FOOD SECURITY AND GENETIC DIVERSITY

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The Zimbabwe Government's Commitment to Food and Nutrition is reflected in the following key policy instruments:

The Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act 2013, enshrines the RIGHT TO FOOD every person has the right to:

(a) safe, clean and portable water; and
(b) sufficient food;

and the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right.
The Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation – ZIM Asset (2013-2018), whose vision is towards an Empowered Society and Growing the Economy, with key themes being social inclusion and development, has the following main Clusters:

- Food Security and Nutrition;
- Social Services and Poverty Eradication;
- Infrastructure and Utilities; and
- Value Addition and Beneficiation
Aims to create a self sufficient and food surplus nation

COMPONENTS

- Crop Production
- Livestock Production
- Infrastructural Development
- Environmental Management
- Conservation through Utilization
- Nutrition
- Policy and Legislation
The Food and Nutrition Security Policy adopted in 2012, is a multi-sectoral policy framework with an Implementation Matrix, which commits Government of Zimbabwe to 7 Priority Areas to ensure food and nutrition security.

The Government of Zimbabwe is committed to enhanced participation of its citizenry and stakeholders in the implementation of Government Programmes and projects. Thus the Key Policy document, ZIM Asset emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder inclusion, in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
The FOUR Clusters are jointly chaired by a Government representative and stakeholder representative, with the two Cross Cutting Clusters being, FISCAL REFORM MEASURES AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT.

Similarly the Food and Nutrition Security Policy adopted in 2012, emphasized multi-sectoral interventions and coordination at the highest level with the Vice President chairing a National Task Force and National Steering Committee.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE NATIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION TASK FORCE

- Emphasising production and promotion of the consumption of the country’s traditional foods;

- Promoting healthy lifestyles and proper dietary practices;

- Prioritizing investment in irrigation as well as transport infrastructure;

- Intensifying and encouraging the growing of crops that are drought resistant;

- Inculcating healthy eating habits in children and students throughout the education system;

- Promoting development of technology to dry and preserve traditional foods;

- Linking the Food and Nutrition Security Policy with other sector policies in order to achieve policy coherence and effectiveness.
Within the Food and Nutrition Security Policy ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES have been assigned to various agencies of Government, Lower tier structures, other stakeholders and the citizenry.

The ZIM Asset Cluster based approach has further emphasized the need for sectoral coordination and policy coherence within Government and emphasized the elimination of a SILO MENTALITY within the public sector.
The prioritized ZIM Asset Action Plan for 2015 was negotiated through a multi-stakeholder process, involving Heads of Ministries, private sector, NGOs representatives, farmer organizations, researchers, development partners, representatives of the African Development Bank and World Bank. The outcome document formed the basis for the 2015 budget by the Ministry of Finance.

This important process will ensure that the identified actions are funded and also supported by development partners, NGOs etc.

Multi-stakeholder and Cluster approaches to development however requires a paradigm shift and reward systems, where collaborative efforts are actively encouraged.
**ZIM ASSET IMPLEMENTATION**

**ZIM ASSET IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION ARCHITECTURE**

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**STEERING COMMITTEE**
Quarterly Zim Asset Meetings of the Steering Committee: Government and Private Sector Zim Asset Cluster Zim Asset Co-chairpersons, *(Chair: Chief Secretary OPC)*

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**ZIM ASSET JOINT REVIEW COMMITTEE**
Monthly Meeting: Government and Private Sector Zim Asset Cluster Co-chairpersons *(Chaired by THE Deputy Chief Secretary)*

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**ZIM ASSET CLUSTERS**
- Permanent secretaries
- Focal persons in line Ministries
- Private sector representation
- Development Partners 9UN, World Bank, IMF & AfDB
- NGO representation
- Academia

*(Chair: Zim Asset Co-chairpersons)*

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**ENABLING CLUSTERS**

- Fiscal Reform Measures *(Chair: Ministry of Finance)*
- Aid Coordination *(Chair: Ministry of Finance)*
- Public Administration, Governance & Performance Management *(Chair: Office of the President & Cabinet)*

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**Zim Asset Technical Secretariat**
# Sector Ministry Policies and Strategies: Strengthening Accountability and Ownership

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<td>The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) 2009</td>
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**Cross cutting: HIV/AIDS, Gender, Disaster Risk Management/ DRR**

- National HIV and AIDS policy and Zimbabwe National HIV and AIDS strategic plan (ZNASP –II)
- Revised National Gender Policy (Draft Feb 2012, for adoption) is nutrition sensitive (Article 4)
- Disaster Risk Management Policy Bill (draft 2011), Strategy under development led by Civil Protection Department
The implementation of ZIM Asset is underpinned and guided by the Results Based Management (RBM) System and is being utilized as the basis for the micro-economic budgetary framework by Finance.

The Office of the President and Cabinet has been given the role of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Plan, with a dedicated Unit on Monitoring and Evaluation being set up in the Office of the President. As part of the process of setting out the Monitoring Unit a review of existing systems will be undertaken in order to ensure that the system is FIT FOR PURPOSE.

The importance of Monitoring and Evaluation is being further enhanced through the development of a new policy on Monitoring and Evaluation, which was developed through multi-stakeholder consultation and which is being spearheaded by the Office of the President and Cabinet.
Zimbabwe has a rich biological diversity resource base made up of 4,400 plant species comprising 1,500 genera (sub-family) in the classification of organisms. And 200 families are being daily threatened through introduction of exotic breeds, disease outbreak, extreme weather events, and conflicts.

