



Activity Progress Consolidated Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : August 2016

Ward(s) : Chisina 1, 2, 3&4, Nemangwe 3, 4&5, Njelele 1, 2&3, Ngomeni, Sayi, Jiri 1&2

Consolidated by : Lewis Ncube

1 BACKGROUND

Temperatures have increased signifying the onset of the summer season. It was observed that grain availability is also dwindling in most wards. Notably grain trading is generally observed within the district. Cotton is being sold in every buying point across the district and availability and circulation of cash has slightly increased in the district. This might mean increased grain stocking for some households.

Horticultural activities dominated during the reporting month. These activities provide for, both, household incomes and nutritional aspect. Furthermore, grain banking monitoring was done for those communities that were still not through.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
Garden Shows	14	13	1
Grain banking (granaries)	25	25	0
Routine Monitoring	On-going	On-going	On-going



2 ACTIVITIES DONE

2.1 Garden Shows

Garden shows were held from the 23rd and 25th across the operational area. Some areas started competitions at cluster levels and culminating at ward levels. The major objectives of the shows were to;

- showcase the standard nutrition garden status
- provide platform for information sharing and knowledge exchange on garden crop production
- create awareness and cascade information on good nutrition practices

The shows targeted all farmers interested and participating in nutrition gardens. A standard for nutrition gardens was set. Both community and individual gardens which are adhering to the set standards were free to compete. An assessment of the registered gardens was done before the judging and some gardens were disqualified. Selected lead farmers did the judging using a score sheet designed and agreed on. A ward committee made up of members from different garden committees was responsible for organizing the event and mobilizing the resources.

It was observed that production records are the main challenge to most of the farmers. Farmers have the books but do not document any information pertaining to their production practices and vegetables sales made. Hence a training on record keeping to garden farmers is needed so that they may improve. The other challenge which was observed was the drying up of shallow wells in most of the gardens in such a way that, the crop water requirement is higher than the amount applied. Water stress has eventually led to poor quality produced as the quality of horticultural products is determined by the amount of water in the crop. Most of the crops were abandoned and wilted due to insufficient water. The situation is worsened by the high temperatures which are being received as winter season is disappearing slowly.

Due to this reason some farmers were advised to deepen up their wells and try to limit the number of beds planted to serve water so that the few crops available could receive enough water up to harvesting period. Some farmers were shifting their gardens to the sites which are not complying with EMA regulations in search of water.

It was observed that few gardens managed to compete this year due to the problem of water unavailability. Some of the water sources have already dried and thus the gardens are no longer functional. From the competing gardens, the ones that had marks exceeding half of the target are the ones that got prizes from the project.

Attendances

Ward	M	F	Total
Nemangwe 4	100	124	224
Nemangwe 5	143	334	477
Chisina 1	155	139	290
Chisina 2	77	81	158



Chisina 3	98	114	212
Chisina 4	105	106	211
Ngomeni	90	119	209
Jiri 1	44	87	131
Jiri 2	52	59	111
Sai 1	57	53	110
Njelele 1	68	48	216
Njelele 2	102	118	220
Njelele 3	139	160	299

Summary of Prizes Contributions-Nemangwe

Ward	WHH contribution	Farmer contribution		Value of farmer contributions	National Tested Seeds/ Business community
		Food	Prizes		
Nem 4	2x50kg barbed wire, 10 garden hand shovels, 10 garden forks, 10 rakes, 10x500g peas, 10x50g butternut, 10x20g cabbage seed, 10x20g carrot seed, 10x20g tomato seed, 50kg beef, 12 litres mazoe	1 goat, 5 Tins mealie meal, vegetables, 2kg salt, 16kg sugar, 3 loaves bread.	1 knapsack sprayer, 4x100g Malathion dust, 3x1liter Abamectin, 10x20g cabbage seed, 10x1kg comp D, 3x50 g butternut, 1x20g carrots.	\$143.00	660kg Maize seed, Bean and cabbage seed
Nem 5	2x50kg barbed wire, 10x500g peas, 10x50g butternut, 10x20g cabbage seed, 10x20g carrot seed, 10x20g tomato seed, 50kg beef	3 goats, 9 tins mealie meal, vegetables, salt, 45kg sugar, 1.5 dozens bread, 27 galons sweet potatoes	1 wheelbarrow, 3 knapsack sprayers, 4 shovels, 16 packets of differerent vegetable seed, pesticides & fungicides		3 pkts okra seed, 3 pkts tomatoes, 4 onion seed, 1 rape, 1 cabbage seed

