



Zimbabwe  
AGRICULTURAL  
GROWTH  
Programme



OCTOBER 2023

TECHNICAL PAPER

# GOAT AND PORK FARMER-LED INSTITUTIONS



Promoting Zimbabwe's Goat and Pork Value Chains

## INTRODUCTION

This technical paper provides an in-depth analysis of the Goat and Pork Farmer Associations, highlighting services, lessons learnt, policy hindrances, recommendations their role in the agriculture industry at large. Farmer associations are groups of farmer-led institutions which provide strategic services, collective input and output marketing and stimulating farm productivity at farmer level. Within the context of the European Union supported Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP), Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project, there are twelve (12) associations participating in the goat value chain (GVC), each representing a district and two Pig Production Business Syndicates (PPBSs) for Pork Value Chain (PVC), operating at provincial level for Mash East and West production corridors, each representing 4 (four) operational districts. The VALUE Project is a brainchild of project partners namely Action Aid Zimbabwe (Lead), Mercy Corps (MC), COSV, Braford Farming, Zvikomborero Farms and Michview Enterprise. Each association has a business management unit (BMU) that hosts a Goat Improvement Centre (GIC) and is headed by a Business Development Officer (BDO). This also applies for the PVC, with a Business Development Officer and Bookkeeper coordinating business activities for the farmers. The associations and syndicates were established during the project implementation period (2019 to 2023), to operate legally through constitutions and cooperative company registration, with PVC syndicates now registered as East Pork and Madokero Pork Producers Cooperative Companies. In terms of governance, each association is constituted by a chairperson, secretary, treasurer and committee members. The day-to-day activities of each association are governed by a constitution. As an organization representing goat and pork farmers, together with government line Ministries specifically Women affairs and SMEs and Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Rural Development, association plays a crucial role in advocating for the interests and welfare of its members. This paper aims to inform policy by presenting a comprehensive overview of the association's objectives, activities, challenges, and contributions to the goat and pork industry. By understanding the association's operations and the issues it faces, policymakers can make informed decisions to support and strengthen the goat and pork farming sector, leading to sustainable growth, improved livelihoods, and enhanced food security.



**This paper aims to inform policy by presenting a comprehensive overview of the association's objectives, activities, challenges, and contributions to the goat and pork industry.**

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ASSOCIATIONS

For the GICs, the core services being provided by each of the 12 districts (Chipinge, Buhera, Chikomba, Mudzi, Rushinga and Mbire for Mashonaland and Manicaland region, and Beitbridge, Gwanda, Matobo, Binga, Lupane and Nkayi for Matebeleland region) include mating, dipping, vaccinations, aggregation, direct meat marketing, training, spot buying and multiplication and selling of breeding stock. In addition to these, some GICs have established fodder gardens to provide seed to members for multiplication and goat feed supplementation. For example, the associations collectively sold a total 58t of goat meat on behalf of members directly to Harare and Bulawayo market at a premium of +/- USD20 profit per goat, when compared to selling locally.

Under the PVC, key services on offer include bulk feed supply, quality pig genetics, transport and logistics, joint direct marketing targeting Harare and Bulawayo independent butcheries and policy support. For example, the association provided feed loans to members at +/- USD5.00 discount per bag from bulk purchase and own processing when compared to direct purchase by individual farmers. Additionally, the syndicates are facilitating direct marketing through independent registered butcheries at +/- USD0.30 additional price when compared to selling through intermediaries. Collectively, these activities are being offered through the BMUs, to both members and non-members to reduce cost of production and maximize economies of scale and profit margin at farmer level.

## LESSONS LEARNT ON ESTABLISHING GPBAs/ PPBSs AND OPERATING THEM

- ▶ It was difficult to coordinate farmers from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds and different scales of production,
- ▶ The quality of services provided by the association hinges on the capacity and competency of the selected leadership and BMU staff
- ▶ If BMU staff is not well remunerated, the sustainability of the GICs and PPBSs is negatively affected,
- ▶ In the absence of a proper asset management strategy and profit deployment plan, associations are unlikely to survive,
- ▶ Without diversifying income generating activities and creating effective demand for their services, the associations/syndicates' financial resources will be limited to support effective service delivery.
- ▶ If services are not decentralized and customized to suit low, medium and high value farmer members, competitiveness is compromised.



