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Africa's Agriculture Ministers Urged to Prioritise Self-Reliance



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*South Africa's Agriculture
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Contents

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
| Editorial Comment | : | 4 |
| News Briefs | : | 5 |
| Cover Story | | |
| Africa's Agriculture Ministers Urged to Prioritise Self-Reliance | : | 6 |
| General Stories | | |
| Botswana Vaccine Institute and BIAH Forge Stronger Ties for... | : | 6 |
| Botswana's Partnership with CAADP: Transforming Agriculture... | : | 6 |
| BUAN-MUAST Partnership to Boost Agricultural Innovation | : | 6 |
| Botswana Innovators Pioneering Green Agriculture with Viva Organica | : | 6 |
| Irio Solutions Driving Innovation and Sustainability | : | 6 |
| Regional | | |
| South Africa's Agriculture Poised for Strong Recovery in 2025 | : | 6 |
| Transforming Sierra Leone's Poultry Industry | : | 6 |
| Unlocking Zambia's Beekeeping Potential for Growth and Sustainability | : | 6 |
| Energy | | |
| The Future of Agriculture, Food and Energy | : | 6 |
| International | | |
| Navigating Challenges and Opportunities of Global Trends | : | 6 |

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Ulla Setswalo (Editor)

As we step into a new year, the spotlight is firmly on Botswana's agriculture sector and its evolving role in regional agribusiness. The past year presented numerous challenges, from droughts and supply chain disruptions to shifts in trade policies. However, 2025 brings renewed optimism, with forecasts indicating a recovery and growth trajectory that could reshape the nation's agricultural landscape.

Botswana, like many of its SADC counterparts, has recognised the pressing need for self-reliance in food production. Recent discussions at the African Union's Extraordinary Assembly of Ministers of Agriculture underscored the importance of reducing dependency on imports and investing in homegrown solutions. The country is poised to leverage advanced irrigation techniques, climate-smart farming and strategic trade partnerships under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to fortify its agricultural output.

Beyond Botswana, agribusiness developments across the SADC region and beyond signal a transformative period. Zambia has made strides in expanding its maize production, positioning itself as a key grain supplier within southern Africa. Namibia's livestock sector is benefiting from improved veterinary services and regional export agreements, while Malawi's tobacco and tea industries are adjusting to global market shifts. In Zimbabwe, renewed government support for commercial farming is fostering a resurgence in large-scale agriculture, further strengthened by the collaboration between Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUASt) and Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), which aims to enhance research and innovation in sustainable farming.

South Africa, after facing significant setbacks due to drought and animal disease outbreaks in 2024, is now on a path to recovery, with improved rainfall, stabilised electricity supply and a revitalised livestock industry bolstering agricultural productivity. Further afield, East and West African nations continue to innovate in agro-processing and mechanisation, setting new benchmarks for sustainable agribusiness practices. As these trends unfold, it is crucial for Botswana's agricultural sector to draw lessons from its neighbours while capitalising on its unique strengths. A stable water supply from well-managed reservoirs, progressive farming policies and an emphasis on local value addition will be key drivers in ensuring food security and economic resilience.

This year presents an opportunity for policymakers, farmers and agribusiness stakeholders to work in synergy to transform Botswana's agricultural sector into a powerhouse of regional trade and innovation. By embracing modern technologies, fostering intra-Africa collaborations and addressing systemic challenges, Botswana can pave the way for a prosperous agricultural future, not just for itself but for the wider SADC region and the continent at large.

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UKUDLA- A Game-Changer for Africa's Food Security

Africa is at a turning point in the fight against hunger and food insecurity, with one in five people undernourished. The challenge is urgent but so is the opportunity for change. Enter UKUDLA, the African German Centre for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems and Applied Agricultural and Food Data Science, a groundbreaking initiative set to transform food systems across the continent.

More than just a research hub, UKUDLA is a regional powerhouse driving innovative solutions through data science, empowering future leaders and partnering with communities in South Africa, Malawi and beyond to turn research into action. With €6.5 million in funding from Germany's Federal Foreign Office, Ministry of Education & Research and Ministry of Food & Agriculture, the centre is part of the prestigious "African Excellence – Centres of African Excellence" programme supported by DAAD.

Germany's Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, Cem Özdemir, has been instrumental in championing sustainable agriculture and international collaboration, aligning UKUDLA with the newly launched Africa Strategy. With its focus on resilience, innovation and sustainability, UKUDLA is poised to reshape Africa's food systems for generations to come.

BMC Updates on Operational Progress

The Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) recently met with Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Edwin Dikoloti, to provide an update on its operational progress and strategic direction.

