



VALUE NEWS

TALKING GOATS AND PIGS



Co-funded by the CIPS Foundation



FROM THE TEAM LEADER'S DESK

VALUE Project Team Leader
NEWTON CHARI



Goats dipping at the Lupane Goat Improvement Centre. Since the establishment of the centres a total of 33477 goats have been dipped helping to deal with the scourge of external parasites.

I welcome you to Issue 11 of our newsletter – Talking Goats and Pigs. We celebrate four years of programming under the European Union funded Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme striving to leave a mark on the goat and pig value chains.

This issue coincides with Women’s Month whose theme this year was DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality. I am proud that our interventions position women as key participants and decision makers across the board. In this offering, we feature powerful stories of women’s contributions and work in transforming the goat and pork value chains in twenty districts of Zimbabwe.

Our thrust remains the commercialisation of small and medium scale producers through well thought out market-based interventions and co-created solutions. Cognisant of the bottlenecks that still remain in the path of commercialisation for small and medium producers, the project planned and undertook capacity building workshops for the twelve Goat Producer Business Associations

and two pig producers business syndicates with the aim of improving service delivery and organisational efficiencies. The first phase of the exercise resulted in the development of comprehensive plans, service targets and results monitoring frameworks.

I am happy that through the direct meat marketing initiative, the project continues to support farmers to supply high rewarding urban markets of Harare and Bulawayo with goat meat and meat products. We also feature the findings of an assessment we undertook together with the Pig Industry Board into the efficacy of Artificial Insemination in pig production. The assessment came on the back of the long running semen campaign implemented to enhance uptake of superior genetics by small and medium scale farmers.

I invite you to delve into our latest news edition as we share success stories, key project updates and much more.

Happy reading

A HOPE RESTORED THROUGH PROVISION OF MODERN SOLAR POWERED PIGSTY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM – STORY OF JOYLINE KOGA



Joyline demonstrating how the nipple drinking system works. With a 5000-litre tank water storage, there is constant and reliable supply of water for the pigs which has reduced the burden of work on Joyline.

In the modest environs of ward 9, Matongorere village of rural Murehwa in Mashonaland East province of Zimbabwe, 34-year-old pig producer Joyline Koga is on a mission to become a household name in pig production. Having started her enterprise with one sow (female pig) in 2019, she has steadily grown overcoming various hurdles to achieve her current 12 sow unit. Like many small and medium scale producers, Joyline faced challenges in installing an efficient water system, accessing affordable feed and lack of basic training.

“It was not easy to provide adequate drinking water for the pigs. On a daily basis, I had to draw water from a deep well using tins to fill 20-liter buckets which I carried on my head with my youngest child on the back,” recalls Joyline. On average each mature pig needs 12 to 30 litres of water per day, with lactating sows demanding up to 45 litres per day. The process of manually drawing water from a deep well located 30 metres from the pigsties was particularly burdensome requiring several trips each day for her 115 average stock. The amount of time taken in this exercise meant that Joyline had to forego other household and economic chores or had to fork out money to hire labour to draw and ferry the water.

Thankfully, Joyline was selected to be one of the recipients of the Llyod’s of London matching grant facility for the installation of solar powered piped water systems for small and medium

pork producers in Mashonaland East, under the project. The project supported 70% of the total cost for purchase, delivery, and installation of all materials and Joyline chipped in with a 30% contribution mainly catering for labour costs.

The installation of climate friendly solar powered boreholes is in line with the project’s aim to promote the adoption of green technologies in livestock production. Prior to being awarded the grant, Joyline along with other farmers from the province underwent a one-day training on business management among other technical trainings on good agricultural practices.

“The training we received was life changing, it gave me a new perspective on how to run my enterprise and helped to define my growth plans. The installation of the solar powered nipple drinking system has also upgraded my production, I no longer have to pay for labour to clean the pigsties or fetch drinking water for the pigs. With the savings I am planning to construct additional pigsties,” said a jovial Joyline.

With the challenges related to water now firmly addressed, Joyline is planning on expanding her production to 18 sows by the end of year 2023. She is looking forward to addressing her waste management system by constructing concrete gullies, plans to construct a biodigester are afoot.



Using buckets to provide water for her sizeable piggery unit was burdensome for Joyline before she received the grant for a modern nipple drinking system.

