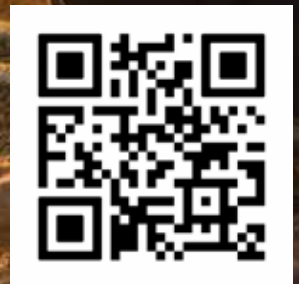




# BOTSWANA AgriBusiness

## Aquaculture Bridging the Protein Gap in Botswana



*Botswana Agri Forum 2026  
Sparks Bold Investment and  
Innovation*

8

*Malawi Outrage Over Disposal  
of Agricultural Inputs Worth  
Millions*

12

*KOM Solar Drives Botswana's  
Clean Energy Ambitions*

22





# Volvo Trucks

For comfortable and safe long-haul journeys



# SDLG

Where strength meets reliability on every job



# Vesper Energy Solutions

Energy you can trust in Botswana

## NORS

Plot 47, International Commerce Park,  
P.O.Box 202616, Gaborone  
T. +267 392 3117  
info.bw@nors.com

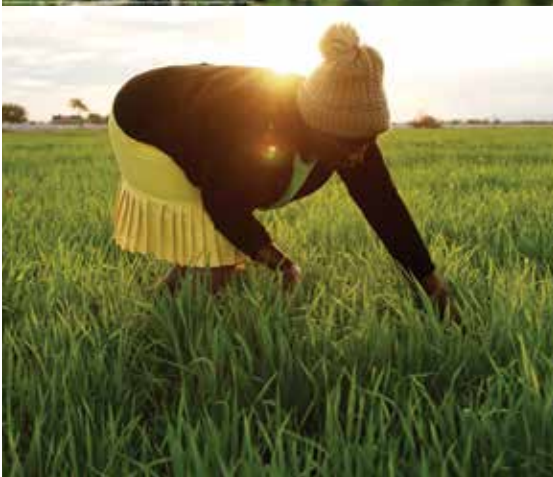
### Making it work.

Trucks  
and Buses  
—  
Construction  
Equipment

[botswana.nors.com](http://botswana.nors.com)



# BOTSWANA AgriBusiness



## Contents

<b>Editorial Comment</b>	: .....	4
<b>News Briefs</b>	: .....	5
<b>Cover Story</b>		
Aquaculture Bridging the Protein Gap in Botswana	: .....	6
<b>General</b>		
Fueling Global Stability from the Ground Up	: .....	7
Botswana Agri Forum 2026 Sparks Bold Investment and Innovation	: .....	8
AfDB Awards \$16.6 Million Grant to IITA to Scale Agricultural...	: .....	9
<b>Regional</b>		
DRC Courts Investors for Strategic FDI in Tech and Agriculture	: .....	10
Malawi Outrage Over Disposal of Agricultural Inputs Worth Millions	: .....	12
Hydroponic and Aquaponic Systems Lead Sustainable Farming Renaissance	: .....	14
Mushandike Farmers Harness Climate-Smart Solutions	: .....	16
Zambia, AGRA Seal Landmark Deal to Anchor Food Systems Transformation	: .....	19
Namibia-UAE Trade Set to Surpass N\$5bn	: .....	20
<b>Energy</b>		
KOM Solar Drives Botswana's Clean Energy Ambitions	: .....	22

**Publisher**  
Evans Mumba

**General Manager**  
Peter Tau

**Editor**  
+267 74 723 776  
Ulla Setswalo  
ulla@botswanaagri.com

**Associate Editor**  
Bheki Fayayo  
bheki@agribusinessbotswana.com

**Editorial Contributions**  
Tsepang Mohlabane  
Kotso Rametsi  
Martin Sibanda  
Jeffrey Kgathi

**Advertising Sales**  
+267 74 799 855  
Noah Maposa  
noahm@agribusinessbotswana.com

Joshua Chibwe  
joshuac@agribusinessbotswana.com  
Jilowa Mwanza

jilowam@agribusinessbotswana.com  
Mdu Sibizi  
mdus@agribusinessbotswana.com

Elvis Tau  
elvis@agribusinessbotswana.com

**Subscriptions**  
Loyce Zemeyi  
info@agribusinessbotswana.com

**Address**  
Plot 20691, Sediba House, Sekotlo Road,  
Block 3 Industrial,  
Gaborone, Botswana  
P.O Box 404011 Gaborone Botswana

**Botswana AgriBusiness**  
Tel: +267 74 799 855 | +267 74 723 776  
Email: info@agribusinessbotswana.com  
Website: www.agribusinessbotswana.com



Ulla Setswalo (Editor)

This edition spotlights transformative solutions driving food security, investment and innovation across the country. Our cover story, Aquaculture Bridging the Protein Gap in Bo-

tswana, showcases a transformative approach to food security and economic opportunity. With Botswana's freshwater ecosystems, particularly in the Okavango and Chobe regions, aquaculture presents a tangible pathway for increasing dietary protein, creating jobs and supporting rural livelihoods.

In this edition, we also highlight how innovation, strategic investment and technology adoption are shaping Botswana's agricultural landscape. From the pioneering use of drones for locust control in the Okavango, to climate-smart agriculture initiatives boosting smallholder resilience, the country is demonstrating how modern solutions can increase productivity while protecting natural resources.

The magazine also explores capital investments in multi-species abattoirs, livestock commercialisation projects

and the Lobatse Meat and Leather SEZ, underscoring Botswana's drive to attract local and international investment. Energy transitions, including the growth of solar manufacturing and renewable energy adoption, signal opportunities for industrial diversification while supporting sustainable agribusiness growth.

