



2016 ANNUAL REPORT FARMERS' CLUBS ZIMBABWE



Submitted to: U-landshjelp fra Folk til Folk, Norge

FARMERS' CLUBS ZIMBABWE PROGRAMME DAPP ZIMBABWE

FARMERS' CLUBS MAKONI; FARMERS CLUBS MASVINGO

PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

Farmers' Clubs Zimbabwe started in 1996 in Bindura/Shamva as the model of agriculture meant to increase small-scale rural farmer production, incomes, and food and nutrition security. The model has since been replicated in other parts of Zimbabwe and has also spread to several Southern African countries with high success for increasing productivity, incomes, food and nutrition security of small scale farmers.

Farmers' Clubs Zimbabwe works with 1,837 farmers through two Farmers' Clubs Projects within the communities of Makoni and Masvingo Districts. The entire Farmers' Clubs program organises small-scale farmers to join forces and resources together, to further the agricultural production of each farmer and to enable them to improve their living standards. The program educates farmers to be effective and efficient in food production whilst creating surplus for sale. It introduces low cost adaptable solutions, low technological farming methods and provides financial support systems to trigger the process of economic, social and environmental development. Furthermore, Farmers' Clubs work directly with farmers to increase yields, improve crop variation, raise product quality and develop simple and sustainable farming methods. Farmers' Clubs trains farmers to systematically organize themselves to collectively bargain for buying and marketing activities as unified groups, they realize cost effective solutions and open up reliable markets. The Farmers' Clubs creates a synergy and good working relationships with relevant extension service departments for the benefit of farmers.

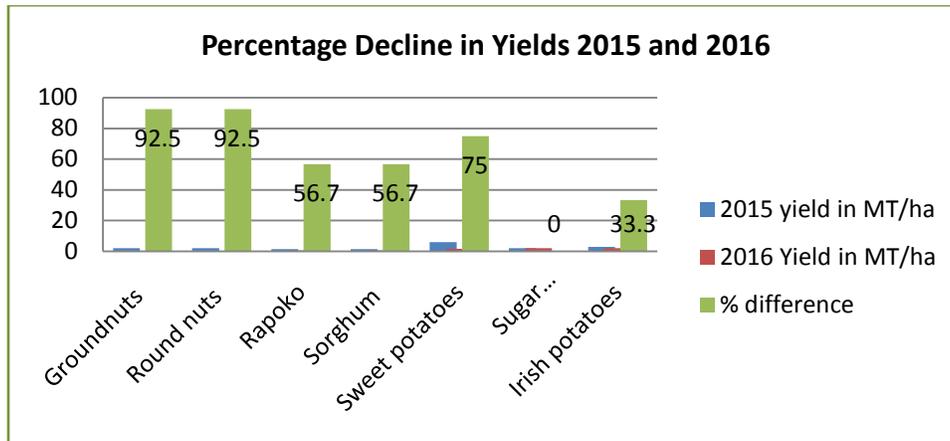
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

This report focused on activities and results achieved between January and June 2016.

CROP MANAGEMENT PERIOD (*January to April 2015*)

Field crop production

The crop management period had limited field activities due to the poor rainfall distribution with a lengthy mid-season drought which badly affected the field crops to an extent that some of them were declared a write-off by the AGRITEX Department. Like in most parts of the country, Gutu and Makoni Districts were affected such that farmers working with the two projects had to endure the harsh consequences of the El Nino phenomenon. In Gutu, the total amount of rainfall received during the season was 496mm which was within normal range with an average of 550mm per annum but much of it was received in April 2016 after field crops had given in to excess drought. Unlike Gutu, Makoni district received 300mm which was well below the normal average of 750mm-800mm. Majority of the crops were a write off with little yields being realized in fields where conservation farming techniques were used although they did not suffice farmer's annual cereal requirements. Comparing harvests with those for 2015, there was a huge percentage decline as shown in graph 1:



Graph 1: percentage decline for crop yields 2015 and 2016

From the graph it can be deduced that food insecurity was prevalent among in Mutasa and Gutu districts with maize being a write off. This is despite the effort by farmers to maintain weed free crops with others making use of herbicides in addition to manual labor. An impressive side is the perfection with which farmers maintained their records concerning these crops.

