Crocodile industry in crisis as export tax bites

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$81M food security boost project launched

Facing down the armyworm pest

Aquaculture outlet in Lesotho gets cash injection
Agritech Expo anticipates luring more visitors to its annual agriculture jamboree slated for April.

Jervis Zimba, President of the Zambia National Farmers’ Union (ZNFU), the owners of the event said this year’s event at GART is expected to bring more than 20,000 visitors, over 220 local and international exhibitors, including international pavilions from Germany, Italy, UK and Zimbabwe.

In addition, 3,500 VIP and large scale farmers are expected to grace the event.

“Agritech Expo Zambia 2019 promises more agro technology and innovation advancements as the event continues to unveil the future for our agriculture,” said Zimba.

Agritech Expo Zambia will feature industry featured zones - livestock zone, live crop trials, machinery and equipment demos, construction park, 4x4 test track, energy park, international pavilions, indoor expo tent, irrigation zone, centre pivot display, agriteach training workshops, VIP large scale farmers agenda, SME zone, business zone, aquaculture showcase and nethouse showcase.

New features for 2019 include livestock demos and workshops, live planting demos, more agriteach workshop zones and industry support.

Agritech Expo Zambia is owned by the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) and is organised by Spintelligent, leading Cape Town-based trade exhibition and conference organiser, and in the UK.

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 Authorities and the Zambian Crocodile Farmers Association (ZCFA) should find an amicable solution to the challenges facing the country’s crocodile industry.

With so many uncertainties facing the local economy, no single industry should be allowed to be reeling in challenges.

News that ZCFA has warned the industry faces imminent closure, as the imposition of this year’s 10 percent export duty takes effect should be put under microscope analysis, why would such an industry lockdown.

Crocodile skins are prized the world over for high-end footwear, handbags and garments, obviously not only farmers need the revenue sales but government also wants a share. Farmers are bemoaning an export duty, indicating it will cripple their operations. Both parties have a point and it’s only through a consensus that the industry can survive.

Now some US$1.3 million of crocodile skins are sitting in cold storage because farmers cannot raise the up-front money to pay the tax, surely there should be a way around this puzzle.

There is need to unlock more value from the industry to create employment, huge economic benefits for both the farmers and the country.

Governments the world over depend mostly on tax, so government cannot totally scrap the tax but farmers should suggest the best way to solve this issue.

ZCFA claims that since the export duty was introduced in January, crocodile farmers have paid US$350,000 on skins exported, and this has sucked out all the liquidity from the industry, he explained.

In addition, the Association has warned that more than 600 jobs are at risk, mainly in rural areas and that it takes about four years to establish a crocodile farm so once the local industry collapse, its resuscitation is unlikely, crocodile farmers have warned.

So if this industry has so much potential, what is the best way to strike a balance between government and farmers? Indeed a solution has to be found.

Remember to share your letter, comments and inquiries to drewmara@gmail.com
**Conservation farming buzz**

As part of efforts to change farmers to promote conservation farming, 9,000 field days have been organised across the country to increase the number of farmers adopting the practice.

The campaigns come at the backdrop of the effects of climate change on agriculture.

Statistics indicate that Conservation Farming Unit (CFU) trained over 270,000 farmers countrywide in a bid to improve yields and enhance food security.

Indications are that most farmers still opt for conventional farming methods which they consider as being less labour-intensive.

**Fertilizer scheme boast agric in Nigeria**

As part of efforts to improve supply for 200,000 smallholder farmers, Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) has kick-started a $2.2 million project to provide fertilizer suppliers in Nigeria.

AFFM said the trade credit guarantee project will involve 10 fertilizer suppliers, 12 hub agro-dealers and 120 retail agro-dealers.

In addition, the project will also train farmers in proper fertilizer use and other agricultural best practices.

“We will leverage on existing networks and look for creative solutions to increase the availability of fertilizer in the country,” said Nana-Aisha Mohammed, AFAP’s representative at the ceremony.

Nigerian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Assistant Director Umar Musa said AFAP should work with government and other actors in the fertilizer value chain to ensure that the project complies with Nigeria’s policies and sector strategies.

“We expect this project to support smallholder farmers and improve their productivity in order to help the country increase its local production and consumption of fertilizer,” he said.

“We are confident that the project will increase access to quality and affordable fertilizer by smallholder farmers and hence contribute to the transformation of the agriculture sector in Nigeria,” said Marie Claire Kalihangabo, AFFM Coordinator.

**Govt denies national hunger reports**

Humanitarian experts have indicated government is denying declaring a drought, instead dilly-dallying on the matter. “The Zambian government has refused to declare hunger as a national disaster despite calls from the international community and opposition leaders,” World Food Programme (WFP) said.

Warnings that Zambia is on the verge of hunger have been by different organizations and individuals, but government is declining to admit.

Caritas warned that Zambia is facing one of its worst droughts in decades and that 2.3 million people are in urgent need of help.

The refusal by the government to declare it a state of emergency has several negative implications. The international aid community may not chip in at the right time.

Last year, President Edgar Lungu said the agriculture sector had been negatively affected by climate change effects, drought, floods, and outbreaks of pests and diseases.

**Govt to receive agric cash injection**

Government is set to receive one million Euros grant towards agriculture sectors from the German government.

John Gartzer, Germany Head of Development Cooperation said the funds will be distributed through Adleasco, a Germany agriculture financing company aimed at empowering small scale farmers with agriculture equipment.

Gartzer said the initiative is aimed at promoting smart farming that is expected to improve productivity and food security in the country.

**Industrial city to accommodate agriculture**

New agricultural processing zone is in the pipeline at Chibombo district, as part of the Jiangxi United Industrial Investment Limited’s US$600 million investment.

