



Activity Progress Consolidated Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : November 2016

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

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1 BACKGROUND

The major focus during the month of November was the input voucher redemption by farmers. The input procurement process was smooth with all farmers and suppliers adhering to the intervention terms.

The first effective rains were received from the 14th of November with an average of 18mm of precipitation. This forced most of the farmers to plant maize on their plots as they thought that moisture content was enough for the germination process. Some managed to have a good germination percentage of 85-95% while others depending with the soil type germination was poor. As a result, the affected farmers replanted to fill up the gaps. Field operations are keeping farmers busy. Some farmers are through with the first weeding stage while others haven't started as the maize is still emerging.

Gardening activities have generally declined. This has seen most communities realising less from the garden intervention. Notably in Nemangwe where farmers rely so much on the chilli production a decline in cash circulation has been noted across the wards due to the end of 2015 to 2016 chillies production season. The farmers are busy working on chilli nurseries and the seedling are growing quite well.

Monitoring of ROSCAs, CA plots and seed distributions were the major monthly focus.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
CA Plots Monitoring	14 wards	14 wards	0
Farmer field School Input Distributions	100	100	On-going
Pigeon Pea Seed distribution	2301	2301	
Mung Bean Pre Planting Training	3 wards	2 wards	1 ward
ROSCA	All wards	All wards	0

2 ACTIVITIES DONE

2.1 CA Plots Monitoring

The season started slowly with light and insignificant showers in Ngomeni and Sai 1 wards around the 10th of the month with only 5 % of the farmers planting groundnuts. The majority did not want to take risks with this early rains. No plantings in conservation farming plots were done then up until around the 14th of the month when the rainfall amounts increased to levels around 40mm that provided adequate moisture for seed germination and early establishment. However, there are some areas like Jiri 2 and Sai 1 are yet to receive meaningful rainfall for planting.

Planting in the conservation farming plots in Ngomeni is at 100%.



Elphas Msindo's conservation farming plot, Ngomeni showing maize seedlings that have just emerged.

Due to some rainfall that was received in the third week of November some farmers have already planted their crop and emergency was more than 80% which is good. In Chisina 2 a high number of farmers (29farmers) who have planted was recorded in Gwenya cluster. In clusters such as Ndabambi and Mazalahedwa no significant rains have been received. Chemowa of Chisina 3 has received a total rainfall of 110mm and Nyarupakwe 53mm.



The picture below shows Mr K Mukore posing for a picture in his conservation farming plot eagerly waiting for the effective rains to pounce down.



Maize under basins at Vumani in Njelele 3

In Nemangwe, farmers managed to receive the first effective rains in the 3rd week of November and managed to plant in their CA plots. Clusters like Mugoto and Savaranda did not receive any effective rainshence farmers have not planted anything. All farmers are now



through with the basal application of manure and fertilizers. To those who managed to plant, a germination percentage of 75 to 85 % has been achieved and the crops are at vegetative stage.

2.2 Farmer Field School Input distribution

Inputs worth US\$120 were distributed to 100 Farmer Field Schools. The package comprised of one bag of Compound D, 50kg Ammonium nitrate, 10kg maize seed, 2.5kg sorghum, one litre of atrazine and 1 kg of cab aryl and 1kg of Combat for the control of maize stalk borer. Engraining has been done and farmers are expecting good results since all inputs have been made available to the farmers.



Njelele 2 farmers receiving the farmer field school inputs

However, figures from Nemangwe were not received during the time of writing the report. It is anticipated that these will be included in the December report.

Table showing how the inputs were distributed:

AREA	FO	# OF FFS
Njeleles	Ellen	23
Jiris, Ngomeni, Sai 1	Leonard	44
Chisinas	Regis	33
Total		100

N.B. *Figures not received from the Nemangwes during the time of writing.*



2.3 Pigeon Pea Seed distribution

Pigeon pea seeds were distributed to 2301 farmers. However, the exercise is still on going in the Jiri. There are 560 farmers that were not reached during the month. 25kg of seed per each ward was distributed to 275 farmers. This was all in support of the agro forestry program which is a requirement to the conservation plots. Farmers were informed of the required spacing and how to plant the seeds. It is anticipated that the seed might take more than 2 weeks to germinate due varying temperatures. The tree is a good leguminous tree which grows very fast and helps in incorporating the nitrogen into the soil. Leaves also act as mulch and this goes a long way in improving soil texture and structure. Furthermore, the seeds can be eaten fresh as green beans which is a good source of vitamins and proteins. Each farmer received 700 seeds which were enough to cover 0.5ha on a spacing of 3m x 5m.



