April 2025

Zimbabwe Tobacco Today

Magazine of the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association



The tobacco floors open

Sustainability and tree planting with SAA and TIMB

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Editor's notes

While Zimbabwe's tobacco sector faces significant market pressures in 2024/25, its established reputation for quality leaf and experienced farming base provide foundations for adaptation. The coming months will reveal whether market forces favour producers or buyers in this vital economic sector.

Zimbabwe's tobacco industry, which contributes nearly 12% to the country's agricultural GDP and is a vital source of foreign currency, has begun its 2024/25 marketing season. The first bale sold at USD 4.65/kg, down from last year's USD 4.92/kg.

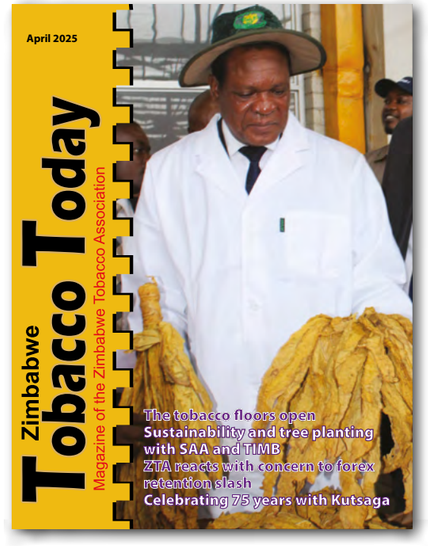
Zimbabwe's target of 280 million kg represents a 19.66 % increase from last season's 234 million kg harvest. While seemingly achievable under normal conditions, this goal comes amid a difficult start to the growing season characterised by delayed rains and prolonged dry spells in key growing regions.

Tanzania projects a staggering 223 million kg harvest, nearly doubling last year's 117 million kg production. This dramatic increase positions Tanzania as a growing competitor in regional markets. Meanwhile, neighbouring Zambia expects 54 million kg (up from 43 million kg), with approximately 40 million kg being the higher-value Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco.

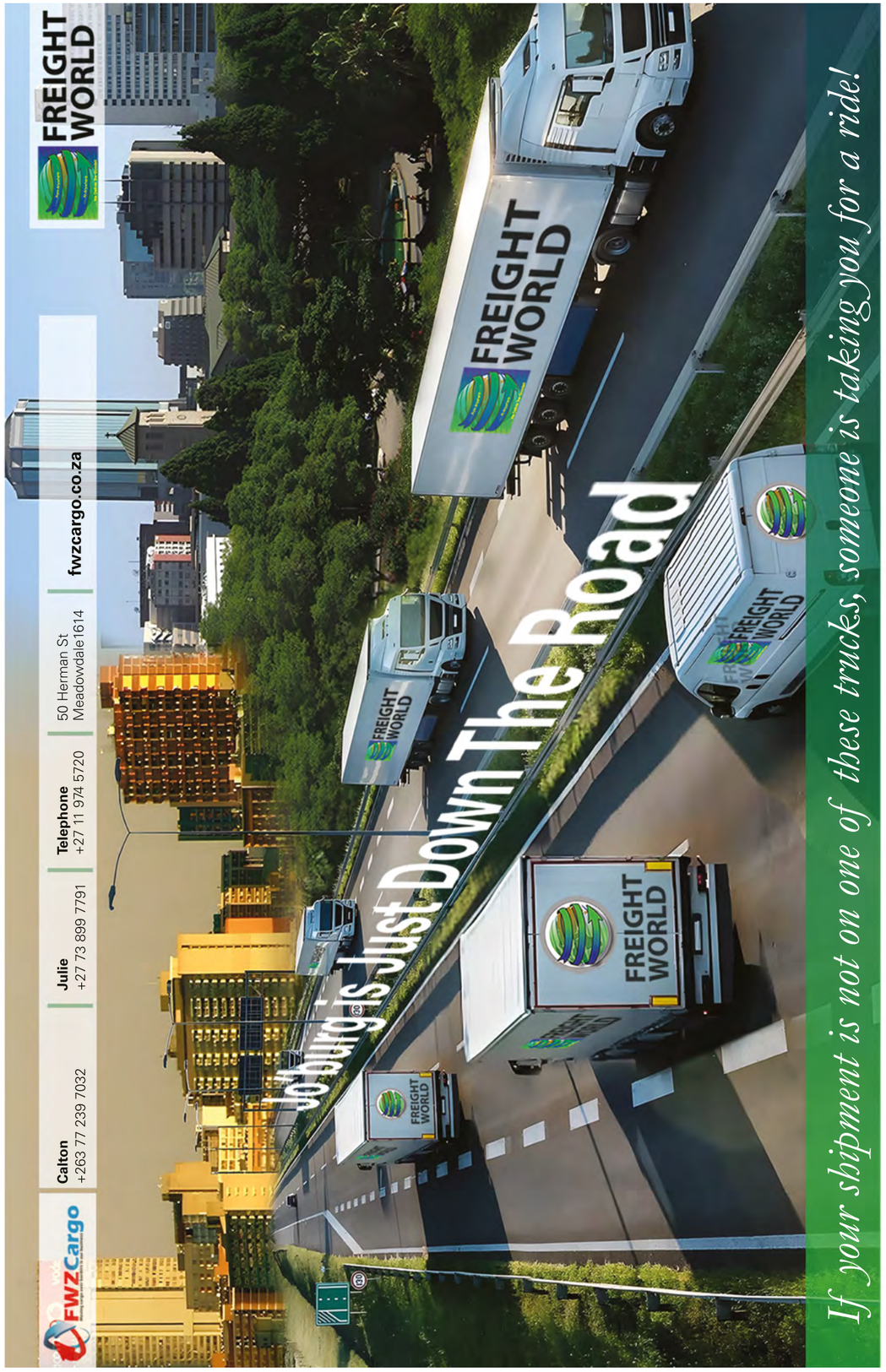
Brazil, the world's second-largest tobacco producer, forecasts substantial growth across all varieties: FCV: 630 million kg (37% increase from 461 million kg); Burley: 54 million kg (46% increase from 37 million kg); Comum: 11 million kg (38% increase from 8 million kg)

With these producers' yields collectively potentially adding up to over 890 million kg to global supply, will there be a downward pressure on prices? The tight supply conditions that supported higher prices from 2020-2023 are likely to ease considerably if these production forecasts materialise. Complete market rebalancing may take 12-18 months as supply chain adjustments and contract negotiations cycle through the system.

Whether the country achieves its production target remains to be seen, but one thing remains certain for now: the crop has been grown, cured and graded. The farmers have begun delivering, and for the year ahead, the crop is now at the mercy of market forces.







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The tobacco farmer's commitment



ZTA President Graham Ross

As tobacco farmers, we are passionate about what we do. Good growers spend months planning operations, dedicating our time and resources to produce the best tobacco that we can. Like all farmers, we are at the mercy of the vagaries of the weather and must "play it as it lies" when Mother Nature intervenes in our best-laid plans. We invest heavily in equipment and facilities and take on inordinate amounts of risk. We attend discussion groups and field days to learn how to improve so that we can deliver a quality crop to the market, to the best of our ability. I often look at the plight of the small-scale producer whose struggle to get their tobacco to the floors is gargantuan. Sleeping at the barns by night and reaping or working the fields by day. They are beholden to whatever the season throws their way and, in most cases, live isolated from logistical support. Their struggle is real.

