



Zimbabwe Plant Breeders Association

Innovative. Creative. Exceptional

ZPBA NEWSLETTER Issue 2 of 2022

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1. ZIMBABWE SEED SECTOR GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH ISTA

a. Zimbabwe participated at the 33rd Congress in Cairo

The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) is a leading global organisation whose vision is uniformity in seed quality evaluation worldwide. It develops standard seed testing methods, facilitates the trade of quality seed and makes a valuable contribution to agriculture thus ensuring food and nutrition security.

ISTA held its 33rd Congress in **Cairo, Egypt, from 08 to 11 of May 2022**. The Congress successfully fulfilled its function serving as a platform for more than 100 representatives of the ISTA Community to meet and discuss ideas, projects, and plans. Zimbabwe was represented by its designated members: Ms Necia Mutangabende, the Seed Testing Quality Manager, and Dr Claid Mujaju, the Zimbabwe Designated Member and the ISTA Executive Member for Africa Region.

During the ISTA Ordinary General Meeting held on the last day of the congress, a new Executive Committee (ECOM) was elected.



ISTA 2022 – 2025 EXCOM members: ISTA President **Keshavulu Kunusoth** from India, ISTA Vice-President **Ernest Allen** from USA, ISTA Immediate Past President **Steve Jones** from Canada, ISTA Members-at-Large: **Ignacio Aranciaga** from Argentina, **Sylvie Ducournau** from France, **Ruel Gesmundo** from the Philippines, **Berta Killermann** from Germany, **Craig McGill** from New Zealand, **Claid Mujaju** from Zimbabwe, **Sergio Pasquini** from Italy, **Vanessa Sosa** from Uruguay.

b. The ISTA Secretary General visit Zimbabwe

The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Secretary General Dr Andreas Wais was in the country and had the opportunity to meet with local seed industry representatives at a reception hosted by the Zimbabwe Seed Association on 12 July 2022. In his presentation he highlighted that

- ISTA ensures seed quality by uniformity in seed testing with standardisation of testing methodologies, laboratory results and reporting of results, and dissemination of information.
- ISTA desires to have diversity and wishes to expand representation from the continent. Currently there is Dr Mujaju in the executive committee. There are ISTA Accredited seed testing laboratories in Africa and the Seed Service lab in Zimbabwe is among them. There is one Kenyan auditor and ISTA wishes to have more. To be an ISTA auditor one should have technical capacity and experience.
- ISTA will soon be introducing e-certificates and hopes the value chain will accept them
- ISTA now has a new user-friendly website where publications are readily available ([Home - International Seed Testing Association](#))
- ISTA wishes to collaborate with its accredited labs and regional seed associations particularly in promoting research and in capacity building. They have the young@ista, an initiative to support young (under 40s) seed professional to publish and participate at seed related events [Young@ISTA - International Seed Testing Association](#).



Left: A group photo of seed industry representatives who met with ISAT Secretary General; Right: Mr John Makoni, Chairperson of Zimbabwe Seed Association, presents Dr. Andreas Wais with a token of appreciation

2. MEET TOCEK SEED COMPANY (t/a ZADZAMATURA), a new ZPBA Corporate member

Address: Plot K of Observatory Farm, Glenara Rd, off Old Mazowe Rd, Mt Hampden, Harare

Phone: (+263) 772 568329; **Website:** www.zadzamatura.co.zw



Summary

Tocek Seed Company (t/a Zadzamatura) is a locally registered business entity with a mandate and license to produce and market seed in Zimbabwe. Tocek Zadzamatura distributes its products in Zimbabwe and is in the process of establishing operations in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region.

Tocek Zadzamatura focuses on producing and marketing high yielding and disease tolerant varieties for maize, soyabeans, sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, wheat, sugar beans, cowpeas, groundnuts and pasture grasses. The company has strategic linkages with CIMMYT, IITA, ICRISAT, United Seeds, Crop Breeding Institute and Integrated Breeding Platform to facilitate development, testing, registration and commercialisation of crop varieties.

Tocek Zadzamatura's vision is to ensure food and nutrition security by focusing on provision of quality seeds of staple crops in sub-Saharan Africa through production, distribution and marketing of a wide range of these products at competitive prices.



Company Overview

Tocek Zadzamatura is led by a dynamic management team with extensive local and international experience in variety development, seed production and marketing. Tocek is a legally incorporated business entity in Zimbabwe. It was formed in 2009 after the divestiture of Monsanto in Zimbabwe. Tocek's market share has almost been doubling each year. The company has taken advantage of the 25% gap created in the seed market brought about by the merger of Pioneer Hi-Bred and Pannar. Tocek is targeting to control at least 25% market share by 2025.

