

PMRC ANALYSIS OF THE FARMER INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP) & E-VOUCHER

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PMRC - ZSPA JOINT MEDIA BREAKFAST

START

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POLICY MONITORING AND RESEARCH CENTRE

The Policy Monitoring and Research Centre (PMRC) is a public policy research think tank whose vision is “Unlocking Zambia’s Potential”.

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- Producing high quality, relevant and timely public policy analysis, delivery monitoring and reform proposals.
- Promoting and encouraging informed public debate on critical social and economic policy issues critical to national development.



To deliver its mandate, PMRC works with, and leverages from the programmatic, information, communication and outreach networks of various institutions and organisations. These include governmental, civil society and citizen groups. This approach of collaboration has enhanced PMRC’s relevance to national development through awareness of public policy.



ABOUT PMRC



- Overview of PMRC's research on the FISP Report:

PMRC Outputs in the Agriculture sector?



Farmer Input Support Programme - **Infographic**



Delivery of Farming inputs in Agricultural strongholds - **Research Report**

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Importance of Agriculture:



Estimated that approximately

1.6 MILLION
SMALL-SCALE FARMS

&

1,000
LARGE-SCALE FARMS

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

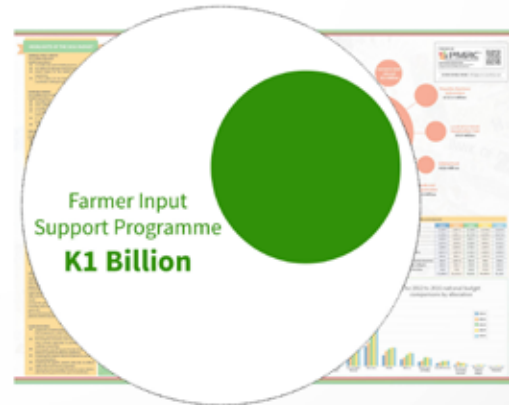
Agriculture is under PMRC's Natural Resources Thematic Area.

The aim of the Research was to assess the efficiency with which farming inputs are distributed in along the farming belts.



EVOLUTION OF FISP

- This was first introduced in 2001 as the Fertilizer Support Programme (FSP), it was later revised and renamed in 2009, to Farmer Input Support Programme, (FISP).
- This was done in order to increase the efficiency of input use by farmers and increase the number of beneficiaries to **1,000,000**.
- Under FISP the input pack size given to farmers was reduced from eight (8) 50-kilogram (50kg) bags of fertilizer and 20 kilograms (20kg) bags of maize seed to four (4) 50 kilogram bags (50kg) of fertilizer and 10 kilogram (10kg) bags of maize seed.
- In 2016 Government has allocated **K 1 Billion** towards FISP



EVOLUTION OF FISP



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INTRODUCTION OF THE E-VOUCHER SYSTEM

- 1 The E- voucher system is being piloted during the 2015/2016 farming season. This is meant to operate with the FISP in an effort to improve its efficiency.
- 2 The E-voucher system uses a **mobile delivery and tracking system** to distribute subsidized products through private-sector suppliers to targeted farmers.
- 3 This involves a web - based system that can be accessed on **mobile phones**.
- 4 This allows for real time registration of beneficiaries and electronic payment to the **agro dealer and retail agents** who distribute the products.
- 5 Under the e-voucher system, beneficiaries are targeted just as they would be under the current FISP system. The beneficiaries then receive a Voucher Scratch Card (VSC), which is **linked** to their specific National Registration Card (NRC) number.
- 6 This scratch card entitles the beneficiary to a specified array of agricultural inputs and implements. The cards are redeemed at nearby **retail agro-dealer outlets**.
- 7 On confirmation of the transaction, which is done by entering the scratch card number and beneficiary's NRC number through their cell phone, the agro-dealer receives instant payment to their online account.



INTRODUCTION OF THE E-VOUCHER SYSTEM



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METHODOLOGY

SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH



The main sources of data were primary sources and these included key informant interviews with small-scale farmers in **8 districts in 5 provinces**

The research covered the following areas; North-Western, Western, Southern, Lusaka and Copperbelt provinces. These areas were selected because they are at the core of Zambia's agricultural activity. Data collection was conducted in **8 districts: Chongwe, Chisamba, Mazabuka, Livingstone, Kaoma, Mpongwé and Solwezi**

The constituencies were selected strategically taking into account on-going farming activities. The selection also took into account the presence of **Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) Offices**. The PMRC research teams leveraged on the presence of ZNFU offices to effectively locate farmers and access information.



METHODOLOGY



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FINDINGS



The farmers reported having a fair experience. Farmers indicated that they had received inputs both **late and early in the past farming seasons**

Farmer also reported that businessmen and commercial farmers were using small-scale farmers to **purchase inputs and resale them by paying for their cooperative membership fees** and initial contribution to FISP

Farmers acknowledged the presence of extension services, however they reported that these were inadequate and requested enhanced support through the establishment of Agricultural Centre'

General awareness on registration of Cooperatives and literacy levels among small-scale farmers especially, those in remote areas proved to be a challenge in the establishment of new setting cooperatives



FINDINGS



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AREAS OF CONCERN:



1. Support infrastructure: The e-voucher system is currently being piloted on a ZNFU platform.

- i. Not all farmers and farmer organisations will be members of ZNFU
- ii. This is a web based application- internet connectivity and accessibility maybe a challenge to smallholder farmers

2. Need for government to ensure that agro-dealers prices are monitored and farmers in remote and distant places are not disadvantaged



PMRC RECOMMENDATION

PMRC urges the Government to enhance the effectiveness of FISP through monitoring and evaluation as well as supervision during the utilization of the distributed inputs. This will assist the government to assess the program's effectiveness as well as identify the optimal inputs required for farmers to graduate from the program.

PMRC encourages Government to enhance efforts to provide technical support through improved extension services and equip cooperatives with skills to train farmers so as improve input utilization.

PMRC urges the Government to expedite the implementation of the e-voucher system, as this will end delays in delivery of inputs and allow for diversification in the inputs received. This will improve the accessibility to inputs as farmer can access them from local dealers.

END...



THANK YOU

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