



# MONITORING & EVALUATION REPORT 2019/20

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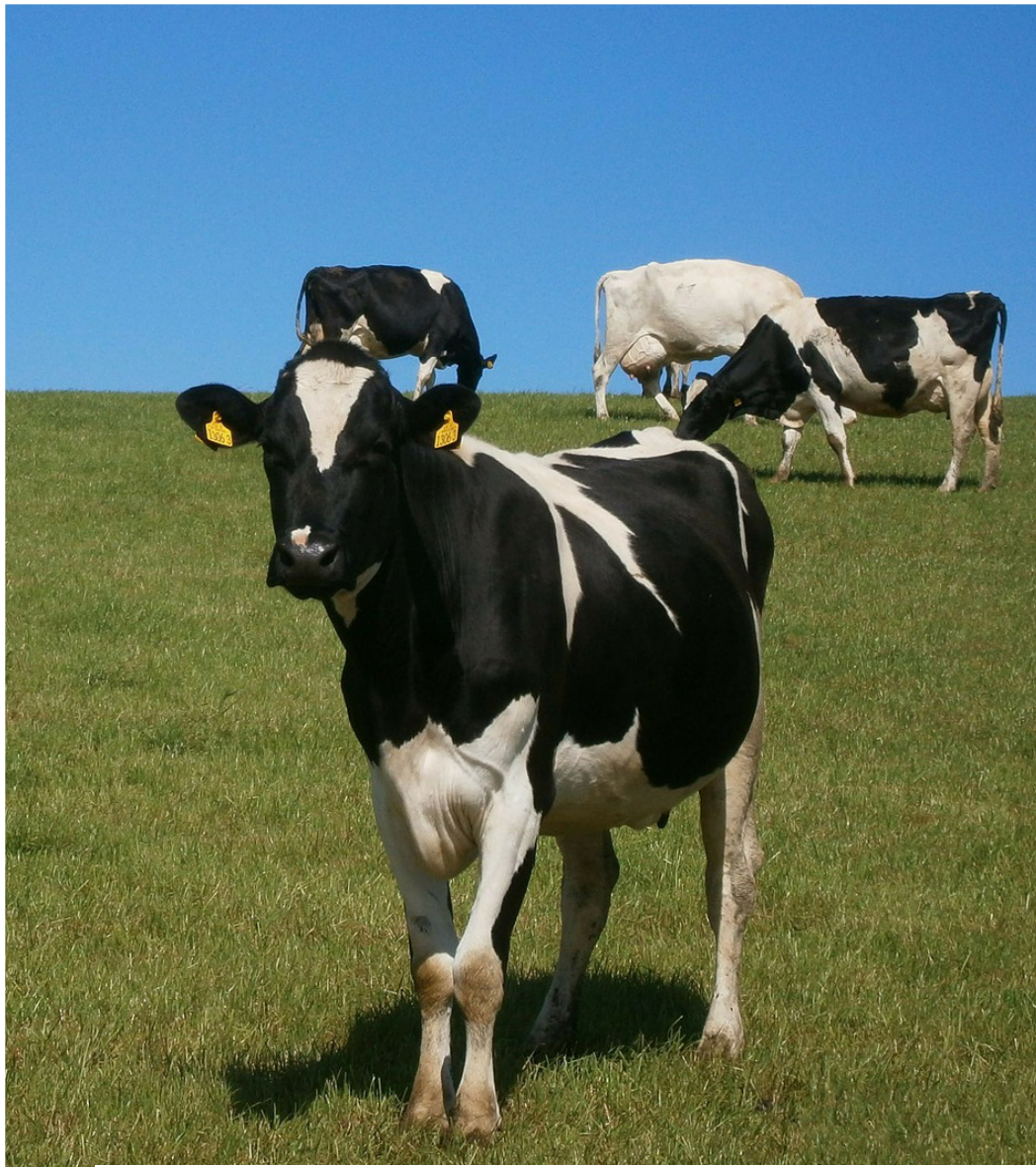
The Smallholder Market Access Research Unit of  
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# MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT



The purpose of this report is to provide the monitoring and evaluation for the projects undertaken by the smallholder market access research unit of the national agricultural marketing council during year 2019/20 financial year.

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Compiled by</b> | The Smallholder Market Access Research Unit of MERC  |
| <b>Date</b>        | March 2020   |
| <b>Objectives</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To track implementation and outputs systematically</li> <li>• To determine exactly when a project is on track and when and where changes may be needed</li> <li>• To measure the effectiveness of the projects</li> </ul> |



# 1. THE SMALLHOLDER MARKET ACCESS TRACKER (SMAT) REPORT

## 1.1. Agenda

The following Table provides information on activities that were undertaken in the SMAT project versus the activity plan that was approved by the Reference Group.

