

Tobacco Chronicle

A Shasha Tobacco Newsletter

Shasha Tobacco recognizes its outstanding growers in Mashonaland Central Province.



All roads led to Katumba Farm in the Matepatepa area of Mashonaland Central Province on the 7th of August, where Shasha Tobacco held a growers' awards event for its three regions. Shasha Tobacco's Mashonaland Central award ceremony was supported by its partners, CBZ Risk Advisory Services and Econet Insurance, who sponsored some of the awards. The event was well attended by Shasha Tobacco growers from across Matepatepa. Shasha Tobacco's insurance partners, CBZ Risk Advisory Services and Econet Insurance, were present, as were representatives of stakeholders in the tobacco sector, including TIMB, TRB and AGRITEX. **Cont on page 2**



Cont from page 1: The event began with presentations from Shasha Tobacco's agronomy department, which shared key insights on successful tobacco production. Speakers from CBZ Risk Advisory Services and Econet Insurance explained how tobacco insurance works and the importance of always having insurance. Speakers from TIMB, TRB and AGRITEX emphasized the importance of good agricultural practices (GAP) in tobacco production, particularly conducting stalk destruction within stipulated timelines. The keynote address was delivered by Shasha Tobacco's Operations Director, Augustine Ajento. In his address, Mr Ajento encouraged tobacco growers to adopt sustainable tobacco production and to shun child labor in all its forms.

The presentation of awards followed the keynote address; Mr Ajento was joined by representatives from CBZ Risk Advisory Services and Econet Insurance in handing out the awards. The biggest winners of the day were 2 High-Performance Growers, one chosen from Shasha Tobacco's Muurwi floor and the other from the Harare floor. These High-Performance Growers each walked away with a diesel-powered walking tractor, some tools and a certificate. Three long-serving growers, one from each of Shasha Tobacco's three regions in Mashonaland Central, were also honoured;

-each grower walked away with an ox-drawn plough, some fertilizers and tools. Outstanding growers, one from each of Shasha Tobacco's three regions in Mashonaland Central, were also honoured, each receiving some fertilizers and tools. Many consolation prizes were also won on the day.

The much-anticipated soccer tournament took place after the official awards ceremony. It pitted the Shasha Tobacco team against three local teams: Katumba, Butcombe and Granta. The first match saw Shasha Tobacco outclassed by Butcombe, whilst Katumba beat Granta 1 – 0. The final match, which pitted Butcombe and Katumba, saw Butcombe walk away 3 – 1 victors to become the winners of the tournament. Butcombe was presented with a trophy, winners' medal and a soccer kit courtesy of Shasha Tobacco, CBZ Risk Advisory Services and Econet Insurance.



Butcombe, winners of the soccer tournament

Super El Niño: Remain calm and implement the necessary adjustments



A drought stressed tobacco crop

A Super El Niño has been forecast for the 2026–27 cropping season, leaving tobacco growers worried in light of the devastating drought experienced during the 2023–24 cropping season. But what exactly is a Super El Niño?

What is a Super El Niño?

A Super El Niño is a very strong El Niño event. It is a climate shock that alters weather patterns and can affect rainfall and storm movements for a year or more. Sea surface temperatures are expected to rise by 2–3°C above average, leading to shifts in storm activity and rainfall distribution across the world.

Effects of Super El Niño

Super El Niño affects different parts of the world in different ways. In some regions, it causes flooding, while in others it leads to drought. In Zimbabwe and other Southern African countries, it often brings droughts and mid-season dry spells. It also causes temperatures to rise, making conditions hotter than normal. In addition, water shortages may occur, and patterns of human, livestock, and crop diseases may also change. **Cont on page 4**



A waterbody drying up as a result of El Niño induced drought, causing water shortages

Shasha Logistics

Providing end-to-end transport and logistics services for Shasha Tobacco and external clients



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Implications of Super El Niño for tobacco growers

The forecast Super El Niño is likely to result in below-normal rainfall, droughts, and mid-season dry spells, which may cause moisture stress and crop failure. Temperatures are also expected to rise, putting tobacco crops at risk of heat stress. Water shortages will affect irrigation and seedling production for the following season. Changes in pest and disease patterns may increase the prevalence of some pests and diseases while reducing others.



Potholing between twin ridges of tobacco

What tobacco growers must do to counter Super El Niño

Tobacco growers should not panic. Instead, they should make the necessary adjustments. These include choosing drought-tolerant and early-maturing varieties, as well as carrying out deep ploughing and timely land preparation to conserve moisture. Seedlings should be well hardened so they can withstand extreme heat and prolonged dry periods.

The direction of ridges, potholes, and tie-ridges should also be considered, as these help reduce runoff and increase water percolation. Cultural practices such as weeding must be done carefully to reduce competition for moisture, and topping height may need to be lowered to help crops cope with water stress.

