



Celebrating Woman in Agriculture



1. Amy Hart, Director at Goats.Africa (Pvt) Ltd

There is no doubt that goats are a productive asset with essential community benefits as they give diverse products. They give milk and meat to feed families and to sell for extra money, as well as manure to fertilise crops and improve pastures.

We at Goats.Africa see women as major contributors to agriculture production and marketing, we believe that when women have broader opportunities to participate in agriculture, the benefits are expanded to their families, communities and the economy. Goat production is a positive path towards enhancing opportunities for women and a sustainable choice for a richer environment in the future (see ZiMunda Farming issue 19).



2. Eunah Makoni, Promoting Dairy Farming Technologies at ABS TCM (Pvt) Ltd

It is quite unfortunate that traditionally, women's role in dairying has been peripheral and not at the decision-making level - I advocate for change. Rewards of dairy farming business increase with vertical integration and I encourage women to go the full distance by becoming dairy processors; subsequently creating jobs and supply of affordable dairy products at a local level.

Dairy farming challenges include low milk producer prices and high feed costs. Women dairy farmers should appreciate the importance of economies of scale, technology to fast-track growth and grow and conserve fodder to minimise use of bought in feed (see ZiMunda Farming issue 5).



3. Wendy Matashu Madzura, Head of Agronomy Services at Seed Co Zimbabwe

The agriculture sector has a vast number of opportunities especially for women across the value chain. I want to encourage women of all age groups to consider agriculture as a good career choice and sustainable business option. In any business venture one should research around the best practices to be employed and apply themselves whole heartedly to get the best outcome. The secret to success is working hard, passionately and consistently. I encourage women to invest time in understand the different sectors of agriculture and select their best fit and above ALL women need to move away from the bounds of society that hold them back and lower their self-esteem. I believe that women are hardworking and committed to anything they set out to achieve as such the possibilities are endless (see ZiMunda Farming issue 23). ***So, I say, Women CAN... It is time to jump onto the band wagon, because TOGETHER WE CAN.***



4. Venensia Mukarati, An Accountant by Profession and a seasoned hydroponic farmer.

With no academic background in farming, a few years ago I started with 144 plant system and have increased to 8000 plants per cycle in my hydroponic system. Because I had to learn on the job, I owe my success in farming to the amount of work I put in and persevering with my vision. I encourage all woman beginner farmers to be patient as no one succeeds immediately - everyone was once a beginner. As a beginner you need to be ready to fail and pick yourself up. I attempted to grow produce for months and failed then when I figured out how to operate the system correctly my produce did not have a market, I had to give away my vegetables and make a loss (see ZiMunda Farming issue 7).

Start small while you grasp the farming practices and never give up you - invest more time on learning whatever you want to do.