

THE FEASIBILITY OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE POLICY FRAMEWORK (2018-2030)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The May Policy Digest analyses the feasibility of the National Agriculture Policy Framework (NAPF) in promoting a just, inclusive and conducive farming environment that propels the nation towards food and nutrition security. The effectiveness of the NAPF in promoting competitive farming, job creation and rejuvenating the economy will be examined. The policy digest ends with actionable policy alternatives that; if adopted; will help Zimbabwe attain a competitive advantage and possibly regain the bread basket status.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The economic performance of Zimbabwe largely depends on developments in its agricultural sector. Zimbabwe has 4, 130,000 hectares of arable land, with 25% being cultivated using manual draught power and animal.¹ In the first two decades, after independence Zimbabwe`s agriculture performance was optimal as she was at the apex of regional and continental food production. Zimbabwe`s massive agriculture production made her attain the bread basket status of Africa and the regional food security cluster position. However, following the chaotic Fast Track Land Reform Program (FTLRP) of 2000, agriculture production deteriorated as irrigation infrastructure was damaged due to the hostile takeover and the majority of the new landowners depended on rain rather than irrigation for their crops. What made the FTLRP chaotic was that the entire process distorted the prescribed policy implementation process, it took an unsanctioned bottom-up approach which was later legalised by the government. Although the FTLRP was regarded as a remedial measure undertaken to correct the inherited colonial land imbalances, the manner and way which it was done undermined property rights. Property rights remain a major concern in the agriculture sector as the government refused to grant title deeds to farmers but issued 99-year leases which are too weak to serve as collateral for financing thereby hindering agricultural investment.

As the weather patterns change and droughts become more frequent, the country has failed to produce enough grain to meet domestic demand culminating into food scarcity and donor dependence. Zimbabwe is largely dependent on food donations, particularly from the international support it receives from the World Food Programme (WFP). In 2021, the WFP supported 2.2 million beneficiaries with 55% being women and 45% being men. A total of 86, 462 metric tonnes were distributed with US\$ 44.5 million used in cash transfers.

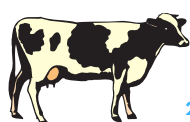


1. <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/zimbabwe-agricultural-sectors>

The scale and magnitude of the assistance points to food insecurity and governments failure to provide sufficient food despite claims of bumper harvest.² This also derails Zimbabwe`s ambitions as projected in the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) under the Food and Nutrition Security cluster. The NDS1 seeks to improve food self-sufficiency and to retain the regional breadbasket status. The main objective is to increase food self-sufficiency from the current level of 45% to 100% and reduce food insecurity from a high of 59% recorded in 2019 to less than 10% by 2025. This will be done by optimally utilising all the five natural agricultural regions which are presented hereunder:

Region	Description
1	A specialised and diversified farming region. The region is suitable for forestry, fruit and intensive livestock production. Smallholders occupy less than 20% of the area of this region.
2	Flue-cured tobacco, maize, cotton, sugar beans and coffee can be grown. Sorghum, groundnuts, seed maize, barley and various horticultural crops are also grown. Supplementary irrigation is done for winter wheat. Animal husbandry like poultry, cattle for dairy and meat, is also practiced. Smallholder farmers occupy only 21% of the area in this productive region
3	A semi-intensive farming region. Smallholders occupy 39 % of the area of this region. Large-scale crop production covers 15% of the arable land and most of the land is used for extensive beef ranching. Maize dominates commercial farm production. The region is subject to periodic seasonal droughts, prolonged mid-season dry spells and unreliable starts of the rainy season. Irrigation plays an important role in sustaining crop production.
4&5	are too dry for successful crop production without irrigation, but communal farmers have no other choice but to grow crops in these areas even without access to irrigation. Millet and sorghum are the common crops but maize is also grown. Communal farmers occupy 50 percent of the area of Natural Region IV and 46 percent of the area of Natural Region V.