The multi-facility economic zone being developed on 2,089 hectares of land, about 88km from Lusaka and 42km from Kabwe, will create a new industrial city integrating agriculture, industry, commerce and trade, logistic, services, leisure and living.

“One completed, JXECZ will become one demonstration park of international capacity cooperation between China and Zambia,” JXECZ manager Xu Jianfene said.

In addition, the investment is expected to be the biggest Chinese investment in Central Province and is envisioned to make a positive contribution to the economy of Zambia as a whole.

**Stable tobacco industry focus**

Outlook for the global tobacco industry is stable as price increases continue to offset the impact of low to mid single-digit volume declines, latest Moody’s research and comment has revealed.

“Operating profit growth of three to four percent coupled with the ability of price increases and a better product mix to offset declining volumes underpin the stable outlook on the global tobacco sector. Heated tobacco and vaping products continue to gain traction, but rising investment needs will reduce their contribution to revenues.” says Roberto Pozzi, a senior vice president at Moody’s.

Moody’s in a newly published report said heated tobacco and e-vapour products will continue to gain traction but increasing investment needs will constrain profit growth for some companies; snus products and nicotine pouches are also showing volume growth.
Crocodile industry in crisis as export tax bites

The Zambian Crocodile Farmers Association (ZCFA) has warned the industry faces imminent closure as the imposition of this year’s 10 percent export duty takes effect.

Zambian crocodile skins are prized the world over for high-end footwear, handbags and garments, but now some US$1.3 million of crocodile skins are sitting in cold storage because farmers cannot raise the up-front money to pay the tax.

Two farming operations are closing, with another two planning to follow.

“The situation is dire,” said ZCFA chairman Johann Jordan. “Farmers need this revenue from sales to run their farms, and the nation needs the foreign exchange we generate from these exports, but this tax is on the verge of killing the industry.”

Since the export duty was introduced in January, crocodile farmers have paid US$350,000 on skins exported, and this has sucked out all the liquidity from the industry, he explained.

Operations are being wound down and there has been virtually no egg incubation this year, just as the industry was finding its feet again after a tightening of grading standards that prompted a change in growing methods, stocking densities, chemicals and food formulation in recent years.

In 2018, Zambia exported about 31,685 farmed crocodile skins, but projections show this will be reduced to about 22,000 skins this year, down by almost a third, and half that exported in 2015.

“There are more than 600 jobs at risk, mainly in rural areas. Bearing in mind that it takes about four years to establish a crocodile farm, the chance of any resurrection of the industry once collapsed, is unlikely,” said Jordan.

Engagement between the association and the Ministry of Finance since January, have not resulted in the tax being reviewed, despite suggestions that crocodile skins were caught in wider legislation on the export of hides and skins due to an administrative error, as they were not specifically mentioned in the 2019 Budget speech or prior consultation.

Plans by the industry to add value to exports by commissioning a tannery and a manufacturing workshop to add value to small-scale crocodile skin products, for both export and local sales, and to supply the tourist industry, have now been put on hold.

The international market from crocodile skins – which are a renewable resource - is estimated to be worth more than US$100 million. Farmers cannot add the 10 percent export duty to their sale price because it would make Zambian skins uncompetitive in the global market. Farmers cannot absorb the duty due to already low profitability in the sector.

“Crocodile farming is a foreign exchange earner and generates employment. It is an industry that should be attractive for long-term growth and not short-term fiscal gain,” added Jordan.

“The time is now critical for a decision to be made by Government if this industry is to survive in Zambia, and therefore as an association, and on behalf of all our members and staff, we sincerely appeal to Government to abolish this export duty on reptile skins and save the crocodile farming industry from total collapse.”
As food concerns issues escalate, the local chapter of the African Green Resources (AGR) recently launched an $81 million financial programme to boost food security.

Under the programme AGR and its partners will provide farm supplies and technology to farmers in exchange for grain.

Zuneid Yousuf, AGR chairman said the initiative is part of the broader plans by AGR to invest $150 million for projects including a 50 megawatt solar farm and irrigation dam.

According to AGR, the project will target 120 commercial farmers and 250,000 small and middle farmers, with the new programme to boost food security.

Packages of the project will include 60,000 tonnes of fertiliser for wheat and soya farming – worth $55 million – and $26 million for projects such as the expansion of grain storage silos.

The regional and global banks will finance the project, while the money will be repaid from the produce via ‘yields programme’.

“We expect to receive 44,000 tonnes of wheat per season,” Yousuf said, some of which will be processed before being sold on local and international markets.

“We will repay the loan from sales of wheat flour, soya processing plant products and silo revenue.”

Some of the money is also guaranteed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union (AU), Sace Italy and Agriculture Grain International (AGI).

The farmers, meanwhile, would benefit from the ability to grow their businesses with the help of access to markets and credit finance, Yousuf added.

World Food Programme (WFP) estimates indicate that a record 45 million people in 16 nations in southern Africa face growing hunger after repeated drought, low yields, widespread flooding and sluggish economic growth.
Agricultural advancement lures Corteva

merica’s agricultural chemical and seed company, Corteva Agriscience has announced plans to set up a seed production hub for East, South and Central Africa here.

Prabdeep Bajwa, president of Africa Middle East at Corteva Agriscience said the company values African opportunity and embodies opportunities on the local market.

“We believe in the African opportunity. Zambia is on the move and Zambia is a very, very important site for Corteva Agriscience. For us, quality seed and making sure farmers get the best product is the most important, and this site is testament to that. We are in the business of enriching the lives of our farmers,” Bajwa said.

“We need to make sure we bring the best research to Africa. We bring global science; we adapt it to make sure we have the best possible solutions for the market. We are committed to agriculture; we are committed to Africa, and we are committed to Zambia,” he reiterated.

The pure agriculture company has pledged to continue offering seed and crop protection solutions to enable farmers to maximise every hectare and get the most out of every season.

