, coffee, groundnuts, macadamia nuts, millet, oats, pecan nuts, rapoko, rice, sorghum, sugar beans, tea, cow peas and round nuts," said Ncube.

"It is envisaged that the Exchange will facilitate trading of all agricultural commodities, thereby ensuring that Zimbabwe has transparent and equitable trading of its resources in line with best practices."

Colleen Tapfumaneyi Escrow chief executive officer said the exchange will reduce post-harvest losses currently at 30%. He said agriculture contributes 60% of the raw materials required by the industrial sector and 40% of total export earnings, making it the mainstay of the economy.

The exchange is expected to reduce the challenges that farmers are facing which include lack of access to markets, unfair and contested commodity prices and erratic application of quality standards.

"In the short term, 18 commodities are expected to be admitted onto WRS and onboard 3 non-strategic products for trading. In the medium term, onboard most banks, warehouses and logistics and increase traded non-strategic commodities to 14," said Tapfumaneyi.

The target is to develop warehouse infrastructure countrywide in the long run.

Over the past few months, the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement together with my Ministry worked on the supporting legislation culminating in the gazetting of Warehouse Receipt Regulations under Agricultural Marketing Authority (Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange) Rules,

2021 to regulate registration of warehouses and the issuance, negotiation, trading and settlement of Warehouse Receipts through exchange infrastructure.

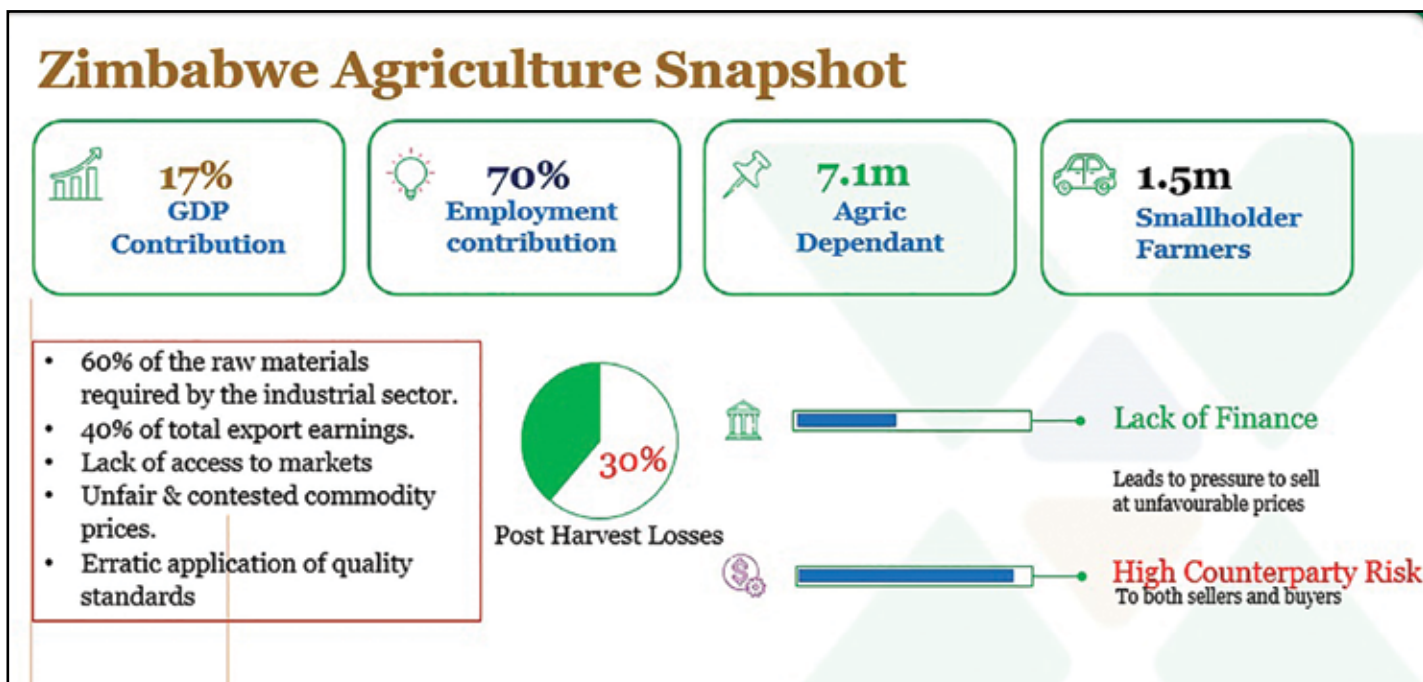
"In line with this, approved warehouses will be used to facilitate the grading, certification and physical safekeeping of the commodities in their warehouses prior to and during trading through the Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange," said Ncube.

The Commodities Exchange initiative is a partnership between government and the private sector. The private sector participants include, Financial Securities Exchange (Private) Limited (FINSEC), a licensed securities exchange; TSL Limited, a publicly traded agro-industrial business and CBZ Holdings, a publicly traded financial services business.

Government through the 2021 National Budget allocated US\$500,000 equivalent as its capital contribution towards the establishment of the Commodity Exchange.

"This initiative has full support of government, as agriculture is a key economic sector contributing more than 17% of GDP and providing employment and income for more than 65% of the population.

"This Public Private Partnership initiative will support the seamless trading of agricultural commodities by all players, including the Government itself, on the Commodities Exchange," according to Ncube.



'UNSCRUPULOUS FARMERS BLEED COMMAND AGRICULTURE'



Some farmers have been abusing the National Enhanced Agriculture Productivity Scheme (NEAPS), commonly known as Command Agriculture, or Special Agriculture Programme for Import Substitution, with some misusing inputs, while others are not repaying their debts, even if they have capacity to do so, according to Dr Anxious Jongwe Masuka, Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries Water and Rural Resettlement.

By Maricho Reporter

Initiated in 2016, NEAPS, which has laid a solid foundation for ensuring national food security, accelerating import substitution, increasing employment, improving incomes and livelihoods and has provided a basis for broadening agricultural

exports, has so far benefitted over 15 000 farmers annually, while over 2.3 million small-holder farmers benefit from social protection schemes annually.

NEAPS is backed by a government guarantee to banks that raise capital to lend to farmers to enhance local agricultural production through concessionary loans.

Government has ensured NEAPS is well funded with the ultimate goal of converting repayments from recoveries into a revolving fund. This allows current and new farmers to continue benefiting from the programme.

“Unfortunately, there are unscrupulous farmers that have been abusing the NEAPS. These farmers are taking inputs and misusing them, while other farmers are not repaying their debts, even if they have capacity to do so,” said Dr Masuka.

Government has issued Statutory Instruments (SI 247 of 2018, SI 145 of 2019, SI 96, SI97 and SI 188 of 2021) to protect contractors, including government.

“Farmers have overwhelmingly supported these Instruments by honouring their obligations. Unfortunately, some farmers have ignored these SIs and have gone ahead and side-marketed their crops prejudicing contractors and jeopardising repayments to banks that funded the NEAPS. The agricultural transformation we seek should not be jeopardised by these few farmers,” according to the Minister.

To stop this, government has strengthened the contract arrangements for the 2021/2022 season to deter side-marketing, non-performance and under-performance.

The new measures will not affect farmers who have fully paid their debts and who will be immediately enrolled for the 2021/2022 season.

“Farmers with outstanding debts will not be enrolled for the 2021/2022 season until they have; made an immediate payment of at least 50% of the 2020/21 Summer Season total loan amount by September 30; made a repayment of at least 80% of the 2020/21 Summer Season total loan amount by November 30; signed a commitment with an asset pledge to pay the programme in full before the onset of 2021/2022 season,” he added.

Banks that lend to farmers who have not fulfilled the new contract conditions, will be liable for any defaults.

“Additional measures will be taken and all national payment platforms will be activated to ensure repayments by defaulting farmers, including submission of names to the Financial Clearing Bureau. The Minister reserves the right to revoke offer letters for farmers who use their offer letters to the detriment of Government-supported programmes, including an intentional failure to settle loans,” he said.