The table below shows contributions from Chisina farmers and WHH for nutrition garden day:

FARMERS CONTRIBUTIONS	PRICE/ COST	WHH CONTRIBUTION	GOKWE
Food items			
		1 x 50kg barbed wire	
8kgs sugar	\$8-00	Butternuts 10	



3 dozens bread	\$36-00	Carrots 10
500g tea leaves	\$2-50	Spinach 10
2kg salt	\$2-00	Garden fork 10
1kg Cremora	\$4-00	Garden trowel 10
3 tins maize	\$18-00	Garden rake 10
8 broilers	\$48-00	Cooking oil 2litres
4l cooking oil	\$7-00	Meat beef 50kg
1 bucket tomatoes	\$7-00	Mazoe 12 x 2litres
2 goats	\$55-00	Mineral water 12 x 500ml
2kg margarine	\$4-00	
Prizes		
5 shovels		
5 garden rake		
3 hoes		
Onion seed 5 x 20g		
Tomato seed 5 x 20g		
Carrot seed 5 x 20g		
Sugar loaf 5 x 20g		
TOTAL VALUE		

Food contribution- Jiris, Ngomeni & Sai

Food contributed by the project	Food contributed by the farmers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 litres mazoe • 200 kg beef • 8 litres cooking oil • 48*500ml water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 kg sugar • 9tins maize meal • 3 goats • 2 dozens bread • 250g tea • 1 kg margarine • 1 kg cremora • 5 chicken • 2.75 litres cooking oil • 500g salt • 28 bundles vegetables • 5 kg tomatoes • 4 kg flour • 250 stella tea



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2.2 Grain banking

The farmers are encouraged to adopt this concept as it reduces the unplanned grain leakages mainly driven by both men and women at household level as they seek incomes to meet both household requirements. Furthermore, the grain can be sold during the lean periods to obtain cash to pay school fees for their children as well as for consumption purposes. Most of the farmers who did not have confidence in the community granaries were seen seeking for permission from the bankers to bring their maize for banking. These farmers highlighted that they admired those farmers who managed to bank last season and were food secure during the month of January where the situation was not pleasing from both the crops and at homesteads. As a result, grain banking was done in twenty-four (24) granaries out of the (29) granaries that were constructed in Njelele. The tonnage banked this year was more than expected since the rains received were below the mean annual rainfall. A total of 308,576t of maize and 512 tins of both small grains and legumes were banked by 648 farmers

In Nemangwe, efforts have been made to buy grain and store for the lean period in community granaries. Although Nemangwe had a very poor season, they strived to buy grain and store it while prices are still affordable. This was made possible by cash inflow from cotton, chilli and sesame. Some farmers even sold their livestock to purchase grain while it still had good value. The January situation where a beast could be sold for \$60 or 50kg of mealie-meal was an eye opener to farmers. Of the 25 granaries in the wards (including new ones), 19 managed to bank some grain. One (Kaguta-Hamunyari Gokwe) is yet to bank when their granary has completely dried). 2016 has proved that farmers appreciate the relevance of grain banking. Only a difference less of 10.8t has been recorded for the three wards compared to 2015 grain banking when the season was fair. The quantity of sorghum banked increased from 0.5t to 26.6t marking an improvement in the production and consumption of small grains. No legumes were banked last season while 7.8t were banked this current season.



Farmers in queues during banking at Gwehava in Njelele 2 and Bova in Njelele 1

Ward	Cluster	Granary name	Number of tins banked				Participants		
			Maize	Sorghum	Millet	Groundnuts	Males	Females	Total
Jiri 1	Ndoza	Makwana	715	0	0	0	30	27	57
		Bingwa	Wet						