As one of the key economic sectors which is integral to the projected economic growth, agriculture had a good 2020/21 rainfall season. This also led to an increase in the area of planted maize at 1 951 848 Hectares of land owing to the support by Government and the private sector. The total cereal production was 3 075 538 metric tonnes against a national cereal requirement of 1 797 435 metric tonnes for human and livestock 450 000 metric tonnes consumption. However, this defies logic as the WFP supported approximately 2.2 million beneficiaries with 86, 462 metric tonnes of cereal.³ The number of those in extreme poverty also increased with 1.6 million from 6.3 million in 2020 to 7.9 million in 2021 which is a testament to the magnitude of food insecurity in the country.



2. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2021/09/zims-bumper-harvest-what-went-right-and-what-needs-to-be-done/#:~:text=ZIMBABWE%20has%20reported%20a%20bumper%20harvest%20of%20maize,production%20for%202021%20stands%20at%202%2C7%20million%20tonnes>

Food insecurity in Zimbabwe has remained a major concern due to a plethora of reasons such as political polarization, weak land administration, economic and financial problems, erratic climatic conditions as well as corruption. Political polarisation manifests in government agriculture support programs such as the Presidential Agriculture Inputs Scheme where partisan politics determines who gets the inputs.⁴ This can be evidenced by how Pfumvudza Agriculture Input Scheme were distributed in Gutu (Ward 6) on the 15th of February 2021 when Councillor Wenceslaus Madhai and Patrick Marimazhira the Youth Officer distributed fertilizers in a partisan manner culminating in chaos as people began to grab the remaining fertilizers.⁵ The same allegations gained momentum in ward 25 of Chivi South on the 24th of February at Madzivire dip tank, after Councillor Jacob Magondo and a ZANU PF Chairperson, identified as Chikanga distributed fertilizers in a partisan manner, prioritizing 28 members of the ZANU PF 2018 Election Campaigning Team. The same can be said of ward 12 in Bikita where on the 18th of February Councillor Tedios Wafawarova distributed fertilizers under Pfumvudza Agricultural Input Scheme in a partisan manner.

As part of government`s commitment in promoting transformational agriculture, the Zimbabwean government set aside ZWL 10 billion for the construction of major dams across the country in 2021. The construction of major dams is part of the government`s broader ambition of rejuvenating the economy so as to attain the upper middle class economy status by 2030. Dams are critical in supporting agriculture which is an essential sector of the Zimbabwean economy. The primary objective of dam construction is to support small-holder farmers through irrigation. However, the benefits which emanate from dam construction surpass agriculture as they do not only help in irrigation but also in a number of activities such as flood control, recreation (picnic, fishing, camping), water harvesting, navigation, river water quality or pollution control and management, hydropower generation as well as stream flow regulation.

Under the prism of the NAPF, in January the President launched the Provincial Integrated Youths Skills Development Centres (PIYSDC) which will be operational in all the 10 provinces targeting approximately 5 000 recruits at each centre annually.⁶ Annually, the PIYSDC could have targeted and empowered 50 000 youths with critical agriculture skills. If implemented judiciously and optimally, the PIYSDC can be a positive step towards bridging the inequality gap that exists in the agricultural sector with respect to youth empowerment. Approximately 500 hectares of land will be reserved for youth projects in each province with 700 heifers distributed to the youths under the Presidential Heifer Pass-on Scheme.⁷



4. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202103080445.html#:~:text=In%20Gutu%20%28Ward%206%29%2C%20on%20the%2015%20th,to%20be%20prioritized%20on%20the%2015th%20of%20February>

5. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202103080445.html#:~:text=In%20Gutu%20%28Ward%206%29%2C%20on%20the%2015%20th,to%20be%20prioritized%20on%20the%2015th%20of%20February>

6. <https://www.herald.co.zw/president-launches-youth-agric-empowerment-scheme/>

7. <https://www.herald.co.zw/president-launches-youth-agric-empowerment-scheme/>

However, poor prudent public finance management under the various inefficient and inefficacy “command” agriculture subsidy programs has undermined agricultural production and corruptly facilitated the squandering of billions of dollars.⁸ This can be evidenced by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Douglas Karoro, who was fired after allegedly defrauding the Presidential Inputs Scheme of US\$73 300 worth of inputs over the last two months, March and April. The inputs included 700 bags of fertiliser, US\$18 000 worth of maize seed and 5 000 vegetable seed kits.

