## Farm Business Financial Management

FINANCIAL PLANNING

# **KEY POINTS**

- Appreciate the importance of financial management in a farming business
- Understand and appreciate the essence of enterprise budgeting
- Prepare a simple enterprise budget
- Understand the purpose of break even analysis
- Calculate the breakeven price and yield
- Prepare a basic cash flow budget

# What is farming business financial management?

- means using limited financial resources in a way that maximizes your return or profit.
- It involves *planning*, *organising*, *directing* and *controlling* the financial activities such as sourcing and utilisation of funds for business to ensure:
- 1.Adequate supply of funds for the business
- 2.Optimum use of funds
- 3. Proper investment of the funds

# Key functions of Farm financial management include :

- Estimation of capital requirements basing on anticipated costs and possible returns
- Making a decision on sources of funds (loans and equity)
- Investment of funds (decisions on the best rewarding enterprises)
- Utilisation of the farming business profits
- Building stocks over time
- Management of finances (wages overheads, purchases, loan repayments )etc.
- Cash flow projections
- Control of funds

# Financial management tools every farmer should USE:

- Enterprise Gross Margin budget
- Whole farm budget
- Partial budget
- Break even analysis
- Cash flow budget
- Sensitivity analysis

# Budgeting

- **NO FARM CAN OPERATE WITHOUT BUDGETS!**
- In making a decision among alternatives, the farmer usually looks at the future outcomes of the different possible choices to come up with a plan which will increase his / her profit.

#### Budgets are used to:

- Decide what, how and when to produce,
- Itemize the financial aspects of the farming business e.g. expected receipts (income) as well as expected costs and therefore determine profit
- List the inputs and production practices required by an enterprise
- Evaluate the performance of different farm enterprises
- Estimate benefits and costs for changes in production practices
- Provide the basis for a total farm plan
- Show the capacity of the farming business to carry the risk
- Support applications for credit (Show the ability of the business to pay the debt)
- Inform all interested parties of the costs incurred in producing an agricultural product

#### **Enterprise Budget**

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Opening Stock (start of year)					Closing Stock (end of year)		
No	Value	Total	Class of stock	No	Value	Total	
2 20 5 15 8 8 15	2,000 400 300 200 300 200 60	4,000 8,000 1,500 3,000 2,400 1,600 900	Bulls Breeding Cows Bulled heifers Heifers 1–2 years Steers 2+ Steers 1+ Calves	2 25 7 15 8 7 17	2,000 400 300 200 300 200 60	4,000 10,000 2,100 3,000 2,400 2,100 1,020	
Birth 17 calves	-			Deaths 1 calf			
Purchases	-			Sales 8 Steers	350	2,800	
Total (A)		21,400		(B)		27,420	
Gross Income( Trading Profit	(A-B)	6,020					
		27,420	TOTAL			27,420	

#### Key terms used in Enterprise Gross Margin analysis

- Gross Income
- > This is the total value of production from an enterprise
- It includes sales, value of produce consumed at home, and value of retained produce.
- Variable costs
- These are production costs that can be directly allocated to a particular enterprise in a production season and they change with the size and scale of production
- Examples are stock feed costs, seed, fertilizers, labour, and agrochemicals
- Gross Margin
- This is Gross Income less total variable costs
- Is a measure of enterprise viability

## Partial Budget

 Partial budget analysis is a marginal analysis that looks at changes that occur in costs and incomes because of marginal changes in a farm programme. It is used to calculate the expected change in profit for a proposed change in the farming business.

REDUCED COSTS (USD) Weeding labour = 600 Depreciation of hoes = 200	ADDITIONAL COSTS (USD) Depreciation of sprayer = 300 Purchase of chemical = 200 Protective clothing = 100
ADDITIONAL INCOME = NII	REDUCED INCOME = Nil
TOTAL = USD 800	TOTAL = 600

#### Break - even Analysis

- breakeven analysis determines the level at which total revenue equals total cost.
- A farmer may ask herself what optimum acreage say maize, she needs to produce viably (break – even area)
- A farmer may also want to know the minimum price per kg that she should charge/ goat in order to cover production costs (break - even price)
- A farmer may also want to know the minimum yield/quantity she could expect per ha of lurcene in order to cover the costs (break – even yield/quantity)

### Break - even production unit

- The minimum production unit (area, herd size, batch size etc) that a farmer should produce in order for him / her to cover all costs over and above variable costs at a given output price and yield.
- Break even area/herd size =Total fixed costs/gross margin

#### example

- A maize farmer has a gross margin per ha of USD300 and overheads of US\$ 6,000. Given that the farmer is paying US\$ 4, 500 towards loan and interest per year, what is the number of hectares required to cover the costs per year.
- Gross margin per ha = 300
  Overheads = 6,000
  Loan payment = 4,500
  Total costs (over heads + loan repayment) = 10,500
  Break even number of ha = 10,500

= 35

Therefore, if the farmer produces on 35 hectares at the above costs and returns, he/she will just cover his/her variable costs, overhead costs and pay back the loan and interest.

## cash flow

Cash flow budget is a forecast of the movement of money into (cash inflows) and out of (cash outflows) the farming business over a given period. A cash flow budget can be used to assess the timing, amount and predictability of future cash flows and it can be the basis for resource utilisation with time

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