Agriculture Minister, Michael Katambo said government remains committed to working with the private sector, as well as providing a conducive environment.

“Our policy as a government is to provide a conducive environment for the private sector to operate and thrive.

“This is with a view to enabling the agriculture sector to contribute significantly to the overall economic development agenda of the country,” Katambo said.
Oрганыр of AgriTech Expo 2020 have announced that host venue of the 7th edition of the AgriTech Expo has received the much-needed rainfall, allowing for excellent conditions for the upcoming seeding process ahead of the expo.

With excellent growing conditions prevalent for the popular live crop trial zone - organizers are confident for a successful 7th edition of the trade fair.

Slated for the 2nd to the 4th of April, the event's crop trial zones is one of the most popular feature areas of the show and gives seed producers, fertilizer suppliers and agro chemical companies the opportunity to showcase the benefits of utilizing their products first hand in the field, directly to a captive audience of farming professionals.

“It is without doubt that the AgriTech Expo has stamped an indelible mark as the biggest agricultural outdoor show-piece in Zambia and has continued to endear its way into the region and beyond.

“It is an expo with a core mandate to forge mechanization and technological advancements among farmers with the aim of improving production, productivity and efficiency in this evolving world of discerning consumers that demand quality and proficiency,” said Jervis Zimba, President of the Zambia National Farmers’ Union (ZNFU).

In addition to having the field measured and plotted for the live crop trial zones, AgriTech Expo Zambia is gearing up to once again provide a stellar platform for farmers in Zambia and the region to meet, engage and conduct business with the global agricultural industry.

In 2019, AgriTech Expo Zambia welcomed over 18,500 visitors and 220 exhibitors across various sectors such as seed producers, chemical fertilizers, irrigation; machinery, construction etc.

The 6th edition of AgriTech Expo also witnessed 26 live crop trials, 50 training workshops, numerous live machinery demonstrations as well as 7 international pavilions.

AgriTech Expo aims to develop the farming community in Zambia by presenting a global platform for a regional audience encompassing cutting edge technology and innovation tailored to local needs.

With the presence of the leading businesses in agricultural machinery the likes of SARO, AGRICO, ZamSeed, John Deere and many more showcasing their latest technologies and services, both large commercial enterprises as well as small and medium scale farmers will find something of value on offer at the trade fair.

“Farming is the future for Zambia and the region. AgriTech Expo is a must attend event for the Zambian and regional farming community. Climate change is upon us, conservation farming is the way forward.

“At AgriTech Expo, SARO will display and demonstrate conservation farming equipment that we supply and manufacture, such as our reliable tractors, farm implements, irrigation equipment, post-harvest machinery and solar pumping solutions,” said Chief Executive Officer of SARO, Gold Sponsor of AgriTech Expo, Ashok Oza.

In 2020, along with the popular specials from previous editions such as the 4x4 test tracks, the live crop trials, machinery demonstration zones, AgriTech Expo Zambia will debut its exclusive networking zone.

The objective is for commercial farmers to engage in an open dialog with the ministry of agriculture as well as creating an opportunity for high level networking amongst top suppliers.

Participants at the networking zone will engage in roundtable and question and answer sessions and will have exclusive access to a networking function with other commercial farming enterprises at the event, VIPs, government officials, media partners and top suppliers.
Bayer geared up for the AgriTech Expo 2020

Old Sponsor at AgriTech Expo 2020, Bayer Zambia is upbeat about the upcoming agriculture jamboree.

“We will be displaying the service of on-farm seed treatment as we drive stewardship. It’s an opportunity for any farmer Commercial, Emerging or Smallholder to visit our stand where a well-trained team of Agronomists will be on hand to answer all of their questions,” Paul Kapapula, Territory Manager at Bayer Zambia.

Kapapula said this year’s Agritech 2020 is very special for Bayer, as the company is getting closer to offering customers a complete solution.

“We will be displaying the service of on-farm seed treatment as we drive stewardship. It’s an opportunity for any farmer Commercial, Emerging or Smallholder to visit our stand, where a well-trained team of agronomists will be on hand to answer all of their questions,” Kapapula said.

AgriTech Expo Zambia is the leading agricultural machinery and implements trade fair in the sub-Saharan African region.

The 7th edition of the AgriTech Expo takes place from the 2-4 April 2020, with the first day of the show open exclusively to large commercial farmers.

To deliver serious impact on the inclusivity of the voice of the farmer in policymaking, leading crop sciences company Bayer in partnership with organizers DLG Agriculture Limited have created the Bayer Networking Zone at AgriTech.

Taking place on the first day of AgriTech Expo, the exclusive Bayer Networking Zone comprises open to commercial farmers in the region, to have an open dialogue directly with the governmental and ministerial officials to discuss and deliberate on the challenges currently facing the industry, with a mindset and focus on creating meaningful and sustainable solutions for all moving forward.

Following a high-level panel discussion the participants will have exclusive access to a networking function with large scale commercial farmers, VIPs, government officials, media partners and top suppliers at the all-new to AgriTech Expo 2020 – the Bayer Networking Zone, to continue the discussions of improving the industry as a whole.

In addition to the Bayer Networking Zone, attendees of AgriTech Expo 2020 can look forward to the very popular live Agricultural Machinery demonstration zones featuring the leading manufactures such as CASE, John Deere, Dezzi and Caterpillar.

Visitors to the Agritech Expo 2020 at the GART Research Center in Chisamba Zambia will be able to participate in the 4x4 Test Zone, the workshop and training tents, the live crop trials, the irrigation, SME and Energy Zones.

Dr. Lars Huf Rühlemann Deputy Managing Director of DLG International GmbH and Project Lead of Agritech Expo Zambia said: “AgriTech makes sure that there is something of importance at the trade fair for every visiting stakeholder.

