



**COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION (CTDO)**

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

ACRONYMS

ABS	Access to Benefit Sharing
ACE	Agricultural Centres of Excellence
AEER	Agriculture, Education, Extension and Research
AMA	Agricultural Marketing Authority
AMT	Asset Management Team
ANCP	Australian NGOs Cooperation Programme
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
BRACT	Building Resilience through Adaptive and Adoptive Capacities for Transformation
BROT	Bread for the World
BVIP	Blair Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine
CBI	Crop Breeding Institute
CG	Care Group
CHC	Community Health Clubs
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CTDO	Community Technology Development Organization
CTDT	Community Technology Development Trust
DFNSC	District Food and Nutrition Security Committee
DR&SS	Department of Research and Specialist Services
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ERASE	Enhanced Resilience, Adaptation to shocks and Economic Strengthening
FFA	Food Assistance for Assets
FFS	Farmer Field School
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
HH	Household
IGA	Income Generating Activities
ISAL	Income, Saving And Lending
ITPGRFA	International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture
LFSP	Livelihoods and Food Security Programme
LFSP	Livelihoods and Food Security Programme
LSA	Lean Season Assistance
MANA	Multisectoral Approach Towards Nutrition Adaptation Project
MELANA	Matabeleland Enhanced Livelihood and Nutrition Adaptation
MLAWFRR	Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Rural Resettlement
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Care
NBCC-CG	Nutrition Behaviour Change Communication-Care Group
NUF	Neglected and Underutilized Foods
PFNSC	Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committee
PLWD	People Living with Disabilities

PPB	Participatory Plant Breeding
PVE	Participatory Variety Enhancement
RSA	Resilience Smart Agriculture
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDHS	Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security
UMP	Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe
UN	United Nations
WASH	Water And Sanitation Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHH	Welt Hunger Hilfe
WPC	Water Point Committee
ZAKIS	Zimbabwe Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Services
ZFU	Zimbabwe Farmers Union
ZRBF	Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS



It is that time of the year again when I present to you the work that Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO)

implemented in the year 2020. The advent of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic impacted negatively on our lives, and smallholder farmers' livelihoods in and out of our target communities. Indeed Covid-19 negatively affected humanity globally. Some of our most challenging issues were heightened by the impact of the pandemic. We are also seeing an increase in gender-based violence as a result of lockdowns. Coupled with the climate change and the volatile socio-economic challenges being faced in the country the pandemic resulted in the serious disruptions in livelihoods. The United Nations (UN) Secretary General warned, "we face the deepest global recession since World War II, and the broadest collapse in incomes since 1870". The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned of famines "of biblical proportions".

The agricultural sector remains the backbone of the Zimbabwean economy in terms of forex earnings, employment, and importantly, food security at the household level. As one of its key mandate enshrined across the four programme pillars, CTDO managed to overcome a combination of adverse climate conditions and poor agronomic practices, combined with policy uncertainty and negative impact of monetary policies, by availing inputs on time, setting seed breeding objectives and provided essential extension information through social media platforms.

A large number of Zimbabweans lack access to adequate food and have to rely on

humanitarian assistance. CTDO responded by feeding more than 500 000 households across various five districts of the country. Country-wide, the situation was further worsened by a 3-tier pricing regime in a multi-currency economy involving mobile money, local currency cash and foreign currency especially US dollars. These caused transactional challenges in procurement of fuel, an assortment of spare parts for borehole rehabilitation, vehicle spare parts and building materials among several others which were required for programme implementation.

As the nation focused on protecting livelihoods by imposing lockdowns our staff had to continue implementing planned activities. Innovative ways of reaching farmers such as sending SMS messages WhatsApp, ZOOM, and Facebook were used to reach our field officers, local authorities, and stakeholders at district, provincial and national levels. The organization shared skills and knowledge with farmers on how best communities can manage ecologically fragile environments under threat from climate change and variability.

On behalf of the entire Board, and in my personal capacity, I want to express profound gratitude to the CTDO Directorate, Management and Staff for exhibiting a colossal test of leadership under tumultuous economic and environmental conditions coupled by the COVID-19 pandemic. I urge you to embrace the new norm in making decisive, coordinated and innovative decisions for all.

I thank you.

Dr D. Garwe

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS



The year 2020 presented a number of challenges for CTDO, farmers, business and civil society organisations and the Zimbabwe

Government in general. On January 30, 2020, the Director General of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of the COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of international concern. Globally, hundreds of thousands of people have been infected and millions lost their lives. In Zimbabwe the COVID-19 pandemic emerged against the backdrop of a difficult socio-economic environment coupled with climatic induced shocks such as cyclone IDAI and drought.

In this regard the government declared measures to curtail the spread of the pandemic by putting in place measures and guidelines to contain the spread of COVID-19 including lockdowns, limiting the number of people at public gatherings and wearing of face masks, COVID-19 significantly altered the usual way of doing business, and the genesis of a “new normal”. These lockdowns worsened the harsh macro-economic environment thereby worsening livelihoods especially those of smallholder farmers.

Regardless of the many challenges encountered in 2020, CTDO continued implementing its projects in its target districts though at a very reduced scale. The organisation embraced the development initiative by building resilient communities, imparting skills in climate change adaptation, sustainable ecological farming techniques, provision of appropriate infrastructure to harness water, promoting small-livestock

production, mobile access to farming information, community seed banking, advocacy on farmers’ rights and sustainable management of natural resources. In the context of ensuring effective implementation, monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning, all the projects were supported with the requisite staff and financial resources. This was in response to the commitment of our funding partners to realise seed, food and nutrition security as well as sustainable livelihoods diversity in light of climate change and other disasters. Throughout 2020 the organization had to adjust and make hard decisions. But the result of all that effort is evident.

CTDO’s operational activities and outcomes are premised on the 5-year strategic plan (2019-2023). The strategic plan sets out the following critical themes;

- Promoting sensitive food systems and value chains.
- Developing and releasing climate resilient seed.
- Integrated crop-livestock production systems.
- Provision of safe, clean portable water and sanitation.
- Improving environmental management practices and regulations.
- Increased formulation of pro-poor policies.

With active smallholder farmers involvement, promotion of farmer varieties, focussing on economic transformation, gender equality and sustainability, the Strategic Plan sets ambitious development goals and defines how CTDO can best contribute to fighting poverty. Such major long-term goals demand a coordinated approach and good stewardship of the plan so as to foster desired results.

In 2020 CTDO made great strides in the construction of watershed management

infrastructure such as weir dams, drilling of boreholes, installation of solar powered borehole pumps, and rehabilitation of broken-down boreholes. This addressed the challenge of water availability for many households who have had to endure long distances, sleepless nights waiting for their turn in queues, and increased human-livestock conflict for water. The situation has been dire in 2020 as a result of the poor 2019-2020 rainfall season. Communities were empowered to ensure equity in access to safe water, and improve sanitation and hygiene through establishment of health clubs, revamping of Water Point Committees (WPC) and training of pump minders.