Allegations of economies of affection have taken centre stage as the beneficiaries of command agriculture are people who are connected to the echelons of power. Thus, systematic dominance and partisan hegemony in the political economy of agricultural production undermines national food security. Command agriculture continues to facilitate the exclusion and marginalization of small-holder farmers while entrenching the nation into unsustainable debt. The ramification of all this has been poor agriculture output, extreme poverty and severe acute malnutrition. The plight of small-holder farmers is aggravated by the fact that, even when they sell their products to the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) their payments are not made on time and they are made in the local currency which has an unstable value as it deteriorates daily.

Therefore, the above accounts underscore the need for the examination of the NAPF and determine anomalies and areas of prescribing possible policy alternatives that can help the nation produce sufficient food and regain the bread basket status.

3. AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY IN SADC

The importance of agriculture in the SADC region should never be underestimated as it has positive social and economic impact. In various regional members, agriculture contributes approximately 13% of overall export earnings and fluctuates between 4%-27% of the GDP. Approximately, 70% of the population in the region relies on agriculture for income, employment and food. It is the nerve-centre of economic growth and have the potent to propel national, regional and continental development. The performance of the agriculture sector has huge influence on regional governance variables such as economic growth as well as social stability.

However, the prevailing agriculture methods are labour-intensive with the labour force being highly impacted by the effects of the HIV and AIDs and COVID-19 pandemic. To overcome this, in 2004, the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in the Region aligned its agriculture strategy to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the Declaration of the World Food Summit of 2002. To this end, a strategic goal for SADC to improve agricultural efficiencies, specifically focusing on smallholder farmers and their access to factors of production and input and output markets was adopted.



8. <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/bit-gvt-command-agriculture-programme-rocked-by-corruption/>

This is expedient to the region as recognising the importance of smallholder farmers would provide multiple benefits such as improved food security, reduction in severe acute malnutrition, increased food availability, creating national and regional competitive advantage by freeing up labour to participate in more profitable sectors of the economy.

Agriculture and Food Security are also prominently featured in the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate at the apex for programmes in food security, livestock production and fisheries. The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate's intention to increase agriculture productivity by at least 6% per year. This is in alignment with the African Union's Partnership for Africa's Development.

The Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa 2021, published in August shows that Tanzania is expected to record surpluses in food crop production while maize production in Zimbabwe increased by 199 percent to reach 2,717,171 tonnes, accounting for a surplus of 828,263 tonnes. At the same time food production in Eswatini is expected to increase by 15% to 98,988 tonnes while in Namibia maize yields are estimated at 53,700 tonnes, which is 25% above average and 4 % higher than last year. For South Africa, a harvest of 16.18 million tonnes is expected which is 5.8% higher than the one attained in the previous year. A yield of 4,461,188 tonnes of maize is expected in Zambia against a national demand of 2,932,208 tonnes.

4. POLICY OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Pillar 1: Food and Nutrition Security

The pillar seeks to ensure that Zimbabwe strives to attain food and nutrition security which is integral in promoting industrialisation, national development and growth as well as optimum human capital development. Diseases such as kwashiorkor and severe acute malnutrition will be addressed by food and nutrition security. To ensure the attainment of food and nutrition security the policy proposes improved productivity, food safety, preservation as well as processing capacity of smallholder farmers, A2 farmers and other value chain actors. It further calls for the setting up of integrated food and nutrition security information system and support information generation, management and sharing across Government departments.



