

African Agri Magazine



www.afriagrimagazine.com | January-March Issue 2022



CUSTOM AG INTEL
Adding Real Value... Building Bushels...

CUSTOM AG INTEL Leading The Ag Innovation

Adding Real Value... Building Bushels...

www.customagintel.com

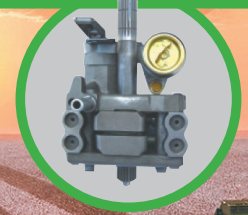


Your one stop solution for Agriculture

OUR RANGE OF HYDRAULIC SOLUTIONS



**2 - 6 Cylinder Flow
Dividers for Planters**



**JackPack - PTO PowerPack for
Planter Vacuum Fan Drive**



ALTERNATIVE HYDRAULICS FOR:
 Case • Deutz • Fiat • Ford • Foton • John Deere
 • Kubota • Landini • McCormick • Massey
 • SAME • Dedicated gear pumps & valves
 • Internal & External Hydraulics



Visit our website on your laptop or smartphone at www.hidros.co.za

For more information regarding our quality range of products
& dealer/distribution network please contact:



CONTACTS - CAPE TOWN

CELL NO: OFFICE

CONTACT NUMBERS

Jacques Laubscher +27 81 011 5350
 Radyn van Dewenter +27 72 596 2305
 Solly Solomon +27 83 597 8726

Tel: +27 21 948 7065/6
 Fax: +27 21 948 7067

Address: Unit 22, Rivers Edge Business Park, Winelands Close, Stikland, 7530.

CONTACTS - JOHANNESBURG

CELL NO:

OFFICE CONTACT NUMBERS

Derrick Mitchell +27 81 489 7034
 Gerhard Roets +27 81 526 9378
 Nicolene de Klerk +27 65 852 3538

Tel: +27 10 880 4774
 +27 11 823 1969 / 823 2364
 Fax: +27 86 411 1847

Address: 11 & 13 Charlie Lane, Hughes, Boksburg, Johannesburg 1459.

e-mail: africa@hidros-sa.co.za

HIDROS DISTRIBUTION NETWORK



GERMANY

Responsible for European market.

www.gohydraulic.de



Hydraulic & Machinery Import - Export Co.

TURKEY

Responsible for domestic, Asia, North & South America, Middle East, North Africa & Australia.

www.hidros.com.tr



Hydraulic Components, Systems and Drives

BULGARIA

Responsible for Balkan countries & Russian market.

www.hydrocap.net



Southern Africa

JOHANNESBURG

Responsible for Southern Africa market.

www.hidros-sa.co.za



Southern Africa

CAPE TOWN - HEAD OFFICE

Responsible for Southern Africa market.

www.hidros-sa.co.za



Hydro-pack

Hydraulic & Machinery Import - Export Co.

TURKEY & BULGARIA

Production facility of hydraulic mini power packs.

www.hidropack.com.tr
www.hidropack.bg

WE HAVE BRANCH COMPANIES IN MORE THAN 60 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE TO ESTABLISH A GOOD DISTRIBUTION NETWORK & PROVIDE QUALITY SOLUTIONS FOR OUR PARTNERS

Contents

January-March 2022

Pg.8

**Attracting and Retaining Talent
is at the Heart of Transforming
Agriculture in Africa**

Pg.16

How to Improve Hay Quality

Pg.22

**Vertiv Joins the RISE
Partnership Program to
Develop Sustainable Data
Centre Technologies**

Pg.28

**FG Commissions Dam For 100-
Hectare Irrigation In Kwara**

Pg.40

**Mobile drip irrigation results in
high yields and water savings**

Pg.44

**Avian Influenza infects 9,470
birds in Bono Region**

Pg.52

**Rwanda: Govt to Cut Lending
Rates On Loans to Poultry, Pig
Farmers**



**African Agri
Magazine**



**Custom Ag Intel,
Leading The Ag
Innovation Pg.6**

Custom Agricultural Intelligence Inc. (CAI), is a leading edge pioneer innovative company in Saskatchewan that began in 2016 with its first manufacturing facility in Sedley, Saskatchewan. Over the last 5 years CAI has expanded to two more manufacturing facilities to handle the growing demand for their services.

January-March 2022

Editor

Nicholas Mayo
editor@afriagrimagazine.com

Sales

brenna.shumba@afriagrimagazine.com
raymond.rusere@afriagrimagazine.com
walter.hove@afriagrimagazine.com
david.brunn@afriagrimagazine.com

Accounts & Admin

Collen Geza
admin@afriagrimagazine.com

Design and layout

design@afriagrimagazine.com



Revival Media
With us you made a right turn

Published By :

Revival Media

8854 Kosovo
Crescent

Roodepoort

2188

From the Editor

Our mission is to find and publish articles by leading experts, industry stakeholders, and leaders that provide insight on important issues and challenges the agricultural sector, which farmers and the whole agric value chain must deal with continually. As it turns out, some of these eternal topics are essential now.

Many of you reading this first instalment of the year 2022 of the African Agriculture Magazine will probably wonder why there aren't any articles about the coronavirus pandemic and, particularly, its impact on the agricultural sector.

We are, of course, aware that the pandemic is having a tremendous impact on all parts of life, in particular on our people who are most who in turn play massive roles. We are also aware that the pandemic has created a crisis on many facets of production, as services and programs are forced to shut down or refocus, and revenues decline, all at the very time when the need for many of these same services and programs is greater than ever.

But the magazine is not supposed to be topical. One of the reasons is that we only publish four issues each year. We pick the articles that we will publish months in advance of when you read them, often before the last issue goes to press. Many of the articles you are reading now were written last December. With that publishing schedule, we cannot possibly try to be topical.

There is another and more important reason that we don't attempt to publish topical articles in the magazine. Our mission is to find and publish articles that provide insight on important issues and challenges that agricultural sector leaders must deal with continually: How can an organization, farmers and systems be both innovative and able to operate programs at scale? What are the attributes of an effective production system? How can you optimize productivity as well as increase economic value?

The way that African Agriculture Magazine can best respond to current events is online, do take time to frequent our site for updated stories.

So even during this crisis, please take the time to go to our website and explore the thousands of articles that African Agriculture Magazine has published over the years. You are sure to find something that will stimulate your thinking and help you and your organization not just survive but thrive.

Have a great read.

Regards,

Editor

Nicholas Mayo

editor@afriagrimagazine.com

Disclaimer: All Material is strictly copyright. The magazine or any part thereof may not be reproduced or adapted without written permission from the Publisher. African Agri Magazine welcomes material submitted for publication but retains the right to edit copy. The views expressed in the publication are not considered those of the Publisher, which accepts no liability of any nature arising out of or in connection with the contents of this magazine. While every effort has been taken in compiling this publication, the publisher does not give warranty as to the completeness or accuracy of its content. The publisher and the editor cannot accept responsibility for any loss inconvenience & damage that may occur there from.



Custom Ag Intel, Leading The Ag Innovation

Custom Agricultural Intelligence Inc. (CAI), is a leading edge pioneer innovative company in Saskatchewan that began in 2016 with its first manufacturing facility in Sedley, Saskatchewan. Over the last 5 years CAI has expanded to two more manufacturing facilities to handle the growing demand for their services.

With a combined experience of more than 35 years, Emmanuel and Bernice Richard have built a market leader in agricultural intelligence. CAI manufactures customized bio-chemical formulations for soil deficiencies. The company's success has been attributed to its provision of different comprehensive services that include farm management, custom formulating, and laboratory quality seed analysis.

Through soil analysis and customized nutrient formulations, CAI has gained the trust of the farming community with over 450,000 acres under its protocol.

One of the market leading services offered by CAI, is the CAI Crop Monitoring System, first of its kind, 100% Canadian-made and state-of-the art. It uses artificial intelligence to analyse fields for accurate data on what they are growing in terms spectral reflectance (using satellite images), local metrological variables as well other environmental factors. CAI's crop monitoring platform is an AI-driven system that provides



top-notch analysis of an actionable data on your fields, giving you a report on NDVI and MSAVI indexes (common measures used in GIS remote sensing to monitor crop growth). Also has the ability to determine soil moisture, soil temperature and soil evaporation of multiple points within a particular field instead of using in-situ data collection (e.g. probes).

Currently, CAI production is solely in Canada, however they are to launch a facility in Dubai to close the gap in shipping. There is a drive to expand and be present in China, India, Brazil, Africa, Dubai, and United States, which have broader agricultural involvement.

Custom Ag Intel plans on leveraging the African local agri-food industry to grow nutrient dense foods and convert waste to produce fuel/agrotech biodiesel, with an interest in exploring how they can use our natural resources, such as African's rich farmlands and diverse crop

production abilities. This will help create a more sustainable future by decreasing carbon footprint through renewable energy generation solutions like biodiesel made from crops grown locally.

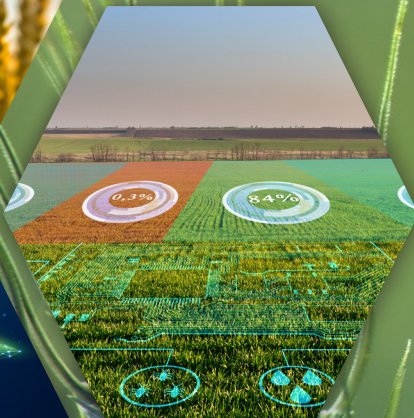
Also, in the pipeline CAI is in the process of building a facility that will divert waste away from landfills and use co-products (organic compost and biochar) as a source of fertilizer for curbside grasses and plants.

Custom Agricultural Intelligence are always looking for ways to provide the best possible solutions leading ultimately towards a successful harvest, maintaining a strong position with customization. CAI fulfils its commitment as an organization dedicated 100% toward providing high quality service tailored specifically for your needs!

Visit: <https://www.customagintel.com/about-us/> to learn more.



CUSTOM AG INTEL
Adding Real Value... Building Bushels...



CUSTOM AG INTEL Leading The Ag Innovation

Adding Real Value... Building Bushels...

www.customagintel.com



Attracting and Retaining Talent is at the Heart of Transforming Agriculture in Africa

Background

Agriculture is an important sector of many countries in Africa and a great source employment. Currently, the agricultural sector in Africa employs 48% of economically active population. With the population of Africa set to grow from 1.3 billion to 2 billion by 2040 and the rate of urbanization set to reach 45% by 2035, the agricultural sector will also play a major role as a source of nutrition and food security.

Despite its importance, the agricultural sector in Africa remains beset by many challenges, including lack of access to finance by emerging farmers, poor infrastructure, climate change, policy uncertainty and skills shortages. Mindful of these challenges that face the African agricultural sector, the attraction and retention of skills is central to transforming the sector to create jobs and meet the demand for food.

Measures to Develop, Attract and Retain Skills

In order to attract the high level of skills needed to transform the agricultural sector, vocational institutions, universities, businesses and governments can play a critical role in ensuring that the sector is responsive to the needs of the society. In the case of the education sector, there is a need to attract educators with high levels of skills to propel the sector in the fourth industrial revolution. A starting point is for educational institutions to partner with employer organizations to develop programs to address the challenges that face the African agricultural sector. Secondly, there is a need for the business sector—especially financial institutions—to develop products that can enable emerging farmers to access the necessary funds. Additionally, the business sector can ensure that emerging farmers are accommodated in their value chains.

It is also through the development of evidence-



Johannes Tiba, Fragomen, Senior Manager

based immigration policies that respond to the needs of country that crucial skills can be attracted and retained. For instance, a country's immigration policy can place emphasis on attraction and retention of high-level skills through specially designed work permit or investor schemes, provision of permanent residence status and even early naturalization for those whose skills are sorely needed by the country.

Examples of Best Practices

In Africa, countries like Rwanda and Mauritius continue to lead the way in developing immigration schemes aimed at targeting high-level skills needed by the countries. For instance, Rwanda has a specific work permit route that caters to investors and entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector. Additionally, the country

has a list of skills that are in demand which include, among others, agricultural scientists and engineers. In Mauritius, a three-year Young Professional Occupation Permit for those who graduated locally is another creative approach taken by the authorities to attract and retain skills.

Conclusion

It is important to note that Africa is replete with good examples of countries successfully attracting and retaining critical skills, and other governments can learn, benchmark and share best practices for the success of our continent.

Author: Johannes Tiba, Fragomen, Senior Manager, jtiba@fragomen.com

FRAGOMEN



WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN IMMIGRATION

At Fragomen, we don't just facilitate immigration—we create opportunities. From individuals and small local businesses to the world's largest companies, we support all of your immigration needs, across the continent and all over the world. Fragomen is not just another international firm operating in Africa—we are proudly African. We are multilingual, locally experienced and in-tune with the unique needs of African businesses.

KEY CONTACT



LUNGA MANI

Practice Leader,
Sub-Saharan Africa

E: lunga.mani@fragomen.com



FRAGOMEN



Welcome to the Hidros Group

Hidros is a multinational corporation founded in 1996 and operating in more than 60 countries.

We have become a leading global supplier and a comprehensive source for quality hydraulic products. With the determination of our group and commitment of our employees, we offer solution-oriented service and products to the various sectors. We also work very closely with our dealers and OEM's to continuously develop new products while adhering to strict quality standards.

To ensure stock and timeously delivery to support sales by our dealer network, we have taken and implemented a strategic strategy to decentralized and distribute stock to central warehouses in 4 different countries:

- Turkey (Head Office) – Responsible for Domestic Turkey, Middle East and

- North African markets. Bulgaria – Responsible for the Balkan Countries and Russia
- Germany – as central distribution point for Europe
- South Africa (Cape Town & Johannesburg) – as central distribution point for Sub-Sahara Africa.

Industries Served

- Industrial
- Material handling
- Mining, building and construction
- Off Highway: Agriculture
- On Highway: Truck

Whilst providing 100% testing of all equipment manufactured, along with a 1-year guarantee, we are proud to say that we strive for perfection and warrant that you receive the right products at the right time.