During the meeting, the BMC board and management briefed the Minister and his team on key developments at the facility, outlining future business models aimed at enhancing performance and driving sustainable growth.

Dikoloti underscored the importance of timely project completion, stressing that delays lead to unnecessary costs and could hinder the sector's overall efficiency.

The engagement reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening Botswana's meat industry, ensuring that

BMC remains a cornerstone of economic growth and global competitiveness.

Namibia Ministry Opens Bidding for Green Scheme Plots

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform has announced an open bidding process for small-scale farmers interested in leasing plots at various Green Scheme irrigation projects.

Executive Director Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata confirmed that applications are being accepted through Open Advertised Bidding (OAB) for vacant plots at Etunda Green Scheme (28 plots), Museese Green Scheme (one plot), Ndonga Linena Green Scheme (four plots), and the Orange River Irrigation Project (ORIP) Green Scheme (three plots).

Detailed qualification requirements and bidding documents are available on the ministry's website at <https://mawf.gov.na/>. Interested applicants must submit their bids in person at the Lands Building, located at the corner of Robert Mugabe Avenue and Dr May Street in Windhoek by 29 February 2025 at 11:00 am. Late submissions and electronic bids will not be accepted.

Bids will be opened at 11:05 am on the same day in the presence of applicants' representatives who choose to attend. The initiative is expected to boost small-scale farming by providing access to irrigated land, supporting agricultural productivity, and enhancing food security.

World Bank Engages Botswana's Ministry of Agriculture on Livestock Sector Investments

The World Bank recently held discussions with Botswana's Assistant Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Edwin Dikoloti, and senior officials to explore strategic investments aimed at strengthening the country's livestock sector. The talks focused on enhancing quality beef production, a key driver of Botswana's economic growth and its competitive standing in global export markets.

Discussions highlighted the modernization of livestock farming, improvements in animal health, and upgraded infrastructure to meet international beef quality standards. Dikoloti reaffirmed the government's commitment to fostering partnerships that boost productivity,

sustainability, and sector resilience. The World Bank expressed its willingness to support Botswana through technical expertise, funding, and policy advisory services, ensuring that the livestock industry not only thrives but also contributes to food security and the socio-economic development of rural communities.

Botswana Reopens Market to South African Vegetable Exports

The recent lifting of the ban on South African vegetable imports marks a significant breakthrough for North-West province farmers and agribusinesses. This move restores a vital trade relationship between the two nations, offering relief to farmers who have faced market access challenges since the ban's enforcement.

The restrictions, initially imposed to protect Botswana's domestic agricultural sector, were lifted on 13 December 2024, in a phased approach aimed at revitalising cross-border trade, boosting economic recovery and sustaining jobs in the agricultural industry. The first phase allows turmeric, patty pan, pumpkin, green peas, mushrooms and eggplants to be exported into Botswana. The second phase, scheduled for April 2025, will expand the list to include beetroot, butternut, onion, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, sweet pepper, potatoes and watermelon.

MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Madoda Sambatha, hailed the decision as a major win for North-West farmers. "We welcome Botswana's decision to reopen its market to our vegetable exports. This is a victory for our farmers, who have been eager to resume trade with our neighbouring country. We remain committed to fostering agricultural partnerships that benefit both nations," said Sambatha.

The North-West Province encourages local farmers and exporters to capitalise on this renewed market access. The provincial government is working closely with industry stakeholders to enhance agricultural productivity and trade relations. Farmers interested in exporting their produce are urged to apply for import and export certificates to commence trading, ensuring compliance with cross-border trade regulations.

Africa's Agriculture Ministers Urged to Prioritise Self-Reliance

The African Union's Extraordinary Assembly of Ministers of Agriculture, recently held in Uganda, has called on African leaders to rethink the continent's agricultural future. The high-level summit focused on advancing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035, underlining the urgency for Africa to reduce its dependence on food imports and strengthen investment in its agricultural systems.

Uganda's Prime Minister, Robinah Nabbanja, delivered a powerful message on the need for self-sufficiency, highlighting the paradox of Africa's vast agricultural potential being underutilised while billions of dollars are spent annually on food imports. "This is a contradiction we can no longer afford. Innovative solutions must be adopted to transform Africa's agricultural sector," stated Nabbanja. Her remarks underscored the need for policies and frameworks that empower African nations to enhance their food production capabilities.

Ministers and agricultural experts discussed a wide range of strategies aimed at improving productivity across the continent. Among the key topics was the need for policy reforms that encourage investment in agriculture, particularly in mechanisation, irrigation and research.

