

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : July 2015

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

Gokwe is known for cotton growing. The period known as “the season” is the period where cotton growers have liquid cash after selling their cotton. July falls under the season. However, this is a different year as farmers did not have much cotton and furthermore the cotton buying price went down to 30c/kg. Cotton companies and the local authorities had issues that hindered buying of the product. It was stated by some farmers that cotton companies are not paying cash on the spot. Farmers have to wait for a period ranging from 7 to 21 days. This has left the farmers desperate on how to raise the needed input contribution. An alternative has been to sell stocked maize grain. However, the prevailing buying price regime is also not favourable to farmers and the implications of selling are apparent. ROSCA savings are also not enough for farmers to contribute for their inputs as they are very low.

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

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
CA monitoring	11 wards	11 wards	nil
Health Harvest Training	1	1	nil
Granary Activities: Grain banking	36	23	13
Granary opening	7	5	2
Granary construction	3	3	nil

CHC monitoring	11 wards	11 wards	nil
ROSCA monitoring	14 wards	14 wards	nil

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

PROBLEMS

- Bicycles for the lead farmers are non-functioning because spare parts cannot be found on the shops
- 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.

Solutions undertaken

- Extension of the payment period to 20 August may give ample time to farmers to raise the remaining balance.
- farmers are busy selling their cotton to make some top ups for full payment of voucher requirements

ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Garden days and monitoring visits
CHC monitoring visits
Granary construction and official opening of constructed sites
CF monitoring visits
Boschveld participants verifications and cascading of training
ROSCA group monitoring visits