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Monthly Newsletter – November 2017

Key highlights:

- By the end of the month, planting had been carried out in approximately 80% of the community and individual fodder / pasture demonstration plots;
- Facilitating a workshop in Kabwe to discuss extension collaboration in the smallholder dairy sector;
- Observing the progress being made at Kwanshama Milk Collection Centre on the addition of the milk reception area to their existing building;
- Co-funding (with Agriterra¹) the attendance of Board members from Fisenge Dairy Business Cooperative Union on an Agriterra run Governance Training course.

Overview of activities carried out this month

Fodder demonstration plots

Work on the community and individual fodder and pasture demonstration plots has been progressing well. The Extension Officers (EOs) have been working closely with primary cooperative members in the six ZDTP target cooperatives to lay out the plots and plant the seeds. It has been extremely encouraging to see the community involvement and witness their recognition of the positive benefits this activity should have on their animals. The following observations have been provided by EOs in their latest monthly reports: *'Farmers have seen the importance of the demo plots and the type of pasture and fodder we want to plant hence majority would want to replicate the demos on their farms'*, and *'It's now interesting how farmers have become committed towards the demo plots. Initially some farmers didn't respond well, but after realising that advanced land preparations and a clear layout of demo plots was done, and demo plot materials delivered, farmers who didn't respond all this time, are now actively involved in the activities'*. In December we'll be concentrating on finishing planting the remaining demo plots and putting fencing around the more vulnerable ones.



Figure 1: Farmers in Kwanshama involved in planting yellow maize on a demonstration plot.

Collaboration within the Smallholder Dairy Extension Sector

Rob La Grange, one of our dairy extension experts and John Kalaba, our Programme Stakeholder Engagement Officer continued to meet representatives from organisations involved in providing extension support to dairy farmers. This was supplemented by Rob spending time with each ZDTP EO to learn more about how they're interacting with their respective cooperatives and collaborating with others to provide quality extension support to smallholder dairy farmers. As part of our desire to work

¹ <https://www.agriterra.nl/>



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closely with others, especially our colleagues in the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, we organised a workshop in Kabwe to bring together field officers and managers to understand the 'status quo' and how we all might improve the effectiveness of the services we provide to smallholder dairy farmers. We look forward to advancing the discussions held during this workshop in 2018.

Renovations to Kwanshama Milk Collection Centre (MCC)

The addition of a covered milk reception area to the existing Kwanshama MCC is going well. Most of the required materials have been purchased and the build is being project managed by the Kwanshama Board. It is hoped the renovations will be completed in early 2018. Once the area is fully functional, we look forward to working closely with the Kwanshama Board, management team and farmers to formalise milk reception and handling procedures to support them in their quest for continuous improvement to milk quality. This will be further supported by a visit to ZDTP by Greg Braggins our Milk Quality expert during December when he will spend time visiting each MCC (Fisenge, Kwanshama, Mufulira, Balaka, Chibombo and Liteta) and providing individualised recommendations for the ZDTP EOs and MCC staff to work on during 2018.



Figure 2 Progress made with the milk reception extension at Kwanshama MCC

Collaboration with Agriterra to support governance at Fisenge Dairy Business Cooperative Union (DBCUCU)

This month we were fortunate to be able to co-fund the attendance of six members from Fisenge DBCUCU on a Governance training course in Chipata, hosted by Agriterra. The course was attended by representatives from three cooperatives (including Fisenge) and Kapeza, our Cooperative Business Support Officer. The Fisenge participants gave very positive feedback about the quality of the course and value of working with peers from other cooperatives. We look forward to supporting the Fisenge Board to implement their follow up action plan and to work with them during 2018 to support continuous improvement.

We hope you've found this eleventh edition of the ZDTP newsletter informative and welcome any questions, comments, or feedback you may have,

With warm and festive greetings, The ZDTP Team

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