

Project Highlights

ZIMBABWE

“Improved livelihoods through sustainable agricultural development”

Project code: OSRO/ZIM/002/SWE

Donor: Sida

Contribution: USD 1 441 859 (SEK 10 million)

Implementation: 01/10/2010 – 31/12/2012

Target areas: Gokwe North and South, Hurungwe

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Objective: To contribute to the improvement of livelihood security of small-scale communal households in three selected districts of Zimbabwe.

Project partners: AGRITEX, two NGOs – Concern and Sustainable Agriculture Trust (SAT) – and ICRISAT.

Beneficiaries reached: 3 400 households.

Activities implemented:

- 3 400 l of herbicide, 7.5 tonnes of cowpea seeds and 787.5 tonnes of various fertilizers procured and provided to 3 400 households.
- Beneficiaries received extension support and training on conservation agriculture (CA).
- SAT facilitated contract farming arrangements between private companies and 1 200 farmers for cowpea production and 50 farmers for chilli production.
- Contract farming households trained in marketing, farming as a business and contract arrangements.
- Baseline, post-planting, and pre- and post-harvest surveys conducted in all three districts and staff from implementing partners trained to conduct the surveys.
- 0.6 tonnes of pearl millet, 3.8 tonnes of cowpea and 4 tonnes of groundnut foundation seed were produced at Matopos Research Station.

Results:

- 1 700 ha of maize, 360 ha of cowpea, 240 ha of groundnut and 12.5 ha of chillies were planted using inputs provided under the project.
- Yields attained were lower than expected, but above the baseline, five-year average and non-beneficiary yields, in spite of a midseason dry spell that hampered production.
- Overall, beneficiary households had a surplus of 789.5 kg compared with non-beneficiaries, who had a deficit of 91.15 kg.
- On average, households received an income of USD 213.48, USD 262.50 and USD 44.68 from the sale of surplus maize, chillies and cowpeas, respectively.
- Using the produced certified and registered foundation and breeder seed, 18 tonnes of pearl millet, 76 tonnes of cowpea and 32 tonnes of groundnut of certified seeds is expected to be produced by seed houses, reducing reliance on low quality seed.
- In 2013, this is expected to result in the production of 900 tonnes of pearl millet, 1 267 tonnes of cowpeas and 320 tonnes of groundnuts, feeding 1 100 households for a year.