

ActionAid Zimbabwe

NEWSLETTER
MAY - AUGUST 2021

**The Practice and
Utility of Agroecology:
Systems Change
for Climate
Justice**



THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S WELCOME NOTE

**ActionAid Zimbabwe's Country Director,
Joy Mabenge**



Welcome to the May – June 2021 issue of the ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) newsletter, a publication that provides programme updates and issues from communities we are working in. The key highlights in this issue cover our experiences in implementing agroecology practices which are aimed at increasing farmer productivity and food security as guided by the Country Strategy of 2018 - 2023 Priority 3 - “Strengthening Resilient Livelihoods and Secure Climate Justice”. Our main focus in this respect is on enhancing the capacities of smallholder farmers, especially women small-holder farmers, to absorb, recover and adapt to the effects of shocks and stresses in a manner that protects livelihoods and recovery gains and supports resilient sustainable agriculture.

The successes mentioned in this issue have been made possible through complimentary and collaborative efforts from the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) and development partners like Fambidzanayi Permaculture Centre (FPC). The good seasonal performance for 2020/21 agricultural season and years of supporting farmers to identify, prepare for and reduce impact of shocks and stresses peculiar to their communities also contributed to this issue's success. Through partnerships with FPC as well as our collaborative engagements under the Zambezi Valley Alliance of the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF), the Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading

and Empowerment (VALUE) under the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP) and the associated consortia partners, we have been able to extend significant support to smallholder farmers in their communities on the practice and utility of agroecology. This is part of the efforts to promote the sustainable use of available resources, minimize the use of external inputs and improve the diversity of agroecology farming elements. This includes use of water harvesting technologies, nutrients recycling, the practice of zero tillage to promote soil conservation, use of animal manure to substitute artificial fertilizers as well as local feed formulation for livestock in a bid to strengthen linkages between crop and livestock production.

This edition comes to you at a time when the world continues to grapple with the effects of COVID-19 pandemic like deaths, uncertainty and hunger. The AAZ family hopes that lessons generated from the previous waves will be utilised to minimize losses during the third wave that the nation is currently battling with. As always, the message is mask up, wash your hands frequently, adhere to the regulations as shared by the government representatives, World Health Organisation (WHO) COVID-19 guidelines and make use of the vaccination protocols available in your areas of residence. I hope you find this issue informative. Happy reading!

SMALL GRAIN CROP FOR IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY

Portia Mukondo examining her sorghum crop for pests and diseases



Portia Mukondo of Chiendambuya in Makoni District was supported by AAZ in partnership with FPC. She is using agroecology to produce her crops such as sorghum and millet. AAZ has provided trainings to her and other farmers on agroecology (through agricultural extension officers) which focus on adaptation strategies in response to climate changes. The growing of small grains on its own signifies a comprehension of the local environment and its ability to support specific crops. AAZ also provided open pollinated varieties (OPV) seed for sorghum that allows the retention of seed. This empowers the farmers by increasing their capacities to protect development gains, eliminate costs of seed and contributes to profitability. Portia has also been applying intercropping and multi-cropping systems which are integral aspects of agroecology. She is using manure as fertiliser which has helped to improve yields. Portia strictly adheres to good practices such as weeding, mulching and pest management which contribute to improved yields.

Before practising agroecology, Portia used to harvest 0.6 tonnes of sorghum on average from her field but after adopting agroecology in 2020, she harvested 1.2 tonnes a 100-percentage improvement.

Portia had this to say:

“ActionAid came into our area targeting women. Through learning about climate change, weather patterns and how to adapt to climate changes, we have improved our agricultural practices, leading to improvements in our livelihoods. After adopting agroecology, we have witnessed improved yields. We used to grow maize varieties that were not drought tolerant each season with no relief and always relied on donors for food aid but now growing more small grains. Our yields have increased and we are now able to sell the surplus to get some money. Hence, our income has improved a great deal.