Nzira yekusuitsa zvichemo



Shasha Tobacco ine nzira yekuisa zvichemo kana kumhan'ara mhosua pachishandiswa nhare. Zvichemo izvi zvinosanganisira zuese zvine chekuita nekurima fodya zuamungade kuzivisa Shasha. Pakumhan'ara mhosua kana kuisa zvichemo veShasha havabuunze zita remunhu amhan'ara. Shandisa nhare yemahara inoti:

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Zuamungade kuziva pambeu dzakapihwa neShasha Tobacco mumwaka wa2026-27

Mwaka wa 2026-27 urikutarisirwa kuti ungangoita muura shoma nokuda kwe Super El Niño; nokudaro, Shasha Tobacco yakatora mbeu dze Kutsaga Seeds dzinogona kushingirira kushomeka kwemuura (drought-tolerant varieties). Mbeu dzakapihwa neShasha ndedzinoti: KRK26R, KRK75, T79 ne T81.

KRK26R

- KRK26R imbeu inokurumidza kukura uye ichizokurumidzawo kuibva zuichireva kuti inoti mhanyei pakutyorwa kwayo.
- Mbeu inokwanisa kupa goho rakakura rinodarika 3 500 kg/ha kana yarimwa nemadiridziro uye ichishandwa zuakanaka, asi kana ichinge yarimwa nemuura yemudenga inogona kusvika pa 2 000 kg/ha.
- KRK26R inokwanisa kushingirira kushomeka kwemuura uye haiwanzo kurumidze kuita maruwa kana muura ikaite shoma.
- KRK26R inokwanisa kushingirira zuirwere zuakaita se Angular Leaf Spot, Tobacco Mosaic Virus ne White Mould.
- KRK26R inobuditsa fodya yakaita chena (lemon styles) kana ikapiswa zuakanaka, kotiwu mashizha ekumusoro anokwanisa kubuditsa fodya chena (lemon styles) ne yakatsuukira (orange styles).

KRK75

- KRK75 imbeu inononoka kukura uye ichizononoka kuibva zuichireva kuti inoti nonokei pakutyorwa kwayo, nokudaro inoda nzuimbo dzinonaya muura yakawanda.
- Mbeu inokwanisa kupa goho rakakura rinodarika 4 000 kg/ha kana yarimwa nemadiridziro uye ichishandwa zuakanaka, asi kana ichinge yarimwa nemuura yemudenga inogona kusvika pa 2 000 kg/ha.
- KRK75 inokwanisa kushingirira kushomeka kwemuura uye inokurumidza kudzokera panzuimbo kana ikwana muura mushure mekumboishaiwa kwenguva refu.
- KRK75 inokwanisa kushingirira zuirwere zuakaita se Wildfire Leaf Spot, Tobacco Mosaic Virus uye inoshingirira kurumwa netumbuyu twema root-knot nematodes
- KRK75 inobuditsa fodya yakatsuukira kunyaya (orange styles) ne fodya chena apo neapo (lemon styles). **Cont on page 6**

Cont from page 5:

T79

- T79 imbeu inokurumidza kukura zuakanyanya asi ichiibua zviripakati nepakati. Mbeu yakauchikirwa kurimwa kunzuimbo dzinonaya muura shoma.
- Mbeu inokwanisa kupa goho rakakura rinodarika 2 500 kg/ha kana yarimwa nekuriritirwa nenzira dzakanaka.
- T79 inokwanisa kushingirira kushomeka kwemuura uye kupisa kwezuva nokudaro inokwanisa kurimwa kunzuimbo dzinonaya muura shoma.
- T79 inokwanisa kushingirira zvirwere zuakaita se Black shank, Alternaria, Tobacco Mosaic Virus uye inoshingirira kurumwa netumbuyu twema root-knot nematodes.
- T79 inobuditsa fodya yakachena (lemon styles) kana ichinge yapiswa zvakanaka.



Mbeu ye Kutsaga Seeds ye T79



Mbeu ye Kutsaga Seeds ye T81

T81

- T81 imbeu inokurumidza kukura zuakanyanya asi ichiibua zviripakati nepakati. Mbeu yakauchikirwa kurimwa kunzuimbo dzinonaya muura shoma.
- Mbeu inokwanisa kupa goho rakakura rinodarika 2 500 kg/ha kana yarimwa nekuriritirwa nenzira dzakanaka.
- T81 inokwanisa kushingirira kushomeka kwemuura uye kupisa kwezuva nokudaro inokwanisa kurimwa kunzuimbo dzinonaya muura shoma.
- T81 inokwanisa kushingirira zvirwere zuakaita se Tobacco Mosaic Virus uye inoshingirira kurumwa netumbuyu twema root-knot nematodes.
- T81 inobuditsa fodya yakatsvukira kunyaya (orange styles) ne fodya chena apo neapo (lemon styles).

Compliance with minimum barn standards is essential for effective energy conservation

The Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board (TIMB) has established industry minimum barn standards under its Contractors' Compliance Administration Framework as part of its sustainability requirements. These standards require every tobacco grower to have at least two barns with a minimum combined curing capacity of 800 strings for every hectare of tobacco grown. In addition, each tobacco barn must have a furnace door that adequately covers the furnace, barn doors made of steel, wood, or PVC tarpaulin/canvas, a V-slot furnace, and a chimney that extends at least 30 cm above the height of the barn roof.