The organisation continued promoting the growing of climate resilient small grain cereals and legumes in the low rainfall smallholder farming communities in order to address food and nutrition security. These efforts contributed to averting food shortages that are associated with droughts, pests and diseases. Farmers received training in seed production and marketing, storage and exchange. The Farmer Field School (FFS) approach, is at the heart of the organisation's work towards improving seed and food security in a changing climatic environment. Farmers engaged in activities such as participatory variety selection (PVS), Participatory Variety Enhancement (PVE) and participatory plant breeding hence increasing the genetic diversity at the crop level within their farming systems.

The organisation supported smallholder farmers by establishing income savings and lending (ISAL) groups which set up poultry, rabbitry, bakeries, soap making and market gardening initiatives. Farmers are now able to sell produce in hard currency and buy household utensils, tools and pay for school fees and medication.

In addition, the year 2020 saw an increase in the use of ITC to hold workshops, meetings and training. This enabled CTDO to remain on course in advancing its goals, including

information about the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic is likely to further affect every sector of the Zimbabwean economy but with differentiated impacts depending on age group, gender, disabilities, socioeconomic status, geographic location in the coming years. With lockdown and resulting job losses, we can anticipate that the informal sector will grow even larger. The need to ensure that this group is targeted for support is crucial, as an asset for the development of the country.

Finally, 2020 provided an opportunity for CTDO to build on its successes, refine the way forward, and document lessons learnt into 2021 and beyond. Once again, I take this opportunity to thank everyone (Board, Directorate, Senior Management and Staff) who contributed to the successes that CTDO achieved in 2020 towards accomplishing its strategic vision. We are indebted to our funders and Board Members for their unwavering and consistent support in transforming the livelihoods of resource disadvantaged communities.

Thank you.



A T MUSHITA

WHO

WE

ARE

Community Technology Development

Organization (CTDO) formerly Community Technology Development Trust is a non-profit making non-governmental organization with a proud history dating as far back as 1993. CTDO prides itself in its commitment to promote sustainable livelihoods.

OUR VISION

Communities free of hunger, malnutrition, poverty and injustice in Zimbabwe, SADC and Africa.

OUR MISSION

CTDO seeks to promote participatory research, technology and innovation systems and to advocate for policies that alleviate poverty, food and nutrition insecurity of marginalized communities.

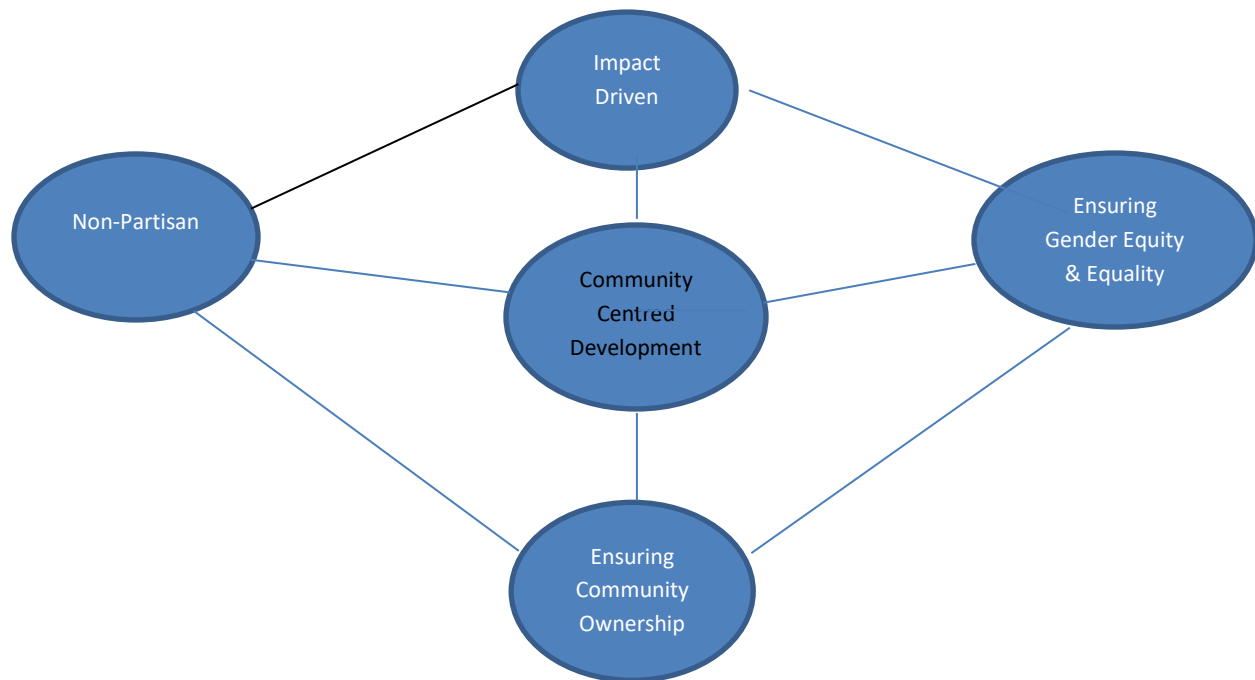
OUR AMBITION

A leading organization on agricultural biodiversity conservation and sustainable use contributing to food and nutrition security for all in a fair and just environment.

OUR VALUES



OUR CORE PRINCIPLES



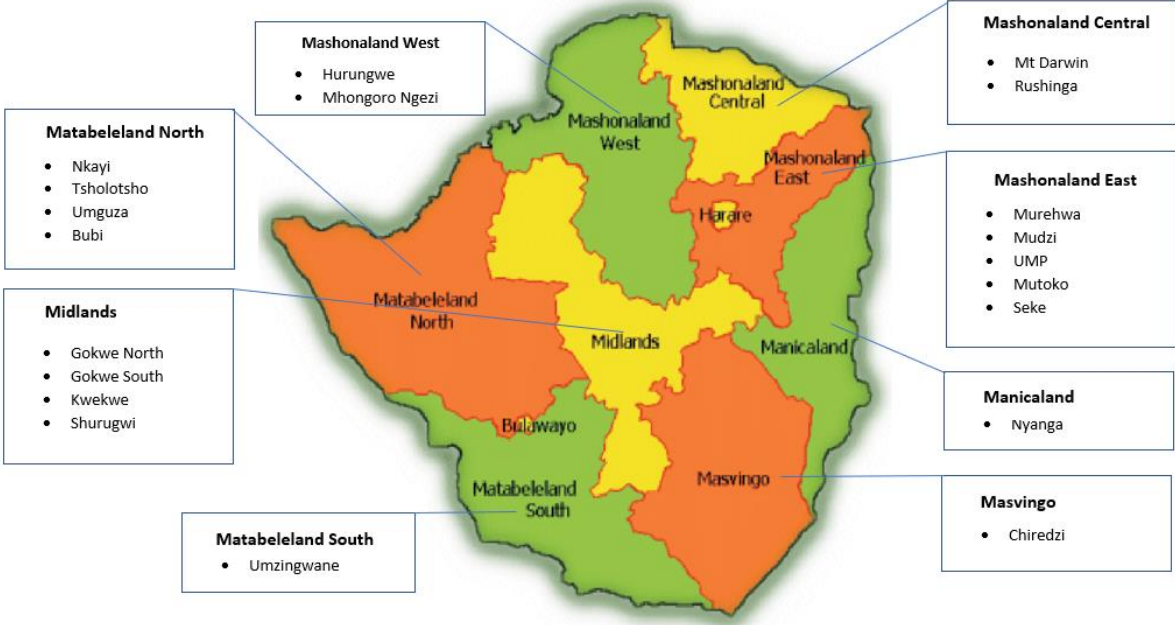
WHAT WE DO

CTDO promotes integrated agro-biodiversity management, environmental management, food and seed security, water and sanitation and policy and advocacy programmes with the objective to promote sustainable livelihoods. The organization aims to contribute to increased household food production and food security through gender sensitive and social inclusion of household marginality emanating from HIV and AIDS, disability and climate change induced shocks.