Government will continue to implement the two-pronged approach in financing agricultural activities, with the fiscus focussing on supporting vulnerable households with inputs under the Productive Social Protection Scheme (Presidential Inputs Scheme), while the private sector is provided with an appropriate environment to finance commercial activities, including guarantees, where necessary.

PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING

- Dr Masuka



By Maricho Reporter

Zimbabwe is facing an increase in incidences of overweight and obesity and the associated dietetic diseases, particularly among urban populations and there is need to promote healthy eating and dietary diversification to incorporate nutrient-dense food sources, said Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement Minister, Dr Anxious Masuka.

Dr Masuka was addressing the Third Stage Food Systems Pre-Summit early this month.

"Evidence is increasingly showing that much of

our traditional food sources and food processing

methods such as fermenting foods, are actually much healthier. After age, obesity has been shown to be the second most important predictor of Covid-19 mortality. The urban young population now shuns traditional foods. These healthy foods should be publicised and promoted. Modern and efficient technologies to harvest and process them should be introduced," said Dr Masuka.

The third stage dialogue, the final at national level ran under the theme: "Transforming Production and

Food Systems in Zimbabwe”, as a countdown to main UN Food Systems Summit to be held in September 2021.

“There is need to shift away from maize monoculture, and to diversify to traditional grains such as sorghum and millets that are already more resilient to climate change. These have been shown to contain less simple sugars than maize, and are healthier. Government is encouraging farmers to diversify into these traditional grains and pays an incentive price to promote their production,” said Dr Masuka.

Zimbabwe’s agricultural system is largely rain-fed (>97%) which leaves it very vulnerable to climate change and variability. More investments in dam construction and irrigation infrastructure will help to climate-proof the food production system, thereby reducing shocks induced by the vagaries of weather.

Maria Ribeiro, United Nations Resident Coordinator said through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026, the collective efforts of the UN and partners seek to contribute to the transformation of food systems across the various spectrums. This includes promoting nature positive agricultural production; adopting climate change mitigation and adaptation measures; making food systems more inclusive, equitable and responsive to threats and crisis.

“But it also means investing in economic transformation and opportunities for young people and women in rural and urban economies; investing in robust and supportive health and educational services as well as supporting Government to invest in social protection initiatives that enhance people’s livelihoods and increase prosperity, especially for children, young people and those most vulnerable,” said Ribeiro.

“The UN encourages the Government and all stakeholders to work together and ensure broad multi-sectoral collaboration, engaging in particular, disadvantaged groups such as women and youth, towards stable, equitable, climate and environmentally smart food systems that promote access to and utilization of nutritious food for all Zimbabweans.”

Dr Masuka added that losses through food waste and post-harvest storage spoilage are quite a substantial leakage in the

“Food Systems as they account for up to 35% of production. The post-harvest spoilages negatively affect food safety, as infested food is less nutritious, exposes farmers to risk of infections and disease burden. Further, farmer incomes are lost through lower prices at markets. There is need to improve storage facilities across the value chain to secure and preserve nutritional quality of the crops harvested.”

Digitalisation of agriculture has a big potential to improve efficiencies in the food systems. Big data can be used for evidence based policymaking, market intelligence, real time climate information, and precision farming. My Ministry is already advocating for ICT based methods for transforming value chains, and this includes the collection and dissemination of vital agricultural statistics and information to stakeholders.

“There is need to promote diversified crop and livestock production through, “Nutrition sensitive Agriculture”, to improve availability and access to nutritious foods. Furthermore, the underutilisation of neglected and underutilised species and many nutritious traditional and indigenous foods has to be overcome,” according to Dr Masuka.

VIEW

FROM THE MATCH COMMISSIONER

JAIDI IZAH 

I HAVE LISTENED TO MANY POST MATCH ANALYSES. THEY ALSO GIVE A PERFORMANCE RATING FOR EACH PLAYER FOR THE PARTICULAR MATCH ON A SCALE OF 10. THEY GO FURTHER TO LOOK INTO THE COACH'S ABILITY TO READ THE GAME AND MAKE TACTICAL CHANGES AND SUBSTITUTIONS.

Like we always do in soccer, a post-match analysis is inevitable.

Analysis will try to answer; What went wrong and what tactical changes or substitutions do farmers (coach) need to make as they prepare for the next crop (game)?

The questions below need to be addressed first;

- Is it true that, like coaches, farmers need to be bold and make tactical changes or substitutions?
- Is there anything a farmer need to do in deciding a substitution?

SUBSTITUTION EXECUTION

Among other farming technological improvements, land preparation, seed, sowing, plant nutrition provision, weed control and harvesting technologies keep improving. The technologies reduce drudgery; they improve efficiency, production and productivity.

So its true farmers have to make substitutions.

WHAT A FARMER (COACH) NEEDS TO DO IN DECIDING A SUBSTITUTION

- Know performance of resources and technologies used.

They can only know, if they:

Sit on the bench during the entire match (be at the farm, no to cell phone farming).

- They also need to know the on-farm performance of potential incoming substitutes.

They can only know this if they:

Have a trial plot for adaptive research like a coach who tries out combinations in training.

PERFORMANCE RATING

General observation of past performance has revealed that:

- Planting is delayed, high cost, germination and emergence compromised.
- More fertilizers used than production obtained.
- Weed control is a challenge even in the first six weeks.
- Crop varieties/ enterprise not compatible with regions for some.
- Delays in putting a winter crop as farmers wait for summer crop to dry up.
- Shortage of labor at the farms.

REMEDY

- Farmers have to reside at the farm or give more powers to resident managers.
- Have performance records of each critical stage.
- Drop some technologies for others.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AGENCY (EMA)

FIRE SEASON IS HERE

Is Your Community Ready?



REDUCE BIOMASS (FUEL LOAD) BY HAY BALING AND THATCH GRASS COMBING



PUT OUT ALL VELD FIRES



CONSTRUCT STANDARD FIRE GUARDS (AT LEAST 9M WIDE)

REPORT ALL FIRE CASES TO:

- **TRADITIONAL LEADERS**
- **ZIMBABWE REPUBLIC POLICE**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AGENCY**
- **FORESTRY COMMISSION**
- **RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL (RDC)**

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS:

685/86 Lorraine Drive, Bluffhill, Harare, Zimbabwe

VOIP: 08677006244 **Email:** eep@ema.co.zw/registry@ema.co.zw

Website: www.ema.co.zw



ema_zim



Environmental Management
Agency



Toll Free
0808 0028



Whatsapp number:
0779 565 707



Environmental Management
Agency



@EMAorg

Together - Protecting The Environment

CREDSURE- For your survival when bad debts hit the cash flow

DOMESTIC CREDIT INSURANCE

By definition Domestic Credit Insurance is a generic term for insurance cover to a seller in Zimbabwe who supplies goods and/or services to his local debtors on credit terms. It must not be assumed that it provides a blanket cover against all financial risks. On the contrary, specific insurance is provided against losses arising from certain occurrences, which are clearly defined in the Policy; such occurrences being outside the control of the buyer and the seller.

Credit Insurance in Zimbabwe dates back from 1965 with the registration of the Export Credit Insurance Corporation Limited (E.C.I.C), backed by the leading Banks and Insurance and Reinsurance Companies of this country, as well as the Industrial Development Corporation. With effect from November 2017, the majority shareholder is Zimre Holdings Group (the ZHL Group).

A natural progression for the Corporation was the introduction of domestic credit insurance in 1967. The Corporation has since then changed its name to Credit Insurance Zimbabwe Ltd (CREDSURE) so as to more accurately reflect its broader range of operations.

In 2007, Credsure diversified into short term insurance business, which includes crop and livestock cover. Farming is the backbone of our nation that's why Credsure is 100% behind agriculture.

RISKS COVERED

The true role of Domestic Credit Insurance is to provide protection for those large unexpected losses that could disrupt the liquidity of the creditor. Consequently, a comprehensive range of variations in the application of the cover have been developed which should cater for most credit risk situations.

Loss means the amount of an Insured Debt not paid to the Insured by reason of any of the following causes.

Insolvency/ liquidation of the buyer.