“I will not buy any sorghum seed next year because I will use the seed from my crop which is good quality open pollinated seed. With agroecology, I am exploring new production techniques like intercropping and multi-cropping. It is a learning curve for me, and I am hopeful my family will indeed be food secure throughout 2021. I also use crop residues to feed my livestock and to make composts which I use as natural manure.”

MAGADZIRIRO EMUSHONGA WEKUFIRITA HOW TO MAKE BOTANICAL PESTICIDES

ZVINODIWA / WHAT YOU NEED

- 1** Muti wekushandisa e.g mashizha eMadomasi .
A pesticidal plant to use e.g Tomato leaves.
- 2** Mvura
Water at room temperature.
- 3** Kasipo kadiki.
A small soap (surfactant).
- 4** Chidziyo.
A container.



- 1** Tema tema wotswanya mashizha kana muti wauri kuda kushandisa.
Cut and crush the plant you want to use.



- 2** Isa zvawatswanya muchidziyo.
Place your crushed plant in a container.
- Pa 250g yoga yoga yezvawatswanya, isa 1 Litre yemvura yakapisa.
For every 250g of the crushed plant, add 1 Litre of hot water.
- Isa kasipo wobva wasanganisa.
Put the small soap and mix.



- 3** Vhara chidziyo chako woradza kwezvura rimwe.
Seal your container and store for one day.



- 4** Sefa uchiisa mekufiritira.
Seperate water from the crushed plant.
- Firita chirimwa wakazvidzivirira.
Protect yourself and spray your plants.



! Mishonga iyi inoshanda pazvirimwa zvakasiyana siyana.
These botanical pesticides are broad spectrum.

e.g / semuyenzaniso / for example

Melia



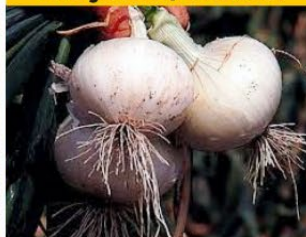
- Zvipfukuto zvepamuBanana / Banana weevils
- Makonye / Caterpillars
- Zvirwere zveFungi / Fungal Diseases

Mhiripiri / Piri Piri



- Masvosve / Ants
- Zvipfukuto / Aphids
- Makonye / Caterpillars

Hanyanisi / Onions



- Masvosve / Ants
- Makonye / Army Worms
- Makonye / Caterpillars
- Zvipfukuto / Aphids

Mashizha emaDomasi / Tomato Leaves



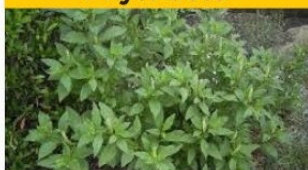
- Makonye / Caterpillars
- Makonye / Cutworms

Maruva eMarigold / Marigold



- Nematodes
- Makonye / Caterpillars
- Masvosve / Ants

Phytolacca



- Makonye / Caterpillars
- Makonye / Cutworms

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CENTRE**

A Centre for Agroecology and other Sustainable Technologies



USING NATURAL MANURE FOR SOIL PRESERVATION AND HIGH PRODUCTION

Febby Muzambe of Nyazura District



Febby Muzambe of Nyazura District was supported by AAZ and FPC to make natural manure as part of the agroecology practice. She used liquid organic matter manure to provide nutrients in her maize crop and had this to say: **“I use my cattle waste matter and crop residue to prepare a thermal compost as I was trained. When the compost is decayed,**

I then immerse it into a drum with water for a few days. The liquid from the mixed matter is used to water my maize crop. This liquid organic manure provided nutrients for the crop. This is another form of fertiliser we were taught to make by Agricultural Extension officers under agroecology practices.”

PIG WASTE AS ORGANIC MANURE

Letwinner Nyagano is a Norton pig producer



Letwinner Nyagano (above) is a Norton pig producer registered under the AAZ led Zimbabwe Agricultural Programme (ZAGP) Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project. She is currently running a 25-sow unit. Since joining the project, she has received various trainings on commercial pig production and pig waste management to safeguard the environment.

