



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

Both the drought situation and the effects of the cyclone last month have been described as dire. Reconstruction efforts continue in Chimanimani and Chipinge while Kezi has recorded only 160mm of rain in this season of marked contrasts and unusual weather patterns.

Chairpersons of the various Associations were introduced to Honourable Deputy Minister Haritatos and various industry issues were tabled and discussed, including the non-availability of maize from the Grain Marketing Board, the export of raw materials from Zimbabwe at a time when there is increased demand for survival stockfeeds by non-governmental organisations for distribution to drought affected households and the need to address and resolve several regulatory issues.

The First Round Crop Assessment report has been released and as expected, the drought has depressed expected yields of maize and soya.

Stakeholders have raised concerns regarding introduction of truck offloading fees being charged by Karoi Town Council for delivery of goods to supermarkets and stores.

SI 72 of 2019, Customs and Excise (Fuel Supplied to Approved Beneficiaries) (Refund) Regulations, 2019 has been gazetted. The SI enables manufacturing companies registered under business member organisations to claim fuel excise duty rebate for purchases between 13th January and 22nd February 2019.

Meeting of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association of Zimbabwe

At their meeting held in March, it was noted that the general non-availability of raw materials has resulted in some stockfeed operators being unable to fulfil orders by non-governmental organisations for survival stockfeeds. The price of high crude protein cotton cake has increased drastically from RTGS 400 to RTGS 1200 between January and March and molasses, wheat and maize brans are in very short supply.

Fish Farming Indaba 2019

The 2019 Fish Farming Indaba was held on 29 March 2019. This event attracted 105 participants and was a very successful day. The programme was interesting and varied and demonstrations were held at the fish ponds at Henderson Research Institute, also the venue for the Indaba. Management of the water eco-system is an important part of fish

husbandry and fish require different feeding regimes at each growth stage, from fingerling to harvest-ready fish.

The Zimbabwe Fish Producers Association believes that fish production in Zimbabwe will grow significantly, with aquaculture proudly taking its place alongside the chicken, pork and beef industries as a key supplier of tasty, nutritious, home-grown protein for a growing population. With the right policies and strategies, there is enormous potential to develop fish farming in Zimbabwe, using tilapia - Africa's own indigenous fish which achieve good growth rates under intensive production.

As the fish farming industry grows in Zimbabwe, there is need for accredited and certified trainers to provide expertise and practical training for fish farmers, a topic that was explored at the Indaba as well as bio-security requirements for fish farming, including effective pest control, regular monitoring of water quality and correct handling of fish to ensure that fish are maintained in a healthy environment for optimum production.

For Zimbabwe to realise the full potential of aquaculture, the private sector and government must work together with financial institutions to establish an Aquaculture Development Fund, a strategy that stakeholders tabled during the planning phase of the National Fisheries Development. It was proposed that a surtax of 10cents/kg on all fish imports entering Zimbabwe be implemented which will then directly capitalise the Fund. This innovative idea was discussed and recommended by participants.

Enclosures

- SI 72 of 2019, Customs and Excise (Fuel Supplied to Approved Beneficiaries) (Refund) Regulations, 2019