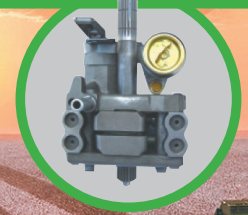


Your one stop solution for Agriculture

OUR RANGE OF HYDRAULIC SOLUTIONS



**2 - 6 Cylinder Flow
Dividers for Planters**



**JackPack - PTO PowerPack for
Planter Vacuum Fan Drive**



ALTERNATIVE HYDRAULICS FOR:
 Case • Deutz • Fiat • Ford • Foton • John Deere
 • Kubota • Landini • McCormick • Massey
 • SAME • Dedicated gear pumps & valves
 • Internal & External Hydraulics

Visit our website on your laptop or smartphone at www.hidros.co.za

For more information regarding our quality range of products
& dealer/distribution network please contact:

CONTACTS - CAPE TOWN

CELL NO: OFFICE

CONTACT NUMBERS

Jacques Laubscher +27 81 011 5350
 Radyn van Dewenter +27 72 596 2305
 Solly Solomon +27 83 597 8726

Tel: +27 21 948 7065/6
 Fax: +27 21 948 7067

Address: Unit 22, Rivers Edge Business Park, Winelands Close, Stikland, 7530.

CONTACTS - JOHANNESBURG

CELL NO:

OFFICE CONTACT NUMBERS

Derrick Mitchell +27 81 489 7034
 Gerhard Roets +27 81 526 9378
 Nicolene de Klerk +27 65 852 3538

Tel: +27 10 880 4774
 +27 11 823 1969 / 823 2364
 Fax: +27 86 411 1847

Address: 11 & 13 Charlie Lane, Hughes, Boksburg, Johannesburg 1459.

e-mail: africa@hidros-sa.co.za



Government urged to boost soil production to enhance food security

Dr Edward Yeboah, the Acting Director of CSIR Soil Research Institute, has urged stakeholders to support the government to boost soil production to advance agricultural growth in the country.

"Healthy soils constitute the foundation for agricultural development, essential ecosystem functions and food security and hence it is key to sustaining life on Earth," he said.

Dr Yeboah, who is also the newly elected President of the Soil Science Society of Ghana (SSSG), said this during the World Soil Day celebration and the Annual General Meeting of SSSG.

The event, which was held via zoom on the theme: "Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity" aims to raise awareness of and the importance of maintaining healthy soil.

He said soil should be recognized as one of the solutions to economic growth to sustain agriculture and food security and also to reduce poverty in the country.

Dr Yeboah indicated that healthy soils enhance farming, especially in rural areas, and also promote the empowerment of women in cultivation to improve their livelihood.

He stated that there should be an urgent need to address climate change, which continues to pose serious challenges to sustainable development, especially in the agriculture sector.

He advised the SSSG to attract, nurture young and enthusiastic budding soil scientists to make the fraternity more relevant and attractive to society.

Dr Francis M. Tetteh, the Outgoing President of SSSG, stated that stakeholders in the agriculture sector should pay more attention to urgent needs at all levels to raise awareness to promote sustainability of the limited soil resources in the country.

He said World Soil Day had been commemorated since 2014 under the leadership of the Kingdom of Thailand and within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership.

He said the celebration was supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as an awareness-raising platform, resolution calling on the wider United Nations system to recognize the day and institutionalize its observation.

He announced the newly elected executives SSSG includes: Dr Edward Yeboah, President elected, Professor Kwame Agyei Frimpong, elected as Vice President, Dr Christian Adler Phares, elected as General Secretary, Professor Nana, Ewusi-Mensah, elected as Assistant Secretary, Dr Williams Atakora, elected publicity secretary, Dr Kofi Atiah, elected as Treasurer, Dr Alfred Arthur elected as Representative of Eastern Region and Dr Mrs Ophelia Ulzen elected as Representative of Ashanti Region.

Government price support initiative is blessing to farmers



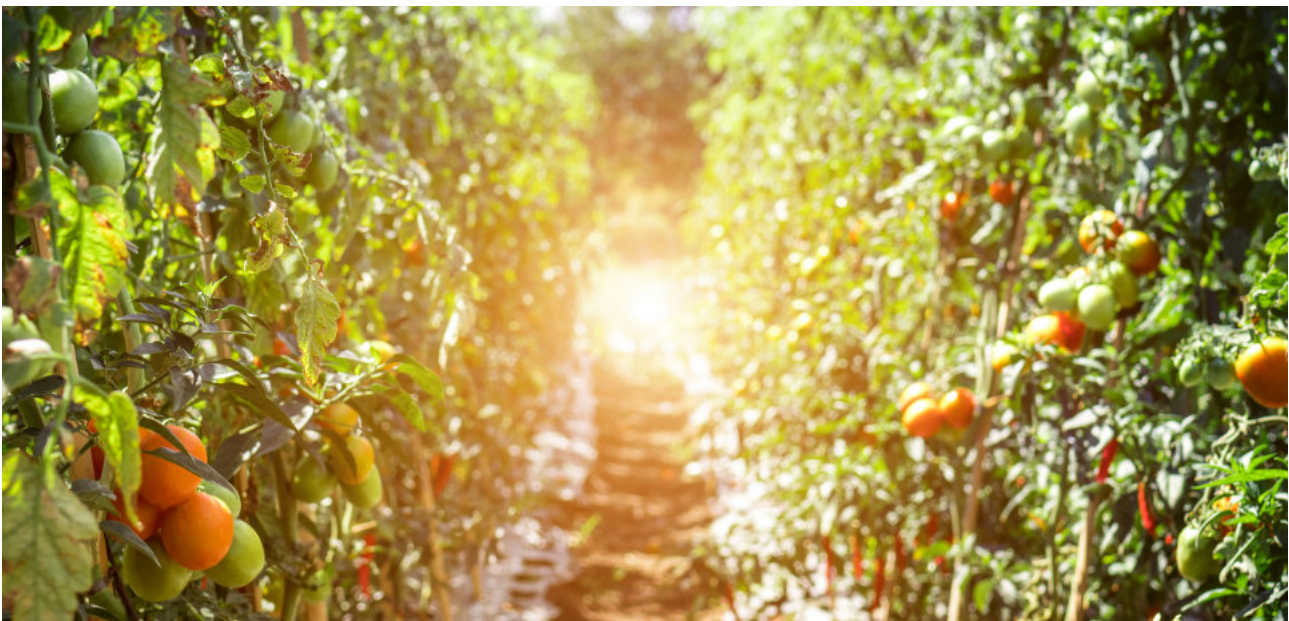
The Papua New Guinea government has brought forth two major incentives that are the commodities price support and the freight subsidy scheme. In the year 2021, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock received major backing from the Marape Government approving K50 million towards its program of commodities price support incentives.

An additional K150 million allocation for Agriculture Price Support Program come 2022 has been welcomed with great enthusiasm by the Department of Agriculture and Livestock.

The Price Support Program was initiated to support prices of commodities (cocoa, coffee, vanilla, rubber, livestock, oil palm, rice, copra and fresh produce). This program will see farmers directly benefiting from

increased prices of agriculture commodities.

Government also presented a funding of K3 million to BML. The agreement means farmers and suppliers of fresh produce and vegetables in the Highlands region and Morobe can ship their produce from Bismark's Lae port to Port Moresby free of freight charges for duration of six months.



5 Critical Food Issues the Minister for Agriculture Should Pay Attention to in 2022

Happy new year to all farmers and agricultural sector stakeholders across the country who are working to keep Ghana food secure. In 2021, this nation faced a number of agricultural sector challenges including hikes in the prices of basic food commodities that we need to be careful about in 2022. In this article, we draw attention to five critical food sector issues that the Minister for Food and Agriculture Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, and the government in general need to pay attention to in 2022.

1) Rising cost of food

The first of such issues is the rising cost of food in the country. Despite the repeated rhetoric by the Minister for Food and Agriculture that food prices in the country are amazingly low, the reality on the ground is far different. The evidence is in data published by the Statistics, Research, and Information Directorate of the Ministry for Food and Agriculture (MOFA). Between January and October 2021, the average price of maize rose by 56%, price of plantain rose by 74%, price of tomato rose by 44%, price of yam rose by 20%, and price of fresh pepper rose by 54%.

Additionally, over that same period, price of cassava rose by about 6%, yam by 20% and rice by 12%. What this means is that it was more difficult for people to buy these foods and others that they needed to stay satisfied and healthy. Make no mistake, claims that when food prices rise, farmers make more money is a myth. Nothing can be further from the truth. Food prices usually rise because of rising cost of inputs. In the end farmers' profits either do not increase at all or falls. The reality is that there is a general rise in the prices of food across the globe but that cannot be an excuse for us not to do anything about it at home.

One way around it is for government to increase subsidies to farmers in a better targeted manner, so they are

cushioned when it comes to the rising prices of inputs. Otherwise, things will get out of hand in 2022.

2) Dependence on foreign support to the agricultural sector

The 2022 budget statement that got approved by parliament allocates 1.1 billion Ghana Cedis to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for expenditures this year. Out of that amount, 293 million Cedis will be coming from foreign donors or development partners, 11.5 million Cedis will be coming from internally generated funds and 798.5 Cedis million will come directly from the government of Ghana. That means about 26.6% of the total funding for the sector will come from abroad. But this is what we need to watch out for.

World over, donor partners are increasingly moving resources from various sectors to the health sector because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope that a good chunk of the projected support from Ghana's development partners to the agricultural sector comes through. But government needs to pay attention and ensure that any possible shortfalls are augmented locally. The reality is that the total sum of money these development partners send to the developing world has not increased much since Covid-19 hit. They are only shifting around the same or even less resources. So, let's be careful, and the government of Ghana must be ready to step in if the donor support to agriculture shrinks.

3) One-village, One-dam Initiative needs salvaging in 2022 or never

2022 should be the year the New Patriotic Party (NPP) government revives the One-village, One-dam Initiative for farmers in the savannah belt of Ghana, or never. We are all seeing climate change cause poor rainfall patterns and long periods of no rain in several parts of the world.

We heard from Ghana government officials during the United Nations' Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow last year, as they repeatedly emphasized the administration's commitment to investments that will mitigate the impact of climate change on the populace. We believe no single government policy has the potential to help farmers in the savannah belt deal better with climate change than the One-village, One-dam Initiative. We were told that these dams will be multipurpose water storage structures that will help provide water all year round for small holder farming activities, livestock rearing as well as for domestic purpose.

The dams were supposed to have sizes covering 2 to 3 hectares, be about 2.5m below and another 2.5 m above ground level, be capable of holding about 30,000 cubic meters of water, have inlet-outlet structures to supply water downstream (to irrigation farms) from the small dams, as well as spillway to control the level of water in the dams. But as research conducted by the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana in 2020 revealed, less than 50% of the dams promised to farmers in the Upper East Region had been done, and majority of the dams were not serving their purposes. The situation has since not changed much. If there is any single policy initiative the government needs to roll out crucially that could vastly transform agriculture in the northern belt, it is providing farmers there with irrigation facilities. Otherwise, a lot of farmers up north will soon struggle to produce enough food to feed themselves, and the rest of the country.

In 2022, the government should prioritise providing the promised dams, spend 2023 dealing with whatever bottlenecks may emerge, and probably spend 2024 properly integrating the policy in the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority's

structures, so it becomes a lasting legacy.

4) GMOs

The government needs to clarify what exactly its policy position on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) is, because 2022 will be a crucial year for GMOs in Ghana. There is no doubt GMOs have become a controversial subject world over. All agriculture sector stakeholders need to get interested in the conversation on GMOs and government must lead the way. In November last year, a new 13-member board for the National Biosafety Authority (NBA), the nation's GMO regulator was sworn into office by the Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI).

Earlier in the year, scientists at the Savannah Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) submitted documentation to the authority, requesting for environmental release of Ghana's first GMO crop, Bt cowpea (beans), which has inherent resistance to pest attacks. But the authority asked the scientists to hold on until a new board is in place. Now that the new board is in place, that process is expected to resume. And after the application is sent, the authority will have 6 months or so to return with a decision. So, we are likely to see a lot of activity in the GMO space this year.

At the swearing in ceremony, the Minister Dr. Kwaku Afriyie disclosed "in my office, I know



that (there are) GMO linked products which are waiting for go ahead for the next phase." The stance of MESTI since the days of Dr. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng has been, supporting approval for GMOs. But the Minister for Food and Agriculture Dr. Akoto Owusu Afriyie is on record in 2019 to have said the 'Ghanaian society was seriously against it (GMOs) "and, indeed, we don't need it"'. For a minute, let's put aside the debate about whether GMOs are good or bad, and ask the administration to let the people of this country know its policy position on the technology, so we can all have a national conversation about it.

5) Agriculture is the economy's backbone; it deserves better attention

The final critical issue we want the government to pay attention to in 2022 is that "agriculture is the economy's backbone and it deserves better attention." This is nothing new but we believe it is necessary to reiterate it in 2022. As we all know, agriculture is the second largest sector of Ghana's economy, and more

than half of the country's population live in rural areas and are engaged in agricultural activities as their means of survival. Government needs to allocate a more substantial portion of the national budget towards the sector to ensure we build an equitable and sustainable food system. We need to address challenges of low public sector investment in the sector, low institutional capacity, poor marketing systems, land tenure challenges, low penetration of mechanisation services, low transfer and uptake of research findings, as well as low application of science and technology to production. We also need to deal with challenges of low investment in the local livestock, fisheries and poultry industries. The approach to improving agriculture has to be holistic. Government cannot do it alone. But government has a responsibility to show it wants these challenges dealt with, as the sure way to attract adequate private sector support to improve the agricultural sector.





How to Improve Hay Quality

Delmhorst Instrument Co. is a 2nd generation family-owned business that has been manufacturing moisture meters for agriculture and the building trades/lumber industries for 75 years. Our products are known world-wide and have been accepted by the major schools of agriculture and forestry. They are proven for ruggedness and accuracy and will provide many years of reliability.

Monitoring the moisture content of hay helps to preserve leaves, color, and feed value, and reduces the possibility of mold development while in storage. When harvest time comes, Delmhorst probe-type meters are proven, essential tools that are a critical component to ensuring high quality hay.