Across Southern Africa and the wider continent, floods, Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), beef shortages and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continue to test food systems, infrastructure and trade. These dynamics emphasise the urgency of resilient, innovative and investment-ready agricultural solutions. This edition presents stories that chart both progress and opportunity, offering insight into the strategies and technologies that can safeguard livelihoods, strengthen food systems and build long-term economic resilience.

### \$19 Million Investment to Revive N'Sele Agro-Industrial Estate

The Democratic Republic of Congo plans a \$19 million (41.8 billion Congolese francs) investment to rehabilitate the Presidential Agro-Industrial Estate of N'Sele over the 2026–2028 period, targeting farm equipment and piggery facilities.

Operations at the estate have been on hold since January 2026 due to funding shortages, leaving poultry houses empty and slaughterhouse activities suspended. Workers across the poultry segment including hatcheries and chicken farming, have been placed on unpaid leave, prompting calls for presidential intervention.

Originally established in 1966 under President Mobutu and revived in 2013 via a public-private partnership with Israel's LR Group Limited, the estate is designed to supply Kinshasa with poultry and other agricultural products while generating local employment. The new funding aims to restart production and modernise the estate's facilities, supporting food security and economic activity in the region.

### BMC Achieves P54m Profit as Operations Stabilise and Export Readiness Improves

The Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) recorded an unaudited profit of P54.3 million for 2025, marking a strong turnaround from a P132 million loss in 2024.

BMC's Chief Technical Advisor Oabona Ramotshwara said, "Stronger margins, tighter cost control and faster cash conversion have underpinned this performance. Our focus on farmer incentives and operational efficiency is paying off."

Despite this progress, FMD outbreaks have slowed export operations, and ageing infrastructure remains a concern. Ramotshwara added, "While we are awaiting the completion of vaccination and surveillance measures, we are undertaking strategic maintenance to ensure operations are fully prepared once exports resume."

Councillors welcomed the milestone but raised issues including odour management, water supply and the potential for eco-friendly electricity generation to support both operations and the local community. "The P54 million profit is a strong signal that BMC is stabilising but we must ensure sustainable growth and communi-

ty benefit," concluded one of the councillors.

### Drones Join the Fight Against Locusts in Okavango

Farmers in the Okavango District have welcomed the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture's use of drone technology to help control the spread of locusts during the 2025-2026 ploughing season.

Following reports of unusual locust activity, ministry officers conducted surveys and confirmed the presence of the African Migratory Locust in several areas including Xurube, Mavuasiri, Tubu, Ngocho, Manxwea, Serubakgetsi and Dibalabasadi.

Although the situation has not been declared an outbreak, the Ministry established a control camp in Xurube to assist farmers in affected areas. The officials explained that difficult terrain and prolonged rainfall made conventional spraying difficult, prompting the introduction of drones to improve efficiency and coverage.

"The drone technology allows us to access areas that are difficult to reach with conventional equipment and increases the area that can be treated in a shorter time," said the officials during the demonstration. A drone spraying demonstration was held at Kadangaza Farms in Tubu village and attended by farmers and local leadership including dikgosi, councillors and district officials.

Farmers welcomed the innovation. One farmer attending the demonstration said, "Many of our fields are difficult to reach, so using drones will help us protect our crops more effectively." The Ministry will continue assisting farmers using both ground sprayers and drones to manage the pest population and disrupt breeding cycles. The African Migratory Locust feeds mainly on grasses and crops such as millet, maize and sorghum, posing a serious threat to food production if left uncontrolled.

### Mozambique Floods Threaten Agricultural Livelihoods Amid Ongoing Rainy Season

Weeks of heavy rains and widespread flooding have devastated southern and central Mozambique, displacing families and destroying homes, infrastructure and agricultural livelihoods, according to a rapid FAO analysis. The floods strike

at the heart of the main agricultural season, with the rainy and cyclonic season continuing until April, leaving already vulnerable households exposed to further shocks.

Loss of land, livestock and fishing equipment threatens food security for months to come. If the March–April 2026 planting season is missed, affected populations could face hunger until the next harvest, more than a year away. Rapid interventions are urgently needed to restore livelihoods, protect dignity and prevent a prolonged humanitarian crisis.

### Botswana Strengthens FMD Fight with Media Partnerships

The Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI), under the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, has called on the media to support national efforts to combat Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), which continues to pose risks to livestock and the beef trade locally and across the SADC region.

Speaking during a media engagement in Gaborone, BVI Chief Executive Officer Andrew Madeswi emphasised the seriousness of the situation. "Different countries in the region are experiencing Foot-and-Mouth Disease at varying levels and Botswana must position itself as a benchmark in managing and controlling the disease," said Madeswi.

He noted that livestock remains a cornerstone of livelihoods for many Batswana and warned that the country cannot afford setbacks in the sector. "With the diamond sector facing challenges, we cannot allow the livestock industry to decline as well. We therefore regard the media as vital partners in fighting FMD through the dissemination of accurate and truthful information," added Madeswi.

He also assured the nation that BVI continues to diagnose circulating virus strains and produce regionally relevant vaccines. He noted, "We remain resolute and resilient in supporting Botswana and SADC member states in the fight against FMD and other animal diseases."

