



DAPP
ZIMBABWE

Farmers' Clubs Makoni Annual Report

January to December 2016

To: U-landshjelp fra Folk til Folk,
Norge



**FARMERS' CLUBS MAKONI
DAPP ZIMBABWE
JANUARY – DECEMBER 2016**

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

1	PROJECT NAME	Farmers Clubs Makoni
2	OPERATIONAL AREA	Makoni District
3	PROJECT LEADER	Douglas Gondo
4	PHYSICAL ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS	Farmers' Clubs Makoni Sefax Complex, behind Teachers' Furnishers, Rusape P.O. Box 817, Mutare Contact Numbers 0773588157 Email douglasgondo1973@gmail.com
5	THE PROJECT IDEA AND THE PEOPLE IT REACHES	The idea is to establish 27 Clubs of 44 small scale farmers each and support them to farm effectively and sufficiently from their land to achieve food security for their families, and to earn cash by selling their products on the market. The way is to empower the small scale farmer by offering the farmer access to an organized Club Life including elements as training sessions, model farming, field visits, low cost technical solutions, technical assistance, exchange of collectively gained experiences, personal assistance and much more agriculture expertise that the Farmer's Club Project provides for the farmers in the Club.
6	THE PEOPLE AT THE PROJECT	1 Unit Leader, 5 Project Leaders
7	THE HISTORY IN BRIEF	DAPP Farmers' Clubs Makoni was formed in 2013 as a follow up programme to C to C program. Makoni. Farmers' Clubs helps organize farmers living in wards 7, 8 and 12 in smaller groups of 25- 50 so that they become productive in their farming. The farmers will diversify their crop, so that they become less vulnerable to variations in weather and market.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

CROP MANAGEMENT PERIOD (JANUARY TO APRIL 2016)

The 1200 farmers working with Farmers' Clubs Makoni were affected by the low rains received in the 2015 to 2016 season as a result of the El-Nino weather phenomenon to an extent that some were food secure for a few months (4-6 months) from the time they harvested. As such this period turned into a planning period on how they were to deal with the food deficit that was imminent to cover the grain deficit. In local terms, the availability of adequate cereal grain for the production of mealie-meal which is used to prepare sadza (the staple meal) determines the food security. Table 1 shows production in the crop management period.

Crop	Average ha/farmer	Number of farmers	Average yield MT/ha	Average yield in MT/farmer	Approximate total yield in Mt for all farmers
maize	2.5	1200	Write-off	-	-
Maize in CA plots	0.1	720	0.1	0.01	7.2
Yams	0.1	500	Write-off	-	-
Groundnuts	0.1	1200	0.2 shelled	0.02 shelled	24
Roundnuts	0.1	1200	0.2 shelled	0.02 shelled	24
Rapoko	0.1	266	1	0.1	26.6
Sorghum	0.1	136	1	0.1	13.6
Irish potatoes	0.1	336	2	0.2	67.2
Sweet potatoes	0.5	1200	2	1	1200
Cucumber	0.1	336	Write-off	-	-
Butternut	0.1	468	Write-off	-	-
Sugar Beans	0.2	960	2	4	384

Table 1: Field crops and yields

From the table, it can be seen that cereal grain was in shortage for the 1200 farmers working with the project looking at the yields they had per hectare. This is despite their effort to practice proper agronomy, making sure the crops were weed free and appropriately tended. In March, farmers started reviving their gardens as fall back measure.

It therefore became imperative that Farmers' Clubs Makoni helped farmers to work on ways of coping with the deficit and making sure they had an appreciation of the possible effects of El-Nino and La-Nina as a way of preparing farmers for the next farming season. In addition, lessons also covered other topics linked to animal husbandry, intercropping, health and hygiene.

Three field days were conducted in three wards (wards 7,8 and 12) showcasing rapoko, sweet potatoes and groundnuts fields and these were attended by a cumulative 860 farmers. Farmers were encouraged to adopt short season and small grain as a way to cushion themselves from the severe effects of climate change.

Livestock Husbandry

The 1200 farmers participated in lessons that were conducted with assistance from the livestock Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. Farmers organised themselves in smaller groups for the purchase of animal vaccinations and dipping chemicals. Each farmer had prepared spare cattle kraals in case there was water-logging, but fortunately this did not happen and thus spare kraals were used to store supplementary fodder.

