

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : January 2015

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

The month of January experienced extreme rainfall amounts and heat. From mid-December up to 3rd January, heavy rains were pouring consistently and crippled all field activities especially weeding. The heat became unbearable (mid-season dry spell) with some plots with no mulch showing signs of moisture stress. Most crops are now at mid canopy stage while for those areas that received early rains the crop is now at tussling stage. Planting was done and most plots have been weeded and top dressing applied.

The month of January is identified as a month of financial constraints and severe food shortages across the wards every year. Farmers would have exhausted all they harvested during the lean period. The deficit that would have been created during the peak lean period, will probably force the vulnerable households to dispose of other assets particularly small livestock as a coping mechanism to meet household requirements. As a result, grain contributors/bankers opted for early January as an ideal time for grain withdrawal. The withdrawn grain will therefore be sold for school fees payments while the remainder will be kept for consumption and some contributed to the community social protection tier. Main activities of the month were monitoring of CF plots, ROSCAS, Granary withdrawal & construction, farmer meetings and trial plots monitoring.

2 ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

| ACTIVITIES | TARGET | ACHIEVEMENT | OUTSTANDING |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| CF Monitoring | All wards | | On-going |
| CHC Competition Judging & Show | 1 ward Jiri 2 | 100% | nil |
| CHC shows | 2 | 2 | |
| Granary construction | 11 | 7 | 4 |
| ROSCA Monitoring | 30 groups | 30 groups | |
| ROSCA registrations | | 158 groups | |
| Research & Demo Plots Monitoring | 4 | 4 | On going |

3 PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

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3.1 Problems

- Some farmers ploughed the CA plots including CHC facilitators and some cluster committee members
- Web worm experienced in some areas
- Most CF fields not mulched
- Some communities were not participating in research plots resulting in the owners of the fields carrying out tasks at plots alone or with few community members

3.2 Solutions undertaken

- For farmers who ploughed their CA plots, the farmers suggested that they be punished somehow so that people do not just register to benefit from some interventions only while they do not care about the objectives of the program. They proposed that they be removed in the database with immediate effect
- Farmers were encouraged to spray their fields with cabryl
- Brown days should be introduced to promote the issue of mulching
- Health club members were encouraged to continue with the nutrition sessions as these were important to fill the gaps in knowledge that exists. This was done through the meetings held during the month. Those who did not adhere to the CF principles should be suspended from their positions as facilitators as these are supposed to lead by example in nutrition programs
- Through the meetings held during the month, the objectives of the trials were explained to the farmers. Respond by the farmers is evidenced by their active participation at the research trials now.