The engagement concluded with a guided tour of BVI facilities, where journalists observed vaccine production processes, laboratory operations and biosecurity measures. Established in 1979, the institute continues to play a critical role in safeguarding animal health in Botswana and the region.

# Aquaculture Bridging the Protein Gap in Botswana

**B**otswana, like much of Africa, faces a pressing protein deficit. While the global average protein consumption is 91 grams per person per day, the average Botswana consumes significantly less, leaving communities, particularly in rural areas, vulnerable to malnutrition. Fish, one of the most affordable and nutrient-rich protein sources, remains underutilised but aquaculture, the farming of fish and other aquatic species, offers a strategic, sustainable solution.

Africa currently produces around 13.1 million tons of fish annually, yet aquaculture contributes just 2.3 million tons, with Egypt accounting for 66% and Nigeria 11% of output. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), scaling up fisheries and aquaculture could reduce the continent's protein deficit by 25%, adding roughly 3.3 million tons of protein each year. Doubling fish production to 26.2 million tons would substantially improve access to affordable animal protein, especially for communities that rely on fish as their primary source of nutrition.

In Botswana, the potential for aquaculture remains largely untapped. The Okavango Delta, Chobe River and numerous pans provide ideal conditions for freshwater fish farming, particularly tilapia and catfish. Pilot projects in these regions have demonstrated that integrated fish farming, combining aquaculture with vegetable and smallstock production, can enhance

household food security while creating new income streams. "Developing aquaculture is not only about food security, it is also about creating sustainable rural economies and improving livelihoods," noted a fisheries expert in Gaborone.

Structural challenges, however, continue to constrain growth. High feed costs, which account for 70%–80% of production expenses, rely heavily on imported fishmeal and soy-based feeds. Weak biosecurity, disease risks, inadequate cold-chain systems and limited processing infrastructure further reduce efficiency and productivity. The WEF highlights that up to 50% of processed fish is lost, yet nutrient-rich by-products, such as heads, bones and skins, could be converted into fishmeal or functional foods, unlocking additional protein without further straining wild stocks.

Scaling aquaculture in Botswana could create multiple benefits: improved nutrition, rural job creation, youth and women's empowerment and reduced reliance on imported protein sources. By investing in hatcheries, feed production, cold-chain facilities and value-added processing, the country could transform aquaculture from a niche activity into a cornerstone of national food security and economic diversification.

With rising domestic demand and an eye on regional export markets, Botswana has an opportunity to join the continental push to make aquaculture a sustainable and profitable protein powerhouse. As the Okavango and Chobe initiatives expand, smallholder farmers and local enterprises stand to gain both livelihoods and resilience, turning waterscapes into engines of growth, improved nutrition and long-term prosperity.



**LABORATORY**  
Consulting, Auditing & Training

**FOOD SAFETY**  
Consulting, Auditing & Training



For more information please contact:  
Angeline Nel on [angeline@michemdynamics.co.za](mailto:angeline@michemdynamics.co.za)  
or visit our website [www.michemdynamics.co.za](http://www.michemdynamics.co.za)



## Fueling Global Stability from the Ground Up

Investing in rural farmers and first-mile value chains is emerging as the smartest strategy for tackling food insecurity, climate shocks and economic fragility worldwide. Global stability doesn't start in boardrooms or commodity exchanges, it begins in the first mile of the value chain, where rural entrepreneurs and small-scale farmers generate the produce and economic activity that sustain global markets. It is also where 80% of the world's poorest people live.

In this context, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has launched IFAD14, its fourteenth replenishment cycle, positioning rural investment as a strategic response to global uncertainty. The framework focuses on three key priorities: deeper market integration, expanded rural employment, especially for young people and strengthened resilience to climate and economic shocks.

With nearly US\$23 billion invested across more than 190 programmes in over 90 countries, IFAD directly impacts 92 million rural people. Over the past three years alone, IFAD-supported projects

have helped tens of millions increase incomes, improve market access, and boost production. Impact assessments under IFAD12 reveal average gains of 34% in incomes, 35% in production and 34% in market access. Since 1977, IFAD has turned every US\$1 in donor contributions into US\$6 invested on the ground, leveraging a mix of core resources, loan repayments, borrowing and co-financing to mobilise additional public and private capital.

IFAD strengthens rural value chains by connecting small-scale food producers and rural entrepreneurs to markets, finance and buyers, with private-sector engagement multiplying income gains fourfold. Under IFAD14, these efforts will scale further, catalysing partnerships, mobilising private investment and building enabling ecosystems that allow rural businesses to grow sustainably. Deeper access to markets not only increases incomes but stabilises food systems and entire economies.

Since 2024, IFAD investments have contributed to nearly 400,000 jobs, supporting entrepreneurship and enterprise

growth across rural economies. For young people, access to opportunity is crucial to building viable futures at home, reducing forced migration and stimulating local markets. A staggering 83% of IFAD's portfolio operates in fragile contexts, and over half of participants live in conflict-affected areas or regions exposed to extreme climate events. Despite these challenges, IFAD projects deliver average income and production gains of around 30%.

Under IFAD14, 30% of core resources will continue to target fragile and conflict-affected areas, ensuring investments reach those most exposed to shocks. With an AA+ credit rating, preferred creditor status and membership spanning 180 countries, IFAD14 is more than a replenishment, it's a strategic financing platform. By blending public and private finance, mobilising sustainable bonds and de-risking investments, IFAD delivers measurable returns in food security, economic opportunity, and global stability. In a world defined by climate volatility, geopolitical tension and food insecurity, investing in the first mile may prove to be the smartest investment of all.

