



# Activity Progress Consolidated Report

## Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

**ZWE 1077**

**Gokwe South District**

**Month [&Year] : September 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**

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*The month of September was characterized by high temperatures. The temperatures had a large effect on activities like gardening as most wells were drying up. Conservation farming activities are being carried out with passion as farmers have now understood the benefits of applying the principles of conservation farming. Hence, most of the farmers are busy running around to ensure that they are done with all the field operations before the rains come. Contributions towards voucher payments have been done through ROSCA savings groups and individual farmer savings. Farmers are making a contribution of US\$20 while the organization is providing a US\$60 subsidy.*

*The food situation still remains stable. Maize grain is available in a lot of local markets. Farmers can access the maize grain at \$5-6 a bucket. There is a marked improvement in terms of money circulation in the operational area. This is largely attributed to cotton, chili and mung bean sales by farmers to various private companies.*

*Private company evaluations were also done during the month. These activities were exciting to farmers as they got to interact with companies first hand. The companies that work with SIMBA are Better Agriculture, Green Trade and IETC. Just to show the level of seriousness on the part of the companies, directors did not delegate their duties but made it to the season evaluations. By implication, this shows the level of commitment by these stakeholders and it is a good sign of sustainability and the commitment for long term relationships with Gokwe farmers.*

*Trainings, health harvest shows and granary constructions dominated throughout the month.*

#### **ACTIVITIES OF THE month**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Targeted</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>
Health Harvest shows	14	14	0
CHC shows	3	3	0
Granary construction	3	3	0
CA training and exchange visit	1	1	0
CHC training	6	6	0
ROSCA Monitoring	All wards	All wards	On going
Boshveld monitoring	All wards	All wards	On going



Layers production morning	15 farmers	15 farmers	On going
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## 2 ACTIVITIES DONE

### 2.1 Health Harvest Shows

Eleven (11) health harvest shows were held across the operational area. Shows were done in Njelele 1,2,3, Nemangwe 3, 4, 5, Jiri1,2 and Sai 1. The shows are organized so as to provide a learning and a showcasing platform for farmers. Farmers had an opportunity to learn how ‘special’ meals, from locally available foods, for different age groups and people’s conditions are prepared. Different age groups have different food requirements.

Different types of food were prepared that is from garden, field, natural wild forests and river. Farmers constructed model homesteads depicting all the structures that are expected to be at their homesteads and these include toilets, pot racks, tippy taps, rubbish pits and well-furnished kitchens. It was during kitchen tours where group members were asked to explain the relationship between all the homestead structures to nutrition, health and hygiene.



*The photographs show:*



1. Participants preparing food ready for the health harvest show in Ngomeni
2. Participants ready to hear their positions after judging and prizes in Sai 1
3. Participants during kitchen presentations.

Farmers organised themselves into groups of five to ten members per kitchen. Different foods were prepared and presented for each model home. To enhance consumption of sorghum, dishes of boiled sorghum with peanut butter or with chicken and soup were presented. These were found to be delicious by children than eating sadza. Although farmers are aware of the relevance of OFSP and QPM not much was presented on these products. Consumption is limited to few households who managed to harvest something. In the Nemangwe area about 90% of the crop was lost due to crop failure whereas areas like Njelele and Chisina 3 had a more than 90% crop success. All food prepared was locally sourced. At all events, the health harvest concept was explained.

Key messages relayed through dramas and songs were promotion of use of pulses and small grains, effects of unhygienic practices, effects of bad nutrition, nutrition for all age groups and denouncing oppressing cultural practices which affect children's and/or women's health.

The table below gives a summary of the attendances for each ward:

Ward	Farmers		Total
	Males	Females	
Jiri 1	97	187	284
Jiri 2	84	111	195
Sai 1	166	105	271
Ngomeni	143	247	390
Nemangwe 3	63	126	189
Nemangwe 4	69	115	184
Nemangwe 5	70	109	179
Chisina 1	76	184	260
Chisina 2	114	226	340
Chisina 3	33	139	172
Chisina 4	72	110	182
<b>Total</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>1659</b>	<b>2646</b>

### **Participants during kitchen presentations.**



*The photographs show various types of food stuffs that were prepared for the shows by the participants. As can be seen, staple, fruits and vegetables, animal products, legumes and fats and oils food groups.*

## **2.2 Health and Hygiene promotion household competitions**

Health and hygiene promotion shows were done in Njelele 1,2 and 3. The objectives were;

- To bring farmers together at a household which is considered the best on hygiene practice in the area and share by seeing to what level are we expected to get in terms of hygiene
- To motivate farmers that if someone among them can do it then all of them have the potential to do it right
- To provide a platform of knowledge sharing among the participants



### Summary of Attendance at CHC cluster shows in Nemangwe 3

Ward	Females	Males	Total
Njelele 1	149	85	234
Njelele 2	103	35	138
Njelele 3	154	90	246

All these events were graced by the presence of local leaders like the village heads and the Councilor, Agritex officers, and WHH staff. The turn up was very pleasing at all the show sites. The Ministry of health department was supposed to be the guests to all these events but they did not manage to come as they were also busy with their activities.

Farmers were encouraged to have at least a standard or a temporary structure toilet to control open defecation thus, reducing the spread of diarrheal diseases.



Standard UBVIP toilets



one of the smart kitchens in Njelele 2

Farmers were also encouraged to continuously use the tippy taps as hand washing facilities to eliminate any microorganisms which can be harmful to their health. Kitchens should be smart and well decorated every time.

