



#FOODSECURITY | EVERYWHERE | EVERYDAY



UPDATE

*"We Are Building a **600,000-tonne Strategic Grain Reserve**, securing Zimbabwe's food future against possible El Nino drought." -Min. Masuka*

TOP STORY

AGRICULTURE Leads Zimbabwe's El Niño Preparedness...



THE MINISTER of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development, **Hon. Dr. Anxious Jongwe Masuka**, convened a coordination and interactive meeting with Ministers of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution at Golden Conifer in Harare, where he outlined Government's strategy to safeguard national food security amid forecasts of an impending El Niño season

Present at the meeting

were, among others, the Deputy Minister of Lands and Rural Development, Hon. Tsitsi Zhou, and the Secretary for Presidential Affairs and Devolution in the Office of the President and Cabinet, Mr. Tafadzwa Muguti. The gathering reflected an all-of-government approach to turning early warning into early action before the season sets in. Addressing delegates, Dr. Masuka revealed that agriculture was the fastest-growing sector in 2025, expanding by 27 percent and rising to become the country's third-largest contributor to GDP, while Zimbabwe produced more than 3.2 million tonnes of cereals against a national requirement of 2.3 million tonnes. He further announced that the country has exceeded its wheat ...

... planting target and is on course to achieve a record harvest of over 700,000 metric tonnes - a strong foundation that, the Minister stressed, must be used wisely to prepare for possible drought rather than taken for granted. Climate scientists, including NOAA, have confirmed the onset of El Niño, with an official national forecast expected from the Meteorological Services Department between mid-August and September.





Zimbabwe Feed and Fodder Dashboard Goes Live !

A digital platform to improve feed access, support planning, and build climate resilience in the livestock sector...

Zimbabwe has taken a major step towards strengthening livestock production with the official handover of the Zimbabwe Feed and Fodder Dashboard – a strategic digital platform designed to improve access to feed information, support planning, and enhance climate resilience across the livestock sector.

At the handover ceremony held in Harare this week, the **Deputy Minister** of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development, **Hon. Davis Marapira**, called for increased fodder production. He highlighted Zimbabwe's vast potential in summer, winter, and perennial grasses, as well as fodder crops such as lucerne, to reduce feed costs and improve livestock productivity.

Developed under a three-year African Union-supported programme, the dashboard will enhance data-driven decision-making, strengthen preparedness for climate shocks, and promote sustainable livestock development and food security.

What the dashboard delivers: Improved access to feed and fodder information, Better planning for farmers and decision-makers, Stronger early warning and preparedness for climate shocks and Support for sustainable, climate-smart livestock development

Biosecurity

Is OUR Priority!

Safeguarding the National Herd at **ZAS 2026**.



Government Engages Livestock Farmers ahead of ZAS 2026.

The Deputy Minister, Hon. Davis Marapira, met representatives of livestock farmers to map out measures **for the safe exhibition of cattle at the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show (ZAS) 2026**.

The engagement focused on preventing the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), which Government has successfully contained to a few designated red zones across the country. As farmers from different provinces prepare to showcase various cattle breeds at the nation's premier agricultural exhibition, authorities are prioritising strict biosecurity measures to safeguard the national herd.

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5.7 Million Cattle, Untapped Value: Livestock Transformation to Take the Stage at ZAS 2026

The Government, recently established a new **Department of Livestock and Fisheries Production**, merging the former fisheries and aquaculture portfolio with livestock production under one roof .

According to the director, **Mr. Milton Makumbe**, the consolidated department is built to unlock value across all animal-production sub-sectors and to shift livestock from a subsistence safety net into a commercially viable, income-generating enterprise – especially for the smallholder farmers who hold the bulk of the nation's estimated 5.7 million cattle. Central to this drive is policy alignment, market access, and value-chain development, including a review of the carcass-grading framework (Statutory Instrument 182) to ensure indigenous breeds reared in communal areas are no longer prejudiced at the market, alongside renewed efforts to revitalise the dairy sub-sector through stronger milk collection centres, value addition, and wider market linkages.

This transformation will be on full display at the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show (ZAS) 2026, set for August, where farmers from across the provinces will showcase their breeds and engage directly with the new department, markets, and service providers, turning the showground into a platform for commercialisation, learning, and farmer-to-market linkages.

These reforms do more than open markets - they build resilience. A commercialised, well-organised livestock sector is far better prepared to withstand climate shocks. When farmers treat their herds as productive businesses rather than stores of wealth, they are far more likely to act early – culling strategically, investing in feed and water, and selling at fair value before drought erodes condition.



Participation at ZAS 2026, underpinned by strict biosecurity to safeguard the national herd, gives farmers a direct line to the policy reforms, technologies, and buyers that strengthen their ability to plan ahead and withstand climate shocks. By integrating livestock and fisheries under shared research, extension, and infrastructure, and aligning with Vision 2030's goals of rural industrialisation and food security, the new department helps smallholder farmers convert early action into lasting livelihoods – and positions ZAS 2026 as a milestone on the journey from survival to sustainability, and ultimately, profitability.





**EARLY WARNING
EARLY ACTION!**

"The window for anticipatory action is NOW!" –PS. JIRI.

