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COMMUNIQUE

PARTNERSHIP FOR INDUSTRIALISATION OF ZIMBABWE'S FEED AND FODDER SECTOR

Harare, Zimbabwe 18-22 November 2024



A meeting was held on the dates stated above to discuss Partnerships to Support Industrialisation of Feed and Fodder Investments. The meeting was convened by Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD) in partnership with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) & Zimbabwe Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP). In attendance was the Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe (IDCZ), African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness Network (AWARFA-N), Agricultural Finance Cooperation and other Key Stakeholders of the Feed and Fodder value Chain of Zimbabwe. The meeting was funded under the African Union-Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) RAFFS Project by the Gates Foundation, and Zimbabwe is one of the six continental countries funded under this project. The goal of the meeting was to explore possible partnerships for the industrialisation of the feed and fodder sector in Zimbabwe.

The meeting was chaired by Zimbabwe Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) in conjunction with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, and facilitated by AU-IBAR- RAFFS Project. The meeting was attended by Leading Industry Actors, Academia, Technical Experts from the Feed and Fodder Sector including Stock Feed Manufacturers and government officials from the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Development and the ICT department. Other participants were from Agritex, the Dairy Industry Processors Association representing the MSP Chairperson, University of Zimbabwe Agro- Industrial Park, University of Zimbabwe, Agricultural Finance Cooperation (AFC), Livestock Meat and Advisory Council (LAMC), EasiSeeds, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness Network (AWARFA-Z), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), ZIMSTAT, Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF), Zimbabwe Industry Dairy Trust (ZIDT) and from Industrial Development Cooperation of Zimbabwe (IDC-Z).

This strategic meeting developed the roadmap for commercialization of the feed and fodder sector in Zimbabwe and to escalate the value chain to an economically viable sector. The feed and fodder subsector is critical to Zimbabwe's agricultural and livestock economy as it indirectly contributes to the Agricultural GDP and national GDP, employment and income generation, and is crucial for rural development and national food and nutrition security. Livestock sector in Zimbabwe contributes 35%-38% to Agricultural GDP. Feed and fodder contributes at least 60% of total cost of production to most livestock value chains.

Starvation, malnutrition and feed shortages have been identified as the major constraints in livestock production and productivity, whilst greatly influencing animal health. Addressing feed and fodder shortages protects livelihoods and ensures business continuity and sustainable livelihoods. There is currently no specific policy in Zimbabwe that deals with the development of the feed and fodder value chains. However, there are policy instruments, statutes, programs and strategies that speak to the feed and fodder development in Zimbabwe.

WORKSHOP DELIBERATIONS

Tthe Project Lead Coordinator of the Continental AU¬-IBAR RAFFS Project, recognized the efforts of various stakeholders in the feed and fodder value chain of Zimbabwe. She also expressed concern on the impact of the El Nino induced drought in Southern Africa and congratulated Zimbabwe for developing a Feed and Fodder framework aimed at industrializing the sector and mitigating future drought related deaths in the country. The Feed and Fodder framework is crucial for addressing issues in Africa's multibillion-dollar livestock industry. She emphasized that investing in the livestock feed and fodder sector is a mutually beneficial opportunity for livelihoods, businesses, and presents opportunities for exports. The Project Leader highlighted the importance of partnerships, citing the proposed collaboration between AU-IBAR, IDC-Z of the Sovereign Wealth Fund and MSP Zimbabwe as a key example. Unlocking Economic Potential is a new narrative for the Continental Livestock Sector and for Zimbabwe, as the livestock sector is a strategic economic sector crucial for achieving key developmental objectives. Further, engagement by IDC-Z, the MSP and other potential investors with the MLAFWRD will address the national Feed and Fodder balance sheet in order to avert future losses due to starvation and malnutrition.

The IDC-Z representative acknowledged AU-IBAR through the RAFFS Project for the initiative to support Zimbabwe's feed and fodder sector. The IDC-Z is a part of the Mutapa investment fund group and has partnerships with Chemplex and AFC. IDC-Z are willing to partner in the Feed and Fodder Sector through funding projects (case by case) and inputs provisions (phosphates, limestone and fertilisers) through their partner companies. While they have access to funding, it might not be enough for the entire value chain, but it is possible for them to partner with different organizations or actors within the value chain.