The economic model: The ox and cart analogy

With these thoughts in mind, let me share how somebody once explained a country's economy to me.

"Imagine a scotch cart being pulled by one ox. The legs of the ox represent mining, tourism, industry/manufacturing and lastly agriculture. They are the driving force that move the cart. Inside the cart are the government, civil servants, general population, health sector, social amenities, education sector, security, retail and many other ancillaries that rely on a healthy economy (the ox). If the ox is tended well, is healthy and free from disease or parasites, it can pull the load and at times pull at a decent speed (economic growth).

As long as the cart is moving forward at a reasonable pace, all the passengers are happy as they know that they will arrive at their intended destinations (meaningful employment and a decent retirement). If any one of the ox's legs gets injured, gets lame - or worse, removed - the cart starts to falter and can stop or even start to run backwards, downhill (economic decline). The ox may become sick or infected by heartwater or gall-sickness where timeous intervention is essential to save its life (quantitative easing or tax concessions).

If the cart is not well maintained and the disselboom breaks or the yoke-skey falls out, perhaps a wheel falls off, the ox can no longer pull the cart (infrastructure and development). If the ox and cart follow a nice, level road or even a slight downhill slope, the ox will not strain like it does when pulling uphill (government policy).

If the population grows faster than the strength of the ox, the cart will become mired and the poor struggling ox will stand, straining against the yoke but not be able to pull the cart. Likewise, if the government becomes too heavy with demands that outstrip the ox's strength, the cart will also stop, and passengers will start to bail out and find other ways to get to their destinations (brain drain and emigration)."

The importance of tobacco production to the economy

As farmers and more specifically, tobacco farmers, who earn much-needed foreign currency, we are a vital muscle in the one of the legs of the ox. We put our hearts and souls into the production of the crop to contribute and pull the cart in the example above.

Tobacco is a technical crop that needs huge amounts of infrastructure and investment in:

- Barns and sheds
- Irrigation and dams
- Tractors and machinery
- Labour villages
- Sanitation and water reticulation.

It also requires specialised training and investment into education and skills for the labour force. It is a major commitment, whether on a large commercial scale or a small scale, and one needs a long-term outlook to recoup the monies invested and then be able to make some sort of profit; the reason why we are all in the game.

Industry development and challenges

There was a time when our industry was very sick and barely able to gather the strength to feed and drink, let alone pull the cart. Contractors need our product, and the contract farming model has sustained, nurtured back to health and grown the industry from a low of close to forty million kg in the mid-2000s to a record high of nearly three hundred million kgs in 2023. Without the contract scheme, this unprecedented growth could never have taken place.

Without suggesting that we bite the hand that feeds us, is it healthy to be borrowing and indeed be beholden to the very consumers of our product? In my example, this may be likened to the drover that holds a carrot on a stick, tantalisingly dangling it in front of the ox, urging it to pull with all its might but never quite catching the carrot.

Why do I say this? As our ox strains against the burden of interest rates and short-term finance options for long-term capital investments, we sometimes feel that more could be done by the Government to smooth the road. Rather than the proverbial carrot on a stick and a short-term outlook, we need a long-term view for the tobacco industry and agriculture as a whole. A 20-year road map should clearly

outline the Government's objectives and provide some sort of security or protection for the massive investment that is required to succeed in farming. There needs to be a clarion call to build a nation as opposed to building personal wealth alone. As our industry flourishes, the whole country should feel the prosperity of that success. I fear that the current policy is both hindering and stifling the full potential of the tobacco crop and its immense potential.

Land security and title deeds

There is a current push to regularise the issue of title deeds and land security. This would indeed be a good start for growers as it could make available independent finance options and provide some much-needed stability. It is imperative for all that this exercise is done correctly and addresses The Land issue, once and for all, in its entirety, past and present. This would smooth the road for a very footsore and weary ox and would greatly boost economic growth.

Tax and foreign currency concerns

From a grower's perspective, each little tax, levy based on a percentage of sales and indeed foreign currency surrender, saps our strength and ultimately our ability to pull the cart. Whilst we realise our duty to support and contribute to a vibrant economy, the command style of 30% surrender of a portion of foreign currency earnings will only hamper growth and ultimately see the ox, wearily trudging uphill, a beast of burden as opposed to a willing contributor to the economy.

If the taxes, levies and surrender contribute to meaningful development and bolstering of the infrastructure and economy, we could liken these to a vital injection of antibiotics for the sick ox. It may hurt as the needle pierces the skin, but hopefully, once administered, it will fight the infection, and complete healing will result. One hopes that a correct diagnosis has taken place and that the intervention will have the desired healing effect. Only time will tell.



Recent positive developments

Kutsaga 75th anniversary

On a more positive note, ZTA was fortunate to be invited to the 75th anniversary celebrations at the newly branded "Kutsaga." The name "Kustaga" is a corruption of the Shona word "kutsvaga" meaning to search and is an apt name for such a renowned centre. It is evident in the surroundings and focus that great effort is being made to make it a leading centre of research excellence and I was very impressed with the changes taking place on the farm. We were shown an immaculate seed plot where a very high level of hygiene and production standards are being maintained, thanks to Head Seed Inspector, Dr. Christina Chisango and her team.

Before lunch, we were given a walk down memory lane by Dr Chenjerayi Kashangura where he outlined the various milestones in variety development and their impact on tobacco production over the 75 years of Kutsaga's existence. They showcased the evolution of varieties right from the tobacco land race which barely resembles tobacco to the current 80 series developmental varieties.

The keynote speaker at lunch was the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture who applauded the work being done. For Kutsaga to be on the cutting edge of technology and development, they need to heed growers' calls for new and improved varieties that deal with the all too real threat of soil-borne pathogens like bacterial wilt, sore-shin, and fusarium complex. As arable land becomes more valuable, the luxury of long grass leys in the rotation has been reduced and these myriad diseases pose an ever-increasing

President's message

risk to growers. An integrated approach is needed to combat these challenges and I fear that not enough is being done to deal with the issue.

Farmer discussion groups

A positive that is happening in the districts is the numerous discussion groups and field days that are taking place. As I've mentioned before, the majority of the top 10 performing growers of 2024 were active participants in the district discussion groups.

Key stakeholder engagements

Meeting with Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

ZTA and fellow farmer unions have met twice with the RBZ Governor and his deputies and team of economists to discuss the surrender issue and other challenges faced by the sector. We are immensely grateful for these engagements and the welcome that we have received. We look forward to more engagement and robust tackling of the issues hindering the industry and hope to be consulted again in the future.

Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture

We had a very positive meeting with the Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, the Hon. Dr Anxious Masuka, where we highlighted the issues being experienced on JV farms. The message was loud and clear that these issues are not to disrupt production and that signed JVs must be left to run their course both by the spirit and letter of the agreements.

We touched on the retention issue and how it will affect grower viability and the unfortunate timing of the MPS, a few weeks before the opening of the floors. The Hon. Minister emphasised the need for a fully-fledged, local currency and Government's commitment to see this achieved by 2030.

We sought clarity on the issue of the perceived conflict between ZINWA, Catchment councils and Sub-catchment council billing. There is work on a framework to separate the roles of these entities into engineering and water storage by ZINWA and then water allocation and management by Catchment Councils. Given the importance of water and irrigation in our sector, these issues, as well as disruptions due to illegal mining need to be addressed with the utmost urgency.