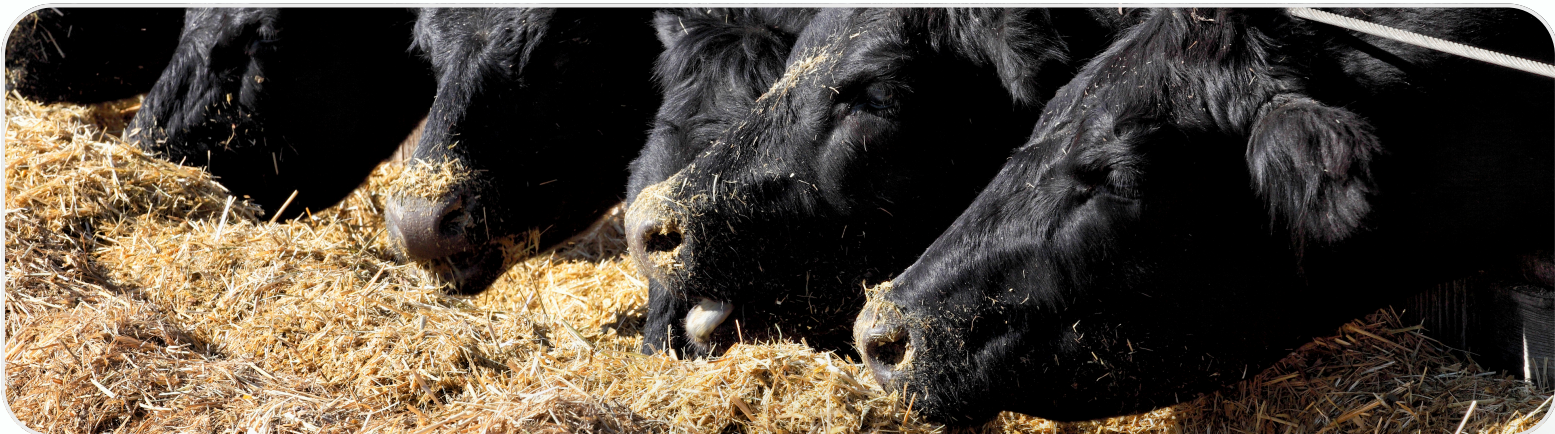
BEFORE THE RAINS FALL, ZIMBABWE ACTS NOW: PS. JIRI ENGAGES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS.

With an 80 percent probability of El Niño conditions confirmed for the 2026/27 agricultural season, the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development is not waiting for the drought to arrive before responding. On 9 June 2026, Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Obert Jiri convened a high-level Agriculture Development Working Group Meeting at Ngungunyana Building, Harare, bringing together senior government officials alongside representatives from WFP, FAO, IFAD, and bilateral donors to finalise a unified preparedness and mitigation plan.

The message was definitive: Zimbabwe's response to El Niño must shift decisively from reactive disaster management to proactive, system-wide resilience. "The difference between a national catastrophe and a manageable season is not luck. It is preparedness," Prof. Jiri told delegates. Development partners WFP and FAO responded with firm commitments, pledging coordinated financing, anticipatory action mechanisms, and technical support aligned to the Ministry's Agriculture Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy 2 (AFSRTS2).

A joint technical working group has been established, with quarterly reviews and real-time data sharing through the Vision 2030 Agriculture Livelihoods Tracker (VALT30) to ensure accountability across all partners.





Our Blueprint for Success

Plan Ahead, Keep Your Herd Healthy and Productive!

With warmer and drier conditions expected in the 2026/27 season, now is the best time for livestock farmers to prepare. The 2025/26 season delivered generous rains, so take advantage – bale and store hay, save crop residues, and secure clean water sources by drilling boreholes, repairing troughs, and setting up community watering points. Providing shade and watering cattle during cooler parts of the day will keep animals comfortable and productive through the heat.

Keeping herds healthy is just as important – vaccinate, dip, and deworm regularly, and plan cattle sales early to get the best value and protect your breeding herd. Farmers are encouraged to visit their nearest Drought Mitigation Centre (DMC) or Cattle Business Centre (CBC) for expert advice, feed support, dipping services, and organised auctions. Early action puts every farmer in the strongest position this season!

CONTACT: MR. A. CHAMISA, DIRECTOR, LIVESTOCK RESEARCH: +263 772 324 322
#EarlyWarning #EarlyAction #Livestock #Zimbabwe

Permanent Secretary Calls on Zimbabwe's Livestock Farmers to Plan & Act Early!

Page 22 | June 25 - July 1 2026

The Financial Gazette

ADVERTORIAL

Drought preparedness: Early warning early action

THE 2026/27 summer season in Zimbabwe is expected to be hotter and drier due to El Niño, putting cattle under severe stress. To reduce losses, farmers must prepare early and protect their herds.

What must livestock farmers do?

Water security
Make sure cattle have clean, parasite-free water all year. Drill new boreholes, deepen existing wells and use water harvesting techniques. Build new water troughs and repair

damaged ones so animals do not walk long distances in the heat. Where resources are limited, work together as a community to set up ward-based watering points.

Feed and fodder production

Put the saying "cut hay while the sun still shines" into practice. Harvest and store grass and hay for future use. The 2025/26 season had good rains and high herbage yield, so take advantage of it. Because veld fires are likely, cut, bale, and store hay

safely. Protect rangelands and farms with fireguards. Save crop residues like maize stover and wheat straw for feeding during the dry months.

Heat stress management

High temperatures reduce feed intake, slow growth rate, lower milk yields and cause fertility problems. In severe cases, cattle may suffer heat stroke or even die. Provide shade with trees, shade nets, or simple pole and thatch shelters. Water cattle early in the morning and late in the after-



Prof Obert Jiri

noon to avoid peak heat. These steps help animals stay cool, reduce stress and maintain productivity.

Herd health

Vaccinate cattle against anthrax, blackleg, foot and mouth and tickborne diseases. Keep animals parasite-free by dipping, dosing and deworming regularly. If these measures are not observed during droughts, weakened cattle are more likely to suffer disease outbreaks, rapid weight loss, abortions and high mortality.

Cattle sales and slaughter

Do not wait until cattle lose condition before selling. Cull unproductive animals, excess stock and steers early to protect the breeding herd. Regular weighing with belts helps track body condition and guides timely disposal. Planned culling prevents panic sales and keeps the herd productive.

Drought Mitigation Centres (DMCs) and Cattle Business Centres (CBCs)

Make use of DMCs and CBCs in your area. These centres offer advisory services, watering facilities, feed conservation and supplementation technologies, dipping services and organised cattle auctions. Using them helps farmers safeguard herds during droughts and benefit from structured markets that give fair value for animals.