Protracted Default, which is the failure of a buyer to pay an undisputed debt within four months of the due date.

Excluded from cover are losses suffered as a result of disputes and/or actual or alleged breach of contract by the insured party.

TYPES OF COVER AVAILABLE

The common basic policy types are as follows:

Whole Turnover- covers all customers who buy on credit terms.

Selected Buyers-offers the insured complete freedom in the selection of accounts to be offered for cover.

Specific Account-cover can be made available for just one account or a single contract but a maximum of five accounts can be accommodated.

Compact Policy-is suitable for small to medium sized businesses wishing to cover either a single buyer or a small number of buyers.

It is essential that the Policyholder retains an interest in the insured amounts and thus in the granting of credit and credit supervision. This co-insurance is expressed as an insured percentage, which can range from as low as 50%

TAILOR-MADE GLOBAL INSURANCE

WITH PRODUCTS RANGING FROM DOMESTIC TO EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE AND MORE, WE HAVE TAILOR-MADE SOLUTIONS JUST FOR YOU. WE HAVE OVER 5 DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN RISK MANAGEMENT AND A GLOBAL NETWORK DEDICATED TO GUARANTEE YOU PEACE OF MIND.



ROGUE_0481

Contact Details:

Landline: +263 (0) 242 738 944-7/ +263 (0) 242 706 101-4
WhatsApp: +263 (0) 775 807 688
Email: customer@credsure.co.zw
Head Office: CredSure House, 69 Sam Nujoma Street, Harare
www.credsure.co.zw

GENERAL INSURANCE • HEALTH INSURANCE • BONDS & GUARANTEES • CREDIT INSURANCE


Innovative Insurance Solutions

A MEMBER OF THE

ZIMRE HOLDINGS LIMITED
Security Growth and Profitability
GROUP

to a maximum of 80% of the balances owing by debtors at any one time.

Specific account and Compact policies are issued for a period of twelve months, with an option to renew, and all others are for an indefinite period.

Credsurre is also in a position to issue most types of local bonds and guarantees required by contractors and importers, including customs and court bonds.

ADDED BENEFITS FOR THE POLICYHOLDER

Credit Investigation

The benefits of insuring debtors' accounts are not restricted to the protection provided by the cover itself. Credsurre also provides practical services and the most important of these is credit investigation, which relieves the insured of much of this time consuming and often expensive function.

Credit Supervision

This is another aspect of credit insurance, which has a dual purpose. While it protects the interests of the credit insurer in that it minimises the incidence of overdue accounts, this is also in the interest of the policyholder. In addition it assists the policyholder in the administration of accounts which are past due. Credsurre will institute legal action if asked to do so, and will bear a percentage, proportionate to its interest in the debt, of all costs incurred.

CONCLUSION

Domestic Credit insurance has evolved over the years not only to protect from losses but also to help in preventing a loss from occurring. With the comprehensive range of cover available from Credsurre, suppliers enjoy peace of mind, which flows from the security of having their debtors insured and their cash flow protected.



WE WALK IN YOUR SHOES, TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU NEED

ROQUE_0458

IN ORDER TO GIVE TRULY INNOVATIVE AND TAILOR-MADE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS, WE TAKE THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR NEEDS ARE. WE CHOOSE NOT TO TAKE A ONE SIZE FITS ALL APPROACH, INSTEAD CHOOSING TO CREATE SOLUTIONS THAT ARE UNIQUE TO YOU AND YOUR SITUATION.

GENERAL INSURANCE • HEALTH INSURANCE • BONDS & GUARANTEES • CREDIT INSURANCE



Management of hail-damaged tobacco to minimize losses

By Chinaniso Chibudu

Tobacco Research Board, Kutsaga Research Station, P. O. Box 1909, Harare, Zimbabwe

Introduction

In the face of climate change, agricultural production is becoming increasingly vulnerable to climate variability. In Zimbabwe, hail storm crop damage is one of the major risks that can lead to substantial losses. While all adverse weather conditions present risk, hail is unusual because it is difficult to predict and is capable of obliterating crops in minutes. The damage inflicted on tobacco includes mottling of the leaves and stems (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Hail damaged crop (left photo) and hail damaged leaves (right photo).

In addition, the stalks may be broken and the leaves may be punctured or whole plants destroyed to a point of getting no returns. The level of yield loss from hail depends on the strength of the storm, the size of the hail stones and the stage of the crop growth. Thus, post the occurrence of a hail storm, an immediate assessment of damage has to be carried out for an informed decision on how best to manage the crop.

Although hail storms are a natural phenomenon and thus cannot be prevented, proper crop management post the hail storm can reduce the level of losses incurred. This article discusses how hail damaged tobacco crops can be managed in order to minimize losses for the grower.

2. Hail storm crop damage and its management

Ideally, all growers should insure their crops against hail damage.

Crop insurance is essential, especially now when climate change has brought about unexpected weather conditions and greater risks. Hail insurance will ensure the grower recoups incurred costs and should the hail damaged crop recover or is successfully rehabilitated, that can then be an added bonus to the grower.

2.1 Management of hailstorm damage following loss of entire plants

Where there is hail-induced total crop destruction in the first three weeks of planting, replanting should be considered provided seedlings for replanting are available. If hail damage occurs late in the season (December onwards), replanting should not be considered because the crop might fail to reach maturity and may be prone to viral diseases such as potato virus Y (PVY) and Bushytop. In addition, there is a marked decrease in yield with late plantings.

2.2 Management of plants stripped off leaves but the bud not damaged

If all or nearly all the leaves are damaged and stripped off the plant save for the bud at the early plant growth stages, it is prudent to just remove the damaged leaves and let suckers develop. Any leaf portions attached to the mother plant should be left on the stalk so that food from such leaves can be used by developing leaves.

In the late stages of plant growth, it is not economic to maintain plants with almost all the leaves destroyed even though the bud remains undamaged, since only a few leaves will develop and be reaped at maturity. The best option in such a case is to leave a sucker to grow out of a cut stalk.

2.3. Management of hail damage on plants a few weeks after transplanting

Plants affected by hail within a few weeks of planting (Fig. 2) have a high probability of surviving and recuperating even if the bud is broken off and therefore, the plants should be left as it is and then let the plants develop suckers. Thereafter, a



TOBACCO RESEARCH BOARD
KUTSAGA

KUTSAGA SEEDLINGS

Available varieties:



K RK 26



K RK 66



K RK 72



K RK 74



K RK 76

SUPERIOR QUALITY SEEDLINGS THAT

- Are uniform and robust
- Have an intact root system and ...
- Give a well-established and uniform crop in the field



Call Kutsaga on **086 8800 2604 – 94; 0712 881814; 0772 843 200** for your October/November planting today!

"Tobacco Research Board...Maximizing Economic Value"

vigorous sucker is selected and allowed to grow while the rest are manually removed by hand. It is worthy to note that there is a progressive decline in yield and quality with increasing crop age when the damage occurs because of the greater number of leaves damaged.



Fig 2. Hail damage early in growth stage at 4-6 weeks after planting

2.4 Crop leaf affected when crop is near topping or when topped

If the crop is affected by hail when it is near to topping then the plant top can be cut down to below the damaged leaves (a process called ratooning). Additional fertilizer should be applied and this depends on the crop growth stage (Fig. 3) and time of the growing season. If tobacco is ratooned between 7-8 weeks after planting additional basal fertilizer should be applied. Additional nitrogen should be applied according to crop developmental stage (3-5 weeks after planting or near to topping time and the season). The success of ratooning depends largely on the time of the year that the hail occurs and whether a suckercide had been applied or not. Crops that are ratooned early in the season produce a high yield of good quality tobacco. Ratooning as late as December does not give satisfactory results and more so when disease prevalence is high depending on the season (wet or dry). Crops that have been topped and suckercide applied do not usually produce high yield and good quality. This is because the suckercide prevents good sucker growth.



