



This project is funded by the European Union

# SIMBA NEWS FLASH



For a world without hunger  
This project is implemented by Welthungerhilfe

Gokwe, March 2014

## Field Days held in Gokwe South

Field days are currently being held in 7 wards in Gokwe South. These field days are to depict the best farmer practices in Conservation Agriculture and to honor the best farmer. Prizes are distributed to the best farmers and runner ups.



Figure 2 Chief Nemangwe addressing the crowd

The competition began at cluster level where top four winners proceeded to compete at ward level. The objectives were to showcase the influence of conservation farming on food security and knowledge sharing among

the farmers. Field days happen on farmer initiative and are community organized.



Figure 1 Everybody is enjoying a nice day

Participants collect funds and in kind contributions for food and prizes. Contributions at cluster level are around USD 50

A very pleasant development during this season



Figure 3 Private sector is gaining interest in field based activities

is that the private sector came out in force in 2014,

supporting the events with prizes. Contributors were SeedCo and Pioneer seed houses, contributing Maize seed as prizes, National Tested seed brought vegetable seed, PG and Hinge



Figure 4 Seed Co presenting their goods

Hardware donated farming tools, MP Hon. J.M. Runzirwayi assisted with farming inputs and T-shirts. Attendance is high at these gatherings and the people enjoy the day to celebrate, dance and eat.

School children display their gymnastics and choirs sing and chant. Meat for food is provided by the project

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whereas the staples such as vegetables and Mealie meal is brought buy the participants.

In Nemangwe 3 participation from government departments and private sector was high. In attendance were representatives from Pioneer seed, Seed Co, Weldmax, Hinge Hardware, Agro dealers, The local MP's office, the Councillor, the local Chief and headman, Agritex and WHH staff. School children from three local primary schools provided entertainment.



Figure 5 The judges presenting their findings



Figure 6 The CF field of the winner (hit just recently by a violent storm)

## Ward planning meetings finished

After having introduced the goals and objectives of SIMBA to all the wards, planning meetings were held at ward and cluster level. During these meetings the details of the project were aboded and feedback from the participants gathered. The approach of the project is that anyone can join the activities and a later registration will identify active

participants.



Figure 7 Vimbayi addressing the crowd at ward introductory meeting

Response is currently very high, but details on implementation will still have to be discussed at the Multi stakeholder Knowledge and Information platform (MKI).



Figure 8 Desire explain project to participants in Njelele 3

## Gardening activities started

Over 500 horticulture farmers have started preparing their lands for vegetable production for the market. Linkages have been established with vegetable wholesalers who will buy directly from the gardens. The production is aimed to be harvested in winter when demand and thus prices are favorable. Trainings on horticultural practices are currently being conducted.