The popular model F-2000



hand-held meter uses a 9v battery and offers easy to use controls, and a sharp digital display even in bright sunlight. For high volume producers who need the time-saving convenience of on-the-go monitoring, the FX-2000 adds the ability to check hay moisture during baling, without even leaving the tractor. It is powered by the tractor's 12V system as well as a 9v battery for portable use. The F-2000 and FX-2000 hay testers are covered by a 3-year warranty.

Whether in the windrow, while baling, or in storage, Delmhorst meters measure hay moisture every step of the way with speed, accuracy, and reliability. Prods are available

for the windrow, small and large square bales, and round bales too.

Delmhorst also produces moisture meters for the cotton, soil, grain, hemp/hops/tobacco markets, as well as a temperature measuring probe system, ideal for grain, hay, and cotton. Download our complimentary guide [How to Improve Hay Quality](#). For more information on the F-2000, FX-2000, and Delmhorst's full line of moisture meters and accessories visit our website at delmhorst.com and click on the [Speak to a Specialist](#) link or email us at

info@delmhorst.com

DELMHORST
INSTRUMENT CO.
WHEN ACCURACY IS THE POINT.™

MOISTURE METERS FOR HAY, GRAIN, COTTON, SOIL



FX-2000 HAY TESTER PRODUCT FEATURES

- ✓ Bright, clear digital display.
- ✓ Can be used for on-the-go moisture monitoring or as a portable meter.
- ✓ Moisture Range: 6%-40% on hay.
- ✓ Built-in calibration check.
- ✓ Audible, adjustable alarm alerts you when a pre-selected MC has been reached.
- ✓ Rugged construction ensures years of reliable use.
- ✓ 3-year warranty (tester)



WHY USE A DELMHORST HAY TESTER:



Reduces mold development



Produces better quality hay



Preserves color
and feed value of leaves



Minimizes economic losses



KS-D1 with GB-1

Soil – monitor the soil moisture available with a reliable and economical gypsum block system.



C-2000 with 52-EC

Cotton – measure MC in seed cotton and lint cotton in the field, during ginning, and while in storage.



G-7

Grain – measure MC at harvest and while in storage. A great 'on the farm' meter.

Meters also available for hemp, hops, and tobacco.

All products are built in the USA by Delmhorst Instrument – a 2nd generation family business - manufacturing moisture meters for the agriculture, wood/lumber processing, and paper industries for 75 years.



Scan this code to
learn more.

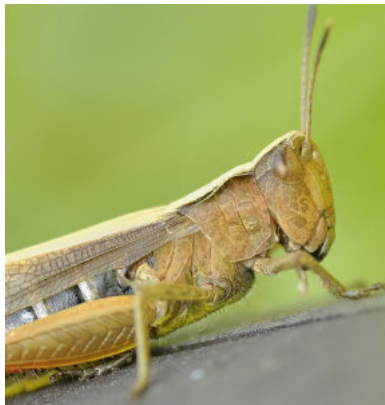
Overcoming impacts of desert locusts, drought and displacement through climate-smart agriculture practices and tools in Somaliland

FAO's desert locust response programme is supporting rural farming households to address acute food insecurity in rural areas while contributing to mitigate further displacement. Forty-three-year-old Hibo Hussein lives in Quljeed village, Borama District, and relies on rainfed farming to sustain herself and her family. Hibo grows corn, maize and various kinds of vegetables with her family, and is part of the 46 percent of the population working in agriculture. Her region, Awdal, is one of the worst affected by the desert locust and droughts in Somalia, which have caused significant losses in crops, water sources and pastures, leaving livestock in poor condition and households food insecure.

In Somalia, agriculture plays a key role in economic growth and poverty reduction, but climate change, conflict, floods, droughts, the desert locust plague, the socio-economic impact of **COVID-19** and the cumulative effects of previous crises have caused its contribution to the economy to decline by almost 60 percent since its peak in 1989. These factors have historically contributed to displacement, as families must leave their farms in search of food, water and basic services.

Now, through a complementary approach combining the generous funding from Sweden with that of other resource partners, FAO's cash plus agriculture emergency programme is supporting rural farming households to address acute food insecurity in rural areas while contributing to mitigate further displacement by helping people to stay productive within rural areas, laying the groundwork for future recovery.

The climate-smart livelihood kit is tailored to the needs and vulnerabilities of distinct livelihood zones with the



provision of land preparation services and quality and locally adapted and drought-resistant crop seed varieties. The kit includes multi-layered hermetic storage bags which help reduce post-harvest losses. Farmers like Hibo also received training on good agricultural practices, gaining new skills to adapt to a future affected by climate change resulting in an increasing frequency of droughts and other climate-related disasters.

"Drought and desert locusts are a major threat, because it keeps happening, and there will be no farms left and nothing to feed our children. It will be difficult for people to survive," said Hibo at her farm. "FAO supported us with land preparation and bought us seven different types of seeds," she added.

The integrated intervention supported farmers in Somaliland with four tractor hours to increase land under production and maximize crop yields in addition to the provision of 30 multi-layered hermetic storage bags each to minimize post-harvest losses. With the co-funding of another resource partner, the same farmers were also supported with locally-adapted seed varieties that are drought tolerant and can provide families with sources of

food, income as well as fodder from crops. The seed kit (cereal, vegetable, pulse and/or legume seeds) is tailored to farmers' needs and traditional practices in Somaliland's different regions. The seed kit included 12 kg of sorghum, 10 kg of cowpea, 12 kg of mung beans and 240 g of assorted vegetable seeds.

"We also included unconditional cash transfers to ensure immediate access to basic food needs, while restoring their own food production and income. The cash and agricultural livelihood programme incorporates trainings on good agricultural practices and good nutrition practices" said Elizabeth Karungo, FAO in Somalia Emergency Programme Officer.

Women, like Hibo, received **cash transfers** to help them cover their immediate food and other basic needs until their crops were harvested. Before payment of cash entitlements, the beneficiaries were verified by a mobile network operator (MNO). This involved the identification of beneficiaries with a pre-loaded photo collected during registration and capturing of a new GPS photo. The sim cards and phone numbers were also verified to make sure that the money went into the right hands. FAO has moved to fully digitalize unconditional cash transfer systems. The FAO-designed **mobile money** system allows beneficiaries to receive payments through their cell phone. The system is safe, efficient and convenient and reduces risks associated with moving with cash such as extortion or taxation. It is also a relief to people like Hibo in areas affected by droughts and desert locusts.

"They also gave us three months of cash support that I used to pay for school fees and other basic supplies. We are so grateful," Hibo said.



Namibia: Agriculture Remains Engine Behind Economy

During the third quarter of 2021, Namibia recorded a trade surplus of N\$2.7 billion on agriculture, forestry and fishing products. The positive trade balance was mainly reflected in the fishing sub-sectors products, recording N\$2.6 billion.

Trade surplus is the amount by which the value of a country's exports exceeds the cost of its imports. The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) stated that Namibia's export earnings from commodities of agriculture, forestry and fishing sector for 2021 Q3 increased to N\$3.7 billion, from N\$3.2 billion recorded in 2020 Q3.

Similarly, the import bill also expanded to over N\$1 billion in 2021 Q3 compared to N\$977.7 million registered in the corresponding quarter of 2020.

The agriculture sector is the backbone of the Namibian

economy and the sector has over the years been one of the main drivers contributing to the national economy significantly. The sector continued to be the main engine to the economy due to its nature of creating sources of income, supporting the livelihoods of the majority of its people, food security, foreign earnings and provision of raw material to the manufacturing sector.

Looking at the agriculture trade pattern, during the period under review, the import bill for agricultural commodities stood at N\$228.1 million while export earnings stood at N\$564.5 million. This implies that Namibia was a net exporter of agricultural commodities for that period.

The value-added for the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector for the third quarter of 2021 was N\$3.4 billion in nominal

terms which represents 7.6% of gross domestic product (GDP).

In real terms, NSA said the sector recorded a growth of 3.9% in the third quarter of 2021 mainly due to the agriculture and forestry subsectors that grew by 5.3% and 12%, respectively. The fishing sector also recorded an increase of 1.9% in real value-added.

"The fisheries products including the manufactured fish, accounted for the highest in terms of foreign earnings, recording N\$2.8 billion while in the second place, agriculture commodities brought income of N\$564.5 million. In terms of imports, forestry commodities topped the list with an import bill of N\$643.2 million during the third quarter of 2021. For the period under review, the food price inflation was lower than other commodities in the CPI basket," reads the update from NSA.

You reap what you sow.

Rely on yellow and green when selecting filters.

Filters for agricultural machinery are subjected to the highest loads in operation – particularly during the harvesting season. The challenges here are the large amounts of dust and organic particles, as well as the enormous mechanical loads. MANN-FILTER products are synonymous with optimal protection for your machine, long running times and 100 % original equipment quality.

Performance that pays

Leading manufacturers of agricultural machinery have always trusted MANN-FILTER. And our many decades of experience in the development and manufacturing of efficient, filtration solutions. You too can rely on high performance MANN-FILTER products to provide longterm protection for your machine and therefore your investments.

With MANN-FILTER, you are always perfectly equipped

As the leading filter brand, we offer the highest quality – in original equipment and in the independent aftermarket. Avoid downtime and choose original MANN-FILTER products in 100 % original equipment quality.

Always the right filter

Whether you are looking for air, oil, fuel, cabin air, or hydraulic filters, our comprehensive MANN-FILTER product range, featuring renowned manufacturers and common models, will help you find the right filter.

A service that is second to none

Benefit from perfect service and personal customer care. Convince yourself and use our state-of-the-art information tools: in addition to the MANN-FILTER app, you can also access our comprehensive catalog online, in print form or on DVD.

Everything
at a glance!

MANN-FILTER – benefits that pay for you

- ⊕ 100 % original equipment quality
- ⊕ Best market coverage in Europe
- ⊕ Safety and reliability, even under the heaviest loads
- ⊕ Comprehensive service
- ⊕ The highest original equipment expertise worldwide for over 65 years

MANN-FILTER – always the right choice.

The service life and efficiency of agricultural machines largely depend on the right filter selection. High quality filters are indispensable for the functional reliability of your machines. Don't compromise and opt for MANN-FILTER products in 100 % original equipment quality.

All MANN-FILTER products are manufactured according to the latest international production and test standards for the automotive and machine industry. They stand for best component quality, have shown to excel due to consistently high and reliable filtration performance and secure a long service life.

Air filter

High-dust applications and long operating times are not mutually exclusive. The proof lies in our air filters, which ensure long and efficient machine running times through their high dust holding capacity.

Oil filter

Oil filter elements from MANN-FILTER offer the highest filtration performance and protect the engine by perfectly cleaning the oil.

Fuel filter

High-quality MANN-FILTER fuel filters remove damaging dirt particles and water from the fuel. This reduces the possibility of damage through wear and corrosion.

Hydraulic filters

In environments with high operating pressures, our filters protect the hydraulic system of your machines against dirt particles, corrosion and abrasion. The high dirt holding capacity of the medium ensures a long filter service life and even removes the finest harmful particles.





**MANN
FILTER**

Ready for big business.

MANN-FILTER for agricultural machines.

**MANN
FILTER**

**Protect
your
machine!**

Whether for tractors, combine harvesters or forage harvesters: Agricultural machinery is subjected to the highest loads, particularly during the harvesting season. The lifetime and efficiency of your machine also depend on the right choice of filter, be it air, oil, fuel, cabin air or hydraulic filter: our comprehensive product range, featuring renowned manufacturers and common models, will help you find the right filter. Always choose 100% Original MANN-FILTER OE quality!

MANN-FILTER – Perfect parts. Perfect service.

www.mann-filter.com

MANN+HUMMEL Filters South Africa

Land Line: +27 11 592 7000

E-Mail: orders.mhza@mann-hummel.com

Vertiv Joins the RISE Partnership Program to Develop Sustainable Data Centre Technologies

The strategic cooperation will help develop sustainable solutions such as data centre heat re-use or alternative power sources

Vertiv (www.Vertiv.com) (NYSE: VRT), a global provider of critical digital infrastructure and continuity solutions, is pleased to announce a new partnership with RISE Research Institutes of Sweden (<https://bit.ly/3tH4i53>), a leading research institute and innovation partner. Vertiv is entering the partnership program for data centre systems technologies at the platinum level, joining founding partners such as Facebook, Ericsson, Vattenfall, ABB, LTU and the Norrbotten region.

The data centre research at RISE is based in Luleå, Sweden, and RISE is owned by the Swedish state and supported by EU funds. Collaborating with universities, industry and the public sector, RISE performs industrial research and innovation, with the overall objective to support sustainable growth by strengthening industry competitiveness and renewal.

Through the partnership with RISE, Vertiv will specifically support the Infrastructure and Cloud research & test Environment (ICE), which is a data centre testbed providing access to study results and experts, as well as publications and demonstrations by RISE and engagement in small research and development studies.

A key value delivered to the partners in the collaboration is the large-scale test environment with data centre modules, climate and heat boxes, wind tunnels, edge and liquid cooling testbeds, and the ability to take simulations and concepts to the point of implemented demonstrations and tests for data collection and analysis.

"RISE demonstrates technology leadership in applied research, which makes them a perfect

The cooperation with RISE is the latest in a series of advances Vertiv has made around sustainability and the wider Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) arena

partner for us at Vertiv. This will help us lead the industry into the new era of sustainable large-scale cloud data centres, enterprise and edge applications," said Vertiv CTO, Stephen Liang.

"RISE is playing a leading role in driving sustainability across Europe and Vertiv is ideally placed to provide it with forward-looking engineering solutions for the data center industry and beyond," said Giordano Albertazzi, Vertiv president, EMEA. "Data centres are a critical part of the digital infrastructure. Efficiency and sustainability are a strong focus for the industry and are becoming increasingly important. New technologies, system solutions and components need to be ideated, developed, tested and verified before hitting the market. We see our partnership with RISE being a big part of that."

