

Zambia Dairy Transformation Programme

AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly newsletter, which summarises activities carried out under the Zambia Dairy Transformation Programme (ZDTP) in August 2018.

Left: The Mushingwe family, of Fisenge, is benefiting from a new hay rack which they have constructed on their farm following advice provided through the ZDTP.

Chop, chop

The forage chopper introduced by the ZDTP to demonstrate the benefits of farm mechanisation is proving extremely popular. The chopper is being used for silage production by farmers in Chibombo and Liteta, who are providing their own crops and pits/barrels. The chopper was also used in a silage making demonstration in Chisamba in August, which was attended by a representative from Agricon – the supplier the ZDTP has purchased our choppers from and who we’ve been working with to further adapt them to local conditions. Many farmers have expressed interest in purchasing machines for their own farms and we are in the process of planning some similar supplier-attended demonstrations in the Copperbelt. Please let ZDTP Programme Manager Tania Thomson know if you are interested in attending; contact details are on page 2.

IN BRIEF

Sunlight for Mufulira

Sometimes the simplest solution is the best – a mantra the ZDTP lives by. Following advice provided by our Milk Quality Expert during his visit in April, farmers in Mufulira can now buy ‘Sunlight’ dishwashing liquid from their Milk Collection Centre for use in Rapid Mastitis Tests on their farms. This affordable, appropriate ‘technology’ should contribute to improved milk quality and incomes. For the Rapid Mastitis Test recipe, see page 2.



Team building workshop

Our recent team building workshop, co-facilitated by Lovisa Arlid from our implementing partner NIRAS, provided a great opportunity to bring the whole ZDTP team together and discuss the ZDTP. Programme Manager Tania Thomson said: “It really allowed each team member to understand what everyone involved in the ZDTP does, and the importance of sharing information and working collaboratively to support local farmers.”

Farmer spotlight

Theresa Mushingwe, of Fisenge, is benefiting from a new hay rack on her farm following participation in the ZDTP. She built the hay rack for her animals to eat from following farm visits and advice from Extension Officers in her area. Previously, 40 per cent of hay was going to waste on the ground. Mrs Mushingwe has two Friesian cows, two bulls and one heifer on her farm, which supports a household of five people. She says the new system is saving the family a lot of time because previously they had to spend a lot of time collecting hay due to the wastage. Now the animals are eating 80 to 90 per cent of the hay given to them, which is enough. Mrs Mushingwe says it allows her family more time to do other things on the farm.



Increasing transparency

By Ngolwe Sikazwe

One of the major services that the ZDTP is offering to farmers and cooperatives is business support. Other organisations have provided training in this area in the past, with varying degrees of success. Our approach is to train and work with people in their own environments – for example, on their farms. We base our support on the particular needs of individual farmers or cooperatives as they arise. One of the major challenges faced by farmers and farmer cooperatives in the Copperbelt is proper record keeping. As part of the ZDTP, we are working with farmers and cooperatives to help them develop and maintain proper records. On a practical level, this often means sitting down with farmers to go through their records each month. In Mufulira, we have been working with farmers to facilitate a mechanism of paying milk incomes via bank transfers as opposed to cash. This will dramatically decrease the risk of theft and improve the transparency of payments.

Rapid Mastitis Test recipe using Sunlight detergent



This is a test of milk quality (high Somatic Cell Count (SCC)) and can be used on individual milk samples at farm level, or bulked milk samples at Milk Collection Centres.

- Mix four parts potable water with one part Sunlight detergent
- Add 2mls of the detergent/water mix to 2mls of fresh raw milk
- The milk should be from the third or fourth squirts from individual quarters

With a high SCC, a liquid resembling 'snot' will appear in your tested milk. If this occurs, safely discard the milk and do not send this milk for sale. Remember, only treat your animal with antibiotics if there is a visual sign in the raw milk (i.e. discolouration or clots) before adding Sunlight.

The ZDTP is focused on supporting dairy farmers to improve their productivity, milk quality and linkages to urban markets. The views expressed in this publication are those of the implementers of the programme and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Government. For further information, please contact ZDTP Country Manager Tania Thomson on tania@primeconsultants.net or +260 96 456 4206.