**Table 1: Monitoring of activities**

| Time frame                    | Activities   | Reasons for deviation  | Mitigation                          |
|-------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Quarter<br>Apr – Jun 2019 | • Identify a commodity   | None   | N/A                                 |
|                               | • Refine the indicators<br>• Develop a data collection tool<br>• Sort out ethical clearance issues | The Reference Group meeting was delayed                                  |                                     |
| 2nd Quarter<br>Jul – Sep 2019 | • Employment of enumerator (when necessary)  | Was not necessary  | NAMC team collected data            |
|                               | • Data collection  | Delayed stakeholder engagement, lack of finance and poor online response | Telephone interviews were conducted |
| 3rd Quarter<br>Oct – Dec 2019 | • Collate data<br>• Analyse data   |  |                                     |
| 4th Quarter<br>Jan – Mar 2020 | • Produce a report   | None   | N/A                                 |

NB: The colour coding indicates whether the activity was carried out on time. Bad = Not within the time frame and not even in the following quarter, Neutral = Not within the time frame, but soon enough to allow for activities in the following quarter to go on, Good = Within the time frame. N/A = Not applicable

|  |         |
|--|---------|
|  | Bad     |
|  | Neutral |
|  | Good    |

## 1.2. Specific Issues

The Reference Group serves as an advisory body and provides oversight on the implementation. Hence, delayed interaction between the Reference Group and the NAMC team tends to have a negative effect on the subsequent activities thereby increasing the risk of deviation in the deadline for the final report.

The SMAT report itself has some shortcomings, mainly in terms of the sample size and the spread of farmers. This was mainly due to lack of funding (see inputs on the M & E framework).

## 1.3. General observations

The SMAT team and the Reference Group timeously applied some mitigation measures (as indicated in Table 1) to ensure that the end goal of producing the report by March 2020 is met. However, these measures may or may not be sufficient, particularly the issue of sampling. The extent of this will be verified by the response of the Reference Group (approve or not approve the report), as well as stakeholder engagements that will follow.

## 1.4. Concluding remarks

Planning is critical, particularly with regards to Reference Group meetings. This alone could reduce the extent of other issues that have been identified.

Resource allocation is also critical to ensure compliance with general procedures of compiling baselines, among other things.

## 1.5. List of supporting documents (will be made available on the NAMC website)

- SMAT broiler baseline report
- Monitoring & evaluation framework for SMAT
- Activity plan (available on request)

# 2. THE GDARD EXTENSION PROJECT REPORT



## 2.1. Agenda

The following Table provides information on activities that were undertaken in the GDARD project versus the activity plan that was approved by the steering committee.

**Table 2: Monitoring of activities**

| Time frame  | Activities   | Reasons for deviation  | Mitigation  |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1st Quarter<br>Apr – Jun 2019   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project inception</li> <li>• Abstracts for the GDARD annual symposium</li> <li>• Desktop study</li> </ul> | None   | N/A   |
| 2nd Quarter<br>Jul – Sep 2019   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designing of a questionnaire</li> <li>• Survey plan</li> </ul>  | There was an issue of capacity following the resignation of one team member (NAMC), exacerbated by the fact that there were still amendments to be made on the previous project report | The position was advertised                       |
|   |  | There were delays regarding the appointment of the project manager by GDARD  | The project manager was appointed                 |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration of the MSc student</li> </ul>  | None   | N/A   |
| 3rd Quarter<br>Oct – Dec 2019   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection</li> <li>• Data collation and analysis</li> </ul>   | Due to delays in quarter 2   | N/A   |
| 4th Quarter<br>Jan – Mar 2020   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce an annual progress report</li> </ul>  | None   | N/A   |
| NB: The colour coding indicates whether the activity was carried out on time. Bad = Not within the time frame and not even in the following quarter, Neutral = Not within the time frame, but soon enough to allow for activities in the following quarter to go on, Good = Within the time frame. N/A = Not applicable |  |  | <div>Bad</div> <div>Neutral</div> <div>Good</div> |

## 2.2. Specific Issues

There is still time to catch up with the deadlocks. However, all the subsequent activities for the 2020/21 financial year will be disrupted. These include papers presented in local and international conferences as well as peer review articles.

## 2.3. General observations

There may be a need to request for extension, unless the GDARD would allow the publication to follow even after the project is closed in March 2021.

## 2.4. Concluding remarks

Planning will be the key to make up the lost time, and if need be, the application for extension needs to be effected on time.

## 2.5. List of supporting documents (available on request)

- Annual progress report
- Activity plan





# GET IN TOUCH

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