Fig 3. Hail damage late in growth stage at 8-10 weeks after planting

2.5 Management of severe stalk breakage

A high proportion of stalk damage which occurs early in the growing season can be treated in two ways depending on whether seedlings for replanting are available and whether the plants had well established or whether there is adequate moisture and how big the plants are. In a situation where the plants had not established well and when there is not enough moisture, it is better to replant than to keep the frail plants. The replanted crop will be able to grow to maturity and attain favourable yields and quality since it will be early in the season. Supplementary irrigation will enhance crop growth if soil moisture is not adequate in a situation where replanting was done. One other way of managing the severe stalk breakage, if the plant establishment is good is to allow sucker growth from a stalk cut at least to a height of 15-20 cm in order to have adequate strong suckers from which one sucker on each plant becomes the main stalk for leaf development. Torn leaves remaining on the damaged plants should not be removed however they are left to provide a source for nutrients for enhancing sucker growth.

3. Disease Management

Hail damaged crops are susceptible to various fungal and bacterial diseases such as angular leaf spot and alternaria leaf spot. Thus, treatment with a plant immune boosting crop protection agent such as Acibenzolar-S-methyl (Bion) is essential to prevent disease infection later in the season.

4. Concluding Remark

The best option for growers to guard against losses from hail damage and other adverse weather conditions is crop insurance with reputable insurance companies.

For more information, growers are urged to contact the Tobacco Research Board's Crop Production and Molecular Technologies Division on telephone # 086 8800 2604 or Email: tobres@kutsaga.co.zw or visit Kutsaga Research Station (Airport Ring Road).

'WE WILL IMPROVE TOBACCO GROWERS' VIABILITY'

There are opportunities to invest in the production of reduced risk products, says Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board Chief Executive Officer, Meanwell Gudu (MG) in this exclusive interview with Maricho Magazine (MM)



MM: Congratulations on your recent appointment as the substantive Chief Executive Officer of the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board. Please share with us your vision for the tobacco industry during your tenure? Where do you see the industry in the next ten years?

MG: My focus is on improving the viability of growers, ensuring 100% compliance to regulations and ensuring that the industry has 100% compliance to sustainable tobacco production and good agricultural labor practice. In addition, the current tobacco farmers should diversify

sources of revenue by growing alternative crops.

In working towards the success of the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) has specified objectives which are;

- to raise tobacco productivity and increase production from 262 million kilograms to 300 million kilograms by 2025;
- to increase the production of alternative crops by 2025;
- to increase the level of value addition and beneficiation of tobacco into cutrag and production of cigarettes in order to level up exports of cigarettes to enhance the market access and competitiveness of tobacco value added products for enhanced foreign currency earnings;
- and to optimise the country's net foreign currency benefits from tobacco exports through standard input support packages and costing structures, building local tobacco production and marketing financing capacity, and enhanced export monitoring.

MM: The 2021 tobacco marketing season has just ended. The season ran during trying times because of the Covid-19 pandemic and this affected business operations. To what extent did the Covid-19 outbreak affect the season? What measures did TIMB as the regulator put in place to contain the pandemic while ensuring a safe working environment farmers and traders?

MG: The 2021 season ran during the Covid-19 period which has now become the new normal, this meant that the regulations put in place at the onset of the marketing season had to be monitored to ensure everyone complied. As the season progressed we encouraged all tobacco stakeholders to observe the Covid-19 regulations that is proper wearing of masks, sanitising, checking of temperature for everyone entering auction or contract sales floors and maintaining safe distance. This helped curb the unnecessary spread of the virus. All stakeholders participating in the marketing of tobacco were and are still being encouraged to get vaccinated in order to protect themselves and those around them.

Following Government restrictions and regulations put in place of reducing the number of people at the floors, there was also need to limit the maximum number of people allowed during each sale at any given time. Even for those transporting the tobacco bales to the floors, only two were allowed per truck. Some key staff members in the industry and



TOBACCO INDUSTRY & MARKETING BOARD

HAVE YOU REGISTERED AS A TOBACCO GROWER?

Sub- Section 25 of the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Levy Act (Chapter 18:20) stipulates "Any person who is not registered and who, by himself/ herself or through his agents, grows tobacco shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding level five or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or both such fine and such imprisonment.

WHY SHOULD ONE REGISTER AS A GROWER?

Registration provides statistical information about the total number of growers and possible crop size. This information is important for planning purposes especially on the number of auction floors, number of buyers, mobilizing financial resources to buy the crop and pricing of the tobacco.

HOW TO REGISTER?

The following requirements should accompany an application to the Board for registration as a grower.

- a. Proof of access to land i.e. title deeds, land permit\ offer letter for A1 and A2. For those living in communal areas, a stamped recommendation letter from the grower's local councilor or headman\chief is required.
- b. Stamped recommendation letter from the grower's local AGRITEX officer to confirm that the person is a bonafide tobacco grower.
- c. A copy of national identification card.
- d. Registration fee of \$10 payable on submission of application form before the 31st of October of the year preceding the marketing season.

NB: Late registration attracts a penalty.

WHERE TO REGISTER?

Visit our TIMB Head Office Complex at No. 429 GlenEagles Road, Southerton, Harare or any of our Regional Offices in Chinhoyi, Karoi, Bindura, Mvurwi, Marondera, Rusape and Mutare. Call us on +263 772 145 166-9

growers succumbed to Covid-19.

MM: What is your assessment of the 2021 tobacco marketing season highlighting successes and challenges?

MG: The season has progressed very well with average price being firmer by 11% as compared to that paid last year. As of day 89 the TIMB has surpassed the set target of 200 million kgs of tobacco having recorded 205 million kgs of tobacco valued at just over US\$570 million compared to 181 million kgs of tobacco received on Day 89 during the 2020 marketing season.

The 2021 season has fared very well amidst the circumstances surrounding operations during a global pandemic.

Generally, the quality of the crop and yields realized for this season have been quite good, we can attribute this to the above normal rainfall received throughout the country.

However, one of the major challenges that have been encountered over the years is on sustainability which has become more prominent in the tobacco industry. The major challenge the sector is having to deal with is deforestation caused by growers cutting down indigenous trees for firewood for curing tobacco. There is need to plant more fast-growing tree species to supply firewood for curing tobacco to ensure that 100% of the crop is cured from renewable sources of energy by 2025. There is also need for more research and development of curing systems that can burn coal more efficiently and at the same time reducing the carbon footprint of coal on the environment, for instance, use of catalytic convertors to reduce carbon emissions from burning coal.

The other challenge facing the industry is the reduction of viability of tobacco growers because of the high-cost structure of producing tobacco. The retooling rates are generally not pegged on foreign currency auction rates leading to high cost of production.

MM: Some farmers have raised challenges with regards to accessing their payments from the banks, please shed light on the payment process?

MG: Payment modalities improved since the foreign currency entitlement for the farmers increased to 60% in the current season from 50% in the 2020 marketing season. With regards to some delays which may have been expressed, this could have been issues to do with cash availability at some of the Banks.

MM: Can you comment on TIMB's relationship with contractors? What necessitated the stringent requirements for the registration of contractors?

MG: Contractors have an obligation to support at least a minimum package of inputs set at US\$1000/ha & US\$4000/ha for both small scale and large scale growers respectively. All contractors submit signed stop orders/ acknowledgement of debt forms to TIMB as proof that the farmer received the inputs and these should be in-line with the minimum standards/basket approved by TIMB. All contractors must prepare and

sign legally binding contracts with each of the contracted tobacco growers. Either signed hard copies or electronic copies should be submitted to TIMB. Each grower to have a new contract every year. The minimum standards for licensing include commitments to human and labour rights, safe farm practices, elimination of child labour, sustainable curing fuel, corporate social responsibility programmes and governance practices.

TIMB audits all contractors to ensure that they adhere to the agreed standards.

MM: How does TIMB deal with contractors who fail to pay farmers? Some farmers failed to access their payments as some contractors did not own up to their obligations, what mechanism is in place to avoid such incidences in future?

MG: As a regulator, TIMB engages with contractors who fail to pay farmers and ascertain the reason for the failure to do so. In some instance, TIMB has had to suspend operations for some contractors to ensure they pay farmers. In some instances, the contractors are given a grace period to clear the outstanding debts after availing proof to TIMB of funds availability.