Tocek has already opened business in Zambia and is intending to expand to other countries in the region including South Africa, Cameroon, Botswana, Angola and Mozambique. The Zambia market will serve Tanzania, Kenya, DRC and Malawi and this hub will be key in the growth of the whole East African market. Cameroon will be the springboard for expansion into the West African market.



Seed Conditioning and Research Facilities

Tocek Zadzamatura has a fully functional seed processing plant at its Mt Hampden premises with the capacity to produce 10,000 MT of seed per year. It has a warehouse with a capacity of 2,000 MT and a state-of-the-art seed testing laboratory at its Mt Hampden depot. Due to its excess seed processing and packaging capacity, Tocek is able to do toll-processing of seed for the country's major seed companies. Tocek produces high quality parent, foundation and certified seed through its network of highly experienced large scale and smallholder seed growers.

Tocek has a 4 hectare fully-irrigated research block at its Mt Hampden depot for variety development and testing of new products, and demonstration of current and pre-commercial varieties. The research team conducts multi-location variety evaluation countrywide at DR&SS research stations, universities, agricultural colleges and large and small scale farms representative of all the country's agro-ecological zones. Tocek's breeding activities are supported by an advanced cloud based data management system and its highly diverse germplasm is sourced from leading international agricultural research centres with whom it enjoys close technical and logistical support.

3. ARDA SEED COMPANY a new ZPBA corporate member



ARDA Seeds is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA). The Company has grown over the years to become one of the trusted brands in the country and beyond. ARDA Seeds is mandated to spearhead production of climate smart varieties. Right at the centre of its endeavours is the goal of creating a resilient mindset. This emanates from the fact that the business of farming is faced with several challenges which include climate change which has seen a shift in the seed requirements. Consequently, there is an increase in the demand for climate-smart varieties and ARDA Seeds has embarked on the production of such climate-smart seed varieties.

The company produces and markets several seed crops including Sunflower, Traditional African Peas, Sorghum, Millet, Maize (Hybrid, Orange and OPV), Wheat, Soyabeans, Dry Beans and Groundnuts.

MAIZE PRODUCT RANGE

HYBRID VARIETIES

ZS263:- Yield up to 10 tonnes/ha .An exceptional early maturing variety (120-125 days).Suitable for low to medium potential areas. Can be grown as a late crop in high potential areas.

ZS265: A multi-cobbing white hybrid maize, medium maturing. Performs extremely well under low fertility.Yield potential 12t/ha. Drought tolerant.

ZS269: White medium maturity hybrid. Drought tolerant. Yield potential up to 9-12t/ha.

ZS246A: Drought tolerant, Orange Hybrid Maize. Early maturity multi-cobbing variety and hard flint grain type, Yield potential up to 9t/ha.

ZS248A: Drought tolerant Orange Hybrid Maize. Medium maturity. Multi-cobbing variety and hard flint grain type, Yield potential up to 9t/ha.

OPEN POLLINATED VARIETIES (OPV)

OPV ZM 521: Early maturing white Open Pollinated Variety (OPV), Potential yield up to 4-7t/ha.

OPV-ZM309: Very early maturity,An early maturing white, Potential yield up to 6t/ha.

WHEAT PRODUCT RANGE

Ncema: A high yielding wheat variety yielding (9.2t/ha – Highveld, 5.5 t/ha – Middleveld, 5.2 – Lowveld).Tolerance to diseases .Good milling and baking qualities.

Dande: A white grain variety, Medium maturing variety. Yield potential 9t/ha (Highveld), 7.4t/ha (middle-velde) and 5.6t/ha (Lowveld). Good milling and baking qualities.

Kame: A red large, grained variety, medium to late maturing variety. Good disease tolerance Yield potential 7.5t/ha.

GROUNDNUTS RANGE

ILanda: Short season variety 90 – 100 days to maturity in the Lowveld and 100-120 days.High pod yield of up to 4t/ha & Kernel yield 2.8t/ha.

COWPEAS RANGE

CBC1: An early maturing variety taking 75 days to maturity, Yield potential of 1,5t/ha.

CBC2: An early maturing variety 75-85 days to maturity, Yield 2,5t/ha.

SORGHUM RANGE

Macia: White Open Pollinated Variety that is well adapted to regions IV & V: Yield potential 1.5 – 3t/ha.

SV2/SV4: Medium to late maturing variety and intermediate height, Yield potential of 3t/ha.

SOYABEAN RANGE

Bimha: Determinate broad-leafed variety. Recommended for grain production in all soyabean growing areas. Gives high yields and high grades, Yield 3 – 4t/ha.

