



•CHIBUYU Savings Group Members in Chipepo in Gwembe district.



•TULIME Savings Group in Lukonde in Gwembe district.

Senanga's Barotse Ranching trains farmers

By ANGELA KABAMBA

SENANGA District Agricultural Coordinator Mukelabai Mwangala has commended Barotse Ranching and Cropping (BRC) for its commitment to training small-scale

farmers in the district.

Mr Mwangala said this during a one-day training workshop on horticulture management at the commercial farm, which attracted 65 small-scale farmers.

He said the gesture made by BRC in finding a readily available market and ensuring that small-scale farmers transformed their activities and become out growers of

the commercial farm was highly recommended.

Mr Mwangala said about 10 best farmers, who had so far been identified from all corners of Senanga, would soon be visited by a group comprising officers from his office and the BRC to confirm if their produce was available for the market.

He said this would facilitate the signing of contracts to enable the

farmers to supply their products to the BRC.

He said he was motivated by the lessons taught to the smallscale farmers, and was hopeful that they would put the acquired knowledge into practice and make more money.

Mr Mwangala said he would be disappointed if the best outgrowers would come from outside the district who were also being trained in different agriculture farming techniques by the BRC.

BRC Farm Manager Fines Munkombwe commended the farmers who made it for the training.

He said his company wanted to incorporate the small-scale farmers so that they had access to the market.

Mr Munkombwe said there was need for the farmers to ensure that they followed all the guidelines given to them on fertilizer application and crop management, so that the produce was uniform and of high quality.

He said his company

would not buy crops that were of poor quality and a short shelf lifespan.

The BRC had a 10-year contract with Shoprite, Pick and Pay and other commercial

markets, but it could not satisfy the demand, which was the reason it was training

the small-scale farmers to become the company's outgrowers -NAIS.

Govt explains SIFAZ farmers' success

By JOSIAH MPOFU

THE Ministry of Agriculture has attributed the positive performance of small-scale farmers under the Sustainable Intensification of Smallholder Farming Systems project in Zambia (SIFAZ) to strengthened collaboration with key stakeholders and partners.

Ministry of Agriculture Director of the Department of Agriculture Moses Mwale commended the European Union (EU), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) for facilitating the implementation of SIFAZ.

Mr Mwale said this at the recent SIFAZ annual research planning workshop in Lusaka, which was held to review and plan on the project's implementation.

He said the financial and technical support rendered by the three organizations had led to the successful implementation of the project, which achieved positive results since its

inception in August 2019 in the implementation areas.

The project, which was being implemented in five provinces, namely Eastern, Northern, Western, Southern and Copperbelt, had enabled smallholder farmers to increase their yields in the past farming season.

Mr Mwale cited Amon Mwale, one of the beneficiary farmer from Nyanje camp of Sinda district in Eastern Province, who harvested 25 by 70kilogrammebags of maize compared to previous seasons where he could only harvest less than 10 by 50kg bags of maize.

He said another farmer from Nsenaga Hill in Northern Province, Milton Sindala, managed to harvest 20 by 90kg bags of maize in the 2020/2021 farming season as opposed to the 2019/2020 farming season where he harvested only 12 by 90kg bags of maize.

Mr Mwale said without the project's intervention, most of the farmers would not have been impacted prior to the project's inception because they did not have the capacity to produce more

due to lack of knowledge and farming inputs.

MrMwale expressed optimism that the project would thrive because the Government was prioritising agricultural development through enactment of research and extension services.

EU representative Malthias Reusing said his organization was committed to improve crop productivityof smallholder farmers in Zambia through research and development.

Mr Reusing said the wasneed for more research and development in the agriculture sector which was key to graduating farmers from subsistence production to commercial farming.

CIMMYT Principal Cropping Systems Agronomist Christian Thierfelder said the project's main objective was to increase farmers' incomes through proper agronomy practices such as Conservation Agriculture (CA) and farm mechanization, among others.

Dr Thierfelder said the EU contributed €12 million s towards the implementation of the project.-NAIS.



•A FOOD fair held in Kalabo in Western Province recently with various nutritious foods on display

Kalabo holds food fair

By NANCY MUKELABAI

IN Zambia, a high proportion of rural households are vulnerable and lack food security.

This means improvements in general agriculture can ensure availability of food through enhanced production, nutrition education, value addition, storage and improved food processing.

Some of the constraints leading to food availability among the majority of rural households are caused by low production, low yields, inadequate preservation, poor processing and lack of good storage facilities.

Additionally, limited marketing exhausts food stocks before the next season.

Consequently, food security, consumption and nutritious status are affected.

However, for this situation to be addressed, the necessity to focus on food systems and production should be a priority in order to achieve food security and end malnutrition and poverty.

The status quo also necessitates addressing value addition in the nutrition context, and the value chain approach, which includes nutrition goals.