# Botswana Agri Forum 2026 Sparks Bold Investment and Innovation

The inaugural Botswana Agriculture Business and Investment Forum 2026 concluded in Gaborone after two days of high-level dialogue, strategic partnerships and renewed momentum for the country's agri-food sector.

Hosted by the Government of Botswana in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and national partners, the Forum brought together farmers, investors, policymakers and innovators under the theme "Catalysing Investment in Agri-Food Systems for Inclusive Growth and Food Sovereignty."

Officially opening the Forum, Vice President Ndaba Gaolathe said, "This forum is a powerful convergence of ideas and commitment, emphasising that agriculture must anchor Botswana's next

chapter of economic growth and food security." He emphasised that the gathering was not about formalities but about a commitment to transform Botswana's agri-food systems into engines of inclusive economic growth and food security.

Acting Minister of Lands and Agriculture Edwin Dikoloti reaffirmed the government's determination to reposition agriculture at the centre of Botswana's economic transformation. He also acknowledged the support of FAO, describing the organisation as "a trusted and reliable partner in the transformation of agri-food systems."

FAO Representative in Botswana Carla Mucavi pledged continued support for Botswana's agricultural development efforts. She said FAO remains committed to working with the country "to end hunger, improve nutrition and build sustainable

agri-food systems."

Discussions throughout the Forum focused on mobilising investment, strengthening partnerships and exploring opportunities within the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme's agricultural projects. Participants also highlighted the importance of innovation, regional collaboration and private sector participation in building resilient and competitive agri-food systems.

The landmark event marks a significant milestone in Botswana's agricultural transformation agenda, positioning the country as an emerging hub for agribusiness investment, innovation and sustainable food production. As the Forum concludes, the partnerships and commitments forged signal a strong foundation for future collaboration and growth in Botswana's agriculture sector.



Discover the excellence of Rand Agri: your premier global supplier of grains, oilseeds, maize grits, silage and soybean meal. Our commitment to sourcing from trusted growers guarantees superior products, adhering to our rigorous standards. Experience reliability and unrivaled quality by partnering with us.

Connect with us today to unlock a world of bulk supply options.



🌐 [www.randagri.co.za](http://www.randagri.co.za) ☎️ +27(0)13 243 1166 ✉️ [info@randagri.co.za](mailto:info@randagri.co.za)

# AfDB Awards \$16.6 Million Grant to IITA to Scale Agricultural Technologies in Africa



**T**he African Development Bank Group (AfDB) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) have signed a \$16.61 million grant agreement to launch the third phase of the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation Program (TAAT-III), aimed at scaling climate-resilient food production across the continent. The agreement, signed on 18 February 2026 in Abuja, Nigeria by AfDB Director General for Nigeria, Abdul Kamara and IITA Director General, Simeon Ehui, reinforces a shared commitment to modernise African agriculture by scaling proven technologies, strengthening seed systems and expanding partnerships among research institutions, governments and private sector actors.

Since its launch in 2018, TAAT has become one of Africa's most effective platforms for agricultural innovation, reaching nearly 25 million farmers and boosting productivity across major staples. The initiative has expanded climate-resilient agricultural practices across more than 35 million hectares. Working closely with the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR) and national and regional partners, TAAT has increased crop yields by as much as

69 percent and generated over \$4 billion in additional agricultural value. Countries including Sudan, Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria have recorded notable gains in staple crop productivity and resilience to climate shocks.

Nigeria has been a key beneficiary of TAAT initiatives. Under its Wheat Compact, farmers adopting improved heat-tolerant varieties more than doubled yields from 1.7 tons per hectare to 3.5 tons per hectare. Programme-supported seed system assessments also informed national reforms to expand access to certified, climate-resilient seeds. Kamara explained that the new phase will focus on scaling innovation more rapidly. He said, "TAAT-III underscores the Bank's commitment to ensuring that proven, climate-resilient agricultural technologies reach farmers faster and at scale. This phase strengthens the systems that deliver innovation, helping countries boost productivity, enhance resilience and align agricultural transformation efforts with the Bank's four new areas of emphasis, dubbed the Four Cardinal Points."

Financed through the African Development Fund, the Bank Group's concessional lending window, TAAT-III will con-

solidate earlier gains while introducing a more sustainable, private sector-driven delivery model. The initiative aims to reinforce seed and technology distribution systems, deepen partnerships with governments and agribusinesses and expand digital tools—including technology e-catalogues and real-time monitoring platforms—to speed up deployment of high-impact solutions.

Ehui concluded, "TAAT-III allows us to deepen the delivery of science-based solutions that improve farmers' yields and livelihoods. Working with the Bank and our partners, we are scaling technologies that make Africa's food systems more resilient and competitive." TAAT has also supported the Bank Group's Africa Emergency Food Production Facility, helping countries rapidly deploy improved seeds and technologies to stabilise food supplies during recent global disruptions. The programme's third phase is expected to reach an additional 14 million farmers across 37 low-income and vulnerable countries served by the African Development Fund, embedding these innovations within long-term national agricultural investment strategies.

# DRC Courts Investors for Strategic FDI in Tech and Agriculture

A wave of foreign direct investment is targeting Africa's foundational economic sectors, with significant capital flowing into technology infrastructure and agriculture to address critical needs for digital transformation and food security. Dubai-based Maser Group announced a \$1.6 billion investment over the next two years in African data centers and farmlands, Energy Monitor reported on 6 February 2026. The primary recipients of this investment will be Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya. The electronics manufacturing company has already committed \$300 million for land acquisition and other asset-backed projects.

