

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : October 2015

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

The month was characterised by a sporadic spate of heatwave. Voucher distributions, poultry production training and brown shows were the major activities of the month. Extreme heat was experienced during the month resulting in drying up of many shallow wells used for watering plants. There was a scramble for chilli among farmers. Land preparation was done by all farmers who have gardens but many were left out because of water shortages. Farmers are willing to produce crops which have a ready market as cash challenges are stripping many households. The newly introduced \$50 voucher has seen many farmers bringing their contributions together in preparation for payment. However, emphasis was put on only farmers who have basins. Many 'chancers' were coming up using messages which were sent out by WHH as justification of their right to pay for the voucher.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
Voucher distribution (farmers)	1561	1561	Nil
Brown shows	14	13	1
Fowl run material distribution	140	126	14

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Problems and solutions

3.1 Problems

1. The message for the \$50.00 voucher was received with misconception that anyone can buy despite active participation. Farmers who did not dig basins and no longer participating in any program claimed that since they had received messages on phone from the “donor” itself, no one can stop them from paying. Lead farmers had a hard time with such farmers. There are farmers who, after receiving their voucher last season, ploughed the basins down and used conventional farming. The same farmers were demanding to pay for the \$50.00 voucher as they had received messages on their phone. Therefore, as much as sending messages to farmers is a good idea, the messages are highly misinterpreted causing confusion among farmers.
2. Low attendance at brown shows
3. Delay by the agro-dealer to supply the agricultural inputs in Jiris, Sai 1 & Nemangwes.

1.2 Solutions undertaken

4. Farmers were addressed as to who was to benefit from the \$50 vouchers. FOs carried out these meetings and clearly indicated who was to benefit; thus a farmer with 0.5ha of basins.
5. Farmers appreciated the significance of the brown shows and were an eye opener to many. This will encourage farmers to attend in future than perceive them as waste of time
6. The agro dealers were given a deadline of up to the first week of November.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
CHC ward show
CHC graduation shows
Herbicide trainings
QPM palatability taste fair
Fowl run construction progress checking
CF monitoring