This has the potential to make nutritious foods more available and affordable for the rural households.

Lead and contact farmers, women groups and cooperativesall need to have necessary knowledge to adopt and practice what is needed for healthy nutrition in households. They also need to strengthen skills related to income generating activities in order to empower their families.

According to the Second National Agricultural Policy Implementation Plan for 2016 to 2020, the

Ministry of Agriculture came up with an objective of improving food and nutrition security through various activities.

The ministry also has a policy measure of promoting diversification of agricultural production and use, through conducting training in food processing and nutrition.

Further, the agriculture sector is mandated to develop markets for specific agricultural commodities.

It is because of this that the Ministry of Agriculture, through the Enhanced Smallholder Agribusiness Promotion Programme (E-SAPP), has been supporting rice farmers in Kalabo district in Western province by conducting training programmes and providing inputs for improved yields.

Despite the availed knowledge on recommended crop growing techniques that will improve yields, there is very little knowledge on the preparation and consumption of nutritious foods.

Consequently, E-SAPP supported the hosting of nutrition fairs for subsistence smallholder farmers in selected categoriesof focal districts, which are currently implementing a number of activities.

The aim of the nutrition food fairs is to create nutrition awareness, increase knowledge and skills in nutrition amongst smallholder farmers, with a focus on diet diversity, diverse food production, prepara-

tion, preservation and use.

A food fair was recently held in Kalabo district.

The aim of the fair was to reach 50 participants from four Farming as a Business Schools (FaaBS) groups namely Mulamba, Kalwizhyi, Nasikung'u and Liyoyelo.

The fair involved cooking demonstrations and showcasing nutritious food products and dishes from locally available foods that constitute nutritious meals.

Kalabo District Commissioner Fridah Luhila urged the farmers to fully use locally available foods for better nutrition for their households.

"In as much as E-SAPP is promoting the concept of farming as a business, we should attach the importance of good nutrition to our households. Let us utilize the locally available foods through good recommended food processing methods, preparation and preservation," Ms Luhila said.

In a speech read on her behalf by the Kalabo District Agricultural Coordinator Samuel Simusandu, Ms Luhila appealed to the Ministry of Agriculture members of staff to work closely with the farmers in imparting the necessary knowledge and mobilizing the farmers to adopt and practice what is needed for a healthy nutrition in their households.

One of the participants, Charity Mulife, from Mulamba FaaBS, said she appreciated the efforts the Government is making in educating and empowering the farmers with various inputs.

"It's the first time I'm attending a nutrition food fair. I had never heard of it my entire life," she said.

Ms Mulife commended E-SAPP for promoting good nutrition.

She said she learned a lot from her fellow farmers on the different methods of preparing local foods for improved health.

"I wish they could organize another food fair and share knowledge among use the farmers," Ms Mulife said.

Senior Western Province nutritionist officer Monde Lisulo Haatembo urged the participants to take nutrition very seriously. She said nutrition can help to reduce malnutrition and stunting levels in the district.

Ms Haatembo said most of the farmers are not adequately informed on the true nutritional benefit of the foods that they consume.

She advised the farmers to request for nutritional training from their camp extension officers for improved knowledge and better understanding of balancing meals.

Kalabo district marketing and development officer Aongola Daka stressed the importance of E-SAPP in promoting farming as a business and that once the farmers seriously adopt the concept, they will have enough income for food and improved nutrition at household level.

The importance of crop and food diversification cannot be over emphasized because it enables households to have access to a variety of foods, besides achieving a balanced diet in order to attain the recommended daily allowance for all household members.-NAIS.



TECHNICAL EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BID

TENDER NUMBER TEV/DAF/035/2021

TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) received funding from the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) under the 2021 budget and intend to apply these funds towards the Provision of External Audit Services.

Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Provision of External Audit Services.

Bidding will be conducted through Open National Competitive Bidding (ONCB), a procedure specified in the Public Procurement Act No. 8 of 2020 and the Public Procurement Regulations of 2011 as defined in the Bidding Document. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document from the office the Procurement Specialist at Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) Birdcage Walk, Long acres, Private Bag RW16, Lusaka, Zambia upon payment of a non-refundable fee of K1, 000.00 or its equivalent in any freely convertible currency.

Bids shall be valid for 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by Bid Securing Declaration. The Bid – Securing Declaration shall be in the sample format provided in the bidding documents.

Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the instruction to Bidders contained in the bidding documents. Bids shall be deposited in the Tender Box at Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) on or before Friday, 10th September, 2021 at 10: 00hrs local time. **ELECTRONIC BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Bids delivered after Friday, 17th September, 2021 at 10:00hrs local time, will be rejected and returned unopened to the bidders. Bids will be opened in the Conference Room on the same date soon after closing time in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who may choose to attend.

The Director General
Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA)
Bird Cage Walk, Longacres
Private Bag RW 16X
LUSAKA.