Current season update and closing remarks

By now, good rains have fallen throughout most of the tobacco-producing districts and the crop seems to have recovered remarkably well from the extremely dry start. Growers that made the effort to keep their earlier planted crops alive by re-watering and tending to the weeds and suckers are poised for a decent return both on yield and quality.

For the Zimbabwe crop with the potential to reach the 300 million kg mark, our efforts need to focus on sustainability and compliance. Sustainable curing fuel should be the focus of every grower in order not to alienate the international consumers of our product. Side marketing has the potential to ruin our reputation as a producer of quality tobacco and impacts everyone in the production chain.

As the marketing season gets underway, I wish everyone a prosperous selling season. I trust that your efforts will be rewarded with decent prices. I urge growers to spend their hard-earned money wisely and not fall into the trap of unscrupulous traders who prey and thrive on unsuspecting and uninformed growers. Focus on staying the course for another year, ensure your supply of inputs is secured and begin preparations for seedbeds on time.



ZTA raises concerns over forex retention reduction

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) reduced foreign currency retention rates from 75% to 70% in its Monetary Policy Statement on February 7, 2025. This follows a previous reduction from 85%, indicating a continuing downward trend. The timing is particularly challenging as it came just before the March 8 tobacco marketing season began.

Industry operational requirements

The industry operates predominantly in US dollars, with critical USD-dependent operations spanning specialised equipment maintenance, agricultural inputs including fertilisers and chemicals, coal and fuel purchases, and compliance with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards.

Initial ZTA response

The Zimbabwe Tobacco Association (ZTA) immediately responded to the policy change with serious concerns. They proposed an innovative solution: allowing licensed merchants to trade any regulated foreign currency surrender portion within a margin aligned with international standards, rather than surrendering it at the RBZ interbank rate. *(Read their response in full opposite.)*

Follow-up meeting with RBZ

Following their initial response, private sector industry stakeholders, including contracting body representatives and the ZTA, met with the Reserve Bank Governor, Dr John Mushayavanhu, and the RBZ executive management to discuss tobacco sector challenges.

During this meeting, they presented several key issues. The 2024/25 growing season has seen significant increases in USD components of farmers' Cost of Production, including additional fuel usage for power generation, repairs and maintenance, wages for labour, transportation, and living expenses. They explained that the 30% ZWG portion at the RBZ interbank rate would harm grower viability and potentially limit growth prospects. The exchange rate variations were particularly concerning, with the average open market trading rate at 30:1 versus the 26:1 that growers would receive from their 30%, resulting in an immediate 15% loss in value.

The industry representatives also discussed the 5% USD Denominated Deposit Facility (USDDDF), noting that while it might benefit large exporters, it would not serve growers' needs. They requested an additional 5% retention instead. While acknowledging the Targeted Finance Facility as a positive step, they raised concerns about high interest rates and lack of collateral for growers. They also emphasised the need for policy announcements to precede crop preparation commitments to facilitate decision-making and cashflow planning.

RBZ response

The RBZ's response was firm and clear. They confirmed that the multicurrency regime would continue until 2030 with ZWG remaining legal tender, and expressed confidence in the Zimbabwe dollar's stability. They committed to maintaining tight monetary measures with limited ZWG printing and predicted a continuing decline in parallel rates. The RBZ emphasized that ZWG would be in high demand, particularly for QPD payments, with no currency settlement concessions.

Notably, the RBZ recommended that growers retain their ZWG and seek markets/commodities requiring ZWG. They clarified that the intermarket rate is market-determined without RBZ intervention, noting that an official RBZ rate would be ZWG23. The 5% USDDDF was described as optional and not intended as a hedging investment. Most significantly, they confirmed there would be no review of the 70% retention rate and indicated it would be further reduced over time as part of the transition to ZWG as the sole currency before 2030. The monetary authorities stated they had already factored the 30% into supporting debt commitments and local market requirements.

From the RBZ perspective, there should be no intervention measures to provide fuel in ZWG to any sector. Tight monetary and fiscal policies will see fuel suppliers offering a portion of their fuel stock in ZWG. This, in the opinion of the RBZ, is where growers can utilise part of their 30% ZWG.

Whilst some sectors, including fuel, were able to obtain settlement concessions such as settling their QPDs and other taxes in USD, rather than the stipulated ZWG, the RBZ now rules that there will be no more concessions and these sectors are now obliged to obtain ZWG on the market.

In the meeting, the RBZ Gov assured stakeholders that they intend to maintain value in the ZWG; they will use quantitative easing ONLY to stimulate growth and that they would NOT succumb to government pressure to print ZWG.

According to the ZTA, the immediate effects include potential disruption to the current marketing season, reduced USD availability for operations, and increased pressure on grower margins.

"In the meantime, growers with ZWG must strategise how best to get full value for their ZWG. By the second QPD in June, large companies will be looking for ZWG to settle tax obligations. ZTA will continue to explore the best ways to help where possible."

Long-term concerns

The policy changes raise serious concerns about industry growth momentum, farmer confidence, the ability to meet international market standards, and the broader impact on rural development and livelihoods. The ZTA maintains that while they remain committed to their role as a strategic foreign currency generator and employment creator for Zimbabwe, this policy threatens to erode grower confidence at a critical juncture.

Zimbabwe Tobacco Association Statement on RBZ Forex Retention Reduction

February 12, 2025

On February 6, 2025, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) Dr John Mushayavanhu announced his Monetary Policy Statement for the first half of 2025.

As a tobacco growers' association, we express serious concern over the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's directive to reduce the foreign currency retention threshold for exporters, which includes by extension, tobacco growers from 75% to 70%. This is a further decrease in the retention from 85% in 2023 season

Latest statistics for the 2024/25 season reflect an increase of 11% in growers to 127,311 and though field assessments are ongoing, reflections are that there is a record crop potential of 300 million kg, with the strong likelihood of US dollar earnings on the floors reaching a record breaking USD 1 billion! This growth has largely come about from growers' confidence and improved returns for each US dollar invested. The reduction in the USD retention will strongly erode this confidence and see a slowdown in growth.

The tobacco growing industry operates within tight margins, with most inputs, including fertilisers, chemicals, coal, fuel, specialised equipment their repairs and maintenance, and living expenses being denominated in US dollars. Added to our cost of production are a myriad of government and industry levies and taxes, further reducing our global competitiveness. The reduction in forex retention means tobacco growers will have less hard currency to meet critical expenses, placing strain on operations, livelihoods and potentially affecting future growth in the sector.

The timing is particularly challenging as we approach the tobacco marketing season set to open on March 8, 2025. Growers who have already committed to production costs based on the previous retention rate now face additional pressure on their operating capital and recouping expenses.

Despite a comprehensive consultative meeting with the RBZ, where growers' representatives explicitly outlined the multifaceted challenges facing the tobacco sector, including a requirement of a 100% retention, these critical insights appear to have been overlooked in the final policy formulation. The impact of this decision extends far beyond immediate farmer concerns, potentially destabilising the entire tobacco value chain.

Moreover, the current policy compounds existing challenges in meeting increasingly stringent global compliance and sustainability requirements with certification, which international buyers, their customers and a growing number of trading blocs now demand. Compliance with global environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards requires substantial investment. These all come at cost to the grower.