She has adopted a good practice of utilising waste from her piggery unit as organic manure for her maize crops and vegetable garden. She is elated by her yield per hectare for her maize crop which is an average of 10 tonnes per hectare and the saving made from substituting commercial fertilisers with the organic manure from the piggery unit.

MAKING A THERMAL COMPOST



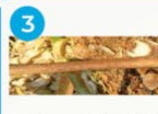
ZVINODIWA / WHAT YOU NEED



1 Chidziyo / Drum



2 Mapango / Poles (16x1,5m)



3 Chimuti / Stick



4 Manyowa / Manure



5 Zvakaoma semashizha / Dry Matter



6 Madota / Wood Ash



7 Greens



8 Tsotso / Twigs

1 MAGADZIRIRO / PROCESS

- ✓ Tora maGreens, Tsotso nezvakaoma ozitema tema.
Take the Greens, Twigs and Dry Matter and crush.
- ✓ Sanganisa Manyowa, maGreens nezvakaoma ushishandisa muyerero we 1:2:3 sekuteedzana kwazvakaita.
Mix Manure, Greens and Dry Matter at a ratio of 1:2:3 respectively.
- ✓ Dira mvura muchidziyo chako zvikamu zvitatu kubva muzvina woisa zvawasanganisa (manyowa, magreens nezvakaoma) netsotso dzawatema tema.
Pour water into the drum up to 3/4 and place the mixture of manure, greens, dry matter and add the crushed twigs.



2

- ✓ Warira mapango mana (4) pasi uchigadzira chibhokisi womasunganidza.
Place 4 poles on the ground in 'box' shape and tie the 4 corners of the poles.



3

- ✓ Tora zvawasanganisa muchidziyo chine mvura woparadzira mubhokisi remapango kusvika pachiyero chemapango.
Take the mixture of manure, greens, dry matter, twigs and water and spread it inside the box shaped poles you have created up to the height you require.
- ✓ Pota uchimwaya madota pano neapo paunenge uchiisa zvawasanganisa mubhokisi.
Sprinkle wood ash here and there when spreading the mixture from the drum.
- ✓ Bairira chimuti pakati pemaorera.
Place the stick in the middle of your compost.
- ✓ Dzokorora zvakare danho rekuisa mapango kusvika pamuyerero we 1.5m
Place the stick in the middle of your compost.



4

- ✓ Kwopera mazuva mashanu sandura maworera ako uchibvisa zvekunze uchiisa mukati, zvemukati kunze.
After 5 days rotate your compost.
- ✓ Sandura manyowa aya zvakare kwopera mazuva maviri oga oga kusvika mazuva gumi nepfumbamwe.
Rotate your compost after every two days for 18 days.
- ✓ NB: Wedzera mvura kana iri shoma paunenge uchishandura maworera aya.
Add more water to your compost if its not enough.



Mushure memazuva gumi nemapfumbamwe nekuenda mberi, maworera aya anenge aibva.
The compost will be ready after 18 days.



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ENHANCING LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING THROUGH FIELD DAYS ON AGROECOLOGY



Field day 1st Prize winner on the adoption and practice of agroecology Mrs. Nyagomo from Chiendambuya Ward 5 walking away with her prizes comprising a wheelbarrow, Knapsack, shovel and a 10kg maize seed.

AAZ supported small-holder farmers organized farmer field days to showcase their work and farming produce grown using agroecology during the harvesting season from March to May 2021. ActionAid is further supporting the field days through the provision of winners' prizes to stimulate and incentivise the adoption and the practice of agroecology.