Vertiv also supports the multiple RISE heat recovery initiatives which utilise heat rejected from data centres for various applications, like mealworm and vertical farming, biomass drying or district heating systems – with the recent feasibility study aiming at achieving 90-95°C supply water temperature (SWT) for district heating. Some of the other

projects in Vertiv and RISE's research pipeline include load balancing, full life-cycle assessments of data centres and all their components, homomorphic encryption machine learning, autonomous digital infrastructure and self-healing systems, fuel cells, a digital carbon counter for end-users, new cooling methods and thermal management systems that support heat reuse and circular economy.

"We want to come closer to the industrial needs and a partnership helps the dialogue and direct bilateral collaboration. This way we can continue to develop our thought leadership together with our partners," says Tor Björn Minde, Director ICE Data centre at RISE.

The cooperation with RISE is the latest in a series of advances Vertiv has made around sustainability and the wider Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) arena. Vertiv is part of the Sustainable Digital Infrastructure Alliance (SDIA) and the European Data Centre Association (EUDCA) (<https://bit.ly/3lksXQZ>) and contributes to Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact (<https://bit.ly/3roXr1>) with the aim to meet the European Commission's goal for climate-neutral data centres by 2030. Vertiv and RISE are also members of the E2P2 Tech Consortium (<https://bit.ly/3GCOgws>), leading low-carbon fuel cell development to power data centres.

To learn more about Vertiv's commitment to sustainability, visit <https://bit.ly/3GEJm26>.

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of Vertiv.





VAPORMATIC
AUTHORISED
DISTRIBUTOR



MOVING PARTS

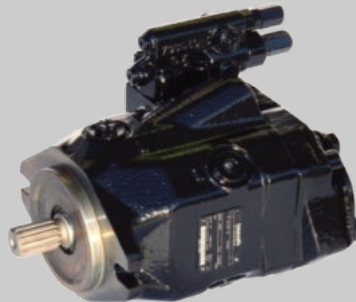
TRACTOR SPARES
EST 2014

**ALL SPARES
FOR ALL TRACTORS**



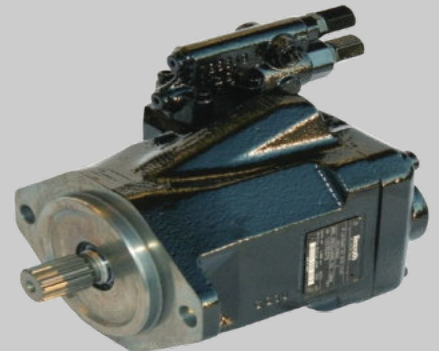
VAPORMATIC

MPAL161043
JD6000 SERIES HYD PUMP
41CM3 REXBOTH



VAPORMATIC

MPAL161041
JD6000 SERIES HYD PUMP
25CM3 REXROTH



VAPORMATIC

MPAL166639
JD6000 SERIES HYD PUMP 45CM3
REXROTH



VAPORMATIC

MP3677515M91
LANDINI CAB FILTERS



VAPORMATIC

FD6610S NEF NATURALLY ASPIRATED
PISTONS+RINGS



VAPORMATIC

MPAL227049
JD6000 SERIES FLANGED
LIP SEAL



MPAT20371
JD MANUAL STEERING SHAFT



MP355786M1
LANDINI KING PINS TRUNIONS



VAPORMATIC

MPAL75338
JD5725 HEADLIGHT



MP3691665M1
LANDINI PTO SHAFT COUPLING
3 AND 6 SPLINE



033 345 7400
We can deliver
country wide!



Lee 076 152 1554
Duncan 060 955 6619
Jayden 063 741 4433



25 Wiston Road
Pietermaritzburg, KZN



lee@movingparts.co.za

**Disclaimer: Original equipment manufacturers names and parts numbers are quoted for reference purposes only and are not intended to suggest that our replacement parts are made by the original

**QUALITY
REPLACEMENT PARTS**

www.movingparts.co.za

Kenya: Smart greenhouses save water and space

A hydroponics greenhouse in Kenya is shaping the modern agribusiness in Africa. Tech entrepreneur Charles Oduk hopes to inspire farmers in other arid areas with his automated farm.

This 250-square-meter farm in Konza city in Kenya is unique. It's the biggest smart farming hydroponics greenhouse in Africa. The technology uses crop data and self-correcting algorithms, allowing farmers to make informed decisions.

With hydroponics, entrepreneur Charles Oduk uses minimal water and no soil. He started his project in 2017 after graduating with a degree in mechatronics engineering. All sorts of vegetables do well when grown inside hydroponic greenhouses. Oduk hopes to help farmers in Kenya's arid and semi-arid areas.



Gender-Responsive Budgeting in Agriculture in Ethiopia

The gender division of labor in Ethiopia hinders women smallholders' efforts to improve productivity to close the gap with men's farms. There is substantial evidence that where women have access to the same inputs and training as men, they can close that gap.

The government's national development plan identifies agriculture as the main driver of rapid and inclusive growth. The plan seeks to increase women's participation in agriculture to 50 percent of all participants. But this can only happen with proper implementation of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB).

Ethiopia has ratified a number of international conventions and agreements on women's rights that have guided development of national laws and policies. Nonetheless, the national budgetary process is not yet gender responsive, and the country faces other challenges.



Low awareness of gender issues, limited technical skill in mainstreaming gender issues and GRB, lack of adequate resources, and poor enforcement mechanisms are major constraints.

A majority of women do not participate in decision-making or express their needs during public meetings because of sociocultural barriers that elevate the role of males. Women are usually not invited

to meetings and discussions that concern them, under the assumption that men can convey any relevant messages. But information does not consistently get passed to women farmers owing to the erroneous perception that "women do not farm." Women's low levels of literacy and limited exposure to information and support by development practitioners also contribute to the problem. As a result, women are often unable to exercise their rights during program design and implementation.

If agriculture is to lead inclusive development, gender and rural development policies need updating. In addition, achieving high-quality agricultural public spending will require a conducive policy environment and a budget process that promotes the participation and well-being of women and girls as well as men and boys.

WFP To Empower Small-Scale Farmers In Garissa

The World Food Programme (WFP) will empower small scale farmers in Garissa County to ensure they are able to sustain themselves through recurrent drought and flooding cycles which have plagued the county in recent times.

WFP Head of Livelihoods and Resilience in Kenya Claudia Ah Poe has announced that the initiative is a joint programme by WFP and other development partners.

Speaking during a courtesy call to Garissa County Secretary Abdi Sheikh, Poe said that the move is aimed at building the capacity of residents develop resilience during calamities brought about by weather conditions.

The WFP official held discussions with Sheikh on key strategic achievements and challenges encountered in their development partnerships noting that they will continue to work together to address emerging issues.

"We have had a great partnership in the last five years. I am pleased that we have been able to collaborate in areas of water, health, climate change, agriculture, livestock, ECDE education and market systems," Poe said.



Sheikh on his part said that the collaboration had seen improved technical capacity for agriculture and livestock extension officers, and empowerment of local farmers including the rolling out of an off-take program in the coming weeks.

He said that there has been logistical support from different partners to deliver government relief food to villages cut off by floods and constant supply of nutrition commodities to health facilities.

"As a county government, we have a responsibility to engage youth in economic empowerment activities, address food markets and food supply chain inefficiencies to be able to scale up nutrition interventions," Sheikh said.

The meeting was attended by the Director for Donor Coordination Mohamed Sahal, Director of Special Programs Abdinoor Ole Hussein and Director for ECDE Ahmed Bashir.



Malawi: Agriculture Ministry Assures Malawians of Sufficient Food

Agriculture and Irrigation minister Lobin Lowe has assured Malawians not to panic about food shortage in the country as there is enough food reserves to feed the South-eastern impoverished nation.

The ministry says the updated Malawi food balance sheet indicate that Malawi has 1,693,997 Metric tonnes (MT) of maize.

Speaking during a press briefing in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe Monday Lowe said Malawi maize requirement for the next three months (January to March) is projected at 861 868 Metric tonnes of maize.

Lowe said: "As a country, there is 915, 998 metric tonnes of maize surplus and he updated national Food Balance Sheet (FBS) compilation as of 31st December 2021 shows that the country has a total supply of 1,693,997 metric tonnes.

"The total maize requirement for the three months, from annually to March 2022, is projected at 861, 868 metric tonnes."

The minister said that the reported maize surplus is not only the stock under the custody of government; it also comprises of

stocks held by different stakeholders including farmers and private traders.

"Out of this estimated maize surplus, official maize stocks held by government institutions, the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) and ADMARC Limited, stood at 265,253 metric tonnes as of December 31, 2021."

Lowe said the food balance sheet projection, the country remains stable in terms of maize availability.

"This is further supported by the prevailing market prices which have remained stable during the past three months and even as the country is in the lean period during which so far ADMARC sales stand at only 37 metric tonnes since opening their selling season," he said.

On maize price Lowe said the Ministry of Agriculture's maize price surveillance system shows the current maize national

average price for the month of December 2021 was MK152.99 per kilogram as compared to MK200 per kilogram in December 2020.

Lowe said this shows that the prices remain stable over the period when demand for maize traditionally increases.

"On the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) 2021 Annual Assessment report, which projected over 1.6 million to be food insecure during the 2021/2022 consumption year," Lowe said.

Government has already released about 17,000 metric tons of maize to be distributed to the affected households as humanitarian food while on the other hand, ADMARC markets are open for those who need to access the affordable maize.

"I would like to assure the country that we have enough maize stocks for every Malawian and that the country is food secure " said Lowe.

In his remarks ADMARC Chief Executive Officer Rhino Chiphiko said the maize available at the moment is within the area where they were bought.

Chiphiko assured Malawians not to worry about food shortage as they the country has food surplus in stock.



Replacing ageing farmer population: 500 Youth receive support

An initial batch of 500 youth farmers, processors and agricultural technology (agritech) developers across the country are being supported to use technology and other innovative ways to engage in smart farming.

Under the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP), the support will also train the youth in modern agriculture and help them generate appreciable incomes to meet their personal and business needs through farming as a commercial business venture.

Dubbed: 'The Youth in Innovative Agriculture (YIIA)', the programme is expected to replace the ageing population in farming, as it trains the next generation of young and smart farmers to ensure agricultural productivity and food security.

The project, which is being funded from the GH¢100 billion Ghana COVID-19 Alleviation and Revitalisation of Enterprises Support (CARES) 'Obaatan pa' programme of the Ministry of Finance, is targeted at players in vegetable, maize, poultry, livestock, yam and cassava farming.

Similarly, the programme will provide support for those into agro-processing and agricultural technology or solutions.

The Ghana CARES programme is a three-year programme to ensure that productive sectors of the economy are supported to spur growth and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the programme will receive sums ranging from GH¢20,000 to GH¢200,000 as flexible loan facilities payable within three to five years at an interest rate of 10 per cent per annum.

Application for the programme is open to all Ghanaians and started from yesterday to February 5, this year.

The YIIA programme seeks to enlist young people between 18 and 40 years who are into agriculture to be trained and funded.

Launch

Launching the programme yesterday, the Director of Business Support and Policy at the NEIP, Mr Franklin Owusu-

Karikari, said the concept of support for youth in agriculture was necessary because it would help facilitate food and nutrition security in the country.

He said the programme would help increase productivity in the agricultural sector, since it would encourage many youth into the sector.

"Increased productivity in the agricultural sector depends on the youth, who comprise 30 to 40 per cent of Ghana's active population," he said.

Similarly, he noted, the programme would help address Ghana's ageing farmer population, stressing that "there is compelling evidence of ageing farmer population in the country which must be addressed to facilitate sustainability in agricultural production".

Mr Owusu-Karikari, therefore, encouraged all Ghanaians who fell within the target group to apply for the programme.

He explained that applicants would be taken through a month's training.

Tree Crops Authority to distribute 5 million seedlings to farmers

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) has directed the Tree Crops Development Authority (TCDA) to distribute five million seedlings of tree crops to farmers across the country this year.

The crops are shea nut, cashew nut, mango, coconut and rubber.

The seedlings will be distributed through regional directorates of agriculture after they have registered the beneficiary farmers.

Last year, the authority distributed 1.2 million seedlings of the crops to farmers across the country.

In addition, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources is to roll out a separate project with oil palm to reclaim all illegal mining (galamsey) sites.

Under the special project, the ministry will plant about two million seedlings of oil palm in areas destroyed by galamsey activities.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the TCDA, Mr William A Quaitoo, announced this at a close-out meeting of the European Union (EU) co-funded Bono-Asante Atea (BAAT) project in Sampa in the Jaman North District in the Bono Region last Monday.

Project

The BAAT was a three-year cashew development intervention project implemented by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in five cashew growing districts in three regions.

The beneficiary districts were Jaman North, Tain and Wenchi in the Bono Region; Nkoranza North in the Bono East Region and Ejura-Sekyeredumase in the Ashanti Region.

The objective of the project was to increase employment in the cashew value chain of 14,500 people, especially women and the youth, while improving



beneficiary assemblies' cashew revenue by some 10 per cent.

It was also to increase the income of beneficiaries by some 30 per cent, in addition to educating them on climate change adoption.

In all, 75,000 community members, made up of permanent and casual cashew industry workers, transporters, cashew processors and exporters, municipal and district assemblies (MDAs) and departments of agriculture, were said to have benefited from the project.

Advice

Mr Quaitoo advised the public against playing politics with agricultural issues, especially the registration for and distribution of the crop seedlings, saying: "Don't register through any political system and do not politicise the agricultural sector."

He asked regional directors of agriculture to allow eligible farmers, irrespective of their political parties, to register for

the seedlings and also urged farmers to form groups for the exercise.

"Let us think of the development of this country first; so do not be selective in the registration for and distribution of the seedlings," he added.

According to Mr Quaitoo, Ghana currently produced 160,000 metric tonnes of cashew and said there was the need to improve on the production level.

The Country Director of ADRA, Dr William Yaw Brown, commended cashew value chain actors for their hard work to increase yields.

He said the introduction of beehives on cashew plantations was an innovative way of increasing the revenue of farmers.

For his part, the Bono Regional Director of Agriculture, Mr Denis Abugri Amenga, expressed appreciation to ADRA for its intervention.

E-Levy risk rolling back progress in agric sector — Agribusiness Chamber

The Chamber of Agribusiness, Ghana (CAG), has described the proposed electronic transaction levy (E-Levy) as a threat to progress in the agricultural sector and further called for steps to insulate the business from its effects.

