

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : August 2015

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

Cotton companies continued paying farmers at a slower pace. It was alleged by most farmers that payments took up to about 3 weeks. Some cotton companies also intensified their cost recoveries leaving farmers with little incomes. August proved to be a very difficult time for farmers financially. Farmer contributions for subsidized inputs were due in the month. The majority of farmers had planned to pay contributions by proceeds from cotton sales. They awaited payment of cotton sales to no avail until the deadline. This saw only few farmers managing to pay their contributions. The failure to pay resulted in a misconception in farmers that only those who managed to pay remain the beneficiaries in the SIMBA project. Attendance at meetings decreased. As the deadline was moved forward, farmers were encouraged to pay. With the introduction of the \$60 voucher, number of farmers who contribute is expected to rise.

Again, some grain stocks are almost depleted especially those farmers who did not follow CA principles. The harvest was not good hence they are now buying maize and stocking for the lean period. Maize price is going up from \$2.50-\$3.00 per 20l tin to an average of \$4.50 per 20l tin.

There were no rains received in the month of August and temperatures are slowly rising becoming hot as we are drawing deeper into summer. There is a number of farmers across the district who are moving along with the CF calendar; all the operations are almost through i.e. dead level contour pegging and digging, holing out and mulching. While other farmers whose plots have not been fenced managed to gather mulch to be applied later. Farmers are being encouraged during monitoring and meetings to practice conservation farming as it is being predicted that little rains will be received this coming season.

The month was one of the worst months as politically motivated accusation were levelled against the organisation in Ngomeni ward and subsequent threatening of the field officer over the issues of the granaries which are being built in the wards by the program. There is a misconception on the rationale of the granary intervention by a few community individuals. It is believed that they may not be attending the meetings or deliberately decide to make the whole implementation difficult as there is a set criteria and granary sites are chosen by the community. The role of the organisation is facilitate for the meetings and verify what is decided by the community.

The major activities of the month were mainly ceremonies/shows for all activities i.e CHC, ROSCA, granaries, gardens and CA, monitoring and trainings.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
Garden days	14	14	0
Health harvest show	1	1	0
Health and Hygiene promotion household competitions	14	6	9
Health Harvest trainings	4	3	1
Granary Construction	11	5	
Grain banking	29	26	
Monitoring: CF monitoring	4 wards	0	4
Boschveld chickens beneficiary registration	4 wards	1 ward	3 wards

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

PROBLEMS

- There was an accusation from Ngomeni ward that granaries were constructed at MDC affiliated homesteads in Ngomeni ward 5 citing two granaries as example i.e. granary in Bopoma at Chigiya homestead and Elphas Msindo granary in Jabula cluster. Other cited allegations were that Mr Gwatidzo was disallowed by field technicians to be a SIMBA ward chairperson because he is an active political figure and a ZANU PF chairman for the ward. The granary that farmers refused to be built at Mr. Dzenga was another example, Mr. Dzenga is a village head and the program does not construct granaries at homes of village heads and known active politicians with positions in political parties this is because this is going against the principles of neutrality and impartiality.
- Farmers facing Financial constraints to pay up for their vouchers
- Most farmers in ROSCA indicated that they did not save enough money to meet voucher value requirements as it was only three months ago when they started saving seriously with an objective of input procurement.
- Failure by farmers to meet the deadline of depositing farmer contributions for subsidized inputs



- Reduced number of farmers participating in community organized WHH facilitated events and meetings due to misconception that if one does not pay farmer contribution he/she is deleted from the data base.

Solutions undertaken

- The issues were discussed at district level with the management and district stakeholders. Furthermore, EU was made aware of the issue.
- Failure by farmers to meet the deadline of depositing farmer contributions for subsidized inputs
- Reduced number of farmers participating in community organized WHH facilitated events and meetings due to misconception that if one does not pay farmer contribution he/she is deleted from the data base.
- An option of the \$60.00 may raise the number of farmers contributing for inputs
- The misconception was and is still being cleared whenever farmers meet. One still remains a WHH client/beneficiary with/without paying as long as he/she participates as member. However, they were encouraged to use adequate and correct inputs for better yields.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Health harvest shows
CHC monitoring visits
Granary constructions
CF monitoring visits
CHC monitoring
ROSCA group monitoring visits