

## **Sustainable Intensification of Market Based Agriculture (SIMBA)**

### **Gokwe South District, Midlands Province (ZWE 1077)**

**March 2014. Monthly report.**

#### **Activities:**

- Ward planning meetings
- Selection of Field Technicians
- Selection of lead farmers
- Ward Field days

#### **Ward planning meetings:**

Ward planning meetings were held in the new operational wards namely Jiri 1 and 2, Njelele 3, Nemangwe 4, Chisina 1,2 and Sai 1 and 3 and were held at cluster level. Each of the new wards was divided into four areas which were subsequently named clusters according to the terminology being used. The four areas came as a result of the fact that farmers complained about the distance they travelled to get to the ward centre. Therefore these designated areas meant to reduce the distance the farmer travels to the meeting points for the sake of project planning.

Huge turnouts were witnessed during the planning meetings. All interested farmers came during these meetings where the project package was fully unveiled. The following were issues discussed during these meetings:

- Description of SIMBA project objectives
- Description of project facets in detail
- Expectations from each farmer in terms of participation in the project
- Description of organisational structure for proper conduct of the project
- Selection of lead farmers and cluster committees

All work was planned during these meetings and an agreement was reached that all tasks discussed would be carried out before the final registration of beneficiaries in the project database.

Training of lead farmers and cluster committees is supposed to commence this April. The training shall focus on orienting the lead farmers and the cluster committees on their roles

and responsibilities in the Community Based Planning and Monitoring (CBPM) approach that is used in project implementation.

### Ward Field Days

Conservation farming field days were held during the course of March 2014. They were well organised with the farmers taking the leading roles at every stage. Enough food was organised to feed all the participants numbering 300 on average for all the Field day sites namely Jiri 1, Jiri 2, Nemangwe 3&5, Njelele 1& 2 and Ngomeni. The farmers took turns to entertain fellow participants in the form of short dramas, poems and songs. Music was the main entertainment for all. It is important to note that all the shows were held in a friendly atmosphere no quarrels whatsoever.

### **Compiled by**

Assistant Administrator

Portia Gonde