The chamber said the levy in its current form risked eroding the capital of investors, increasing the cost of doing business for farmers and other agric-related businesses and ultimately limiting investment in agriculture.

It said these had the tendency to impact negatively on food security, as well as undermine progress achieved in the agricultural sector.

Given that most businesses in the sector relied on mobile money (MOMO) and other electronic transactions to move funds around, the Chief Executive Officer of the chamber, Mr Anthony Morrison, said the implementation of the levy in the current form meant that capital transfers will attract 1.75 per cent tax, making it an additional impediment to a sector already bedeviled with myriad of challenges.

He said payment of workers' salaries through MOMO transfers, which was a common practice among the sector's entrepreneurs, would also attract the tax, further increasing their cost of doing business.

Consequently, he called on the government to either scrap the levy entirely or exempt the agricultural sector to help sustain the gains chalked up so far.

"We are against the E-Levy in the current form, nature and structure. We are ostensibly against it in that, it will retard trade in the rural agricultural economy.

"It will make the living standards of Ghanaians, especially those living in the city more expensive as people will find it difficult to aggregate agric produce from



the rural areas to the city," he said.

Aggregators

The chamber is also asking the government to exempt aggregators in the agriculture value chain from the proposed E-Levy.

It is of the view that the levy would be a disincentive to investment in the agric sector, considering that over 70 per cent of funding that comes to the sector are all from outside.

"The government has to exempt the agric sector from the E-Levy. When we are striving to feed the country, we shouldn't be paying unnecessary taxes. People who own farms load money to pay their workers numbering about 200 and over, and so when they are transferring money to help solve food security problems, government is taxing them exorbitantly," he said.

He added that, "it may happen that we are going to pay people by the book and the government may not get a penny. We are not against the payment of taxes but we need to find other mitigating measures."

Recommendation

The chamber suggested to the government to provide

registered businesses with a card so that any individual that loads more than GH¢10,000 on his MOMO account and is not a registered business, will attract a percentage in terms of tax.

"A blanket application of the E-Levy is a no no. There should be systems in place to discriminate," it said.

E-levy

The E-Levy imposed on mobile money and other electronic transactions was announced in the 2022 Budget and Economic Statement.

There are fears that the levy has the tendency to derail the country's digitalisation and financial inclusion agenda.

However, government officials insist that revenue to be collected from the proposed E-Levy would help the economy recover faster.

They argue that the new levy would help the government in its quest to provide and expand road infrastructure, support entrepreneurship drive, provide lasting solutions to youth unemployment, combat cyber security threats and expand digital infrastructure.



We must go the organic way to solve the toxic pesticide challenge

Over the past few weeks, I have been intrigued by two articles I read in this publication, both concerning a topic of my interest –the safety of the solutions we apply to wade off pests, both in our farmlands and in the granaries where we keep our harvest for the rainy days.

One of the articles tackles the unenviable task by government officials regulating our agriculture and health sectors to keep off the Rwanda market banned pesticides that continue to proliferate into the country and end up being used by unsuspecting farmers. These pesticides were blacklisted after being found to be more hazardous than others authorized under international instruments to which Rwanda is party, including the Rotterdam Convention, a multilateral treaty adopted in 1998 and aims to promote shared responsibilities in relation to importation of hazardous chemicals.

The same can be said of the dangers associated with toxic substances in the chemicals that we use to keep our produce, mainly grains, in storage safe from parasites. These chemicals are periodically applied to

ensure the harvest remains intact for a long time, which may end up making them harmful to human health.

Other unintended consequences include a possible ban of these grains on the international market owing to toxic substances, which means loss of income to farmers and by extension loss of valuable export revenue for the country.

Another equally serious challenge is how to dispose off the banned pesticides that are confiscated during these operations.

The concerns about the hazards brought about by the use of pesticides are not unfounded. The World Health Organization (WHO) says acute pesticide or insecticide poisoning affects millions of people globally and accounts for tens of thousands of unintentional deaths each year.

This is not to mention the harm attributable to these chemicals on the flora and fauna in our midst.

In fact, the second article I read from this very publication raises a critical point, which is the harm these pesticides and insecticides that we use to biodiversity. From the article, beekeepers in the country are crying foul, saying the population of bees in the country has significantly reduced, which has led to the reduction of honey harvested. The reason for this is the chemicals we use in our farms.

It goes without saying that it is not just the bees that are affected but other species as well, including birds and animals; both domestic and those in the wilderness.

Science has also proven that the pesticides we apply on our farmlands may have long term consequences on our soil, which eventually, affects productivity or at worst intoxicates the food grown in that soil, thereby threatening human life.

With land increasingly becoming a scarce resource in our country, we cannot afford any form of risk in that regard.

The other risk is that these pesticides/insecticides have to

be applied every planting season or even more than once a season. With such, pests end up growing resistant to them, leaving farmers in further dilemma.

Despite the gloomy picture however, all is not lost.

We basically need to find a way out of using inorganic pesticides – including those that may be authorized – because of these dangers associated with them.

Already, some solutions are being mooted, including growing predatory plants that would keep away the pests among other solutions. How practical this is, I would not know but if you asked me, any solution that falls under Integrated Pest Management (IPM) category is highly recommended.

IPM simply refers to a process you can use to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment.

IPM can be used to manage all kinds of pests anywhere—in urban, agricultural, and wildland or natural areas.

Fortunately, we do not have to reinvent the wheel because there are better ways of doing things the clean way, which have been tried and tested, some of which are applicable only once and remain active for a long time.

In my area of expertise which is post-harvest handling with specialty in grains, I have knowledge of different technologies that are effective and safer both for application in agricultural fields and in storage facilities.

These organic solutions which are internationally available in different forms including dust and liquid, are applicable in agricultural fields and on produce for post-harvest storage.

These constitute no chemical element and are all derived from natural source.

The advantages for these solutions include the fact that they are applied once and kills the entire cycle of pests, making them cost-effective and are also harmless to human life in case one has to keep them in a home.

Another notable advantage of this technology is that it is a green solution, safe for the wildlife, plants and water bodies, which bodes well with the country's aspirations of promoting a green economy.

It is already in use in countries like Canada, the US, Australia, South Korea and Nigeria.

As I conclude, I want to call upon all involved; the policymakers, researchers and all those involved along the agriculture value chain to give serious thought to the notion that we must grow healthy to eat healthy.





Agrochemicals, is their farming treachery?

Ever since the nation gained independence, Nigerians more than any people in the world, have been tortured and neglected in all fronts without regards. Is it in politics, education or healthcare, housing, transportation among others, the ugly news hits the citizens like a bullet and it's very painful to digest. Of late, the news that greets Nigerians daily has got so depressing that sometimes one wished to develop ear problem.

Well, if you harbour such thought, you may be abandoned in the island of the deaf as one may not be that lucky to be flown abroad for treatment like President Muhammadu Buhari.

Of course, one does not need to be told that majority of our Nigeria's best doctors have taken flight in search of greener pastures abroad. The measure bore a stamp of panic and worry, as to what the government has reduced the nation to. Also, the mockery it invites the country, should cause

a shiver of shame and fear among the public in a time such as the current COVID-19 pandemic that citizens need the services of doctors. Much of the cynicism in the society about government's intentions is that they die before their time. This is unwarranted and even harmful.

However, we need to have faith in our government and particularly so in its drive to save the citizens from hunger. It is therefore quite proper not to join forces with those who see only a future that is bleak as the past and as crippling as the present, but to have the burning zeal to increase food production through agriculture. If you were a bit vigilant you will notice that since the Buhari administration started the hype on agriculture as the next economic drive aside oil, all sorts of agrochemicals and pesticides found their way into the country. Of course the government was blinded in its day dreaming where it saw agriculture as the beautiful bride and intends to

feed the nation without importing food.

The Buhari administration's food sufficiency strategy was well designed to increase mechanised farming by encouraging people to go back to the farm. However, the rising insecurity in the country and the wobbling one step forward, two steps backwards makes me wonder if they could ever achieve the dream. To a large extent, the agricultural programme is all woolly words and vague declarations. If you watch closely what we consume lately in this country and especially so on what is used in most cases as preservatives you will be amazed about the death on demand as food.

Currently, Nigeria seems to be the only country in Africa which feels unwary about the consequences of arbitrary uncontrolled use of pesticides and harmful agrochemicals on consumables. The influx of banned agrochemicals finds its way unhindered into the country

irrespective of the health implications to consumers.

Yet beyond the hazardous health implications on some agrochemicals, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC's) language seems to showcase a political weakness on the side of the agency and government in particular. According to NAFDAC's Director General, Mojisola Christianah Adeyeye, "Global restriction is done in the interest of safety of the citizens, and what is obtainable in advance countries, in most cases are not obtainable in developing countries...NAFDAC has reviewed the safety of all registered agrochemicals in Nigeria..." The inability to have the political will and find a way to halt importation of agrochemicals already banned abroad could be very dangerous for Nigerians. It is important that we do not mince words about the weakness and shambles government at all levels has wrought on the citizenry. In any case, following NAFDAC's consultations with stakeholders, the phase out or ban of unsafe agrochemicals will wait until 2024 as it has a four year plan for that.

The question begging for answer is what happens to the citizens before the appointed time? The idea that law enforcement agencies chose to hide under a timeline to implement a ban on health challenging substances is unacceptable and shameful. In whatever situation, NAFDAC has reached the point where it must shake off its limitations and save

Nigerians from common causes of food poisoning. Aside the health implications the unregulated practice also allows the nation to suffer loss in billions of dollars to export earnings. This is as a result of food items such as beans, cocoa, yam among others that are not allowed in Europe and America because of the use of harmful preservatives.

Sooner than later, some farm produce may be questionable for consumption due to the poor control of agrochemicals. One of the most striking trends in recent times is that whereas, traditional farming and storage has been chequered and tragically abandoned. The preferred mechanised farming and storage that encourages agrochemicals is putting lives of Nigerians at risk. Notwithstanding, the more I think about it, the more I am persuaded that, farmers do not intend to kill people but the indiscriminate use of agrochemicals for greater yields of crops, less work and more profit is a huge concern. However, it is not a good record that Nigeria is soaring in life expectancy depreciation. Of course, this is alarming. The general assumption that the younger generation will live longer than the last is more or less a wishful thinking. Life expectancy in the country keeps dropping like an airplane that has lost its control.

Nothing could be more important than understanding the drivers of health and what we need to do to reverse our collective charge towards

calamity. On this premise, it is important to note that the effects are being felt of the over 40 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) among others who raised their voices in October 2021, over the dangers of highly hazardous pesticides in the country. Following their agitations, awareness and enlightenment before the public, the House of Representatives recently chose to take the bull by the horn as a Bill sponsored by Muntari Dandutse has passed its second reading. The Bill referred as, "A Bill for Act to provide for establishment of the Nigerian Pesticides Council and for Related Matters (HB1396)". From every indication a majority of the public thinks that the government is handling the harmful pesticides/ agrochemicals prohibition issue badly. While the vast majority believes that there is need to clean and clear the agricultural system of any dangerous or harmful chemicals.

The inconvenient truth about the foot dragging to ban harmful agrochemicals could be that some important personalities in the country may be behind its importation. It is high time farmers perish the thought about the assumption of greater production and profit that seems to matter more than human lives. Now that the regulatory agency, (NAFDAC) chose to wait until 2024 before a blanket ban on harmful agrochemicals, Nigerians as always have no option than to resign their fate to God.





Construction of Mwache Dam in Kenya to begin in February 2022

Construction of the US \$176M Mwache dam project in Kenya is set to commence in February 2022. Kenyan Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation revealed the report and said the move marks the end of about five years of negotiating land for the project and compensating people (about 12,000 people).

The Mwache multi-purpose dam development project is a priority investment by the Government as a flagship project of Vision 2030. The project was under the portfolio of the former Ministry of Regional Development Authorities (MoRDA) through the Coast Development Authority (CDA) working in partnership with Coast Water Services Board (CWSB).

The project which was first mulled by CDA in 1995 has been delayed due to lack of funding. But now plans to begin construction were given fresh



impetus when the government secured the required funding. Population growth and growing demand for precious water resources also accelerated the construction of the mega-dam.

Project's benefit

The project is being co-funded by the World Bank and the Government of Kenya to the tune of Sh 20bn. The dam site is

located across the Mwache River at the Fulugani village, Kwale County, about 22 km west of the city of Mombasa. The Coast Water Supply Master Plan identified the dam as the preferential, viable, and necessary long-term option for water supply to Mombasa and Kwale counties.

The dam is meant to harness floodwaters from Mwache River basin in Kinango Sub County and help tackle persistent water shortages in the coastal region. The Mwache Dam will be an 87.5 meter-tall concrete gravity dyke, impounding 118 million cubic meters for water supply and irrigation and is expected to boost the water supply for Kwale and Mombasa counties. The massive dam when complete is also expected to put 2,600 hectares of land under irrigation in Kwale County.



INTERNATIONAL WATER SCREENS

If you've got debris in your water... We can remove it.

International Water Screens can Design Manufacture and Install A Traveling Screen or Fish Screening system for your specific need



Debris removal from:

- Secondary water systems -
- Cooling tower systems -
- Pump inlet
- Canals & Reservoirs
- Waste water systems -
- Water Treatment facilities -
- Power Generation
- Hydroelectric Power facilities
- Golf Course Irrigation systems
- Nursery Irrigation



RICH GARGAN

(661) 979-1815

iwsrich@sbcglobal.net

CONTACT

CHRIS GARGAN

(661) 979-7206

iwschris@sbcglobal.net

JOEL IRVING

(310) 614-4681

iwsjoel@sbcglobal.net

International Water Screens

11007 Ainswick Dr. Bakersfield CA 93311 w: internationalwaterscreens.com Phone:

(661)-746-7959

RainFine Introduces Just-Fine Pipe

Corrosive water, caused by a number of factors ranging from high or low pH to variable mineral content to waste water applications, can weaken and deteriorate standard galvanized pipe, leading to premature failure.