CTDO strongly believes that sustainable management and use of agro-biodiversity and increased agricultural productivity require an integrated approach, and to this end focuses on bringing farmers and their representative unions, researchers and agricultural extensionists, consumers, policy makers and all other relevant stakeholders together for an integrated approach to its work programmes.

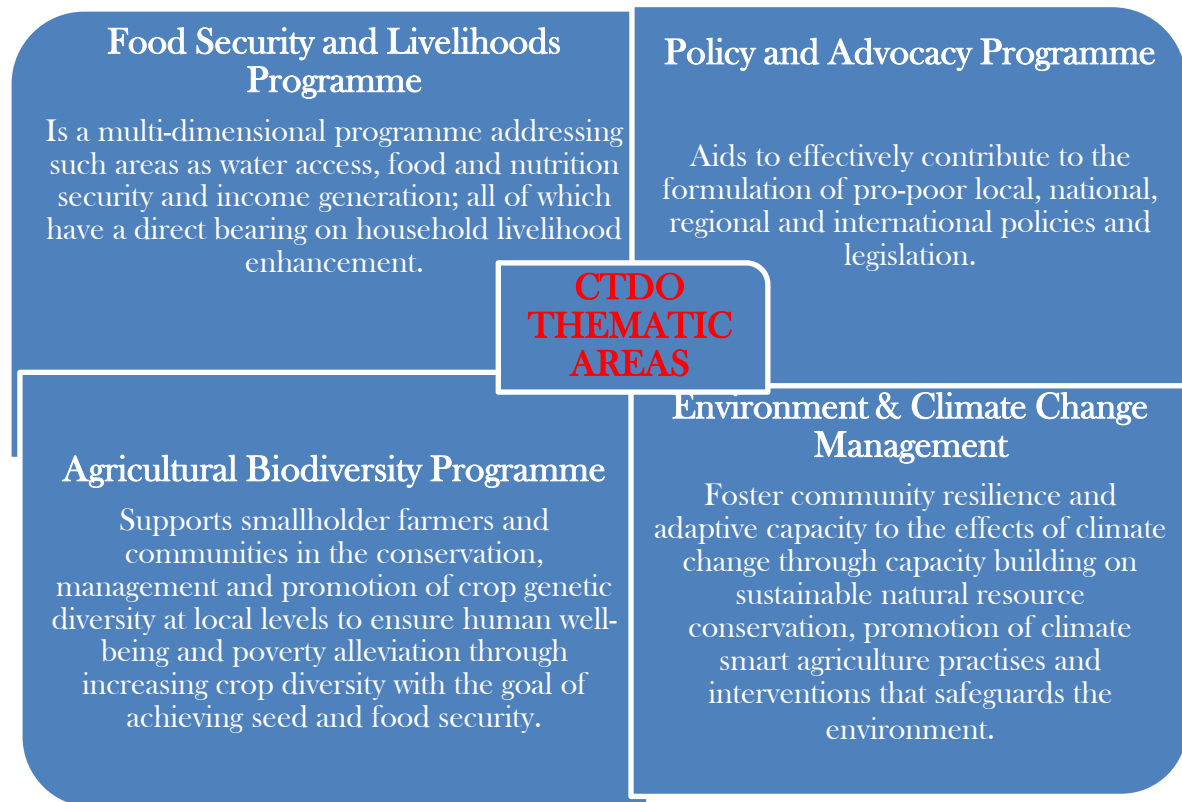
CTDO has moved from a single funding partner to multiple donors and consortium programming approach. In 2020, CTDO was operating in eighteen districts of Zimbabwe and is working with over 300 000 households.

CTDO OPERATIONAL DISTRICTS





Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) focuses on four thematic areas namely Food Security and Livelihoods, Agricultural Biodiversity, Environment and Climate Change and Policy and Advocacy.



PROGRAMME FOCUS IN RELATION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



1

No Poverty

This is being done through promotion of small grains production, crop diversification and small-scale seed multiplication in a changing climatic environment. Access to water for livestock watering and crop production, solar powered horticultural production, greenhouse farming and market linkages are but some of the interventions being promoted towards poverty eradication. The focus being building resilient communities through strengthening of community adaptive, absorptive and transformative capacities.



2

Zero Hunger

Alleviating hunger is ensuring all households and communities are food secure through implementation of social protection programmes such as the lean season assistance and cash for work programmes. Zero hunger focuses on serving communities to fulfil immediate food security requirements.



3

Good Health and Wellbeing

This is being fulfilled through the various nutrition interventions in the multiple projects being implemented under the food security and livelihoods programme; the MANA and LFSP programme being such interventions. Under the ZRBF MELANA and BRAC projects, there was a purposive implementation of COVID-19 response activities to ensure good health and wellbeing of communities we serve.



4

Clean water and sanitation

Access to safe and clean water is a requirement for any household to be certified food and nutrition secure. Safe and clean water ensures clean and hygienic preparation of food and household hygiene and sanity. The Organisation has seen the drilling and rehabilitation of many boreholes with some of the boreholes being solar powered making water access socially inclusive for all the different community social categories which include people living with disabilities (PLWD).



5

Affordable and clean energy

Solar energy is one of the cheapest and clean energy. There has been a lot of effort in promoting use of solar energy through solar powered water systems, solar powered egg incubation and solar drying of agricultural produce for value addition.



6

Climate action

Climate variability and climate change is with us with droughts and long dry spells becoming the norm. Trainings on climate resilience through climate smart agriculture were conducted with the promotion of such initiatives as fodder production and preservation, crop diversification, water harvesting and small grains production.



7

Partnerships for the goals

There is never an initiative that will be successfully implemented without partnerships and collaborative efforts. In all the projects being implemented by CTDO, there are specific partnerships in consortia and also collaborative efforts with government departments and other institutions within the districts of operation. Private sector engagement is also enhancing community resilience through the strengthening of market linkages.

Impact of COVID-19 on CTDO's operations

The novel corona virus (COVID-19) affected the implementation of CTDO's programme activities effective March 2020. Field days, seed and food fairs, drilling of boreholes, establishment of nutrition gardens and training sessions on post-harvest handling of crops were some of the activities that were affected by the COVID-19 induced lockdowns. To protect lives Head Office, field officers and ancillary staff were forced to stay at home. A few staff members carrying out humanitarian work continued working while observing strict Government and World Health Organization COVID-19 prevention guidelines. In some cases, staff had to devise innovative ways of working; supporting farmer facilitators, lead farmers and Agritex staff by using different mobile phone applications. WhatsApp groups involving farmers, Agritex and CTDO staff were established which facilitated exchange of information knowledge and pictures. Information on, for example, how to harvest plots under the FFS was shared via such platforms. However, some of the farmers who did not have android phones or credit in their phones did not benefit from such exchange of information and knowledge.

