Southern African Development Community   European Development Fund

**Promotion of Regional Integration (PRINT)
in the SADC Livestock Sector**

9 ACP SAD 002

LIMS Adoption Mission to Zimbabwe

By

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3 – 11 September 2008

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1. Introduction

The purpose of the mission was to launch the Livestock Information Management System (LIMS) as part of a roll-out plan to SADC Member States during the period July to December 2008.

The LIMS Adoption Mission to Harare, Zimbabwe was carried out by Dr. Welbourne Madzima (Project Coordinator) and Dr. Berhanu Bedane (Information Management Specialist) from 3 – 11 September 2008.

This followed the basic structure of a prototype LIMS Adoption Mission comprising:

- a one-day Stakeholder Workshop for identified livestock personnel in the public and private sectors; including representatives of farmers' unions / associations, marketing and processors of livestock and livestock products, National Statistical Office, Economics & Marketing Units in Ministry of Agriculture
- a three-day Training of Trainers Course for ca. 10 personnel in the Ministry of Agriculture involved in the collection and processing of data on Animal Production, Animal Health, Livestock Marketing & Trade
- Collection of retrospective livestock data, available publications and current legislation in the livestock sector
- formation of a provisional National Taskforce for LIMS
- Meetings with Senior Officials in Ministry of Agriculture and National Statistical Office

2. Stakeholder Workshop

The "LIMS Zimbabwe Chapter" was launched on 8 September 2008 by Hon. Cde David Chapfika MP, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, during a Stakeholder Workshop which was attended by a wide cross-section of agricultural personnel comprising ca. 50 participants (Annex II).

In his address (Annex I), the Deputy Minister highlighted that LIMS was a component of the SADC Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) and also referred to the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security at the Extra Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government which recognized that sustainable food security depends on policy decisions based on quality information.

Presentations on the SADC PRINT Livestock Project and its Livestock Information Management System (Appendix III) appear to have been well received judging by the amount of discussion generated. The LIMS brochure and other visibility items were distributed to participants.

Dr. Unesu Ushewokunze-Obatolu, Director of Veterinary Services, was chosen as the convener of the National Taskforce for LIMS to be in place by December 2008, and an outline of its composition was discussed.

3. Training of Trainers Course

The Training of Trainers Course was held at the Department of Veterinary Services, Harare on 05, 09 and 10 September 2008 for 10 participants as shown in Annex IV.

The LIMS application was generally perceived as being user-friendly although still requiring fixing of a few bugs. Similarly, the templates were well received. However, it was observed that additional support was expected from the PRINT Livestock Project in order to roll-out LIMS to provinces and districts before any meaningful data collection can be expected.

4. Collection of Retrospective Livestock Data and Documents

Retrospective Animal Health, including livestock census data is available and has since 1996 been routinely made available through Sub Committee on Epidemiology & Informatics and since June 2007 directly to SADC Secretariat.

Livestock marketing data is purportedly collected via public auction sales and abattoirs, but could not be accessed as the responsible officers were not available at the time of the mission.

In contrast, data in Animal Production was not easily accessible partly due to the lack of a systematic programme for its collection and processing.

Data on trade in livestock and livestock products is partly available from four sources i.e. Department of Customs & Excise, Department of Veterinary Services (Veterinary Permits), Department Economics & Marketing, Central Statistical Office. However, this data was not collected; in cases because the data is not computerised, in other cases the team did not have sufficient time to meet with the relevant custodians of the data. Nevertheless, some documentation was obtained from Central Statistical Office as shown in Appendix V.

5. Meetings with Senior Officials

Appendix VI gives a list of the meetings with Senior Officials and the purpose.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The initial training provided by the three-day Training of Trainers Course may need to be followed by a refresher course at SADC Secretariat for two participants per Member State, once all the bugs in earlier versions of the LIMS Application have been fixed.

There is also a glaring need for a follow-up programme to roll-out the LIMS Application and Templates to Districts.

