



ZNFU PRESS STATEMENT

ON

THE POST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SURVEY RESULTS AND THE WHEAT PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION ESTIMATES RESULTS

Government Officials Present

Cooperating partners

The ZNFU Board Members Present

Members of the press

Fellow Farmers

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and it's a great honor to host you all

The Zambia National Farmers' Union is pleased to inform you that we concluded our post agricultural production survey and we have the final results for the crops and livestock estimates of production for 2013/2014. For the wheat, which as you all know is on the verge of being harvested since this was grown in the winter months in 2014, preliminary estimates of the 2014 wheat production are now available. Allow me to now briefly delve into the methods that were used to arrive at the results.

METHODOLOGY

- 1) In estimating the production of eight rain-fed crops and livestock, a country wide survey was conducted. Data on small and medium scale production was collected from a sample of 4,000 households drawn from the 2010 Census on Population and Housing, Agricultural frame. The data was collected between 29th June and 18th July 2014. A stratified two-stage cluster sample design was used. In the first stage, 200 Standard Enumeration Areas were selected. A random sample of 20 households was then drawn for each Standard Enumeration Area. The data collection and analysis were in line with the international and national guidelines on conducting agricultural surveys.
- 2) Data on large scale production of maize and soya beans plus compilation of data for farmers' under the ZNFU Lima credit scheme was collected through the ZNFU district level structures.
- 3) Last year, ZNFU conducted the first ever wheat, barley and Sugar cane crop production survey through remote satellite sensing. The system proved to be an accurate method of capturing data estimates on these crops and is the way to go for the agricultural sector to fully take advantage of the benefits that ICT's bring. Once again, ZNFU implored the satellite imagery technology to estimate this year's production of the winter grown crops. For the determination of wheat production, landsat 8 images were used. The images were captured over a period of 3 months so as to monitor the growth and progression of the wheat crop. Based on the initial visual interpretation, field surveys were carried out in selected spots, collecting data regarding the following aspects: type of coverage, height, coverage percentage, and crop *phenological* stage. The data was then processed and analysed to determine expected production.

POST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SURVEY RESULTS

During the 2013/14 agricultural season, the total maize production was 3.162 million tons with small and medium scale farmers accounting for 96 percent of the total production. Small and medium scale farmers produced 3.039 million tons while the large scale farmers harvested 122,

799 metric tons. The total area under small and medium scale maize production was 1.4 million hectares giving an average yield of 2.16tons/ha. Large scale farmers on the other hand had an average yield of 6.12tons per hectare.

The farmers under the ZNFU Lima credit scheme attained yields higher than the national average with most harvesting above 4.5 tons per hectare. Timely delivery of the Lima inputs and improved extension services aided the Lima farmers' attainment of better yields than the national average.

The national soya beans output was estimated at 179,210.70 metric tons with an area planted of 96,965.24 hectares at an average yield of 1.85 metric tons per hectare. Large scale farmers accounted for 78 percent of the soya beans production. Small and medium scale production of groundnuts production was estimated at 155,602 tons and sunflower at 26,329 metric tons. The mixed beans, sorghum, millet and rice output by the small and medium scale farmers was 51 801, 16 792, 46 660 and 64 876 metric tons respectively.

In terms of small and medium scale livestock production, the population figures are as stipulated below:

Cattle – 2.99 million

Pigs – 973,452

Sheep – 200,920

Goats – 2.34 million

PRELIMINARY WHEAT PRODUCTION RESULTS

The total area under wheat for the 2013/14 season has been estimated at 41,417.8 hectares with indication that 2, 662 hectares of wheat is stressed. We therefore expect a wheat production of about 294, 283.8 metric tons at a national average yield of 7.25tons/hectare for the wheat crop that is growing normally and a yield of 5tons/hectare for the stressed wheat.

These results will however be confirmed in October as the farmers have just began to harvest their crop.

CONCLUSION

From the results presented above, it goes without say that farmers' are more than willing to produce enough to feed our country and for export into the region. For more than 50 years, farmers have been tirelessly working on improving their art of production. They too, however, need to make profits and survive. The ever rising costs of production and the low producer prices which are sticky going up and are more inclined to reduce, are constraining the exponential growth of commodity production in the country. Frequent alterations in the policies governing agricultural production, marketing and exports are also stifling the sustained growth of the sector. Farmers' are urging government to adopt policies that will curb, if not reduce, further increments in costs of production such as on interest rates and agricultural inputs namely fuel, electricity, fertilizer and labour. We are further urging that farmers that supplied FRA with maize are paid as we are already falling behind schedule in planning for the upcoming agricultural season.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the ZNFU core support partners; the Embassy of Sweden, the Embassy of Finland and We Effect for their unwavering dedication to the development of Zambia's agricultural sector.

Thank you all.

Dr Evelyn Nguleka
ZNFU PRESIDENT