



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. The activities of the FAO Zimbabwe are performed by the Regular Programme and by the Emergency Rehabilitation & Coordination Unit (ERCU).

The Regular Programme focuses on development while the ERCU deals with emergency and relief work. The two entities work hand-in-hand to provide a range of technical services and assistance to the Government of Zimbabwe, humanitarian institutions, smallholder farmers and other stakeholders with the ultimate objective of improving agriculture in the country. The emphasis of the humanitarian support is on smallholder households whose livelihoods are based on agriculture (mainly cropping and livestock).

Main Agricultural Operations



Agricultural Input Support

- Since 2003 FAO has been providing agricultural inputs to vulnerable communal farmers, coupled with extension and training. FAO selects areas to assist in a way to fill gaps (i.e. areas in need but not assisted by other organisations)
- Pilot technologies and new approaches are tested and, if considered appropriate after rigorous evaluation, are promoted to the humanitarian community for scale-up. Recently examined projects include market linkages for output produce, restocking of input agro-dealers, commercial poultry production in communal areas, milk production, and vegetable production and preservation
- Seed Multiplication: in 2009 FAO commissioned the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to develop foundation seed for various crops (sorghum, groundnut, cowpeas, pearl millet) in order to boost local availability



Conservation Agriculture



- FAO promotes Conservation Agriculture (CA), an agricultural practice that has potential to increase yields and productivity for all sizes of farms and agro-ecological systems. This approach is based on four principles: minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover, crop rotations and improved management
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development, FAO, research institutions and NGOs are also promoting CA for the above reasons plus its environmentally sustainable and labour saving methodologies
- In the 2009/10 season over 80,000 communal farmers were practicing CA. Through a wider promotion and adoption of CA, productivity, food security and income of many more farmers could be improved
- FAO chairs the task force on CA in Zimbabwe, whose focus is to improve the way CA is promoted in the country, by developing training manuals and guidelines, commissioning M&E studies and sponsoring training

Crop Diversification

- FAO aims to improve household food security through crop diversification, which reduces the risk of crop failure and improves dietary levels
- FAO supports the production, processing and marketing of cassava through various activities mainly the establishment of primary and secondary nurseries to enhance farmers' access to clean planting material, community based projects on cassava processing and producing production manuals
- In the drier regions of the country FAO supports the production of small grains through the provision of seed and fertilizer packs to vulnerable households
- FAO supports the production of legume crops and a variety of garden crops to help improve soil fertility and raise household nutrition levels



Animal Production and Health

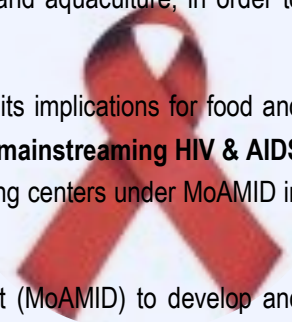
Livestock vaccination and disease surveillance programs aimed at reducing not only animal deaths but the spread of zoonotic infections (transmissible from animals to humans) are taking place nationwide. These programs complement government's efforts in fighting the spread of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and other specified diseases such as anthrax and rabies, the later two being zoonotic infections

- Nationwide **Newcastle Disease (ND) vaccinations started in 2006**. In 2009 alone approximately 8 million birds were vaccinated in the first round of vaccinations and 2nd round of vaccinations are underway
- FAO assisted **Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccinations** started in 2005. An estimated 1 million cattle have been vaccinated since then. A structured surveillance programme was launched as an early warning tool in 2009
- In 2010 FAO launched a programme to assist with the control of **Tick-borne** diseases through the provision of dip chemical and training of dip tank management committees
- **Anthrax & Rabies Vaccinations:** 3 million cattle in anthrax endemic areas and 550,000 dogs in rural were vaccinated against **Anthrax** and **Rabies** respectively.
- **Avian Influenza (AI)** awareness is undertaken through training; and the production and distribution of pamphlets and posters