Pillar 2: Agriculture Knowledge, Technology & Innovation System

The core policy statement for this pillar is “increase investment in agricultural research and development, technology and extension”. Thus all government activities with respect to agriculture development are underpinned by this policy statement. It seeks to create viable linkages in research-extension-farmer-private sector with respect to extension message delivery, appropriate dissemination approaches and research prioritisation. This will culminate in the training and development (adequate skilled), coherence and lucidity between curricula and industry needs as well as practical agricultural training. Pillar 2 also seeks to: modernisation of research facilities, agricultural equipment and ICT equipment, resource government research, extension and farmer outreach programmes, rehabilitate, upgrading and construct new research and training infrastructure and lastly invest in modern teaching and training technologies that address challenges and gaps in agricultural knowledge.

Pillar 3: Production and Supply of Agriculture Inputs

The guiding policy statement of pillar three is “Increase the utilisation of improved productivity-enhancing agricultural inputs”. Pillar three seeks to create an environment that permits efficient functioning of agricultural input markets to lower the cost of agricultural inputs. This will be expedient in facilitating massive agricultural production and also address the inequality that is being imposed by the cost of agriculture inputs. Thus, input supply and accessibility will be attained through the development of an efficient production, distribution and marketing system. The core strategic interventions of pillar three are to: promote competitiveness in the input sector, reform existing non-market based input support programmes and interventions, promote research and production of more effective agricultural inputs suited to specific agro-ecologies, strengthen the distribution channels of critical inputs (fertilizer, seed and agrochemicals, livestock vaccines and drugs) as well as nurture private sector provision of affordable seasonal input credit.

Pillar 4: Development of Agriculture Infrastructure

Investing more resources in the development of infrastructure to support agricultural production and marketing is the policy statement for pillar 4. Pillar four seeks to address issues related to inadequate irrigation mechanisation, establish robust crop and livestock related infrastructure, ICT and post-harvest management.



Pillar 5: Agriculture Marketing & Trade Development

The guiding policy statement for pillar five is develop effective and efficient domestic, regional and international agricultural markets. The pillar seeks to build capacity of farmer organisations and government departments in agricultural marketing and trade development strategies. Thus a facility for the capacitation of regulatory bodies and market players in regional and international standards will be established.

Pillar 6: Agricultural Finance & Credit

The pillar seeks to ensure improvement in agricultural financing by establishing an Agriculture Development Fund. This will help in addressing issues related to financial incapacity. Thus the pillar six seeks to: facilitate the mobilisation of affordable and long-term lines of credit, enhance access to funding for the sector and prioritise and support agriculture value chain development based on regional comparative advantages.

Pillar 7: Access, Tenure Security & Land Administration

The guiding policy statement for pillar seven is to promote equitable and secure land ownership and rights. The pillar intends to promote property security and give investors a sense of confidence that all their investments are safe and secure. Under this pillar, the policy will obliterate anomalies in land administration such as double allocations, conflicts between artisanal miners and smallholder farmers. Issues related to land accessibility and equitable distribution of land are fronted by the policy.

Pillar 8: Sustainable (Green) Agriculture

Pillar 8 of the NAPF seeks to improve farmer resilience to climate shocks. The policy projects governments ambition to revolutionarise, rejuvenate and transform the agricultural sector through smart-agriculture technology that is resistant to climate shocks. If adopted, smart agriculture brings a lot of advantages such as increased production, water conservation, equipment monitoring, accurate farm and field evaluation, real-time data and production insight, lowered operational cost, remote monitoring, improved livestock farming to mention but a few.



