



Project Highlights

ZIMBABWE

“Improving rural livelihoods through an integrated farming approach”

Project code: OSRO/ZIM/001/SPA

Donor: Spain

Contribution: USD 732 601

Implementation: 01/08/10 – 20/07/11

Target areas: Kadoma district

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Objective: To improve the livelihood security of small-scale communal farming households in selected districts of Zimbabwe.

Project partners: Agricultural Technical and Extension Services and Sustainable Agriculture Trust.

Beneficiaries reached: 750 farming households.

Activities implemented:

- Established eight demonstration plots and trained farmers on intensified crop methods and sustainable land use, in particular conservation agriculture (CA).
- Distributed agricultural inputs, including 15 tonnes of maize, sorghum and cowpea seeds, along with 330 tonnes of fertilizers and agrochemicals.
- Carried out 22 training sessions on vegetable production, and established 13 communal vegetable gardens.
- Distributed poultry production inputs, including 1 500 layers and 3 375 broilers, complemented by feed, vitamins, minerals and antibiotics for poultry production.
- Carried out 12 monitoring visits and an external evaluation.
- Trained farmers on land and water management, crop and livestock production and reforestation.
- Distributed artificial insemination kits to 225 cattle-owning households.
- Established 70 farmer working groups.

Impact:

- Farmers achieved crop yields of about 3.18 tonnes per ha of maize, .45 tonnes per ha of cowpea and .82 tonnes per ha of sorghum.
- 60 percent of project beneficiaries had maize and vegetable surplus, enabling them to generate more income.
- Improved dietary diversification at household level through increased livestock and vegetable production.
- Built the capacity of farming communities to better understand CA and conservation farming practices.
- Improved household food security, allowing beneficiaries to produce enough grain to meet their food security requirements for one year.