Remember:

A healthy, disease-free and well maintained animal is more likely to survive the El Niño drought. Protect your herd by acting early and observing good animal husbandry practices. #EarlyWarning #EarlyAction | #Livestock #DroughtMitigation #Resilience #Zimbabwe

For more information contact:

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Fifth Street Extension, Harare Research Centre
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+263 772324322 | +263 242 790168
Or email the director: chamisa@gmail.com



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, MECHANISATION, AND WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT



CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



The Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development, Hon. Dr. Anxious Jongwe Masuka, the Deputy Minister, Hon. Davis Marapira, the Permanent Secretary, Professor Dr. Obert Jiri, Chief Directors, Directors, Heads of Parastatals, and all staff of the Ministry and its Parastatals, wish to convey their profound condolences to the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Dr. E.D. Mnangagwa, and to the nation at large on the untimely passing of Cde Victor Matemadanda, Ambassador of Mozambique and Eswatini.

His dedication to service and commitment to strengthening bilateral relations will be remembered with deep respect. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

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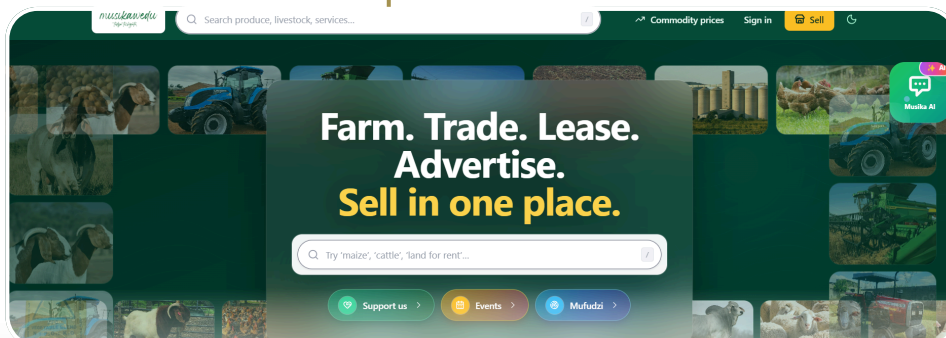
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(from pge.5)... Alongside the partner engagement push, the Ministry is rolling out the **Early Warning, Early Action (EWEA) Advocacy and Communication Campaign**, a sustained, multi-channel strategy to ensure that climate science translates into farmer behaviour and public understanding at every level. The campaign will deploy weekly technical advisory columns in national papers and on social media; community radio advisories in English, Shona, and Ndebele across all ten provinces; targeted SMS blasts to registered farmers...

... ahead of each critical planting decision; farmer field days in every province; and a dedicated digital information platform will be deployed. **"The challenge is no longer one of policy,"** Prof. Jiri has stated. **"The science is clear, the interventions are proven – what must now follow is a campaign that turns government policy into farmer action."**



“The window for meaningful early action is open ... but it will not remain so indefinitely.”–PS Jiri.

Every farmer is urged to prepare their **Pfumvudza/Intwasa plot now**, engage their nearest Village Business Unit, register with their local Agricultural Business Advisor, and store grain and fodder ahead of the season. Every development partner is called upon to align with AFSRTS2, pool resources into the unified mitigation plan, and move with speed. Together, as the Permanent Secretary reminded the gathering, **Zimbabwe can turn the forecast into a plan, the plan into action, and the action into a harvest. The time is now.**

“Pfumvudza ...



...is a “renewal” or “new season of growth” in Shona. It’s a climate-smart farming method that helps farmers get more yield from small pieces of land using mulching, crop rotation, and proper spacing. The idea is to conserve moisture, improve soil fertility, and boost food security, even in drought-prone areas. ”
-by Mudhumeni Mukuru





Rhizobia Inoculant Proves Its Worth at Mutema Irrigation Scheme

📍 Mutema Irrigation Scheme, Ward 3, **Chipinge District**, Manicaland Province.

A **compelling success story** is emerging from the Mutema Irrigation Scheme in Ward 3, Chipinge District, where a farmer-extension led demonstration plot, spearheaded by Dr. Grace Kanonge of the Marondera Research Team, is showing the transformative potential of biological soil inputs on smallholder bean production.

On Plot 103, two adjacent 0.15-hectare plots were established side by side: Plot A (Treated): Rhizobia inoculant - a naturally occurring soil bacterium that forms nitrogen-fixing nodules on bean roots. Plot B (Control): Conventional ammonium nitrate (AN) fertiliser. Early observations are generating strong interest among local farmers. The inoculant-treated plot is displaying vigorous growth and deep-green foliage, a visible indicator of enhanced nitrogen availability.

These results position biological inoculants as an affordable, sustainable, and soil-friendly alternative that could reshape input strategies for legume farmers across the region.



VOICES FROM THE FIELD:

In a promising sign for smallholder livestock and food production, a farmer who adopted Juncao innovation technology, planting their first crop on 27 February 2026, is already harvesting, just months after establishment. **Juncao**, often called "**miracle grass**," is a fast-growing, multi-purpose crop with proven applications in:

Silage production - providing high-quality fodder reserves for livestock during dry months. **Mushroom cultivation** - offering an additional income stream from the same planting.



Juncao Grass Technology:
Planted in February,
Harvesting by June '26

Soil improvement, contributing organic matter and helping restore degraded land.

The speed of results is what is drawing attention. Within weeks of planting, the farmer moved from establishment to harvest – a turnaround that demonstrates Juncao's potential as a rapid-response tool for farmers facing the pressures of climate variability and El Niño-driven feed shortages.



FISH FARMING SUCCESS STORY

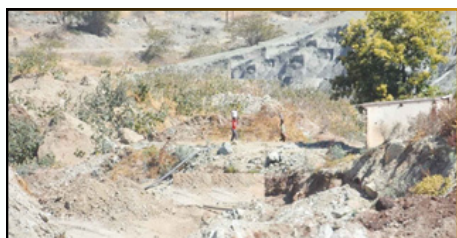
#CLIMATECHANGE

Climate change, mining reshape livelihoods in Mudzi...