5. Examining The Efficacy of The National Agriculture Policy Framework (NAPF) (2018-2030)

Food and Nutrition Security

The question of food and nutrition security remains a major concern for Zimbabweans despite government's continued claims of bumper harvests. The bumper harvest statistics being pronounced by the government have failed to cater for the majority of citizens who are at the mercy of poverty. Extreme poverty has reached 7.9 million which is half of the population. Thus, just like the economics of algorithms which has produced imaginary surpluses, bumper harvests have successfully-failed to reduce extreme poverty and hunger in the country. The number of those who depend on donors for food aid continues to increase. A good example is that of Mutare Rural, Mutasa District and Chipinge South which have now become a priority for many donors due to their vulnerability to climate induced hunger. The ZIMVAC report for 2021 attests to food and nutrition insecurity with approximately 2.2 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Zimbabwe's food imports continue to increase as a major reflection of how the pronounced surpluses and bumper harvest fails to capture the reality on the ground. This points to policy anomalies and calls for either an incremental or radical paradigm shift.

Agricultural Machinery

The government has announced its ambition to have a US\$ 8.2 billion agriculture sector by 2025 from the current \$5,8 billion to an US\$8,2 billion economy by 2025. Thus making the sector contribute approximately 20% to the gross domestic product (GDP).⁹ However, although this is an ambitious projection, its success lies in the availability of agricultural machinery. There is machinery and infrastructural gaps in the agricultural sector. Zimbabwe has approximately 10 300 functional tractors against a national demand of 40 000 tractors for commercial cultivation.¹⁰ Thus, Zimbabwe currently need 29 700 tractors to satisfy its national demand. However, in 2020 the government made positive strides towards capacitating the sector by signing an agreement with John Deere, to import tractors and other agricultural machinery. A survey conducted in Karoi shows that local farmers have shown that they prefer American quality and value over Chinese and Belarussian models competing in the market. The failure by the government to revive ADA by supplying modernised centre pivots is a clear testament to the operational incapacity being experienced by farmers. Zimbabwe has approximately 50 000 medium-to-large scale farms that are in need of farming equipment.



9. <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2022/05/govt-targets-us82bn-agric-sector-by-2025/>

10. <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/zimbabwe-agricultural-sectors>

In the past the government has donated or supplied farmers with modernised combine harvesters and centre pivots however, partisan allocation affected the process as only those connected to the high echelons of power benefited. The 2008 Agriculture Farm Mechanisation project remains a unique referral case point.

Poor Financial and Credit Facilities

According to a survey conducted by ZIMCODD, smallholder farmers are failing to secure credible and affordable loans due to poor public financial and credit facilities. Despite the government having overspent its agriculture allocation with approximately 71%,¹¹ nothing tangible has been done for the smallholder farmers. The elite and Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) have been the primary beneficiaries of most agricultural subsidies leaving smallholder farmers with little to show off. The unpopular Command Agriculture and Pfumvudza financial schemes are a clear testimony to this. A key informant from the Ministry of Agriculture (mudhumeni) who is the ministry's focal person in a rural community stated that, what is hampering agriculture in rural communities and many resettlement areas is poor public financial credit lines. Thus, leaving a lot of smallholder farmers at the mercy of private financial institutions which are exploitative and profit driven. A key respondent from Nyazura who is a tobacco farmer lamented how they are failing to get government financial assistance thereby leaving them at the mercy of financial institutions.

Weak Land Administration

Zimbabwe's land administration remains a cause of concern and major impediment to the growth of the agriculture sector. This is because, Zimbabwe has multi-form tenure, with a plethora of tenure types applying in the various areas of land (freehold, lease, permit, communal and state land). The former tribal lands became de jure state-owned lands. Those communal areas have de facto rights delegated to communities (including chiefs) under the oversight of Rural District Councils (RDCs). Thus, giving full authority to the state which every now and then has taken communal land and handed it over to controversial investors without a proper just-transitions that facilitate the promotion of social and economic rights. According to key informants from Chiredzi East, Chilonga Ward 6, 7 and 8 under Chief Chilonga "lack of effective land administration and just-transitions of affected communities continues to undermine people's confidence in the government and threaten their livelihoods". The displacement of communities from communal lands undermines the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and shows government's preference to commercial farmers over smallholder farmers; an economic development error that does not need to go unchecked for long. This is because, smallholder farmers are the nerve-centre of agricultural development in the country despite their exclusion in the structural governance of the agricultural sector.