Environment and Health Issues

The project planted 5000 fruit and wood trees at individual household level. Two HIV and AIDS campaigns were conducted with a total attendance of 97 people from wards 7 and 8. 967 tippy taps were installed within 10 footsteps from the latrine at an equivalent number of households.

GARDEN FARMING PERIOD (MAY TO AUGUST 2016)

As indicated earlier, this period started on a higher level as farmers had shifted focus to the gardens as of March 2016. By the beginning of the May to August period, farmers were moving towards the peak of production in the gardens with each garden having at least seven crops, among them onions, rape, covo, tsunga, cabbage, tomatoes, spinach, peas and carrots. Most leaf vegetables were being harvested. As time progressed new cycles of production were maintained. Crops were harvested and farmers used an approximate average of one quarter of the garden yields and sold the rest to local and outside markets which helped them to maintain their internal savings and lending accounts. Yields from the gardens were as shown in Table 2.

Crop	Total yield in 27 group gardens	Total yield in 1100 household gardens	Cost in USD
<i>Covo</i>	37	52	0.5
<i>Rape</i>	40	95	0.5
<i>Tsunga</i>	20	24	0.5
<i>Irish potatoes</i>	41	650	1
<i>Peas</i>	10	18	0.75
<i>Tomatoes</i>	30	60	1
<i>Sugar Beans</i>	11	18	1
<i>Cabbage</i>	11	7	0.5
<i>Spinach</i>	4	5	0.5
<i>Onions (King)</i>	4	13	1
<i>Carrots</i>	1.5	4	1
<i>Tsenza</i>	0	0.4	1

Table 2: Garden Yields

The 27 club gardens were maintained through club effort, whilst household gardens depended on family input. All the gardens made use of compost manure as the main source of plant nutrients with a total manure harvest of 250 MT. Water was sourced from rope and washer pumps, deep wells and inland dams. Farmers' Clubs Makoni partnered with KickStart in introducing simple and manually operated irrigation technologies which needed neither electricity nor other fuels. As such, demonstrations were done leading to 5 maxi pumps being installed by 5 group gardens for easier irrigation using water from small dams. 15 households installed hip pumps in their gardens whilst 5 installed maxi pumps for easier irrigation. Families were encouraged to take all their meals with vegetables as a way to

improve their health. 27 cooking demonstrations were conducted during this period showing how the various garden crops can be prepared in different ways.

Livestock Husbandry

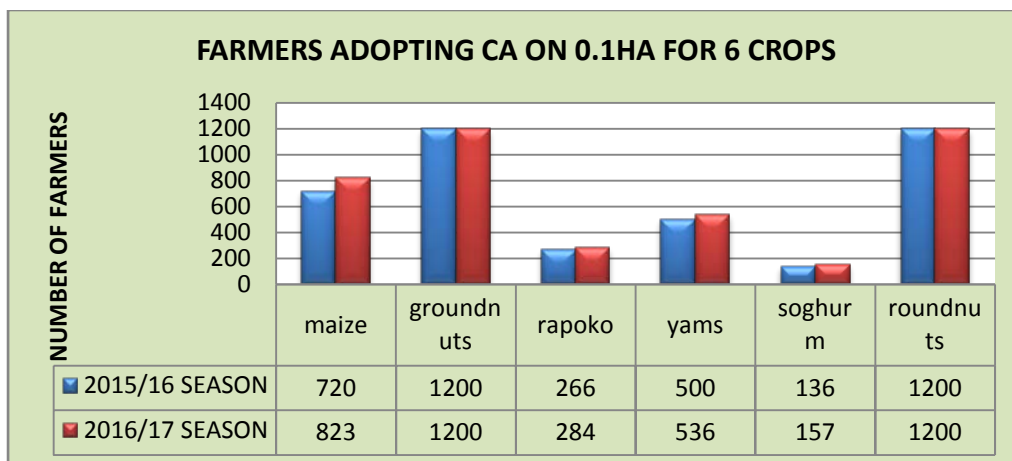
Farmers were encouraged to use spray dipping chemicals as they are affordable and convenient rather than to wait for government supplied chemicals for public dip tanks. Due to the limited grazing lands, fodder stored in the crop management period was used to provide supplementary feeds.

