

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : April 2016

Ward(s) : Chisina1, 2, 3 &4, Nemangwe3, 4 &5, Njelele1, 2&3, Ngomeni, Sayi, Jiri 1&2

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

The major activity of the month was the hosting of the District Conservation Agriculture field day. The field day was hosted by Mr Titus Mafa of Chisina 2 and attended by 796 people. The field day was graced by the presence of the Deputy Director in the Department of AGRITEX from the ministry of Agriculture in Harare, who was also the guest of honour. Furthermore, the Gokwe South District Administrator and Headman Chisina graced the occasion. There was a significant presence of district government line ministries present namely; the departments of AGRITEX, Mechanisation, Health, Gender, Youth, Home Affairs, Livestock and Veterinary services. Private sector players also provided their weight by supporting the event and Barclays bank, National Tested Seed (NTS), Novatek, Mukushi seeds, Munda Wedu, Farm and City, Gokwe Agric Centre (GAC), IETC, Better Agriculture, Green Trade and CottCo were all present. NGOs around the district also provided their support and there was the presence of MASO, Africare and World Vision.

Generally, the month did not experience much rainfall. Of all the areas in the operational area, it's only Nemangwes that received an average of 20mm that assisted in seeing some late planted crops to mature. Household food security has drastically improved for most areas. The significant rains in the last 2 months also saw the veld and the condition of livestock improving. A bucket of maize is averaging between \$5 and \$6 while sorghum is selling for \$4 and Bambara nuts and groundnuts going for \$8 and \$5 respectively. For those families in dire need of cash for different household needs, they are drying their harvested maize and selling it, prematurely, for \$2.50 to \$5. This coping mechanism was observed in Nemangwe. So far, about, 11t of chillies have been harvested and delivered to Better Agriculture.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

| ACTIVITIES | TARGET | ACHIEVEMENT | OUTSTANDING |
|--|---------|-------------|-------------|
| District CA Field Day | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mung & Sesame field days | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Orange fleshed sweet potatoes harvesting, taste fair and processing training | 4 shows | 4 shows | 0 |
| Granary Construction | 8 | 8 | 0 |

2 PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

2.1 Problems

- Fowl runs space is becoming inadequate for the Boschveld layers especially at night.
- Farmers complaining feed will not last up to the 17th of the month as chicks' consumption is high.

2.2 Solutions undertaken

- It has been agreed that the chicks be given to the beneficiaries as soon as is possible.
- Farmers urged to give only recommended amounts.

3 ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

| PLANNED ACTIVITIES |
|-------------------------------|
| Granary construction |
| Post-harvest training |
| Garden monitoring |
| Boschveld chickens monitoring |