



Sustainable Intensification of Market Based Agriculture (SIMBA)

Gokwe South District, Midlands Province (ZWE 1077)

APRIL 2014. Monthly report.

Activities:

- Strategic planning meeting
- TOT field technicians (CA and Gardens)
- TOT PHHE for EHTs and Field officers
- Assessment of Nutrition gardens in the wards
- Planning for CA trainings first phase
- Planning for TOT PHHE facilitators

Strategic planning workshop.

This workshop was done from the 8th to the 11th of April 2014. The main objective of the exercise was to harmonise all activities in the project document so that all staff has an understanding of what the project requires in all result areas. The session was facilitated by a consultant who took the whole staff into all parts of the project.

Activities in the various key result areas were discussed and possible synergies were deliberated on with other key result areas. A detailed working plan was drawn that covers all the activities into one master plan. It is this master plan that will act as guide the implementation of all the activities during the course of the project.

ToT field technicians.

Following the outcome of the strategy meeting, one of the key activities that were supposed to be done was to conduct a trainer of trainers for field technicians. The key interventions under agricultural production are conservation agriculture CA and Nutrition gardens. All field technicians were called to attend a ToT on the two main areas. The training was started on the 15th to the 17th of April 2014. All workshop attendants were trained at Shingai training centre. The three day training session covered both CA and nutrition gardens.

25 participants attended the training, with 4 females and 21 males

Other issues discussed during the training involved matters to do with the manner in which the field technicians have to conduct themselves as they interact with farmers in the ward plus stakeholders at large. The following were some of the topics discussed:

Approaches to community

- Community is composed of different people from the youth to the elderly.
- Participatory approaches to be used.
- Use of the different sub committees to run the affairs of the ward in all project activities.
- Draft a meeting agenda before calling people to a meeting.

Training skills

- Gather as much information on whatever is needed for the training.
- Prepare the training manual and material needed for the training.
- Inform the project participants well in time for the date, venue and time for the training.
- Use participatory methods during the training.

Understanding roles a field technician, lead farmers, cluster committees and ward committee

- What is the role of a field assistant/technician
- Who is a lead farmer, and what is the role of a lead farmer in the project.
- What is a cluster committee and what are its roles.
- What is the role of ward committee?

Reporting structures

- Top – bottom approach.
- Bottom – top approach.
- Three way reporting system.
- CBPM approach

Personal management.

- Contact- HAP
- Communication
- Reporting

ToT Participatory Health and Hygiene Education

Result 3 of the SIMBA project has the component of community health clubs. These are clubs with the aim of improving health and hygiene status of the project clients as a cross cutting issue within the main activities of the project. The ToT was meant for the training of 4 WHH field staff as well as 10 Environmental Health Technicians for the various wards in which WHH is operating. The training was once again a 3 day workshop which covered all aspects of PHHE.

The training ended with a work plan that was adopted by the trainers which will be used to train facilitators. Selection of facilitators is currently going on in the different wards and the training of facilitators should start on the 13th to the 17th of May 2014.

Assessment of Nutrition Gardens.

Identification of gardens to be included in the SIMBA project is currently going on with assistance of the field technicians. Preliminary assessments are currently being carried out and final evaluations of the gardens will be done. The following criteria are currently being used in the selection of suitable gardens to be included in the project:

- Source of water for the garden
- Distance the garden is located from the river if it is the source of water
- Type of garden (individual or community)
- Households using the garden.
- Current crops grown in the garden.

Planning for CA trainings.

Considering the conservation agriculture calendar, trainings for CA are supposed to begin as from May 2014. The trainings shall be held at cluster level where all interested participants shall attend the trainings. The trainings shall be cascaded on a will participation basis since there will not be any target group. It is expected that after the trainings verification shall follow to really identify who will be taking part in the CA activity.

Compiled by

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