

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : May 2016

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

Generally, during this time of the year crop production is limited to gardening. Temperatures dropped during the month reducing the frequency of watering the plants, but warm enough for ripening and drying crops such as chillis. Most farmers have been artificially applying water to their chili crop through fetching from boreholes, dams and rivers. One farmer of particular note, Mr Innocent Chifamba, of Chisina 1 Nyarupakwe area is now using drip irrigation system supplied by National Tested Seeds (NTS). This seems to be working out for him as his production has also increased.

Farmers are busy with harvesting of field crops. This activity is likely to take them to mid-June. From observation yields, this season, seem lower than the previous season. This is attributed to the prolonged dry spells that were experienced during the farming season. However, it is expected that most farmers in the Njeleles, especially, will harvest yields that will take them up to December 2016. Grain prices have also gone lower this month. The advent of harvested maize grain has seen prices lowering to \$3-00 from \$5-00 a tin. Sweet potato production is also helping most Njeleles and Chisina 3 farmers to stock up maize grain through purchases. The major activity of the month was the distribution of the Boschveld chickens. These chickens were passed on from the lead farmers, that reared them, to beneficiaries, mostly, female-led households.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
Boschveld distribution	949	949	0
Training of ROSCA facilitators	1	1	0
Granary construction	1	1	0

2 PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

2.1 Problems

- In community and individual home gardening water availability remains the major limiting factor to most of the farmers. Some areas of Chisina are dry no dams or rivers and the borehole that is available is mainly for domestic use and livestock consumption.
- Web worm a pest of vegetable is also attacking garden crops and its feeding behavior makes it a real challenge to farmers when they want to control it
- Cash shortages have seen farmers moving up and down the banks to redeem their chilli payment.
- The intended households for yield assessment have grain from CA and conventional fields mixed. The yield was low to warranty use of two cribs as is the custom
- Bicycles for the lead farmers have broken down, they are now moving around on foot.

2.2 Solutions undertaken

- Farmers are being encouraged to grow vegetables in areas that can be adequately supplied by the source without causing negative impacts to other users or the source itself.
- Good sanitation and proper cultural practices in the garden helps to reduce the severity of the pest
- The lead farmers were advised to source spare parts of their own for the mean time as they will be waiting for the spare parts promised by the project, since they are the owners of the bicycles.

3 ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Post-harvest produce handling and storage training
Nutrition garden training
Yield assessment
Boschveld monitoring
ROSCA monitoring