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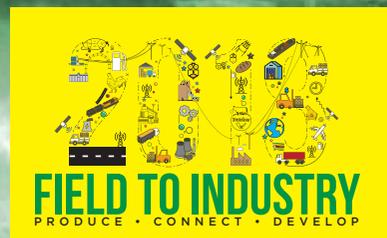


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ZIMBABWE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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The role of tertiary institutions in agricultural development



Zimbabwe Agricultural Society CEO, Dr A.J Masuka (left) with Minister of Higher Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Prof Amon Murwira

Government is set to introduce programmes to support key policies to enhance agricultural productivity.

Addressing delegates at a Zimbabwe Agricultural Society-organised discussion on “The Role of Tertiary Institutions in

Enhancing Agricultural Productivity in the Post Land Reform Era”, Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development, Prof Amon Murwira highlighted that agriculture plays a key role in driving the modernisation

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ZIMBABWE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY - SAMORA MACHEL WEST, HARARE

Phone: (+263-04) 780963-6 | Fax: (+263-04) 780967 | Email: info@zas.co.zw, ppa@zas.co.zw | Website: <http://www.zas.co.zw>



Some of the delegates that attended the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society-organised discussion

and industrialisation agenda of Zimbabwe as the country's economy is rooted in its agriculture and mineral heritage.

Prof Murwira outlined issues that include implementing a programmatic approach to education, science and technology development; developing responsive curricula based on explicit bodies of knowledge, and developing an inclusive higher and tertiary education system that is rooted in heritage/ culture in its delivery of goods and services.

According to Prof Murwira, the programmes to be introduced include adoption and development of "Life Technologies Programme" with projects underway aimed at research in cattle reproductive technologies for the improvement and restocking of the national herd and national research projects on fertiliser requirements for different soil types, revision of agro ecological zones and development of a geo-database for farms. "These research projects will result in precise and accurate maps for real time management of our agriculture sector," he said.

Speaking at the same discussion, Lands,

Agriculture and Rural Resettlement's Director of Agricultural Education and Farmer Training, Mr Moffat Nyamangara said agricultural colleges and related training institutions must provide training that will have a positive impact on the performance of farmers, thus knowledge and technical skills training are vital for the advancement of the agricultural sector.

"The issues of food security and nutrition and self-reliance in agricultural production are central to government, and agricultural colleges are critical towards the realisation of this goal through human resource capacity development," said Mr Nyamangara.

The discussion was attended by 60 representatives from government, tertiary institutions that included the University of Zimbabwe, Great Zimbabwe University, Chinhoyi University, Bindura University, Lupane State University, Zimbabwe Open University and Midlands State University; Agricultural colleges that included Gwebi, Blackfordby, Belvedere Teachers College and Watershed; farmer's unions, banks and input suppliers, among others.



The Zimbabwe Agricultural Society is set to increase its gate entry capacity into the Business Hub ahead of the Harare Agricultural Show that runs from 27 August to 1 September 2018.

The Show that will be held under the ZAS annual theme, “Field to Industry: Produce. Connect. Develop” is set to attract over 250 000 showgoers and over 500 exhibitors.

Speaking on the gate entry capacity, ZAS Chief Executive Officer, Dr Masuka said three gates, namely the Splash Gate along Samora Machel Avenue, Tanganda Gate and Gate 8, were being extended to

ZAS to increase gate capacity for HAS108



increase their entry capacity by 40%.

“We are working towards expanding three entry gates to ensure that there is no congestion as showgoers and exhibitors enter and exit the park during HAS108,” said Dr Masuka.

The increase in gate capacity will bring the total number of entry points to 83.

Meanwhile, the ZAS is constructing new accommodation facilities for its workers, consisting of 16 family units with en suite showers and ablution facilities. The project is due for completion at the end of April with occupation expected by mid-May 2018.

Head - Works and Estate Services, Engineer Enkelbert Makaure, said construction is at an advanced stage with the superstructure now 60 percent complete.



Technicians trained on Artificial Insemination

Twelve technicians from the Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services under the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement received training on artificial insemination as part of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society's AI project on Shared Value: Improving and Sustaining Livelihoods.

The three-day training, conducted by Bargrove Veterinary Group Surgeon Dr Douglas Bruce, consisted of demonstrations on fresh organs and practicals on live cows, covering areas of the AI theory, physiology and hormones and AI synchronisation.

The 12 technicians were from Matabeleland South and North and Mashonaland West Provinces where 6000 semen straws will be used on a livestock population of 3600 to produce 1800 bulls and 1800 cows over the duration of the project.

Speaking at the certification of the AI technicians, Dr Bruce said being able to successfully perform artificial insemination is a life skill and a career for many AI technicians.

He said the training would go a long way in ensuring the success of the "Shared Value: Improving and Sustaining Livelihoods" Project.

Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement, Director of Livestock Production and Development Division, Mr Bothwell Makodza, expressed his gratitude to ZAS for organising the training and introducing the AI project.

"AI is a more cost-effective way of improving genetics and livestock population in the country, and as the Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services, we are grateful to ZAS for introducing this project in the different provinces in the country. We are

confident that this project will go a long way in improving rural livelihoods through high quality breeds and increased animal population,” he said.

Zimbabwe Agricultural Society Chief

Executive Officer Dr Anxious Masuka congratulated all the technicians that took part in the training and urged them to work hard in making the AI project a success.

Business Leadership and Enterprise Competitiveness 3rd Summit



TOP: Zimbabwe Agricultural Society CEO, Dr A.J Masuka (centre), receiving the 1st Runner Up Innovator of the Year Award 2017 from Deputy Minister of Finance, Hon T. Mukupe (left), and Business Leadership and Enterprise Competitiveness Chairman, Mr K.P. Kanyile in Harare on 22 March 2018



Capitalk FM presenter Talent Chademana interviews Dr Masuka