This major investment, funded by Maser's subsidiary MDR Investments and China's Chia Ventures, is designed to meet the continent's surging demand for both technological capacity and a secure food supply. This trend of courting foreign cap-

ital for strategic infrastructure is mirrored in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is intensifying efforts to attract international partners for its digital development. According to the Ecofin Agency, the DRC's Digital Economy Minister, Augustin Kibassa Maliba, met with a delegation from the UAE-based firm 'The Founding' to discuss proposals for data center projects. The minister also held talks with the Tunisian company Dirasset International, signaling a broad search for expertise and capital.

These discussions are part of the DRC's ambitious plan to invest \$1.5 billion in digital transformation between 2026 and 2030. The government aims to leverage foreign investment to accelerate innovation and build a robust technology ecosystem. These parallel developments highlight a growing recognition among investors and African nations of the interconnected importance of digital infra-

structure and agricultural self-sufficiency for long-term economic growth and stability.





**UFCL**  
United Fertilizers Company Ltd.

WE DISTRIBUTE  
**HIGH QUALITY FERTILIZERS**  
IN AFRICA

Learn more at  
[www.ufertilizers.com](http://www.ufertilizers.com)  
[info@ufertilizers.com](mailto:info@ufertilizers.com)




**STRAIGHT FERTILIZERS**  
Urea prilled  
Ammonium Nitrate  
CAN granular  
MOP granular  
MOP standard



**COMPOUND FERTILIZERS**  
10:20:20+6S  
10:26:26+2S  
24:6:12  
8:20:30+2S  
22:7:12+2S  
27:6:6+2S  
21:10:10+2S




**WATER-SOLUBLE FERTILIZERS**  
Calcium Nitrate Concentrated  
Potassium Nitrate  
Monoammonium Phosphate  
Urea micro prills  
NPK Foliar  
NPK drip irrigation

# Balanced phosphate products for the rainy season

Scientifically formulated to care for your livestock ...



**FUTTERFOS** is a trace mineral and mineral supplement for optimal performance under Namibian grazing conditions.

- » Increases general animal production under green grazing conditions.
- » Improves fertility of both male and female ruminants.
- » The inclusion of zinc and selenium improves semen quality and uterine health.
- » 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.

- » Therefore this product ensures improved weight gain.
- » Improved fertility.
- » Increased resistance to diseases.

Find us on Facebook



www.feedmaster.com.na

## Technical Advisors

Dawid Krause 081 124 9415 Corporate Brand Specialist • Danie de Lange 081 128 8713 South (Hardap) • Joubert de Wit 081 128 1518 South (Karas) • Christo van Zyl 081 147 4199 North • Richard Peens 081 045 0837 East • Lourens Swart 081 127 8805 Livestock Services • Frank Kanguatjivi 081 127 3029 North and South • Norbert Neumann 081 232 7027 Central • Markus du Plessis 081 635 4061 SME Development • Beata Aula 081 396 5383 North Communal

**Feedmaster**  
Your Quality Solution

Tel: +264 61 290 1300 | info@feedmaster.com.na

# Malawi Outrage Over Disposal of Agricultural Inputs Worth Millions

**W**idespread anger has erupted in Malawi among citizens after the government disposed of agricultural inputs and irrigation equipment valued at over MK¢15 billion. These resources were originally intended to support farmers and boost national food production.

The move has drawn sharp criticism, with citizens questioning why vital assets were discarded at a time when the country faces food security challenges. The Parliamentary Committee on Commissions, Statutory Corporations and State Enterprises has launched an investigation. Committee Chairperson Counsel Silvester Ayuba James pledged a thorough review of the disposal process to safeguard public resources.

Critics have raised concerns about government mismanagement and priorities, highlighting allegations of corruption and insensitivity toward citizens' livelihoods. Opposition voices say the decision undermines public trust and casts doubt on the administration's ability to address Malawi's economic and agricultural challenges.



AUTOMATED BROILER PROCESSING SOLUTIONS

## MOVING UP TO MATCH THE MARKET

For poultry processors who are looking for ways to add value to their operations, Marel Poultry can assist in finding the exactly right, customized solutions which meet the market needs.

- For all process steps in new plants or expansion projects
- For capacities of 500 bph and up
- Semi- to fully automated processing systems
- Personnel training for optimized performance
- Service and spare part support

Contact us to find out more:  
+31 485 586 111 | [info.poultry@marel.com](mailto:info.poultry@marel.com)  
[marel.com/poultry](http://marel.com/poultry)

TRANSFORMING  
FOOD PROCESSING





# COMPLETE FEED MILLS, PLANTS AND MACHINES

TURN-KEY SOLUTIONS — Turn-key feed mills and plants for compound feed, shrimp and fish feed, pet food, premix/concentrate, roughage/straw, green forage.



AMANDUS KAHL GmbH & Co. KG  
Dieselstrasse 5-9 · 21465 Reinbek · Hamburg, Germany  
+49 (0) 40 72 77 10 · [info@akahl.de](mailto:info@akahl.de) · [akahl.de](http://akahl.de)

# Hydroponic and Aquaponic Systems Lead Sustainable Farming Renaissance

**A**frica is undergoing a groundbreaking agricultural transformation as countries adopt innovative farming techniques including hydroponic and aquaponic systems, to tackle escalating food security challenges amid the planet's hottest recorded period.