Theseus Mauruki Shambare : The Herald | Features Writer.

ACROSS Southern Africa, climate assessments warn that rising temperatures are increasing the frequency and severity of droughts, tightening pressure on already fragile rural economies.

In Mudzi District, Mashonaland East Province, mountains rise abruptly from dry plains, their rocky faces glowing gold under the harsh afternoon sun. For generations, they stood as silent guardians over the communities that lived beneath them.



Today, the mountains tell a different story. The road that winds through Ward 5 is lined with signs of a changing landscape. Dust hangs in the air as deep scars cut across once undisturbed hillsides. Heavy machinery growls in the distance.

Today, the mountains tell a different story. The road that winds through Ward 5 is lined with signs of a changing landscape. Dust hangs in the air as deep scars cut across once undisturbed hillsides. Heavy machinery growls in the distance.

Beneath the earth lies mineral wealth capable of attracting investors from across the world. Yet in the villages surrounding the mining zones, life remains defined by a more immediate struggle: finding water, growing food and surviving a climate that seems increasingly hostile. The contrast is impossible to ignore. Under the ground lies wealth, and above it, resilience. As all this plays out, Mudzi folks are redefining their stories. At a small fish pond tucked between dry fields, Taurai Chimukoko scatters feed into the water as hundreds of fish break the surface in a frenzy of movement. For years, she depended almost entirely on rain-fed agriculture. Like many women in Mudzi, she planted maize each season, hoping the rains would come. Yet increasingly, they did not.

"The seasons are no longer the same," she said in an interview during a recent media tour of climate resilience programmes in the district. "There are years when you plant and nothing comes out. We realised we could no longer depend on traditional farming alone."

For people in Mudzi, climate change is no longer a projection. It is a lived experience where wells run lower, rivers retreat earlier and harvests grow uncertain. Adaptation is quietly taking shape. The fish beneath Chimukoko's pond are not just food, but a shift in thinking - from dependence to diversification.

Nearby, **John Kapfunde** watches workers tending a community aquaculture project. "We used to survive through farming alone," he said. "Now we combine different activities. Fish farming is helping us adapt."

The irony is striking. In a district increasingly defined by water scarcity, ponds have become lifelines. Across the district, climate resilience programmes are supporting households with aquaculture, nutrition gardens and alternative livelihoods; small systems of survival emerging within a harsher climate reality...

(to page 6)



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AGRICULTURE & MINING

Climate change, mining reshape livelihoods in Mudzi...

(... from page 9)... But Mudzi's story cannot be understood through climate alone. Mining has become an equally powerful force reshaping its future.

A small roadside sign points towards a licenced mining zone about 40 kilometres north of Mutoko. Geologists describe the area as part of a vast pegmatite belt, with more than 40 mineral-bearing formations running through the rock. The deposits include lithium, tantalum, beryl and simpsonite – minerals increasingly sought after in global energy and technology supply chains.

Zimbabwe's mining sector has become one of the country's largest foreign currency earners, contributing more than 12 percent to gross domestic product and accounting for over 60 percent of export receipts in recent years, according to official economic reports. Employment in the sector is estimated at over 200 000 direct jobs, with many more dependent on artisanal and small-scale mining value chains.

The site is part of a wider national push to formalise and regulate mineral extraction, as the Government seeks to bring previously informal mining activity into the official economy.

The mountains that once existed as natural landmarks are now viewed through competing lenses. Geologists see deposits, while investors see opportunity and the Government sees growth. Communities see both promise and uncertainty.

That tension is not new. It recalls earlier mining centres such as Shabanie Mine in Zvishavane, once among Zimbabwe's industrial giants. At its peak, Shabanie Mine directly employed an estimated 3 000 to 5 000 workers, while supporting several thousand more through indirect employment in transport, retail, engineering services and housing economies in Zvishavane.

The mine also anchored one of the most visible mining-community social ecosystems in the country, including the widely known Shabanie Mine Football Club, which competed in Zimbabwe's top-flight league for decades and drew strong local identity around industrial labour. Beyond production, it was an ecosystem; a place where employment, housing, sport and community identity were tightly interwoven. Former workers still describe it as a time when mining meant more than extraction. It meant belonging.

Zimbabwe's mining sector today continues to expand, driven by global demand for energy transition minerals such as lithium and rare earths. But expansion has also brought environmental strain into sharper focus.

The Government has declared a State of Disaster over 17 river systems under Statutory Instrument 91 of 2026 – the Civil Protection (Declaration of State of Disaster: Emergency Riverine Ecosystems Rehabilitation) Notice.

The affected rivers include major water systems such as Mazowe, Save, Sanyati, Munyati, Mupfure, Umzingwane, Insiza, Mutare, Haroni and Nyamukwarara, among others.

Authorities say the rivers have been affected by siltation, bank collapse and illegal mining activity in some catchments. The declaration enables emergency rehabilitation works, mobilisation of contractors and coordinated restoration of damaged ecosystems.

The Government has also moved to restrict the export of unprocessed lithium and other strategic minerals through statutory instruments governing the mining sector. The regulations require that key minerals undergo local beneficiation before export, aligning mining activity with industrialisation and domestic value addition goals.



AGRICULTURE & MINING

Climate change, mining reshape livelihoods in Mudzi...

(... from page 6)... In Mudzi, those realities are not statistics but lived routines. "When water becomes scarce, everything else becomes harder," said Jane Kazanhi, tending a small vegetable garden near a drying stream. Around her, survival has become increasingly inventive. Residents in mining-affected areas describe dust on crops, open pits and pressure on local water sources.

"Development must not come at the expense of the same communities it is meant to uplift," said ActionAid Zimbabwe Country Director, Dr Selina Pasirayi.

Child protection officials also warn that economic pressure in mining areas can expose children to unsafe conditions or disrupt schooling. "In some cases, children become part of survival strategies," said a Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare official, Timothy Mudakureva. "Their protection must remain central."