“From the leading brands, products and services in the farming sector on display to exciting live machinery demonstrations, workshops and test tracks there will not be one dull moment on the field.

“The farmers and attendees can benefit from engaging and interactive workshops taking place every day in the two workshop tents at Agritech Expo 2020. Farmers can gather abundant information and best practices as well as the latest products and services and take it back to their farms and take their farming practices to the next level,” added Dr. Huf-Rühlemann.
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Zambia is once again facing a serious threat to its staple crop, maize, which comprises 90 percent of its food energy intake.

The threat comes from an invasion of fall armyworms – caterpillar-like creatures that arrive in droves and eat their way through the leaves and stems of plants. Although attention has focused on the dietary staple maize, the pest also attacks groundnuts, sunflower, cotton and soybeans.

Armyworms invade each year to wreak havoc on Zambia’s crops. According to the country’s Ministry of Agriculture, fully 98 percent of farmers in Zambia and Ghana told pollsters in a 2018 survey that their maize crop was affected; the average maize loss was 35%. In the most recent farming season, 46 districts and 521 farming settlements sent out distress calls.

Zambia is not alone in facing an invasion of armyworms. The Ministry of Agriculture says the caterpillars attacked more than 40 African countries during the 2018-2019 farming season. Those attacks laid waste to a total of nearly 60,000 hectares of land that support over 70,000 households.

For small-scale farmers and their communities, the invasion is catastrophic. Sharon Mwale, a small-scale farmer in the Kafue district in southern Zambia, says armyworms cause massive damage to her crops each year and threaten food security in her district.

The government fights the invasion by spraying affected fields with anti-armyworm chemicals. Recently, it reportedly purchased 83,000 litres of anti-armyworm sprays. Other agencies are also involved: the African Development Bank committed $3 million for anti-pest chemicals.

Chinese-owned agriculture-technology company Sunagri Investment Zambia offers a further solution. It uses drones to spray affected crops, avoiding labour-intensive spraying by hand.

Fraser Zhang, the company’s founder, initially imported three drones from China for the task. He subsequently deployed “smart” drones that spray affected plants at night. That was a key step-change in the fight against armyworms, since the pests feed on crops at night.

Not all farmers believe that chemicals are the right way to fight the pest. Nelson Kabanda, a farmer from the Lufwanyama district in the centre of the country, says the solution is to invest in preventative measures rather than using chemicals.

“This is a waste of taxpayers’ money,” he says of the spraying. “How long will this battle continue with chemicals, to which most affected farmers don’t even have access? We need a lasting solution or else farmers will forever be in need of food aid.”

Similarly, Maybin Mutale, a farmer in the Mufumbwe district in the country’s northwest, notes that farming in his region has been depressed for a long time despite spraying. He says farmers should shift to hardier, pest-resistant crops. “If mitigation measures are not put in place, many farmers will starve,” he says. “How can one harvest crops that have already been eaten up?”

Facing down the armyworm pest

By DERRICK SILIMINA
The Agricultural Productivity Program for Southern Africa (APPSA), a regional program for Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia established to increase availability of improved agricultural technologies is bearing fruits.

Seven years after establishment there has been significant changes, with more than 4.6 million people benefiting from the project in the three countries.

One million beneficiaries were reached in Mozambique, 1.3 million in Zambia, and nearly 2.4 million in Malawi.

The program has released and made available to farmers 367 technologies of which 66 have been developed under the project.

In Malawi, two rice crop varieties, 13 maize hybrids, six bean varieties and six agronomic practices have been developed and made available to the farmers and 17 new technologies are use in Mozambique, while Zambia produced 22 new technologies.

A total of 98 students have benefited from the project by studying at different levels of education, bachelor’s degree, masters and PhD in all the three countries. Among these, 25 were from Mozambique, 52 from Zambia and 21 from Malawi.

Blessing Botha, World Bank Task Team Leader for APPSA said the project supported a wide range of long-term interventions in the agriculture sector.

“The technologies designed and promoted under this project - for example crop varieties that are highly productive, resistance or tolerant to various pests and diseases, improved nutrition crops such as iron and zinc beans are relevant because they respond to the emerging needs in the agriculture sector across all the three countries,” Botha said.

Scaling up of the new technologies and knowledge sharing also helped facilitate the cross border sharing of better crop varieties and opened markets for local seed producers for export.
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International News

Agriculture the most important business in the world

African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina said the African Development Bank was spearheading efforts to feed Africa, investing $25 billion over a ten-year period to transform the continent’s agriculture sector.

“The size of food and agriculture in Africa will rise to $1 trillion by 2030. The population of Africa, now at 1.2 billion, will double to 2.5 billion by 2050. They all must eat. And only through food and agribusiness can this be achieved,” he said.

Adesina said what Africa does with food will determine the future of food, given that 65 percent of the arable land left to feed the world is here.

“I am delighted to see so many of our young people engaged in agriculture arising from the Youth Employment in Agriculture initiative launched when I was minister to get the youth into agriculture as a business. “From their innovations in the use of drones, food processing, packaging, transport and logistics and marketing, they are already unlocking the opportunities in agriculture,” he said.

He urged agricultural universities to optimize their role in linking research, innovations and technologies to farmers and the food and agriculture industry.

“Africa’s youth must become leaders to help feed our world,” he advised.

Meanwhile Adesina has commended the Nigerian government’s efforts to promote agriculture and agribusiness in Nigeria.

Fertilizer industry lures development banks

African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture has implored stakeholders in the fertilizer industry to collaborate.

“Transforming the fertilizer value chain requires that government, development organizations, the private sector, civil society and farmers come together to strategize on solutions that can appropriately address challenges the agriculture sector is currently facing in Africa,” said the Commissioner Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, who doubles as Chairperson of the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) Governing Council.