The observations from the field days show that more women than men have embraced and adopted the practice of agroecology in Chiendambuya, Nyazura, Hwedza, Binga, and Nkayi indicating a transition from conventional agriculture to agroecology. This has helped women reduce costs of buying inputs as high costs were associated with the conventional farming methods. The key learnings for farmers from the look and learn field days lies not only in solidarity but also in showcasing that organised and coordinated communities can respond to climate change induced shocks that include frequent droughts, floods, pestilence among others that worsen the capacities of communities to lead viable lives without external support.

AAZ is learning that supporting women with agroecology trainings is empowering them to claim their land ownership rights and natural resources as it puts women in the position

of power in decision making in the households. The promotion of climate resilient sustainable agriculture practices among smallholder producers while ensuring increased access to and control over land resources for women leads to enhanced household food security and resilience to climate change. This brings much relief to widows, divorced women and other women and girls living in poverty and exclusion to secure economic justice.

Speaking at one of the field days organised by AAZ, the deputy Minister of Land, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement Honourable Douglas Kagoro said, the government had earmarked to support 1.6 million farmers on agroecology during the 2020-2021 farming season.



Representatives from the Ministries of Land, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement and Local Member of Parliament inspecting a cow peas agroecology plot belonging to a Mr. and Mrs Mukonyora of Ward 5 Chiendambuya.


USING RADIO SHOWS TO PROMOTE THE UTILITY AND PRACTICE OF AGROECOLOGY

Some of the fliers which were used to advertise the shows:

AAZ in partnership with FPC rolled out 10 radio shows to promote the practice and utility of agroecology with three local radio stations recently. The radio shows were meant to amplify the voices of smallholder farmers practicing agroecology in Chiendambuya and Nyazura in Makoni District in Manicaland Province, Shashe and Bikita in Masvingo Province and Nkayi District in Matabeleland North Province.

The radio programme presented agroecology as a holistic practice that is increasing smallholder farmer productivity, reducing malnutrition, heightening biodiversity, resilience and adaptation to climate change and variability. It was also meant to influence policy and practice, with the ongoing development of a national agroecology policy for Zimbabwe being a major entry point.

The radio programme also raised awareness on agroecology among smallholder farmers and stimulated uptake. It targeted relevant government ministries, parliamentarians, development agencies such as the United Nation (UN) agencies, non-governmental organisations, private sector such as seed and fertiliser companies, researchers and academia and smallholder farmers.

Brought to you by: **act:onaid**  **PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY**

PRACTICE & UTILITY OF AGROECOLOGY

Host: **George Msumba**

Tue 11 May	Diamond FM	1.40 pm
Mon 17 May	Diamond FM	12.40 pm
Wed 19 May	Diamond FM	1.35 pm

f Diamond FM Zim
 @diamond1038fm
 @diamondfm_zw

Diamond
 Kumakomojo! FM 103.8

Brought to you by: **act:onaid**  **PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY**

PRACTICE & UTILITY OF AGROECOLOGY

Host: **George Msumba**

Mon 10 May	Star FM	9.23 am
Wed 12 May	Star FM	11.23 am
Thursday 13 May	Star FM	9.23 am
Tue 18 May	Star FM	2.23 pm
Thu 20 May	Star FM	11.23 am

STAR FM
 Sounding Good All The Time

f Star FM @starfmzimbabwe @star_fm_zimbabwe

According to a report produced by Star Fm, the shows reached about 5,87 million people both from mainstream radio and social media platforms. To get a snippet of some of the radio shows, view on Star Fm Facebook page.

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT AGROECOLOGY – DEMYSTIFYING AGROECOLOGY

In this edition we take the liberty to demystify a few misconceptions about agroecological practices as shown below:

MISCONCEPTION 1: Only industrial agriculture and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) can feed the world

Industrial agriculture relies heavily on synthetic chemicals, patented seeds, and heavy-duty machinery. Whilst the output in terms of yield has increased, that did not stop the proportion of vulnerable/food insecure groups growing. Industrial agriculture has a narrow focus on quantity and fails to consider the complex nature of relationships, both those among people and those involving the natural world. Industrial agriculture has brought with it unprecedented level of topsoil loss, chemical run off that has created aquatic dead zones. While industrial agriculture has not ended hunger, fortunately there are proven pathways—such as agroecology—that help to end hunger by protecting the environment while enhancing equity, food quality, and productivity.