## POLICY HINDRANCES THAT AFFECTED FUNCTIONALITY OF THE ASSOCIATIONS/SYNDICATES

- ▶ Limited Access to Financial Support: Pig and Goat associations/syndicates under the project faced challenges in accessing adequate financial support from government or financial institutions. Limited access to affordable credit, grants, and subsidies hampers their ability to invest in infrastructure, modern equipment, and training programs, ultimately hindering their functionality and growth. The initiative done under the project through smart subsidies (pig and goats) and feed credit (less than 10% of pig farmers) could not do much to solve the financial challenge.
- ▶ Inconsistent Policy Frameworks: Inconsistent or unclear policy frameworks related to pig and goat farming can pose significant challenges for associations/syndicates. Uncertainty regarding regulations, licensing requirements, and taxation policies creates a difficult operating environment and hinders long-term planning and investment in the sector. For example, change/difference in slaughter fees (e.g., most Bulawayo Abattoirs charge +/-USD5 more goat slaughter fee than Harare abattoirs), grain movement restrictions affecting feed material acquisition by farmers, animal movement restrictions by DVS due to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks affecting regular goat and pork meat supply to the market, high minimum doses per bottle for farrowsure, litterguard affecting uptake by small holder farmers with low sow unit, associations not allowed to sell veterinary products, livestock clearance process is characterized by a high number of witnesses thereby increasing transaction costs to the farmer, corruption during transportation increasing the cost of business. In addition, most police stations in the rural areas do not have adequate clearance forms, stamps, and vehicles necessary to facilitate the clearance process. Ultimately, this increases the financial burden because the farmer has to provide transport.
- ▶ Lack of Supportive Infrastructure: Inadequate infrastructure, such as poor road networks, limited access to veterinary services, and inadequate processing and storage facilities, negatively impact the functionality of goat and pig associations. Insufficient infrastructure makes it challenging to transport pigs, goats, access veterinary services, and process products efficiently, limiting the growth and profitability of the associations. Ultimately, this results in the high cost of production per kg of meat making farmers uncompetitive locally and in the region. For example, the cost of producing a kg of pork remains high in Zimbabwe at USD2.45 to USD2.55 (PIB, 2023) when compared to SA, which is producing a kg of pork meat at less than USD1.30 (LMAC, 2023).
- ▶ Limited Market Access and Value Chain Integration: Goat and Pig associations/syndicates often face barriers in accessing markets and integrating into the larger value chain. Inadequate market linkages, limited negotiation power, and challenges in meeting quality and compliance standards restrict their ability to tap into lucrative markets and maximize income generation opportunities. The current initiatives done through direct meat marketing need continuous policy support from government and policy makers to create favourable environment for associations/syndicates to continue aggregating, transporting and marketing stock in Harare and Bulawayo market.
- ▶ Insufficient Technical Support and Training: Lack of adequate technical support and training programs for pig and goat farmers and association members can hinder their capacity to adopt modern farming practices, improve productivity, and address emerging challenges. Limited access to extension services, training workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms restricts the associations' ability to build the skills and knowledge necessary for

sustainable goat and pig farming. Extension worker to farmer ratio remains higher at more than 1:130 in rural areas, with government staff mobility being a major challenge across districts.

For the PVC, PIB which is mandated to provide farm support visit do have limited mobility and staff capacity to reach all farmers.

## CONCLUSIONS

Farmer associations/syndicates have resulted in the empowerment of vulnerable rural farmers across the major corridors of the project. This is mostly a result of the key services that have been offered at the various GICs and PPBSs located in participating districts/

provinces. Whereas the model is hinged on the expertise of the BMU staff which is responsible for coordinating service provision to farmer members and non-members, sustainability remains key beyond project implementation period.



## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUSTAIN ASSOCIATIONS AND SYNDICATES SERVICE DELIVERY BEYOND ZAGP VALUE PROJECT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.

- ▶ Access to financial support: Establish dedicated funding mechanisms, such as low-interest loans, grants, and subsidies, specifically tailored to support goat and pig associations. Simplify application processes and ensure equitable access to financial resources, enabling associations to invest in infrastructure, equipment, training programs, and market development initiatives.
- ▶ Clear and consistent policy frameworks: Develop and implement clear and consistent policy frameworks that provide a conducive environment for goat and pig associations. Address regulatory gaps, ensure transparent licensing procedures, and establish supportive taxation policies that encourage investment, innovation, and growth in the sector. Regularly review and update policies to keep pace with emerging trends and challenges.
- ▶ Infrastructure development: Invest in the development of essential infrastructure, including road networks, veterinary services, processing facilities, and storage facilities. Improve access to veterinary services in rural areas and establish efficient transportation networks to facilitate the movement of goats and pigs. Adequate infrastructure will enhance market access, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve overall productivity.
- ▶ Market Access and Value Chain Integration: Facilitate market access for goat and pig associations by strengthening market linkages and supporting value chain integration. Foster partnerships between associations, processors, retailers, and export markets. Provide training and support to associations in meeting quality and compliance standards, enhancing their competitiveness and ability to access lucrative markets.
- ▶ Technical support and capacity building: Establish comprehensive technical support programs and training initiatives for goat and pig associations. Provide access to extension services, training workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms. Promote best practices in breeding, animal health management, nutrition, and marketing. Enhancing the technical capacity of association members will improve productivity, efficiency, and sustainability in the sector.



**By implementing these policy recommendations, policymakers can create an enabling environment that supports and empowers goat and pig associations/syndicates. These measures will enhance the associations' capacity to contribute to rural development, poverty reduction, food security, and economic growth in Zimbabwe.**

**This publication was produced with financial support from the European Union and CIPS Foundation, its contents are the sole responsibility of the VALUE project.**

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

### **Contact Person**

Pepukai Muchazondida Svinurai (Action Aid Zimbabwe, ZAGP  
VALUE Project Team Leader)

### **Email**

[pepukai.muchazondida@actionaid.org](mailto:pepukai.muchazondida@actionaid.org)

### **Tel**

+263 772 164 448/9

### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/ZAGPGoatsandPigs>

### **Twitter**

[twitter.com/ZAGPGoats\\_Pigs](https://twitter.com/ZAGPGoats_Pigs)

### **YouTube**

VALUE Consortium

### **SoundCloud**

VALUE Consortium