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Zambia Dairy Transformation Programme (ZDTP)

Monthly Newsletter – July 2017

Key highlights:

- Testing a prototype for the motorisation of a hand chaff cutter.
- Signing a MoU with Fisenge Dairy Business Union Cooperative Society Ltd.
- Completing the data collection phase of the Baseline Survey.

Overview of activities carried out under ZDTP output areas:

Output 0: Programme Management

The ZDTP team have continued to connect with organisations working in the dairy sector to ensure ZDTP activities are relevant and appropriate. In July, this has included meetings with the Dairy Association of Zambia (DAZ), Zammilk, IFAD funded Enhanced Smallholder Livestock Improvement Programme (ESLIP) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL). Our field team continue to engage closely with Extension Officers (EOs) and other staff from DAZ, Parmalat, Zammilk, Heifer International, Oxfam and the Ministries of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL) and Commerce Trade and Industry (MoCTI) who also work closely with the Dairy Cooperatives we are working with.

Output 1: On-farm production, inputs, systems and processes improved

Data collection for the Baseline Survey, from farmers in each of the six cooperatives we are working to support, has now been completed. It has been challenging for the team to reach some farmers due to their geographical location, and others who are not present on their farm during the working week. As with all data collection exercises, there has been a need to carry out some follow up visits or phone calls to farmers, which has also been complicated by the fact that many farmers do not have a mobile number and others have difficulties with mobile reception. I doubt this is a surprise to many of our readers, but it has reinforced to us the usefulness of the GPS coordinates collected for each interviewed household and the advantage of having an Extension Officer whose office is located close to each cooperative and who spends much of their time in the field.

One of the challenges faced by farmers which has consistently been reported to us, by farmers, programme implementers, government officers and cooperatives, is the issue of ensuring cows have access to quality nutrition throughout the year. In addition to supporting the planting of individual farmer and community fodder demonstration plots (more of this in future newsletters), we are also very interested in improving the quality and efficiency of conserved feed, such as hay and silage. After holding a number of silage demonstrations where fodder was chopped by hand or a hand operated chaff cutter, it quickly became apparent that to make the production of adequate amounts of silage attractive for farmers there needs to be a way for them to easily chop the fodder. With this in mind, Tim Harvey, one of our Agricultural Technical Specialists has been working on a prototype to attach a frame and petrol engine to a hand operated chaff cutter. Testing of the prototype was done as part of a green 'cob in' barrel and small pit silage demonstration held in Liteta, attended by ZDTP field staff, local farmers and EOs from Zammilk and DAZ. Despite a few 'teething' issues the demonstration

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proved the concept is workable. We are currently working with a local workshop to modify the design and look forward to some more field tests in August. Once we have a working model, we will be developing a fee for service arrangement, initially with Kwanshama, who have a number of inactive hand choppers donated by a previous programme, to get this improved technology out to farmers.

Output 2: Capacity of farmers, extension officers and other dairy industry personnel increased

On 28 July, we signed a collaboratively developed memorandum of understand (MoU) with Fisenge Dairy Business Union Cooperative Society Ltd outlining how ZDTP will work with them on Governance, Business and Financial Planning, and Management. It is expected that a similar MoU will be signed with Kwanshama Dairy Cooperative in August and then with the other cooperatives over the coming months.

Figure 1: Tim Harvey (ATS) supervising the use of the 'prototype' motorised hand chaff cutter during a silage demonstration in Liteta.



Figure 2: Tania (Programme Country Manager) signing the MoU with Fisenge Vice Chair.



Output 3: Market-led milk handling, quality and processing capacity increased

ZDTP EOs have been working with the relevant Boards and Milk Collection Centre (MCC) Managers to make small changes to improve milk reception and handling procedures. We have been excited to see Kwanshama making changes to their MCC building and look forward to reporting more on this next month.

Output 4: Policy and regulatory framework improved

Our focus on the baseline survey and collaboratively developing MoUs, means that we have taken a short break from this higher-level activity. We look forward to engaging with MFL later in the year to understand areas of policy and legislation where ZDTP support would be relevant.

*We hope you've found this seventh edition of the ZDTP newsletter informative and welcome any questions, or comments you may have,
With best wishes, The ZDTP Team*

For further information, please contact: Tania Thomson (Programme Country Manager):

Email: tania@primeconsultants.net

Phone: +260 96 456 4206

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