MISCONCEPTION 2: Agroecology cannot feed a hungry world

In many parts of the world, farming practices that minimize or forgo manufactured pesticides and fertilizer are proving effective. Agroecological approach involves much more than the absence of chemicals. Agroecology is an evolving practice of growing food within communities that is power-dispersing and power creating—enhancing the dignity, knowledge, and capacities of all involved. Agroecology thus helps to address the powerlessness at the root of hunger. It builds on both traditional knowledge accrued over millennia by peasants and indigenous people and the latest breakthroughs in modern science. Its practice frees

farmers from dependency on corporate suppliers and thus reinforce the dispersion of power, including for women. While some studies indicate that industrial agriculture produces higher yields than these alternative practices, many small-holder farmers adopting ecological farming in the Global South are enjoying yield increases, some quite dramatic. In any case, this model of farming—one that views life's multiple dimensions as connected and interacting—has multiple benefits beyond productivity. It not only avoids the negative and unsustainable environmental and health impacts of the industrial model, but also contributes to addressing climate change.

MISCONCEPTION 3: Agroecology does not acknowledge application of science

The term 'agroecology' embrace scientific discipline, agricultural practice, or political or social movement. That means the farming system is scientific based and relies on various research or experiment at different levels to justify or promote some of the practices to communities. The three approaches for Agroecology research persist: (1) investigations at plot and field scales, (2) investigations at the agroecosystem and farm scales, and (3) investigations covering the whole



food system. Therefore, it is still just a myth that agroecology does not acknowledge application of science. From the above description it is evident that agroecology embrace science at a higher level than industrial agriculture.

MISCONCEPTION 4:
Agroecology is donor
driven initiative

There is a huge appreciation and buy in by most of the development partners that are people driven, that have seen the potential of Agroecology in

terms of addressing extreme poverty and hunger in marginalized community. However, it should be noted that a lot of huge funding still goes towards conventional agriculture especially coming from cooperate social responsibilities funds for multinational companies that have interest in pushing their agenda and grow their profits. Agroecology has grown not from being funded but by active citizenry in developed & developing countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and United States. More people are becoming aware of the negative impact of industrial agriculture and are keen to collectively work towards more sustainable approaches which is agroecology.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON AGROECOLOGY

Can agroecological principles be technically applied to large-scale industrial agriculture?

Shifting large farms into agroecological systems remains technically very much possible. Regarding the technical feasibility of agroecological transition processes to various agricultural systems, the real challenge concerns large-scale industrial farms. To what extent can agroecological principles be applied to those farms? Is it realistic? They posit that although the diversity of crops and the integration animal-crop may be less obvious than it is on small plantations, the same overall principles apply. Though it is hard to provide a comprehensive answer to the question, logical conjectures suggest that in most cases agroecological integration of large industrial farms can be increased, but that room for maneuver is necessarily limited.

How do you know if someone has adopted and practising Agroecology-Is Agroecology profitable to a farmer?

Agroecological techniques encompass a range of nature-inspired practices such as crop diversification, cover cropping, and hedge planting. In doing so, agroecological systems work to optimise the use of natural resources while reducing the need for synthetic inputs of pesticides, antibiotics, and fertilisers as much as possible. Agroecology holds the potential to counter the major challenges in agriculture today. Whilst transitioning towards agroecology might have its challenges with decrease in yields, in the medium to long term agroecology will give stable, consistent yields for farmers, that in most cases means stable income. The diversification in terms of enterprises will cushion farmers against market volatility of one produce, since the farmer will also have many produce ready for the market.

CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE FOR COMMERCIALISATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM PIG PRODUCERS

Masavhaya with one of his pigs.