The Director for Livestock Production and Development welcomed attendees to the AU-IBAR¬RAFFS-MSP and IDCZ meeting, emphasizing the significance of the feed and fodder sector in Zimbabwe's economy and its contribution to AGDP and to national GDP. The Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP), launched in May 2024 also applauded IDC-Z's interest in the feed and fodder sector. The alignment of IDC-Z mandate with the Zimbabwe National Industrial Development Policy and AU-IBAR-RAFFS" objectives presents a momentous opportunity for collaboration.

The meeting emphasized the importance of practical, implementable solutions that leverage stakeholder organizations' strengths and resources through development of action plans, setting timelines and development of appropriate MOUs. The Director expressed her wishes for fruitful engagements and successful business partnership development between AU-IBAR,

RAFFS Project, the MSP, AWARFA, IDC-Zimbabwe, and other stakeholders and pledged support by MLAFWRD. The Workshop focused its deliberations on tasks related to the four key specific objectives of the Workshop:

1. Enhanced understanding of Zimbabwe's feed and fodder data ecosystem, aligning stakeholders, and establishment of processes for data collection, mapping, and dashboard integration, with a focus on sustainability and collaboration.
2. Facilitated investment and contracting opportunities in Zimbabwe's feed and fodder sector by identifying contract cases, creating an investor pitch deck, and confirming demo plot zones for AWARFA-N Zimbabwe.
3. Development and fostering of collaborations with prospective partners (IDC-Z, AFC, MLAFWRD, and AU-IBAR/RAFFS project), and other financiers through structured action plans, stakeholder coordination, pilot projects, while AWARFA-N Zimbabwe will support sustainable growth and market access within Zimbabwe's feed and fodder value chain.
4. Media stakeholders' engagement to increase communication and visibility of the RAFFS project and documentation of project successes to build broader awareness within Zimbabwe.

Workshop Resolutions:

The representatives of the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD), the Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe (IDC-Z), the Association of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development for Africa Network (AWARFA-N), AU-II3AR and other stakeholders, gathered at this workshop on 18th -22nd November 2024, in Harare, Zimbabwe;

Recognizing the vital role of the feed and fodder sector in driving livestock production, food security, and economic growth in Zimbabwe, and the challenges of limited aggregation, inadequate investment, climate vulnerabilities, and policy gaps hindering the sector's industrialization.

Recognizing the feed and fodder sector as a billion-dollar industry, strategic to Zimbabwe's economic growth and development.

Recognising the sector's potential for employment creation, youth and women empowerment, and trade development.

Recognising the devastating impact of climate change including droughts on the livestock sector and the need for resilient and sustainable interventions.

Acknowledging the strategic importance of collaboration among industrial, developmental, governmental, and multi-stakeholder actors to address the sector's challenges and opportunities and the necessity of harmonized efforts to achieve shared objectives and sustainable outcomes for the feed and fodder sector.

Agree to; negotiate the establishment of a strategic partnership among IDC-Z, the Feed and Fodder Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP), and the Government of Zimbabwe (through the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development) with AU-IBAR as a supporting development partner through the RAFFS Project, and to:

1. Prioritize the following strategic areas:
    i. Aggregating and strengthening supply chains
    ii. Mainstreaming contracting models
    iii. Raising investments
    iv. Addressing policy gaps and harmonizing policies
    v. Promoting climate resilience technologies
    vi. Strengthening sector recognition and coordination
    vii. Data and ecosystem development to service the feed and fodder sector.

2. Form and constitutionalize a Steering Committee to coordinate and monitor partnership activities and outcomes.

3. Utilize RAFFS Project's interventions and expertise to operationalize activities focused on development outcomes including piloting commercialization models and upscaling data systems and data-driven decision-making.

4. Call upon: Other potential investors, development partners, and private sector stakeholders to support the partnership by aligning resources and expertise to shared objectives.

WAY FORWARD

1. Development of a feed and fodder strategy for implementing partnerships.The Ministry of Lands,Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD), the Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe (IDC-Z), and the African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness Network (AWARFA-N) urgently need to pitch deck the formation of a partnership to support the development of the feed and fodder sector in Zimbabwe.

2. Development of a robust action plan and setting of specified timelines (short- to mid¬term plans) on sector development.

3. There are clear opportunities for partnerships with IDC-Z that would drive industrialisation of the feed and fodder sector. Such envisaged partnerships with IDC¬Z and other stakeholders should support the growth and development of the sector.