The ward winners per ward were as follows:

Ward	Cluster	Name	No of competitors
Njelele 1	Simbe	Ayiki Moyo	40
Njelele 2	Njelele west	Beatrice Sibanda	40
Njelele 3	Gomoguru	Netsai Sibanda	25

The organization managed to contribute a total of 60kg of beef thus 30kg per ward and prizes worth \$70 per ward. The prizes comprised of variety of kitchen utensils this plates cups and trays. On the other side farmers also contributed food for both breakfast and lunch for the



function to be successful. The following table indicates the contributions made by the farmers per ward level towards buying prizes and food for the community health clubs shows.

Ward	Contribution from the farmers
Njelele 1	\$196 that is \$150 for the prizes and \$46 for food
Njelele 2	\$280 that is \$200 for the prizes and \$80 for food
Njelele 3	\$272 that is \$104 for prizes and \$133 or food

### 2.3 Granary Activities

During the month of September three (3) granaries were constructed.

One granary was constructed in each of the following areas; Njelele, Jiri and Chisina. The construction of the Jiri 1 granary was long overdue as the site was among the sites first selected in 2014 but it was being skipped because of logistical issues. The granaries have helped to ease the travelling distances to the nearest granaries for the farmers. Furthermore, these granaries are now helping the communities to bank more grain.

### 2.4 CA Training & Exchange Visit

The training was conducted to 88 Chemagora farmers from the 12th to the 14th of September 2016. The aim was to empower farmers with proper knowledge on CA operations so that farmers do them precisely. Time was a limiting factor and topics were not fully covered. The methodology for the training involved using a participatory approach to maximize participant interaction. The training involved presentations from the facilitator and participants, group discussions sessions, and demonstrations

The training content was as follows

- ✓ Definition of Conservation
- ✓ Principles of conservation farming
- ✓ Requirements on Conservation farming plot
- ✓ Pegging and digging of the dead level contour
- ✓ Pegging and digging of the basins
- ✓ The advantages of conservation farming



Group work was carried out efficiently and report-backs were rotated through different group members so that most participants had a chance to present the group work. Participants were confident in asking questions, contributing to discussions and taking part in demonstrations.



Field officer facilitating the training



Using an A frame for pegging dead level contour



Field tour at Elias Maza's field and question time

The practical demonstrations were carried out on the following areas

- ✓ Making an A frame & pegging of DLC using an A frame
- ✓ Marking of a Baseline 50cm from the dead level contour
- ✓ Proper holing out of basins mulching and planting



## 2.5 CHC Training

CHC training sessions were done in Ngomeni only from the four wards. Training is targeting new members that were recruited. The table below gives a summary of the trainings done: topics covered, attendance and facilitator:

Facilitator	Topics covered	Venue	Participants		
			Males	Females	Total
Angella Chireya	Personal hygiene	Nyamhunga	0	10	10
Monica Mpofu	Diarrhoea	Tachiona	0	11	11
Gladys Mpatsi	Malaria, germ theory	Dzenga	0	26	26
	Germ theory	Dzenga	0	20	20
Sakile D mutasa	Nurse Tanaka	Chiedza	0	15	15
	Three pile sorting	Jabula	0	35	35
	Nutrition	Chiedza	0	38	38
Francisca Chipeta	Water source	Bopoma	0	30	30
	Sanitation ladder	Bopoma	0	36	36
	HIV and Diarrhoea	Bopoma	0	27	27
Josphine Gomwe	3 pile sorting	Ruza	0	14	14
	Germ theory	Ruza	1	19	20
	Skin diseases	Ruza	0	15	15

## 2.6 Monitoring

### 2.6.1.1 ROSCA activities

ROSCA monitoring was done in all the four wards with all groups from one cluster collecting to save. One group was then selected to save while the others were observing and noting anomalies for correction. Participants were able to pick up the errors, showing understanding of the ISALS/ROSCA principles. Generally, the savings range from \$1 to \$25.





The photographs show:

1. Sai 1 ISAL groups' treasures holding cash boxes and ISAL groups' chairpersons.
2. Jiri 1 ISAL group money counters at work during a savings meeting at Matende.
3. ISAL savings meeting, secretary reading from the ledger book at Choto.
4. ISAL savings meeting at Matende in Jiri 1.

#### 2.6.1.2 Layers production

This is an intervention that is piloted in Njelele 1 only. Gokwe farm fresh layers production farmers are doing quite well except one farmer Betserayi Macheke. This farmer is failing to raise the \$16 monthly contribution towards to purchase the day old layers due to lack of financial discipline. The currently laying birds are at 45 weeks of age and have to be culled at 72 weeks as a result, farmers want to raise the chicks starting from the mid of October to replace this batch. Additional fowl runs are being constructed to accommodate the new batch.



**Problems and solutions**

**3.1 Problems**

- Drying up of shallow wells affecting the nutrition gardening
- Too many community programs affecting the attendance during the community health club’s shows

**3.2 Solutions undertaken**

- Farmers are being encouraged to plant areas that meet available water sources
- Farmers are also being encouraged to grow summer loving plants in their gardens and that are more tolerant to pests’ attack for example cleome and pumpkins.
- Coordination in terms of planning should be practised at community level. This can also reduce farmer fatigue.

**4. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH**

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PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Voucher distribution & redemption
Nutrition garden shows
ROSCA monitoring
CF Monitoring