In Eritrea's Mendefera sub-zone, livestock development expert Mehari Woldebruk urged farmers to embrace these systems for sustainable fodder production. He noted that hydroponics and aquaponics save water and energy, are simple to produce and play a crucial role in resilient agricultural development. Hydroponics allows plants to grow in nutrient-rich water without soil, enabling precise nutrient control, optimised water use and consistent harvests regardless of soil quality or weather. Aquaponics integrates fish farming with hydroponics, where fish waste fertilises plants while plants purify water, creating a circular, resource-efficient system that produces both protein and vegetables.

The adoption of these technologies is especially urgent amid climate change. January 2026 marked the hottest month on record, highlighting the vulnerability of traditional farming to droughts, floods and shifting growing seasons. Hydroponic and aquaponic systems require up

to 90% less water than conventional methods, a critical advantage in water-stressed regions. Countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo have already supported over 11,000 farmers using conservation-focused approaches, demonstrating tangible benefits for livelihoods.

Economically, these systems increase yields per square meter, reduce reliance on pesticides, enable year-round production, cut transportation costs and support premium pricing for locally grown, pesticide-free produce. Early adopters report higher profitability and greater market resilience. Successful implementation, however, requires investment in infrastructure, technical expertise and training in system management and nutrient monitoring. Community-based initiatives, such as Sierra Leone's Falaba District, showcase how collaborative approaches can overcome resource constraints.

Integrating modern techniques with traditional knowledge enhances sustainability. Algeria's "Tamr Al-Aghanm" project, for example, converts date waste into livestock feed, exemplifying circular, climate-smart agriculture. Across Africa, regional successes, from Kenya's Nguruman irrigation scheme to Uganda's Teso cattle revival, illustrate the transformative potential of targeted agricultural investment. The African

Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) further facilitates knowledge sharing and regional collaboration.

Hydroponic and aquaponic systems also strengthen climate resilience, enable urban and previously unproductive areas to cultivate crops and improve nutritional outcomes through controlled growth and reduced chemical inputs. Vertical urban farms bring fresh produce closer to consumers, reduce food transport losses, create employment and provide educational opportunities. International cooperation is accelerating adoption, with South-South partnerships allowing countries to share innovations adapted to local contexts.

As climate pressures mount, Africa's expansion of controlled environment agriculture offers multiple pathways to build resilient, equitable food systems while supporting economic growth. Woldebruk's call in Eritrea highlights the urgency of embracing these innovations. Hydroponic and aquaponic systems are more than technical solutions as they represent a paradigm shift toward efficient, sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture. Continued investment in education, infrastructure and international collaboration will be key to ensuring that these technologies secure food systems for generations to come.



## Every drop is precious

KSB has been providing pumps and valves for more than 60 years to the farming community and other industries in South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our pumps and valves help farmers to get the water where it is needed. Whatever the agricultural application, KSB - the right partner for you

Your B-BBEE Level 1 Partner



Our technology. Your success.  
Pumps • Valves • Service

KSB Pumps and Valves (Pty) Ltd  
H/O • Tel: +27 11 876 5600, email: info-za@ksb.com • www.ksb.com/ksb-za



**We specialise in racking, shelving, mezzanine floors, storage bins, steel, wire and plastic lockers, canti lever racking, light duty racking, gondola (retail) shelving etc.**



**12 TIER MESH  
LOCKER**



**STATIONERY  
CUPBOARD**



**RACKING SOLUTIONS  
AND ACCESSORIES**



**SHELVING**



**DEXION<sup>®</sup>**

**RACKING AND SHELVING SYSTEMS**

**SOUTHERN STORAGE SOLUTIONS CC**

**SUPPLIED THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA AND AFRICA**

Unit 22, Frazzitta Business Park,  
Cnr Koeberg Road & Freedom Way,  
Milnerton. 7441 - Tel: (021) 552 0220

Email : [nodine@dexioncape.co.za](mailto:nodine@dexioncape.co.za)



**SHELVING ACCESSORIES**

**[www.dexionrackingandshelving.co.za](http://www.dexionrackingandshelving.co.za)**



## Mushandike Farmers Harness Climate-Smart Solutions

**A**t the Mushandike Irrigation Scheme in Masvingo, the air is filled with the quiet hum of progress. Farmers are resting after a day in the fields but the evidence of change is all around: healthier crops, fuller granaries and a renewed sense of hope. Just two years ago, this landscape and the livelihoods it sustains looked very different.

For 52 year old Yeukai, farming has always been part of life. She began cultivating her plot in 1994 after marrying into Village 16 but low yields and limited resources made sustaining a family an uphill struggle. “Back then, I would farm but harvest very little. Hybrid seeds were beyond our reach and fertilisers were too expensive,” recalled Yeukai. Life grew even harder when she lost her husband, leaving her to provide for four sons.

Hope came when local farmers formed a cooperative, travelling to Harare to register their group and access support. Through the Mushandike Agriculture and Rural Development Authority and the Agricultural Finance Corporation, Yeukai began to rebuild her farm. She diversified into wheat and sunflowers, alongside

maize and gradually increased productivity. “Farming has changed for the better. I’ve taken my children through O levels. My first son is a teacher, another works in construction, one twin helps at home and on the farm and my youngest is in college. I’ve built my house and I feel healthy and strong,” said Yeukai.