Fish farming has become a defining feature of rural transformation in Zimbabwe. In communities long challenged by erratic rainfall, recurring drought, and limited income options, organised farmer groups in Mudzi and Mutoko areas, such as the Pathfinders Club, are producing tilapia in well-managed ponds,...



... supported by fingerling supplies from the Presidential Community Fisheries Scheme. Farmers like Mr. and Mrs. John and Martha Kapfunde have turned their ponds into productive enterprises, achieving average harvests of 250g per fish per cycle - generating reliable income while strengthening household nutrition.

Their success has inspired neighbouring farmers and positioned Mudzi and Mutoko as emerging hubs of aquaculture-led development in Zimbabwe, proving that even drought-prone areas can sustain productive and profitable fish farming.

The rural fish pond stocking

programme continues to serve as a practical strategy for addressing food insecurity and building economic resilience at the community level. Farmers and institutions across both districts have benefited from capacity development training alongside fingerling supplies, enabling them to establish and strengthen their own production systems. Each stocked pond functions as both a nutrition source and an income stream, delivering measurable improvements in food availability and household livelihoods.

... The cooperative model pioneered by groups like the Pathfinders demonstrates how collective action, sustainable aquaculture practices, and institutional support can work together to create lasting change in rural communities. Beyond pond-level production, **Dam stocking and Restocking** plays a critical role in rehabilitating aquatic ecosystems, enhancing fish biodiversity, and increasing access to affordable, high-quality protein for rural communities. The programme stimulates local economic activity, supports community-based fisheries management, and promotes the sustainable use of shared water bodies. It is fully aligned with National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) and Vision 2030, which prioritise sustainable natural resource management, rural industrialisation, and inclusive economic growth. Scaling up both pond and dam stocking initiatives is therefore not only an environmental priority – it is a strategic investment in Zimbabwe's long-term food security and socio-economic development.

#LFPD #Zimbabwe #FoodSecurity
#FishFarming #NutritionSecurity
#BlueEconomy20230



"Before the Rains Come": Zimbabwe Farmers Urged to Act Now as Climate-Smart Technologies Offer a Fighting Chance.



WITH CLIMATE SCIENTISTS warning of a possible Super El Niño that could bring depressed rainfall and heat waves to the coming growing season, Zimbabwe's top agricultural leadership gathered at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in Harare on 12 June 2026 to deliver one unambiguous message: prepare early, or risk everything.

The **Agri-Innovation Field Day**, themed "Bridging the Gap among Farmer-Research-Extension-Industry-Policy and Consumer," was organised by the **Agricultural Research Council (ARC)**, with additional support from the **Zimbabwe Seed Association (ZSA)** and its partner, the **African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)**, through its Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) project.

A Vision for Research-Led Resilience

In his official welcome address, **Dr. Cosmos Magorokosho, Chief Executive Officer** of ARC, outlined a bold vision for the council's role in advancing agricultural research in Zimbabwe. He described ARC's mandate as bringing together multidisciplinary teams spanning academia, the farming community, government research institutes, and the private sector to co-create solutions for the country's most pressing agricultural challenges.



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"Prepare and Mitigate": The Guest of Honour's Call.

The **Guest of Honour** address, delivered by **Chief Director Dr. Dumisani Kutwayo** on behalf of the **Permanent Secretary, Prof. Dr. Obert Jiri**, set the tone from the outset: "We must employ resilient agricultural practices and climate-smart technologies to prepare and mitigate against the possible effects of these weather extremes. This is our most immediate task."

His call was reinforced by practical field guidance from agronomists, who urged farmers to begin winter ploughing immediately and to use the dry season window wisely. "Now is the time to begin Pfumvudza and conservation agriculture preparations, digging planting basins, applying compost and manure, and getting plots ready well before the first rains arrive," said **Ivan Craig (Mudhumeni Mukuru)**. "As we are preparing our season, let's make sure we go in early. Let's prepare our Pfumvudza plots early, and let's make sure we put enough mulch so that when the water falls, most of it is trapped and gets into the soil."

"Before the Rains Come": Zimbabwe Farmers Urged to Act Now as Climate-Smart Technologies Offer a Fighting Chance.

(from pge. 10) ... He also highlighted the council's support from the highest levels of government, pointing to the revised research act, which commits a portion of the country's agro-GDP to agricultural research funding. "We are very positive it will happen. Only what we don't know is when," he said, striking a note of cautious optimism.

Beyond funding, Dr. Magorokosho outlined ARC's work in capacity building, offering training programmes for research scientists, extension workers, students, farmers, and industry players alike. He emphasised the council's special focus on stimulating interest in agricultural research careers among students at all levels, from primary school through university. A dedicated student day is planned to expose young Zimbabweans to the cutting edge of agricultural research.



Dr. Cosmos Magorokosho
CEO-Agric. Research Council

Public-Private Partnership in Action

The AATF's presence at the field day underscored the power of public-private partnership in translating research into real-world solutions for smallholder farmers in Africa. Operating across 32 African countries and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, AATF's TAAT project has been working on the ground in Zimbabwe in collaboration with NARES, seed companies, and farmer groups.

Critically, six climate-resilient maize varieties have been licensed to local seed companies for commercialization, varieties designed to withstand drought and resist pests such as stem borer and fall armyworm, which are most damaging to maize production across the region. **Gilbert Otieno, AATF's Seed Systems Assistant**, highlighted a particularly important breakthrough: "We are also deploying technology bundles, including the use of a pro-vitamin A base variety that is rich in iron", a step toward addressing both food and nutrition security.





"Before the Rains Come": Zimbabwe Farmers Urged to Act Now as Climate-Smart Technologies Offer a Fighting Chance.



Evidence on the Ground

On the ground, the evidence of progress was impossible to ignore. Seed companies reported that farmers who have received training are now using climate-smart varieties with confidence and seeing strong results in the field. "Many farmers have managed to understand how to use the climate-smart maize varieties, and they are performing very well because of the training we have been doing," said

Talent Ndige of Zadzamatura Seeds.

