Overview

The business environment is still tentative and adjusting to new operating hours, protocols for health and safety of clients and doing much more via virtual reality platforms. While many Association activities such as Indabas and Symposia have been postponed, different ways of connecting with potential participants are being explored and tested.

Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs

Following the suspension of the use of electronic platforms to facilitate cattle buying by abattoir operators, the Zimbabwe Association of Abattoirs submitted correspondence to the Ministries of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe arguing for the re-instatement of trading privileges for affected abattoirs. The negative impact the suspension caused on the beef processing industry was emphasised and justification for the high volume of transactions that abattoir operators make to purchase small lots of animals from mainly smallholder farmers was also provided. While bank accounts have been re-opened, for trade in cattle, Ecocash lines are still frozen pending the High court resolution. Trade remains hampered as most communal farmers do not have bank accounts and are reliant on mobile money.

Inclusive Poultry Value Chain Project

The IPVC team, consortia partners and representatives from small and medium-scale producers visited a potential site to establish a Poultry Business Association (PBA), located close to Ruwa high density area along the Harare-Mutare highway. The site is being considered because its strategically located in terms of proximity to producers, consumers and input suppliers.

Work continues on identifying the set-up of PBA’s and selection of human resources for the Gweru, Masvingo and Bulawayo hubs.

The Project also offers technical assistance to farmers through its WhatsApp platform and information outreach activities have reached at least 1,700 poultry producers across the five clusters.
**Pig Value Chain Activities**

The Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project in the pig value chain imported pig breeding stock in April consisting of grandparent and parent stock of Duroc, Landrace and Large white breeds which were quarantined for 21 days at the Pig Industry Board. The pigs were imported from Danbred, one of the leading pig genetics company globally and will have a significant impact on improving feed conversion rates and resistance to disease.

Registration of small and medium-scale producers is ongoing, including young people and women, and work continues on establishing Pig Production Business Syndicates to support commercialisation activities in the respective corridors.