11. In 2021, the agriculture had an over expenditure of 171%

The land administration policy is silent on the contention between the farmer and the miner. The bone of contention emanates from the fact that the Mines and Minerals Act (MMA) [Chapter 21:05] was enacted in 1961 during the colonial administration. The Act was in pursuit of the repressive objectives of a settler dominated, racist capitalist economy which perpetuated the repression of the black majority. In this regard the MMA served to legitimize the channeling of wealth into the hands of the elite and the dispossession of mining host communities. An objective which the MMA has continued to carry post-independence undermining the rights of farmers; thus, the farmer is not protected. According to section 38 of the MMA every person who intends to prospect for minerals must give notice to the land owner or relevant authorities to promote transparency, give room for negotiations and plan for the co-existence strategy. Nevertheless, the notification is not mandatory and there is an option for a fine and the failure does not in itself invalidate the pegging.

This demonstrates a clear disregard for farming which more than 70% of the economy depends on. The current arrangement might have worked in a scenario where farmers own vast pieces of land and where there are minimum inconveniences between the farmer and miner unlike the current set up where the farm hectareage has been greatly reduced. Therefore, if one is to consider the current Zimbabwean system of land administration only those with private land will be notified while the majority of smallholder farmers who utilise communal land will only receive a relocation or eviction order since the notification will be presented to the local authority within their jurisdiction.

Exclusive Market Systems

A survey conducted by ZIMCODD in Gokwe, Chipinge, Masvingo, Ngangu, Hauna, Rusitu Valley and Kurwaisimba found out that smallholder farmers often have challenges in accessing markets due to inadequate infrastructure, poor post-harvest practices, low productivity as well as inconsistency in supply which is caused by other underlying challenges such as poor agricultural financial mechanisms. The private market system in Zimbabwe is designed in a manner that excludes smallholder farmers or makes it impossible for them to compete with big corporates. The bottlenecks surrounding the requirements that need to be satisfied are out of reach for the majority of many small holder farmers as they demand a lot of paper work and too much formalisation which cannot be easily accessed by small holder farmers in Rusitu Valley. Rusitu Valley and Hauna small holder farmers produce a lot of bananas that have the potent to bring transformation in their communities and contribute to the national GDP. However, the Agriculture Marketing Authority (AMA) has failed to set up market structures in these areas to facilitate the smooth selling and purchasing of these perishable products (bananas, avocados, lemons). As a result, the loss endured by the smallholder farmers is unbearable due to unavailability of post-harvest technology. Thus, there is need for AMA to come up with ways that ensure that the nation enhances and utilises all its harvests.



Agriculture Knowledge, Technology and Innovation System

The economic challenges being encountered by Zimbabwe have undermined the increase of agriculture knowledge in the country. Approximately 65% of the surveyed communal areas reflected that Zimbabwe has shortages of Agricultural Extension Officers (AEO) commonly known as “mudhumeni”. This is mainly due to the fact that officers that have passed on have not been replaced. This has negative ramifications on the growth of agricultural knowledge. The shortages of AEOs affects the imparting of agricultural knowledge in communal lands. Zimbabwe has also failed to harness indigenous agricultural knowledge as it has failed to create national institutional memory. These factors have had detrimental effects on technology and innovation.

At primary level, positive strides were witnessed following the introduction of the new curriculum which saw an updating of various subjects (agriculture included). At the same time, the national agriculture innovation capacity has been failing to find its footing. This is because, higher learning institutions have been the missing in the innovation thrust. This has led to the importation of various agricultural technology and equipment from Brazil, America, China and India to mention but a few. It is against this backdrop that ZIMCODD recommends for the full throat establishment of strategic industrialised innovation hubs across the country that help promote innovation and development in the agriculture sector.