Agricultural expert Ivan Craig, walking the trial plots, was struck by the depth of ongoing research, from drought-tolerant lines and early-maturity varieties to crops bred for improved protein content. "There is a lot of work happening here - ultra-early varieties to long-season varieties, promising good protein content and balanced nutrition to satisfy our nutrition security as a nation," he noted.





PREPAREDNESS begins with knowledge, and ARC is helping Zimbabwe's farmers stay one step ahead of the climate.

To learn more about ARC's research coordination work or to engage with our programmes, contact the Agricultural Research Council via: Tel: **+263 772 892 317 / +263 773 289 873** or Email: **info@arcw.ac.zw** or Website: **<https://arcw.ac.zw/>** or Visit: **Hatcliffe Estate, 51283, Alpes Rd, Harare**

#CoordinatedResearch
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"Celebrating Excellence"

THE FIELD DAY culminated in an **awards ceremony** recognising the **top three Field Demo Plots** and the **top three Exhibitions**. In the Field Demo Plots category, **Kutsaga** came top, followed by **Marondera Horticulture Research Station**, and finally **Henderson Research**. In the Exhibitions category, **UZ AgroIndustrial Park** came top, followed by Kutsaga, and finally **EASI Seeds**.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat to Zimbabwe's farmers – it is here. Recurring droughts, El Niño-driven heat, erratic rainfall, and new pest and disease pressures are reshaping the conditions under which our farmers produce food.

Climate Change Preparedness: Why Research Is Our First Line of Defense...

In this reality, **research** is the foundation of preparedness. The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) plays a central role in ensuring Zimbabwe does not face these shocks unprepared. Established under the Agricultural Research Act (Cap 18.05), the ARC mandate is to: **Coordinate** agricultural research, **Develop** human capital, **Foster** innovation to support and develop the agriculture sector. **Review** agricultural research to ensure adequacy and relevancy. **As Zimbabwe confronts the realities of climate change**, the **ARC** stands as a critical institution ensuring that the research underpinning our farms is relevant, coordinated, and ready to deliver.



SUPER EL NINO:

A CRITICAL CALL FOR ZIMBABWEAN FARMERS TO

PASS

(Plan, Adapt, Save and Survive)

Prepare now for the 2026/2027 farming season. Early action today secures food, water and livelihoods tomorrow.



1. PLAN

- Monitor seasonal forecasts and plan early.
- Choose drought-tolerant, early-maturing varieties (90–110 days vs 140 days).
- Diversify with sorghum, millet, cowpeas, groundnuts.
- Inspect and repair irrigation systems, boreholes, pumps, and water storage facilities.



2. ADAPT

- Use conservation agriculture: planting basins, mulching, minimum tillage, soil cover.
- Make hay and silage while forage is available.
- Plan animal feeds and improve herd health.
- Protect breeding stock to reduce losses.



3. SAVE

- Harvest and store water: farm ponds, infiltration pits, contour ridges, tanks.
- Preserve and add value to crops to reduce losses.
- Process sorghum, millet, cowpeas, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, fruits and vegetables.
- Save water, fodder, seed and food for lean months.



4. SURVIVE

- Follow early warning systems and drought advisories.
- Plant after effective rainfall and adequate soil moisture.
- Use mechanisation and storage facilities to improve efficiency.
- Conserve resources and embrace climate-smart practices.



PASS – PLAN, ADAPT, SAVE AND SURVIVE.

Act now. Build resilience. Secure food. Protect livelihoods.



CLIMATE CHANGE & DROUGHT AWARENESS

SUPER ELNINO: A Critical Call for Zimbabwean Farmers to PASS (Plan, Adapt, Save and Survive)

Zimbabwean farmers are being urged to prepare for a possible Super El Niño event that could significantly affect agricultural production during the 2026/2027 farming season. Early climate indicators suggest an increased risk of below-normal rainfall, prolonged dry spells, extreme temperatures, and water shortages across Southern Africa. For a country whose agriculture depends largely on rainfall, the consequences could include reduced crop yields, livestock losses, declining water supplies, and increased food insecurity.

The key to success lies in adopting the **PASS** approach: **Plan, Adapt, Save and Survive.**

1. Plan

Planning is the first line of defence against drought. Farmers should closely monitor seasonal weather forecasts and make informed decisions before the onset of the rainy season. Crop choices should prioritize drought-tolerant and early-maturing varieties that require less water and can complete their growth cycle within 90–110 days compared to traditional varieties that may take up to 140 days. Diversification into sorghum, pearl millet, cowpeas, and groundnuts can reduce production risks and improve household food security.

Farmers should also inspect and repair irrigation systems, boreholes, pumps, water storage facilities, and farm infrastructure well before the rains begin.

2. Adapt

Adapting farming practices to changing climatic conditions is essential. **Conservation agriculture techniques such as planting basins, mulching, minimum tillage, and maintaining soil cover help conserve moisture and improve water-use efficiency.** Livestock farmers should establish fodder reserves through hay making and silage production while forage is still available. Strategic feed planning, improved animal health management, and protection of breeding stock can significantly reduce losses during drought periods. Farmers who adapt early are better positioned to maintain productivity even under difficult conditions.



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CLIMATE CHANGE & DROUGHT AWARENESS

SUPER ELNINO: A Critical Call for Zimbabwean Farmers to PASS (Plan, Adapt, Save and Survive)

3. Save

Saving resources today can determine survival tomorrow. **Water harvesting** through farm ponds, infiltration pits, contour ridges, and storage tanks should be prioritized before the rainy season. Farmers should also focus on food preservation and value addition to reduce post-harvest losses. Sorghum and millet can be processed into flour with a longer shelf life, while groundnuts and cowpeas can be converted into peanut butter, roasted snacks, and protein-rich flour. Sweet potatoes, fruits, and vegetables can be dried and stored for future consumption or sale. Saving water, fodder, seed, and processed food products create a buffer against drought-related shocks.