Neither does the USD Denominated Deposit Facility (USDDDF) adequately address many of complex challenges. Converting critical forex to ZWG also undermines the sector's ability to invest in
necessary technological and sustainable agricultural innovations, in particular climate proofing and diversification.

We call on the RBZ and policymakers:

- To give special consideration to tobacco growers given the challenges outlined above and increase the percentage of the USD retention.
- To allow the licenced tobacco merchants to trade any regulated foreign currency surrender portion within a margin, as per international standards, and not to be surrendered at the RBZ interbank rate.

We urge policymakers to engage with the sector to explore solutions that balance national foreign currency requirements and policy direction with the sustainability and viability of Zimbabwe's tobacco farming industry.

The tobacco farming industry remains committed to being a strategic foreign currency generator, employment creator and empowerment enabler for Zimbabwe and its people.

On March 5, 2025, the annual tobacco sales and marketing season began. The auction of the first bale, presided over by guest of honour, Hon Dr Anxious Masuka in time honoured tradition, fetched USD 4.65 (lemon, leaf).

Zimbabwe's 2025 tobacco marketing season officially opens



The 2025 tobacco marketing season was officially inaugurated at the Tobacco Sales Floor in Willowvale, Harare, marking the beginning of another year for Zimbabwe's tobacco industry. The ceremony was presided over by Pat Devenish, Chairman of the Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB), with the Hon. Dr Anxious Jongwe Masuka, Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, as the guest of honour, accompanied by Deputy Minister, Hon. Vangelis Peter Haritatos and Permanent Secretary, Prof. Obert Jiri.

In his opening address, Devenish emphasised the critical role of the tobacco industry as "a cornerstone of our agricultural economy," highlighting the significant progress achieved through years of collaborative effort from all stakeholders.

"Each year, as we come together for this occasion, we are reminded of how far we have come and the hard work, commitment, and collaboration that have made it possible," he noted.

New biometric system

A major announcement during the ceremony was the introduction of a biometric grower management system designed to address longstanding challenges within Zimbabwe's tobacco sector. This solution aims to protect farmers, curb side marketing, and eliminate fraudulent activities while restoring transparency and efficiency to the industry.

The system will implement biometric data capture, linking each farmer's unique grower number to their fingerprints, GPS coordinates of their household and farm, and demographic data. Devenish urged all growers to participate in the registration process, which will be conducted at licensed tobacco selling points, to ensure a seamless experience for the 2025/26 season.

Marketing infrastructure

For the 2025 season, the TIMB has licensed two auction floors: Tobacco Sales Floor (TSF) and Premier Tobacco Auction Floor (PTAF). Additionally, 43 contractors and 32 Class 'A' buyers have been licensed to participate in this year's marketing activities. To enhance accessibility, the Board has approved decentralised contract sales at 56 selling points across seven centres.

Payment modalities

Regarding payments, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has set the foreign currency retention for tobacco at 70%, aligned with the retention level for other market players. The remaining 30% will be paid in local currency. Chairman Devenish assured attendees that the Board would continue lobbying for the RBZ to address growers' concerns.

"As a Board, we will continue to lobby that the RBZ hears the cries of tobacco growers. We value them because they are our primary stakeholders, and their viability is at the epicentre of what we do," Devenish stated.

International presence

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries from neighbouring countries, including Phil Daka, Board Chairman of the Tobacco Board of Zambia, and Robert Mwale, Executive Director of the Tobacco Board of Zambia, highlighting the regional importance of Zimbabwe's tobacco industry. The Zambian sales season is set to start a month after our start.

Tobacco sales 2025

Sustainability focus

Sustainability remains a central pillar of TIMB's operations, with Devenish emphasising their commitment to supporting environmentally responsible practices throughout the value chain. "It is our duty to ensure that the tobacco industry continues to thrive while preserving the resources we depend on," he remarked.

Regulatory compliance

Growers were encouraged to adhere to marketing regulations, including timely submission of production estimates, using TIMB registered transporters, avoiding unauthorised individuals on the floors, and following the stipulated booking requirements for selling tobacco on auction and contract sales floors.



Zimbabwe charts course for tobacco sector transformation



TAZ Board Chairman Phil Daka

In a pivotal address marking the official opening of the 2025 selling season, the Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Hon. Dr Anxious Masuka, provided a candid assessment of Zimbabwe's tobacco industry, highlighting both achievements and challenges in implementing the Tobacco Value Chain Transformation Plan TVCTP).

Key objectives and progress

The government's ambitious plan, spanning from 2021 to 2025, set four primary objectives for the sector under the TVCTP. These objectives included accelerating local tobacco funding to cover 70% of production costs, increasing tobacco production from 262 to 300 million kg, boosting alternative crop income to 25% of farmers' earnings, and elevating tobacco beneficiation from 2% to 30%.

Performance snapshot

The sector has experienced a dynamic trajectory of growth and challenges. A record 297 million kg of tobacco was produced in the 2022/2023 season, though drought subsequently reduced production to 232 million kg in 2023/2024. The current season anticipates approximately 280 million kg.

Challenges remain

The minister candidly acknowledged that several key targets have fallen short of expectations.

"I have provided this rather unsavory state of progress in the transformation the sector to remind us of the collective obligation to deliver on the Plan for the sack of our country," he said.

Critical issues persist, such as the unrealised seed financing of USD 60 million. "However, some financial institutions are beginning to actively fund the industry. With the new title deed program additional impetus should be provided for this important aspect of the Plan."

Alternative crop income remains at 15.03%, significantly below the targeted 25%, and value addition has only marginally increased from 2% to 7%.

Looking forward

Despite these challenges, Zimbabwe remains a premier source of premium tobacco, with international markets highly valuing its unique flavor profiles. The minister emphasised the critical need for



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strategic partnerships and comprehensive industry transformation. This includes exploring strategic alliances, accelerating production, increasing value addition, enhancing local financing, and managing risk through diversification.

A comprehensive review and potential re-strategisation of the TVCTP is expected later this year, aligning with the broader Agriculture Food Systems and Rural Transformation Strategy.

As Zimbabwe continues its journey towards becoming an Upper Middle Income society by 2030, the tobacco sector remains a critical component of this national vision. "The direct impact of agriculture to economic development is seen from the tobacco contribution to agricultural growth domestic product and national economic development."

TVCTP objectives

Government launched a deliberate growth plan for the sector through the Tobacco Value Chain Transformation Plan (2021-2025) with the following four broad objectives:

1. To accelerate localisation of tobacco funding to 70% of the cost of production by 2025.
2. To raise tobacco productivity and increase production from 262 million kg to 300 million kg by 2025.
3. To increase production of alternative crops and increase their contribution to the farmer's incomes to 25% by 2025 and
4. To increase the level of value addition and beneficiation of tobacco into cutrag and production of cigarettes from 2% of total tobacco produced to 30% to increase exports of cigarettes by 2025.



Transparency, inclusivity

In his speech introducing the guest of honour, the Deputy Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Hon. Vangelis Peter Haritatos noted that the official opening of Zimbabwe's 2025 tobacco marketing season marked a significant milestone for the country's agricultural sector, celebrating the efforts of growers and industry stakeholders while highlighting the industry's ongoing transformation.

