

Ref: BM/S.2

20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

TO: **ALL LICENCED CONTRACTORS  
TIMB STAFF**

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**INTRODUCTION OF NATURAL AIR-CURING SYSTEMS (“NACS”)**

1. This communication serves to notify members of the Tobacco Industry of the introduction of Natural Virginia Tobacco product by TIMB in line with the Tobacco Value Chain Transformation Plan.
2. Atlas Agri (Private) Limited will be joining TIMB in this new initiative, introducing a Natural Air Curing System (“NACS”) to Zimbabwe’s tobacco industry. These will significantly reduce farmers’ post-harvest yield losses to ultimately improve farmer viability, profitability, and sustainability.
3. The objective of this initiative is to explore the potential for more sustainable tobacco produce via the NACS methodologies which use less fuels/ consume fewer natural resources.
4. The introduction of new systems and practices will also aid in addressing side marketing. Farmers’ cost of production will be reduced, increasing profitability, thereby reducing farmer incentive to side market.
5. By producing a more sustainable product using more natural systems, we believe the local tobacco industry will generate a wider range of qualities for customers on the global market, creating demand and encouraging investment for the ultimate longevity of the Zimbabwean tobacco industry.
6. NACS will allow farmers to reduce losing marketable volume due to barn capacity limitations. If a farmer’s barns are full, they can reap their tobacco into the NACS. Once cold colouring is complete, the tobacco can either be moved into brick barns (if

they are available) or moved onto racks that have been erected for natural curing/  
sun curing.

7. For further details on NACS/ "Chigaffas" kindly contact Atlas Agri (Private) Limited  
at [agronomy@atlasagri.org](mailto:agronomy@atlasagri.org).



**EMMANUEL MATSVAIRE**

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

EM/tc