

# Activity Progress Report

## Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : May 2015

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

### 1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

Generally farmers were busy harvesting their field crops across the district. It has been noted that there is a decline in the yields as compared to last season due to dry spells which were experienced this 2014-2015 farming season. The erratic rainfall patterns affected all crops. Trainings were the major activity of the month. CA trainings were carried out in all the 14 wards and are still in progress. The objective was to refresh farmers on the basic principles of CA and the practical steps involved. Some farmers are no longer adhering to basic principles such as mulch and crop rotation hence low yields. It was noted that some farmers were busy harvesting cotton. This delays CA activities such as winter weeding and basin digging as this activity may stretch to end of June. Marketing of maize grain to the informal market is another activity taking place. For example in Musita the 20litre tin is fetching as low as \$2.00. Farmers are requesting assistance on marketing of grain so that they will be able to realise reasonable income from grain sales. Cotton yields are also low and this negatively affect income levels for individual households.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
CA trainings	45	36	9
Herbicide training	7	6	1
Garden Monitoring	52	50	2
QPM Harvesting Monitoring	35	35	0
CA Monitoring	7	7	0
Boschveld Chicken Registrations	2 wards	2 wards	On going
ROSCA Activities			On going

## PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

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### PROBLEMS

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- Funerals during trainings days affecting some farmers to attend the trainings
- Local leaders meeting dates coinciding with the trainings resulting in trainings being postponed
- Little knowledge on nutrition from farmers
- Farmers indicated that the period given to raise the \$95 was too short since some groups were not saving much.
- Majority of the bicycles for the lead farmers and technicians are down and so are walking on foot.

### SUGGESTIONS

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- The disturbed clusters are to be trained in the first week of June
- Refresher courses on nutrition to farmers
- Farmers had a suggestion that if they are given up to end of July, they may be able to meet the target.
- Farmers were proposing to change the rear hub of the bikes and fit with what is locally available. They were advised that repair of the bicycles is on the pipeline although taking a little bit longer. Farmers were also advised to restrict their movements to their clusters and groups only and to reduce their movements.