Improving Food and Nutrition Security of Vulnerable Communities

In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund and The Charitable Fund, CTDO implemented a number of social protection programmes and the food assistance for assets (FFA) and related projects which saw improved livelihoods of the communities through good agriculture practices and income generating initiatives.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

The Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) project implemented a number of climate smart initiatives together with other consortia partners in 18 districts of Zimbabwe. Through a coordinated approach CTDO collaborated with these partners to standardise climate smart agriculture



information and practices in the 18 districts for improved productivity under a climate change environment. CTDO, CIMMYT and ICRISAT were among some of the institutions that were singled out to spearhead RSA initiatives within the consortia; a total of, 1045 Agritex extension officers, 10875 lead farmers and 28527 follow-on farmers were trained on the various climate smart agriculture (CSA) concepts spanning from crop to livestock management to soil and water management.

To further buttress the RSA concepts that were taught, 10 CSA demonstration plots coupled with CSA farmer field schools were set up in Bubi, Kariba, Mutoko, Mudzi and Umzingwane districts during the 2020/21 agricultural season.

The project highlighted the importance of crop diversity for climate adaptability and resilience building. It also showcased how household food and nutrition security depended on crop diversification. To buttress this a number of crop diversification plots were established during the year 2020 where crops such as OPV and hybrid maize, pearl millet, sorghum, cowpeas, groundnuts, Bambara nuts, NUA45 beans and some fodder crops like *mukuna* and *lab lab* were grown. The objectives of establishing the demonstration plots were to showcase the several climate-proof and sustainable farming practices that farmers may adopt in the face of climate change to increase food and nutrition security. Major topics covered during the training sessions that were held include the agronomy of forage crops and small grains and improving soil fertility management using organic manures. Farmers also learnt about the best intercropping strategies that result in maximum soil fertility enhancement using leguminous crops.

Pfumvudza Initiatives

Under the MELANA project, CTDO supported 1500 farmers to take up the Government initiated pfumvudza (conservation agriculture technologies) concept to improve crop productivity. In addition, integrating CSA training and promotion of the pfumvudza concept resulted in a significant number of farmers practicing conservation agriculture, pen fattening as well as managing natural resources in watersheds.



CTDO under its ERASE project in Seke, Mt Darwin and Rushinga districts introduced improved varieties of sorghum, pearl millet, cowpeas and bambara nuts which are climate resilient and highly nutritious were introduced. Most farmers participating in farmer field schools benefited from the introduction of these small grains and legume seeds as this resulted in improved harvests compared to previous years.



Seed Multiplication Initiatives

In a bid to improve access to diverse climate adaptable seed, the ERASE project established a total of 40 seed multiplication plots in its three operational districts. The seed multiplication initiative is aimed at equipping farmers with 'simple' but effective crop improvement knowledge in order to increase farmers' access to better quality seed. Seed multiplied at the plots is shared among FFS members or deposited in the community seed banks for future use.



Farmers in up to 10 project sites engaged in Participatory Variety Selection (PVS) and Participatory Varietal Enhancement (PVE) with the support of breeders and agronomists from the Department of Research and Specialist Services (DR&SS). Farmers were supported with soya and sugar bean seeds, upland (Nercia rice, pearl and finger millets, groundnuts, sorghum and cowpeas. The ERASE and SD=HS projects were the biggest beneficiaries of the

collaborative work programmes with DR&SS

Under the BRACT project farmers employed a different perspective of on-farm seed multiplication as a way of ensuring availability of quality seed and contract farming as a business that allowed households to generate incomes. A total of 348 seed growers (110 in Mutoko and 238 in Mudzi) were contracted by ARDA Seeds to grow sorghum, pearl millet, groundnut and cowpea seed. The seed growers underwent a training on Farming as Business and gross margin analysis in preparation for contract negotiation and decision making. The training improved growers' knowledge on contract negotiation and management.

Establishing Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in operational districts

A total of 145 FFS under the SD=HS project sites in Rushinga, UMP, Mudzi, Tsholotsho and Chiredzi while another 24 were established under the MANA project in Nyanga and Tsholotsho. However, the COVID-19 lockdown affected holding of planned field days and collection of information on yields and other positive attributes if the FFS approach.

The FFS plots as well as seed multiplication contributed to **household food and nutrition security** through availing knowledge and skills in crop cultivation. The intervention provided farmers with improved crop varieties that withstand local environmental pressures. Some improved crop varieties like Mana (Bambara Nut variety), NUA 45 and several improved cultivars of millets provided farmers



with income generating opportunities as some of the farmers managed to sell surplus finger millet and sorghum thereby diversifying farmers' **income base**.

Twenty-two livestock farmer field schools were also established and 60 host farmers supported with Sasso chickens. The FFS received 1080 chicken and starter feed packs. More farmers will

benefit through the 'pass on the gift' approach.

Community Seed Banks

Community seed banks are an integral part of the CTDO operations. Farmers deposit seed in the seed banks as part of a strategy to improve seed security within the project districts. Seed deposited as part of the family collection can be withdrawn for planting by the depositors at any time. Very



successful farmers can grow large quantities of seed for depositing in the bulk storage section of the community seed bank. This seed can then be sold earning the depositor substantial amounts of money. It can also be donated to the vulnerable people in the community. The committees are

encouraging farmers to deposit their seed in the community seed banks.

In 2020, the ZRBF MELANA project contributed to resilience building through the establishment of four local seed banks at the community level, where local varieties are collected, stored, and distributed for multiplication and bulking. Each seed bank is managed by a committee which includes local leaders and AGRITEX. A total of 1000 farmers were mobilized into FFS for seed multiplication during the 2019/20 season.



Food and Seed Fairs

The purpose of holding seed and food fairs is to allow farmers to showcase crop diversity and the various local food plants consumed in their communities as well as exchange and sell seed to each other. Twenty-five (25) seed and food fairs were carried out in nine out of the 16 districts where CSBs are located during the 2020 season. These were also affected by the COVID-19 lockdown as a limited number of farmers participated.



To further support and strengthen the seed conservation concept and diversified farming to improve on dietary diversity the MANA project conducted 13 food and seed fairs in its operational districts



making use of indigenous seed varieties and nutritious local recipes. Various seed organizations, such as Champion Seeds, SeedCo and Mukushi participated during the Food and seed fairs sharing knowledge on different seed varieties. Farmers displayed diverse produce with best exhibitors being awarded prizes. Farmers got a chance to do seed exchanges, sales, tasting of various local delicious recipes. MANA project team collected local recipes that will be consolidated for the creation of

an on-line nutrition application.

Such platforms are key as they enable farmers to share production and processing recipes, challenges and possible solutions, experiences, food safety tips and cooking recipes. Ingredients of focus included the nutrient dense foods and local food plants. To address issues raised by farmers which include food safety, improved drying especially during rainy season, **six** demo solar driers were constructed during trainings.