In terms of production performance, Joyline is reaping the benefits of the water system, she had this to say; “since the installation of the nipple drinking system, I have seen a major improvement in my pigs, they look healthier and better because they can now drink water whenever they need. I am now reaching minimum production targets especially litter size at birth, birth weight, weaning weight and daily feed conversion.”

PROJECT UPDATES AT A GLANCE

Since project inception, interventions by the project targeting registered farmer members in the District Goat Producers Business Associations and Pork Producers Business Syndicates have achieved the following:

3521

goats collectively sold under DMM to Harare and Bulawayo Butcheries



44294.9 kgs

of goat meat sold by GPBAs under DMM.

USD

151610.063

generated by farmers from DMM sales.

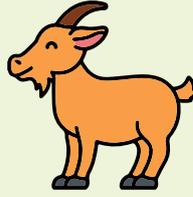


20991

goats vaccinated against Pulpy Kidney.



2756
does mated with exotic
bucks.



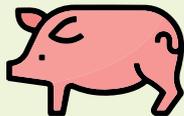
32353
Goats dipped.



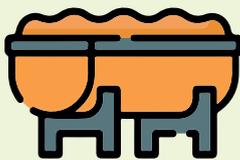
2139
Goat breeding stock
propagated from pure
stock imported from
Namibia sold by integrators
and associations.



10 687
pig semen doses sold.



193 504kg
of pork sold to Harare markets
worth USD591379.



976.7 tonnes
of pig feed jointly procured.

1106
weaners of pig breeding
stock sold from imported
breeding stock.

171
breeding gilts sold,



66
F1 Boars sold.



13
Multiplier Farms established,
trained, and supported with
breeding stock.

12
GPBAs and 2 PPBS
established and facilitating
service delivery through their
business management units.



Marketing infrastructure
establishment e.g.

12 GICs.
Dipping facilities, mating and
breed improvement programmes,
slaughter stock aggregation and
fodder seed propagation,



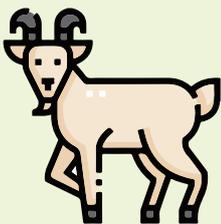
2 breed

standards developed for indigenous Goat Breed (Mashona and Matebele Breeds)



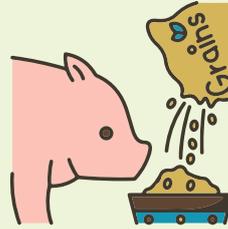
2 research

institutions supported with laboratory equipment and feed equipment.



380

exotic goat breeding stock imported (Boer and Kalahari Red breeds)



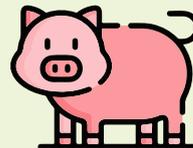
Research

on alternative goat and pig feeds completed focusing on feed formulation options.



13 technical

manuals produced on goat and pig production.



244

pig breeding stock imported (Large White, Duroc and Landrace breeds).



327

young and women farmers trained on weaner to finisher model and artificial insemination.

MY INTERFACE WITH THE VALUE PROJECT: THE CASE OF PATRICIA MARAMBADORO



Mrs Marambadoro posing with twin cross breed kids in front of her new elevated goat pen. The project has supported all associations with exotic bucks of Kalahari Red and Boer breeds to ensure breed improvement.

Mrs Marambadoro posing with twin cross breed kids in front of her new elevated goat pen. The project has supported all associations with exotic bucks of Kalahari Red and Boer breeds to ensure breed improvement.

When she retired from work in 2016, Patricia Marambadoro, aged sixty-five, decided to move from the hustle and bustle of Harare to her rural home in Buhera South. She tried her hand at goat production, albeit at a subsistent level and without prior training or commercial orientation.

“I started off with three goats in 2016 which took long to multiple due to lack of good animal husbandry practices, most of the offspring we got was for household consumption

and occasional sales via local auctions which did not pay much,” recalled Mrs Marambadoro.

In 2019, the VALUE project was introduced in her ward and she was one of the farmers who joined subsequently undergoing several trainings and capacity building programmes which enhanced her knowledge of commercial goat production. Mrs Marambadoro’s leadership qualities and passion for the development of the goat value chain in Buhera district was quickly noticed by her peers who selected her as one of the leaders of the association based at the Mutiusinazita Goat Improvement Centre.