RainFine Just-Fine irrigation uPVC lined pipes protect your irrigation pipelines from any corrosive components in your water, ensuring a long life for your machine.

"Farmers drive everything we do at RainFine – and water quality issues continue to be an increasingly prevalent challenge for growers around the world. While several different options to handle corrosive water have existed in the market for years, farmers told us there was a real need to have a better solution," said Wang Zhi, director of global sales at RainFine. "We looked at this issue with a new approach and redesigned an entirely different solution about which we are extremely proud and, even more importantly, that our farmer clients are telling us is an absolute gamechanger for them."

Other poly pipe type offerings in the market rely on polyethylene pipes and flanges for structural integrity, but the poly flanges create a gap between the steel flanges at the joint and can compress and crack over time, resulting in leaks.

The new Just-Fine pipe features a manufactured insert uv-stabilised plastic flange that allows for positive flange contact and eliminates the potential for a gap between flanges at joints, resulting in improved strength and span consistency.

It is the same span joint design used for existing RainFine galvanized pipe, but with the

added protection of the Just-Fine PVC liner through the span pipe to provide an unmatched level of quality and rigidity.

To address the pipe expansion and contraction challenges that cause the liner to move within the pipe, potentially leading to cracks and leaks, RainFine introduced two additional new design innovations.

1. Rigid uPVC provides the solid base for the pipe, and does not expand or contract like the poly pipes do and will not crack after time at any deviation like at flanges or pipe ends;
2. Stainless steel fittings (304) are used at the pipe ends for rigidity and keeping with the corrosion free goals. The Riser Pipes and Elbows are also supplied with 304 stainless steel;
3. The pipe uses an insert type flange with double rubber seals which allow for any expansion and contraction in the pipes, it provides a perfect fit and seal, eliminating any leakage; and
4. The pipe sprinkler outlet uses a ¾" 304 stainless steel outlets fitting with ideal unrestricted flow characteristics; with a strong nut that will not break off over time as poly ones are inclined to do.

Re-piping your older Lindsay or IrrFrance pivots with Just-Fine pipes and fittings can extend their life significantly, providing a longer-term solution to the conservative farm operator.

Benefits

- Just-Fine pipe is a comprehensive protection against corrosion made from an inert PVC material, making it ideal for chemigation, fertigation and resisting corrosive water.
- No leaking – wide self-seating pipe flange, stainless steel

self-locking sprinkler outlet couplers ensure a water-tight seal.

- Long lasting – the first machine with Just-Fine, installed in Australia is still operating with no leaks.
- All structural components – from pivot pipe to last pipe – are lined and uPVC protected.
- The joints are made of stainless steel maintaining structural integrity, while Overhangs are short and of minimum 6-5/8".
- Pipes available are 8" and 6-5/8".
- Not affected by abrasion from sand or sediment in irrigation water.
- Highly resistant to sunlight and humidity as the pipe is completely away from any UV.
- No substantial extra machine weight.

Features

- **Warranty:** A 20 years pipeline corrosion warranty includes unconditional replacement due to corrosion for 20 years. This is the longest and most substantial warranty in the industry.
- **Robust design:** Designed for agricultural, industrial and municipal water applications
- **Greater profit and productivity:** Allows you to take advantage of corrosive water, and allows chemigation and fertigation with aggressive chemicals.
- **Minimizes pressure loss:** Sprinkler outlets: Full size ¾" stainless steel self-locking couplings for minimal pressure loss and no leaks offering optimal flow characteristics.

For more information about protecting your pipes with Just-Fine pipes, contact your local RainFine dealer today.



Is it possible to pay less money for a corrosion protected pivot?



- ◆ Just-Fine PVC-lined pipes, stainless steel pivot joints and control panel come with a 20-year warranty, the best in the business.
- ◆ Just-Fine PVC-lined pipe is the perfect solution for corrosive, acid and saline water.
- ◆ Special PVC 2.5mm wall thickness PVC-pipe liner is stable in hot or cold climates.
- ◆ Sprinkler outlet is made of stainless steel with curvature on inner pipe wall.



video



website



AgDevCo attracts local investor to grow food crops in the Babator irrigated farming-hub

AgDevCo is pleased to announce that Oba Pack Company Limited, a Ghanaian-owned agribusiness, purchased the Babator Farming Company Limited (BFC) on 31 December 2021. Prior to the sale, AgDevCo Limited was the sole owner of BFC.

BFC is a 356 hectare irrigated commercial farm developed by AgDevCo from greenfield. The project was a proof of concept to attract investors to the Babator Irrigated Farming Hub (BIFH), an agricultural concession on the Black Volta River in the Savannah Region of northern Ghana, which could become the country's largest irrigated farming and processing site once fully developed.

Oba Pack will produce onions for its processing facility in Tuobodom, in the neighbouring Bono Region. The company plans to grow over 7,000 tonnes of onions at BFC for sale in the domestic market, with potential for further expansion. Despite being a staple part of local

cuisine, Ghana today imports up to 90% of the onions it consumes.

Oba Pack will also grow soya beans, in a sustainable crop rotation to promote good soil health. The soya will be sold to Ghana Nuts Company Limited, a company related to Oba Pack, to be processed into soy cake, primarily for the local poultry feed industry.

BFC already employs 58 staff, of whom half are women, in a rural area with very little formal employment. That number is expected to increase as Oba Pack expands. As the BIFH site attracts other commercial investors there will be further employment opportunities.

Obed Asante, CEO of Oba Pack, said: "Our investment in BFC is key to our long-term strategy of vertical integration. BFC enables us to start farming immediately, with secure access to land, machinery and equipment. There is ample year-round irrigation, good road infrastructure, and a

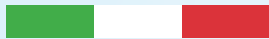
strong relationship with local communities developed by AgDevCo."

Daniel Hulls, CEO of AgDevCo, said: "Oba Pack's investment in BFC is an important milestone for AgDevCo as it demonstrates investor confidence in BIFH from a leading Ghanaian agribusiness. This investment should help unlock further investment into BIFH to benefit local communities and help commercialise Ghana's agriculture sector."

Alongside developing the BFC project, AgDevCo has been planting tree crops (including mangoes, cashew and moringa) at BIFH and promoting smallholder outgrower schemes. There is a community fund which receives a share of revenue from commercial investors operating within the concession. To date, the fund, AgDevCo and BFC have supported a local school, health clinic and a water treatment system.

HIGH QUALITY NOZZLES FOR ALL FARMING APPLICATIONS

MADE IN
ITALY



TOPGUN

www.asjnozzle.it
export@asjnozzle.it



Mobile drip irrigation results in high yields and water savings

Higher biomass, less water and more fruit are the results of the first year in a Texas A&M AgriLife Research study comparing mobile drip irrigation, MDI, to low-elevation sprinkler application, LESA, irrigation systems.

The project comparing types of irrigation and irrigation scheduling is led by Charlie Rush, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research plant pathologist and a faculty member in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology within Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Amarillo.

Funding is provided by a grant from the Irrigation Innovation Consortium at Colorado State University.

Rush is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service faculty at Bushland and industry partners to investigate the potential of producing high-quality vegetables under irrigation for fresh market sales.

Irrigation systems in the study

Most vegetable farmers use stationary drip irrigation, either subsurface or surface. In contrast, most crop growers in the High Plains grow traditional crops and use center pivots for sprinkler irrigation.

"We want to look for options for Texas High Plains producers to use specialty crops to diversify their operation and have the potential to get higher returns for their water," he said. "We know high-value crops do best under drip irrigation. However, most producers have already invested in center pivot systems, so we feel this study will let them see if it will be worth their time to retrofit those with draglines."

The two-year study compares MDI and LESA irrigation systems against the traditional subsurface drip irrigation. Additionally, the study uses neutron probes to measure soil moisture and help determine irrigation timing.

The MDI system attaches to existing center pivot irrigation

"Since the water applied was less with MDI, and the yield was higher, the overall water-use efficiency was higher under MDI,"

systems and applies water directly to the soil surface as the driplines are dragged across the field to provide uniform wetness.

The LESA irrigation system is representative of traditional irrigation in most fields. It includes spray nozzles that hang from the center pivot and place the water application about 2 feet from the soil surface.

First-year study shows differences

Ranjeeta Adhikari, Ph.D., a post-doctoral researcher in Rush's program, ran the trials using two spans of a traditional LESA center pivot system, retrofitted with MDI on the AgriLife Research facilities at Bushland.

The study included four replications of each MDI and LESA, with 10-foot row spacings and 26 inches between plants. Production was compared to that using traditional stationary drip as a control. While the plan was to use both tomatoes and watermelons, herbicide drift damaged the tomatoes. So, the same variety of watermelon was planted across the entire test.

The team transplanted the watermelon plants from the greenhouse on May 27. Harvests were Sept. 1, Sept. 15, Oct. 1 and Oct. 15. During the second and third harvests, they selected an equal amount of fruit for quality analysis. The LESA tests did not make it to the fourth harvest, as the plants had died back by then.

Adhikari said there was no difference in the sugar content and fruit size of the watermelons between the treatments. But there were significant

differences in other areas, including:

- Much higher biomass — 35% more — and ground coverage appeared under MDI compared to LESA.
- Vegetation difference started to show 40-45 days after transplanting.
- MDI led to a longer vegetative and fruit-growth period. The plants under LESA started to die earlier than those under MDI.
- The number of fruit and total fruit yield was much higher with MDI — almost 30% higher — compared to LESA.
- LESA used more water for the same amount of production. So, MDI had higher water-use efficiency.

Water-use efficiency results promising

During the first phase of the experiment, from planting to mid-July, the same amount of water was applied with LESA and MDI — 1 inch per week for a total of 9 inches, Adhikari said. During the remainder of the growing season, neutron probe readings of each plot dictated how much water the plot would receive.

The LESA plot received 13 inches during this second phase, reaching a total of 22 inches. The MDI section required only 10.5 inches in the second phase, for a total of 19.5 inches.

The yields recorded include:

- Single fruit weight averaged 13.9 pounds under LESA and 14.7 pounds under MDI.
- The number of fruits per plant was 1.5 under LESA and 1.9 under MDI.
- The fruit yield averaged 20.1 pounds per plant on LESA and 27.5 pounds per plant for MDI.

"Since the water applied was less with MDI, and the yield was higher, the overall water-use efficiency was higher under MDI," Adhikari said. "MDI allows the water to be applied directly to the root zone, while the LESA application doesn't all fall on the root zone, affecting everything from forage to fruit. More of the water evaporates and is inaccessible under LESA."



SMART HAND TOOLS FOR IRRIGATION PIPES

Original and Patented Tools for punching precise holes and inserting fittings, drippers and start connectors.

For over 25 years serving our global customers with state of the art and custom irrigation Tools.



Made in ISRAEL.

office@al-magor.co.il

Visit our web site to see the "how to use" video at:

www.al-magor.co.il

We are looking for local Distributors – please contact us at - haimk@al-magor.co.il



Expert Suggests Ways To Reduce Cost Of Feeds For Poultry Production

AN expert in the poultry value chain, Mr Taofiq Hamzat, has suggested ways poultry farmers can reduce cost of feeds for poultry production by producing themselves.

Hamzat, who is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hamkat Global Services and Principal Partner, Jazkat Integrated Services, while speaking with the Nigerian Tribune, noted globally, feeds account for more 60 to 70 per cent of poultry production.

He further stated that: "For a farmer to generate enough money from his poultry farm, he must be able to take care of the feeds. There are ways with which cost of feeds can be reduced. The first one is for a farmer to formulate his own diet, for instance, a 25kg bag of broiler feed is about N7,300, one bird will eat close to 4kg till market size which means we are talking about 16 bags of feeds, if you multiply that, that will be N115,000.

"But if you mix your own feeds, you can save as much as N30,000 just from 100 fowls. So, if you raise 1,000 fowls, you can save up to N300,000. Number two is that you can always buy your feeds ingredients when they are cheap. We all know maize is seasonal, we know when it is cheap, you can bulk purchase, you can shop around, if you go to one shop if it is not available you can go to another

"So that at least you will be able to obtain feeds ingredients that are cheap to get your animals going. But for a poultry farmer to get optimum result, there are four keys to adhere to, the first one is passion: You cannot do anything if you do not have passion for it. The second one is presence, you cannot be an absentee poultry farmer, if you set up a poultry farm, you must find a way of establishing your presence in that farm.

"You can do it by proxy, in this world of technology you can install CCTV in your farm to monitor what is going on when you were not around. The third one is perseverance, we all know that where there is life, there will be death. You can have as high as ten thousand birds today, if you are careless or if anything goes wrong, you can lose all of them within four weeks which means you must be somebody that is ready to persevere that is if you have any problem, you will start all over again.

"And the last one is partnership. A poultry farmer should not operate in isolation, you network with your colleagues. For instance, if they are selling tons of maize, you can network. If you are not able to buy a whole truck, gather yourself to contribute money and buy the truckload of maize and share.

"You can introduce ways by which all of you would rally round and probably talk on

problems that you experience within your various farms so that you know how to address such problem."

Hamzat also advised poultry farmers that: "There are certain measures to be taken especially during the heat period. Because experience has shown that there are losses during heat period. Number one: Make sure you supply a lot of water. Because during this period birds can consume five times they consume during the normal weather. Aside that, make sure you introduce measures that will ensure you do not waste feeds.

"During heat period you can change your feeds to pelleted form, with that you are not going to use more feeds and will save energy. Also, during the heat period, make sure you feed them only during the cold time so that your mortality will not be much.

"Poultry farmers must also remove unproductive and sick animals from their floor. For instance, you have hundred fowls and two or three of them are sick, remove them and sell them off because they will be eating and will not be productive. By so doing, the food meant for hundred will be consumed by 90 and you will get the same result so there are other technical things that can be done to make sure that you bring cost of production down, but feed is the major thing. The moment the problem of feed is off, you are good to go."

Poultry Farmers Decry High Cost Of Maize, Soybean, Seek Govt Intervention



The Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN) have lamented over the high cost of feed production raw materials like maize, soybean and other micro-ingredients which it said was because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PAN also called on the Federal Government to assist the poultry farmers with credit facilities and also monitor the disbursement of the funds.