Agriculture Value Chains

Livestock production in Zimbabwe contributes considerably to the national economy while at the same time providing livelihoods for small to large scale farmers. However, the sector has been encountering numerous challenges, affecting its contribution to the national economy. Although these challenges are many,¹² of importance are the weak value chains. To address this, the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP) was calibrated to enhance value chains through financial support from the European Union (EU) amounting to €40 million.

The ZAGP programme seeks to enhance value chains in the livestock production through a number of interventions presented hereunder:

- Inclusive Poultry Value Chain (IPVC): Seeks to develop an efficacy poultry value chain which contributes to inclusive green economic growth in Zimbabwe.
- Beef Enterprise Strengthening and Transformation (BEST): The BEST value chain seeks to create a comprehensive and competitive beef value chain that promotes trade, food security employment creation and inclusive green economic growth by 2023 for 25,000 small to medium as well as commercial cattle farmers.
- Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services (ZAKIS): it seeks to establish an integrated, dynamic market-oriented and farmer centred Agriculture Knowledge and Information Services system that meets the needs of a modern agriculture sector in Zimbabwe.



- Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE: sought to build the capacity of smallholder farmers to improve their goat and pig breeds and mobilise themselves to access viable markets as well as production and organisational efficiencies in partnership with private sector players.
- Transforming Zimbabwe's Dairy Value Chain for the Future (DAIRY): It seeks to address the factors militating against optimum performance in the Dairy Value Chain (DVC) in Zimbabwe by strengthening the linkages between production, processing and financing.
- SAFE - Transforming Zimbabwe's Animal Health and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)/ Food Safety Systems for the Future: Transforming animal health, sanitary and phytosanitary/food safety systems for improved livestock productivity, food safety and consumer safety to enhance market access.

Although these are positive strides towards value chains, many smallholder farmers are yet to realise the benefits of these chains as they claim that they are not aware of some of these projects. However, a few noted that, they have been educated in goat breeding a testament to the implementation of the VALUE project. However, value chains should also extend in areas such as maize production, tobacco, apples, tomatoes to mention but a few.

Sustainable Agriculture

The government is still wanting with respect to sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture in this context refers to smart agriculture and agricultural activities that are tailor-made to adapt to climate changes. A survey conducted in Chivi District discovered that the community still lacks knowledge with respect to climate resilient crops. At the same time, the Tokwe Mukosi Dam has not benefited the surrounding Chivi communities since there are no irrigation facilities that have been installed to support local smallholder farmers. The same has been the case with the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA) as it has failed to bring agriculture resilience in its operational jurisdiction. This is because, the current ARDA operational structures are exclusive as they do not capture the needs of the communities within their operations. ARDA has operations in the following areas:



Arda Private Public Partnership Projects

Estate	Farming Activities	Partnership Model	Private sector partner	Year of establishment
1. Chisumbanje	· Sugarcane Production · Ethanol Production	Joint Venture	Green Fuel (Pvt) Ltd and Macdom Investments (Pvt) Ltd	BOT in 2009 but converted to JV in 2013
2. Middle Sabi	· Sugarcane Production	20- Year Build Operate and Transfer (BOT)	Rating Investments (Pvt) Ltd	2009
3. Umguza Plots – 45ha	· Horticulture, Maize and Wheat	10-year Rehabilitate Operate and Transfer (ROT) Arrangements	Obert Mpofu	2009
4. Katiyo (193ha Rumbizi & Chiwira Sections)	· Green Leaf Tea Production	12-Year Management Contract	Eastern Highlands Plantations Limited	2010
5. Mkwesine	· Game/Safari Hunting	5- Year Management Contract	Zambezi Hunters (Pvt) Ltd	2010
6. Nandi	· Sugarcane Production	5- Year Management Contract Arrangement	Mangwa Quip (Pvt) Ltd	2014
7. Fair Acres	· Soyabeans (summer) and wheat (winter)	5-Year share Farming Arrangement	Northern Farming (Pvt) Ltd	2014
8. Jotsholo	· Cotton Seed Production	1-Year Renewable Contract Farming Arrangement	Chinarda (Pvt) Ltd	2014
9. Antelope	· Maize (summer) wheat (winter)	5- Year Management Contract	Trek Petroleum (Pvt) Ltd	2015
10. Ngwezi	· Maize (summer) wheat (winter)	5-Year share Farming Arrangement	Trek Petroleum (Pvt) Ltd	2015
11. Sedgewick	· Livestock Rearing	5-Year Grazing Contract	Madzimbabwe Asphalt	2015
12. Doreen's Pride	· Livestock Rearing, Maize and wheat	10-Year Contract Farming Arrangement	Trek Petroleum (Pvt) Ltd	2015