MM: Closely tied to malpractices by contractors is the issue of unregistered buyers of tobacco who are fleecing farmers, what mechanisms and legal instruments has TIMB put in place to protect farmers and ensure sustainability of the tobacco industry?

MG: To ensure discipline in the industry, TIMB set up an Inspectorate Department in March whose mandate is to curb all illegal activities in the industry. Inspectors have been deployed in all tobacco farming regions who are detecting and investigating any suspected illegal activities. To date we have a total of 194 people who have been convicted and fined because of side marketing. This exercise of bringing to book those responsible for side marketing will continue throughout the 2021 marketing season so as to discourage would be offenders and to deter repeat offenders.

MM: Value addition is a major issue in terms of economic development and employment creation, what role is TIMB playing in developing the tobacco value chain?

MG: Value addition of tobacco indeed presents a great opportunity since less than 2% of the total tobacco produced in Zimbabwe is manufactured into cigarettes. The Zimbabwe tobacco industry has a potential value of US\$15 billion from cigarettes exports, yet currently only US\$0.9 billion is realized from leaf exports. TIMB in partnership with other stakeholders is working towards creating an enabling environment for value addition through the establishment of an Export Fund for exporters and offering export incentives and favourable foreign currency retention thresholds. Opportunities exist in investing in production of reduced risk products within smokeless tobacco and heated tobacco (nicotine liquids). Tobacco farmers could also invest in end tobacco use product processing, for instance, pipe tobacco (shisha) or packaged fine tobacco for roll your own cigarettes.

MM: What is the future of auction floors now that the bulk of tobacco was produced through contract farming?

MG: Tobacco growers who sell through the auction floors are self-funded, they support their own tobacco production until they sell on the market. With the limitations on access to funding from the banks because of lack of collateral most farmers are now opting for contract farming. That is why tobacco sales on auction floors have declined. However, there are plans to keep the auction system running. In order to achieve that, there are plans to ensure farmers have access to more funds at their disposal, with Government offering that support through the recently launched Agriculture Finance Corporation (AFC) and TIMB also rolling out the Tobacco Input Credit Scheme (TICS) to capacitate the farmers.

MM: Looking ahead, what strategies and measures have been put in place to ensure Zimbabwe surpass the US\$5 billion industry mark?

MG: The industry has a clear growth opportunity roadmap towards a USD5 billion tobacco industry value chain with some opportunities identified such as;

1. Cannabis products - As global cannabis regulation eases, cannabis production becomes a viable option. The global cannabis industry is predicted to grow from USD28 billion in 2020 to USD104 billion in 2025 representing a CAGR 36% over the period, fuelled by the anticipated federal legalization of adult use cannabis in the US by end of 2023, and

expanding use of medicinal cannabis and CBD in international markets.

2. Industrial hemp - Along with the cannabis plant cultivation, hemp production and commercialization create an opportunity for tobacco farmers. Hemp is a low maintenance, durable crop with multiple uses and applications. The global Industrial hemp sub-sector is predicted to grow from USD5 billion in 2020 to USD13 billion in 2025 representing a CAGR 20% over the period.

3. Niche tobacco products - Opportunities exist in investing in production of reduced risk products within smokeless tobacco and heated tobacco (nicotine liquids). Total global Niche tobacco value is predicted to grow from the current USD52 billion in 2020 to USD81 billion in 2024 representing a CAGR 12% over the period.

4. Smoking tobacco - Tobacco farmers could invest into end tobacco use product processing e.g., pipe tobacco (shisha) or packaged fine tobacco for roll your own cigarettes. Consumer use of smoking tobacco is growing positively as countries in Western Europe and Middle East & Africa see it as a more affordable smoking option as taxes on cigarettes continue to rise pushing up cigarette prices.

5. Tobacco diversification - With the declining cigarette stick volume continuing globally, tobacco farmers could look to invest in growing other traditional and non-traditional crops. If non-traditional crops were to be cultivated, government funding for infrastructure investment and skill development would be required.



Worker-peasants and peasant-workers: new labour regimes in rural Zimbabwe

Much academic debate about rural farm labour has focused on the idea of linear transitions in labour regimes through processes of agricultural commercialisation. This sees farmworkers as either moving towards a class of wage-labour, profiting from modernising, efficient, large-scale agricultural commercialisation, or into subsistence, peasant-based family farming. Yet data discussed in a new open access paper just out in the Journal of Contemporary African Studies shows that neither of these simple transitions is happening.



By Ian Scoones

In our studies in northern Zimbabwe, most of those we define as 'farmworkers' – both men and women – combine elements of both small-scale agricultural work and wage-work through various types of employment. In addition, they also participate in the informal economy, with involvement in small-scale artisanal mining, trading and so on. These are the diverse 'working people' described by Issa Shivji and represent what Henry Bernstein calls the 'fragmented classes of labour'.

Our new paper builds on our earlier work in Mvurwi area, published in *Development and Change* in 2018, but extends it beyond the A1 resettlements to look at the different labour regimes across new land reform areas (A1/A2), large-scale commercial farms (LSCFs) and communal areas (CAs), spanning Mvurwi and Chiweshe. The findings equally complement the important work on labour in the post land reform era by Walter Chambati and of course the pioneering analyses of Sam Moyo.

Across the different land uses, we see an array of patterns,

ranging from stable wage-work to successful accumulation largely from part-time farming to diversified livelihoods emerging under highly precarious conditions. A complex story is evident that challenges the standard, linear narratives, as well as the assumptions still evident in much policy debate about who is a 'farmworker' derived from the pre-land reform era.

Diverse working people

A dual character of worker-peasants or peasant-workers in the context of an informalised economy and labour market is observed. Ambivalent, dynamic, hybrid class positions describe the new labour regimes. As our earlier work has discussed, labelling thus becomes difficult: 'farmworker' is clearly an inadequate descriptor, but as an important set of 'classes of labour' supporting agriculture under variable labour regimes, these diverse working people are clearly vital for the wider agrarian economy, and a greater understanding of their livelihoods is important.

In post-land reform Zimbabwe, access to land by former farmworkers displaced in situ, and now living in former labour

compounds, has enabled them to engage in farming and other off-farm activities facilitating consolidation as accumulating worker-peasants. They have mobilised their skill and labour to work for the new A1 and A2 farmers, but increasingly on their own terms. Gaining access to land has been central, and skilled farm work has allowed them to produce and accumulate, even from very small plots.

By contrast, workers in the CAs tend to be poorer peasants – often younger households with limited land and productive assets – who need to combine farm production with piecework employment. A similar pattern also occurs in the A1 areas, although there is more scope for land rental and borrowing and so building an asset base through farming.

In the LSCF, A2 and A2-Joint Venture areas, farmworkers are more classic wage-workers, but flexible expansion to other livelihood options is occurring, with a range of land acquisition and informal employment opportunities pursued, as wage work becomes insufficient to sustain livelihoods. This becomes necessary especially for temporary workers, particularly women and younger people who, due to casualisation of the labour market, can only rely on wage employment for part of the year. Casualisation and feminisation of labour go hand-in-hand, and most women engage in the labour market on a temporary, informal basis, usually responding to seasonal demand.

Fluid, hybrid labour regimes

These categories of 'working people' are not static. People move between places and seek different opportunities. With the offer of land – for example, the illegal land invasion near our LSCF case – workers may leave their compounds and adopt a more flexible, bricolage approach, while maintaining some links to the original farm. Compound dwellers may increase their land holdings and become full-time farmers, abandoning wage work as an option, while communal area dwellers may abandon their areas in the hope of better opportunities in full-time work on LSCFs, A2-JVs or A2 farms or as farmers in a resettlement area.

The removal of the old form of what Blair Rutherford called 'domestic government' on commercial farms and its replacement with 'residential autonomy' following land reform has resulted in a major shift in labour regimes. The massive informalisation of the economy after 2000 has

generated a new impetus to diversify livelihoods, creating new classes of labour. The new 'farmworker' – working people combining wage work with a range of other activities including agriculture – enjoys greater flexibility and bargaining power resulting from diversified livelihoods options, although suffers extreme precarity relying on unregulated labour markets and very small patches of land.

