



“Improve the resilience, food security and nutrition of smallholder female and male farmers in Zimbabwe through improved access to inputs, climate smart agricultural practices and strengthened information systems”

Project code: OSRO/ZIM/701/USA

Resource partner: United States of America

Contribution: USD 2 191 288

Implementation: 23/08/2017–30/11/2018

Target areas: Bulilima, Chivi, Gwanda, Insiza, Mberengwa, Mwenezi, Tsholotsho, Umzingwane and Zvishavane districts



Contact

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Objective: To improve the livelihoods, food security and nutrition of smallholder farmers.

Key partners: Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement, and Non-governmental Organizations.

Beneficiaries reached: 10 197 drought-affected smallholder farmers.

Activities implemented:

- Procured agricultural and livestock inputs to be delivered to Agricultural Development Associations (ADAs) to sell to farmers: ADAs sold 2 300 tonnes of feed to 4 070 households and 41.15 tonnes of cowpea seeds to 7 097 households, generating USD 251 889 to be reinvested into the communities.
- Delivered 5 000 single layered hermetic bags to 1 800 farmers.
- Provided 7 218 cattle with access to feed, improving their nutritional status and survival prospects.
- Trained 279 extension staff and 6 131 farmers on good agricultural practices focused on cowpea production, and post-harvest and handling methods.
- Trained ADA members on leadership skills, logistics, and financial, project and warehouse management to build their capacity to manage the sale of inputs.
- Trained 5 479 farmers and 277 extension officers on animal health and livestock production, including feed-lotting, pen fattening and meat grading, to enhance farmers’ awareness and the capacity of extension officers to provide support.
- Conducted post-distribution and pre-harvest assessments, and participated in key national agriculture and food security assessments, to determine the impact of the project and assess the food security and nutrition status in project areas.
- Facilitated one national level end of project review meeting and nine district level meetings to disseminate good practices and lessons learned from the project to key stakeholders, including farmers.

Results:

- Increased farmers’ access to cropping and livestock inputs, specifically feed, seed and hermetic bags.
- Strengthened agriculture and food security and nutrition early warning and information systems.
- Enhanced the capacity of ADAs to conduct managerial functions.
- Enhanced the capacity of extension officers and farmers to maximise the use of agricultural inputs.
- Build farmers’ awareness of the proper way of maintaining and managing animals.