

Activity Progress Report

Sustainable Intensification of Market based Agriculture (SIMBA)

ZWE 1077

Gokwe South District

Month [&Year] : July 2016

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

1 GENERAL INFORMATION / CONTEXT EVOLUTION

Temperatures have dropped reducing the rate of drying for chilli which is taking up to two weeks to dry. Income from chilli has enabled quiet a number of farmers to purchase grain. Again, most of them are buying water pumps in preparation for the next season as they are looking forward to increasing the production area. No frost damage has been recorded to garden crops. The Boschveld chickens that were given to mostly female headed households have started laying (40%) which is positive sign as farmers can eat, sell or allow the eggs to hatch thus improving their stock, nutrition and income at household levels.

The Gokwe district agricultural show was successfully held at Cheziya community Hall during the month of July. The show was organised by the Department of Agritex with the Town council and supported by WHH. Farmers from all the district wards showcased their products. Food security remained stable across the operational area. Some communities have started selling cotton and that has grossly improved the circulation of money within those communities. This is coupled with the sales from chili, maize grain, sweet potatoes and some horticultural products. However, on the bigger picture, the district still needs more support in terms of food supplies for the government drought relief programme as some households did not harvest at all. Grain prices have slightly increased in some areas with an asking price of \$5-6. This might imply an increase in demand and a decrease in supply. There are also some organisations in the district that are trying to alleviate the food insecurity situation. CARE and CARITAS are/will provide cash through CTP, to some households within the district. The programs range between 6 and 12 months.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH

ACTIVITIES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	OUTSTANDING
Nutrition Garden training	15	15	Nil
Yield Assessments	120	50	70
Grain Constructions	4	4	0
Grain banking	In progress	In progress	In progress
District Agricultural Show	1	1	Nil

2 PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

2.1 Problems

- Storage of meat used during trainings or functions is an issue of concern. Those who have refrigerators are now demanding payment and sometimes the quantity may not be stored in the fridge hence need to ask for more refrigerators
- The suspicion on chilli side marketing by farmers. There are rumours that farmers are side marketing chilli to buyers with cash and offering a better price than BA (\$3/kg of fresh chilli). Getting names of farmers who sold to them is a challenge
- Non availability of OFSP in other wards hinders training on OFSP processing which farmers found to be quite interesting
- Low farmer turnout at the training. Although there are few farmers doing nutrition gardening the numbers at the trainings were far less than expected. This can have been caused by one training scheduled for the ward, which site was far away from the other ends.
- The trainings were done while the majority of the gardens were already planted, thus it came a little bit late. It could have been timed in March or April before seedlings were planted
- The financial flow or circulation in the area has negatively imparted the production systems of Boschveld particularly in the purchasing of stock feed and also in ROSCA activities where most farmer groups have set \$5-00 as their maximum contribution towards monthly savings.

2.2 Solutions undertaken

- To buy goats which are slaughtered on the day of the event
- BA to have meetings with farmers and try to find the cause and solutions to the problem of side marketing
- To distribute OFSP cuttings now for multiplication
- Trainings have to be split into two adjacent clusters to reduce farmers walking long distances.
- Trainings have to be scheduled earlier so that planting would be done after equipping farmers with the necessary skills.



- Farmers are being encouraged to use home- made poultry feed supplement to counter the effect of highly prized commercial feed. The funds raised from the sale of field produce such as mung bean, sesame, cotton, cowpeas, sorghum and chilies must be wisely rotated and saved in ROSCA.

3 ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Gardens Shows
Input voucher Farmer contribution mobilisation
ROSCA training
Gardens monitoring
Yield assessment