

# ZIMBABWE: STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

NOVEMBER 2016 – NEWSBRIEF1

ENHANCED SUPPORT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN CERTIFICATION,  
INSPECTION AND TESTING ON PHYTOSANITARY STANDARDS

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project aims to contribute to the increase of Zimbabwe's international trade of agricultural goods, based on i-EPA implementation. More specifically, it aims to enhance knowledge of technical and Sanitary and Phytosanitary standards and their monitoring, including creating or upgrading laboratories as necessary, at the national level, ensuring consistency with regional and continental policies.

## IMPLEMENTING RESIDUE MONITORING PLANS



*July 2017:* 17 officers of SPS authorities were trained on the development and implementation of residue monitoring plans for export to the EU. The training included EU legislation on food imports including monitoring residues and contaminants in food of animal origin, methodology to draft and implement

RMPs. Assistance to develop and implement the residues monitoring plan is in progress.

## TESTIMONIAL



*"Thank you for organizing the training on how to prepare a residue monitoring plan. The training ... made me understand the residue monitoring plan requirements of the EU perspective .... I appreciated the view point of how several key players (laboratory, public health officers, medicines control authority, academia...) need to sit down together to formulate the plan and how critical the laboratory input is to the success of a national*

*residue monitoring plan .... What caught my attention the most was that product could be sent to the EU community awaiting laboratory results. This was divergent to my belief that products could only be sent upon compliant laboratory result confirmation.*

*Thank you once again for the opportunity to broaden our perspective on the EU market requirements and how to better submit the required information”.*

- *Dr. Uchirai Chindezwa, Veterinary Research Officer*

## EU FOOD IMPORT REQUIREMENTS



*June 2017:* 46 participants improved their knowledge on EU import requirements related to food. Participants were taken through sessions on EC Regulations-EU General Food Law, Hygiene, Official Controls; requirements in fresh fruits and vegetables, and animal origin foods; HACCP, GHP, traceability; EU export authorizations and approvals, test methods and quality assurance, DG Sante and Veterinary Office Inspections, and Special Import Conditions.

## LABORATORY BUSINESS PLAN



*June 2017:* 19 laboratory personnel were trained in the development of laboratory business plans. Sessions included Financial management, Revenues- test services, certificates, expertise; Activity-based management, process value analysis, value addition, and minimizing non-value added activities; Financial strategies and targets including reporting and policies; Setting future activities, and practical business plan writing.

## NATIONAL GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES STANDARD ZIMGAP

*February 2017:* ZimGAP: A national standard on GAP has been developed and published for the horticulture sector.



The ZimGAP standard may be purchased from the Standards Association of Zimbabwe's Information Centre by emailing: [bmutanga@saz.org.zw](mailto:bmutanga@saz.org.zw) ; [rmarunda@saz.org.zw](mailto:rmarunda@saz.org.zw) ; [info@saz.org.zw](mailto:info@saz.org.zw)

Moreover, 35 participating extension officers and lead farmers have been trained on implementing this standard. These extension officers and lead farmers will cascade the training in different regions

## PREPARING LABORATORIES FOR ACCREDITATION

*November 2016:* To support the accreditation of Zimbabwe's SPS laboratories, 26 laboratory technicians from different SPS laboratories were trained to implement ISO 17025. ISO 17025 standard provides general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. Certificates from accredited laboratories helps exporters by improving acceptability of their certified products and systems in target markets.



## BUILDING TESTING CAPACITIES OF SPS INSTITUTIONS

Four testing laboratories of SPS institutions have now been equipped with modern state of the art equipment to increase their scope of testing services for the protection of public, plant and animal health. The beneficiary institutions are the Government Analyst Laboratory, the Plant Quarantine Services, the

Central Veterinary laboratory and the National Biotechnology Authority. The inspectorate of Port Health of the Ministry of Health and Child Care has also been supported in the project through the supply of inspection equipment to be distributed to 31 stations which help ensure food safety of products.



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