The tobacco sector continues to be a leading contributor to Zimbabwe's agricultural economy, maintaining its position as a crucial export commodity and foreign currency earner for the nation. The opening ceremony underscores the sector's importance in Zimbabwe's broader economic landscape.

The deputy minister noted that the TIMB, in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, has spearheaded several innovative initiatives to enhance the industry's operations, including implementation of biometric systems to minimise side-marketing; introduction of measures promoting responsible, transparent, and sustainable tobacco production; development of regulatory frameworks that balance quality control with stakeholder interests.

He added that the ongoing transformation of Zimbabwe's tobacco industry extended beyond traditional regulatory functions. There is a concerted effort to cultivate a new industry culture characterized by ethical business practices across the value chain; environmental responsibility and sustainability; greater inclusivity and transparency for all stakeholders.

The success of Zimbabwe's tobacco sector has been attributed to effective partnerships between government agencies, regulatory bodies, farmers, and private sector entities. This collaborative approach has been highlighted as essential to the industry's resilience and continued growth.

With the commencement of the 2025 marketing season, industry leaders expressed optimism for a productive and successful period ahead. The opening ceremony reaffirmed the commitment of all stakeholders to supporting Zimbabwe's tobacco farmers and maintaining the sector's competitive edge in global markets.



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Information on VANIVA™ use on Tobacco In Zimbabwe

What is VANIVA™?

VANIVA™ consists of TYMIRIUM® technology which is a chemical nematicide for soil application with excellent performance against all economically important plant-parasitic nematodes. TYMIRIUM® technology addresses increasing grower needs in all major crops as nematode pressure and awareness are gaining importance in all regions due to limiting crop yields. VANIVA™ technology is soil applied with efficacy against all economically relevant plant-parasitic nematodes present in soil and those infecting crop roots. parasitic nematodes. TYMIRIUM® technology is systemic and works through both contact and feeding activity.

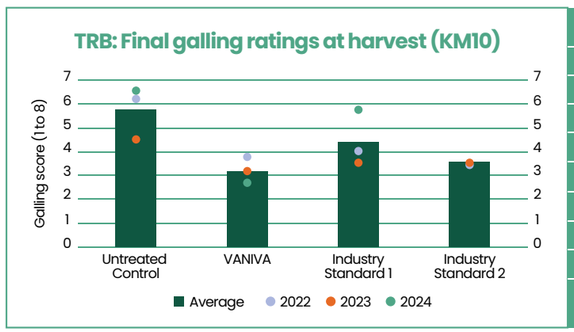
TYMIRIUM® technology belongs to Group N-3 (Nematicide Mode of Action Classification group) as well as C2 complex II: succinate-dehydrogenase #7 SDHI group (FRAC classification of Fungicides). TYMIRIUM® technology is a novel molecule, as well as a novel mode of action within the Nematicide and FRAC Mode of Action Classification groups. TYMIRIUM® technology's unique molecular structure gives it its highly intrinsic activity against all major plant-parasitic nematodes. In addition to its excellent nematicidal activity, TYMIRIUM® technology also has very strong intrinsic activity against several key fungal pathogens like Fusarium, and others. TYMIRIUM® technology protects the roots against nematode penetration and feeding, and limit symptoms such as necrosis (lesion nematodes) and galling (root-knot nematodes). Strong performance against root-knot nematodes is seen in all crops for up to 90 days.

Furthermore, VANIVA™ has a "blue band" label classification in Zimbabwe, making this a much more safer product for the operator and environment safety.

Has VANIVA™ been tested locally in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in the world?

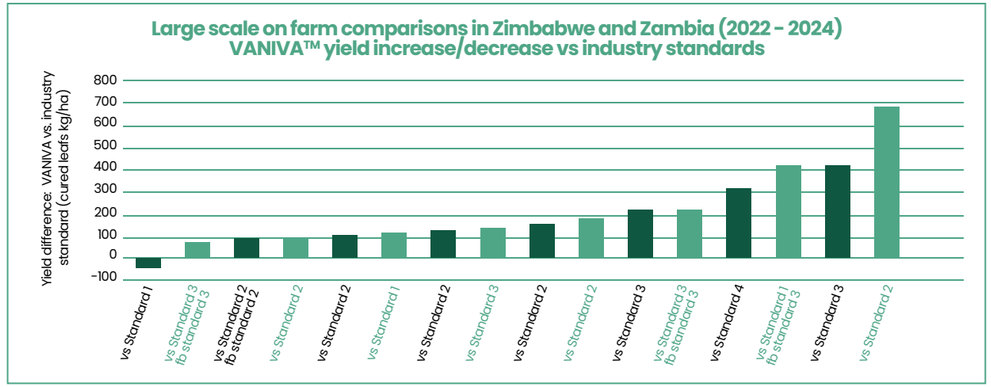
The activity of TYMIRIUM against plant-parasitic nematodes has been assessed in 7808 field trials in more than 100 crop systems against a range of plant parasitic root nematodes including diseases. In tobacco 77 trials around the world has been done in Argentina, Brazil, China, Pakistan, United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This is a novel chemistry and can't be compared to chemical control products that were developed in the 1980's.

Efficacy trials in Zimbabwe were performed by the TRB (Tobacco Research Board) in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Here is a summary of final root-gall rating, resulting from root-knot nematode infection at harvest:



Galling Score:	Description:
0	No galls
1	Traces of infection (less than 5 galls)
2	More than 5 galls less than 10 galls
3	11 to 30 galls
4	31 to 50 galls
5	51 to 75 galls (coalition of galls)
6	75 to 100 galls (root extensively damaged)
7	> 100 galls (severe root damage)
8	Root completely damaged (dead plant)

Furthermore, Large scale on-farm comparison trials have been performed in Zimbabwe and Zambia between 2022 and 2024. Below is a summary comparing yield results between VANIVA™ treated areas vs. farmer standard treatments (cured leaf kg/ha), 17 different comparisons (on average a 204 kg/ha yield benefit where VANIVA™ was used):



Pictures from a few large-scale comparative trials in Zimbabwe:

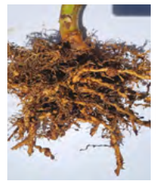


Figure 1: Untreated check (Marondera, site 1)



Figure 2: VANIVA treated (Marondera, site 1)



Figure 3: Industry standard (Marondera, site 2)

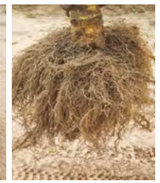


Figure 4: VANIVA treated (Marondera, site 2)

What are the benefits of using VANIVA™ on tobacco?

- Controls all plant-parasitic nematodes present in soil and infecting crop roots
- Broad crop spectrum.
- Offers long lasting efficacy (VANIVA™ soil drench: ~2 to 3 months).
- Systemic & contact mode of action.
- Excellent crop tolerance.
- Healthy, bigger root systems that enable plants to withstand abiotic stress conditions and increase the uptake of water and nutrients.
- Yield benefit.

VANIVA™ and sustainability:

VANIVA™ does not show a negative impact on beneficial nematodes (it is not comparable to a blanket sterilant of soils like a traditional fumigant), since it is only applied in the planting hole and root zone, with negligible effect on beneficial nematodes (if any), allowing thriving of beneficial nematodes and good soil biology. The substantially smaller treatment of soil surfaces in tobacco fields results in VANIVA™ enabling the soil microbiome in rhizospheres of tobacco plants to thrive and stay in balance. This is crucial for soil to fulfill its roles in nutrient mineralization, suppression of pests, diseases and weeds, contribute towards efficient water use by plants in climate change experienced and contribute towards carbon increase in soils due to the presence of bigger and more roots of treated plants. This new-generation nematicide is contributing towards preserving the amount of arable land we have available for agriculture, the soil that farmers need to use repeatedly to feed nations.