Supporting Appropriate Technologies

The ERASE project procured and distributed 12 small grain processing equipment including multi-grain threshers which are cost-effective, simple and easy to operate. The threshers can process up to three tonnes of small grains per day. The groups within the project districts can hire-out the equipment to generate incomes. Modalities of hiring out and fees charged were agreed upon by the FFS members. Part of the income raised will be used for repairs and maintenance of the equipment. The groups will continuously receive training from the supplier (Grownet) on how to use the processing equipment. It is envisaged that the processing equipment will reduce the time spent to process small grains from 2 hours per 50 kg bag to less than half an hour in the targeted HHs.



Availing the processing equipment for small grains will also improve the quality of the processed grain by reducing the amount of contamination and grit.

Most significant change story

Appropriate technology for improved nutrition adaptation

The story of *Mudzimai Wanhasi* group is never complete without the mention of the solar drier. The group is composed of fourteen vibrant women who have walked together a long road since the inception of LFSP in ward 16 of Gokwe South District in 2017. The group joined the LFSP project when they were engaged by ICRISAT to participate in the ground-nuts community-based seed multiplication intervention. All the fourteen women are seasoned

farmers and have been producing groundnuts since they came to live in ward 16. The group has also ventured into other LFSP interventions that include broiler/boschveld production under the smart subsidies and hosting the bio-fortification OFSP mother demonstration plot. Conducting these different enterprises together has generally improved internal cohesion within the group.

Mai Sheillah Mashamatate is one group member of *Mudzimai Wanhasi* who was selected to pioneer hosting a solar drier for a neighbor group called *Simukai* under the supervision of Care Group Promoter Christinah Moyo. Mai Mashamatate received training within *Simukai* group in January when the behavior of the month was introduced being “Safe household processing, preparation, preservation and storage of food”. It was after the training from the promoter that Mai Mashamatate got intrigued with the technology for drying fruits and vegetables that she approached EXTRA wanting to purchase her own solar drier. After receiving the relevant training on the construction of the solar drier, Mai Mashamatate went on to host the solar drier for *Simukai* group so that the neighbor women would then have access to the drier. She contributed an equivalent of USD20.00 to purchase the frame and pay labor for the construction of the drier.

When the solar drier was completed Mai Mashamatate did some pilot runs of the drier. The results were so impressive that Mrs Mashamatate invited EXTRA to her homestead. She had a



Dried mangoes

surprise message for EXTRA. So, she asked sarcastically “*Nhai vanhu ve EXTRA kambe chinhu ichi chinganyatsoshanda here?*”, literally meaning



Solar Drier

does this technology really work? as if despising the drier. The EXTRA team was shell shocked because they did not know how they would convince Mrs Mashamatate that her US\$20 she paid was not in vain. The officers then went on to assess the drier in an attempt to shift the blame on poor workmanship. While the officers were still awe stricken by the question, Mrs Mashamatate went inside her house and came back with buckets full of dried mangoes and dried *muboora* (pumpkin leaves). She then smiled and said “Where was EXTRA when we had problems drying our vegetables and our mangoes rotting? This thing works and the technology is so simple and very much appropriate for the intended purpose. It’s fast and hygienic.”

Mai Mashamatate took advantage of the summer season when fruits and vegetables are in abundance to establish significant stocks of the dried products thus improving household food and nutrition security. *Simukai* group has also gained access to the drier and the group members have established stores of dried fruits and vegetables

especially for the dry season of the year when these products are scarce.

To Mai Mashamatate the solar drier is her trademark project. She posts very often on her WhatsApp status and has got the attention of some technology innovators in Harare and UK. She is so upbeat that her story appears more like a fairy tale yet its real. Unfortunately for Mai Mashamatate, she is more in love with the products that it takes quite some time to make her sell them. Logically though, she argues that she will start selling next season after marketing first. ABC has tried to court her to release the products without success.

Lessons learnt

- ✓ Having farmers contributing towards material support of equipment is a good practice as the farmer would also want to see value for money by instilling good stewardship and maximally utilizing the equipment.
- ✓ The most appropriate technologies are the ones that are adopted and maintained by our target participants.

Mai Mashamatate has embraced the solar drier technology and is thinking of taking the drying process to the next level next season by going commercial, having to purchase another solar drier so that she increases the quantities of products on the market. When pictures of her dried mangoes were displayed on the LFSP WhatsApp group, several potential buyers contacted her in need of the dried products especially the dried mangoes. In her mind Mai Mashamatate believes technology need to be very simple.

- ✓ Timeliness of the introduction of the technology is also important as the driers were introduced in the wet season when fruits and vegetables are in abundance.
- ✓ The different ICT platforms being used in the project have the potential of improving networks among farmers, and also between farmers and any other players in the different value chains.

Livestock management

The community led-sustainable dipping model gained momentum across the four LFSP districts and the six districts under the ZRBF MELANA and BRAC projects with some dip tanks having procured acaricides sufficient for 32 dipping sessions (a year's supply), and with about 40% having purchased for at least five dipping sessions.



More investment is still needed in promoting the involvement of farmers in contributing to buying dipping chemicals and supporting Local District Councils and Veterinary Services staff on the ground to roll out such initiatives. As part of Public-Private Partnerships, a total of 32 spray races were installed at dip tanks by Farmyard Investments, a private sector company supplying dipping chemicals.



The programme also supported breed improvement of both small and large livestock under the ANCP and BRACK projects respectively in Mutoko, Umguza, Nkayi and Umzingwane districts. Of the heifers that were artificially inseminated in 2019, 66% of them calved during the 2020 season. The off-springs are the Mashona-Tuli, Mashona-Brahman and Mashona-Afrikaner crosses. The success of AI technology depends largely upon accurate heat detection, timely insemination and certification of the optimum fertility status of bull.

Under the BRACK project a total of 200 Boer cross He-goats were distributed in Mutoko and Mudzi respectively. To date the Mutoko Boer goats distributed in 2019 have sired more than 1300 off-springs. Farmers have attested to the superiority of the breeds indicating high growth rate and high twinning ability. With support from the project, Mudzi and Mutoko farmers embarked on fodder production and preservation which saw more than 2000 farmers producing more than 100000 bales of hay and more than 50MT of urea treated stover whilst under MELANA, 14 local market actors embarked on bush-meal production using locally available materials. This ensured feed availability for livestock during the dry lean season when livestock would be at high risk of deaths due to feed and water shortages.



Farmers within the LFSP project districts reported increased poultry business as the improved breeds such as Boschveld and Sasso chickens proved to be popular for egg production and broiler chickens being common for their quality meat. There are approximately **33603** Boschveld chickens from the initial investment of **16992** birds (which shows a **50%** increase from initial project purchases). A total of **365790** eggs were realized which has resulted in improved household income through selling of eggs and excess breeding stock. A total **50** women groups from nearby non-project districts received a total of **840** point of lay Boschveld chickens and **100** cocks through the pass on scheme. Groups that benefited have 58 males, 619 females and 810 children under 5years.

To ensure survival of the poultry projects across the districts, LFSP embarked on a massive Newcastle vaccination programme in collaboration with the Department of Veterinary Services reaching **60778** households in **35** wards or, **1509** villages. A total of **433042** birds were vaccinated.

Income Generating Activities (IGA)

A total of 43 Income Savings and Lending Groups (ISALs) groups in Seke, Rushinga and Mt Darwin were engaged in income generating projects. These groups have diversified into other sustainable, low cost and less risky IGAs like rabbitry and indigenous chickens, market gardening, food processing, value addition, kapenta selling, goat projects, buying and selling of groundnuts and bread making.