The new regimes of farm labour that have emerged following land reform remain poorly studied. The pattern we have researched over the years in the Mvurwi-Chiweshe area with its large population of resident farm labour before land reform and high potential commercial agriculture is very different to the patterns found elsewhere. As key contributors to post-land reform agriculture, the new farm labour is also an important yet still ignored focus for policy and advocacy. Understanding the new regimes and the forms of livelihood of diverse, rural 'working people' is an important first step to improved policy and support for a vulnerable, yet vitally important, group of people in rural Zimbabwe.

This blog draws on the paper *Agricultural commercialisation and changing labour regimes in Zimbabwe* just out open access in JCAS. The work was supported by UK FCDO through the APRA programme.

This post was written by Ian Scoones and first appeared on *Zimbabweand*





By Conrad Mwanawashe

All she knows is that she was born in 1952. And her name. Margaret Nenohwe. She spends her time preparing her one acre plot at Nyanyadzi irrigation scheme, Block C, in Chimanimani District, east of Zimbabwe.

“Muviri hauchada (I am now too old for this workload),” she said with a whimper as she struggled to move her hoses to siphon water from the canal.

She has to move about eight hoses to ensure that she can water a section of her wheat field.

“Asi ndokuti ndirarambe. Ndamukira mangwanani. (This is my livelihood. I started early today),” she added with a chuckle.

When siphoning water from a pool or canal, you need to put one end of the hose in the pool or canal and the other end outside, below the level of the water in the pool or canal and in an area

where you want the water.

You could use your mouth to suck water through the hose to get the flow of water started, or you could use a small pump. Gogo Nenohwe uses either of these methods.

She partially blocks the end of the hose which is outside the canal, while moving the hose back and forth. At intervals, she allows the water to gush out. When she feels the pressure of the water, she then tactfully lays the end of the hose in the field. One by one, the hoses pelt the field.

She sits on the ridge of the canal watching as water continues to drain from the canal. At some point, she moves through the field monitoring the flow of the water. This is repeated until she is satisfied that the field has drunk enough.

At that stage, one by one, the hoses are lifted above the water level to stop the siphon.

Time to move to the next piece of the field.

This tradition of using siphons has been traced back to ancient Egypt where they used siphons in agriculture to transfer water from canals to irrigation channels.

Gogo Nenohwe is one of the farmers at the 65 hectare-Nyanyadzi Irrigation Scheme Block C, according to Pfungwa Mabika, a committee member at the scheme. There are 100 plots at the scheme.

"Our water management system is tight. We have a roaster which takes into account soil type and condition of the crops," said Mabika.

The canals were constructed by UNOPS in Zimbabwe which is helping to build the foundations to support the country's development agenda with a focus on sustainability and national capacity development. In close collaboration with government, UN organizations, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions, UNOPS manages funds for disaster recovery and implements infrastructure projects with a focus on resilience and building back better.

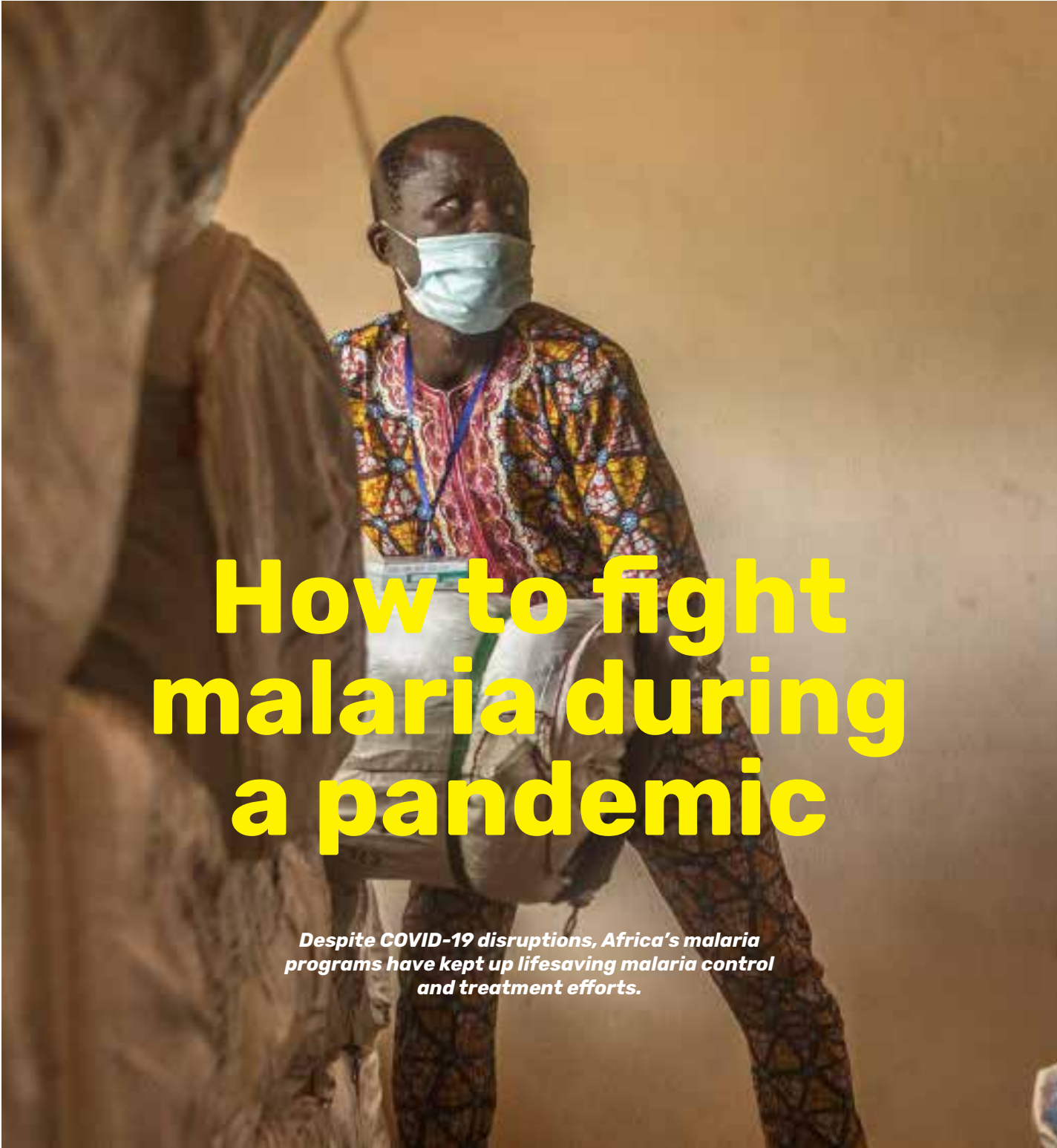
"UNOPS constructed 1,500 metres canals and we expect to complete the remaining 300 metres. The canals have helped reduce the time we take to water our fields. Since the canals were constructed our yield has improved and water leakage has drastically come down," said the vice chairman of the committee. "We are appealing for the construction of a dam so that we harvest water during the rainy season. We thank God that we received good rains last season because it would have been dry about this same time of the year in other seasons. So a dam would ensure that we have enough water throughout the year," he added.

Mai Mugebe chipped in saying the canals have ensured that the farmers have adequate water.

"This means that we can do our farming business throughout the year guaranteeing us regular income. We have kicked poverty good bye," said Mugebe.

"We hope UNOPS will consider erecting a security fence around the scheme so that we keep livestock away from our crops."





How to fight malaria during a pandemic

Despite COVID-19 disruptions, Africa's malaria programs have kept up lifesaving malaria control and treatment efforts.

By Bill Gates

At the start of the pandemic, many people feared that not only would COVID-19 itself be a disaster, but the lockdowns and other prevention methods would have an awful ripple effect: disrupting the fight against malaria in a catastrophic way.

A modeling analysis from the World Health Organization, which I shared here last year, found that annual malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa could double, returning to death rates not seen in over 20 years.