4. Survive

Survival during a Super El Niño requires resilience and informed decision-making. **Farmers should rely on early warning systems, rainfall outlooks, and drought advisories when making decisions on planting dates, irrigation scheduling, and livestock management.** Planting should only begin after effective rainfall has been received and sufficient soil moisture has been established. Mechanisation services can support farmers through the construction of silage pits, water storage systems, grain storage facilities, and value-addition technologies. Those who prepare early, conserve resources, and embrace climate-smart agriculture will have a greater chance of protecting their livelihoods and maintaining production.

and Survive. Those who act now will be better equipped to withstand drought, safeguard food security, and sustain agricultural productivity throughout the season.

A Super El Niño presents serious challenges, but it also provides an opportunity for farmers to strengthen resilience and improve farm management practices. The message to Zimbabwean farmers is simple: **PASS – Plan, Adapt, Save**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact:

**The Mechanisation Department:
+263 786399765**





"Many farmers have managed to understand how to use the climate smart maize varieties, and they are performing very well because of the training we have been doing," said **Talent Ndige** of Zadzamatura Seeds during the **ARC Field Day 2026**



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*"Together, we can revolutionise our approach to agriculture in Zimbabwe, ensuring food security, enhancing rural livelihoods, and positioning ourselves for industrial growth in line with NDS2 and Vision 2030." - **Dr. Dumisani Kutuywayo**, Chief Director - DRESS*



"Critically, six climate-resilient maize varieties have been licensed to local seed companies for commercialisation, varieties designed to withstand drought and resist pests such as stem borer and fall armyworm, which are most damaging to maize production across the region."
Gilbert Ottieno, AATF's Seed Systems Assistant, Kenya Nairobi.



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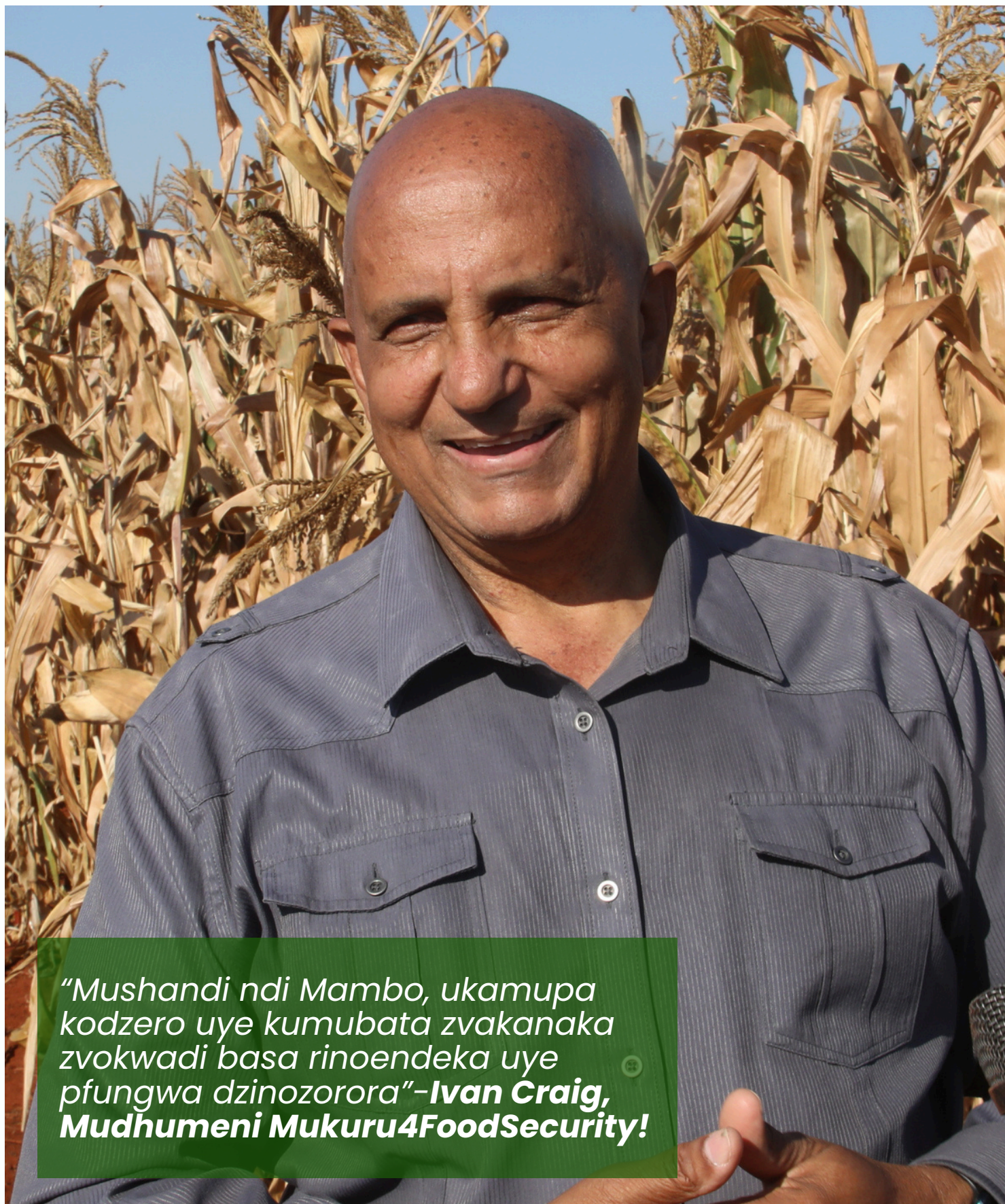
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EARLY WARNING, EARLY ACTION

"Don't Let Staff Wellbeing Become a Tick-Box Exercise"



"Mushandi ndi Mambo, ukamupa kodzero uye kumubata zvakanaka zvokwadi basa rinoendeka uye pfungwa dzinozorora"—**Ivan Craig, Mudhumeni Mukuru4FoodSecurity!**



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Directorate

of Agricultural Development
& Advisory Services

Wheat Success



Mrs. M. Magwenzi
Chief Director-DRESS

"Let's Save Our Cattle" Farmers Urged to Act Now

The ADAS Chief Director Mrs. Magwenzi highlighted that winter grazing is now limited and of poor quality, so farmers must start supplementary feeding immediately using silage, baled hay, and urea-treated stover preserved from summer. She also urged farmers to secure clean water near feeding points to avoid weight loss, maintain dipping and vaccinations, and breed according to climate through agro-ecological tailoring. With Drought Mitigation Centres and Farmer Field Schools in every ward teaching these methods, Mrs. Magwenzi warned that past droughts cost Zimbabwe many cattle, and she also stressed, "Let's plan based on probability" to grow herd numbers and remain food secure.