Mhofu: Broad leafed determinate.126 days to maturity. Moderate levels of disease resistance. Yield 3-4t/ha.

SUGARBEANS RANGE

NUA45: Zinc and Iron bio fortified. Early maturing, high yielding .Yield potential of up to 3t/ha. Tolerant to common bean rust and bacterial blight.

Gloria: Early maturing variety ±90 days. High level of tolerance to common bean rust and bacterial blight.

SUNFLOWER

Peredovic: open pollinated variety with 1.5t to 2 t/ha.

Msasa : a high yielding hybrid variety up to 3 t/ha. With a high oil content.

FORAGE FODDER CROPS

ARDA seeds also offers seed of **Velvet Bean and Lab lab**

In conclusion, ARDA Seeds is indeed the brand of choice steering adaptability and resilience across all farming regions and ensuring no farmer is left behind.



4. ZPBA Recent Event- a data analysis focused webinar



**MONDAY 22
AUGUST 2022
13:30HRS
(HARARE)**

**“MODERN METHODS IN
QUALITATIVE DATA
ANALYSIS USING R” -
HANDLING VIEWS AND
PERCEPTIONS AS RAW DATA
FROM PARTICIPATORY
BREEDING PROJECTS**

Program

13:30	Welcome- Ms. R. Mukaro ZPBA
13:35	Opening – Dr. F. Magama ZPBA
13:40	Presentation- Rumbidzai MATEMBA-MUTASA
14:10	Discussions- Dr. C. Kamutando ZPBA
14:25	Closing- Dr. C. Mutimaamba ZPBA

A ZPBA organized event presented by



Rumbidzai Matemba-Mutasa A

Biometrician & Research Methods expert with Team Advisory Services (Zimbabwe) P/L, Founder and Managing Director at the Institute of Research and Statistical Methods, and also Co-Director at the Health and Socio-Economic Development Consortium (Zimbabwe) P/L. She has over 14 years' experience in her discipline with both the international and national private and public sectors. Rumbidzai has done extensive research work in developing and applying statistical procedures to analyze data from horticulture, environmental, social, agronomy and plant breeding studies.



HOST PLATFORM:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86283244844?pwd=RjBiNjhIQk5lZnhWYlFNU2RuumVXZz09>

Meeting ID: 862 8324 4844

Passcode: 939088

RSVP: +263 78 461 8719; zimplantbreedersassociation@gmail.com

More than 60 people tuned in and the presentation was shared after.

5. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. A Food systems and Climate Change themed webinar by Crop Breeding Institute on 30 September 2022. Expect to hear about sorghum, pearl millet, wheat, beans, soyabeans, groundnuts and the latest products from CBI

WHO IS ZPBA

ZPBA is a **membership-based, not-for-profit, non-political, professional association** of Zimbabweans based locally or abroad active or interested in plant breeding and/or plant breeding-related fields (e.g. seed agronomist, seed inspectors, seed technologists, geneticists, germplasm conservation specialists, biotechnologists, molecular biologists, etc.) launched on the **26th of January, 2016** at Holiday Inn, Harare with financial assistance from FAO.



Contact Us

Telephone: +263 (0)784 618719 (send your name if you want to be on the ZPBA WhatsApp group)

Email: zimplantbreedersassociation@gmail.com

Website: <http://zpb.org.zw/>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Yf7YvujHjNcMwUjR5kgw>

You are receiving this e-mail because you are active or interested in plant breeding or plant breeding related fields. If not and would not like to continue receiving communication from ZPBA, then email 'unsubscribe' to zimplantbreedersassociation@gmail.com

ZPBA is legally registered as a **Trust** in Zimbabwe: registration number 1791/2018. The **ZPBA Board of Trustees** consists of the elected **Executive committee of the ZPBA** who are bound by both the Trust Deed and the ZPBA Constitution.

Membership benefits include

Professional and personal development;
Shared costs on human resource development; Networking; **Timely Communication (especially for events, internships, job vacancies, scholarships);** Voting rights; **Discounted rates for events;** Sense of pride in the profession and industry

For **Corporate members** you are entitled to one representative and to bring visibility to your institution, you will be acknowledged at ZPBA organized events as well as being featured on the ZPBA website

WANT TO BE A SUBSCRIBED MEMBER?

What are you waiting for, visit [Apply for Membership – Zimbabwe Plant Breeders Association \(zpb.org.zw\)](https://www.zpb.org.zw/). Pay your subs and receive your unique membership ID.

THANK YOU SUBSCRIBED MEMBERS

Thank you to members who continue to pay their subscriptions as well as those who support fundraising initiatives. Such contributions make it possible for your association to keep going.