A year later, I'm happy to be able to report that this worst-case scenario, at least for now, has been avoided. This is thanks to the leadership of African countries, which quickly adapted their malaria programs to meet the challenges of the pandemic. Practicing social distancing and other safety measures, malaria workers were able to carry out their duties, delivering long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets, controlling mosquito populations with indoor spraying, and providing preventive treatment for pregnant women and children. In Nigeria, which still suffers from 60 million cases of malaria each year, health workers managed to even increase their delivery of malaria control, protecting millions of children in one of their largest campaigns to date.

At the same time, malaria resources have served double duty, tackling the mosquito-borne disease and helping to control the spread of COVID-19.

In Zambia, the scientists and equipment in the National Malaria Elimination Program's genomic surveillance laboratory used to monitor malaria drug resistance quickly pivoted to find COVID-19 variants in the country. In Mozambique, an app created for health workers to provide real-time reporting of malaria cases and fevers has supplied critical data to the national COVID response.

Despite this progress, our work is not over. Malaria still kills more than 400,000 people each year. And pandemic lockdowns and movement restrictions have hampered some critical malaria activities, including access to diagnosis and treatment efforts in Africa.

Still, I'm optimistic that a world without malaria is within reach. And the COVID-19 pandemic reminds us why eradicating malaria is essential. Many of the building blocks we need to fight malaria and prevent the next pandemic are the same: accurate, real-time data; reliable supply chains to bring medicines and resources where they are needed most; and cross-country collaboration.

Investments in malaria programs help build stronger health systems that will not only save lives and bring an end to malaria, but also protect us from the next pandemic. And that creates a healthier, safer world for all.

Source: <https://www.gatesnotes.com/>

Poultry health - what and where to check when examining your chicken

Fast fact: Doing regular "comb to toe" checkups can often lead you to uncover any issues well before they become serious, so make that a regular part of your chicken keeping.



To be successful in rearing chickens, farmers have to always examine their chickens. Regular physical examination for chickens is important to their health and longevity. Usually chickens offer subtle clues when they are under the weather and by regularly spending time with our flocks, we can pick up on signs that they are not feeling well. Common indications of sick chicken include: hiding, inactivity, pale comb or wattles, unusual droppings, unusual posture, lethargy, lack of appetite, and reduced egg production. All these indications signal that closer observation is needed and this article covers what to check from head to toe.

Comb and Wattles

The colour of the comb can often indicate what is going on. A nice, red rosy comb is normal. Anything else might indicate a stroke, anemia, parasites or even frostbite.

Eyes

The eyes should be clear and alert. Foamy eyes can indicate a sinus or respiratory problem. Respiratory issues are pretty common in chickens, but eye irritation could also just be the result of a scratch to the cornea or debris in the eye, so do not rush to any conclusions.

Breathing

Raspy or heavy breathing could indicate a respiratory issue or even gapeworm.

Crop

Related to breathing, especially if you see liquid coming out of your chicken's mouth, a reason for your chicken's distress could be a crop issue. Both sour crop and impacted crop are serious conditions that need to be treated fairly quickly.

Breast/under Wings

It is a good idea to part the feathers and do some checking under the wings and on the lower breast of the chicken. Mites like to hide there and a serious infestation can actually kill a chicken. I prefer natural methods of dealing with mites, which can be seen especially at night, if you look closely. And if one chicken has them, likely others do too, so be sure to check your entire flock as well as the chicken house.

Body

Check under the feathers also for injuries or wounds. It is possible that your chicken tangled with a predator or another flock member or merely got a puncture wound from something sharp.

Vent

Be sure to check the backside of your chicken. A messy butt could indicate a digestive issue or internal parasite. Egg binding is a very serious condition that occurs when a chicken cannot lay her egg that must be treated immediately.

Vent gleet is another pretty messy condition related to the digestive tract. And often mites like to hide back there too.

Legs and Feet

Feel the chicken's legs to see if one feels warmer than the other. That can indicate a sprain, especially if she seems to be favouring that leg. Being off balance can mean Marek's

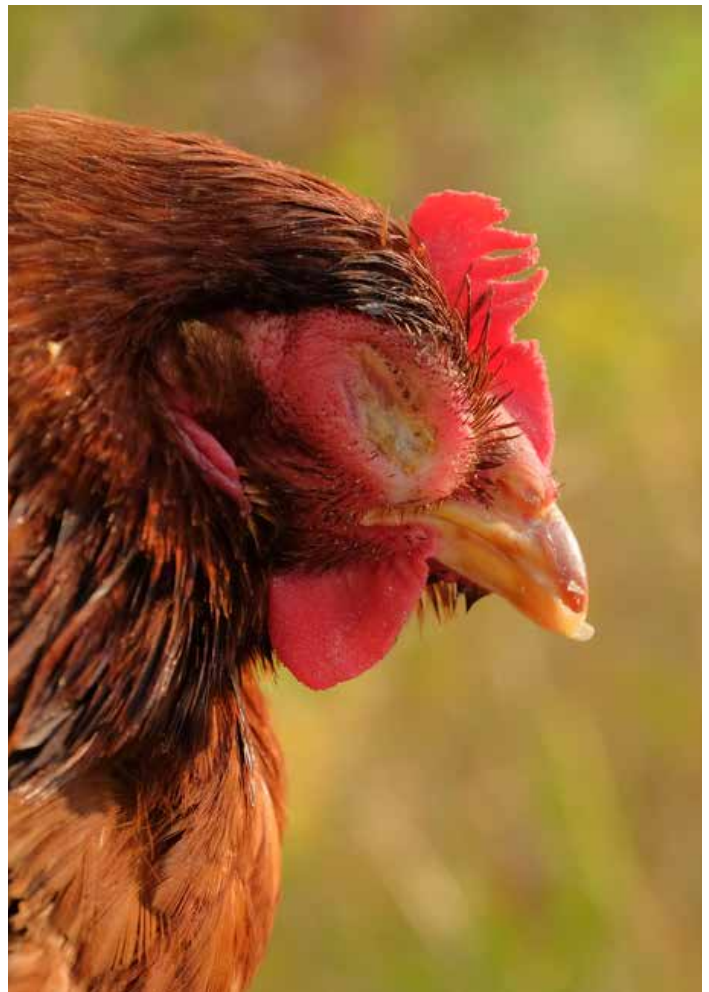
disease, but could also indicate internal parasites or worms, or even a minor stroke. Scaly leg mites are another thing to check for – they cause the scales on the leg to lift up.

By separating the sick chicken, you can isolate her feces and get a good look at what her poop looks like. Often that can be a great indicator of what is going on.

Bumblefoot (ulcerative pododermatitis) is a fairly common issue with chickens, especially if you use sand or have another hard surface on your chicken house floor.

General Beven Mundida is a Livestock consultant and can be contacted on +263 776 420 161;

Email: gbmundida@gmail.com



ZADF targets 50% increase in raw cow milk production by 2023 end



Maricho Media (MM) Whatsapp Group hosted the Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) Chief Executive Officer, Paidamoyo Chadoka (PC) and Gerald Chivete (GC) ZADF Extension and Field Project Manager on Command silage and the Presidential silage and pastures for small scale dairy farmers' schemes, among other issues.

We publish here extracts from that conversation. Join Maricho Media Group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/ESbif59luRtByjXXSFRVV2>

MM: Kindly introduce ZADF functions and objectives?

PC: The Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) formerly National Association of Dairy Farmers (NADF) is the country's national dairy farmer representative organisation which was formed to promote, advance and develop the production of milk and dairy products in Zimbabwe.

The ZADF achieves this objective by advancing and protecting the interests of small, medium and large scale milk producers and by so doing plays a pivotal anchor role in the dairy industry in Zimbabwe. Anyone who produces milk and pays a levy on all his or her milk produced to ZADF is

classified as a member.

Below are the primary services ZADF provides to its Members:

- Technical Extension Services;
- Communications and Information;
- Lobbying relevant decision makers, departments and agencies, to protect and serve the interests of Members.

I encourage you to visit www.zadf.co.zw for more information

MM: In simple terms what is Command silage and what are its objectives?