While the presence of ARDA in various areas across the country is a welcome development, the institution's failure to provide agriculture knowledge hubs for communities undermines the fight against climate change. It also speaks volumes to the failure by the government to satisfy the needs of NDS1 in the first quarter of the implementation evaluation stage.

6. Policy Alternatives

- **Food and Nutrition Security:** The Ministry of Agriculture must come up with inclusive programs and remunerative competition that entices people to sell their products to the Grain Marketing Board (GMB). This is because currently, half of the entire population¹³ is food insecure despite claims of a bumper harvest
- **Agricultural Machinery:** The Ministry of Agriculture must prioritise on reviving agricultural infrastructure to address the infrastructural gaps. Investments in automated centre pivots, combine harvest, tractors and climate monitoring technology must be prioritised.
- **Poor Financial and Credit Facilities:** The Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance must come up with guarantee or collateral mechanisms that are given to the farmers to access private financial credit facilities. At the same public credit lines should prioritise smallholder farmers in vulnerable and marginalised communities.



Table 2 Source: [https://www.pindula.co.zw/AgriculturalandRuralDevelopmentAuthority\(Arda\)](https://www.pindula.co.zw/AgriculturalandRuralDevelopmentAuthority(Arda))

13. 7.9 million people in extreme poverty.

- **Poor Financial and Credit Facilities:** The Ministry of Agriculture in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance must come up with guarantee or collateral mechanisms that are given to the farmers to access private financial credit facilities. At the same public credit lines should prioritise smallholder farmers in vulnerable and marginalised communities.
- **Weak Land Administration:** The Ministry of Agriculture must strengthen its land administration policy and strategies. At the same time, the Ministry of Agriculture must liaise with the Ministry of Mines to address the artisanal miners and smallholder farmers land conflict.
- **Exclusive Market Systems:** The market orientation in Zimbabwe favours the elite and large-holder farmers. There is need for the Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA) to re-orient its market system to promote the inclusion of smallholder farmers in the market chain and facilitate the setting up of post-harvest mechanisms that protect the products of farmers.
- **Agriculture Knowledge, Technology and Innovation System:** The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in conjunction with the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education and Ministry of Agriculture must promote innovative researches that bridge the agricultural knowledge gap. At the same time the Ministry of Information must find ways to disseminate the generate knowledge.
- **Agriculture Value Chains:** The Ministry of Agriculture must ensure that a comprehensive value chain system is put in place. Its establishment must be informed by a social and economic justice approach that is cognisant of people's aspirations and the need to foster national development and growth.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** The Ministry of Agriculture and ZINWA should ensure that the constructed dams benefits smallholder farmers. At the same time the cost of water should be subsidised by the government to ensure accessibility.

7. Conclusion

Agriculture remains the bedrock of the Zimbabwean economy and there is need for the government to promote the growth and development of the sector through policy stimulation if it is to attain the US\$ 8.2 billion agriculture economy by 2025. The government must prioritise value chains, agricultural knowledge development, innovation and the purchasing of tractors and combine harvesters. Addressing the artisanal miners and smallholder farmers land conflicts must be a key priority area.