Mainstreaming HIV & AIDS, Food and Nutrition

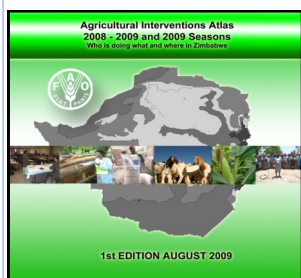
- HIV & AIDS is a contributory factor as well as a consequence of food and nutrition insecurity
- FAO strives to promote integrated home and school gardening, including small livestock and aquaculture, in order to promote **dietary diversity**
- FAO creates **awareness** among various stakeholders on the scale of HIV & AIDS and of its implications for food and nutrition security and agriculture. FAO has trained senior managers and extension agents in **mainstreaming HIV & AIDS** issues in the agricultural sector. FAO has technically assisted agricultural colleges and training centers under MoAMID in mainstreaming HIV & AIDS in their curriculum
- FAO has supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development (MoAMID) to develop and implement a comprehensive **HIV & AIDS strategy** for the agriculture sector in Zimbabwe



Forestry

- FAO assisted the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management through the Forestry Commission to reduce extreme fire threat to gazetted forests, forest plantations, rural livelihoods and the natural environment in selected districts in Matabeleland North and Manicaland Provinces. Due to the project impact, the country experienced significant reduction in fire incidences in the project areas

Coordination



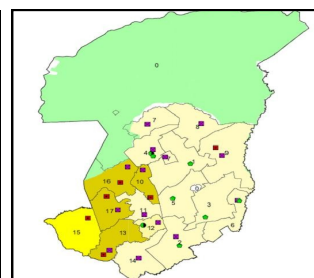
Agriculture Interventions
Atlas 2008/09 season



Demonstration site in Murehwa



Coordination



Example of map:
Agriculture Interventions
Hurungwe District 2008/9

- FAO organizes and chairs the **Agriculture Coordination Working Group (ACWG)**, a forum that brings together key players in the agricultural sector to discuss agricultural issues. Representatives of government, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, donors, United Nations Agencies, farmers' unions and other stakeholders constitute the meetings
- FAO also chairs **technical working groups**, which focus on areas such as livestock, conservation agriculture, gardens & nutrition, seed & fertilizer production and market linkages. These groups are tasked to produce technical guidelines, project models, and promote ideas for uptake
- FAO collects, analyses, produces and disseminates a wide range of **information and knowledge products** covering issues pertaining to availability of inputs, seasonal developments and food security
- FAO supports major **national agricultural surveys**, including national crop assessments in collaboration with AGRITEX, the annual joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions (CFSAM), the Agriculture and Food Security Monitoring System (AFSMS), and actively contributes to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC)
- An **Agricultural Database** of humanitarian interventions is managed by FAO. It contains information on projects such as type of assistance provided, geographical coverage, beneficiaries, donors and inputs supplied

Recent Publications

Farm Management Handbook: FAO is assisting MoAMID in the review and update of Farm Management Handbook to improve extension services to farmers

A **Guide to CA** : A comprehensive manual on Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Zimbabwe was produced to support extension workers in their efforts to promote CA

Plant Genetic Resources: FAO assisted MoAMID to prepare the 2nd Country Report on Plant Genetic Resources for inclusion into the World Report on Plant Genetic Resources

Agricultural Atlases are produced annually, showing who is doing what where regarding humanitarian interventions

Donors and Partners

- Key donors of FAO's humanitarian interventions in Zimbabwe are the EU, DfID, OFDA, Sweden, Spain, Norway, Netherland and Finland. The activities of the Regular Programme are fully funded by FAO
- Key governmental partners are the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development (in particular AGRITEX and DVFS), the Meteorological Services Department and the Department of Economics & Marketing
- FAO has a close working relationship with research institutes, NGOs, farmers' unions and various players in the private sector.



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