SADC PRINT Livestock Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Zimbabwe

Programme for the LIMS Training of Trainers Course

05, 09 and 10 September 2008

Venue – Department of Veterinary Services, Harare

DAY 1 – Friday 05 September 2008

8:00 – 8:15	**Introduction - Training objectives**

8:15 - 9:00 **Installation**
1. First time installation
2. Key files and folders
3. Uninstalling
4. Re-installing

9:00 – 10:30 **Basic concept of LIMS operation**
1. Opening, navigation and closing the application
2. Menu and sub-menu structure

10:30 – 11:00 **TEA BREAK**

11:00 – 11:30 **Basic concept of LIMS operation (Continued)**
3. Standard tool bar and other GUI

11:30 – 12:00 **Administration: Access Control**
1. Creating users
2. Assigning roles and granting rights

12:00 – 12:30 **Data entry, modification and saving**
1. Livestock numbers and composition (Module 1)

12:30 – 14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00 - 14:30 **Data entry, modification and saving (continued)**
1. Livestock numbers and composition (Module 1)

14:30 – 15:30   2. Livestock Products (Module 3)

15:30 – 16:00   3. Livestock Trade (Module 5) **(Tea or drinks will be served)**

DAY 2 – Tuesday 09 September 2008

8:00 – 9:00   **Revision of day 1 - Discussion**

9:00 – 10:30   **Data entry, modification and saving (continued)**
                3. Livestock Infrastructure (Module 6)

10:30 – 11:00   **TEA BREAK**

11:00 – 11:30   **Data entry, modification and saving (continued)**
                4. Meat Inspection (Module 7)

11:30 – 12:30   **Data entry, modification and saving (continued)**
                5. Laws, regulations and acts (Module 9)

                Data entry, modification and saving (continued)
                6. Disease Report (Module 10)

12:30 – 14:00   **LUNCH**

14:00 – 16:00   **Building queries, generating reports and exporting query**
results   1. Livestock numbers and composition (Module 1)
                2. Livestock Products (Module 3)
                3. Livestock Trade (Module 5)
                (Tea or drinks will be served)

DAY 3 – Wednesday 10 September 2008

8:00 – 9:00   **Revision of day 2 - Discussion**

9:00 – 10:30 results   **Building queries, generating reports and exporting query**

(continued)
4. Meat Inspection (Module 7)
5. Disease Report (Module 10)

10:30 – 11:00   **TEA BREAK**

11:00 – 11:30 results   **Building queries, generating reports and exporting query**

(continued)
5. Disease Report (Module 10) Cont.

11:30 – 12:30   Data exporting for further analysis

13:00 – 14:00   **LUNCH**

14:00 - 15:30   **Administration**
1. Data Management: sending and receiving files (electronic reports)
2. Data Management: backup and restore

15:30 – 16:00   **General Discussion (Tea or drinks will be served)**

Installation and configuration of clean copy of the database

End of training course

SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
HON. D. CHAPFICA (MP)
AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE SADC
LIVESTOCK INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LIMS)
IN ZIMBABWE

HARARE HOLIDAY INN: MONDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2008

SADC PRINT Project Staff
Senior Government Officials
Private Sector Representatives
Invited Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with a great sense of satisfaction that as stakeholders of the livestock industry we are gathered here today to witness the birth of a Livestock Information Management System (LIMS) under the SADC project on the Promotion of Regional Integration (PRINT) in the livestock sector. This is part of the regional Agricultural Information Management System (AIMS) project.

It is important to note that the LIMS project resulted from the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security, at the Extra Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Governments in 2004. At his summit it was recognized that sustainable food security depends on policy decisions based on quality information.

