

FRIDAY BRIEF

WEEK 44, 2016

This Week's Highlights.....

- ZNFU SUCCESSFULLY HOLDS ITS 111TH CONGRESS, USHERS IN NEW PRESIDENT AND BOARD
- RUSSELL IPM JOINS FIGHT AGAINST *TUTA ABSOLUTA* IN ZAMBIA
- ZAMBIA HOSTS FIRST EVER WORLD TOBACCO DAY CELEBRATIONS

..... SEE DETAILED UPDATES BELOW....

ZNFU SUCCESSFULLY HOLDS A COUNCIL MEETING AND ITS 111TH CONGRESS WHICH USHERED IN A NEW PRESIDENT AND BOARD

ZNFU yesterday successfully held its 2016 Council Meeting and the 111th Congress which ushered in a new President Mr. Jervisimba and a new Board.

The Congress was preceded by the 2016 Meeting of Council which mainly deliberated and came up with measures to deal with and resolve current audit issues, negative media coverage, and ZNFU survival and continued operations. At the center of the deliberations by councillors was the need for improved Corporate Governance and this culminated into the election of a new President and ushering in of a new ZNFU Board of Directors. The new office bearers are Mr. Jervisimba as President, Mrs. Miriam Mbazima and Mr. Fisho Mwale as the new Commodity Directors, Mr. Austin Shinachize and Mr. Elico Spyron as small scale and large scale Area Directors respectively, Mr. Dave Gordon as and Mr. Wayne Wiid as Directors representing Corporate and Agribusiness respectively, and Mrs. Doreen Mwanza as Director representing women farmers. Mr Ashok Oza was elected as Trustee of the ZNFU.

The new Board has since pledged to immediately embark on transforming ZNFU into a more united and much stronger Union driven by enhanced Corporate Governance, and a restructured, efficient, transparent and accountable Secretariat. In his acceptance speech Mr. Jimba said that his Board will focus on resolving all outstanding issues with our Cooperating Partners, who without their support may be difficult to achieve all ZNFU intended objectives. This, according to him, will involve restoring ZNFU relationships with all its partners, and reclaiming the ZNFU's rightful position, reputation and influence at home, region and globally.

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“To those ZNFU may have battled fiercely with or offended during these trying moments, kindly find it within yourselves to bear with us, it is only because we love our Union so deeply and we care so strongly about our agricultural sector that we may have differed with yourselves. Come, let’s join hands together and move our Zambian agriculture to the next level” he added while offering a public apology.

The new Board is expected to meet in the coming few days to among other functions select the Union’s 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents. A number of meetings with Government, Cooperating Partners and Key Industry players have already been lined up as well.

RUSSELL IPM JOINS FIGHT AGAINST *TUTA ABSOLUTA* IN ZAMBIA

Having successfully conducted a *Tuta Absoluta* awareness seminar, Russell IPM UK Ltd has started legal procedures as required by the Zambian government to enable the company have its products on the Zambian market. This came to light during the *Tuta absoluta* awareness seminar organised by ZARI in conjunction with Russell IPM and a series of meetings in Lusaka. The meetings were attended by ZARI, different departments in the ministry of Agriculture, ZEMA, *Tuta absoluta* Taskforce, tomatoes growers and ZNFU among others.

Russell IPM promised Zambian farmers of products that will help to contain and control the spread of *Tuta absoluta*. Some of the solutions discussed include; natural biorational pest control solution, safe biorational effective solution, effective biorational soil enhancer solution, Mass Trapping, and Pheromones. Russell explained that their solutions were unique from what was currently on the Zambian market as their solutions focused on the soil and not the upper part of the plant.

Meanwhile farmers’ expectations were that Russell will among others things provide practical solutions on control of *Tuta*, affordable/competitive solutions, capacity building/support services in line with solutions, more information on *Tuta* and that ZARI through PQPS would enhance enforcement and monitoring activities around *Tuta absoluta*.

ZAMBIA HOSTS FIRST EVER WORLD TOBACCO DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Tobacco Association of Zambia in conjunction with International Tobacco Growers Association (ITGA) Headquarters in Portugal today hosted the first ever celebration of World Tobacco Growers Day (WTGD) in Zambia. WTGD is an annual event which began in 2012 and brings together the world's 30 million tobacco growers across four continents. The event was being celebrated for the first time in Zambia today at East Park Mall in Lusaka.

Tobacco farmers across the world were today taking part in dozens of events to demonstrate the social and economic contribution tobacco farmers make to their communities and national governments, to remember the heritage of this sector and to educate the public about the issues impacting their livelihoods.

WTGD celebrations in Zambia were attended by various Tobacco buying companies, cigarette manufacturers and individual tobacco growers.

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ALERTS!!!!!!!!!!!!

ZFEA WAGES LATEST UPDATE 28/10/16

There is still no settlement on the minimum wage scale with the Unions following a meeting on 25 October, so the existing 2015/16 wage scale still stands. Our latest offer is 13.8%, which is now above the current inflation rate of 12.5% (for Oct-16). We are urging the unions to reach an agreement quickly that can be implemented from 1 November.

THE 2016 ZAMBIA-CHINA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE EXCHANGE THROUGH CULTURE, TOURISM, TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION ROADSHOW

The Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) in collaboration with the Ministry Commerce, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Tourism in Zambia, the Zambian Embassy in China with support from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs among others, will be undertaking a Cultural and Business Promotion Road show in seven (7) cities of China between 10th of October and 5th of November 2016.