The adoption of climate-resilient farming practices was also identified as a priority, given the increasing challenges posed by climate change, such as erratic weather patterns, prolonged droughts and soil degradation. Mechanisation remains one of the biggest obstacles to agricultural

growth in Africa, with most farming still dependent on traditional, labour-intensive methods. Leaders stressed the importance of increasing mechanisation to improve efficiency and yields. Similarly, greater investment in irrigation was urged to reduce reliance on unpredictable rainfall and increase the cultivation of high-value crops. Expanding storage and processing facilities to add value to agricultural products was also identified as a critical step toward building sustainable food systems and reducing post-harvest losses.

A significant portion of the discussions revolved around regional integration and trade facilitation under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Nabbanja described AfCFTA as a "catalyst for intra-African trade and cooperation," urging governments to remove trade barriers that hinder the movement of agricultural goods across borders. The ministers agreed that increased regional trade would enable African countries to leverage each other's strengths, optimise resource allocation and boost food security through diversified supply chains. The summit revisited the 2023 CAADP review, which highlighted persistent challenges in achieving food security and sustainability. Ministers acknowledged that while progress had been made, many African nations still struggle with inadequate infrastructure, limited access to financing for smallholder farmers, and inefficient supply chains. They were encouraged to align their national strategies with the Kampala CAADP Agenda, a framework promoting agricultural innovation, resilience and economic transformation.

Participants also noted the role of research institutions in advancing agricultural innovation. Increased funding for research and development was identified as crucial in developing drought-resistant crops, improving soil health and implementing precision farming techniques. Public-private partnerships were also encouraged to drive investment in agribusiness and strengthen Africa's agro-industrial base. Beyond food production, the summit addressed the socio-economic aspects of agricultural transformation, particularly the need for youth and women's involvement in farming. With Africa's population growing rapidly, harnessing the potential of young people in agribusiness was seen to tackle unemployment while ensuring a steady generational transition in farming. Governments were urged to implement programmes that offer incentives and training to attract young entrepreneurs into agriculture.

At the conclusion of the summit, ministers agreed on a set of resolutions aimed at accelerating Africa's agricultural transformation. These resolutions will be refined and presented to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for adoption. Leaders hope that by embracing a new era of agricultural self-sufficiency, Africa will not only reduce its dependence on food imports but also strengthen its role in global food security. The outcome of this summit is expected to shape agricultural policies across the continent over the next decade, with a firm commitment to achieving food sovereignty and economic prosperity for all African nations.



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Botswana Vaccine Institute and BIAH Forge Stronger Ties for a Sustainable Future

The Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) has reached a new milestone in its longstanding commitment to animal health with the renewal of its strategic partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health (BIAH). Formalised on 31 January 2025. This collaboration strengthens a relationship that dates to the 1978 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak and has been instrumental in advancing Botswana's livestock industry.

Acting Minister Edwin Dikoloti hailed the renewed agreement, highlighting its transformative impact on BVI. He said, "This collaboration has transformed BVI into a world-class laboratory, producing a range of vaccines through high-technology processes and adhering to rigorous international standards."

The partnership is set to drive diversification within BVI's product portfolio, ensuring financial sustainability while



positioning Botswana as a key player in global animal health. Plans for regional expansion will enhance the country's competitiveness, with the establishment of a cutting-edge Research & Development Centre marking a significant step towards innovation. The agreement will

also facilitate the transfer of expertise to local professionals, fostering long-term economic empowerment. With this renewed alliance, Botswana's agricultural sector stands poised for greater success, reinforcing its leadership in vaccine production and livestock health.

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Botswana's Partnership with CAADP: Transforming Agriculture for Growth



The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is an African Union initiative launched in 2003 under the Maputo Declaration. Its mission is to address food security and agricultural development across Africa by increasing productivity, reducing hunger, and promoting sustainable practices.

Botswana is an active CAADP member and has aligned its national agricultural policies with CAADP principles. The country has made significant strides, particularly in livestock production, while increasing public and private investment in agriculture. Botswana is also committed to regional efforts that enhance agricultural trade and integration, with agriculture contributing less than 2% of its GDP.

CAADP was launched during the 2003 Maputo Declaration, where African leaders pledged 10% of their national budgets to agriculture. In 2009, the Malabo Declaration introduced commitments to accel-

erate agricultural growth and modernisation. The programme's objectives include reducing poverty and hunger by boosting productivity and farmer incomes, particularly for smallholders. It also aims to improve food security and nutrition by ensuring access to affordable, nutritious food for all Africans. Additionally, CAADP seeks to enhance intra-African trade by fostering regional markets for agricultural products, while promoting sustainability through climate-resilient and resource-efficient practices.

Over time, CAADP's strategies have evolved to address emerging challenges with a holistic approach to food systems. African governments have committed to allocating at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture, while aiming for 6% annual growth in agricultural output.