Peter Musavhaya is a man on a mission. Based in Ward 29 of Chegutu district, the Champion pig farmer who was recently elected to lead the Mashonaland East Pork Production Business Syndicate has a palpable passion for ‘hogs’ that has seen him grow in leaps and bounds.

Having ventured into pig farming just over seven years ago with a boar and five sows, Musavhaya has through hardwork and sheer determination now grown to having a 60 sow unit services by 2 boars.

Musavhaya is now part of an organised farmer group established by the AAZ led ZAGP VALUE Project. He is working with other farmers to leverage on bulk procurements of essential inputs and collective marketing of stocks for greater economies of scale.

“With the formation of the producer syndicates, we are now in a position to come together and drive the commercialisation of small and medium pork producers in our district and province,” said Musavhaya.

Over the past couple of years, small and medium pig producers have been faced with several challenges including droughts, shrinking markets and unreliable access to drugs and vaccines. In response to this, the pig producer syndicates will ensure collective action in backward and forward logistics to ease the pressure on individual farmers.

“As a syndicate we are pushing for breed improvement for better yields, undertaking collective action through bulk input suppliers especially drugs such as farrowsure and marketing of slaughter stock and working to address policy bottlenecks through engagements with policy makers.”

In addition to this, the syndicate is working to lower the cost of production mainly driven by feed costs which constitute between 60 to 85% of all production costs. One of the ways being explored and encouraged is on-farm feed formulation.

Musavhaya grows maize and soybean which he processes using a grinding mill on the farm.

“On farm feed formulation has to potential to cut feed costs by upto a third, I would urge pig producers to grow own maize and soybean and then buy premixes.”

Besides being a well established pig producer, Musavhaya is a fully fledged livestock farmer with interests in cattle ranching and goat rearing and he is currently running an experiment with Saneen and local goats to venture into goat dairy farming. He is also in the process of establishing a slaughter house with cold chain facilities, which will be accessible to other pig producers under his leadership in the district.

COMMERCIALIZATION OF RESILIENCE INITIATIVES THROUGH GRINDING MILL BUSINESS

Pepukai group members standing in front of their grinding mill



Members of Pepukai Grinding Mill Group from Ward 15, Mbire District have taken strides to promote income generation. Born from a goat breeding initiative, Pepukai Grinding Mill Group has set the pace when it comes to income generation in the Zambezi Valley. Through the determination of members, the group's projects have transformed into a vibrant business venture.

The group is comprised of 17 members, 14 being women and 3 men. They started as a goat group in 2017 when they received a Boer goat from the ZRBF Zambezi Valley Alliance (ZVA) Consortium where AAZ is the lead organisation. They grew their goat numbers to 65 and later sold 19 at USD20 each. The ZRBF identified potential women in the group and to increase their revenue streams, supported them with funds to purchase a grinding mill in September 2020. The group contributed 30% of the total cost of buying the grinding mill, which was USD630, and the ZRBF contributed 70% of the overall amount.

Pepukai Group are utilizing the grinding mill to prepare feed for livestock and grind maize for sale in their community. Since they started operating, they have managed to mill 65 bags of maize for the community at USD1 per bucket and 63 bags of stock feed which they sold at USD 7 per bucket. On average they prepare 20 bags of stock feed per week. After procuring diesel and paying their worker who operates the grinding mill, they pocket about USD250 per month.

"The grinding mill transformed our lives as a group as it presented us with a business opportunity which is flourishing. We can now continue to live during droughts, because we have learnt that it is not only crop farming that can make people survive especially in our dry region of Mbire," said Noni Chakwanira, chairperson of the grinding mill initiative.

The group also managed to construct an enclosed shelter for their grinding mill.

To complement Pepukai Group core business of running the grinding mill, they are also participating in Internal Savings and Lending group (ISALs). The group members contribute USD5 per month which they save as a group and lend to group members or community members who return the money at 10% interest. This initiative is cushioning particularly group members during COVID-19 lockdown as it is creating access to funding amongst low-income women.