Her achievements extend beyond the farm. In 2024, she invested in a grinding mill, now operated by her son, which has eased access to flour for her neighbours and stimulated local commerce. Yeukai’s transformation is part of the broader Zimbabwe Emergency Food Production Facility (ZEFPF), a \$25 million project launched in 2022 by the African Development Bank, in partnership with FAO and the Government of Zimbabwe. \$20 million is managed by FAO and \$5 million by the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM). Through ZEFPF, farmers like Yeukai have received improved inputs, training in climate-smart practices and support in nutrition and health, securing livelihoods and enhancing household food security.

In Village 13, a 40 year-old Taurai Mutoti stands proudly at the homestead he built

in 2024 from his maize farm proceeds. Blind since childhood, Taurai has harnessed farming as a means of independence. “Even though I could not see, I understood what farming did for our family,” said Taurai. Previously, his half-hectare plot yielded about one ton annually. With irrigation and ZEFPF support, yields now reach three tons, allowing him to plan further investments in horticulture, pig rearing and chicken farming.

Behind these individual successes are dedicated extension officers like Julieth Ngwenyama, who guide farmers on ecological practices, soil monitoring and organic fertiliser use. FAO Zimbabwe Projects Coordinator, Zwelo Ndebele, highlighted the broader impact, “Wheat yields rose from 2 to 5 metric tons per hectare, maize from 0.76 to 3.1 MT/Ha. These gains have supported nearly 170,000 jobs across cropping seasons, revitalising local economies and household food security.” As night falls over Mushandike, the fields rest but not for long. With each season, farmers are planting more than crops; they are sowing security, dignity, hope and harvesting profound change.

# AGRICON



PELLETING SOLUTIONS

## PELLETING MADE EASY

- Save on your animal feed costs.
- Pelletize your own animal feed .
- Stop selective feeding habits.
- Increase the quality of your feed .

We deliver and install  
nationwide - on your farm!

Contact us for complete animal  
feed processing equipment and  
pelletizing plants.



[info@agricossa.com](mailto:info@agricossa.com)

+27 71 877 3324

● [www.agricosrsa.com](http://www.agricosrsa.com)

● Bloemfontein South Africa



# Passionate about centre pivots

**A**t 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

# Zambia, AGRA Seal Landmark Deal to Anchor Food Systems Transformation

The Government of the Republic of Zambia and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) formalised a partnership that signals a bold new chapter in the country's agricultural journey. The signing of a host country agreement does more than grant legal status. It cements Zambia's position as a strategic hub for advancing resilient, inclusive and market-driven food systems, while giving AGRA a stronger operational base to scale its impact.

"For AGRA, Zambia is not merely a country of operation; it has been a strategic partner in shaping how inclusive food systems can work for national development. The signing of this agreement formally signifies a relationship that delivers impact and now allows us to scale at greater speed to catalyse Zambia's ambitions to achieve agricultural transformation," noted Maziko Phiri, Country Manager for AGRA Zambia.

Since 2007, AGRA has partnered with government, research institutions and the private sector to strengthen seed systems, improve soil health, support policy reforms and unlock value chains. Institutions such as the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute and the Seed Control and Certification Institute have been central to efforts that enhanced the development and uptake of improved, climate-resilient crop varieties, while building national research and regulatory capacity. These interventions have helped lay the foundation for a more competitive food system, ensuring farmers can access quality inputs suited to Zambia's diverse agro-ecological zones.

The partnership has also evolved in response to climate pressures. After President Hakainde Hichilema declared the 2024 drought a national disaster, AGRA moved to support resilience-building initiatives. In collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, it invested in the RE-GAIN programme, aimed at reducing climate-induced post-harvest losses among smallholder farmers and safeguarding food security and incomes in maize and soya bean value chains. Additional drought-response measures have included strengthening institutional capacity to fast-track the release of climate-smart,

nutrient-dense seed varieties and training seed inspectors to improve last-mile delivery, reducing crop failure and boosting productivity.

Beyond productivity gains, AGRA has positioned itself as a convenor, mobilising investment in priority value chains such as soya beans. By bringing together government, investors, researchers and agribusiness players, it has helped create pathways for private capital to complement public investment and drive inclusive growth. "The next phase of Zambia's agricultural transformation must be investment-led. AGRA's role is to help create the conditions where public policy, private capital and farmer potential intersect to deliver sustainable agricultural growth," said Phiri.

The host country agreement provides a structured framework to deepen collaboration with government institutions, enhance coordination with development partners and accelerate programme implementation through increased investment flows. For AGRA, it offers predictability and alignment with national priorities. For Zambia, it reinforces a long-term commitment to food systems transformation. As AGRA marks two decades of advancing agricultural development across the continent, formalising its presence in Zambia underscores a shared ambition to build a food system capable of driving national development and economic resilience. The agreement stands not only as a diplomatic milestone but as a clear affirmation of a collective vision for the future of agriculture in Zambia.



# Namibia-UAE Trade Set to Surpass N\$5bn



Energy is firmly at the forefront of engagement. Namibia’s Industries, Mines and Energy Minister Modestus Amutse noted that the country’s oil and gas reserves are now a confirmed reality rather than speculation. “Now, what we want to do is explore further, develop and finally produce the oil and put it on the market. This will be done by positioning upstream development, processing capacity and energy infrastructure as priority investment areas. Renewable energy cooperation particularly in green hydrogen and solar is also under active consideration as Namibia advances its energy transition ambitions,” said Amutse.