A chimney that extends at least 30 cm above the height of the barn roof.

Maintaining at least two barns with a combined curing capacity of 800 strings per hectare ensures that growers have sufficient curing capacity. The V-slot furnace helps barns use less curing fuel, whether firewood or coal, thereby improving energy efficiency. A properly fitted furnace door supports complete combustion of the curing fuel, which also enhances efficiency. Likewise, a chimney that extends at least 30 cm above the roof promotes complete combustion and further improves energy efficiency.

Improved energy efficiency is essential in tobacco curing because it promotes energy conservation and helps protect the environment. It also reduces the carbon footprint of tobacco production and lowers production costs by reducing the amount of curing fuel required for each kilogram of cured tobacco. For these reasons, every tobacco grower should adhere to the set industry minimum barn standards.

Ideal seedlings form the foundation of successful tobacco production

Seedlings are the foundation of a successful tobacco crop, and every grower needs high-quality seedlings to produce high-quality tobacco. It is therefore important for tobacco growers to pay close attention to seedling production to ensure that the seedlings are healthy and well developed.



An ideal tobacco seedling

Every tobacco grower should aim to produce ideal seedlings with the following characteristics:

- Uniform seedlings that are enough to cover the required hectarage
 - No more than 8–10 visible leaves
 - A stem of pencil thickness
 - A length of 15–17 cm from the root crown to the bud
 - Free from pest and disease damage
 - Healthy, with a strong root system
- Well hardened

Shasha ALP Code

Shasha Tobacco's Agriculture Labour Practices (ALP) code outlines a framework of guidelines, regulations, and laws that shape employment practices and working conditions in the agricultural sector. Its primary goal is to uphold fair and safe labour practices in tobacco production, with a specific focus on critical issues such as child labour, forced labour, workers' rights, and health and safety measures in the workplace. Rooted in Zimbabwe's labour laws and aligned with international labour standards and conventions from the International Labour Organization (ILO), this code is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of farmers, workers, and their families.

Raphael Kamutsamombe, murimi weShasha wechidiki akazuininipisa, anoshanda nekuzuipira

Kunzuimbo yeMahwada, iri kwaMudzimu mudunhu reHurungwe kuMashonaland West kune murimi wechidiki anonzi Raphael Kamutsamombe. Mukomana uyu akatanga kurima neShasha Tobacco mugore ra 2021 apo akashanda zuakaomarara kugadzira chikwata chevarimi veShasha kuMahwada, panguva iyi vachirimiswa namudhumeni Jeremiah Gwema. Raphael akabua angoita iye mutungamiri wevarimi veShasha Tobacco kuMahwada. Panguva yaaitungamira chikwata chevarimi veShasha kuMahwada, Raphael akange achiri mwana wechikoro asi akange asuitsa zera rinotenderwa nemitemo kuti aite zuekurima fodya.



Raphael arimumunda wefodya, kuMahwada

Raphael akaratidza kuve mutungamiriri akarongeka nekuti chikwata chevarimi veShasha kuMahwada icho chaaitungamira chakave nembiri yekubhadhara zuikwereti uye kuendesa -

-fodya yakawanda kumusika. Kunyaya dzechikoro, Raphael akabubirira zuaimwisa muura akakwanisa kuenda kuchikoro chedzidzo yepamusoro che Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) uko ari kudzidza parinhasi. Kurima fodya neShasha Tobacco kuri kuita kuti Raphael akwanise kuenda kuchikoro uye kuri kuunza pundutso kumhuri yake.

Hupenyu hwemhuri yaRaphael hwavandudzika zuikuru kubva zuaatanga kurima neShasha Tobacco. Raphael, achishanda namai vake akakwanisa kuvandudza zuivakwa zuepamusha, kutenga rori nechigayo zuese izvi zvichibua mukurima fodya. Pari zvino Raphael ave mugore rekupedzisira rezvidzidzo zuake asi achingori mutungamiri we chikwata chevarimi veShasha kuMahwada vachishanda namudhumeni Stanford Gavaza. Raphael anekutenda kukuru kuShasha Tobacco nekushanda kwaaita nayo kwemakore uye kunzwisisa kwavanomuita semurimi wechidiki ari zuekare pazvidzidzo.



Shasha Tobacco soccer team, at Katumba



Mr Ajento delivering his keynote address



Kudzi Mangadze, at an event at Katumba



Award winners posing with their prize

Zuiziviso zverufu

Tine hurombo kuzivisa ndufu dzevarimi veShasha vanotevera:

- Raineti Mutyavaviri wekuGuruve uyo akashaika muna August 2026
- Bhekithemba Nyika wekuChitawapfeni group uyo akashaika muna July 2026
- Sazini Malandu wekuChesa group uyo akashaika muna July 2026

Se Shasha Tobacco tinoti kumhuri dzakarasikirwa idzi nyaradzwai nalshe wekudenga