The purpose of the road show is to enhance Zambia’s visibility in China and deepen cooperation between Zambia and China in areas of trade, investment, tourism and culture as well further promote people to people exchange between the two countries. The show will run alongside the business seminars which will highlight Zambia’s Tourism, Investment and Trade opportunities.

The Zambia Development Agency therefore has invited Zambia National Farmers’ Union members to be part of the delegation that will travel to China to attend this important roadshow on the dates stated above. Kindly note that individual companies will have to meet their own accommodation and travel cost.

Kindly confirm your acceptance of this invitation by contacting;
Mrs. Mercy Mbilima Tutu on +260979488303, email: Mercy.Mbilima@zda.org.zm or
Sera Masonde on 0964600407 email: serahtourism@yahoo.com
And copied to Mr. Aaron Mutale of email: aaronmutale@yahoo.com

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

EASTERN A REGION

PERMANENT SECRETARY BEMOANS LOW FRA MAIZE PURCHASES

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Eastern Province Permanent Secretary (PS), Dr. Chanda Kasolo, has bemoaned the low number of bags of maize bought by the Food Reserve Agency for strategic food reserves from Eastern Province under the current marketing season. Dr. Kasolo has said out of the target of over 140,000 metric tonnes the FRA has only managed to buy less than 5,000 tonnes. The permanent secretary attributed the low number of bags bought by FRA to the increased number of private sector buyers.

He further said that all the maize bought by the FRA and the private buyers will remain in the province until further notice and that the Zambia National Service will keep manning the borders to make sure that no grain leaves the country. The PS said this last week when he addressed the press at his office in Chipata.

SNV TRAINS FARMERS ON GENDER EQUALITY

The Neverland Development Organization (SNV) has trained 105 farmers in Lundazi on gender equality. The main objective of the training was to create awareness on the gender rights amongst farmers. The topics covered included:

1. The gender concept,
2. Gender equality,
3. Gender in Value Chain Development,
4. Access to and control over resources and benefits,
5. Household envisioning and planning.

The training content also comprised value chain systems that farmers need to understand. The training was attended by farmers from the three agricultural camps in Lundazi district where SNV is operating from. The farmers trained will later have to roll out the training to other farmers in their respective villages.

EASTERN B REGION

AFGRI HOLDS A FARMERS FIELD DAY IN PETAUKE

AFGRI Zambia this week held a field day in Petauke district where they exhibited different farm machinery that can be used by small and emergent farmers. The field day which was held at Mr. Anderson Mbewe's farm was graced by the District Commissioner, Velenas Banda, who was the guest of honor. In the opening speech for the field day, the guest of honor urged farmers to adopt new farming technologies that various organizations are advocating for, to improve their yields. She also encouraged farmers to acquire farming implements which would enable them increase their hectareage such as Tractors, Planters and Rippers. She further encouraged farmers to take advantage of the input and implement loan facilities that are being offered by various organizations so that they can expand their farming businesses. The field day was also attended by other companies/organization such as ATS Agro chemicals, Omnia, seed companies, ZNFU and the Conservation Farming Unit who also exhibited their products and services.

LUSAKA REGION

MUSIKA TRAINS AGRO-DEALERS IN KAFUE DISTRICT

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MUSIKA this week on 27th October, 2016 conducted a training for selected Agrodealers under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) in Kafue district. Speaking after the training, the acting District Commissioner for Kafue, Joseph Kamana applauded MUSIKA for the timely training for the selected agro-dealers. He also added that the training had come at a time when climate smart agriculture is very useful owing to the changes in weather patterns world over.

He advised the agro-dealers to encourage FISP beneficiary small-scale farmers to use appropriate conservation farming technologies. Also, speaking during the same training, the District Agriculture Coordinator for Kafue, Mwanji Chellah, urged agro-dealers to stock a wide range of inputs to a give variety of inputs for farmers to choose from. And that this will help farmers to diversify during the coming 2016/17 farming season.

SOUTHERN B REGION

VET DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT LAMP SKIN DISEASE VACCINATIONS IN MONZE

The Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has started preparations to roll out vaccinations against Lamp Skin Disease in cattle in Monze district starting next week. This follows an outbreak of the disease in Monze district with more than twenty (20) cases reported so far. The Veterinary Department has since advised farmers to report all cases so that the department can put control measures to combat the disease.

MONZE FARMERS HAPPY WITH FAVORABLE PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Farmers in Monze are happy with the current prices for agricultural inputs in Monze district. The farmers have said that the prices of agricultural inputs are still quite favorable and hoped that they will remain the same throughout the farming season. A 50kg bag of D-Compound fertilizers in Monze district is costing K245 while Urea is selling at K237 in most retail shops.

The farmers have urged stakeholders in the district to put control measures and not to allow input prices to escalate like was the case last year where some Agro dealers were selling fertilizers at K450 and K443 for 50Kgs D-Compound and Urea respectively.

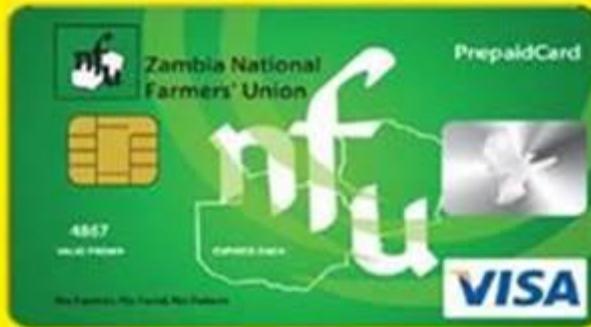
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