

Zambia Dairy Transformation Programme

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly newsletter, which summarises activities carried out under the Zambia Dairy Transformation Programme (ZDTP) in November 2020.

Left: Stanslous Ngosa, a ZDTP focus farmer in Mufulira, showcasing his maize planted for silage and concentrate production, to feed his animals during 2021.

Fact sheets now available to farmers at MCC

We've been working with the Manager and Board members at Kwanshama Dairy Cooperative Union for a while now to determine how best to share information with members and support farmers to improve production.

Two ideas that came out of these discussions were:

- Have a book at the local Milk Collection Centre (MCC) where farmers can record any problems they are facing or support they'd like from ZDTP Extension Officer Linda Moono; and
- Display the ZDTP fact sheets so farmers can be reminded of them when they visit the MCC.

To get the ball rolling, we provided MCC Manager Ngoza Banda with a duplicate book and carbon paper where she can write down requests from farmers. This means that when Linda drops by the MCC she can tear out the pages and follow up the requests.

We also printed copies of each of our fact sheets (also found at www.zambiadairy.com) and presented these to Ngoza who organised for a shelving unit at the MCC where farmers can easily see them.

It's a simple way of reminding members of key farming topics and promoting the support the Kwanshama Dairy Cooperative Union, in partnership with the ZDTP, is able to provide to farmers.

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"Farmers across the operations areas seem to be more interested in being supported by the programme than ever before. This is mainly in terms of trainings and asking for advice."

Kelvin Mulusa, ZDTP Field Extension Manager

Fact sheets now available to farmers at MCC

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We're pleased to report that since fact sheets have been displayed at the MCC in Kwanshama, Linda has received more requests from local farmers, or those interested in entering the dairy industry, for advice and to go through the fact sheets with them. If you have a space where you would like to display some of our fact sheets, please get in touch with ZDTP Field Extension Manager, Kelvin Mulusa, on 096 372 336.



Challenges during the rainy season

It's been great to see the countryside turning green with the arrival of the rains; however, mud can pose some challenges to dairy farmers. Below we've put together some issues to be aware of and suggested solutions, with further information available in our fact sheets.



Milking parlours

Rain and mud can make it challenging to keep udders clean and stop dirt or bacteria entering milk. For this reason, it's ideal to have a milking parlour with a roof and a hard floor (pictured on the left). **Fact sheet M05 will help you design a milking parlour like this.** Remember to ensure the roof slopes, to allow water to drain off. This will prevent the floor becoming waterlogged and help drain away rainwater and water used for cleaning. Other tips are to have the parlour 10 – 15 cm above the ground (for easy draining) and to direct this water to lower areas, e.g. a kitchen garden.

Maintaining good hygiene during milking

Cases of mastitis are more common at this time of year, when it's more difficult to keep udders clean; remember to use **hygienic milking practices (as mentioned in fact sheet M01)**, such as:

- Clean the udder and teats using clean (potable) water;
- Dry the teats using a clean dry cloth (or tissue); use a separate cloth (or tissue) for each animal;
- Put the first two squirts of milk from all four teats into a container and throw it away;
- Check the third and fourth squirt for abnormal milk and discolouration; if milk appears abnormal, check for mastitis using the Sunlight reagent Rapid Mastitis Test (see **fact sheets M03A, M03B and M03C for more information on preventing, identifying and managing mastitis**); and
- Use separate buckets, one for milking and one for washing udders and teats.



Keeping milking utensils clean and dry

Remember that milk quality can be affected by how milk is stored and transported to the MCC. The milk that comes out of the cow may be of good quality; however, it can be spoiled if milking buckets, cans and sieves are not clean and dry. Cleaning directly after milking is easier as the milk is still wet, so it washes off easily. If leftover milk has a chance to dry, it can become sticky and difficult to remove. Clean all milk collection utensils (e.g. sieves) using detergent and hot water. Rinse with clean water and place upside down on a drying rack (as pictured on the left). Clean buckets with water and chlorine in preparation for the next milking. See **fact sheet M02 on cleaning after milking** for further information.

Preventing feed from spoiling

If you're feeding cattle in a kraal, feed left on the ground can become dirty. Cattle prefer clean food, so it's a good idea to put feed in a rack / feeding trough. If there's no roof over the trough, or no drainage in it, remember to clean the trough regularly to remove any rainwater and stop food going mouldy. See [fact sheet F03 for some ideas for feed troughs](#). It's a good idea at this time of year to have an area of hard standing around feed troughs. This will prevent the areas around the feed troughs becoming muddy as it's a place cows like to stand. Remember to also store your feed off the ground and in a dry place to prevent it from spoiling and going mouldy.

Clean water

There's lots of water around at the moment, but it's especially important to ensure that cows have access to clean water. For this reason, make sure you check water troughs daily and clean them out as necessary. As with feeding areas, put the water trough on an area of hard standing so cows don't need to stand in mud whilst drinking.

Somewhere dry to stand

It's not great for cows to stand in mud for long periods of time as it can lead to conditions such as foot rot, when feet become infected and can lead to animals becoming lame. Try to ensure cows have an area where they can stand out of the mud, especially around 'high traffic' areas such as feed and water troughs. A sheltered area where they can lie down is also good, ideally with some dry bedding.

If you have some good innovations on how to keep milk clean and animals healthy during the wet season, please let us know. We'd like to share these with other farmers through this newsletter or WhatsApp groups.

Programme governance during the 'new normal'

Meetings for both our Programme Technical Committee (PTC) and Programme Steering Committee (PSC) have been held online this year, amid social distancing restrictions, with attendance and input from senior members from the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL), the Dairy Association of Zambia (DAZ), the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MoCTI) and the New Zealand High Commission (NZHC) in Pretoria.

Our most recent meetings for the PTC and PSC were held on the 24th and 26th of November respectively. These meetings provided us with a chance to share and discuss the ZDTP's Year Five Plans, which will build on the work done to date. As part of these plans, we're looking at options for how farmers can continue to access extension services beyond the term of ZDTP (the programme ends in December 2021) and how these extension services can best reach 'farm level'.

We'll also be working with colleagues at MFL to support the development of a national dairy policy and accompanying strategy. ZDTP Programme Country Manager Tania Thomson says it was pleasing to get "overwhelming support from all (PSC and PTC) members for the programme and the results we have achieved".

We were also extremely happy with the feedback from both MFL and the NZHC who are pleased with the programme's progress and how it has contributed to improvements for smallholder farmers, especially during these tough economic times.

Other highlights from the recent PTC and PSC meetings include:

- DAZ commending the ZDTP on the extension work it has been doing and indicating that this type of approach needs to be rolled out across the country;
- MoCTI recognising the achievements the programme has made with cooperatives, noting there is now a "new way of doing business at ZDTP supported cooperatives";
- MFL indicating it was very keen to see how the ZDTP could engage further with other projects inside the Ministry; and
- The Deputy High Commissioner from MFAT, Rebecca Williams, being positive about the programme, particularly the Real Time Monitoring (RTM) initiative as one of the key activities achieving results and outreach.

"All these comments make me very proud to be part of ZDTP and of what we have achieved together in a relatively short time," says Tania. "Members of the PTC plan to visit the Copperbelt during December and we'll have more on this in the next newsletter."

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.