In addition to the lessons on El Nino and La Nina, and coping mechanisms, Look and Learn was done during three field days in Makoni, where farmers shared notes on how they managed the crops, challenges and how they overcame them. Farmers were encouraged to switch on to garden farming as a coping mechanism.

Livestock Husbandry

Caring for livestock during this period was faced with a number of challenges with depleting grazing lands that were not easily replenished as well as the high emergence of ticks and diseases. Farmers worked in groups purchasing dipping chemicals and nutrient supplements, preparing fodder and inviting support from the Livestock and Veterinary Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture. Livestock is key for food security as it is a source of income and protein. Sadly, some farmers had to sell livestock so that they

Other Essential Issues

Farmers' Clubs Zimbabwe assisted in planting 8000 eucalyptus trees in the two districts at household level as a way to establish alternative sources of timber and fuel as communities really need these. 1604 tippy taps were installed and maintained at different households by the active farmers in the program. 3 health campaigns were conducted on the themes on malaria and HIV/AIDS as some of the crosscutting issues.

GARDEN FARMING PERIOD (May-August 2016)

Crop production

By the beginning of May 2016, most farmers working in the program had successfully revived their group and household gardens and they were doing well especially because of the rains received in April. Most farmers were yielding their first crop of vegetables especially covo, rape and tsunga. This means that intensive garden activities were done over the longest period as it started as early as March for most farmers ending well after August 2016 due to tried water sources. This is because that was the readily available backstop measure to fill the food insecurity gap created by failed field crops. Farmers resorted to cheap but effective ways of

production, chiefly organic farming using compost and animal manure and mulch. All gardens had an average of 5 crops at any given time. Farmers applied skills learnt in the group gardens in their household gardens.

Farmers quickly turned their attention to garden farming as soon as they realized that the field crops were dying due to drought. Therefore by the beginning of April, farmers had re-established both household and group gardens and were looking forward to harvesting vegetables like rape, covo and tsunga. All gardens had an average of five crops each. Farmers established more nurseries to allow for maximum production in the garden for as long as the water for irrigation is available. Compost and animal manure were utilized for garden production and healthy crops were realized leading to yield expressed in table 2.

Table2: Garden production for major garden crops April October 20

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Yield in 31 Group gardens in MT</i>	<i>Yield in 1635 Household gardens in MT</i>	<i>Average selling price/kg in US\$</i>
Covo	58	82	0.75
Rape	61	122	0.75
Tsunga	38	44	0.75
Irish Potatoes	41	650	1
Peas	10	18	0.88
Tomatoes	78	188	1
Sugar Beans	11	18	1
Cabbage	12	8	0.75
Spinach	4	6	0.75
King Onions	25	67	1
Carrots	4.5	7	1
Tsenza	-	0.4	1

The crops grown varied by district as some crops are peculiar to a certain district for example tsenza is a tuber produced in one ward of Makoni. Cabbages and spinach are not very popular crops in both communities as the main vegetable is covo, rape and tsunga. Group yields benefited participating farmers as they shared profits and risks. Group gardens acted as a teaching and learning platform for the farmers who used skills learnt to up the production in their gardens. Household produce was sold through inter-club marketing committees and in Gutu, farmers were supported to carry produce to markets through an agreement with the local member of parliament. Gardens were very important especially in 2016 as they raised some income for the purchase of maize meal, and use some portions in the garden to produce maize. The income helped the farmers to service their internal saving and lending accounts which were organised in core groups. By the beginning of the land preparation and planting period, farmers had well laid plans for the acquisition of inputs

Livestock Husbandry

Working in their core groups, farmers made sure they secured vaccines and dipping chemicals for all the livestock in their care. The sale of livestock helped a lot of farmers although the prices were very low on the majority of stock days and also due to the poor quality of livestock. Despite

the low selling prices, families used the income to purchase basic commodities such as food, health services and pay school fees.

Other Essential Activities

Farmers' Clubs Zimbabwe encouraged the construction of 807 firewood saving stoves at different households in the two districts of operation. Six health campaigns were conducted on anti-malaria and clean water themes.

LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING PERIOD (Sept to December 2016)

Demonstration Plots

40 conservation farming demonstration plots were established in the two districts with support from Zimbabwe's Seed houses; K2, Seed Co and ARDA with both open pollinated and hybrid varieties. The plots were further divided into sub-areas for the demonstrations on small grains such as cowpeas, rapoko, groundnuts. Manure and fertilisers were used in the demonstration plots.

Conservation farming

1435 farmers prepared an average 0.1ha in Makoni (823 farmers) and 0.2ha in Gutu (612 farmers) using conservation farming techniques which entailed minimum soil disturbance, mulch, intercropping and crop rotation. Groundnuts and round nuts were grown using conservation farming techniques by all farmers as it is the traditional way of production.

Conventional production of maize

Bigger pieces of land averaging 2ha of maize land per farmer were cultivated using mechanized means by all 1837 farmers. This was because conventional methods are time saving and thus a bigger land would be tilled in the shortest possible time.

Livestock Husbandry

Goat rearing groups continued in Makoni with one group having completed the first cycle where they had sixty goats, they share forty among the 20 of them and left 20 in group ownership. Their aim for the second round is to reach 60 goats, and sell 45 to abattoirs and share proceeds among group members. This cycle will be repeated in all superseding cycles in line with the constitution.

Other Essential Activities

The two farmers Clubs projects, Makoni and Gutu planted a cumulative total of 4180 fruit and wood trees in recognition of the National Tree Planting Day commemorated on 3 December 2016. To promote hygiene, 1200 refuse pits and 1637 tippy taps were maintained at an equal number of households.

EFFECTS OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Result 1: Farmers' increase their wealth

- ❑ Farmers quickly engaged in intensive garden production during the crop maintenance period for income generation after the field crops had been badly affected by the El Nino imposed drought
- ❑ Farmers improved management of their family income through investing in internal saving and lending activities where money saved gains interest
- ❑ Garden production assisted many farmers in raising funds to service their internal saving and lending accounts.
- ❑ 120 farmers have increased their economic base since they engaged in the goat project as the herd is increasing and one group has shared 40 goats completing the first cycle bracing them up for the second cycle where they will sell the goats as a group and share proceeds.

Result 2: Improved food security including nutrition

- ❑ Farmers diversified the foods that they eat by varying the crops they produced in the fields and in the gardens
- ❑ Farmers have a starting point for supplementary food as the gardens will be functional for the greater part of the year although they were affected by the El Nino induced drought.
- ❑ The farmers who grew small grain had some grain although it was not sufficient to last them 3 months, they had somewhere to start from. Gardens served an essential role as it they provided a fall back in food production and as a supplementary source of income.

Result 3: Improved use of land

- ❑ 1 435 farmers increased the possibilities of household food security through embracing conservation farming methods
- ❑ Farmers increased their production through using organic methods of farming as shown through their use of compost and animal manure in garden production and the production has even increased

Result 4: Improved well-being and health of farmer families

- ❑ There was improved household hygiene as farmers maintained the use of tippy taps and dish racks Farmers have been educated on ways of protecting themselves from diseases like malaria and diarrhoea and they have kept their yards free from mosquito breeding sites and each household has a functional tippy tap.

Result 5: Increased access and use of water for irrigation

- ❑ Production was easy in the gardens as farmers had reliable sources of water for irrigation in their group gardens in form of boreholes and rope and washer pumps, which they maintained to make sure they are functional.

Result 6: The farmers are organized in the community together with fellow farmers

- ❑ Club committees have proven to be able to coordinate group efforts through frequent meetings with the club members, thus moving forward the farmers' clubs concept.

