

## ZPBA NEWSLETTER Issue 2 of 2016

### 1. WHO ARE WE

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 **26<sup>th</sup> of January, 2016** at Holiday Inn, Harare.

ZPBA hopes to contribute towards agricultural and industrial development in Zimbabwe through creating a platform for information exchange amongst plant breeders and related professionals, contributing towards policy dialogue, building capacity in both the public and private sector through relevant training.

ZPBA is governed by **an elected Executive Committee**, which **derives its powers** from the **membership** and functions through an **appointed Secretariat**.

### MEET THE CURRENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

	<p><b>PRESIDENT</b>  <u>Justify Shava</u>, a plant breeder currently a tobacco breeder with the Tobacco Research Board based at Kutsaga Research Station</p>		<p><b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>  <u>Rudo Masvodza</u>, currently a full time plant breeding and biotechnology PhD student with the University of Free State</p>
	<p><b>SECRETARY</b>  <u>Dr. Xavier Mhike</u>, a plant breeder currently a Research Scientist (maize breeding) with Pioneer Overseas Corporation</p>		<p><b>TREASURER</b>  <u>Nakai Matongerera</u>, a crop breeder with the Crop Breeding Institute of DR&amp;SS</p>
	<p><b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>  <u>Dr. Joseph Mushonga</u>, a plant breeder currently a deputy director with Community Technology Development Trust</p>		<p><b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>  <u>Dr. Shorai Dari</u>, a plant breeder currently a lecturer with the Dept of Crop science, University of Zimbabwe</p>

	<p><b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>  <u>Tambudzai Muchokomori</u>, a Plant Breeders Rights Officer with Seed Services Institute of DR&amp;SS</p>		<p><b>COMMITTEE MEMBER</b>  <u>Dean Muungani</u>, a plant breeder currently a group product development manager with Seed Co</p>
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**2. IN THE NEWS**

**CELEBRATING ZPBA HISTORY MAKERS**

A word from the first INDIVIDUAL DONOR to ZPBA



**University of Zimbabwe Marondera College of Agriculture Sciences and Technology (UZMCAST) working towards climate change resilience among smallholder farmers**

By Benhildah P. Masuka (PhD), Plant Breeder  
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UZMCAST, soon to be Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUAUST), trains BSc in Agriculture Sciences and Technology (Crop and Animal Sciences). Students will specialize in Agronomy, Breeding, Horticulture, Animal Health, Animal Nutrition and Meat Sciences. Situated on a productive farm with various crop and livestock enterprises as well as support facilities including functional engineering workshop and laboratories with state of the art equipment, UZMCAST has the facilities for augmenting theoretical learning with practice in both the crop and animal sciences.

The breeding programme will cover, in addition to basic genetics and breeding courses, Molecular Breeding, Biotechnology, Seed Technology and Seed Business Management to produce holistic breeders and seed systems specialists. UZMCAST is working towards technologies that enable farmers to adapt to climate change induced and other



challenges. The breeding programme established during the 2015/16 season aims to develop climate ready drought resilient maize varieties with improved water and nutrient use efficiency for Zimbabwe and the Southern Africa region.

While still developing climate ready varieties, to support the seed technology effort, UZMCAST scientists are disseminating resource use efficient technologies including utilising drip irrigation, soil fertility improvement cultural practices and intensive land use supported with farmer training in agronomy, farm management and other farming aspects. UZMCAST is working closely with large and small scale commercial as well as small holder farmers surrounding the institution and around Zimbabwe to ensure technology developed through research reaches and benefits stakeholders.

UZMCAST is striving towards sustainable climate ready farming systems for better farming business, livelihoods and food security.

## **ANNOUNCING A NEW PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION SYSTEM under ARIPO**

### **THE ARUSHA PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS & REGULATIONS FOR ARUSHA PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**

The Protocol was concluded in July 2015 but has not yet entered into force because ARIPO has not secured ratification or accession from the required minimum number of countries. If a variety is registered in one state this Plant Variety Protection System allows for protection in other ARIPO states/ countries if a breeder wishes.

The accompanying regulations are still under consideration. Plans are to have them finalised and have them signed onto by end of 2016.

For more information contact:

- The Head, Seed Services Institute of the DR&SS, 5<sup>th</sup> Street extension, Harare, Zimbabwe. Tel: +263 4 7720307 Telfax: 263 4 791232
- The Director General ARIPO, 11 Natal Road, Belgravia, Harare, Zimbabwe. Tel +263 4 794054/65/66 Email: [mail@aripo.org](mailto:mail@aripo.org) Website: [www.aripo.org](http://www.aripo.org)

## **OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

The organic agriculture sector is growing worldwide. In Zimbabwe there is a growing presence of organic food products on the supermarket shelves and the exports of organic products are also increasing. Is it not time to start evaluating varieties for adaptation to organic production systems or even develop varieties for this niche market. Then why not contact ZOPPA Trust for a chat.

For more information contact

ZOPPA Trust, 56 Marlborough Drive, Marlborough, Harare, Zimbabwe. Tel: +263 4 300901/300573. Mobile: +263 712 619537. Email [fortunate@zoppa.org.zw](mailto:fortunate@zoppa.org.zw)



## A CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**New Business Models for Legume Seed:** A Conference on seed systems for resilience and nutrition in Baltimore/Washington DC USA January 18 & 19 2017. Abstracts by November 25, 2016 and papers by January 10, 2017. Funding for those presenting and those selected as discussants. Link [www.seedsystems.org/events/](http://www.seedsystems.org/events/) For more information contact [coordinator@seedsystems.org](mailto:coordinator@seedsystems.org) ZPBA can forward the call for abstracts to you

### 3. OPPORTUNITIES

1. Scholarships link: [www.afterschoolafrica.com/scholarship/by-country/usa](http://www.afterschoolafrica.com/scholarship/by-country/usa)
2. Want general and specialised courses on intellectual property or sharpening negotiation skills, on offer are Masters degree programs (with one currently running at Africa University, Mutare Zimbabwe), Distance/ E-learning courses, Summer school programs visit [www.wipo.int/academy/en/](http://www.wipo.int/academy/en/)

### 4. WHAT ZPBA EXPECTS FROM MEMBERS

- ✚ Paid-up membership
- ✚ Participate in activities e.g. sponsor a branded event in honour of your product or outstanding professional, sponsor an award to promote healthy competition & excellence, make presentations, attend events, be part of the leadership
- ✚ Help shape ZPBA into an association you will be proud to be associated with
- ✚ The ZPBA Newsletter currently has 3 issues per year (end April, end August, end December). Send your contribution by the 21<sup>st</sup> of April/ August/ December

### 5. WANT TO BECOME A ZPBA MEMBER

**Membership** to the association is **open to all Zimbabwean professionals** and **corporates** actively involved with or interested in any activity **involving scientific plant breeding** in Zimbabwe based locally or abroad following application to and approval by the Council. Members should accept terms and conditions of the association and pay up subscriptions. The categories and **2016 annual membership fees** are as follows:

i. Ordinary membership	<b>\$100.00</b>
ii. Student membership	<b>\$10.00</b>
iii. Retired membership	<b>\$50.00</b>
iv. Corporate membership	<b>\$250.00</b>

***The fees can be paid quarterly or half-yearly but this will attract an extra \$5.00 charge.***

### 6. ZPBA CONTACT DETAILS

ZPBA mobile phone: + 263 (0)784 618719 :

ZPBA email: [zimplantbreedersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:zimplantbreedersassociation@gmail.com)

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