Pursuant to the above, the SADC Secretariat is in the process of establishing an Agricultural Information System (AIMS) in order to improve capacity for data collection, analysis and sharing of agricultural information between SADC Member States. I am sure this is the beginning of a process that will integrate and rationalize the various regional agricultural sub-sector information systems into an effective, efficient and coherent system towards supporting the revitalisation of agricultural growth, enhancing food security and promoting rural development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the creation of LIMS would address in particular, the lack of reliable information on animal health and disease risk, marketing opportunities for trade, marketing infrastructure and the marketing of livestock inputs and outputs. Furthermore, the project will assist us as a nation to livestock production as well as ensure that information obtained is based on quality data to portray the highest level of accuracy and validity for reliability. These are values which we will always uphold as a Ministry.

The LIMS could not have been launched at a better time than now when Zimbabwe is looking at rebuilding its national herd especially that of cattle.

I would like to assure the SADC PRINT project team that Zimbabwe takes a serious and purposeful view of the LIMS. Over the years, we have developed capacities and systems for livestock information management evident in numerous publications. Our ability to provide livestock census data surpassed that of many countries in the region, so is our infrastructure and systems to detect important production issues, economically important animal health and welfare problems by location and time. We were ahead of other countries on the continent when we developed Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for tracking and portraying animal health events with the aid of digitised maps in the early 1990s. Our tradition with breed-line conservation and breed development is well known. We have a track record for exports in livestock and livestock products to both regional and lucrative overseas markets, for a variety of livestock products, going back more than 20 years.

Having said that, I would like to acknowledge that we face challenges within the livestock sector amongst them the loss of skills due to brain drain, the reduced national herd, recurrent droughts and shortage of stock feeds as well as foreign currency to procure important livestock drugs and dipping chemicals. I am however happy to note that one of the important activities of the SADC PRINT project has been to train staff from countries including Zimbabwe.

In line with regional objectives, the Ministry of Agriculture is presently in the process of revitalizing its Agricultural Information System and will obviously benefit a great deal from the LIMS.

I urge our technical personnel and professionals in the livestock sector to take advantage of the LIMS and ultimately AIMS for our use locally and for the promotion of regional integration, economic development and poverty reduction in SADC.

In thanking the SADC PRINT project staff for their dedicated efforts and contribution, I declare the LIMS launched in Zimbabwe.

I thank you!

LIMS Adoption Mission to Zimbabwe: Meetings with Senior Staff

Serial No.	Date	Meeting	Purpose
1	04/09/2008	Dr. S.K. Hargreaves, Principal Director	Explain LIMS mission and request use of DVS facilities for training
2	04/09/2008	Dr. U. Ushewokunze- Obatolu, Director of Veterinary Services	Discuss Notes for the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and logistics for the Stakeholder Workshop and Training
3	05/09/2008	Mr. N. Masoka, Permanent Secretary of Agriculture	Explain LIMS and AIMS and purpose of mission
4	10/09/2008	Mr. K. Shoniwa, Acting Deputy Director, Central Statistical Office Mr. R. Mpofu, Principal Statistician rmpofu@cso.zarnet.ac.zw Mr. M. Mubvindi, Principal Officer agric@cso.zarnet.ac.zw Mr. F. Makarudze, Statistician fmakarudze@cso.zarnet.ac.zw Mr. N. Muzvidziwa, Statistician nmuzvidziwa@cso.zarnet.ac.zw	Introduce LIMS and confirm central role of CSO in Government information and seek support for networking of an Information Taskforce in Zimbabwe. Collected copy of Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey, 2005-06; Census 2002; Numbers of Livestock, 1970-2004; Agriculture Statistical Bulletin, 2007 (Production, Trade and Maps);

			Census and Statistics Act No. 1/2007
5	10/09/2009	Dr. C. Majuru, Veterinary Permits Officer	Introduce LIMS and the role of Veterinary Permits Office in collecting data on trade in Livestock & Livestock Products; Requested computerisation of veterinary permits; Left Templates on Trade; Obtained Veterinary Surgeons Act (CAP 27:15), Animal Health Act (CAP 19:01) and Statutory Instruments.