In terms of livestock, Zimbabwe has three main indigenous cattle breeds, including the Tuli, Mashona and Nguni, largely kept by small holder farmers. The country also has two indigenous goat varieties; the East African and Matebele goat, and provide milk and animal protein.

Zimbabwe also has one brown Sabi indigenous sheep and a number of indigenous chicken breeds.

The small animals like goats require low inputs and were traditionally the animals kept by women.

Zimbabwe is also rich in domesticated plant resources which include cereals, industrial and horticultural crops, indigenous and exotic vegetables, roots, and tubers and medicinal plants.
In spite of the rich biological diversity, there is limited utilization of these resources to address national challenges, including malnutrition.

Zimbabwe ratified the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in October, 2002.

Whilst access to genetic resources and benefit sharing has been widely discussed during the last 15 it is only recently that a Draft Genetic Resource Management Policy was completed.

Recent reports however indicate that Zimbabwe has done 80 per cent of the work in domesticating the Treaty.

The Zimbabwe Government has a National Genetic Resource Committee, a multi-stakeholder platform for sharing of information on genetic resource management, the Committee includes representatives of the private sector, NGOs, government Ministries and researchers.
1. Promotion of indigenous crops through food fairs with most hotels in Zimbabwe now serving traditional dishes. TRADITIONAL FOODS NO LONGER REGARDED AS POOR MAN’S FOOD!!;

2. Promotion of Food Baskets made up of indigenous foods, aimed at the vulnerable, the old, people suffering from AIDS etc. FAO has been at the forefront in developing the FOOD BASKET;

3. The Crop/Livestock Integrated Production Systems being promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture, are promoting the growing of indigenous crops mixed with livestock rearing in order to enhance soil fertility, broaden livelihoods and enhance dietary diversity;

4. There are programmes to exploit non-timber forest products in a sustainable way, through harvesting wild fruits, mushrooms, bee keeping and exploiting the medicinal qualities of certain indigenous tree species;

5. Conservation Agriculture has also promoted diversification by encouraging the growing of, small grains, legumes and cereal in order to mitigate the effects of climate change, improve soil fertility and dietary diversity;
CHALLENGES IN THE DOMESTICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY

- Whilst the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was adopted in 1998, efforts to domesticate the provisions of the Treaty hampered by the following factors:
  - Complex Review Processes;
  - Overlapping Roles of Government Entities;
  - Underfunding;
  - Lack of Urgency in the Implementation;
  - Lack of Financial Support for the Identification, Preservation, of Genetic Resources;
  - Lack of Value Chain Approaches to the Promotion of Traditional Crops, thus no Incentives for small holder farmers to Increase Hectarage. Such crops often associated with high labour inputs and no organized markets.
The ZIM Asset Multi-stakeholder Policy Frameworks, now facilitates coordinated action amongst key players on the integration of genetic diversity and sustainable use thereof, with the Minister of Agriculture now providing more support for small grains in areas which are drought prone and putting measures in place to increase the national herd;

The ZIM Asset document also has a Cluster focusing on Value Addition and Beneficiation which has given some attention to the development of value chains for indigenous crops;

Greater focus on Climate Change issues by Government in order to enhance productivity and national food security has also resulted in increased national attention on genetic resources;

Given the growing numbers suffering from sugar diabetes, high blood pressure and cancers amongst the population, greater emphasis on dietary diversity;
Given the similarities in the regional food basket, made up of small grains, tubers and vegetables in Eastern and Southern Africa, there are opportunities for enhanced trade, sharing of research etc, the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Network, based in Zambia has done some commendable work in facilitating networking and coordination amongst SADC Countries;

A number of NGOs supporting the community seed banks, and the enhancement of farmer rights with respect to germ plasm;

There are already existing community initiatives for sharing of seeds and seed banks which could be further supported;

Enhanced Commitment and focus of the Public Sector on Service delivery and bench marking implementation, with clear indicators in order to measure progress;
Zimbabwe has the necessary policy frameworks and multi-sectoral platforms to accelerate the use of genetic resources in order to enhance food and nutrition security. These efforts must be better supported through exchange of Best Practices in order to further enhance the policy environment for access to genetic resources and benefit sharing at country level;

At the regional level, there are enormous opportunities for exchange of information, joint research and marketing of genetic resources which could be enhanced through better support by regional bodies;

There needs to be a better understanding and mapping of the genetic resources and local initiatives already in place, which could be given greater support by government and development partners. In Southern Africa, this means recognising the important role of women in the preservation storage and exchange of genetic material by further supporting their role, through provision of labour saving devices, etc;
More research on the value of indigenous crops in order to enhance their attractiveness to consumers;

- More research in order to fully appreciate, the cultural value, use and storage of genetic resources in order to craft appropriate policies for their enhanced use in promoting food and nutrition security;

- At Global level there needs to be more concerted effort to maintain genetic diversity not only in order to enhance food security and nutrition but in order to decrease the over reliance on a few food crops resulting in growing food import bill for wheat etc in many African countries.

- Value chain approaches must be pursued in the development and marketing of indigenous crops so that they are better supported through appropriate technologies, research and markets and government support systems;
THANK YOU.