Sacko was speaking at the recently held 8th AFFM Governing Council which called for increased investment to boost agricultural yields and build the industry across the continent.

The Council’s 12 institutional members in attendance reviewed the Council’s 2019 activities and defined the body’s strategic direction for 2020.

Participants said the organisation could significantly transform the fertilizer value chain in Africa and strongly recommended mainstreaming its projects into the lending program of the African Development Bank and other stakeholders, like Afreximbank, for increased impact.

The Governing Council commended the AFFM on its 2019 achievements and endorsed its second annual report, as well as its 2020 work program and budget.

In addition, the Council also committed to supporting the review of the AFFM strategy and resource mobilization plan, which will spur the organization’s activities in other countries.
Private family capital fund One Thousand & One Voices® (1K1V®) has announced recapitalization of SanLei™, specialist aquaculture portfolio company headquartered in Lesotho.

As part of the transaction, Mergence Investment Managers (Pty) Ltd. acquired a significant minority interest in SanLei on behalf of its Lesotho pension fund client.

The transaction positions SanLei to accelerate its expansion towards becoming the largest trout operation of its kind in Africa with the benefit of a strong Lesotho-based shareholder in its capital structure.

In addition, it also allows the Lesotho pension fund to participate in the anticipated growth of a leading Lesotho aquaculture company and enables 1K1V to return capital to its investing families.

The recent release of the Ocean and Coastal Fishing and Fish Farming in South Africa 2020 report notes that with natural fish resources in decline and growing demand for fish, aquaculture is becoming increasingly important.

SanLei™ is located on the shores of the Katse Dam in the remote highlands of Lesotho, a site known for its deep, pristine waters and highly favorable environment for growing premium trout.

The company supplies premium trout to international export markets while creating employment in Lesotho and raising global awareness of one of the world’s most breath-taking mountain landscapes.

“With the pension fund in the capital structure, we believe SanLei is even better positioned than before for continued growth and expansion,” says Krijn Resoort, Chief Executive Officer of SanLei.

“Having witnessed the growth at SanLei under Krijn’s leadership, we are excited about what the future holds for this Lesotho company.

“We also believe that 1K1V’s Three-Dimensional Capital approach, coupled with a strong local shareholder, could further accelerate international opportunities for SanLei, thereby benefiting the Kingdom of Lesotho and its people,” said Kasief Isaacs, the Joint Head of Unlisted Investments of Mergence Investment Managers.
Almost 50 years ago, the Nobel prize committee sent a strong signal to the world, underpinning the social value of agriculture.

Norman Borlaug (1914-2009) – the father of the so-called “green revolution”, a scientist who invented disease-resistant wheat and saved millions from starvation – was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.

During the Oslo ceremony, Borlaug held a speech about his work, titled “The Green Revolution, Peace and Humanity”.

“Civilization as it is known today”, he stated, “could not have evolved, nor can it survive, without an adequate food supply. (...) If you desire peace, cultivate justice, but at the same time cultivate the fields to produce more bread.”

Today, half a century after the Nobel Prize, similar questions still prevail more than ever. Food security and water management are increasingly understood as key concerns for global governance and stability. Against this backdrop, it is timely that the 2020 Munich Security Conference (MSC), which just came to an end, dealt with the topic of food security for the first time in its long history.

During the conference, I joined our CEO Werner Baumann as well as the member of our Supervisory Board and former President of the World Food Programme Ertharin Cousin, in some of the food security conversation. We received great feedback, for example from David Beasley, Executive Director for the UN World Food Programme.

As a leader in agriculture, we are starting to get our arms around the scale of Bayer’s responsibility. Just to give you one example: Almost half of all fungicides for wheat in Europe, the Middle East and Africa are Bayer products. They are essential for avoiding crop failures with wide-ranging consequences. Wheat is – and has historically been – at the center of agricultural goods when we talk about global crises.

The discussions in Munich have left me thinking about the need for next steps.

Here are some of my immediate take-aways:

Climate Change is the most significant threat to food security which will in turn become a major security risk.

My first point is that climate change is by far the biggest threat to food security. That comes with no surprise but with a lot of evidence. 2020, for the first time ever, the top five risks in the annual World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report were all climate-related. Near-term impacts of climate change add up, as the report says, to a “planetary emergency that will include loss of life and social and geopolitical tensions”.

For example, 93 percent of the climate security and military experts surveyed in the recent World Climate and Security Report assess that climate-driven water insecurity will pose a significant or higher risk to global security by 2030. Other studies emphasized the impact of climate change on migration or on crop insecurity. Munich and Davos meetings are setting the agenda—but we need to engage with farmers on the ground. We aim to support 100 million smallholders to lead better lives.

While many discuss the climate-related issues from a 30,000 feet airplane-perspective, farmers can tell from looking at their fields. In 2019 alone, they had to deal with another dry summer in Europe, historic rainfalls in the United States, a massively destructive drought in Australia or parts of Africa, and locust infestations in East-Africa.

Last December, we presented our new sustainability strategy at Bayer. Beginning this year, sustainable business and financial success is equally important to us. Ten years ahead, in 2030, we want to achieve our ambitious sustainability goals in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

One of the key elements is our focus on smallholder and subsistence farmers, a key group when it comes to strengthening global food security. 550 million smallholder farms exist all over the world and in developing countries, they produce about 80 percent of available food supplies—but in many cases, the producers themselves face hunger and poverty.

By 2030, we strive to provide 100 million smallholder farmers with access to train-
ing, tailored agricultural solutions and partnerships to increase their harvests and improve the local food supply. Most of the smallholder farming responsibilities rest on the shoulders of women. 25 years after the first UN Women Conference in Beijing, the world needs to prioritize significant efforts to improve women’s livelihoods in rural areas.