In a new year message of the Chairman of PAN Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Chapter, Pius Aminu, he advised poultry farmers to be more vigilant and security conscious around their farms.

"We are also deeply concerned with the high prices of inputs viz maize, soya, micro-ingredients and others which have affected our beloved poultry farmers and have contributed to the closure of several farms within FCT.

"This is largely attributed to COVID-19 Pandemic. All relevant stakeholders are being engaged to cushion the effects of this so we crave understanding and patience from our esteemed poultry farmers as this will soon fizzle out.

"Maize, in particular, is a gold mine for hoarders which is

impacting negatively on poultry farmers.

"Government is also very much supportive to farmers in that regard but we seek for more Government interventions in the areas of monitoring, tracking and proper utilisation of funds released for cushioning programmes to avoid the collapse of the poultry business with its attendant negative impact on employment.

"As we are all aware of the security challenges facing our dear nation we once again appeal to Government to prioritise disbursement of credit facilities to the poultry sector because despite the daunting challenges the poultry farmers are still able to sustain their employment generation which if given adequate attention to genuine and active poultry farmers that will surely impact positively on the security challenges facing our nation, as there is a direct relationship between insecurity and unemployment which can affect security.

"The FCT Chapter is very ready to partner with Government in that regard. The Sustainability of our poultry business is our mission, we will continue to drive that mission through our price advisory and monitoring

committee to advise our farmers on appropriate pricing of poultry products.

"We advise our farmers to be more vigilant and security conscious around their farms," he said.

He encouraged existing poultry farmers and potential poultry farmers to ensure their registration status is verified and confirmed on their website using their membership registration number, noting that "henceforth only those farmers that are duly uploaded on our website will be given considerations, this is to enable us to know our active and non-active farmers."

Aminu said that in 2022, FCT PAN will pay more attention in these areas, quality membership drive, training and retraining of poultry Farmers in FCT to embrace the modern and improved practices in poultry business to enhance performance.

Others are building more networks with stakeholders to ensure collaboration and supports, effective collaboration with Press/ media houses to bring our opinion and narrative down to the relevant authorities, ensuring inclusive performance of both small, medium and large scale poultry farmers in all programs of the Association.

Avian Influenza infects 9,470 birds in Bono Region

“We have barricaded these farms from encroachment to prevent further spread and destroyed all the affected birds and eggs as well”,

Outbreak of the Avian Influenza has hit the Bono Region, infecting more than 9,470 birds since last Thursday January 13, 2022.

Dr Donald Joachim Darko, the Bono Regional Director of the Veterinary Services told the Ghana News Agency (GNA) in an interview in Sunyani, the outbreak was detected in only two farms, saying 780 crates of eggs were also affected and destroyed.

He said the affected farms had been barricaded to ward-off people, and called on the public to remain calm as measures were put in place to control further spread.

“We have barricaded these farms from encroachment to prevent further spread and destroyed all the affected birds and eggs as well”, Dr Darko stated.

He said the infection could be transported from the Ashanti region or imported from the Ashanti region or neighbouring Cote D'Ivoire, and advised poultry farmers in the region to be watchful and report any abnormalities in their farms to the service.

Dr Darko said his outfit had also intensified public education on the influenza, and advised the public to also remain watchful as well.





Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) Supports Modern Poultry Farming in Somalia

This groundbreaking modern poultry project was implemented to provide food and employment opportunities for the growing population in Somalia

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) built a modern poultry farm with a total floor space of 198 sq. meters in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, as part of the "Project for Developing Layer Poultry Farming in Somalia," implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, and Zamzam University.

1200 ATA-K-S layer chicks, which are bred in our country; various pieces of equipment; vaccines; and feed units were provided

This groundbreaking modern poultry project was implemented to provide food and employment opportunities



1200 ATA-K-S layer chicks, which are bred in our country; various pieces of equipment; vaccines; and feed units were provided

for the growing population in Somalia, located in the Horn of Africa, and to create new sectors in the country.

As part of the project, a poultry farm with a total floor space of 198 sq. meters was built, and 1200 ATA-K-S layer chicks, which are bred in our country; various pieces of equipment; vaccines; and feed units were provided.

Assoc. Prof. Serdar Kamanlı from the Directorate of Poultry Research Institute in Ankara trained Somali academics and specialists at Zamzam University in order to share Turkey's knowledge of poultry.

After the training, the farm was put into service with the participation of Turkish and Somali officials.

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA).



FG moves to reduce importation of livestock products

The Federal Government is determined to reduce the importation of dairy products, scale up its local production as well as marketing in the country.

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Ernest Umakhihe, made the disclosure on Tuesday, at the opening of the National Dairy Policy Validation workshop in Abuja.

The workshop was organised by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

It aimed to harvest the inputs of relevant stakeholders for the purpose of enriching the National Dairy Policy for Nigeria.

Umakhihe described the National Dairy Policy as apt and articulate, which is in accordance with the vision of the Federal Government for the dairy industry.

"This meeting cannot come at a better time than now because a National Policy for dairy and dairy products in Nigeria is long overdue.

" There has been a continuous drive towards meeting national sufficiency in dairy production to reduce the huge amount spent on importation of dairy products in order to bridge the huge gap between supply and demand.

" Successive Administrations had made efforts to close the gap through programmes such as Dairy Development Programme, National Livestock Breed Improvement Programme, among others thus creating opportunity for private sector participation.

" The draft policy will support the implementation of the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Plan (NATIP) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD).

" It will give defined direction for the country's dairy industry

where all players at whatever scale will be expected to abide by rules of operation, in terms of production, processing and marketing of dairy products in Nigeria.

" I am glad that we are gradually approaching the stage of finalising the draft document by this validation workshop.

" This effort at putting in place a National Dairy Policy for the country is apt for the realisation of the vision of the Federal Government articulated through the change approach and a standard practice to be applied at every level of society, public and private, towards a pragmatic national development.

" This approach is to significantly reduce importation of livestock and livestock products and at the same time stimulate exports to enhance national income generation.

" The private sector will remain in the lead while the government will provide the enabling environment through policies, infrastructure, systems control

processes and oversight support," he said.

Earlier, Mrs Winnie Lai- Solarin, the Director, Department of Animal Husbandry Services, Ministry of Agriculture, said that the role of the dairy industry could not be overemphasised as far as quality nutrition and overall food security were concerned.

She noted that the dairy subsector has been impeded with many issues and institutional challenges that have prevented its growth alongside other agricultural subsectors.

"The major issue is that of low milk yield, poor handling and post-harvest losses of dairy products.

" We need to continually improve the productivity of the dairy animals genetically, health and management practices to be able to respond to market-driven productivity objectives.

" There is a need for a mechanism to effectively

regulate the dairy sector at all levels starting from animal breeding, milk collection, processing and marketing.

"The National Dairy Policy will give a framework for improving the productivity of the dairy sector in a well-planned and sustainable manner across the various agro-ecological zones of the country", she said.

In his goodwill message, Prof. Hussaini Ibrahim, the Director-General, Raw Material Research Development Council, noted that a national dairy policy was a fundamental base needed to drive a viable dairy industry.

Ibrahim, who was represented by Dr Mary Abiareye, expressed the readiness of the Agency to partner in the progress for the upgrading of Nigeria's Local Dairy Sector.

" This is a very important draft document having input from wider stakeholders that will direct and guide operations of the dairy sector.

" There is no doubt that validation of this workable policy catering for the interest of every player in the dairy industry will stimulate and drive a viable dairy sector.

" This is a very important draft document to guide and direct the operations of dairy products in Nigeria," he said.

Also, Mr Temi Adegoroye, Managing Partner, Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Limited, noted that the policy document was timely and a significant milestone in the agricultural sector. He said it would guide both private and public investments as well strengthen the small dairy producers in Nigeria as well as the dairy sector.

On his part, the Registrar, Animal Science Institute of Nigeria, Prof. Eustace Iyayi, who was represented by Mrs Bisi Akinfolarin, said the document would reposition the dairy sub-sector in Nigeria.





‘Development of livestock value chain will save N30b yearly’

RMRDC partners OAU on blood meal in animal feeds

Despite the current 10 per cent local content in milk production in Nigeria and with the dogged resolve by relevant collaborators, the livestock subsector has a very bright future and will, within the next few years, save the country more than N30 billion yearly in foreign exchange equivalent. This was disclosed by the Raw Material Research and Development Council (RMRDC) while disclosing benefits of a fully developed livestock sector to The Guardian. In addition to saving forex, employment generation and poverty reduction would be accompanying benefits.

Livestock is a vital component of food security and industrial raw materials globally. As a result, nearly all countries strive to sustainably develop their livestock value chains.

The Director-General of RMRDC, Prof. Hussaini Doko Ibrahim, explained that even during COVID-19 disruptions,

governments in most parts of the world initiated policies to promote development of livestock, and these led to increase in livestock products during the pandemic. The global milk production, he said, reached nearly 906 million tonnes in 2020, up by 2.0 per cent from 2019. This is driven by output increase in all geographical regions, except in Africa.

The global dairy market, valued at \$718.9 billion in 2019, is projected to grow to \$1032.7 billion by 2024. The global market is primarily dominated by the milk segment, followed by butter and cheese segments. The yogurt and dairy desserts segments are expected to be the fastest-growing segments across the world.

In addition, according to WHO, the yearly meat production is projected to increase from 218.0 million metric tonnes in 1997-1999 to 376.0 million metric tonnes by 2030. This is due to the growing demand for low-fat

and high-protein diet across the world.

“The statistics shows many opportunities exist for foreign exchange generation in Nigeria if the livestock sub-sector is optimally developed. In 2016, Nigeria was recorded as having the third largest livestock population in Africa. Despite this, there is lack of sufficient animal protein in the diet of the average Nigerian.

“Available statistics shows that the domestic supply of animal protein is growing at 1.8 per cent, while the overall demand is estimated to be rising at 51 per cent.

“Also, out of the estimated demand of about 1.7 million tonnes of milk, only about 692,570 tonnes were produced locally. This makes Nigeria the largest importer of processed milk and other dairy products in West Africa with an estimated expenditure of about \$1.5 billion yearly, as the indigenous dairy cattle breeds produce about two

litres of milk per day," Prof. Ibrahim said.

He disclosed that in view of the importance of optimising livestock value chain for sustainable development, RMRDC had initiated a livestock development programme, aimed at overhauling the livestock value chain from production to marketing. This includes improvements in the cattle breeds for milk, meat and leather production, coupled with industrial utilisation of waste products, such as blood, horns and hoofs.

One of the major projects embarked on was the expansion of FCT mini dairy plant at Paikon-Kore in Gwagwalada area council, which was initiated in line with the Federal Government's policy of enhancing traditional livestock productivity, as well as resolving the constant conflicts between farming communities and pastoralists.

The project, which was handicapped by some technicalities, had been overhauled through collaboration between RMRDC and other stakeholders, the RMRDC boss said.

He added that a grazing reserve of about 50 hectares of land had been put in place and grassed by Federal Ministry of Agriculture, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and RMRDC had prepared a feasibility study for the upstream and downstream components of the project.

"USAID has donated a 1000-litre milk collection centre with a back-up generator for the project while the ARD-FCT Secretariat has donated a complete building and RMRDC has renovated the building and installed the milk collection tank," he said.

In addition, a total of 408 milk cooperative farmers have been trained on milk hygiene and handling by RMRDC and USIAD. The second phase of the project is expected to expand the milk collection center to a mini dairy.

RMRDC is also working with the Adamawa State FADAMA III Project, the Adamawa State

Agricultural Development and Investment Ltd. (AADIL), Modibo Adama University of Technology (MAUTECH) and Gurin/Mbamba Community Associations to promote the use of artificial insemination (AI) techniques for increased production of milk and beef from the filial generation of inseminated cattle and to provide training to AI and milk processors.

On use of cattle blood in animal feed production, the council, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, has developed a vegetable curried blood meal as raw material for the livestock feeds industry and appropriate techniques for processing of blood into blood meal.

Fourteen useful raw materials for the feed mill industry have been produced from abattoir waste and by-products (blood and rumen content). The project, when fully commercialised, would reduce the cost of production of blood meal and the environmental pollution problems arising from abattoir wastes in the country.

To further the objectives of the programme, the council is collaborating with Superlinks Integrated Service to promote investments on the utilisation of the hoofs and horns of slaughtered livestock for the production adhesive, shoe soles and other products, which are mostly imported.

Ibrahim said a research work carried out at Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State, had led to production of gelatine, adhesive, calcium phosphate, shoe soles and bone marrow, enriched bone pastel, using cow hoofs, horns, bones and skin. A feasibility report has been prepared for the pilot plant stage of the project, which will commence in 2022.

The Provost of the Federal College of Animal Health and Production Technology, Dr Olatunde Owosibo, affirmed that the livestock and poultry subsectors are capable of generating direct and indirect millions of jobs, wealth and national wealth if fully supported with enabled environment and resources.



1,4 million cattle sold during drought ... restocking hinders supply of beef to markets

THE inability by the country to produce enough animal feed and supplements led to cattle producers running to abattoirs during droughts to sell their livestock before they die.

Then after rains, they restock, a process that takes time and affects the supply and affordability of beef in the country.

In the three year drought the country experienced, cattle producers de-stocked more than a million cattle according to the latest Meat Board of Namibia (MBN) newsletter.

"After a persistent drought saw more than 1 362 364 million cattle marketed during 2017-2019 a slow-down of more than half was recorded in 2020," the newsletter revealed.

The Meatboard added: "This resulted in producers entering into a herd-building season after the drought-induced marketing activity over the past three years".

The board explained that with limited slaughtering, prices are expected to increase as Namibia will find it difficult to satisfy demands, "although the Norwegian quota is expected to receive priority".

The newsletter also highlighted that the 2021 producer prices are in all cases higher than those of 2020.

Due to low supplies from local producers, especially those on the south of the redline, Botswana was identified as such a source due to their similar environmental conditions and a foot-and-mouth disease-free zone.

This is after the Botswana government temporarily lifted a moratorium on live exports, and Namibian abattoirs may take advantage thereof.

