

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : June 2015

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

June is a winter month that was characterised by short days and long nights, chilly morning and bit warmer days, most of the activities were successfully conducted and no rainfall has been received in the month. Though, the environment is cold this is the best time for most of the vegetable crops which are not susceptible to frost burns. Hence, farmers are now concentrating more on gardening. Harvesting of different field crops especially cereals (maize, sorghum, finger millet, pearl millet) and legumes (groundnuts, round nuts, cowpeas) is almost over. This reduced time in field practices is enabling most farmers to fully commit into activities such as attending group meetings and nutrition gardening. Few farmers are still picking cotton, chillies and sweet potatoes. As usual cotton farmers are still demotivated with the prices that are being offered by the buyers which they say are little for them to make a living. Some good maize producers who need to sell their products are also not happy with the prices as they say they are still low though the demand of maize grain is high due to erratic rainfall patterns which were experienced this year.

Main activities of the month were trainings and meetings. CA trainings which began in May spilled over into the month of June. The objective of CA trainings were to refresh farmers on the basic principles of CA and the practical steps involved. Herbicide use training also spilled over into the month. Health harvest Training of Trainers was also done. Meetings included strategic planning meeting for poultry intervention with staff and farmer representatives. Lead farmers and poultry target group sensitization meetings were done after the strategic meeting. Farmers are still requesting for the organization intervention in facilitating marketing of grain crops which are being bought at very low prices by informal dealers. They need money for purchase of inputs but cannot sell grain at prevailing prices.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
Poultry intervention strategic meeting	1 Meeting	1 Meeting	nil
Community Sensitization Meetings	6	4	2
Health Harvest Training: ToT	1	1	nil
Granary Activities	5	5	nil
CA Trainings	19 clusters	19 Clusters	nil
Bio-Fortified Foods Taste Fair	1	1	nil
Monitoring: ROSCA	290	189	101
Monitoring: CA	11	9	2
Monitoring: CHC	11	9	2

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

PROBLEMS

- Farmers still unaware about when the payment of their money as a contribution to the vouchers will start as we are approaching towards the deadline of the payment and yet payment plans are not yet in place. A notable number who have since shared their money are complaining that they will end up using their money as it is now high time since they collected their money for payment. A notable number of farmers have indicated that they have their cash ready.
- Some lead farmers who were not performing who were asked to be relieved of their lead farmer roles are refusing with the bicycles and at the same time are mocking those lead farmers doing the work, taking themselves being at an advantage having a bicycle to use while doing nothing. They are refusing with the bicycles saying it is their payment for the work done mobilizing farmers for all the period they were lead farmers. There are three problem relieved lead farmers in Sai 1.

- Bicycles for lead farmers and technicians need repair as the majority of them are now non-runners due problems of chain, rear gear wear, rear hub wear and a host of other issues.
- There is late planting of some winter crops in vegetable nutrition gardens and that will consequently affect their nutrition as gardening is one of the prime and relatively cheaper source
- The bulk of the butternut crop was affected by Powdery mildew

SUGGESTIONS

- The management has been approached about the issue and things are being sort out. However the farmers have been urged to continue putting their money into circulation and safe keeping of the cash while waiting for the completion of the payment logistics.
- The issue has been raised with the management and are yet to take a decision on the issue. If the bicycles are left with the lead farmers in question them majority of the lead farmers and farmers will not have confidence in our deliberations in the wards.
- Ward based bicycle repairers were trained but nothing has started happening in the wards. We are to approach the management again on the issue.
- The continuous monitoring and group meetings are a platform to encourage farmers to fully practice their activities for them to have better results