Highly-targeted TYMIRIUM® technology boosts productivity while helping to preserve soil biodiversity. The beneficial association of healthy root biomass and soil biodiversity enhances crop nutrient use efficiency and crop resilience, impacting positively on soil health. Healthier and bigger root systems make crops more resilient to face stressful conditions posed by extreme weather conditions. With the use of VANIVA™ in tobacco we have seen very healthy volumes of root development. The benefits of a healthy root system are vast! Moisture use efficiency, nutrient use efficiency, better stress tolerance in adverse conditions, just to name a few.

Nematode control is a difficult job, and VANIVA™ has proven to be an excellent new tool in the toolbox to help combat this problem. However, like with all crop protection products there are risks, and responsible use of these products must be adhered to ensuring a long lifespan of the tools at our disposal. Syngenta encourages farmers to practice regenerative agricultural practices improving the soil microbiological environment. Different cultural practices, use of resistant varieties, rotation of different modes of action chemistries, use of biological products and crop rotation are all aspects of a holistic approach in combating combating plant-parasitic nematodes. There is no silver bullet, and we can never only rely on one solution only. A healthy and biodiverse soil microbiological environment will reduce any risks of selecting only for those microbes which will be responsible for any "enhanced microbial biodegradation" for a particular chemical control product. The use of a blanket sterilant/fumigant in a control program will most probably have the opposite effect, eliminating all biodiversity of soil microbes. If you have any more questions related to VANIVA™, please do not hesitate to contact our local team in Zimbabwe:

Vaniva® TYMIRIUM® technology

syngenta®

Best regards, on behalf of the Syngenta Crop Protection development team:

- Prof Driekie Fourie (nematologist professional): Product biologist Seedcare Africa Middle East
- Dr Tia Ferreira (nematologist professional): Product Biologist Insect Control Africa Middle East
- Kudzanai Mupotsa: Crop protection Technical Lead Zimbabwe
- Trevor Chingonzo: Crop protection Registration and Trials Specialist Zimbabwe
- Andreas Boon: Crop Protection Development Lead, Eastern and Southern Africa.

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Takudzwanashe Gono (+263 773 847 534) or

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TOBACCO LEAF EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE

The G of ESG: The importance of governance in tobacco

The final article in our TLEAZ series on ESG focuses on Governance (G), which involves creating a management structure to support sustainability, supply chain due diligence, and traceability. The Environmental (E) and Social (S) goals of any organisation cannot be achieved without a strong Governance structure. Governance is also one of the eight themes of the Sustainable Tobacco Programme (STP), initiated by seven major cigarette manufacturers worldwide. Key Governance areas include farm monitoring, training and awareness, verification, stakeholder engagement, and traceability. This article aims to provide a general overview and highlight the important points that influence customer buying decisions.

Customers who purchase Zimbabwe's tobacco are looking for clear supply origins and tobacco merchants with robust Supply Chain Due Diligence (SCDD) processes. These processes indicate sustainably produced tobacco. STP regularly assesses participating tobacco merchants, including those in Zimbabwe, providing STP members with ratings for each tobacco supply origin. Ultimately, manufacturers want to assure their customers that their products are sustainably produced.

Other stakeholders, like banks and insurers, also assess ESG ratings when choosing business partners. To achieve this, SCDD must be implemented throughout the value chain, including within their own processes. This is now a legal requirement in trade blocs that purchase significant amounts of Zimbabwe tobacco, such as the EU, with regulations like the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. Companies operating in these blocs may face heavy fines and other penalties for breaching supply chain regulations. While there's a misconception that China, our largest tobacco buyer, doesn't have these requirements, this is incorrect. In December 2024, China's Ministry of Finance issued Basic Guidelines for Corporate Sustainability Disclosure, outlining general sustainability information disclosure requirements for Chinese enterprises. Further ESG and SCDD developments are expected from Chinese companies importing mining and agricultural commodities.

Traceability is a crucial issue. In the context of sustainability, traceability means "the ability to identify and trace the history, distribution, location, and application of products, parts, and materials (1) in the areas of human rights, labour (including health and safety), the environment, and anti-corruption." Traceability allows tracking the tobacco product through all supply chain stages, including who grew the tobacco, how it was grown, its impact on people and the environment, and who the end users were. In some cases, traceability is required by law.

Tobacco merchants, as traders to manufacturers, must meet traceability requirements to qualify as suppliers. There may be a lack of understanding among tobacco growers regarding detailed customer requirements. Merchants must maintain comprehensive records of the tobacco used in blends, including detailed processing records for each bale, to facilitate customer SCDD checks. This includes grower details, good Agricultural Labour Practice (ALP) training, Crop Protection Agents (CPAs) used, seed variety and seedling production, environmental issues, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), rights awareness, contracting documents, grievance mechanisms, and elimination of Non-Tobacco Related Material (NTRMs). Unannounced farm visits may occur to verify training and monitoring integrity. This has been covered in detail in previous ESG articles. Contracted tobacco allows for this traceability, whereas uncontracted tobacco, like auction or third-party supplies, does not, limiting its market to lower-paying customers.

Anti-corruption, mentioned in the traceability definition, is also vital for customers and the industry's regulatory environment. Corruption impacts the value chain, often negatively affecting growers through lower prices. Addressing issues like side marketing and debt under-recovery, which benefit only a few, is essential for improving grower viability. Governance due diligence may also scrutinise levies and sales deductions to ensure they are used for their intended purposes.

Governance issues require senior executive and director involvement, as well as participation from grower representative bodies, regulators, and government actors. Reporting lines and independence must be maintained. While executives have various priorities, ESG impacts must be considered. Anti-competitive behaviour, strictly enforced at TLEAZ, is another key governance issue, with national and international laws and regulatory bodies addressing such practices.

Governance is crucial in the ESG framework for Zimbabwe tobacco customers. Beyond regulatory and ethical implications, reputational damage and brand value are significant concerns. As with the E and S aspects of ESG, active participation from all stakeholders is essential. Buyers look for a willingness to remediate, strengthen SCDD processes, and monitor and report breaches. Only in extreme cases will buyers stop purchasing until breaches are resolved.

1. www.environmentalsafetyupdate.com



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TIMB's commitment to sustainability:
Growing more than tobacco

In Zimbabwe's tobacco-growing regions, beyond cultivating world-class tobacco, farmers are becoming environmental stewards, transforming landscapes one tree at a time.

A national effort: Tree Planting Day

Every first Saturday in December, Zimbabwe comes alive with the National Tree Planting Day. Organised by the Forestry Commission, this annual event is more than just a celebration; it's a strategic movement to combat deforestation, enhance biodiversity, and mitigate climate change impacts. For tobacco growers, it marks the beginning of a critical tree-planting season that runs through April.

Tobacco industry's green commitment

The Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) is leading the charge in sustainable agriculture. Their innovative approach goes beyond regulation. It is about responsible farming and environmental preservation.