The IGA / ISAL interventions economically strengthened the poor and vulnerable members of the community through diversifying their income bases and thus supplementing their household incomes.



Women members who constitute over 90% of project participants managed to transform their lives through procuring 'women assets' like household utensils, buying food and paying school fees for their children. Men involvement is still low in

IGA / ISAL activities across all project districts. The reasons are two-fold: firstly, men view such interventions as 'women interventions'; and secondly most of the men have commuted to or have migrated to towns in search of formal employment.

Chicken Project Gross Margin for 100 birds – Kurudzire ISAL group in Mt Darwin Ward 17.

During the month of May 2020, Kurudzire ISAL group from ward 17 raised and sold a total of 100 broilers at \$6USD/bird. The chickens were sold at 5weeks after they reached approximately 1,8kg slaughter weight. The group realized a gross income of \$600USD. Total production expenses incurred were \$370USD and this translates to a net profit of \$230USD was shared among the 8 members of the group.

Greenhouse production

A total of seven low-cost greenhouses were constructed at Jembere irrigation, Chindenga garden, Kagande garden, Bopoto garden, Chigumira sand abstraction point in Mutoko and Kangoza sand abstraction and Kudzwe irrigation in Mudzi districts respectively. This intervention targeted the youths to stimulate interest in agriculture production. Main focus being high value all year-round agriculture production. Each greenhouse has eight youth farmers (revised from the initially proposed 75 per greenhouse). High value crops targeted for the greenhouses are fine beans and baby marrow and tomatoes. With assistance from Mapple Valley (technical backstopping on greenhouse farming) and EASI seeds who are coming in with a contract package, the greenhouses will improve cash incomes for the farmers. A financial institution (Zimbabwe Women's Microfinance Bank-ZWMB) offered to provide financial support especially to women farmers.



Nutrition Gardens

Under the BRAC project five community gardens were established in Bopoto, Charehwa, Chindenga, Chigumira and Kangoza (Mutoko district) with a membership of 218 (119 males and /99 females) farmers. Crops grown include sugar beans, tomatoes and leafy vegetables for household consumption and income generation.



Marketing of the produce was seriously affected by the national COVID-19 lockdown regulations and restrictions as most of the informal trading places were closed down and transport movement to public markets such as Mbare Musika were restricted. This greatly affected household incomes and livelihoods which are heavily dependent on market gardening. The solar driers which were set up in some SD=HS, BRAC and MANA sites played a pivotal role during the lockdown period as farmers dried vegetables and tomatoes for future use thereby promoting post-harvest handling and processing of the vegetables and tomatoes.

In Nyanga and Tsholotsho districts under the MANA project, 27 gardens were rehabilitated and supported with horticulture seed packs. Of the 27 gardens, six gardens were fortunate enough to have boreholes capacity tested, and solar powered for water reticulation hence easing irrigation and improving access to safe and clean water to the surrounding communities. Access to diverse nutritious foods in target wards of both districts also improved among beneficiaries and non-beneficiary neighboring households.



In Gokwe and Shurugwi districts under LFSP, seven boreholes were solar powered for enhanced water reticulation in Chuni and Gonye Irrigation Schemes respectively. Homestead nutrition gardens are becoming more popular in the districts with the lead mothers and neighbour women adopting these and diversifying.



A garden of Hope: Chimonyo nutrition garden flourish!!



Caption: Farmers working on their newly established community garden named Chimonyo nutrition garden in (Ward 17, Nyanga district)

Growing up in an arid region without a community owned nutrition garden was one of the difficult times for the Chimonyo community. The community previously was allocated space by a good Samaritan local farmer in 2015. However, the individual borehole could not sustain many people for longer and thus the initiative flopped.



Caption: Chimonyo nutrition garden before the BMZ-MANA project

When MANA was introduced in Ward 17, Nyanga district; the community of Chimonyo village were excited and overwhelmed because their hope for a successful community nutrition garden had been renewed. MANA project in partnership with the

“Chimonyo nutrition garden is a new site, benefitting 35 households-3 are youth (31 females, 4 males). Households are already harvesting tsunga and chomolia for consumption. The garden has a flourishing nursery for cucumber, green pepper and carrots.”

Food and Nutrition Security Committee through Agritex encouraged farmers who immediately started to stump the site that had been approved by the local leadership. Farmers temporarily used locally available resources to fence the area from livestock. Thorn branches from the pruned thorn bushes were used.



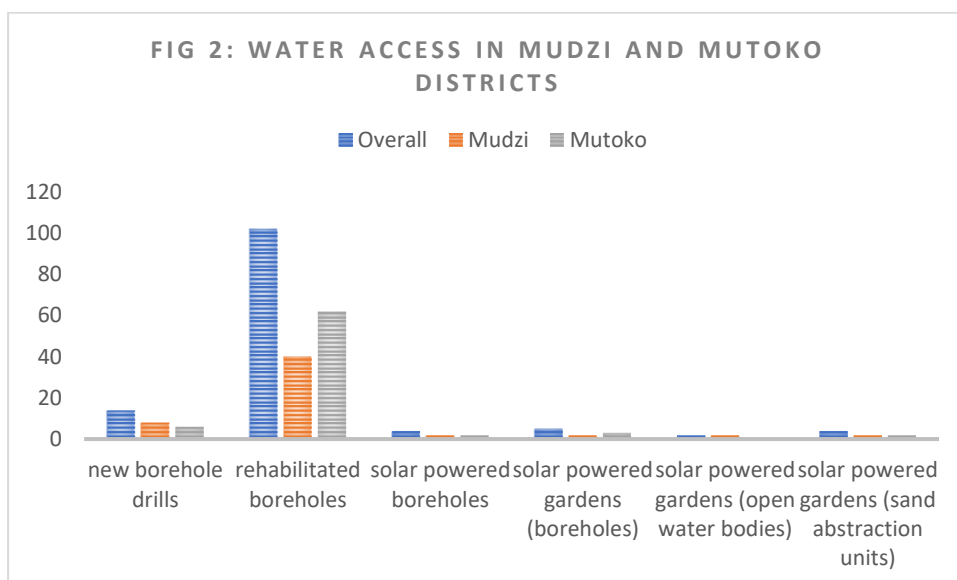
Chimonyo 1 hectare nutrition garden was established in June 2020 benefiting 35 households (3 youths, 31 females and 4 males). To increase crop diversification and demo setup, the project supported them with a variety of demo seed packs. Farmers have already started harvesting tsunga and chomolia for consumption, with a flourishing nursery for cucumber, green pepper and carrots. The site is ready for borehole solarisation as the borehole passed the capacity tests. Utilizing the knowledge gained during trainings and continuous guidance, the farmers were able to turn the once neglected land to a flourishing garden. This shows how Chimonyo farmers are passionate and have a sense

of ownership towards their nutrition garden. The farmers aim to improve their daily dietary diversity and generate income from produce hence buy other household necessities. The farmers at Chimonyo nutrition garden are grateful to BMZ about MANA project because it has restored their hope to have a community that is able to consume diverse nutritious foods and to be able to look after their families from the proceeds, they get from selling their farm produce. Members of Chimonyo nutrition garden are excited and overwhelmed with the project and they call it “MANA from Heaven” because it has brought a beacon of hope in their time of need and already, they are starting to reap the benefits of their hard work and determination

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Initiatives (WASH)



Water is the mainstay of life on earth and it forms a very important component in resilience building. During the 2020 period, the BRAC and ANCP projects worked tirelessly to improve access to water in Mudzi and Mutoko. There was drilling, rehabilitation and solar powering of boreholes in both districts for increased access to water for domestic use, livestock watering and dipping and agricultural crop production.