Strengthening regional markets, securing land rights for farmers—particularly women—and investing in agricultural research and indigenous crops have been key pri-

orities. The programme also focuses on adapting practices to mitigate climate impacts and engaging youth, women, and marginalised groups in agricultural transformation.

Looking ahead, CAADP's Strategy and Action Plan for 2026-2035 seeks to transform Africa's food systems with a focus on sustainability, equity, and resilience. It prioritises farmer-managed seed systems, the preservation of indigenous foods, and circular food economies that minimise waste and optimise resources. Youth and women's inclusion in agricultural value chains remain central to its vision, ensuring the benefits of agricultural development are widely shared.

Botswana's collaboration with CAADP reflects its dedication to agricultural transformation. Through policy alignment, increased investment, and regional cooperation, Botswana aims to achieve food security, reduce poverty, and drive sustainable growth.

BUAN-MUAST Partnership to Boost Agricultural Innovation

The Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) and Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUAST) held a collaborative meeting aimed at identifying potential areas of partnership on 7 February 2025. Both institutions, dedicated to advancing agriculture, technology and natural resource management in Botswana and Zimbabwe, marked their second engagement, focusing on shared objectives for regional development.

BUAN Vice Chancellor Ketlhatlogile Mosepele, highlighted the important role both universities play in conducting innovative research and developing future leaders in agriculture and natural resources. He stressed that collaboration between BUAN and MUAST will provide valuable opportunities for mutual learning, essential for tackling the pressing challenges faced by both nations.

MUAST's Vice Chancellor Justice Nyamangara, also recognised the significance of this partnership, particularly in the context of climate change's impact on soil quality and agricultural productivity. Reflecting on the recent floods in Zimbabwe and Mozam-

bique, he pointed out that agricultural education must address a broad range of factors, including psychology and cultural education. This led to discussions on BUAN's outreach programmes for farmers and students, which have proven to be vital in fostering engagement with local communities.

BUAN's Centre for In-Service and Continuing Education, an outreach arm of the university, offers professional short courses tailored to the needs of various stakeholders. The centre also provides a platform for panel discussions on issues affecting communities, engaging them directly in course development. Both universities recognised their shared vision and the potential for joint research initiatives to drive transformative agricultural practices, enhancing food security in both Botswana and Zimbabwe.

The MUAST delegation, which included key faculty members and administrators, toured BUAN's facilities, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas to further their collaboration and strengthen their mission. This partnership stands as a beacon of hope for agricultural innovation in Southern Africa, inspiring creative solutions to the region's agricultural challenges.



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Batswana Innovators Pioneering Green Agriculture with Viva Organica

Meet the visionary duo behind Viva Organica: Mmakwena Moesi, Co-Founder and CEO and her partner, Amogelang Shaun Masi, the company's Brand Strategist. Moesi is a Pan-African Bio-Entrepreneur, Climate and Food Activist, and a passionate advocate for sustainable agriculture. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Botswana. Mr. Masi, an agripreneur and Computer Engineer, brings a fusion of technology and agriculture with his Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from the University of Sunderland.

Founded in 2018, Viva Organica is a pioneering biotech company based in Botswana, committed to transforming agriculture through eco-conscious solutions. The company empowers local farmers by providing organic biofertilizers and non-GMO seeds, leveraging cutting-edge

biotechnological processes. One of its standout innovations is vermicomposting, a process that converts kitchen waste and animal manure into nutrient-rich farming inputs. This closed-loop system not only enhances soil health but also significantly reduces landfill waste and carbon emissions.

Viva Organica's product line includes Bio-brew, a liquid biostimulant and organic fertilizer enriched with essential minerals, and Vermogro, a 100% natural, odorless, and eco-friendly granular fertilizer. Their groundbreaking approach to sustainable farming has garnered multiple accolades, including recognition from the Green Tech Festival, the African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge (YouthADAPT) competition, and a 2023 SEED Climate Adaptation Award (Runner-Up).

With a mission to revolutionize agriculture

through innovation and sustainability, Viva Organica is not just transforming Botswana's farming landscape but also setting a global benchmark for eco-friendly solutions. Their impact underscores a powerful message, innovation by Botswana, for the world.



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Irio Solutions Driving Innovation and Sustainability

The transformation of Botswana's horticulture sector and its contribution to the national economy hinges on partnerships that bridge the gap between innovation and grassroots farming. Agriculture currently accounts for less than 2 per cent of Botswana's GDP, with many farmers deterred by the high cost of inputs and a lack of modern solutions. Addressing these challenges requires affordable technologies, mentorship, and a focus on smart agricultural practices.

