

The following case study was received as a result of a call issued by the Committee on World Food Security for case studies highlighting examples of initiatives aimed at 'Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition'. The cases received provide the background for a discussion of lessons learned and potential policy implications at a special event on October 15th, 2015 during CFS 42. Find out more at www.fao.org/cfs/youth.

YOUTH –TECH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PARTNERS COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

Building Knowledge, Skills And Talent Further Food Security And Nutrition

CASE STUDY SOUTHERN AFRICA ZIMBABWE

Background

As a regional development partner organisation based in Zimbabwe, dealing with natural environmental management, Agriculture ,food and energy youth educational and empowerment initiatives and also human rights engaged in dealing with the grassroots community based, youth crop production small grain production, ginger, cassava, bananas and sweet potatoes in Manicaland and Mashonaland West Provinces. The initiative paved developments for innovative technical approaches together with smart agriculture after we realised the failure of poor government policies on the land issue, abuse of human rights including the Marginalised poor peasant farmer on the poor soil and a recorded fiasco of the Zim-asset investment policy especially on Value-addition and others. The failure was as a result of selfish and greedy local politicians who self branded every national asset for self-interests at the cost of poor citizens and mobilised the poor youth into also corruption resulting in the damaging of natural resources e.g. wetlands, Chitungwiza area with the potential to develop wetland gardens. Already suffering widespread from food insecurity due to poverty, unemployment and high prices exacerbated the situation of food insecurity, destroying water storage sites for food.

CHALLENGES

The challenges encountered over the period were politically motivated in some instances where the youth communities in rural settings experienced working dissonance, Why? The youth were affiliated to politics of wrong dogma and this brought poverty due to behaviour irrationality in production worsening their socio-economic conditions. We are pleased today because of a slight change in the above mentioned area and noted a New door for all our outreach knowledge, skills and talent development of youth food security and nutrition in the face of a hostile climate change further to this other changes are affected by lack of funding to hold workshops, extension services work, regional cooperation and technical incubation programmes on food security / feed and sustainable livelihoods.

Another serious challenge is the closing down of the private sector (productive industry) at any alarming rate due to the poor and bad economic performance 2012 -2015,which also is a key player in the partnership Projects and Programmes for food security/ feed and sustainable livelihoods. The Government on Food security policy must also relinquish those functions to knowledgeable management system and food security programmes functions better performed by others. The individual government must be strengthened to perform appropriate functions such as maintaining law and order establishing and enforcing property rights. Promoting competition in private sector, facilitating private sector investment and seeking improved access to markets both regionally and internationally. A regulatory policy framework need to be in place to improve governance for hunger reductions, tools for building national capacity based on international standards

APPROACH USED

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In an effort to address political chaos hindering the development of a comprehensive plan for food security/ nutrition. We conducted a series of workshops and roadshows at the urban farmers trading centres and markets as we did find these locations to be a meeting point of civilized and a better neutral people to have the right and conductive audience. The issues addressing rural youth farmers enable us to disband and break the cords of sufferings the bondage of wrong political doctrines, liberty from poverty and empowerment to prosperity. The funding aspect is still at large, with the need to develop sustainable intensification in Agriculture and Sound Management efforts are carried out to fund raise through sale of Arts/ crafts on themes of environment challenges. A few industries are at work to complement partnership projects which also are in support of our food security development initiatives and this is our approach to enhance food productivity together with other regional private- sector and public partnership actors.

OUTCOME AND IMPACT ACHIEVEMENT

Statically 536 females and 406 males benefited in the youth smallholder food security development programme. They benefited through training in selecting and improving varieties, permaculture, other extension services packages technical innovations in flour making out of banana ,cassava, cereals out of drought –resistant's small grains. Meat processing as a result of value-addition of poultry, beef, pork, fish and this is great. We want to address you that other programmes are underway with the food laboratories. The food security and nutrition were improved on the basis of value addition, technical innovation, and variety improvement. Breaking culture and political barriers, training the youth farmer, building linkages of trade and marketing promoting packaging, storage and research activities. The impact achievement recorded developing/ assembling a CDM compliment framework(ie SMART-CDM which simultaneously enables smallholders to improve their livelihoods and obtain carbon credits. Harnessing smallholders capacity in community organisation and collective decision making in choosing and applying smart practices for carbon sequestration emission reduction and improvement in living standards.

LESSONS LEARNED / OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCALING UP

The approaches should be adapted to other situations in the future by engaging on paradigm shift calling for governments to consult and cooperate on policy issues with the relevant stakeholders in food security, support structures and incentivize youth farming without compromising the natural resource develop training schools for sustainable value –addition in regional and global chains. The need for the financialization of regional / global value addition chains. Another important aspects is the need to strengthen research in Agriculture, Information technologies and modern speedy technologies, the need to address all the food security challenges should be centred on research, academic sessions and policy advocacy.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Firstly government should reposition itself as an actor of development without any political strings attached to the Land Programme considering the case study in Zimbabwe. Smallholders development SADC Countries have adopted economic and sectorial reform policies with varying degrees of success. Smallholder farmers are disadvantaged confronting access to credit and improved physical inputs, low access to credit and improved physical inputs, the absence of a significant store of research findings and activities oriented to Smallholder conditions. Another challenge is Institutional development and the models of smallholder also to create surplus for the market. Another concern are summarised as follows technology generation and diffusion, and requirement of Youth Producers. There is also a need for social protection and Agriculture strengthen synergies between Agriculture and social protection, capacity Assessment (Ca) for strengthening Food security information system, a joint strategy for resilience in Zimbabwe, such as the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) Model

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Youth –tech and Environmental Research