	Matura	Tshabalala	750	0	0	0	25	13	38
		Rukara	371	0	29	0	12	11	23
	Masekesa	Ngwere	19	8	0	0	3	5	8
		Ncube	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chehanga	Maedza	200	30	3	25	13	12	25
Jiri 2	Gwetsanga	Shoko	1250	0	0		15	29	44
		Mukuvazvivi	1001	0	79	0	18	20	38
		Rwatipedza	Not	Banked					
	Murwira	Wutete	Not	Banked					
		Chekaniso	85	0	0	0	18	15	33
	Masunda	Katema	37	0	0	0	2	3	5
		Mufudza	95	15	3	0	6	9	15
	Marirangwe	Matadi	63	35	4	0	4	8	12
Ngomeni	Jabula	Mateta	633	7	0	3	16	12	28
		Chitambira	954	0	2	6	15	26	41
		Mutsanyamate	337	41	18	0	9	11	20
		Nhokwara	Wet	New	Wet	New	Wet	New	Wet
	Nyamhunga	Mpindi	1014	0	0	0	40	31	71
		Chingura	345	0	0	0	9	20	29
		Ngomeni	739	21	0	21	20	21	41
	Ngomeni East	Nenge	651	14	0	0	16	20	36
		Murangi	658	27	11	5	16	28	44
		Tavengwa	394	0	0	0	17	7	24
		Musiyambiri	989	0	0	0	44	42	86
	Bopoma	Chigiya	310	0	0	1	16	12	28
		Jemera	1210	0	0	28	36	26	62
Sai 1	Manyoni	Munangari	485	0	36	0	6	18	24
		Muchuzuki	Wet	New	Wet	New	Wet	New	Wet
	Manyepa	Mhlanga	813	0	30	0	26	18	44
		Mutanga	Wet	New	Wet	New	Wet	New	Wet
	Sachingoma	Watsika	396	0	26	0	10	14	24
	Nyahuni	Butete	292	0	125	0	17	11	28
		Gumunyu	Wet						



2.3 Routine monitoring

Follow up activities of Voucher

Awareness meetings were conducted across the operational area to inform farmers to prepare for the coming season. The organization is implementing the voucher intervention, this year, necessitated by the El Niño phenomenon affecting the district.

CHC Training Sessions

Trainings at community level are being carried out by the facilitators throughout the program area.

ROSCA activities

There was an intensive training and follow up visits to different ROSCA groups in all the wards by both the consultant and field officers. These activities were seeking to resuscitate the groups that were not performing well. This will help farmers to have a smooth financial system in their communities and this will help them in the input procurement process, payment of education fees and stationary, medication and any other financial need that may arise. There was a challenge in record keeping in all wards but there is a significant improvement after the monitoring visits that were conducted and the saving minimum and maximum range is \$1-00 and \$5-00.

Savings have somehow improved in the wards for different groups as farmers were testifying that they are selling some eggs from the Boschveld and use the money as their savings contributions. The idea of using maximum and minimum savings amount has actually helped the farmers as they are able to contribute their savings monthly and thus maintaining functionality of the savings groups. However, the challenge of cash boxes has not yet been resolved as the majority of the groups (more than 60%) do not have cash boxes.

The ROSCA groups monitoring was done in Njelele and it revealed that most of the groups are doing quite well and some are on the 3rd and 4th savings. The total number of ROSCA groups which have been registered and are functioning properly are shown in the table below.

Ward	Number of groups registered
Njelele 1	24
Njelele 2	15
Njelele 3	19
Total	58

In Nemangwe all 66 Rosca groups established are saving. 66% of the groups have managed to save more than \$10 per person in two months. In Nemangwe 5 some groups have saved at least \$50 per person in two months because men have taken an active role in savings in preparation for purchasing of inputs. Some have their own male dominated groups while their wives participate in other different groups. The new improvement in the performance of the groups was well accepted in most groups, save for a few in Nemangwe 3, where they still want the



fixed savings. The 66 groups have total membership of 1227 with 40% being male compared to the past where male participating was less than 5%.

CF Monitoring

Farmers are busy with basin digging and manure application in their conservation farming field. Since holing is quite labor intensive as compared to other field practices farmers have formed groups that help each other in basin digging. Mulching remains the major challenge although there was a rampant campaign to stock mulch. There are 11 farmers with deep wells who have submersive pumps to supplement water during much drier conditions. In Chisina 3 a total of 141 farmers completed basin digging, four mulched, seventy-four fenced and sixteen dug dead level contours.