Implementation of innovations introduced by the project with funding from the European Union namely breed improvement, improved goat housing, supplementary feeding, regular dipping, dosing, and vaccinations brought about a change in production for farmers evidenced by reduction in kid mortality, improved breeds, and healthier livestock.

“I am grateful for the support of the project in uplifting our production as small producers. After the training I realised that my goat housing was not ideal. I constructed a new elevated structure which is more suitable for goat production,” she said.

The positive changes in production and organisational efficiencies were not immediately rewarded by the local market where goats sell for USD20 regardless of size and weight. In response the project introduced the Direct Goat Meat Marketing initiative to independent licensed butcheries in the Harare and Bulawayo markets.

“Working in groups as an association has been very helpful in our quest to commercialise, we are aggregating goats collectively for slaughter and sale in Harare under the direct meat marketing. This has helped to reduce transactional costs such as clearance, transportation and slaughter.”

Under the DMM arrangement, Mrs Marambadoro received an average of USD36 per goat after costs as compared to the USD25 or less she would have locally. The project continues to work with the twelve goat producers associations to build their organisational capacities and in identifying new markets.

EMPOWERING AND UPLIFTING WOMAN CHAMPION PIG PRODUCER – THE STORY OF LETWINNER NYAGANO



The project has facilitated affordable access to superior genetics for small and medium scale pig producers. Gogo Nyagano pictured with some of her sows purchased from Braford Farming in Chegutu. Using superior genetics has increased production for farmers like her.

For Mrs Letwinner Nyagano (popularly known as Gogo Nyagano) of Ward 15, Chegutu district in Mashonaland West, the transformation of her pig enterprise is akin to that of fairy tales. In just two years the growth of her business can best be described as meteoric. In 2020 she had a 10-sow unit housed in sub-standard pigsties coupled with challenges such as poor productivity from inferior breeds, high cost of feed, uncompetitive markets, expensive drugs, and vaccines.

Prior to joining the Mashonaland West Pig Producers Syndicate, Letwinner had to face these challenges on her own with little success. Thanks to the syndication model that promotes collective action, Letwinner is now able to rely on her fellow producers to deal with the challenges associated with the value chain.

“I am grateful for the spirit of collectivism that was imbued in us by the project, where I previously struggled with the high cost of vaccines and feeds; we now share the costs with syndicate

members on most of our procurements making it easy to adhere to high standards of production,” says Letwinner.

The capacity building programmes introduced by the project in collaboration with the PIB have also left an indelible mark on Letwinner. The knowledge gained has enabled her to rectify mistakes and grow her enterprise to a current 80-sow unit recognised as one of the best performing in the country. “Armed with the new knowledge and skills from the training, we constructed new pig sties which conform to international standards. I am grateful to the project for the matching grant support to build a single block. Moreover, from the capacity building trainings and exposure, I am now running a recognised piggery training programme attracting students from all over Zimbabwe and neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and Zambia,” adds Letwinner.

To increase access to superior genetics, the project imported breeding stock from South Africa for multiplication at breeder

farms. Syndicate members have been able to purchase gilts, boars and weaners at discounted rates, an opportunity Letwinner grabbed with both hands. She replaced all the old stock with the superior genetics which are performing above the average industry benchmark, for instance litter size increased from an average 10 to 13, birth weights have also increased from 1.3kgs to 1.8kgs and the weeks to marketing have reduced by two weeks to 20 from 22 weeks with the same cold dressed mass of between 55 to 58kgs.

In line with the commercialisation thrust, Letwinner has diversified her portfolio to include fish farming, horticulture, and poultry. She has adopted agroecological practices replacing chemical fertilisers with waste from the piggery unit without affecting her yield per hectare. As a champion farmer she is coordinating collective efforts in input procurement and superior breeds multiplication for Norton pig producers and beyond contributing to reduction in costs of doing business.

“I am grateful to the government of Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme, and the European Union for supporting us with this transformational project.”



Letwinner is getting recognition for her outstanding work from government and private sector recently winning an Icon Entrepreneurship Award.



Letwinner Nyagano is using waste from the piggery project as organic manure for her fish project and garden thereby reducing costs of purchasing chemical fertilisers.

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