#EarlyWarningEarlyAction

Zimbabwe Beats Winter Wheat Target, Shift Focus Now to Yield Optimisation!

Zimbabwe has planted over 128,000 hectares of winter wheat, beating the 125,000 ha target despite late maize harvesting and rains that pushed plantings to 15 June, Chief Director ADAS Mrs Medlina Magwenzi said. With Mashonaland West leading at 35,000 ha, the focus now moves to productivity as extension teams train farmers on good agronomic practices, targeted fertilisation, and Quelea bird control to push yields from the 5.3 t/ha average toward 7 t/ha, cementing wheat as a national staple for food security.

**#FoodSecurity #WinterWheat
#AgronomicPractices**





**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
MECHANISATION AND WATER
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**




PRECISION FARMING AND LIMING

The Case for 'Pfumvudza' Plots

WHY LIME IS IMPORTANT

Lime can be applied in planting holes and the amount used is calculated according to the effective planting area.

EXAMPLE:



Planting Hole Size:
15 cm × 15 cm

Effective Area:
0.0225 m²

! IMPORTANT WARNING

AVOID OVER-LIMING
Excessive lime application may cause:

- ✗ Reduced phosphorus availability
- ✗ Reduced micronutrient availability
- ✗ Nutrient imbalance in crops

PRECISION APPLICATION EXAMPLE



RECOMMENDED RATE
2000 kg lime per hectare
(10,000 m²)

↓



PFUMVUDZA CALCULATION
0.0225 ÷ 10,000

↓



APPLICATION RATE
4.5 g of lime
per planting hole

✓ BENEFIT:

- ✓ Saves lime
- ✓ Improves soil condition
- ✓ Enhances fertilizer efficiency

SOIL TESTING IS ESSENTIAL

Before applying lime:

- ✓ Conduct soil pH analysis
- ✓ Follow recommended rates
- ✓ Apply the correct amount for maximum benefit



BENEFITS OF PRECISION LIMING



Improved crop growth



Better nutrient uptake



Reduced input costs



Increased productivity



Enhanced food security

 Precision liming ensures the right amount of lime is applied in the right place, improving soil pH, enhancing fertilizer efficiency and increasing crop yields while saving costs.

OPTIMAL SOIL pH FOR CROP PRODUCTION



Acidic Neutral Alkaline





*Foodsecurity:
Everywhere, Everyday.*



Quality Over Quantity: Zimbabwe's Strategy for a Competitive **Tobacco** Season



Global tobacco production is at record levels, with major output coming from Brazil, China, India, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe – creating a highly competitive international market.

But rather than viewing this as a challenge, Zimbabwe is turning it into an opportunity. Speaking at the Agricultural Dealers and Manufacturers Association (ADMA) Exhibition in Harare recently, **Permanent Secretary Professor Dr. Obert Jiri** encouraged farmers to focus on what sets Zimbabwean tobacco apart, premium-quality leaf.

With national output expected to surpass 380 million kg this season, farmers are advised to choose appropriate varieties and get seedbeds ready ahead of the September planting window.

The Government, meanwhile, is actively working to bring new buyers on board and widen market access, ensuring Zimbabwe's tobacco continues to command its place on the world stage.

#Tobacco2026
#QualityMatters
#AgricultureGrowth
#FarmersFirst



Already a thriving multi-commodity operation supporting horticulture, wheat, maize, livestock and macadamia production, Mutendi offers the reliable water resources and infrastructure that successful aquaculture demands.

A local fingerling hub would cut the transportation losses linked to sourcing stock from Harare, improve access for farmers and fast-track fish production across the region. With prior stocking experience on site and strong potential for cage culture development, the project is well-placed to strengthen food security, boost rural incomes and advance Zimbabwe's growing aquaculture sector under the Ministry's development agenda.
#Masvingo **#AquacultureZW**
#MutendiFarm **#ADAS** **#Fingerlings**

FISH FARMING FAST BECOMING A RURAL INCOME SOLUTION IN ZIMBABWE: Mutendi Farm Eyes Regional Fingerling Hub Status!

Fish farming is gaining exciting momentum across Zimbabwe, and **Mutendi Farm in Masvingo** is set to play a central role in driving that growth. Following a visit to the farm's facilities recently, **Chief Director for Agricultural Development and Advisory Services (ADAS), Mrs M. Magwenzi**, has proposed establishing a regional fingerling production centre on the site. The farm's protected dam, currently 98% full, presents an ideal foundation for supplying quality fingerlings to farmers across Masvingo, Manicaland and parts of the Midlands Province.

MEDIA SUPPORT!

Thank You !

"We extend our utmost **gratitude** to the **national media** for being the unwavering external voice of our food-security mission. Your constant support in aiding our advocacy and publicity activities is the bridge that connects our efforts to the nation, ensuring that the story of Zimbabwe's food security is told, heard, and felt by all." –**MAMWRD-Communications and Advocacy Department**

"If it's not said, it never happened"



#EarlyWarningEarlyAction

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION!

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Keep Sharing Your Success Stories!

ARE YOU A FARMER? WALKING THE TALK!

Whether you have transformed a small backyard into a productive agricultural hub or are managing a small plot or large-scale commercial operation, we want to tell your story. Your journey can inspire fellow farmers and showcase the real-world impact of our national agricultural programs.

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