Regional initiatives have been making significant strides across Zimbabwe. In Mvurwi, tobacco growers and industry stakeholders united in December, demonstrating collective commitment to environmental restoration. Similarly, in Manicaland, TIMB partnered with Curverid Tobacco to plant indigenous and fruit trees, showcasing a diverse approach to reforestation.

The 0.3 hectare rule

Every tobacco grower now has a clear mandate: establish 0.3 hectares of trees for each hectare of tobacco grown. This isn't just a requirement. It is an opportunity to create sustainable woodlots that support both the environment and the farming community.

Recognising environmental champions

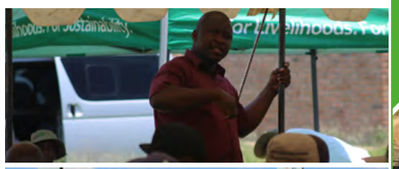
The TIMB and Sustainable Afforestation Association Zimbabwe's Smallholder Farmer Afforestation Program doesn't just set rules—they celebrate success. By honouring afforestation champions across all four tobacco-growing regions, they're creating role models who inspire sustainable practices.

Collaborations and collective responsibility

Through a strategic partnership with the Sustainable Afforestation Association, TIMB has already established 600 hectares of woodlots on small-scale tobacco farms. This comprehensive initiative ensures traceable curing fuels, enhanced environmental sustainability, and empowerment of small-scale farmers. It aligns with robust Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, demonstrating a forward-thinking approach to agricultural development.

"The TIMB is investing in environmental conservation for people and planet," reflects a commitment that goes beyond immediate agricultural needs. It's about creating a sustainable legacy for Zimbabwe's tobacco industry.









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"Kutsaga's story is a testament to how research and innovation can transform an industry, and by extension, a nation."

Today, as Kutsaga celebrates its 75th anniversary, Zimbabwe stands as the fourth-largest global tobacco exporter and Africa's leader in the industry. Central to our tobacco industry's development and history has been Kutsaga, our Tobacco Research Board.

Kutsaga's journey as a renowned research facility mirrors Zimbabwe's own agricultural transformation, demonstrating how focused breeding objectives and persistent research can fundamentally shape both an industry and a nation.

This year, a series of events themed "75 Years of Research Excellence and Innovations" are being held to commemorate this milestone. The first event, held at the research station at the beginning of February, 2025 was a Tobacco Seed and Variety Field Day.

The institution's journey began with breeding efforts focused on disease resistance. To overcome white mould, the variety developed was K E1, which was prized for its disease resistance and had yield potential of slightly above one tonne per hectare. Efforts then moved on to work on varieties resistant to Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV). Development of multi-disease resistant varieties marked the institution's early years of breeding.

The later years of tobacco variety breeding led to the development of the pioneering Kutsaga Mammoth 10 (KM10) in the 1970s which had resistance to Tobacco Mosaic Virus. The KutsagaMammoth varieties such as, KM10, K RK8, K RK22, and KRK62, revolutionised tobacco farming with their larger leaf size, higher yield potential, and impressive disease resistance.

The initial post-Independence period up to the early 2000s saw Kutsaga's breeders tackle multiple challenges simultaneously, developing varieties with genetics resistant to several diseases such as root-knot resistance (K RK1), heavy soils suitability (K 30R) and increased adaptability (K RK26). This period developed the popular K RK26, which had yield potential of greater than three tonnes per hectare. Additional breeding efforts in the later part of the 2000s led to the development of K RK66 which earned recognition for balancing superior leaf quality and yield with multi-disease resistance.

From the 2010s to current Kutsaga's breeding efforts are focusing on high yield and climate smart genetics. In this period was released drought tolerance genetics such as K RK71 and K RK75; high yield genetics (K RK76); and the current limited release varieties T78, T79, T80 and T81 with enhanced drought tolerance (deep reaching root systems and better water use efficiency), shorter growing seasons, and improved heat stress resistance. The new test hybrids now on Limited Release Protocol;T78,T79,T80 and T81 are enabling profitable tobacco production in marginal areas and areas prone to drought such as Matebeleland North.



Aaron Denenga, Prof Obert Jiri and Dr Frank Magama

Kutsaga's breeding efforts for tobacco in marginal areas have today contributed to Zimbabwe's Vision 2030 by promoting sustainable tobacco production.

Kutsaga's breeding program is focused on addressing the needs of stakeholders (growers and merchants) through producing superior quality, high yielding and multi-disease resistant tobacco genetics for today and the future. This is borne by the continued expansion of the Kutsaga genetics footprint into the region in countries such as Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique and beyond. At the same time Kutsaga is prognostically researching on eco-friendly curing fuels, energy-saving barns and alternative crops in response to potential bans on tobacco cultivation. In this regard, as Kutsaga celebrates 75 years of research excellence and innovation, it is poised to continue to grow and stretch more tentacles in the region and beyond through world class innovative products and services.

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TRB Certificate No: 25-27-C-1
Registration number: 24-C-55-1

Pre-emergent broad leaf herbicide for tobacco





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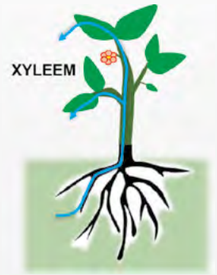
Unique properties
- Very good selectivity
- Resistance management: Alternation of mode of actions
- Broad spectrum, broad leaves and good persistence

Acamos is a selective suspension concentrate pre-emergent broad leaf weed herbicide, registered for use in tobacco, containing 600 g.ai./l metrobromunron. Metrobromuron has a good solubility and adsorbsion profile and will stay in the germination zone of the weeds.

Mode of action



Acamos

Apply pre-emergence of the weeds within 3 days of transplanting

Absorption through the roots



Acamos inhibits the photosynthesis of processes the weeds, resulting in death.

Broad leaf weeds



AMACH
Amaranthus hybridus
Smooth pigweed



BIDPI
Bidens pilosa
Black jack weeds



CHEAL
Chenopodium album
Common lambsquarters



CHECN
Chenopodium carinatum
Green goosefoot



CLEMO
Cleome monophylla
Spindle pod



COMBE
Commelina benghalensis
Benghal dayflower



DATFE
Datura ferox
Fierce thornapple



GASPA
Galinsoga parviflora
Small flower galinsoga



POROL
Portulaca oleracea
Purslane



SCKPI
Schkuhria pinnata
Dwarf marigold



SONOL
Sonchus oleraceus
Sow thistle



TAGMI
Tagetes minuta
Mexican marigold

The spectrum is an indication based on the best of our knowledge at that time. Results can differ according to soil types, climatic conditions before, during and after application.

Positioning

Apply 2 l/ha **Acamos** with a grass herbicide, S-metolachlor, within 3 days after transplant.

Technical information

- Composition: 600 g/L metobromuron
- Formulation: Suspension Concentrate (SC)
- Dose rate: 2 L/ha with a grass herbicide for full spectrum of control
- HRAC classification: C2, ureas
- One application pre-emergence of the weeds
- Re-entry interval: 12 hours



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Growing a sustainable future: Tobacco farmers take charge

Sustainable Afforestation Association

Zimbabwe's tobacco industry, a cornerstone of the national economy, is under increasing pressure to adopt sustainable practices. International markets are demanding responsibly produced tobacco, and environmental concerns are growing.