In a partnership with IFC, Netafim and Swiss Re Corporate Solutions, we assist smallholder farmers in India, Kenya, Ghana, Zambia and Southeast Asia in growing their farms into commercially viable and sustainable businesses.

In Indonesia, we recently signed an agreement with our partner HARA to build a digital platform along the agricultural value chain and outreach to one million smallholder farmers over the next three years.

Experts from Bayer and partners including the Solidaridad Network and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation came together in Germany to work on a plan to address Fusarium wilt, a deadly fungus that is threatening banana plantations worldwide.

In Nigeria, a new variety of the cowpea legume with a BT gene now makes an important component of the nutrition for more than 200 million people resistant against insects and has the potential to reduce crop losses.

In Mexico, as part of a commercial pilot project this year, Bayer is introducing the first short-stature corn. It has a more compact structure, making it able to better withstand difficult environmental conditions such as strong wind and require less water. It also enables better cultivation through the targeted use of fertilizer for example and can deliver far higher yields.

My third take-away: Innovation will be key to feed the world of 10 billion people.

Another take-away is (once more) the importance of innovation: To secure food supply in a world growing to 10 billion and increasingly affluent people whilst we will be hit by an increasing impact of climate change, it will take the brightest minds and the smartest technologies to ensure we feed the world without starving the planet. My colleague Bob Reiter and his team are stewards of the by far largest R&D budget of an agri-business in history.

They are working passionately on future innovation for a more sustainable agriculture. Over the past few days, they have published fascinating insights into our innovation pipeline that are relevant to investors as well as the public. Achievements like hybrid rice or the short stature corn will have tremendous value for global food security. At Bayer, we are committed to make these innovations available for all growers, including access programs for smallholder farmers.

As so often, it's about the right mindset. We must agree that the global environmental, health and nutritional challenges we face today are complex, significant and inter-connected. No one country, multilateral institution or company can solve this challenge alone. As my colleague Ronald Guendel pointed out: "Collaboration is the name of the game when it comes to food security".

In the run-up for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, we need to form new partnerships that enable us to work across existing conflict lines to de-carbonize agriculture, support farmers to better withstand extreme weather events, and tackle the extreme poverty in rural areas.

When it comes to food security, as the Australian author Julian Cribb phrased it in his recently released book “Food or War”:

“Food is one of the greatest, least recognized and most affordable ‘weapons of peace’ available to humanity.”

Or in the famous words of Lord John Boyd Orr (1880-1971), who became the first director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN back in 1945: “You can’t build peace on empty stomachs.”

Engaging in an honest, respectful and constructive debate about the challenges towards a more sustainable development strategy is the type of leadership expected from our generation. And it’s our joint responsibility to achieve the SDGs in 2030. To get there, we have less than #120months – 119 actually, and the clock is ticking.
Chicken Slaughter Production Line

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Crystal frequencies target specific organisms and leave the bees and predators. The advanced system can always be updated for new species and new mutations. Quantum entanglement is used as a medium to transmit the frequencies very accurately to any location, anywhere in the world instantly, and it can be tested to arrive on location.

Its effectiveness has outperformed chemicals on every long-term trial.

Chemicals are becoming less effective and the markets demand less and less chemical residues on all types of produce. The Crystal technology can be utilized on a wide spectrum of applications, from the control of viruses, fungi, bacteria, plant and animal diseases.

Insect and rodent control to plague animals like monkeys and jackal. Feed supplements, to improved feed utilization. Soil nutrient supplements, both macro and micro elements.


We also have domestic products that lasts a lifetime and can always be updated since they are quantum linked to our laboratory. The Garden Fairy stimulate plants to grow, protects against frost, reduce water consumption with 30% and kills garden and home insects like flies’ mosquitos, cockroaches, aphid’s whitefly etc.

The Pest Vibes Kills Rodents, mosquitos, flies, cockroaches etc. Aqua Struct save s 30% water by structuring water, increases blood oxygen levels clean pipes etc. Auto Struct improves combustion efficiency, reducing emissions and saving fuel, both petrol and diesel. The Wellness pendant improves general health and reduces pain and arthritis. Insect control with frequencies is much better than with chemicals and much cheaper.

Underneath is a field with Citrus trees, two photos taken 4 weeks apart, you can see the difference, and, in the background, older trees can be seen with much darker green leaves. Similar results have been seen on a Wheatfield that went yellow, and within 1 week the green color and nitrogen shortage was restored with frequencies.

On a milk trial the feed concentrates were reduced with 30% without loss of production and in a trial with laying hens the laying mash was replaced by maize without reduction in egg production. Insect numbers on False Codling moth, stinkbug, fruit fly borers, thripps and macadamia borers etc. are much lower than on chemical treated areas.

Contact Jan du Plessis at 082 429 4055 or info@agrifrequencies.com web: www.agrifrequencies.com
I WANT TO SEE FORESTS BEING PRESERVED

SO DO WE

We preserve natural forests in our leaf farming communities and will replace 100% of the wood in the tobacco curing process with renewable fuel sources by 2030. This ensures our farmers plant the wood they use and become self-sufficient.
Capacity growth involves the replacement of manual labor. The move to automatic evisceration.

**Any poultry processor anywhere in the world whose business is growing will one day face the decision to move from manual to automatic evisceration. When this day comes, what are the options?**

Once a poultry processor has started processing industrially, he will have installed a scalding, plucker and overhead conveyor systems for the killing, defeathering and evisceration processes. Growth in hourly capacities will involve installing additional equipment. In the case of the killing and defeathering department, this is straightforward and will largely involve adding sections to the scald tank and installing more plucking capacity.

**Hand tools**
Capacity increases will affect the evisceration department differently. At very low hourly throughputs all evisceration operations will be done manually using specialized hand tools.

**Increasing line speeds**
The need for more capacity will also mean that a processor is becoming established in his market and is increasing his customer base, thanks no doubt to a reputation for good quality and service.