ATTACHMENT 1: PROJECT IN NUMBERS

Farmers' Clubs Program 2016	Plan 2016	Achieved 2016	Difference
Number of Farmers in Farmers' Clubs	1 837	1 837	0
Training sessions by Project leaders	220	240	0
Farmers in training sessions	1 837	1 837	0
Visits to individual Farmers' fields	1 597	2236	+639
Club committee training sessions (PL)	200	208	+8
Club committee meetings (Club)	120	120	0
Farming Actions and Events	200	207	+7
Health and Hygiene Actions	12	12	0
Food Security (as seen)	1837	0	-1837
Farmers having their own gardens (as seen)	1837	1635	-202
Farmers with filled out membership books (as seen)	1837	1837	0
Clubs which have updated public club poster	46	46	0
Study sessions by project leaders	46	52	+6
Number of group gardens	31	42	+11
Number of model fields	10	40	+30
Number of field and garden days	20	5	-15

Comments:

Food security has been achieved for an average of three months for families working with Farmer' Clubs besides the other effects of El-Nino induced mid-season drought that was experienced in two districts. The number of household gardens was less than the target because some areas were arid and could not support garden production. The number of model fields exceeded the target because of the of the projects' partnership with various seed houses which include ARDA, K2 and Seed Co.

ATTACHMENT 2: THE PROJECT IN PICTURES



A rape crop in a household garden in Makoni



Demonstrating the use of a tippy tap in Makoni



Farmers show a dish rack that promotes hygienic handling of dishes



Farmer preparing liquid manure using cow dung



Conservation farming field in December 2016, Gutu



Low cost irrigation pump in use in Gutu

ATTACHMENT 3: RECOMMENDATIONS



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ZIMBABWE

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not be addressed to individuals*

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11 November 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Ref: PVO



RE: LETTER IN SUPPORT OF DAAP FARMERS CLUB OPERATIONS: W0/22/80: MAKONI

This letter serves to recommend the operations of Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Club Makoni implementation of their work in Makoni District.

The club is involved in food security programmes in wards 7, 8 and 12 which has, among others, contributed to improved living conditions among our people through:

- a) Availability of food and eradication of hunger.
- b) Internal savings and lending clubs.
- c) Farmers clubs training.

Income generating projects like horticulture and piggery production.

In view of this, this office notices and acknowledges the important work by done by the organisation and hence supports their programme intervention in the district

Yours

Mrs L. Mugwagwa

FOR DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICER

MAKONI

GUYAMATANGA SCHOOL
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GUTU

CASE STORY - BEEKEEPING

WE ALMOST CAUG UP BEEKEEPING PROJECT IN OUR AREA BECAUSE OF LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. WE WERE USING TRADITIONAL BEEHIVES OF TREE BARKING AND LOG HIVES. ALSO WE USED TRADITIONAL SKILLS WHEN HARVESTING. WE USED FIRE WHEN HARVESTING WHICH MADE MANY BEES DIE AND AT TIMES THE FIRE CREATE BUSH FIRES WHICH END UP DESTROYING OUR ENVIRONMENT.

Few DAYS TO DOWN THE PROJECT. DAPP FARMERS CLUB PUSHED THE DOORS OPEN WITH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF BEEKEEPING. WE ARE NOW CONSERVING THE FOREST. WE WERE TAUGHT ABOUT THE KENYAN TOP BAR-HIVES. THEIR BENEFITS AND HOW TO CONSTRUCT THEM. AT FIRST WE THOUGHT OF ITS EXPENSIVE BUT THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE AND COMPARED WITH THE SYSTEM WHICH WE WERE USING. WE SAW THAT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA. AT PRESENT WE HAVE 4 KENYAN TOP BAR-HIVES. WE ARE EXPECTING TO PRODUCE GOOD AND QUALITY HONEY SINCE WE WILL BE ABLE TO SELECT HONEY WHEN HARVESTING, ALSO WE ARE ABLE TO SEE HOW THE BEES WORK. WE ARE NOT DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE HIVES ARE EASY TO WORK WITH.

WE THANK THE DAPP FARMERS CLUB FOR INVESTING EDUCATION AND EFFECTIVE WAY OF REDUCING POVERTY. UNDER THE DAPP FARMERS CLUB PROJECT LEADERS' SUPERVISION, WE CAN PRODUCE MORE HONEY AND CONSTRUCT MORE MODERN BEE-HIVES ALSO TO SPREAD THE EDUCATION OF DAPP TO OUR NEIGHBOURS.

THANK YOU

CHIPENZI ISAIAH - ID - 77-000745 - 27

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