Although the group is now concentrating more on running the grinding mill which is bringing in more income, they did not abandon the goat initiative. The group is charging USD2 to community members who want to cross breed their Mashona goats with the group's Boer goats. The group is pocketing about USD60 per month from the Boer goats.



Currently, Pepukai Group members have USD250 from the grinding mill, USD400 from their ISALs and ZWL6000 in their savings from the goat cross breeding earnings. Currently, they do not have savings from the goats as they are not selling their goats now.

For accountability purposes, the group has an auditing committee which audits cash flow and report back to the whole group. In December 2020, the group did a profit share of USD50 per member as an appreciation for their hard work, which was a first for them.

“We plan to secure another grinding mill to expand our business as we are failing to meet demand and sink a borehole so that we can have adequate water for our livestock and our personal use.” said Noni.

The ZRBF ZVA programme is implemented in the three districts of Mbire, Binga and Kariba in partnership with the Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA), Afrosoft Private Limited and African Breeders Services Total Cattle Management Limited (ABS TCM).

AAZ SHIFTING POWER TO YOUNG PEOPLE

In this newsletter's Youth Corner, we are profiling some of the work of youths supported under the ZRBF ZVA project and we are focusing on how the initiative is strengthening transformative capacities of youths in the Zambezi Valley.

The ZRBF ZVA project in partnership with Agribank Zimbabwe has provided haven to youths in Mbire, Kariba and Binga Districts through loan disbursements to youth groups. Each group

received a loan capacity of a USD1000 in January 2021 to purchase and resell goats and cattle locally or outside their respective districts. This was an initiative to champion financial freedom and encourage youth participation in resilience building initiatives. Since they received loans, the groups are doing buying and selling of cattle, goats, and livestock vaccines. The youth groups are paying USD171 per month as instalments to repay the loans they received.

CRITERIA USED FOR SELECTION

- **Age 35 and below**
- **Gender**
- **Way of living**
- **Literacy level - completed O levels.**
- **Participation in ZRBF activities.**

The youth's livestock buying and selling business has provided a reliable market to the community and cushioned them against making spontaneous and indecisive sales. Previously, the youths were getting very low prices on their livestock due to lack of exposure to markets and would only sell livestock when faced with a challenge and needed money urgently. However, the tables have long turned as the youths are now doing buying and selling of livestock as a business. It is a marvel that the youths have become the local aggregators of livestock as they are interacting with competitive markets from the district and outside. To date 116 youths (62 females and 54 males) across the three districts of Mbire, Kariba and Binga were assisted with this initiative

Here are some of the youths who received the loans under the ZRBF project:



Kariba district youths from left to right, Namrode Maiteni, Pardon Siabwanda and George Rare



Mbire District youths showing their complimentary caps received from Agribank, from left to right: Elvis Chawasarira, Juliet Manyukw and Starvesy Chawasarisa



Oscar Kanyere: left and Kenneth Mashiri: right showcasing the goats they were about to sell.



Une kodzero yekusvitsa chichemo chako uye kumhangara kusabatwa zvakanaka, kumbunyikidzwa kana kushungurudzwa nevashandi vanoshandira makambani anobatsira voruzhinji.



#Chaya runhare kune wanoshandisa Econet chete.

Kariba: 08080494



Kariba yati Pe Pe kuNkondo yaMumaanda. Kune vari kurarama mumhirizhongwa kana kuziva vari kumhirizhongwa, kubatwa chibharo, kuroodza vana vadiki.

#Fonai runhare urwu pachena kana muchishandisa Econet



Kariba: 08080494



WHAT TO WATCH OUT IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS:

ZRBF Zambezi Valley Alliance Radio Shows on

“Increasing capacities of communities to protect development gains and achieve improved well-being in the face of shocks and stresses.”

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