**Automatic evisceration**
At this stage, the installation of an automatic eviscerator makes excellent commercial sense. It will save people and space and will ensure that all carcasses are cleanly and accurately eviscerated to a consistent standard.

**Grow with needs**
CoreTech will handle up to 6,000 broilers per hour. As users approach this throughput, they have the option of upgrading their CoreTech machine.

**Replacing other operations**
Once hourly capacities have increased and evisceration has been automated, thought can be given to replacing hand-held vent and lung guns.

**Necks**
Automation of the evisceration process can be rounded off with mechanisation of neck flap inspection and neck cracking and removal.

**Consistently high standard**
The move to an automated evisceration process will always be dictated by local conditions and requirements. As explained above, it does not have to be done all at once but can be done gradually.

“At one point, hiring more workers for evisceration isn’t the solution to growing capacity anymore”
Case IH tractors help generate power in Philippines

Case IH, one of the world’s leading agricultural machinery brands is playing a key role in renewable energy production in Philippines using sugar cane trash.

Tractors and other associated machinery are collecting trash and getting it to a power station in Negros, the fourth largest island of the Philippines, intending to produce a total of 72 megawatts of green baseload power to feed into the local grid as well as for export to surrounding islands.

“The cane farmers leave the trash after the harvest, and we move into the field with our equipment and collect it, taking it to the power station for burning in a controlled environment to produce electricity,” said Paul Coveny, Vice-President Biomass Operations and Materials Management for Biopower, the developers of the project.

Paul said when looking for an equipment supplier, they recognised Case IH’s position as a leading provider of technology solutions, with a state-of-the-art machinery line-up that assisted Biopower in sustaining the fuel supply necessary for their electricity obligations.

The company has purchased over 100 Case IH machines including Farmlift telehandlers and Farmall, Maxxum and Puma tractors through Filholland, the distributor of Case IH machinery in the Philippines.

“Our operation has a very small window to do what we need to do, so we needed reliable tractors that could operate continuously, 24 hours a day,” Paul said.

“The technology in these Case IH tractors has given us that reliability, and along with the support of Filholland, they deliver what we need in the short time we have.”

For the Biopower staff who operate the fleet of Case IH tractors, there’s no doubtting their satisfaction with the machines.

Paul said the operators regularly commented on the ease of operation, power and speed of the tractors, and the technology features that made their job easier. Staff also had high praise for the training offered by Filholland on the tractors and telehandlers.

Biopower has also been able to install GPS-trackers and data loggers into the tractor fleet that identify each machine’s location and provide detailed information on what they’re doing and how they’re doing it at any given time—it provides a live, real-time overview of the entire operation.

The Case IH Farmall JX is one of the models used in the Biopower operation, a small tractor designed with manoeuvrability, visibility and handling top of mind. Powered by an upgraded 8000 Series, Tier 3 turbo-charged engine to provide optimum fuel efficiency and maximum power, the Farmall JX also offers logically-positioned controls with clear, concise instrumentation that make tasks less arduous when in the field all day.

Paul said the performance of the Case IH tractors and telehandlers had been everything they’d expected and this, coupled with the 24-hour service and support, service updates and training provided by Filholland, confirmed they’d made the right choice.

When it came to running a high-pressure, round-the-clock operation like that of Biopower, Paul said, it was reassuring to have the peace of mind of reliable machinery, and support and assistance when and where it was needed.

“My experience in the sugar industry in Australia means I’ve seen a lot of Case IH equipment, and know the reputation of their tractors and harvesters, so I had the confidence in the brand to introduce it here onto Negros,” Paul said.

“Case IH is well-known worldwide, and with a good partner like Filholland I’d have no hesitation in recommending their products to anyone in the Philippines.

“The brand has a great support network, it’s a quality product and that’s important when you’re running any business.”
Digital technologies have already demonstrated huge potential for agricultural transformation, and facilitate trade in Africa.

Examples of agricultural technologies being implemented on the continent range from land registration programmes using distributed ledger technology (DLT), precision agriculture projects local where low-cost drones are used to advise farmers on production decisions and pest and disease management projects including CowTribe in Ghana that uses mobile phones to deliver animal vaccine and management information to last mile farmers.

In addition, digital trading can facilitate access to new markets. Ecommerce platforms are well underway in Africa with an estimated 264 operational ecommerce start-ups that are connecting producers to consumers and integrating rural communities.

With a high proportion of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) as well as smallholders, the continent is in need of solutions that increase market opportunities for these firms and farmers. Experts have identified digital trade finance as having great potential to help close the US$1.4–1.6 trillion global trade finance gap, in which Africa accounts for approximately US$100 billion.

The digital solutions can also enable increased access to trade finance for MSMEs, which are typically most affected by this financing gap.

Smart contracts and DLT can provide a single platform for all parties to exchange trade information digitally, auto-execute contracts and payments in real time and record an immutable transaction history.

These technologies help reduce the high costs of trade finance by improving process efficiency and risk mitigation techniques, which are often key bottlenecks to MSME lending.

Africa was at the forefront of digital trade finance when a pilot transaction was executed on the Wave blockchain platform by Barclays Africa to send cheese and butter from Ireland to Seychelles.

Digital trade certificates can also facilitate trade by eliminating paper documentation, reducing fraud and enabling faster border procedures, all of which reduce costs.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) ePhyto Solutions is one example that helps governments and companies trade plants and plant products by providing a harmonised and standardised approach for the exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificates. Ghana and Kenya are already using ePhyto, with many other countries in the region expected to follow soon.