Rehabilitated and new drilled boreholes improved water access to approximately 6330 households, some of which were depending on open water sources and also long distance water



collection and 1043 school children from Nyamakosi primary and secondary schools. The solar powered boreholes have benefited a number of schools (Musanzi Primary in Mutoko, St Pius Secondary school and Rubatsiro Primary school in Mudzi) and clinics (Chisambiro and Musanzi in Mutoko and Rubatsiro clinic in Mudzi).

Most significant change story

“Water is life” – Borehole solarization brings joy to the people of Tsholotsho



Solar powered borehole and irrigation system installed in ward 1, 5 and 6 in Tsholotsho District

Living in a semi-arid region has left many of the inhabitants of Tsholotsho district lacking access to basic safe and sufficient water. This seriously endangers their livelihoods. In some areas, women and girls spend over one hour per day fetching water; time that would be better spent on community and school activities. Marginalized communities such as Sodaka village, in ward 1 are hit the hardest by these problems, as water insecurity is particularly a challenging problem because they rely only on one water point as the sole source for community members, nutrition gardens and local livestock.

Through supporting and capacitation of local nutrition gardens in Tsholotsho district, MANA project managed to do borehole solarization and irrigation system set up in three wards. This initiative was received with a lot of gratitude by the community members as the project would not only support local nutrition garden, rather it will lift the whole community. One community leader said ***“Thanks to MANA project’s provision of access to safe portable drinking water, through installing solar powered boreholes many households no longer have to walk long distances to get water from unsafe source”***

Local supply of clean water will continue to contribute to minimized risk of serious diseases like typhoid and cholera. Having borne the burden of water collection duties, women in particular now have more time for productive

activities such as farming and petty trade. Women feel safe fetching water nearby as it reduces various risks such as gender-based violence and rape. MANA project brought joy to the people of Tsholotsho and in particular the people in Jimila (ward 6), Sipepa (Ward 5) and Sodaka village (Ward 1) as the solarised communities have access to tap water for household use, animal use and garden irrigation. Approximately 2000 people (500 household) and 1067 livestock is now benefitting from the solarised boreholes. MANA project outsourced a private organisation to install solar supported irrigation systems in those gardens.

The communities have also received support to make better use of water resources for agricultural production through water harvesting trainings. By collaborating with local authorities, MANA project team are working towards developing sustainability plans for solarized nutrition gardens to enhance agriculture production, hygiene and improved nutrition status within the district

Capacity Building and Farmer Training

A number of training workshops were held across all CTDO programmes.

Ecological Farming Trainings

A total of 15 training sessions on ecological farming were conducted during the year. Farmers face challenges in their farming practices that include unsustainably high costs of inputs, land degradation, water shortages and high prevalence of pest and diseases. Ecological farming is a sustainable way of farming that helps farmers to deal with the aforementioned challenges. During these trainings, much emphasis was put on Conservation Agriculture (CA) which promotes both soil and moisture conservation and when done correctly can improve soil fertility.

Market Access for Small Producers and Manufacturers Workshop

The workshop on Market Access for Small Producers and Manufacturers was organized by BROT and attended by BROT partners. During the meeting partner organisations exhibited products that their targeted groups are selling. Farmers supported by CTDO exhibited a wide range of products. During the meeting partner organisations shared the various models that they are using in their IGP's which ranged from product marketing and selling as groups/ cooperatives/ individuals. Learning excursions were held to selected small producers in Harare e.g. Utsanzi and Orsha for participants to draw some best practices. One key outcome of the meeting was that BROT urged partner organisations to identify modest projects that are sustainable and guaranteeing regular and stable incomes to the targeted HHs / groups.

Small Grains Processing Workshop

CTDO attended a meeting which was attended by all BROT partner organisations, manufacturers of small grain processing equipment, government representatives (Ministry of Women Affairs, Department of Mechanization and AGRITEX), the University of Zimbabwe and farmers. Despite the significant role of small grains in contributing to food, nutrition and income security, processing remains a challenge. Efforts have been made to ease the processing of small grains but these efforts have been fragmented. The objective of the meeting was to bring together all relevant stakeholders and identify areas of collaboration including those where synergies could be created. The meeting further discussed on the challenges being faced in small grain processing e.g. the drudgery associated with small grain processing especially for women and the challenges around ensuring product quality and minimizing grit contamination. BROT was also interested in knowing the most preferred machinery or equipment on processing of small grains by farmers.

Post-Harvest Management Training



The ERASE, SD=HS, MANA and Bract projects conducted a total of 30 trainings where 1470 farmers were trained on post-harvest management and food processing. Trained farmers applied the knowledge gained from post-harvest management and food processing trainings and the traditional pest control methods to control pests and diseases in their harvested crops. Farmers in Rushinga, Mt Darwin and Seke continued utilizing the nine granaries that were constructed under the ERASE Project Phase 1.

Nutrition Behaviour Change Communication-Care Group Exit Strategy

Nutrition Behaviour Change Communication-Care Group (NBCC- CG) Exit strategies were developed in consultation with the Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committee (PFNSC), DFNSCs, DHEs and LFSP. This will help ensure responsible and sustainable exit for LFSP-EXTRA while MoHCC and DFNSCs continues with smooth implementation of Care Groups. There has been notable ownership of Care Groups by MoHCC, more so the Village Health workers expressed that the model has helped improve coverage whilst reducing workload. CGs have been used as a channel for COVID-19 awareness. MoHCC has adopted the NBCC-Care Group approach at national level and this approach adapted as the model of choice.

CTDO contributed to the development of the national standardised care group guidelines which will be used by MoHCC, UN and any NGO adopting the approach. Since 2011, the care group model has been implemented at varying degrees in 24 out of 64 districts in Zimbabwe.

Training on Nutrition and local food plants-LFP

Eleven core master trainers from CTDO, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health attended the online Nutrition and local foodplant training that was facilitated by Oxfam Novib. The trained trainers co-facilitated the country level training reaching 26 master trainers (19m,7f) who then facilitated cluster level ToTs reaching to 191 facilitators (77males, 123females) and 6859 farmers (1972m, 4887f) within the 5 districts.

Awareness Meeting on Farmers' Seed System and Farmers' Rights

The Biodiversity Programme under Pillar 4 of SD=HS project conducted intensive awareness raising meetings on farmer seed system and farmers' rights to educate smallholder farmers about the existing pieces of legislation and policies that regulate their daily activities with respect to seed provision and rights



of farmers. A total of 33 awareness meetings were conducted in Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe (UMP), Rushinga, Chiredzi, Mudzi and Tsholotsho Districts reaching out to 1277 farmers (367males, 910 females). CTDO is advocating for the establishment of an integrated seed system which recognizes that both formal and informal seed system play a complimentary role in ensuring seed security and ultimately food security.

