

Zimbabwe Plant Breeders Association

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 of 2016

4/30/2016

ZPBA NEWSLETTER issue 1/2016

ZPBA is a **membership-based, not-for-profit, non-political, professional association** of Zimbabweans based locally or abroad active or interested in plant breeding and/or plant breeding-related fields (e.g. seed agronomist, seed inspectors, seed technologists, geneticists, germplasm conservation specialists, biotechnologists, molecular biologists, etc) launched on the **26th of January, 2016** at Holiday Inn, Harare.

ZPBA intends to bring together Zimbabwean professionals in the plant breeding and related professions to focus on developing agricultural solutions that contribute to agricultural and industrial development.

ZPBA is governed by **an elected Executive Committee**, which **derives its powers** from the **membership** and functions through an **appointed Secretariat**.

ZPBA hopes to contribute towards agricultural and industrial development in Zimbabwe through creating a platform for information exchange amongst plant breeders and related professionals, contributing towards policy dialogue, building capacity in both the public and private sector through relevant training.

Need more information or would like to be a member? See the ZPBA introduction document also attached

IN THE NEWS

1. Your ZPBA Governance

ZPBA has an Executive Committee comprising of 8 members and three sub-Committees in line with sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the ZPBA Constitution respectively and these are given below:

a. Executive Committee

President	Mr. Justify Shava (Tobacco Research Board)
Vice President:	Ms Rudo Masvodza (Phd Student, RSA)
Secretary:	Dr. Xavier Mhike (DuPont Pioneer)
Treasurer:	Ms Nakai Goredema (Crop Breeding Institute, DR&SS)
Committee Members:	Dr. Joe Mushonga (Community Technology Development Trust)
	Dr. Shorai Dari (University of Zimbabwe)
	Ms Tambudzai Muchokomori (Seed Services, DR&SS)
	Mr. Dean Muungani (Seed Co)

b. Sub-committees

- | | |
|---|--|
| i. Finance and Administration | Ms Goredema,
Mr Shava,
Dr Mushonga |
| ii. Training and Events | Mr Muungani,
Dr Dari,
Ms Masvodza |
| iii. Membership, Public relations & communication | Dr Mhike,
Ms Muchokomori |

2. How to become a ZPBA Member

Membership to the association is **open to all Zimbabwean professionals and corporates** actively involved with or interested in any activity **involving scientific plant breeding** in Zimbabwe based locally or abroad following application to and approval by the Council. Members should accept terms and conditions of the association and pay up subscriptions. The categories and **2016 annual membership fees** are as follows:

- | | | |
|------|----------------------|-----------------|
| i. | Ordinary membership | \$100.00 |
| ii. | Student membership | \$10.00 |
| iii. | Retired membership | \$50.00 |
| iv. | Corporate membership | \$250.00 |

The fees can be paid quarterly or half-yearly but this will attract an extra \$5.00 charge.

3. The ZPBA Bank Account

If you think opening a Bank Account is a piece of cake, REALLY?? We may ask you to think again and **AGAIN** and **AGAIN**. Not when it is a combination of

- An unregistered/ informal body;
- With no physical address;
- During the time when banks are trying to comply with the latest policy requirements;
- When signatories required to physically show face at the bank during the peak of field visits and selections.

THANKS for bearing with ZPBA, opening a bank account took longer than anticipated. As of April 5, 2016 ZPBA has a bank account.

- Some answers to our modern day challenges are locked up in those seeds you are looking at- **ARISE!!!** The world is waiting for your innovation. Australian breeders have a gluten free barley. Not only that, commercialised first in Germany and not in the home country of Australia- see story on www.csiro.au

UP-COMING

- There is a recently developed module **'Demand-led plant breeding approaches- Implications for cultivar adoption and commercialisation in Africa'** with 7 units. The developers are planning to have training workshops at ILRI/BecA in Kenya during 2016 and 2017. Email ZPBA (zimplantbreedersassociation@gmail.com) if interested and we will keep you posted on developments.
- A series of seminars to further enhance **data handling and presentation** is being put together. Details on topics, dates and venue will be emailed as they are made available

OPPORTUNITIES

7. **FAO e-learning course on pre-breeding :**
Access the e-learning course on pre-breeding at <http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/PB>. Please note that a simple registration is required in order to access the course; mostly, this enables the platform recognize the course taker upon return after a break. You'll notice that the standalone version can also be downloaded; this is particularly useful in situations where internet access is problematic. Access to the course is gratis.
8. Interested in germplasm conservation are you may want to follow the link below
Download the Genebank standards from <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/seeds-pgr/qbs/en/>
9. **Career development opportunities- OWSD PhD fellowships for women scientists under 40. Link:**
<http://owsd.ictp.it/career-development/phd-fellowship>

EXPECTATIONS

Information Dissemination Platforms, Capacity Building, ZPBA website

- A. A platform to disseminate research findings from members is still being developed. Interested members are encouraged to submit proposals on presenting and/or sponsoring a seminar, a public lecture etc to the ZPBA Secretariat
- B. ZPBA is also in the process of identifying training needs for purposes of enhancing members' skills and building members' knowledge base. Send your suggestions on training needs to the ZPBA Secretariat.**
- C. The ZPBA WEBSITE: ZPBA is in the process of developing an interactive website to allow members to contribute research materials, thesis findings, publications etc. The website will also feature interested organisations or institutions. Interested members are encouraged to contact the ZPBA Secretariat with suggestions.
- D. The ZPBA Newsletter currently has 3 issues per year (end April, end August, end December). Send your contribution by the 21st of April/ August/ December**

ZPBA CONTACTS

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You are receiving this e-mail because you are active or interested in plant breeding or plant breeding related field. If not and would not like to continue receiving communication from ZPBA, then email 'unsubscribe' to zimplantbreedersassociation@gmail.com