Enhanced traceability in agri-food value chains through the use of DLT can also help improve food safety. Product data collected and stored on a shared database like DLT provides an auditable production history that can be used to prove compliance with food standards and manage food safety risks. Better product traceability also provides consumers with detailed information on how their food is produced, incentivising more sustainable and responsible agricultural supply chains.
IMLO International Ltd is a Cameroonian based company with its Headquarter in Douala Cameroon aimed at providing high quality products and services in a strict respect of international standard.

Our main activity is General Trade (Import / Export) and Distribution. We import, re-export and distribute many products from Asia, Middle East, Europe, USA, and CANADA. We also export from Africa to many countries around the world. We are specialized in food and beverage production and distribution of multi-commodities. We represent the best brands nationwide and we can supply all markets segments.

Apart from General Trade (Import / Export) and Distribution, we are also involved in “Agri-business (Food Manufacturing), Water Storage & distribution, Real Estate, Oil & Gas, Transport & Logistics, Mining Work, Infrastructure & Construction, Tourism & Leisure (Hospitality), Catering Services (Offshore & Onshore), Power & Renewable Energy, Telecommunication (Mobile Satellite Services), Environment, Stock Speculation and Social Services (Humanitarian, Health & Education).

We provided various kind of packaging solutions such as coffee beans packaging solution, fresh food packaging solution, grain packaging solution, liquid packaging solution, powder packaging solution, non-food packaging solution, sample food & non-food packaging solution in order to contribute to food safety & security in the world. We also encourage the infrastructure that is necessary for agriculture development by providing solutions such as irrigation system, food packaging and storage, transportation, education and help farmers’ access modern technique and equipment in order to improve their productions in term of quality and quantity.

The growth of IMLO symbolized the Growth of Cameroon and the whole Africa continent as well, the continent that gave us inspiration to realize our dream, make it a fact and aspire for more challenge. A strong vision with an excellent and enthusiastic of diverse workforce helps in satisfying the needs of our customers both in term of value and quality.

Our mission: We strive to add ease and create value for our customer. Give access to potable water to people, Contribute to the Food security in the world and Sustainable development in the environment.

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- Respecting all individuals
- Perseverance
- Being innovative
- Working in an ethical and socially ways
- Being Efficient and Effective.

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RELEASE OF STRATEGIC RESERVES

FRA releases its’ strategic reserves on first-in-first-out basis through:

- Millers program, (market price stabilisation).
- Community sales, (commodity access).
- Exports, (forex earnings).
- School feeding program, (MoGE learning support).
- Disaster management, (DMMU relief & emergencies).
- Schools and health facilities, (commodity access).
- Undergrade sales, (disposal of deteriorated stocks).

Functions of FRA:

The Food Reserve Agency (FRA) is established by the Food Reserve Act Chapter 225 of the Laws of Zambia. In 2005, the FRA Act was amended to include Crop Marketing and some of the functions are as follows:

1. Administering national strategic food reserve comprising designated agricultural commodities;
2. Provide market access to rural based small-scale farmers; and

FRA’s CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL TREASURY (2013 – 2017)

FRA remits all funds generated from sales of designated crops to the Treasury as per Government Policy

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Contribution</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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- Total contribution (2013 to 2017): **ZMK 3,344,948,500.00**

“FRA, securing national strategic food reserves, taking wealth to rural Zambia”

www.fra.org.zm
Services:
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- Domestic water supply
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zambia@aquaquest.info
Phone: +260 (0) 975 157 816
Lima Links is an agricultural technological company that provides farmers with live market information via a short code *789# on any basic phone, on the Airtel network, for free. The Lima Links platform is accessed by farmers throughout Zambia and the only access requirement is a basic phone and a registered SIM card. We work with other Market actors to give farmers a one shop in the palm of their hands with live market prices on vegetables, field crops, livestock and product information on over 100 agricultural products.

We are the fastest growing farmer platform in Zambia with over 115,000 registered users from all provinces in Zambia.

The other key players in the Lima Links model are agricultural input suppliers and commodity buyers. These input suppliers include small, medium and large agricultural companies who are targeting small and medium sized farmers with products; and commodity buyers looking for commodities such as Maize, Soybeans, Cowpeas etc., to purchase in bulk for cash.

These products from input suppliers range from seeds, chemicals and fertilizers, to equipment such as pumps, irrigation kits and tractors.

The advertisement of the inputs on the farmer platform include the company name, product name, suggested retail price, short description and contact information; and commodity being bought, buying price per kg, depot and phone number for commodity buyers. Furthermore, the supplier has access to an input’s portal, where supplier can view and reach their advert, including number of daily views on farmer platform, top 3 locations of viewers and top 3 crops grown by the viewers.

**Why Lima Links?**

- Increase brand awareness and monthly revenues by receiving direct leads of farmers in hard-to-reach areas
- Make better informed business decisions through Lima Links market analytics
- Save money on customer outreach by easily reaching any farmers with product information through Lima Links Farmer platform.

In Addition, Lima Links offers the following services:

1. Monthly farmer distribution report. This report provides monthly insights into more detailed information about the farmers viewing your inputs, including detailed information on locations of farmer (district level), crops grown by farmer, and what other inputs they are interested in.

2. Monthly competitor analysis report. This report provides you a detailed analysis of user preferences of inputs in each category. These categories include seed, seedlings, fertilizers, chemicals, and equipment. This report can be further customized to be location specific. This will allow you to benchmark your product against competitor products.

3. Farmer Call List. Get call requests from farmers who are interested in your product.

4. SMS Services. You can send bulk SMS to targeted farmers at Lima Links.

5. Advisory services.

Lima Links provides tailored advisory services, using the data we have on smallholder farmers to help you make smart business decisions.

6. Customized farmer studies.

**Do you have a specific area you would like more information on? Lima Links provides tailored farmer studies to get more information specific to your needs and help you grow as a business.**

For more information on how you as an input supplier can be a part of the Lima Links platform, you can call us on +260 972 543 161.

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