PC: The Private Sector-Led Command Silage and Pasture Production for Enhanced Milk Production scheme is a Government of Zimbabwe Programme which is targeting to support medium and large scale dairy farmers with silage inputs through CBZ financing scheme branching from the Command Maize Scheme

Objectives:

1. To increase raw cow milk production and productivity in the dairy sector by 50% by the end of 2023.
2. To capacitate production of raw milk in the dairy sector by the end of 2023.

The Presidential Silage and Pasture Production for Enhanced Milk Production in Small Scale Dairy Sector scheme is targeting 1500 small scale dairy farmers in all the country's provinces. The Private Sector-Led Command Silage and Pasture Production for Enhanced Milk Production scheme is targeting medium and large scale dairy farmers in all the country's provinces who are supplying the formal milk processors to ensure the repayment modalities are guaranteed.

MM: What does the facility entail? Put differently, what does it offer to farmers and what is expected of them in return?

PC: I hope you took note there are 2 schemes - Presidential Inputs Scheme targeting the Small Scale Dairy Farmers and the second in Command Silage targeting the medium and large scale dairy farmers 1 500 small scale dairy farmers in rural areas are being considered for the Presidential Livestock Input Support Scheme and Mechanisation Programmes similar to crops in order to register a sharp and sustained increase in raw milk production for both domestic and export markets. The Livestock Growth Plan also seeks to upscale promotion of Champion-led Milk Production Hub Centres targeting Small Scale Dairy Farmers with free inputs for silage and pasture production for increased raw milk production. The scheme will be supported under the Presidential Livestock Input Support Scheme targeting all aggregated smallholder dairy farmers supplying milk to Milk Collection and Distribution and Champion-led Hub Centers under the Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers.

Farmers will be given Presidential inputs for 1 Ha maize silage and 0.5 Ha irrigated star grass pasture for silage and forage or fodder production, respectively. The targeted silage yield under this scheme is 25 tonnes per hectare.

MM: In the crop schemes, there is a targeted quantity of commodity deliveries to the Grain Marketing Board, any specifics in this case?

PC: The inputs for 1 ha silage are as follows:

25 kgs of seed Maize or 10kg Sorghum 5 bags compound D5 bags AN5 litres Glyphosate Herbicide Pasture seed for 0.5ha - star grass, lab or Lucerne forage legume seed for 0.128ha Tick grease

These schemes have been very recently launched and 2021/22 season will be the first run. This support is meant to run for 2 years but the performance of dairy farmers this coming season will determine continuity of the government support

MM: There is a view that says farmers are withholding their product and preferring value addition, how prevalent is this phenomenon? In any event, if true is a good or bad development?

PC: This view is correct to some extent as it is subjective - especially for the milk volumes below 200L per day one can sell their milk direct to the market from USD0.80 to USD1.00 per litre compared to the approximately

USD0.50 per litre in the formal markets. However for higher milk production it is very tricky milk being perishable to do direct milk selling unless the processing capacity and markets are well established plus the distances to market maintain the viability. Milk is a volumes game.

MM: Kindly share with us the monitoring mechanism for the schemes?

PC: A robust Monitoring and Evaluation process which is championed by Agritex and dairy field officers is currently verifying at farm level as a screening of beneficiaries. Field coordinates also for the fields in which inputs are to be used are recorded and these will be used throughout the silage making process. Training on silage making and pasture production in progress and the Extension teams are hand holding beneficiaries to ensure successful dairy feed production with aim of increasing milk production.

MM: How does one get started in dairy farming and what can be done for start-ups, do they qualify for the command silage and Presidential scheme?

PC: I believe start-ups need to be at new entrants level meaning some evidence of dairy production which aligns to the Selection Criteria.

If you have not started at all but intend to start the Dairy Input Schemes may not be accessible for you this year but I refer you to the ZADF Extension team who can facilitate your start up including participating in the ZAGP - TranZ DVC program with grant facilities including dairy start-ups.

Start-ups depend on the scale of operation e.g. if you have beef cows you can inseminate with dairy semen or use a dairy bull, maybe you want to purchase dairy animals you need guidance on the feed first plus the support farm level mechanism for dairy production the cows come last. A large operation requires a different start up approach. Hence I referred start-ups to engage ZADF for full information on how to get started, who can help you get started financially or technically.

MM: How many cows per ha are recommended for doing dairy?

GC: When looking at the silage schemes, the rule of thumb is that 3 mature milking cows can have adequate silage from 1Ha. Assuming an average yield of 25MT per Ha.

An on farm assessment needs to be conducted 1st since various aspects have to be considered prior to setting up a dairy enterprise.

Aspects to look at include:

1. The preferred animal breeds
2. Access to the market
3. The dairy infrastructure
4. Labour
5. Initial investment
6. Skills and knowledge

STUNTING:

Effects, causes and solutions

In March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. The world as we know it has been irrevocably changed. The problems surrounding nutrition, among other things has been made worse as food production and food systems have been shaken. For many developing countries, the negative consequences caused by malnutrition on human health, lost human capital and decreased economic productivity make this 'new' normal even more unbearable.



By Angeline Zengeya

Stunting is when a child has low height for age because of chronic or recurrent undernutrition, usually associated with poverty, poor maternal health and nutrition, frequent illness and/or inappropriate feeding and care early in life. It robs children the chance to meet their physical and cognitive lifetime potential. These children may also have poorer immune systems, lower brain function and organ development. Stunting is associated with developmental delays and adverse socio-emotional behaviors altering the child's ability to learn and their performance in school achievement, thereby limiting their productivity and future income earning potential. Other long-term effects associated with stunting include high costs in healthcare, greater risk of chronic diseases and premature death.

In 2021, United Nations agencies have reported that almost 22% of all children under 5 (approximately 149 million) are affected by this condition. And, according to Concern USA; stunted children are 4 times more likely to die, their IQ is reduced by as much as 11 points, they are more likely to earn 22% less in adulthood and in countries like Ethiopia – stunting contributes to losses in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as high as 16%.

Causes of stunting are numerous and all interrelated. Poor nutrition; unavailability of enough and diverse food. Lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities plays a role in spreading diseases. Stunting is often intergenerational, a vicious cycle of malnourished mothers bearing underweight babies which experience stunted growth and chronic malnutrition. Other factors that contribute include inadequate psychosocial stimulation, parent infant bonding, male engagement in parenting, conflict, income opportunities, food prices, climate change

affecting food availability, abuse, and early childbearing age. Other environmental factors like HIV infection may affect the nutritional status of a household, as alteration in food security and inappropriate infant feeding choices to prevent mother-to-child-transmission. When food security is poor, women are involved in risk taking behaviour which often places them at increased risk of HIV infection.

The good news is that stunting can be prevented, some effects reduced or even reversed. The first 1000 days of a child's life –from conception through to the age of 2 years are most critical. Breast milk strengthens the immune system and provides much needed nutrients to the infant, therefore following WHO recommendations on breastfeeding practices is essential. The availability and provision of nutritious food and the minimum acceptable diet with the appropriate frequency and diversity goes even further. Children older than 2 years old can also benefit from ready-to-eat therapeutic food and food supplements. Other solutions include; improvement in access to clean water and sanitation, promoting gender parity in childcare and covering caseload surges in malnutrition during seasonal hunger gaps.

Numerous effective policies and programmes are in place around the world but are often inadequate and do not produce the expected impact. These interventions need to be scaled up and a multisectoral approach addressing underlying causes of malnutrition put in place in every country. Investment into a nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive workforce is essential to break the intergenerational cycle of undernutrition and stunting. The real work remains at community and household level, where individuals need to take ownership and accountability of their nutrition. Angeline Zengeya is a Nutritionist, Agripreneur and can be contacted on +263772528449; Email angiezengeya@gmail.com

maricho

A resource for Agribusiness



Published by:

Maricho Media – on behalf of Five Talents (Pvt) Ltd

13 Brailsford Crescent, Hillside,
Harare, Zimbabwe
Mobile: +263 713 111 292

Advertising:

Conrad Mwanawashe +263 772 424 997
Email: info@marichomedia.com
Subscribe: subscribe@marichomedia.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarichoMedia>

Twitter: @MarichoMedia

Website: www.marichomedia.com