Enter Irio Solutions, a trailblazing company founded by 34-year-old Motswana entrepreneur Itumeleng Kanotunga from Rasesa. With its affordable irrigation systems, solar energy solutions, and water treatment services, Irio Solutions is revolutionising farming practices, making agriculture accessible and sustainable for all.

Operating from offices in Letlhakane and Gaborone, the company employs 23

dedicated staff and boasts 2,000 square metres of warehouse space stocked with modern agricultural supplies. From drip lines and sprinklers to solar-powered borehole pumps, Irio Solutions provides tools that optimise farming efficiency and reduce costs. Its advanced solar panels, which perform even in low-light conditions, empower farmers to irrigate sustainably while curbing electricity expenses.

Kanotunga highlights the harsh climatic conditions in Botswana, which often result in significant agricultural losses. To combat this, Irio Solutions offers protective solutions like shade nets and greenhouse tunnels, helping farmers shield crops and boost yields. Additionally, the company addresses the pressing issue of saline water from boreholes by providing water treatment technologies, including reverse osmosis systems and water shops, ensuring safe water for communities and farms alike.

The company's impact extends beyond supplying inputs. Kanotunga has launched a reseller programme aimed at empowering Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs). The programme has trained 23 resellers who now distribute agricultural products at discounted rates within their communities, creating local job opportunities and expanding Irio Solutions' market presence.

"Through our reseller programme, we are not just enhancing our reach but also enabling entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses that contribute to the economy," said Kanotunga.

With a mission to fill the nation's food basket, Irio Solutions is positioning itself as more than a supplier, it is a catalyst for change in Botswana's agriculture sector. By integrating modern technology, mentorship and sustainable practices, the company is not only supporting farmers but also driving the economic growth needed to uplift the nation.

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South Africa's Agriculture Poised for Strong Recovery in 2025

After a turbulent 2024, South Africa's agricultural sector, the country's largest employer is set for a robust rebound in 2025. With key challenges such as drought and animal disease outbreaks now easing, renewed growth is on the horizon, according to Wandile Sihlobo, Chief Economist at the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa.

The sector endured its sharpest contraction in decades, with Stats SA reporting a 15.5% decline in the first nine months of 2024 and a staggering 28.8% drop in the third quarter, largely due to a severe midsummer drought that devastated key crops, including maize, soybeans, wheat and sunflowers. This downturn weighed heavily on national GDP, subtracting 0.7 percentage points. However, a review by the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) later suggested the contraction had been overstated, estimating a more moderate 5%–6% decline and calling for an upward revision of R10.8 billion in ag-

ricultural GDP after inflation adjustments.

Sihlobo highlighted three major subsectors driving South Africa's farming economy, horticulture, which includes fruits and vegetables, field crops, covering grains, oilseeds and sugarcane and livestock and poultry, which accounts for half of the industry. All three have faced significant hurdles in recent years, but improving conditions signal a positive turnaround.

Favourable rainfall is expected to aid recovery, ensuring better production levels and much-needed relief for farmers. With dam levels remaining healthy, irrigation-dependent fruit and vegetable farms will benefit from a more stable water supply. Meanwhile, the livestock industry, which suffered heavy losses due to the 2023 avian flu outbreak, is seeing steady recovery, with only two provinces still facing localised challenges.

A more stable electricity supply is also expected to support the sector's revival.

With around 20% of South Africa's field crops reliant on irrigation and key agricultural industries such as dairy farming, food processing, and meat production dependent on consistent power, Eskom's improved performance in 2024 has been a crucial factor. Reduced load-shedding is providing much-needed operational stability, allowing businesses to function more efficiently.

Agriculture currently provides nearly one million jobs in primary farming and as recovery gains momentum, employment opportunities are likely to increase, benefiting rural communities and the broader economy. While Eskom has warned of possible power shortages during the winter months, the overall energy outlook remains stable. If the sector sustains its upward trajectory, South Africa's farming economy will strengthen, driving economic growth, enhancing food security and expanding employment opportunities across the country.

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Transforming Sierra Leone's Poultry Industry



Poultry farming plays a vital role in Sierra Leone's agricultural sector, providing economic opportunities and a consistent food source for rural communities. However, traditional poultry farming methods have struggled to meet market demand and sustain profitability for small-scale producers. The Agriculture Poultry Market Initiative (APMI), supported by the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), is addressing these challenges by introducing market-driven solutions that modernise rural poultry farming. Through strategic partnerships and investment in sustainable value chains, APMI is empowering farmers, strengthening rural economies and enhancing food security across the country.