However, only male animals may be imported from Botswana's FMD zone, subject to strict requirements set by the Namibian Directorate of Veterinary Services.

From a preliminary application for 1 904 cattle, 1 389 have already been imported for slaughter at local abattoirs.

Total marketing of cattle declined by 39,84% during the first quarter of 2021 where 41 842 cattle were marketed compared to 69 550 during the corresponding quarter of 2020.

From the total cattle marketed, 61% were live exports, as producers opt for weaner exports to South Africa.

While 22% were taken up by export abattoirs, B&C class abattoirs enjoyed 17% of the market share, the Meat Board revealed.

Up to 98% of all live cattle exported were sent to South Africa (25 129 animals out of 25 650) with Angola taking up 2% (521 animals) of live exports.

"Of these live cattle exports, 99% were weaners (the general categorisation of weaners includes steers and heifers) and these were destined for South African feedlots, while the remainder constituted only 1% of live exports," says the Meat Board.

This is despite Namibian weaner prices increasing by 23,13% during the first quarter of 2021 compared to 2020, while South African weaner prices increased by 22,12%.

On average Namibian weaners traded at N\$41,66 per kg during the first quarter of 2021.

This is N\$3,76 per kg higher than South African weaners, which

could be discouraging the demand for Namibian weaners from the neighbouring country, although the live export numbers tell a different story.

THE NORTHERN CASE

While the south scrambles for cattle, the northern side of the redline has around 1,7 million cattle, according to Meatco's annual report, with no market except for use during burials, weddings, and sale at kapana stalls.

The Meatboard said: "It was concluded that for the short term, all efforts should focus on the commodity-based trade process".

This is due to various reasons, mainly the available infrastructure that already exists and costs to bring beef exports to enhanced yield markets in the short term, the newsletter read.

In the long-term, the creation of a new foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and cattle lung disease (CBPP) free zone within the current FMD protection zone (north of the redline) can be considered.

"Other options such as the erection of a border fence on the Namibia-Angola border, as well as the creation of an FMD and CBPP free compartment, were considered less practical and too expensive, the board revealed.

They added that the fence will remain, regardless.

"Regardless of which option is followed, the preservation of the integrity of the cordon fence, the maintenance of the quarantine farms and camps north of the redline, and an effective vaccination programme against FMD remain crucial,"

Revival of grazing reserves ongoing in 21 states

The Federal Government says it is working towards resolving farmer/herder clashes through the revival of grazing reserves in 21 out of the 36 states of the Federation.

Alhaji Sabo Nanono, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, disclosed this on Tuesday in a Webinar on Nigeria Dairy Industry.

The webinar was organised by the Policy and Advocacy Centre (PAC) of Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).

It is to mark the World Milk Day, 2021 with the theme: "Sustainability in the Dairy Sector."

This declaration by the Federal Government came as the ACCI's policy centre issued a policy brief on Nigeria Dairy Sector with far reaching policy recommendations to deepen and expand the dairy sector.

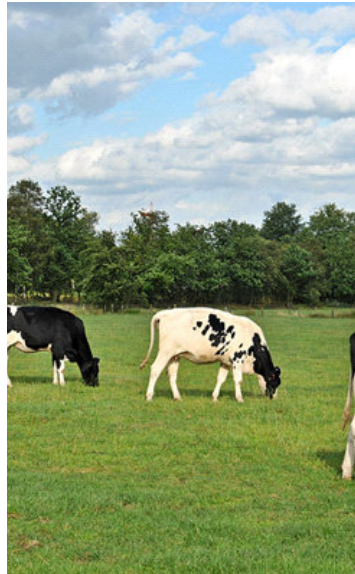
Nanono, represented by Mrs Mercy Otiteh, said the ministry had mobilised contractors to various sites across the country with a target to revive the grazing reserves.

According to him, work is presently ongoing with monitoring team supervising progress of works at various centres.

Nanono said the Federal Government was committed to providing infrastructures that would make the reserves suitable for pastoralist, thereby increasing Nigerians local dairy production capacity.

He noted that government was collaborating with local and international partners to improve relationship between farmer/herder through revitalisation of grazing reserves.

He urged Nigerians to support government efforts in its avowed resolve to find lasting solution to the clashes.



Dr Al-Mujtaba Abubakar, President, ACCI while commending government's efforts, officially released the ACCI policy brief on Dairy Sector in Nigeria.

Abubakar called for intensive backward integration within the dairy sector as currently championed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the ministry of agriculture.

"The major policy thrust of the ACCI-Policy brief on the dairy sub-sector are as follows: Continuation and expansion of backward integration being supported by CBN and Private-sector-driven implementation of the National livestock transformation plan.

"Creation of the private sector driven ranching system, Establishment of a National Dairy Board, Training and capacity building of pastoralists and Deployment of modern technology to every segment of the dairy business," he said.

Also speaking, the Vice President Agric, ACCI and Chairman, Agric Trade Group, Dr Kolawole Owoka, called for concerted efforts to increase local production of

milk to save carve foreign reserve.

Owoka said that ending open grazing was in the collective interest of Northerners and Southerners and urged governments to fast track ongoing works on the grazing reserves.

The keynote speaker, Mr Azubike Nwokoye from ActionAid Nigeria, also called for increased government funding in agriculture sector, especially the livestock industry due to the current national security challenges.

Azubike said adequate funding was necessary to realise the goal of ranching and grazing reserves, noting that without funding it would be difficult to stop open grazing.

"Cow rearing demands lots of water. Therefore, we suggest that solar power borehole should be widely provided to meet the needs of pastoralists and cows," he added.

Mr Israel Dan'Aut, Representative of Chi Ltd., commended the Federal Government, CBN and Niger State government for their support to expand local production of milk.

Listing various efforts by Chi Ltd. to source milk locally, he said its ongoing project in Niger was being deployed to empower local milk producers as well as raise new breeds of cows with higher milk generating capacity.

The Director-General, ACCI, Victoria Akai, advised governments at all levels to put the private sector in the driver seat on the implementation of national livestock transformation plan.

She said that Public Private Partnership is at the heart of the ACCI policy brief that would be widely circulated to governments and stakeholders for actions.

Rwanda: Govt to Cut Lending Rates On Loans to Poultry, Pig Farmers

The government is set to launch a new financing scheme to lower interest rates for pig and poultry farmers as well as animal feed producers in need of bank loans.

The new scheme has been designed to reduce interest rates on loans given to pig and poultry farmers as well as others in the value chain to as low as 8 per cent, according to a government official.

Solange Uwituze, Deputy Director General in charge of Animal Resources Research and Technology Transfer at Rwanda Agricultural and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) told The New Times that the government could pay for beneficiaries up to interest rates totalling up to Rwf100 million.

"This means that a farmer or animal feed producers must make sure they request a loan that will not exceed the interest rate worth Rwf100 million," she disclosed.

This means for example, she illustrated that if a bank calculates that you have to pay Rwf350 million interest rates on a loan you acquired, we will only pay Rwf100 million for you.

At least Rwf2 billion, she said, will be channelled through the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) which will work with commercial banks to lend it out to beneficiaries.

She disclosed that the funding will begin this month.

The move is part of the measures to increase the share of bank loans to the agriculture sector, which has stagnated at around 5 per cent of the total loans to the economy.

With lower interest rates, government hopes to attract more investment in the industry to increase production of poultry and pig products.



It will also raise the country's prospects of meeting its 2035 and 2050 food demand.

Rwanda's population is projected to grow 18 million people by 2035 and 22 million by 2050, increasing the country's food demand.

"Arable land is limited and that is why we need to do farming in a professional and modern way," she noted.

Increasing animal food reserves

The government also hopes that the low interest rates will spur investments in livestock production to boost the balance sheet of animal feeds.

"The alternative, for instance, includes multiplication of flies known as 'black soldier flies' which have qualities as that of soybeans," Uwituze said, disclosing that the government has hired researchers to assess the viability of this type of animal feed.

The findings on the project are expected by the end of this year.

Such flies, she said, are fed on waste or left overs such as fruits and food and then they lay large quantities of eggs which are dried and produced into animal feeds for pigs, poultry and fish.

She added that three animal feed factories are working with government institutions in charge of standards on feeds from black Soldier Flies which are considered as an

inexpensive and sustainable source for animal feed.

Research is also being carried out on sweet potato vines to be mixed with other ingredients such as black soldier flies to make quality feeds for animals.

Farmers, animal feeds producers speak out

According to Steven Mufafiri, the poultry and pig farmer who is also owner of Walker Animal Feed Factory, the animal feeds are still expensive because raw materials are expensive. Production is also low, he says.

"We need financing and subsidies to increase production of animal feeds for poultry and pigs and it could also reduce the price of animal feed," he said, adding that if farmers in association group themselves together, they can be facilitated to buy feed at a good price from the factory without relying on middlemen.

Jean Claude Shirimpumu, the Chairman of Rwanda Pig Farmers Association, said that the association has set up rules that will guide it in revamping the sector and tapping into new opportunities.

According to RAB, at least 10 improved pig slaughterhouses across the country need to be constructed before the end of the current fiscal year, saying there are also two big and modern slaughterhouses and processing plants for pigs planned for by 2023.



Agric and Livestock Survey go digital

The Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (Zimstat) is for the first time conducting the 2021 Agriculture and Livestock Survey (ALS) electronically using the Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) which is expected to improve data collection monitoring and quality of work.

Zimstat used to rely on Paper Assisted Personal Interviews (PAPI) which was labour intensive and took long to process data.

The organisation is carrying out the ALS to collect data for use in assessing the food security position at both household and national level, compilation of the contribution of agriculture industry to country Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and formulation of Government's agricultural policies among other things.

The ALS is an annual survey, which consists of nine modules and conducted at different times of the year in line with the agriculture season.

Some of the modules are conducted quarterly while others are conducted annually.

The survey which is running from May to June will also be used to gather data to be used for economic analysis of the agriculture industry, intake planning of crops and livestock output and forecasting of agricultural inputs use by farmers.

Zimstat production statistics director, Mrs Matiwonesha Phiri said this time, the ALS was being conducted the Computer Assisted Personal interviews.

"This is the first time Zimstat is conducting the Agriculture and Livestock Survey using CAPI. Using the technology, interviewers ask questions from respondents and record them using a computer or tablet instead of recording the responses on paper.



Advertiser's Index

Pg.1 Custom Ag Intel
Pg.2 Hidros SA
Pg.7 Custom Ag Intel
Pg.9 Fragomen
Pg.11 Hidros SA
Pg.17 Delmhorst
Pg.20 Mann Filter
Pg.23 Moving Parts
Pg.35 IWS
Pg.37 RainFine
Pg.39 ASJ Nozzle
Pg.41 Almagor
Pg.54 Stoll Germany
Pg.55 Moving Parts
Pg.56 ASJ Nozzle

www.stoll-germany.com



STOLL



Solid

Tractor range 45 - 135 hp



CompactLine

Tractor range 15 - 60 hp

Torben Meyer
Area Sales Manager

Mobile: +49 (0) 171 / 2 27 13 91
E-Mail: tm@stoll-germany.com

STOLL.
Home of Quality.



VAPORMATIC
AUTHORISED
DISTRIBUTOR



MOVING PARTS

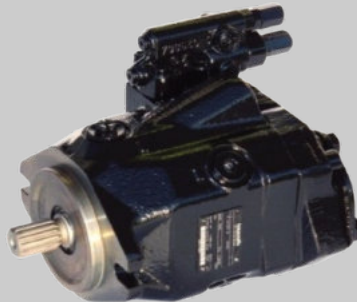
TRACTOR SPARES
EST 2014

**ALL SPARES
FOR ALL TRACTORS**



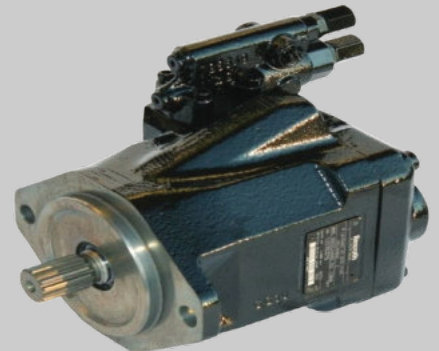
VAPORMATIC

MPAL161043
JD6000 SERIES HYD PUMP
41CM3 REXBOTH



VAPORMATIC

MPAL161041
JD6000 SERIES HYD PUMP
25CM3 REXROTH



VAPORMATIC

MPAL166639
JD6000 SERIES HYD PUMP 45CM3
REXROTH



VAPORMATIC

MP3677515M91
LANDINI CAB FILTERS



VAPORMATIC

FD6610S NEF NATURALLY ASPIRATED
PISTONS+RINGS

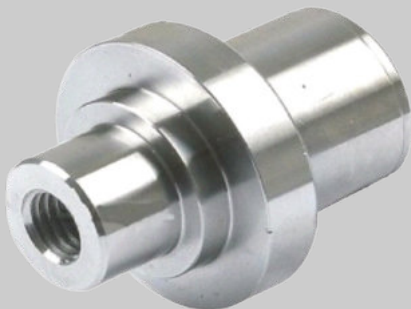


VAPORMATIC

MPAL227049
JD6000 SERIES FLANGED
LIP SEAL



MPAT20371
JD MANUAL STEERING SHAFT



MP355786M1
LANDINI KING PINS TRUNIONS



VAPORMATIC

MPAL75338
JD5725 HEADLIGHT



MP3691665M1
LANDINI PTO SHAFT COUPLING
3 AND 6 SPLINE



033 345 7400
We can deliver
country wide!



Lee 076 152 1554
Duncan 060 955 6619
Jayden 063 741 4433



25 Wiston Road
Pietermaritzburg, KZN



lee@movingparts.co.za

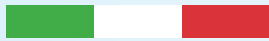
**Disclaimer: Original equipment manufacturers names and parts numbers are quoted for reference purposes only and are not intended to suggest that our replacement parts are made by the original

**QUALITY
REPLACEMENT PARTS**

www.movingparts.co.za

HIGH QUALITY NOZZLES FOR ALL FARMING APPLICATIONS

MADE IN
ITALY



TOPGUN

www.asjnozzle.it
export@asjnozzle.it