For Zimbabwean farmers, embracing sustainability is not just an ethical imperative; it's a crucial step towards securing their livelihoods and the industry's future. Sustainable Afforestation Association (SAA) was developed to support merchants and farmers in this vital transition.

Sustainability begins at the farm level. Farmers are the key drivers of change, and many are already implementing innovative practices. One of the most critical areas is the sustainable provision of curing fuel. The use of indigenous forests is no longer viable in the long term. The solution lies in farmers taking ownership of their curing fuel supply.

Establishing dedicated woodlots on farms is paramount. These plantations provide a renewable source of fuel for curing barns, reducing pressure on natural woodlands. Woodlots not only address the immediate need for curing fuel but also offer several other benefits. Producing their own curing fuel significantly decreases farmers' operational expenses. Woodlots contribute to carbon sequestration, mitigating the effects of climate change and preserving biodiversity. A dedicated fuel source ensures consistent and reliable curing, protecting farmers from fluctuations in fuel prices and availability. Mature woodlots can also provide additional income through timber sales.

International tobacco buyers are increasingly prioritising sustainability. Certification schemes and traceability systems are becoming the norm, requiring farmers to demonstrate their commitment to responsible practices. The Zimbabwean government recognises this shift and has placed sustainability at the core of the Tobacco Value Chain Transformation Plan (TVCTP). This initiative aims to enhance the industry's competitiveness by promoting sustainable production methods, ensuring market access, and improving farmers' livelihoods.

SAA works closely with farmers and contracting merchants to facilitate the transition to sustainable curing practices. They provide technical assistance, training, and access to resources for establishing and managing woodlots. Tobacco farmers are encouraged to contact their contracting merchant to discuss options for sustainable curing fuel and explore available support programs. Farmers can also reach out to SAA for expert guidance on establishing and managing woodlots, including species selection, planting techniques, and sustainable harvesting practices.

Instead of seeing sustainability requirements as a barrier to trade, farmers should familiarise themselves with the Tobacco Value Chain Transformation Plan (TVCTP) objectives and take advantage of the opportunities it offers for sustainable growth.



Sam Obert: A Headlands farmer's journey to sustainable success

For nearly two decades, Sam Obert has cultivated tobacco in Headlands. Starting with just one hectare in 2007, he now manages four hectares of irrigated crops. When asked about his success, Sam points to his commitment to sustainable curing practices.

"Every tobacco farmer knows that the quality of the cure directly impacts your sale," Sam explains. "After attending a wealth management training, I began to analyse my production costs differently. I realised that maintaining my barn, like adding a furnace door and raising the chimney, significantly improved fuel efficiency and reduced my expenses. The quality of my cured tobacco also improved."

Sam's dedication to sustainability led to an opportunity to establish a four-hectare woodlot on his land. "Now, I harvest about 24 cords (83 cubic meters) of eucalyptus wood annually, supplementing the sustainable wood I purchase," he says. "The trees regrow, ensuring a continuous supply. This has dramatically reduced my curing costs and provides firewood for my family's cooking."

Sam's pursuit of improvement continues. He's currently testing a Tsotso Furnace on his farm. "This new furnace is incredibly efficient," he shares. "I'm using half the wood I usually do, and achieving an excellent cure. My neighbours are already curious!"

Since 2007, Sam has transformed his farm, installing two boreholes for domestic and agricultural use. He recently donated a borehole pump to his local clinic, providing safe drinking water to his community. Sam also employs two permanent workers, supporting local livelihoods.

If you'd like to partner with SAA or find out more about managing your own sustainable curing fuel plantation, please contact Lloyd Mubaiwa on +263 771 562 356 or email lloyd@saazimbabwe.org

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Weed alert: Spread of Devil's thorn (Tribulus Terrestris) in tobacco growing areas

By Dr D Rukuni



The devil's thorn is a prostrate annual herb in the caltrop family (Zygophyllaceae), which can produce several vines up to 2 metres long. It is widely distributed and naturalised around the world (Africa, Asia Europe, Australasia, the Americas) and is adapted to grow in dry climate locations in which few other plants can survive.

The native origin of Devils thorn is unclear, but it is probably from the tropical regions of Central and South America. It is invasive in nature, and is naturally found growing in disturbed sandy soils, though it can thrive in many soil types, hence its quick spread in cultivated areas.

Other common English names are, goat-head, puncture-vine, calthrop, Mexican sandbur, Texas sandbur and cat's head, to mention a few; signifying the diversity of occurrence. The Shona name is ruredzo, or feso and, in SiNdebele, its called Intolofiyane, Isihlabamakhondlwane or Isihoho. In Zimbabwe, it flowers from December to February. Identification is easy (Figure 1), and because of its prickly nature, it's a big nuisance to humans and, therefore easy to recognise.

The plant is poisonous to livestock, and the toxin is a triterpenoid. It causes liver damage in animals, resulting in photosensitivity (distinctively; unpigmented



Figure 1: The prostrate vine in flower with close-up of the fruiting structure

parts of the skin react to UV light resulting in inflammation leading to swelling etc. of particularly the head). This is known to farmers as 'geeldikkop' (yellow-thick-head). Toxicity usually results when livestock (particularly sheep) graze young, wilted plants. So, for growers with livestock, its important to note this and make sure its controlled in grazing areas. The seeds are spread by sticking on human clothing, animal fur, bird feathers and machinery. Additionally, the seeds and capsules float on water, which provides an effective means of dispersal.

Control

The seeds can be dormant in the soil for many years and germinate when the soil is disturbed mainly due to cultivation. Each plant bears several yellow flowers and can produce up to 5,000 seeds per plant. This means that, in areas where it is found, the soil seed bank is huge and requires several years of control before the populations decline. One of the best ways to control the weed is to uproot it or use a burn-down herbicide to kill it before it produces any seed. In tobacco, pre-emergent herbicides that can control the weed are sulfentrazone (authority), S- metolachlor and Dimethenamid-P. Clomazone seems to have little effect on the weed.

In non-cropping systems like pastures, roadsides, walk ways etc., it is best to spot spray the weed with glyphosate-based products at the recommended rate for this plant species. It is paramount that the weed be stopped from producing any seed to reduce spread. Because of its widespread distribution in tobacco growing areas, Kutsaga will also study whether it harbours any pests and diseases of significant economic importance in tobacco production, and keep growers updated.

Recommendations

Growers are encouraged to report any atypical behaviour in pests, diseases or varieties on the various communication platforms offered by the Tobacco Research Board so that appropriate advice can be given.

If you have any queries regarding the above, or require further information, please feel free to contact, Kutsaga Research Station on VOIP 08688002604 or Email: kutsaga@kutsaga.co.zw or visit Kutsaga Research Station, Airport Ring Road, Harare.

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Efficiency

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Where To Register

Tobacco selling points.

TIMB Offices:

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No. 112 Seke Rd
Graniteside
0773476618/9

Mount Hampden
16.5 km Peg
Lomagundi Rd
Mount Hampden
0773590942

Chinhoyi
Shop Number 2,
Robson Manyika Ave
0777431954

Karoi
Stand 6271
Sangorenyati
Karoi
0777431954

Bindura
315 Railway Ave
Bindura
0773195259

Chegutu
Shop No. 7 Ziy & Zam
579 Station Street
Chegutu, CBD
0773706942

Mvurwi
No. 1 Handsworth Rd
Mvurwi
0778934562

CP Chemicals