

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : June 2016

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 is characterised by short days and long nights, chilly mornings, no rains and a bit of warmer days. Most of the project activities were successfully conducted without any climatic complications. Generally, crop harvesting is almost over across the district for crops i.e. cereals (maize, sorghum, finger millet, pearl millet) and legumes (groundnuts, round nuts, cowpeas). Farmers are still picking sweet potatoes and cotton. Notably, cotton is being picked on a very slow pace. This could be attributed to the fact that the cotton buying price still has not been gazetted yet. Threshing of maize, for most farmers, has not yet started as maize moisture content is still high due to low temperatures which are delaying the drying process of maize. Food security situation remains stable in the operational wards. Grain is still available. Both sorghum and maize grain are available and the price remained at \$4.00 a tin. It is also understood that there are some areas that are selling a tin of maize for \$3.50. Cowpeas are available and are considered for banking this season since it is what most farmers have. Government food for work program by Social Welfare department and cash transfers by CARE have also improved the food security situation.

The major activities for the month of June were trainings and monitoring. Activities that were successfully conducted include climate change workshop, post-harvest produce handling, ROSCA group and individual trainings, sweet potato taste fair, monitoring visits of community and individual nutrition gardens and granary monitoring visits. IETC and green Trade have started buying sesame and mung bean respectively. Incomes obtained by farmers will be monitored as from next month.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
Climate change workshop	1	1	nil
Post- harvest produce management training	26	26	nil
ROSCA refresher training	14	14	nil
Sweet potato taste fair	1	1	nil
Routine Monitoring: Gardens, Poultry, Granaries	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous

2 PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

2.1 Problems

- Water for gardening is the major limiting factor for successful and all year round vegetable production in most parts of the operational area.
- Cash shortages have seen farmers moving up and down the banks to redeem their chilli payment.
- Failure to establish whether chickens really died or they are consumed
- Farmers' mung beans that were bought by Green trade on contract is yet to be paid. All the mung bean accepted was taken but it is now up to a month before they are paid although their product has since been transported to Green trade's warehouse.

2.2 Solutions undertaken

- To mitigate or reduce the impact of water shortage farmers are being encouraged to grow small pieces of land for vegetables that can be watered properly by the available water source. Furthermore, wells can be deepened.
- To continually closely monitor performance of chickens at HH for any sign of disease so that they are reported and controlled on time
- The issues of mung bean and sesame marketing has been communicated to APT marketing officer.

3 ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Gardens Training
Orange fleshed sweet potatoes processing training
ROSCA training
Gardens monitoring
Yield assessment