A key component of APMI's strategy is the introduction of dual-purpose poultry breeds, which produce both meat and eggs. These breeds are highly productive and adaptable, making them ideal for smallholder farmers looking to increase their profitability. By promoting these improved breeds, APMI helps farmers achieve higher yields, reduce reliance on imports and establish a more self-sufficient poultry industry in Sierra Leone. This approach not only boosts household incomes but also ensures a steady supply of poultry products to meet the country's growing demand.

Another crucial aspect of APMI's approach is farmer training and capacity

building. Many rural poultry farmers lack the resources and technical expertise to optimise their production. To bridge this gap, APMI provides training in disease prevention, efficient feeding techniques and modern poultry management practices. By equipping farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge, the initiative enhances productivity and profitability while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the poultry industry.

Market accessibility has historically been a major challenge for poultry farmers in Sierra Leone, with many struggling to secure stable buyers, leading to inconsistent income and post-harvest losses. To address this, APMI is working with private-sector partners to develop structured poultry value chains that connect producers to markets and consumers. These efforts include establishing aggregation centers, improving logistics and streamlining supply chains to enhance efficiency and profitability. As a result, smallholder farmers can access fair and stable market prices, improving their economic stability.

QFFD's investment has been instrumental in expanding APMI's reach and impact. Its financial support and strategic guidance have enabled the initiative to extend its benefits to more rural communities. Beyond improving individual livelihoods, this effort contributes to Sierra Leone's broader economic growth and food secu-

ity. Increased poultry production ensures a more affordable supply of protein, which is essential for combating malnutrition and improving overall health outcomes in rural areas.

Sustainability is at the core of APMI's model. Rather than relying on short-term aid, the initiative focuses on building self-sustaining poultry enterprises capable of thriving independently. By fostering local entrepreneurship and promoting best practices in poultry farming, APMI ensures that farmers continue to benefit long after the initial interventions. This long-term vision aligns with Sierra Leone's national agricultural development goals, supporting efforts to achieve food security and economic resilience.

The success of APMI demonstrates the transformative power of strategic investment and collaboration in rural economies. Through targeted interventions and a strong emphasis on sustainability, the initiative is driving meaningful change in Sierra Leone's poultry sector. By equipping farmers with essential knowledge, resources, and market access, APMI is improving livelihoods and laying the foundation for a more resilient and prosperous poultry industry. With continued support from QFFD and other stakeholders, poultry farmers in Sierra Leone are well-positioned for long-term success, helping to build a brighter future for rural communities nationwide.

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SHELVING ACCESSORIES

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Passionate about centre pivots

At SENTER360 we are proud to not only supply products but build long term relations with our clients by delivering a package of high quality and excellent service. The SENTER360 centre pivot, manufactured since 1994, is known for its excellent quality and strength above industry standards. We are part of the irrigation industry for more than 25 years and have interests in South Africa, Africa and in the rest of the world. We are passionate about our centre pivots. We do not only build a tough, very strong structure but spend time on small detail to make a big difference in your everyday life.

STRUCTURAL STABILITY

SENER360 tower trusses are manufactured from pipe and not angle iron as is commonly used in other brands. The advantage of the lighter material enables us to use two more sets of trusses per tower than is possible with angle iron trusses, ensuring an exceptionally strong structure. An added advantage of the pipe truss structure is its aerodynamic superiority above angle iron as a structural material. That is the reason for a SENTER360 machine withstanding a windstorm of 158km hour (actual field data), confirming the reason why no SENTER360 was blown over in a recent storm (the only brand not blown over) Standard long base beams, sturdy tower supports, stabilizing rods, diagonals and a low centre of gravity contribute to exceptional stability.

INNOVATIVE CONTROL PANELS

The same modular principals used throughout the entire SENTER360 design is also visible in our control panel design. Our 'basic' control panel is similar in functionality to the top panels of most other brands.

All new and old** SENTER360 panels can be controlled by your cell phone*, Tablet*, computer or base station by adding a simple plug in "Communicator" unit of your choice (GPRS/cell network, Wi Fi or radio unit). Full pump control, VSD control and feedback is also available on the same system.

*(Android, IOS and other)

**[older panel controls are limited to on/off, direct mm adjustment, run and stop feedback communication.]

New panels have full function internet controls, record keeping, graphs, etc.



Contact us at +27 18 469 1331 or +27 82 564 5955

Unlocking Zambia's Beekeeping Potential for Growth and Sustainability

Zambia's vast forests and favourable climate create an ideal environment for a thriving beekeeping industry. With approximately 60% of the country covered in miombo woodlands, beekeeping has long been a source of livelihood for an estimated 20,000 beekeepers. Honey and beeswax trade alone contribute up to 25% of annual income for tens of thousands of rural families. Yet, despite this potential, the sector remains largely underutilised, producing only 2,500 tonnes of honey annually, just a fraction of its estimated 20,000-tonne capacity.



