



NT's Diliah Mutambara hands out certificates of attendance to growers

Sustainability training impacts Northern Tobacco's growers

Northern Tobacco (NT) has recently been rolling out a new training program within its small scale tobacco growing communities in Zimbabwe. The training seeks to bring the Sustainable Tobacco Programme (STP), devised by British American Tobacco (BAT), to the attention of all our tobacco farmers within the six provinces where we contract growers.



Training gets underway

The training gives the farmer the necessary knowledge, motivation, competency and skills required to implement the STP; ensuring a clear understanding of why it has to be done and where improvements need to be made.

NT's Sustainability team holds training sessions within the heart of communities, traveling to remote locations to set up either a central impromptu



Training takes place in either make-shift classrooms or in the open air....

'classroom', or congregate in the open, under a tree. The training aims to attract lively engagement amongst participants, and this participatory approach has proved very successful amongst growers.

The STP includes guiding principles and criteria organized around five focus areas (pillars), namely: Environment, People, Crop, Governance and Facilities. Governance is the foundation of these pillars and incorporates the management processes which need to be in place for implementation success. The STP is therefore impacting a range of knowledge and skills development gaps, which are highlighted during the training to help improve:

- Soil Management on the farm.
- Biodiversity and environmental conservation
- Waste Management.
- Woodfuel Usage.
- Chemical storage and empty containers disposal.
- Pollution control.
- Agricultural Labour practices such as prevention of Child labour in tobacco production.
- Record keeping and personal wealth management



Training sessions encourage participants to play an interactive role - discussions are often lively!

This knowledge helps growers effectively run tobacco production as a business in line with the STP standards, allowing for continued contractual relationship with NT or other input providers and long term success.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Northern Tobacco sponsors students

In 2015 Northern Tobacco helped twelve students from rural communities in Zimbabwe gain sponsorship from UK based Zimbabwe Benefit Foundation to attend Blackfordby Agricultural College. These students have now graduated with Diplomas in Agriculture with outstanding results. Out of the group of twelve, four have won prizes. One particular student, Garikai Nyambuya, not only came first out of the group of 90 graduating students, but also won 10 prizes for outstanding student for individual subjects.

The event was graced by many dignitaries including the guest of honour, Professor Tagura, Vice Chancellor of Africa University.



Garikai Nyambuya receives his award from Professor Tagura

Netball update

Northern Tobacco's women's netball team have continued with their winning streak lately. In their divisional netball league, of the 24 matches they have played, they have lost only two! This puts them top of the league - a remarkable result!



Northern Tobacco womens' netball team

Their talents have caught the eye of selectors with two ladies from the team being selected to represent Harare region under 23, who have won the gold medal for games played this season.

Rift Valley and Delta Beverages collaborate on wellness issues

In June, members of the Wellness Committee embarked on a company exchange visit to Delta Beverages, Zimbabwe's largest drinks manufacturer, in Harare. The visit was a collaboration between the Wellness and CSR departments of both Rift Valley and Delta and proved an opportunity to meet and share ideas and experience on Health and Safety issues and optimizing best practice.

The team had the opportunity to tour the Delta factory and site, engage in a discussion with SHE and Wellness teams, and participate in their quarterly wellness day activities, taking place on the same day. It was an invaluable learning experience for all.



The Wellness teams of Rift Valley and Delta Beverages touring the Delta factory premises