



ZASTA MAY NEWSLETTER



ZASTA SECRETARIAT CONTINUES TO EN- GAGE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ON FISP MATTERS

The Secretariat is happy to note that most seed companies, who are ZASTA members, who were contracted to supply seed under FISP in the 2022/23 season have since been paid the remaining balances as by 30 May, 2023.

The secretariat followed up with the Ministry during the process of document verification, undertaken by seed companies on request from the Ministry before payment of balances could be effected.

Further follow-ups were made arising from concerns raised by some members on delays experienced in getting paid after submission of verified documents. It is hoped that the few remaining companies will be paid at the earliest possible time, so that all our members could focus on preparations to participate in bidding for seed supply contracts for the 2023/24 season.

As part of the planned strategy of increased engagement with the Ministry and other stakeholders, the Secretariat has requested for appointments to meet with respective Ministers and their senior management teams at the Ministries of Agriculture and Community Development and Social Services.

ZASTA AND CROPLIFE GO SEPARATE WAYS



In 2021 ZASTA and CropLife entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, arising the appreciation that both organizations were operating within the Agro-Input industry, facing more less same challenges and sharing common interests.

The two parties desired to enter into an MOU in order to facilitate collaboration in the implementation of programs and activities of common interest aimed at deriving mutual benefits.

The MOU remained effective and saw collaborative implementation of a few programs and activities up to 30th April, 2023, when the two parties mutually agreed to separate and operate as independent institutions of ZASTA and CropLife.

The formal letter of separation signed by the President and Chairman of ZASTA and CropLife respectively states that the two parties will no longer be bound by the undertaking to share resources (physical, human and operational) with none of them having to incur any further penalties and liabilities related to obligations each party had under the terminated MOU. It further states that CropLife and ZASTA may wish and desire to collaborate in the implementation of specific projects or program as deemed appropriate in the future.

1ST PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATION (PCE) WORKSHOP IN ZAMBIA HELD ON 24th to 18th APRIL 2023



Zambia as one of the nine countries from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is implementing the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) program. The program is delivered under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) project 'Strengthening Food Control and Phytosanitary Capacities and Governance' is a modular tool that helps a country to assess its capacities in its existing phytosanitary systems and to identify and prioritize actions to be taken to fill gaps .

The workshop was organized by the Department of Plant Quarantine and Phytosanitary Services, in the Ministry of Agriculture, which is the National Plant Protection Organisation (NIPPO) in Zambia, with the participation of a n number of relevant stakeholders, who included ZASTA.



1ST PHYTOSANITARY CAPACITY EVALUATION (PCE) WORKSHOP IN ZAMBIA HELD ON APRIL 2023 CONT'



The workshop reviewed and assessed the following modules. :

- Country Profile
- Module 7: Pest diagnostic capacity
- Module 8: NPPO pest surveillance and pest reporting capacity
- Module 10: Phytosanitary import regulatory system
- Module 13: Export certification, re-export, and transit



The main output of the workshop was a strategic planning document, which prioritized activities and resources to fill gaps and enhance the effectiveness of the country's overall phytosanitary system.



A ROUND UP OF COURTESY CALLS ON MEMBERS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Both the Executive Committee members and the Executive Secretary are relatively new in the office having been elected less than a year ago, in August, 2022 and recruited barely three months ago, on 15 February, 2023 respectively. Being new, both the Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary wished to jointly visit and meet members at their operational premises or offices. However it proved difficult to fix appointments that could suit both the Executive Committee members and the Executive Secretary. It is for this reason that the ES proceeded to undertake

courtesy call on members alone.

The intention is to pay courtesy calls to all members, including those operating outside Lusaka. The first set of courtesy calls were undertaken during the month of May, 2023 covering nine (9) members, who included 1) AMAC Seed; 2) Kariba Seed; 3) Corteva AgriScience Services; 4) Mayo Agro Services; 5) Lake Agriculture (Crop Genetics Zambia); 6) Klein Karoo; 7) QualiBasic Seed (QBS); 8) Starke Ayres); and 9) AfriSeed. The visits are captured in pictures shown below of some of the companies visited.

In general members visited found the brief exchanges with the Executive Secretary useful. These exchanges included a briefing from the ES on issues that the Association is focusing on in order to serve their interest and that of the Zambian seed industry better. One of the key focus areas, is the need to increase the visibility of ZASTA and attract greater recognition from government as a key player in coordinating and regulating the seed industry in Zambia. Members visited so far expressed their desire to see ZASTA playing a bigger role in engaging government to influence policy matters related to seed.

Pictures Showing some of the Premises Visited



Left: 

At the premises of Lake Agriculture (Crop Genetic Zambia), with Mike Jackson, the Managing Director



Left: 

Outside the AMAC offices with Mr. Augustine Mwenda, the Managing Director

Right : 

At Mayo Agro Services in Makeni Area, with the Managing Director, Mr. Marcel Kanungwe



Pictures Showing some of the Premises Visited



Top Left : At Kariba Seed, with Mr. Ngulube, the Managing Director

Top Right : At the premises of Starke Ayres with Mr. Mark Stokes, the Managing Director.

Bottom Left : At AfriSeed premises, with Ms. Stephane Angomwile, Managing Director

A BRIEF ABOUT ZASTA



Your Trusted Seed Partner

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ZASTA is a national seed association that looks at the interest of seed companies in the country's seed trade. It was established in 1999 as a registered entity under the Societies Act. Cap. 119 of the Laws of Zambia. Its primary mandate is to serve and safeguard the interests of its members and the seed industry in Zambia. Membership comprises of private companies, public institutions and individuals involved in seed enterprises in Zambia. ZASTA currently has a membership of 26 comprising 20 private seed companies and seed traders as full members, 3 associate members and 3 honorary members.

Upcoming events

- ISF Congress, June 5-7, 2023, Cape Town, South Africa
- Zambia International Trade Fair in June
- Agricultural and Commercial Show in July