



MUAST SUPPORTS NDS1

Agriculture is the backbone of Zimbabwe's economy and underpins the economic, social and political lives of the majority of the people of Zimbabwe.



Professor Nyamangara at Dozmery farm

horticulture. He said that agriculture remained the major driver of the Zimbabwean economy as it provides industries with raw materials and also creates employment, thereby reducing poverty.

Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences

and Technology has proved that Zimbabwe can achieve being the bread basket for Africa once again through its horticulture programme at the Dozmery farm Campus.

As stated by the President, His Excellency Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, who is

A number of vegetables which include tomatoes, cabbages, carrots and sweet potatoes are being sold by the University to staff members and the Marondera community. In an interview with MUAST WEEKLY, Professor Nyamangara showed his concern for



also the Chancellor of Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, horticulture will contribute towards the realisation of the national vision of an upper middle income economy by 2030 through the National Development Strategy 1.



Vegetables at Dozmery farm

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The strategy will be implemented under the Zimbabwe Horticulture Recovery and Growth Plan which is targeted at rebooting the horticulture industry under the Presidential Horticulture Scheme to benefit 1.8 million households of Zimbabwe.

Professor Nyamangara went on and encouraged

Zimbabwean farmers to take advantage of the existing export markets by diversifying into other high value crops as peas, potatoes, broccoli, bell peppers, lettuce and cucumber that are in demand on the international market.

IMPROVING CHILD NUTRITION AND HEALTH THROUGH INSECT-BASED PORRIDGE

MUAST in collaboration with the University of Zimbabwe, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Abertay University (Scotland) and the University of Sheffield (England) has embarked on a three-year Biological Sciences Research Council (BSRC) £998,801 funded project (**Insects4Nutrition**) which is aimed at upscaling mopane worm-based porridge to improve health and nutrition status of primary school children in Zimbabwe. The project is well aligned with Education 5.0.

At MUAST the project is being led by Dr Lesley Macheka who is the Director of Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer and he is also the Country Lead Researcher.

Other project members at MUAST are Dr Shingai Nyarygwe (Post-Doc Research Fellow) and Mr Ivor Manditsera, (Research Assitant).



Dr Lesley Macheka



Dr Shingai Nyarygwe



Mr Ivor Manditsera

The project consists of five work packages: (i) documenting traditional recipes and processing methods; (ii) development and upscaling a nutrient dense mopane worm-based porridge; (iii) effectiveness/efficacy trials; semi-domestication/rearing trials; and (v) information dissemination and policy advocacy .

Consumption of edible insects (entomophagy) is a common practice in Zimbabwe and findings from the ZimVAC 2020 livelihoods assessment revealed that consumption of edible insects in Zimbabwe is not a coping strategy to food insecurity but it is mainly due to the nutrition and health benefits associated with consumption of edible insects.

DR MADAMOMBE UPLIT MUAŠT



Dr Madamombe, Senior Lecturer at MUAŠT

Macheke Sub catchment council (MSC) is one of the seven (7) sub catchment councils making up the Save Catchment council. In line with the SI 47 of 2000, members will be elected to constitute the council. It was against this background that an AGM and election of members was held on the 17th November at Sky Lodge in Rusape to select members to make up the Macheke Sub catchment council.

The council shall be constituted by 15 members from various stakeholder groups within the area of jurisdiction. Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUAŠT), Acting Dean in

the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Dr Madamombe held the University flag up high when he was elected as a councillor to make up the 15-member council for a period of three (3) years). Besides representing the interests of MUAŠT, Dr Madamombe will also be representing the interests of other institutions of higher learning falling within the jurisdiction of Macheke Sub-catchment Council.

The council shall regulate and supervise the exercise of permits of water within the area which it was established such as levying rates upon permit holders within the area of jurisdiction. Mandate also includes championing water conservation in Marondera and Mashonaland East province, lobbying for more water rights and awareness campaign of water usage and stream bank cultivation.

In addition to being a councillor, Dr Madamombe was also elected as Chairman of the Projects Subcommittee, which will look amongst other duties at community projects, weir projects to harness water for irrigation purposes, GIS mapping for the catchment operation and also look at major projects coming out of the Causeway Dam.

Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Vice Chancellor, Professor Nyamangara expressed his gratitude towards the position that Dr Madamombe has attained saying that it is good for the University and the Marondera Community at large.

FIGHT AGAINST GBV

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a major public health issue. It is projected that one in three women globally will face some form of abuse in childhood, adolescence, or adulthood. GBV is now recognized as an important global public health problem because of its acute and chronic impacts on women's health. It includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse from intimate partners or non-partners. The causes of gender-based violence are multi-dimensional, including social, economic, cultural, political, and religious factors .



As countries implemented lockdown measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus, violence against women, especially domestic violence, has taken a peak as according to UNICEF at least 1 in every 3 women (15 – 49) have experienced physical violence (35%) while 1 in every 5 women (17%) have experienced sexual violence. In most cases, perpetrators are the intimate partners. 9 % of males experience sexual violence prior to age 18 (ZIMSTAT, 2020).

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, a number of women and girls globally were abused by their intimate partners in the past. Since the pandemic, with lockdowns measures, countries around the world have

seen an alarming rise in reporting on violence against women, especially domestic violence.

GBV has been found to have detrimental effects on women, including injuries, sexual and reproductive health issues, mental health disorders, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), gynaecological disorders, adverse pregnancy outcomes, and increased risk of non-communicable disease, and impacts on the health and wellbeing of their children.

GBV also has a negative impact on a country's human, social, and economic development and is an underlying obstacle to eliminating poverty and building peace. Students who have experienced gender-based violence are more likely to report low school achievement and an increased school dropout rate compared to non-abused youths. To put an end to GBV, both women and men should work together in fighting.

Together We Can!

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