Other Essential Activities

Three anti malaria campaigns were conducted in the three wards where the project works, wards 7, 8 and 12. The campaigns were successful because of the participation of a total 167 farmers who were active and cleaned public spaces getting rid of mosquito breeding zones. 289 firewood saving stoves were constructed at 289 households and farmers have reported that they are economic in terms of firewood and saves time as they are efficient. 27 new dish racks were constructed whilst all the other families maintained the dish racks that already existed.

LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING (SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2016)

Despite the high temperatures experienced during September and October 2016, 823 registered farmers worked manually to prepare an average of 0.1ha conservation plots for maize per household. All the 1200 farmers had at least 0.1ha of groundnuts and round nuts using conservation farming. Graph 1 summarises the utilisation of conservation farming for different crops. The pattern in the graph shows an increase in the uptake of conservation agriculture for farmers working with Farmers’ Clubs Makoni assuming that the driving force is the need for food security at household level.



Graph 1: Utilisation of conservation farming by crop

Farmers also grew similar crops using conventional mechanised means which are time saving. Table 3 shows the land prepared and planted by the 1200 farmers using conventional means adding to CA fields.

crop	2015/16 season			2016/17 season		
	Number of farmers	Average land size in ha	Total ha	Number of farmers	Average land size in ha	Total ha
<i>maize</i>	1200	2.5	3000	1200	2.5	3000
<i>Groundnuts</i>	1200	0.1	120	1200	0.1	120
<i>Roundnuts</i>	1200	0.1	120	1200	0.1	120
<i>Rapoko</i>	266	0.1	26.6	310	0.1	31
<i>Soghurm</i>	136	0.1	13.6	152	0.1	15.2
<i>Irish potatoes</i>	336	0.1	33.6	352	0.2	70.4
<i>Sweet potatoes</i>	1200	0.5	600	1200	0.5	600
<i>Cucumbers</i>	336	0.1	33.6	357	0.1	35.7
<i>Butternut</i>	468	0.1	46.8	496	0.1	49.6
<i>Sugar beans</i>	960	0.2	192	1020	0.1	102

Table 3: Utilisation of conventional means for production

According to the farmers' plans, they intended manual weeding for the majority of their crops except 225 who were to use herbicides only in their maize fields. Every farmer had adequate seed and fertiliser which they bought in purchase and marketing groups that were in existence especially for selling garden crops.

Demonstration plots

25 Clubs established uniform demonstration plots that were supported by the project with 0.03ha of each of the following crops, maize, rapoko, cowpeas, soghurm, sugar beans and groundnuts. 10 clubs established cassava demonstration plots on 0.03ha.

Livestock husbandry

120 farmers organised in six groups continued to rear goats as an income generation. Four of the groups reached the target of 60 goats and they have share two goats each, leaving 20 goats within group ownership. The target is now to reach 60 goats and sell 45 goats at a given time. The other two groups are likely to share proceeds in February 2017.

Other Essential Services

To commemorate tree planting day, each club planted 500 fruit and wood trees both indigenous and exotic species. The trees had been raised in club nurseries which were in the gardens and they were shared equally among group members. 1000 tippy taps were maintained at different households. 1200 refuse pits and dish racks were maintained.

1020 farmers participated in the action of cutting of tall grass around homesteads and pre-schools as part of the 12 malaria campaigns.

EFFECTS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Result 1: Farmers increase their wealth

- Farmers maximized production in the gardens and each sold an average three quarters of their produce, allowing 600 of them to service their internal savings and lending accounts. These have helped them to prepare for the land preparation and planting phase.
- Money earned from the sale of projects helped the farmers to meet some of their daily economic needs such as financing the food budget and paying school fees for their children

Result 2: Improved food security including Nutrition

- Farmers have been able to vary the foods they eat by varying the crops produced in the field and in the gardens
- Income earned from the garden adequately covered the food deficit budget which arose from the El Nino phenomenon that was experienced.
- There has been an increase in the adoption of conservation farming techniques for food production similarly to an increase in the number of farmers producing small grain as a food security measure.
- Farmers had clearly planned ahead on how they were going to work in the land preparation and planting period as well as the crop management period in 2017.

