



## Livestock and Meat Advisory Council

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## Livestock Zimbabwe Update: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

### OVERVIEW

Premised on the need to create a demand for locally produced soyabeans, the importation of soyabeans and meal has been temporarily banned. The Livestock and Meat Advisory Council (LMAC) registered their opposition to the current ban through the Agribusiness Forum of the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) on the grounds that the country needs to continue importation early in the season at favourable prices, especially considering the current drought induced short crop in the country and around the region. Such importations will not prejudice local farmers as prices are strong due to low regional production. To mitigate COVID-19 restrictions, regional producers who have a surplus, may be tempted to ban exports and build up their local stocks, leading to shortages on the domestic market later in the marketing season. CZI is planning a stakeholder consultative meeting to drive home the need to re-open imports of soyabean meal.

LMAC also made representation to the CZI Agribusiness Forum to caution industry stakeholders on the risks of wide spread opening-up of local agricultural related industries to Africa-wide competition on the grounds that local companies are facing a multiplicity of macroeconomic challenges including shortage of foreign currency, working capital, hyperinflation and international sanctions and have therefore become non-competitive in the region. It has been proposed that the opening up of the country be pushed back until the macroeconomic situation has stabilised and companies are in a position to compete regionally and preserve local employment.

ZIMRA, through Public Notice 48 of 2019 has instructed millers to charge VAT on brans used in the manufacture of feed, increasing the cost of feed raw material procurement. LMAC sought legal opinion on the validity of such a notice and it is the opinion of counsel that ZIMRA are not legally entitled to charge VAT on bran used in feed manufacture. LMAC and its allied Associations will therefore draft papers to advocate for a change in the law to specifically allow zero rating of brans used in feed manufacture.

### Agricultural Policy Framework

As further development of the Agricultural Policy Framework, LMAC participated in an analysis of the implications on the livestock sector caused by the pandemic – feed raw materials, livestock production, etc – and short, medium and long-term innovative policy responses in the post COVID-19 era. The draft paper has been developed and is undergoing



LIT  
Livestock Identification Trust



MPAZ  
Meat Processors  
Association  
of Zimbabwe



PPAZ  
Pig Producers  
Association of Zimbabwe



SMA  
Stockfeed Manufacturers Association



ZAA  
Zimbabwe  
Association  
of  
Abattoirs



ZADF  
Zimbabwe  
Association  
of  
Dairy  
Farmers



ZFPA  
Zimbabwe  
Fish Producers  
Association



Zimbabwe Free Range  
Poultry Association



ZHB  
Zimbabwe Herd Book



ZPA



ZQAP  
Zimbabwe Quality Assured Pork

further refinement with inputs from stakeholders and will be circulated for members' inputs and comments.

### **Inclusive Poultry Value Chain Project**

The IPVC team participated in a strategy review exercise which resulted in more resources being set aside to support the capacity building of regional Poultry Business Associations. Resources were also set aside to pilot collective egg marketing by small to medium-scale egg producers in two regions. These included resources for the purchase of solar powered electric tricycles for final-mile egg distribution to women vendors in low income communities.

Both LMAC and the Zimbabwe Poultry Association are working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Mobility for Africa to further explore cost effective opportunities for the use of these tricycles for aggregating as well as distributing a wide range of livestock products including various meats, eggs and dairy.

Under the IPVC project, LMAC engaged a team from the Chinhoyi University of Technology to carry out a study on egg production and marketing and draft a strategy for lowering the cost of point of lay birds, improve the marketing of eggs by small egg producers and to promote the consumption of eggs. The draft report from this study is currently under review.