

AKTC PARTICIPATES IN TEVETA'S CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS

By Genius Chabinga and Helmut Anschuetz



From left to right: Genius Chabinga (AKTC), Shiela Zulu (AGCO), Lawrence Hatuma (KIT), Genesis Chombela (Nortec), Simasiku Sangandu (CAMCO), Chansa Nachilima (TEVETA) Peter Nindi (NRDC), Dr. Joseph Chileshe (UNZA).

TEVETA is an institution created under the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Act (No.13 of 1998) read together with TEVET (Amendment) Act No. 11 of 2005. TEVETA oversees the development of national training curricula for all levels of technical trainings in Zambia from certificate level 1-3 to Diploma, these courses run for periods: 3 months, 1 year, 2 years and 3 years respectively.

To achieve this, TEVETA conducts a curricula development review every after five years to review, revise old curricula or develop new curricula of various training programs trained in trade and technical colleges of Zambia.

The functions of TEVETA are defined in the Act as follows:

- Advise the Minister of science and technology on the development of the quality of human resources in Zambia through technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship training
- Develop the national curricula in consultation with all stakeholders
- Set minimum standards and qualifications for any occupation, skill, technology, or trade for institutions in accordance with developments in industry
- Provide guidelines for the development of institutional curricula
- Approve examinations to be taken by persons attending courses at an institution established or registered under this Act
- Regulate and conduct national examinations relating to technical education, vocational and entrepreneurship training
- Charge and collect fees in respect of examinations set under this Act
- Award certificates to persons who succeed in examinations set under this Act
- Guide institutions in preparing rules for the recruitment of students and teachers
- Approve curricula and standards of certificates in institutions established or registered under this Act
- Register institutions
- Cancel the registration of an institution established under this Act; and
- Do all such things connected with or incidental to the functions of the Authority
- Regulate and advise management boards of training institutions
- Regulate and coordinate apprenticeship and trade testing facilities
- Provide technical consultancy to management boards and private training institutions
- Promote the technical capacity of management boards

During the workshop, relevant stakeholders from agricultural training institutions and industry are invited to be the key players in the exercise. The industry representatives provide insight on the expertise lacking in the work force, while training institutions representatives helps determine courses that will provide the knowledge required to fill the lacking expertise.

In this regard TEVETA organized a five (day) workshop from 30th august 2021 to 4th September 2021. Among the curricula set to be reviewed, was the Advanced Certificate in Agricultural Mechanics. This curriculum was developed in 2020 but it was not implemented therefore it required a review before being approved as a study course.

TEVETA mobilized a team of agricultural experts from Zambia's agricultural sector representing both educational training institutions and agricultural industries to review this curriculum. AKTC was one of the invitees and the selected team comprised of the following participants:

1. Dr Joseph Chileshe from University of Zambia (UNZA), School of Engineering.
2. Mr. Peter Nindi from Natural Resources Development College (NRDC), School of Engineering.
3. Mr. Genesis Chombela from Northern Technical College of Zambia (Nortec), School of Engineering.
4. Mr. Lawrence Hatuma from Kabwe Institute of Technology (KIT), School of Engineering.
5. Mr Simasiku Sangandu; machinery expert from CAMCO.
6. Ms Shiela Zulu; agronomy expert/trainer from AGCO cooperation.
7. Mr. Genius Chabinga irrigation expert/training coordinator from Zambian - German Agricultural knowledge and Training Centre (AKTC).
8. Ms Chansa Nachilima; curriculum development expert from (TEVETA).

This team was tasked to develop job profiles and curricula for diploma and trade certificates 1,2 and 3 in Agricultural Mechanics. On day one of the workshop, the team collectively reviewed the syllabus and job profile of Advanced Certificate in Agricultural Mechanics and concluded to upgrade it to Diploma in Agricultural Mechanics.

The conclusion was supported with the argument that holders of advanced certificates across professions fight for same opportunities as mere certificate holders, which is a disadvantage to them having spent more months in school than both level 1 and 2.

Therefore, starting from day two the team worked together to develop a job profile for holders of Certificates and Diploma in Agricultural Mechanics and used it as guide to develop the curriculum. In developing the course outline and content for the three (3) successive years effectively and efficiently, the team was divided into groups of two to work on each successive year of study.

In this regard, the AKTC representative Genius Chabinga was grouped with Mr Genesis Chombela, from NORTEC and together they developed the Farm Mechanization content for year three (3) of Diploma in Agricultural Mechanics curriculum. The training content had the following learning outcomes.

- Servicing and repair of irrigation equipment
- Servicing and repair of harvesting equipment
- Servicing and repair of mowing equipment
- Servicing and repair of agricultural water pumps
- Servicing and repair of food processing equipment



The Team in the workshop room.

By the end of day five, the team had achieved the set objectives. The curriculum and job profiles for Agricultural Mechanic Technicians were successively developed and submitted to TEVETA for a final review before it is adopted as a course, to be trained in Technical Colleges and Trade Schools. The names of the team will feature in the acknowledgement page of the final curriculum documents.

In concluding the workshop, TEVETA thanked the participating parties for sparing their time to participate in this exercise without reserve. In return AKTC, like the others expressed thanks to TEVETA for recognizing and appreciating our roles in Zambia's agricultural sector.

AKTC
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