Most of the conservation farming farmers are busy running around in order to complete the field operations before the rains come. It is the general feeling of farmers that they will be through with field operations by the 15th of September although they were encouraged to make sure they finish at the end of August and always stick to the conservation farming calendar. However, there are some farmers like Leah Samere and Mkululi Khumalo in Njelele 1 who always follow the CF calendar.



Leah Samere and the husband geared for the rain season

70% farmers in Nemangwe completed basin digging on time while 30% are still working. Some new farmers were also registered in Nemangwe 4. These started participating in 2015 and were denied a chance to procure subsidized inputs to assess their consistency. They continued working with other farmers up to date making them worth for consideration to benefit from subsidized inputs.

Verification process is being carried out and some of the farmers are being verified out due to different reasons and seems to be no longer interested in project programs. Hence the verification process is still going across all the wards. It has been noted that most of the farmers are interested in establishing agroforestry trees in their CA plots but they are facing a challenge of seed. If it is possible agroforestry trees like pigeon pea be made available to the farmers so that they can plant in their plots to improve soil fertility and soil structure in short period of time. The mentioned leguminous tree gives the fastest results than *Fidherbia albida* which requires many years for the results to be noted.



Boschveld monitoring

Monitoring was done at lead farmer or fowl run level, to assess number of laying hens, eggs consumed, eggs sold and the selling prices of the eggs at each area. The table below gives a summary of the information classified above.

Ward	Name of fowl run	Number of farmers	Laying hens	Eggs consumed	Eggs sold	Prices of eggs
Jiri 2	Manyangadze Christwish	7	30	900	140	\$1 /10 eggs
	Jetro Ndapota	7	25	700	201	\$1 /10 eggs
	Moreblessing Shumbayaonda	7	42	1400	200	\$1 /10 eggs
	Blandina Gava	7	23	165	513	\$1 /10 eggs
	Jesca Mahuni	7	38	1000	201	\$1 /10 eggs
	Raphael Tagwirei	7	22	855	175	\$1 /10 eggs
	Egnes Rugadza	7	17	615	143	\$1 /10 eggs
	Misheck Shoko	7	28	1375	413	\$1 /10 eggs
	Naume Zimunya	7	19	1003	115	\$1 /10 eggs
	Tauya Chekaniso	7	26	1157	160	\$1 /10 eggs
Ngom eni	Rodrick Musasa	7	30	900	0	-
	Vimbai Chiurukutu	7	63	1890	0	-
	Tsitsi Ncube	7	53	139	335	\$2/dozen
	Bernard Mpindi	7	38	1140	0	0
	Talent Moyo	7	36	1080	0	0
	Mary Jemera	7	43	1290	0	0
	Euria Gwanyira	7	32	960	0	0
	Safari Chipeta	7	64	540	1380	\$1.2/ dozen
	Farai Ruvata	7	38	1140	0	0
	Conwell Tavengwa	7	48	1440	0	0

Only two wards were monitored from the four wards. Farmers are consuming the eggs and at the same time selling them to get some money for the contributions to their savings groups.

Monitoring of Boschveld chickens was done. Farmers have started incubating and hatching the chicks using their local chickens and/or turkeys. At least 60% of the hens are laying eggs. Those whose birds have not started laying eggs are either sick or poorly fed. Farmers have started realizing income from selling eggs. Prices vary with areas \$1 for 5 eggs to \$1 for 10.



Majority are selling at \$1 for 6 eggs. Those far from shopping areas are selling at a higher price of \$1 for 5 eggs.

3 PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

3.1 Problems

- Water for gardening remains the major drawback to production of vegetables in most wards.
- Problems of stray animals into the gardens.
- Storage of meat used during trainings or functions remains an issue of concern. Those who have refrigerators are now demanding payment and sometimes the quantity may not be stored in ne fridge hence need to ask for more refrigerators
- The chilli side marketing by farmers.

3.2 Solutions undertaken

- Farmers are being encouraged to crop areas that meet available water amount, practice moisture conservation methods such as fertility trenching and mulching.
- Farmers have been urged to mobilize their resources and buy fence to fence off animals
- To buy goats which are slaughtered on the day of the event
- Payments to be made as agreed (two weeks after delivery) to minimize chances of side marketing

4 ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Rosca monitoring
Health harvest shows
Boschveld monitoring
CA monitoring
Nutrition garden monitoring