



Livestock & Meat Advisory Council

Exhibition Park, Samora Machel Ave West, P O Box BE 209, Belvedere, Harare

Phone: +263 (24) 2756 600, 2772 915, 2777 391

Email: admin@lit.co.zw

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OVERVIEW

Work is in progress on the proposed Ease of Doing Business reforms and the Secretariat has attended many meetings to take this initiative forward and achieve intended outcomes.

The Action Plan will be finalised by 21st November and presented to the Chief Secretary of the Cabinet.

Drs Sukume and Mano also contributed to the National Budget 2020 discussions that were held last week. Under the current inflationary pressures, budget forecasts are difficult to implement and need to be updated almost daily.

The National Sensitisation Workshop for the SADC Regional Agriculture Policy (RAP) Operationalisation was also held last week. The overall objective of the project is to support implementation of RAP for improved production, productivity, competitiveness, food and nutrition security and agro-industry development. The specific objectives of the project are to enhance information on agricultural production, sustainability and competitiveness for evidence-based decision making and to improve access to markets through implementation of animal & plant pests and disease control strategies.

Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe: Annual Pig Symposium

Nearly 200 pig producers attended the Pig Symposium held at ART Farm earlier this month. This was an informative day of presentations and lively discussion about pig farming. The Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme funded by the European Union introduced the VALUE project - Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment. The pork value chain is facing a multitude of challenges including poor nutrition and husbandry skills, lack of good quality breeds, disease and poor access to lucrative markets. VALUE seeks to build the capacity of smallholder farmers to improve their goat and pig breeds and access viable markets in partnership with private sector players.

Admire Mralasi from Zvimba district and Thompson Mabika from Marondera West shared their stories and lessons learnt about creating thriving pig businesses. Andrew Shoniwa from the Pig Industry Board provided an update about pig production in the small-holder sector and noted that 40,000 sows are owned by smallholder farmers out of the national sow herd size of 57,000.

The afternoon session discussed the management of pig farms and included discussions on pig nutrition and alternative food sources, especially relevant as the cost of stockfeed continues to increase. Pig diseases and African Swine Fever (ASF) were also under the spotlight and all participants were reminded about the regulations governing ASF and mandatory fencing requirements.

Livestock Diary: November

Friday 1st	Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Fish Producers Association
Thursday 7th	Council meeting of the Zimbabwe Poultry Association
Thursday 14th	Annual General Meeting and Open meeting of the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe
Thursday 28th	Council meeting of Zimbabwe Herd Book

Enclosures

- DVS Weekly highlights, 17th October