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Dear Stakeholders, Partners, Clients and Friends of the AKTC, on 1st of August 2014 the Zambian – German Agricultural Knowledge & Training Centre started its work.

Three long-term experts are setting up the AKTC. From Zambia Mr. Martin Sikanyika, the machinery specialist; from Zimbabwe Mr Leslie de Jager, the plant production specialist and from Germany Mr Helmut Anschuetz, the team leader, who worked as a farm-manager and as an advisor for organisational development in Eastern and Southern Africa.

With the start on 1st of August, the team introduced themselves to the partners and stakeholders in Zambia and did a first survey of the agricultural conditions on GART's Chaloshi Farm. Soil sampling was carried out to develop a production plan for the first season.

In September, all three experts travelled to the DEULA Nienburg in Germany. Here they received an exclusive two-week training course. The private sector partners provided machinery similar to the machinery at the Centre in Zambia to the DEULA Nienburg on which Martin, Leslie and Helmut were trained in order to pass on the knowledge to the Zambian trainees.

But the visit in Germany was not only for training purposes. The experts had also the opportunity to visit Europe's largest potato show near Hannover - the Potato Europe - where they met with the representatives of the private sector partners.

Being back in Zambia, the first machinery was delivered to the Centre. So far two tractors, a plough, a harrow, a boom

sprayer, a cultivator and a seed drill were handed over.



M. Sikanyika, H. Anschuetz, L. de Jager (AKTC) and C. Bachnicke (DEULA Nienburg)

Still to come are the potato machinery, plant protection chemicals, fertiliser spreaders, trailers, irrigation equipment, seed potatoes and a combine harvester.

In the coming weeks, the Centre is looking forward starting to work with the brand new and state of the art machinery from Europe. Land preparation, the design of field trials and planting is now first priority. After getting the soybean crop in, the training can start.

About the Centre

The Centre is one of the projects of the bilateral cooperation programme of the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture

(BMEL). It is supported by the Zambian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) on the political level and by the Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust (GART) and the Zambian National Farmers Union (ZNFU) on the implementation level.

The Zambian – German Agricultural Knowledge & Training Centre has its office at GART near Chisamba.

On GART’s commercial arm, Chaloshi farm, the Centre will cultivate soybeans and wheat for demonstrations, field trials and training purposes on 72ha under irrigation. Potato growing and testing of new varieties for Zambia will be an additional activity. Both farms are conveniently located next to the Great North road (T2) some sixty kilometres north of Lusaka.

Partners of the AKTC

AKTC is implemented by a consortium consisting of four German partners. DEULA Nienburg GmbH, an agricultural training institution; the DLG International GmbH, which is specialized in the organisation of agricultural shows and trade fairs all over the globe and the IAK Agrar Consulting GmbH, an independent agricultural consulting company. All these implementing partners are led by the AFC Consultants International GmbH, which provides consulting services to support agricultural, agribusiness and financial sector development in cooperation with public and private sector organizations in developing and transition countries.

In addition to the expertise provided by the implementing consortium, 12 different private sector partners from Germany are supporting the Agricultural Knowledge and Training Centre with the supply of agricultural machinery, plant protection chemicals and potato seeds.

Local Zambian partners who are interested to become a partner to the AKTC are most welcome.

German Private Sector Partners:



Mission and Vision

Together with the private sector partners and the expertise of the implementing consortium, AKTC plans to become a state of the art training centre. It will conduct trainings for machine operators, farm managers, agricultural institutions, farm owners and other players in the industry.

To ensure all training curriculums meet the demand of the participants, ZNFU will conduct a survey among its members to find out which trainings AKTC should provide to interested farmers.

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