

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : November 2015

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

The major focus for the month was the input voucher processing and redemption. Phase 1 which expired last month had 1561 farmers while 6136 farmers managed to participate on the phase 2, \$50 vouchers which expired during this mid-month. Lead farmers, Field Technicians and farmers continued fowl run construction for the chicken intervention. Furthermore, Community Health Clubs (CHCs) competitions and health harvest trainings were also carried out. A training on health harvest was done in Nemangwe 5. Extreme heat was experienced during the month resulting in drying up of many shallow wells used for watering plants. Chilli was also distributed and planted during the month. First preference was given to CA farmers although there are other non- CA farmers who are participating. The establishment of the crop was seriously affected by extremely high temperatures experienced. Naturally, in the district, the first effective rains are expected in mid-November. However, this was not the case this year. The rains were sporadic as predicted. There wasn't much rainfall, only light showers were received in the operational area. An average of 15-30mm of rainfall was received in Chisina while Njelele received between 5-14mm which farmers said was not effective to start planting.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
Voucher processing & redemption	6136	6136	0
QPM Distribution	2.1t	2.1t	0
Fowl runs construction	All wards	All wards	On-going
Health harvest Training	1	1	Nil

<i>QPM quality testing</i>	3	3	0
<i>Herbicide use training</i>	6	6	nil

4. Challenges and solutions

4.1 Challenges

1. Both lead farmers and technicians bicycles are no longer functioning properly forcing the team to walk long distances during monitoring
2. Too much work load on Njelele 3 technician as he is operating alone such that some activities are not being properly covered
3. There was limited choice of varieties during redemption of inputs. Farmers bought what was there and not what they wanted.
4. There is high pests and diseases incidence in most gardens especially this summer periods for example web worm and soft rots in most leaf vegetables that reduces the quality and quantity supply of vegetables in the area.

4.2 Solutions to be undertaken

1. If possible some farmer representatives be sent for bicycle training to correct this
2. Upgrading another lead farmer to relieve Njelele 3 technician's work load
3. For future projects, distributions should be spread and not done in one day to avoid night distributions
4. Farmers are being encouraged to grow indigenous vegetables in their gardens which are more pest and disease tolerant and also summer loving crops.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
CHC graduation shows
CF monitoring
Fowl run construction progress checking
Broiler chicks distributions