Expanding value-added products could unlock new revenue streams for Zambian beekeepers. Beyond raw honey, processing beeswax into candles, soaps and cosmetics, harvesting propolis and royal jelly for health supplements, and marketing bee pollen as a dietary product could significantly enhance profitability. Diversifying into honey-infused beverages, baked goods and confectioneries would further attract a broader customer base.

The global honey market is experiencing steady growth, driven by increasing consumer demand for natural and organic products. In major producing states in the United States, honey prices ranged from \$1.85 to \$3.00 per pound as of December 2024. In Zambia, natural honey retails between \$9.51 and \$20.93 per kilogram, presenting lucrative export opportunities.

To maximise these prospects, stakeholders must focus on quality enhancement, market diversification, and sustainable beekeeping practices. Investing in training, improving product standards, and exploring international markets will ensure long-term success. Institutional support through training programmes and industry partnerships can further empower beekeepers to compete in the global market. By embracing innovation and sustainability, Zambia's beekeeping industry can evolve into a significant economic driver, boosting incomes, promoting environmental conservation and securing a brighter future for rural communities.



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| Ammonium Nitrate | 10:26:26+2S | Potassium Nitrate |
| CAN granular | 24:6:12 | Monoammonium Phosphate |
| MOP granular | 8:20:30+2S | Urea micro prills |
| MOP standard | 22:7:12+2S | NPK Foliar |
| | 27:6:6+2S | NPK drip irrigation |
| | 21:10:10+2S | |

The Future of Agriculture, Food and Energy

By: Golden Agri-Resources (GAR)



As 2025 unfolds, the way we farm, eat and power our world is evolving rapidly. These shifts are about more than just increasing output, they're about making smarter and more sustainable choices. At GAR, our focus is on creating lasting value for both people and the planet.

With climate change causing extreme weather and droughts, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warns that global crop yields could drop by up to 30% by 2050 without urgent action. The solution isn't simply to produce more but to innovate sustainably. Our Dami Mas DxP seeds, developed at our SMART Biotechnology Centre, provide earlier and higher yields while maintaining genetic resilience. Leveraging molecular breeding and bioinformatics, these seeds enable harvesting just 24 months after planting, yielding 18-24 tonnes of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) per hectare with an Oil Extraction Rate of 28-31%.

We're also reducing greenhouse gas emissions through biogas plants by capturing methane from Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME) and converting it into renewable energy. Methane is 28 times more potent than CO₂ in trapping heat and untreated POME is a major direct greenhouse gas emitter. By capturing and using it to power our mills, we significantly reduce our carbon footprint.

Diversification remains key to resilience. While palm oil is central, we've expanded into derivatives like oleochemicals and other goods such as sugar to meet shifting market demands. Our sugar business

has grown quickly, combining our company's global support with its strong supply chain expertise. This strategic expansion ensures adaptability in volatile markets.

The bioenergy sector continues to grow, focusing on carbon capture and alternative feedstocks for a net-zero future. GAR contributes by producing bioenergy from palm-based resources, with our biodiesel plants in Jakarta and South Kalimantan generating over a million tonnes annually. Our Palm Kernel Shell (PKS) offers a low-carbon alternative to conventional fuels, reducing emissions by up to 40% while promoting a circular economy.

Consumer demand for health-conscious foods is also rising, with more people prioritising high-protein, fibre-rich options and natural health ingredients. Transparency is equally important, with 76% of consumers expecting clear sourcing information and many willing to pay more for brands they trust. GAR is responding by offering trans-fat-free palm oil rich in Vitamin E and provitamin A carotenoids. Our Marunda R&D Centre reformulates products to remove trans fats while maintaining flavour and texture, ensuring both health benefits and taste.

To further support transparency, we've developed SmartTrace, a blockchain-powered system that tracks palm oil from plantation to product. By securely recording each step in the supply chain, SmartTrace ensures accuracy and builds trust among consumers who want to know where their food comes from and how it's made.

The livestock industry is also shifting focus toward gut health to boost immunity and reduce antibiotic use. Our GoNutri Protect feed supplements use palm and palm kernel-derived ingredients to enhance digestion naturally, improve microbiota and support nutrient absorption. Prioritising gut health leads to better production yields and reduces antibiotic dependence, benefiting both livestock and sustainability.

Beyond business, we're committed to creating shared value by balancing profitability with environmental and social responsibility. Consumers are willing to spend nearly 10% more on products that support sustainability, reinforcing the need for responsible production. GAR's conservation efforts include protecting over 1,600 hectares of carbon-rich peatlands through advanced water management systems, ensuring these ecosystems continue to store carbon, support biodiversity, and enhance climate resilience.

