

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : April 2015

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

Heavy rains were received in some parts of the district during this month. These rains were a blessing and also a post-harvest problem to some farmers that had not started harvesting crops. It was noted in some fields that maize and groundnuts have started rotting. Different areas received varying rains; Chisina 2 received 27mm, Nemangwe 3 (119mm) and Nemangwe 5 (17mm) while there were no rains received in Ngomeni. 2014-2015 farming season is fast approaching its end as evidenced by farmers busy harvesting their crops from the fields in preparation for storage. The month was busy with nutrition garden trainings, conservation agriculture monitoring, conservation agriculture training and new field officer orientation meetings.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

| ACTIVITIES | TARGET | ACHIEVEMENT | OUTSTANDING |
|---|----------|-------------|-------------|
| CA monitoring | 100 | 71 | 29 |
| CA Training (Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre) | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| General Monitoring | On going | | |

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

4.1 PROBLEMS

- Butternut is seriously affected by pumpkin fly
- Limited time to cover all the topics at Fambidzanai
- Lead farmers and technicians bicycles developing problems
- The main challenge was continuous rainfall that caused rotting and germination of maize whilst still in the field and in storage racks.
- Poorly fenced gardens, ie fenced with cut tree branches

1.1 Solutions undertaken

- Farmers should be advised on control of pests and diseases in time so that the quality of their crops is not affected
- Another training to be organized to cover the remaining topics
- Bicycle trainings for the ward representatives to be arranged
- Farmers have been encouraged to harvest and store their cobs in a rain protected storage cribs and bring the maize out for drying when conditions are conducive. They have been urged to harvest maize that had fallen first as if left on the ground will be the first to rot.
- Farmers have been urged to contribute their cash in groups and buy their own fence and then ask the organisation to help in transporting the fence to their areas.