

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : February 2016

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

The month of February experienced both extremes on the continuum. Thus the first part of the month experienced high temperatures while the latter part had average to above average rainfall. Out of the 4 operational areas viz; Njeleles, Nemangwes, Chisinas and Ngomeni, Sai 1 & Jiris, it's only the Njeleles that received some kind of sporadic rainfall before. The rains were experienced as from the 24th across all the operational areas. Nemangwes received between 30-65mm while Chisinas had 63-91mm of rainfall. The rainfall received gave hope to farmers on their average 30 percent of crop that escaped scorching moments of December and January. Crops such as mung bean have shown better drought resistance than traditional crops such as maize. Furthermore, this gave an opportunity to sweet potato farmers to continue planting their vines as the moisture content in the soil got favourable. There was also a significant improvement in veld condition due to the rains that were received where most grasses have started to grow. The current situation indicates a serious drought for most parts of the operational area.

Generally, prices of most basic commodities went up while those of livestock went down. Goats which used to sell at \$30.00 dropped to \$15.00 while a 20kg of mealie-meal went up to \$12 by end of February. Sorghum sold for \$6.50/tin. Some families reported selling all the goats and a few cattle they had including donkeys to meet the food household needs. As noted in Nemangwe, grain from Social Welfare Department was availed only once for elderly above 70 years of age and widows. These would share a 2x50kg bag of grain per village resulting in them getting an average of 5kg each. Informal traders are exchanging mealie-meal with goats as well as selling grain in the communities.

The food insecurity situation is having a domino effect on the farmers' livelihoods. The Boschveld chicks that were distributed for Female-led households (FLHH) are threatened with serious food shortages as farmers are struggling to meet their own needs. The beneficiaries may fail to supplement the feed requirements. The intervention is aiming to improve the nutrition of the households and eventually increase their incomes through selling eggs and extra birds.

The main activities of the month were monitoring of fowl runs, distribution of chicks and feed, preparations for granary construction and monitoring the food security situation in all the operational wards.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
Boschveld chicks distribution	21000 chicks	21000 chicks	0
Point of lay pullets distribution	750 pullets	750 pullets	0
Broiler distribution	2600	2600	0
Boschveld production workshop	2	2	0
Granary construction	5	2	3
General Monitoring			On-going

2 PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

2.1 Problems

- Severe drought imminent in the wards
- Drought threatening survival of Boschveld chicks for the target FLHH group
- Some chicks dying and showing signs of ill-health. This can be due to factors to do with biosecurity. Fowl runs were not disinfected and the foot baths do not have any disinfectant.
- Lead farmers bicycles no longer in good condition

2.2 Solutions undertaken

- Food security situation monitored and collaboration with other stakeholders will be sought.
- Need for concerted effort from all those involved in the Boschveld production at fowl run level. FLHH encouraged to take part in the rearing of the chicks at the lead farmer fowl run.
- Assistance from the Vet department was sought. Furthermore, a WhatsApp support group was created that involves Charles Stewart Pvt Ltd, Novatek Pvt Ltd, WHH staff and lead farmers.



- The project has agreed to cater for the repair of the lead farmers bicycles.

3 ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Boschveld chicks monitoring
Judging for field days
Field days' events
Granary site selection meetings