Additionally, our Bright Future Initiative empowers communities by supporting over 160 projects across 100 villages in Indonesia. By providing training and tools for sustainable farming, livestock and cash crop cultivation, we help families boost their incomes and foster self-reliance. This approach strengthens local economies while promoting environmental stewardship, ensuring a sustainable future for all.



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Navigating Challenges and Opportunities of Global Trends

The global agricultural economy continues to recover from disruptions caused by Covid-19 and geopolitical conflicts, but new uncertainties are shaping market trends. While the UK and European agricultural sectors are stabilising, inflation, extreme weather conditions and ongoing global conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine and tensions in the Middle East, present fresh challenges. Food consumption is projected to grow at 1.2% per annum over the next decade, a slower rate than in previous years due to declining population growth. While China has historically led global food consumption, India and Southeast Asia are set to take over, accounting for 31% of global food demand by 2033.

According to Brady Stevens at SAC, food inflation, which peaked in 2023, has moderated to an average of 2.9% in the Euro area, though prices for key commodities like sugar and olive oil remain high. The Bank of England's interest rate cuts signal economic recovery but rising government spending is expected to push inflation up to 2.5% by the end of 2025 before stabilising at 2.2% in 2026. He further said, despite a general decline in input costs, fertiliser prices remain significantly higher than pre-2022 levels, making them unaffordable for some farmers. As reliance on fossil fuels decreases, these costs are expected to stabilise in the long term.

"The agricultural sector is also adapting to climate change and geopolitical risks. The focus on local

sourcing and resilient supply chains has helped mitigate past disruptions but extreme weather events and trade uncertainties remain a challenge. If continued conflict in the Middle East forces shipping to bypass the Suez Canal, energy prices could be affected, further straining agricultural production. Climate change is also increasing the frequency of droughts, floods and plant and animal disease outbreaks, adding further pressure on food security. While local food networks can offer short-term resilience, efficient international trade remains essential, as 20% of global food is transported across borders," explained Stevens.

In the grain market, global production is expected to rise by 2.8% in 2024, driven by a strong maize harvest in Brazil. This increase is keeping grain prices low despite the ongoing war in Ukraine. However, extreme weather has reduced cereal production across the EU, particularly for wheat and barley, leading to lower-than-average exports. UK farmers also faced adverse weather conditions, resulting in a decline in barley, oat, and wheat output, with harvested wheat quality being affected. Oilseed production in Europe fell due to reduced rapeseed planting and poor weather, while the UK saw a decline in oilseed rape planting, with prices forecasted at around £442 per tonne in 2025.

The livestock sector has experienced both highs and lows. UK milk production is expected to decline by 1.1% in 2024 due to lower margins, though

stabilising input costs could provide relief. Beef prices remain strong due to high consumer demand and lower US production but UK beef output is expected to drop by 3% in 2025. Sheep meat production in the UK fell by 8% in 2024 due to weather and disease challenges, though strong farm gate prices could benefit farmers in early 2025. The UK pig market has been relatively stable, with a 3% production increase in 2024 driven by higher carcass weights rather than herd expansion. However, prices for 2025 remain uncertain, depending on EU demand and currency fluctuations.

"With an 86% chance that 2024-2028 will include the hottest year on record, climate risks to agriculture are escalating. While global agricultural emissions are expected to rise by 5%, improvements in productivity are reducing the carbon intensity of food production. The UK and EU remain leaders in sustainable agriculture but stricter regulations may increase production costs and challenge competitiveness in global markets. Farmers are encouraged to adopt sustainability innovations that enhance productivity, while governments must provide clear strategies and support for rural livelihoods and food security. As agribusinesses navigate shifting trade patterns, inflation and environmental risks, adaptability will be key to long-term resilience. Embracing innovation and sustainable practices will ensure both productivity and economic viability in an evolving agricultural landscape," concluded Stevens.



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- » Increases weight gain of young growing animals on natural grazing.

FUTTERFOS P6, the convenient ready-mixed version of Feedmaster Futterfos P14 concentrate, contains a combination of MCP and MAP – sources with the highest bio-availability of phosphate.

- » More than just a phosphate, P6 contains a trace mineral mixture specially formulated for the rainy season.
- » Developed from Namibian research results.
- » An over-abundance of Ca hinders the absorption of P and other trace minerals (iron, iodine, zinc and manganese), while the Namibian sandveld already contains an overabundance of Ca in relation to P. Therefore the 1:1 ratio Ca:P of Futterfos P6 helps to rectify this imbalance.

VEEFOS P12 additionally supplies all the trace minerals needed by animals in the rainy season.

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