

Penn State picked for Zimbabwe project

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State and Penn State have been selected to conduct a \$4.9 million five-year project to assist the University of Zimbabwe in expanding and improving its agricultural programs.

The project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development, will provide assistance to the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Zimbabwe.

The two universities were selected for the program by the United States Agency for International Development, the University of Zimbabwe and the government of Zimbabwe. MSU is the prime contractor and Penn State a subcontractor.

LaMarr Kopp, deputy vice president for international programs at Penn State, indicated that the high quality of the faculty interested in working with Zimbabwean colleagues was a major reason the MSU-Penn State consortium was chosen.

The MSU Institute of International Agriculture will provide the overall leadership for the project. The Institute is an integral unit of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Office of In-

ternational Studies and Programs. Kim A. Wilson, assistant director of the institute and associate professor of animal science, will be program director.

Kirkpatrick Lawton, MSU professor of crop and soil sciences, will be the project team leader in Zimbabwe.

Coordinating the program for Penn State will be J. Dean Jansma, interim assistant dean and director of International Agricultural Programs.

"Since its independence in 1980, Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) has sought vigorously to strengthen its institutions in all sectors," says Wilson. "Clearly, education at all levels is central to effective development."

He adds that the University of Zimbabwe has a central role in national development and it is the only institution in that country which offers degree training at the undergraduate, masters and doctoral levels.

The assistance program, Wilson explains, is designed to strengthen the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Zimbabwe with higher enrollments, new course offerings, additional facilities and equipment and a larger and better trained faculty.

The project calls for the appointment of 12 long-term specialists to the University of Zimbabwe faculty in the areas of soil sciences, food microbiology, biometrics/ statistics, horticulture, animal science and agricultural economics. There will also be short-term specialists in various fields of agriculture. Ten short-term exchange visits are planned for Zimbabwe faculty to visit international research centers and travel to the United States and other countries. Also, 20 Zimbabwean faculty members will undertake graduate programs leading to their master's degrees.

Wilson says the relationship between MSU and Penn State and Zimbabwe dates back almost two decades. The two U.S. universities and Zimbabwe over those years have cooperated in professional exchanges, and their efforts have been expanded greatly in the past four years.

"This has strengthened our knowledge of and major commitment to Zimbabwean development, a commitment demonstrated by the presidents, deans, department heads and other high officials at both universities," says Wilson. "This commitment has been

strengthened by a core group of African scholars at each university."

"Although each of the American universities has the interest, capability and experience for implementing this project, I believe that our joint efforts will provide a broader resource base for providing the assistance needed by the University of Zimbabwe in this project," Penn State President Bryce Jordan wrote in a letter to Cecil Mackey, president of MSU.

Samuel Smith, dean of the College of Agriculture at Penn State, says his faculty members are enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with the agriculture faculty at the University of Zimbabwe and the nation's Ministry of Agriculture on such a challenging program.

Cooperative activities through MSU's African Studies Center and

Penn State's international programs offices have involved scholars and students working in Zimbabwe and the United States in such areas as agriculture, human medicine, veterinary medicine, social sciences, business and engineering. Also, programs for exchange of scholarly documents and cooperative research have been developed through the African Studies Center at MSU.

Zimbabwe gained its independence from England, April 18, 1980. It has a population of more than 7.6 million and a land area about equal to the state of Montana. About 80 percent of the population relies on farming in some way for its livelihood. Its agriculture is diverse including tobacco, corn, wheat, cotton, sugar cane, soybeans, sorghum, ground nuts, fruits, vegetables, dairy and beef cattle, swine, goats, sheep and poultry.

Milk production drops

HARRISBURG — Milk production in Pennsylvania during March totaled 781 million pounds, down one percent from last year, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The number of milk cows

in the Commonwealth during March averaged 720,000 head, down 17,000 head from a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 1,065 pounds in March, up 10 pounds per cow from a year ago.

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows in the Commonwealth on April 1, 1984 averaged 15.1 pounds per head, up 0.4 pound from the previous year. The value of grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows averaged \$9.15 per hundredweight (cwt.) compared with \$8.00 per cwt in April of 1983.

Total U.S. milk production during March totaled 11.7 billion pounds, three percent less than last year. The number of milk cows averaged 10.9 million head, two percent below a year earlier. Production per cow averaged 1078 pounds, eight pounds less than a year earlier.

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