Mining is equally prominent, with growing interest in Namibia’s uranium, critical minerals and broader extractives value chain. As global demand for transition minerals intensifies, the UAE’s appetite for strategic resource partnerships aligns with Namibia’s drive to translate resource wealth into downstream industrialisation and long-term economic resilience. While agriculture remains an important component of discussions with UAE investments exceeding half a billion dollars, it is now part of a broader diversification strategy. In her 2025 State of the Nation Address, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah highlighted agriculture as a strategic pillar for food security and inclusive growth, reinforcing its role alongside energy and mining.

Infrastructure, logistics and financial services are also being explored to support expanded trade flows. Potential collaboration with Abu Dhabi Post and DP World, alongside financial sector cooperation to ease cross-border transactions, could strengthen the enabling environment for large-scale investments. In healthcare, Namibia’s newly launched 10-year digital health strategy has opened avenues for partnerships in hospital infrastructure, digital systems and pharmaceutical manufacturing.



**B**ilateral non-oil trade between Namibia and the United Arab Emirates is poised to move well beyond last year’s US\$260 million (N\$4.9 billion), with mining and energy emerging as central pillars of a rapidly expanding economic partnership.

Speaking at the Namibia-UAE Business Forum, hosted by the Namibia Investment

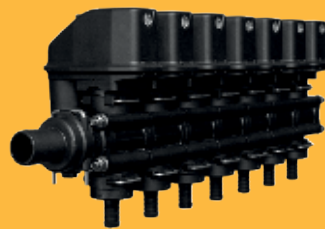
Promotion and Development Board, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi said current trade levels “do not reflect the full capabilities of both nations.” He confirmed that discussions are under way on trade facilitation, investment protection and double taxation agreements aimed at creating a more secure and predictable environment for investors.

With mining and energy leading the agenda supported by agriculture, infrastructure and finance both governments appear intent on building what Al Zeyoudi described as a “comfortable ecosystem” for businesses. As ministerial engagements deepen, the trajectory signals significantly stronger trade and investment ties between Namibia and the UAE.



# SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

— SINCE 1972 —



# POLMAC

SRL  
SPRAYING EQUIPMENT

**POLMAC S.r.l.**

Via Statale Sud, 137 - 41037 Mirandola (MO) ITALY

Tel.: +39.0535.20004 - Fax: +39.0535.26595 - info@polmac.it

[www.polmac.it](http://www.polmac.it)

# KOM Solar Drives Botswana’s Clean Energy Ambitions

A high-level delegation led by the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) recently visited KOM Solar (Pty) Ltd in Gaborone to gain insight into the company’s contribution to Botswana’s renewable energy and industrialisation agenda.

The delegation included representatives from the Office of the Presidential Investment Coordinator, the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship, the Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA), the Department of Energy and the Botswana Power Corporation. Founded in 2024, KOM Solar is a citizen-led solar panel manufacturing company operating a local solar panel assembly plant supported by an investment of between BWP 20 million and BWP 50 million over five years.

Managing Director Miles Nan highlight-

ed the importance of building domestic manufacturing capacity. “Botswana is blessed with one of the highest levels of solar irradiation in the world, yet for many years almost all solar equipment used in the country has been imported. Establishing even a local assembly facility is an important first step toward building a renewable energy industry in Botswana,” said Nan.

Presidential Investment Coordinator Malebogo Morakaladi emphasised the need to strengthen implementation and value chains in the sector. “Botswana excels in planning and policy development, but the challenge often lies in implementation. Building strong value chains and local participation in production is essential,” noted Morakaladi.

BITC Chief Executive Officer Keletsosi-

tse Olebile commended the company’s vision and assured continued support. “We appreciate the opportunity to engage with companies like KOM Solar and we stand ready to provide facilitation support to enable their growth and success,” said Keletsositse. The visit highlighted the growing role of local manufacturing and renewable energy innovation in Botswana’s economic diversification and clean energy future.



**plastic ideas**  
crates

Tel. +27 11 613 8587 • Cell. +27 83 333 1224 (Gilda)  
E-mail. crates@plasticideas.co.za • Web. www.plasticideas.co.za  
427 Southern Klipriviersberg Road, Steeledale, Johannesburg, South Africa

# Cool and consistent cross-border logistics



Long distance cross-border transporters from Namibia to and from Angola, DRC, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa.

The mission of Nel Snel Transport CC is to be the most reliable transporter in the country and we therefore aim to be the preferred transporter in the market.

With the perfect location of Omaruru (being central to the coast, the capital and en-route to the north) we are in the perfect spot to be of service to other trucking companies and expand business as whole.



Mobile: 00264 81 122 8141 | Tel: 00264 64 570 157

Email: [nsadmin@nelsneltransport.co.na](mailto:nsadmin@nelsneltransport.co.na)

P.O. Box: 325, Omaruru, Namibia, No. 459, Aloe Street, Omaruru

# Don't miss out when opportunity comes knocking

Fulfil your orders through  
Absa Purchase Order Finance.  
Enjoy competitive pricing and  
access to working capital,  
just for you.

Speak to a  
Relationship  
Manager today.

[absa.co.bw](https://absa.co.bw)

Your story matters



Absa Bank Botswana Limited (registered number BW00001237900) is regulated by the Bank of Botswana. Member of the Deposit Insurance Scheme of Botswana.