Pigeon pea seeds



Farmers receiving the seeds at Njelele 1

Table showing how the seeds were distributed:

AREA	FO	# OF FFS
Njeleles	Ellen	825
Jiris, Ngomeni, Sai 1	Leonard	560
Chisinas	Regis	695
Nemangwes	Wendy	221
Total		2301

2.4 Mung Bean Pre Planting Training

Mung beans production pre-planning trainings were successfully conducted in Njelele 1 and 2 by Gerald from Green Trade willing farmers. However, there were challenges with Njelele 3

ward which is lagging behind due to poor communication with their officer. It is on record that the officer missed out on the training date and he promised to re-schedule the training. This training is important to farmers as they made a lot of mistakes last season due to lack of technical support.

2.5 ROSCAs

2.5.1.1 Share – out trainings

ROSCA facilitators were advised to adhere to the ROSCA best practices and core principles in order to promote the methodology amongst themselves. The trainings were divided into two parts with theory being the first section and a practical exercise later. Farmers were encouraged to work as a team during share-out such that they can compare their findings to avoid omission errors on savings and profits. All farmers were free to attend the training. Participants were eager to know how profits were to be shared yet they were saving different amounts following the minimum and maximum saving principle. Field technicians were provided with share – out forms, groups will use these forms to record all the information during trainings.



Farmers from Bova in Njelele 1 during a share-out training.

The trainer explained individual share could be simply calculated by;

- $\text{individual saving} / \text{Group saving} * \text{Total loan fund (Cash at hand)}$



Gwenungu – Chisina 1 farmers having their monthly savings meeting after a share out training session.

Trainings done during the month:

Date	Venue	Ward	Males	Females	Total attendance
07.11.16	Gwenungu	Chisina 2	48	66	114
9.11.16	Pahuku	Nemangwe 5	21	26	47
11.11.16	Chidoma	Chisina 3	15	22	37
14.11.16	Ndoza village	Jiri 1	22	29	51
15.11.16	Murwira	Jiri 2	14	21	35
16.11.16	Mapu		16	42	58
21.11.16	Mutimutema	Nemangwe 5	36	69	105
22.11.16	Bova	Njelele 1	19	23	42
23.11.16	Taonesa	Njelele 3	12	5	17



Progress group members from Ndoza – Jiri 1 singing and ululating before they could share-out their group money.

Only one group from Ndoza village in Jiri 1 had its first share-out. Other groups from the same village also attended the meeting so as to witness and celebrate together with group members. The field manager and the consultant attended the meeting to help out with the share-out process which impacted a positive attitude to all farmers who were present. Farmers from that are now satisfied with minimum and maximum savings, and get a fair share at the end of the cycle.

MIS Report

See table below for field officer group enrolment.

Field officer's name	Number of groups	Attendance rate	Average annualised savings/ member	%of members with loans outstanding	Return on savings
Ellen Zimbere	58	85%	79	61%	24.8%
Leonard Hahlani	59	85%	71	53%	33.6%
Regis Taruberekera	114	84%	164	47%	24.4%
Wendy Choruwa	64	93%	48	41%	26.0%
Total	295				



According to the SAVIX MIS Report 5739 farmers are participating in ROSCAs, more groups are still registering, 2371 men and 3378 women disaggregated by gender.

4. Challenges and solutions

4.1 Problems

- The rains that were received in some parts of the wards caused weeds to emerge and farmers are very busy in managing them especially in plots that are not properly mulched.
- There is a shortage of adequate crop stover mulch this season as there was not enough crop stalks from last season crops.
- Much work need to be done on constitution making. Groups seem to have ignored benchmark number one on the second monitoring tool.
 - ✓ Constitution in place and being followed.

4.2 Solutions undertaken

- Farmers are being encouraged to use herbicides that are more economic, save time and energy.
- Farmers were advised to source velvet bean seed and plant it in their conservation farming fields and use it as live mulch.
- Trainings on constitution making shall be held as groups starts cycle 2 in January

ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
CHC graduation shows
CF monitoring
Fowl run construction progress checking
Broiler chicks distributions