Result 3: Improved use of land

- Farmers have strengthened their use of conservation farming through applying it in producing various crops other than the traditional maize and yams.
- Farmers made use of organic compost manure and liquid manure, methods which improve the soil structure.

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

- 1000 farmers improved health and hygiene practices by maintaining tippy taps at their homesteads and all the families had refuse pits and dish racks.
- Farmers commended the wood saving stoves indicating that they help them to save time and fuel.

Result 5: Increased access and use of irrigation water

- 20 farmers improved their capacity to irrigate by purchasing and installing the hip and max pumps following two garden days where KickStart showcased their irrigation technology. Similarly, five farmers' clubs installed maxi pumps for irrigation of the group gardens.

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

- Farmers worked in core groups with a lead farmer and their procurement, production and marketing activities were better organized for the majority of the core groups.

ATTACHMENT 1: PROJECT IN NUMBERS

Farmers' Clubs Makoni	Planned Jan- Dec 2016	Achieved Jan- Dec 2016	Difference
Number of Farmers in Farmers' Clubs	1200	1200	0
Training sessions by Project leaders	120	120	0
Farmers in training sessions	1200	1200	0
Visits to individual Farmers' fields	960	960	0
Club committee training sessions (PL)	120	120	0
Club committee meetings (Club)	240	240	0
Farming Actions and Events	120	121	+1
Health and Hygiene Actions	6	6	0
Food security as seen	960	720 for 3 months	-960
Farmers having their own gardens	960	1100	+140
Farmers with filled in membership books	1200	1200	0
Clubs with updated club poster	27	27	0
Study sessions by project leaders	24	24	0
Number of demonstrations	27	27	0
Number of group gardens	27	27	0
Number of model fields	27	25	0
Field and garden days	6	5	-1
Rope and washer pumps maintained	6	6	0
Step up farmers training sessions by PL	6	6	0
Field visits by Step up farmer	5400	5400	0
Trio Meetings	24	24	0
Weekly studies	24	24	0

Comments

The food security situation for the farmers was alleviated by the availability of irrigation water all year round which allowed for improved production in the gardens. Money earned from the sales financed the food deficit budget.

ATTACHMENT 2:PROJECT IN PICTURES



Preparation of a conservation farming plot



Garden day at Mabvazuva garden



Making liquid manure in the group garden



Firewood saving stove construction



Preparing a demonstration plot for Farmers' club



Health promotion through use of tip tapes

ATTACHMENT 3: RECOMMENDATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION



*Official Communications should
not be addressed to individuals*

MAKONI DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES
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RUSAPE
ZIMBABWE

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Email: rusapedss@gmail.com

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

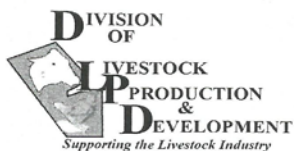
All communications should be addressed to:
"The District Livestock Specialist"

Reference:.....

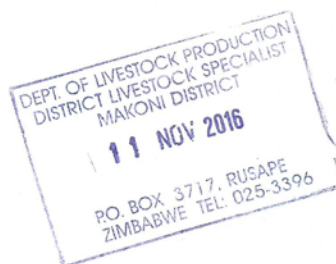
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, MECHANISATION AND IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK AND VETERINARY SERVICES

Chingaira Building
Room 104
Rusape
Zimbabwe

P.O. Box 3717
Rusape
Zimbabwe
Telephone 025 3396



Date: 11 November 2016



To

Whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref. Support Letter for DAPP, Zimbabwe, Livestock projects interventions.

DAPP, Zimbabwe is implementing livestock projects in Makoni District namely piggery in ward 8 and goats in ward 12. These are pass-on projects which are benefiting the community and this will improve people's livelihood.

It is against this background that the Dpt is encouraging DAPP to continue supporting such projects eg more funding for expansion of such projects so that more communities or wards benefit from such noble interventions.

Thank you

Regards

Takaya A. (Dls- Makoni District-0776013027)