Farmers argued that the pieces of legislation currently being used might require review and streamlining to current thinking.

Some of the legislation attribute their existence from a colonial system which did not recognize the knowledge and ingenuity of local farmers to properly select seed from varieties that are suitable for their growing conditions. Certified seeds alone cannot address the persistent food shortages in light of global climate change and climate variability at the local levels. The farmer seeds system has provided farmers with diverse and climate adaptable seeds.

Piloting the registration of farmer varieties in Zimbabwe

A workshop to **Develop Descriptors and Guidelines to Facilitate the Registration of Farmer Varieties** was held in Harare, Zimbabwe on the 27th of February 2020. Nineteen (19) participants from - Department of Research and Specialist Services (DR&SS), Crop Breeding Institute (CBI), Seed Service, Champion Seed, Zimbabwe Super Seed, Agriculture Research Council of Zimbabwe (ARC), the SADC Plant Genetic Resource Centre (SPGRC), and DAI USAID and Oxfam Zimbabwe attended the workshop. The workshop presented a learning opportunity for participants and a platform for networking and sharing ideas on the concrete steps and pathway to be followed in order to facilitate the proposal to Develop Descriptors and Guidelines to Facilitate the Registration of Farmer Varieties in Zimbabwe.

Awareness Meetings on Access and Benefit Sharing

A total of six awareness raising and education meetings were held in the ERASE and SD=HS project districts. The meetings were held as a follow up to the Access and benefit Sharing (ABS) meetings that were



held in 2019 and were aimed at refreshing the communities' knowledge on ABS. Challenges that the communities face on ABS issues were also discussed and solutions proffered. One of the key outcomes of the awareness meetings was a commitment by the ward and village committees to start collating the inventory of all the resources that are found in their respective areas and submit them to the District ABS committees.

National Workshop on Farmer's Rights

CTDO held a national workshop on Farmers' Rights to Seed for Improved Security in Zimbabwe. A total of thirty-four (34) participants attended the workshop, these included Directors and departments heads and technocrats in the MLAFWRR, Researchers, CSOs, Farmer Unions and farmers. The workshop presented a learning opportunity for participants and a platform for networking and sharing of ideas to strengthen local capacities on farmers' rights and capacity to produce high quality and diverse seeds for seed, food, nutrition and income security. A workshop report was compiled.

Awareness Meetings on Farmer Seed Systems and Farmers' Rights

CTDO held awareness raising meetings across the districts on Farmer Seed System and Farmers' Rights. The programme also developed awareness resource materials on the following topics:

- a) Improving legislation on integrated seed system and identifying the gaps
- b) The implementation of Farmers' Rights in Zimbabwe according to article 9 of the ITPGRFA.

ERASE Phase 2 Inception Meeting with Local Authorities

Phase 1 of the ERASE project ended on the 30th of April 2020 and Phase 2 of the same project started on the 1st of June 2020. The project inception and planning meetings were held in Harare in July 2020. This meeting focused on developing a common understanding of the project and its objectives, its operational environment and the role of stakeholders in successful implementation of the project. The project inception and planning meeting was undertaken with a range of discussions which conveyed objectives, opportunities and challenges of implementing such a project. The procedures, guidelines, deliverables and timelines of the project were also discussed. The meeting was attended by CTDT staff, Chief Executive Officers (CEO) of Rural District Councils (RDC), DDCs, DDF, Agritex, and smallholder farmers' representatives.

Exchange Visits

A total of 30 people participated in a farmer learning and exchange visit to Mudzi District. The participants included farmers, AGRITEX, ward Councilors from Mt Darwin, Rushinga and Seke Districts. The participants visited Chimukoko Community Seed Bank in Ward 3 Mudzi and Jumbe Farmer Field School. The participants appreciated how the Chimukoko community and neighbouring wards are conserving,



storing and utilizing their local crop germ plasm. The visit to Jumbe FFS was an eye opener especially with regards to climate change adaptation by using or adopting crop improvement approaches (PVD) and sustainable farming practices (crop diversification and integrated pest management).

survey will feed into the programming, monitoring and evaluation and measuring outcomes and impacts during and at the end of the project.

Baseline Surveys

An ERASE Project Phase 2 Baseline Survey was conducted to obtain information on the prevailing seed and food security, WASH, income generating capacities of households, and knowledge levels of farmers participation in formulation of policies on environmental, seed and climate policies. A total of 600 HH Survey questionnaires were administered, 18 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and 34 Key Informant Interviews were held. Results from the baseline

RSA Adoption Survey

An RSA survey was successfully conducted in Nkayi, Lupane, Matobo, Mbire, Mutoko, Nyanga and Mwenezi districts. A total of 871 households were interviewed and 21 focus group discussions and interviews conducted. The RSA survey results showed that the adoption rates of CSA practices during the 2019/20 season were very low (less than 50%) across all CSA technologies. Adoption was lowest at less than 20% for fodder production, ISFM, DT maize and crop protection.

COVID 19 response

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic the BRAC project in Mudzi and Mutoko district supported furnishing of isolation centres and provision of PPE materials to the district hospitals and clinics. The project also supported the MoHCC and the COVID-19 taskforce members to conduct COVID-19 Health promotion outreach programmes in 43 wards of Mudzi and Mutoko districts. The goal of the COVID-19 health promotion campaign was to strengthen information availability on



prevention and safety measures against COVID-19 with village health workers, community leaders, farmers and village malaria champions.

Radio Broadcast

One of the project staff participated in the ZiFM radio station as a guest speaker and spoke on CTDO's work on health, nutrition, food security and food safety. Specific focus was on local foodplants, neglected and underutilized crops (NUFs) including small grains and diverse nutrient rich foods that are locally available to ensure year-round access to healthy diets.

ZAKIS Project

ZAKIS (Zimbabwe Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems) is one of the 5 sub-projects under the EU-supported Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme (ZAGP). CTDO is working in collaboration with



the MLAFWRR to undertake policy review to strengthen, harmonize and rationalize the education, extension and research for the three components to be more effective on service delivery. In addition, the organization is collaborating with the Department of Agricultural education to review the agricultural colleges curricula. Results expected from these work programmes include:

(i) A reviewed agricultural colleges curriculum that is practical, relevant and inclusive farmer-centered, market-oriented agricultural_education system informed by research

(ii) A policy that strengthens,

harmonizes and rationalize the agricultural education, extension and research for effective service delivery.

CTDO in collaboration with the MLAFWRR produced articles for publication in the Herald during the reporting period. See link below

<https://www.herald.co.zw/ministry-formulates-policy-to-develop-agricultural-education/>

Most significant change story

The Care Group Model taking Kwekwe district to another level through transformed livelihood and sustainable behavior change.



(Picture: Shows Dzamisai with her husband and healthy grandson showing results of the Care Group model in their family)

Dzamisai Mutodza is a farmer and lead mother in ward 11, Munhamo village Kwekwe district. She is a mother of five children, aged 39 and married to Masauso Sibanda. She joined EXTRA in 2018 and started to disseminate behavior change messages under promoter Simon Sibanda. Dzamisai Mutodza and her husband are of the Apostolic Faith Mission (mapostori) and their faith hinders them from accessing any health care services. Her daughter developed an infection on her breasts and was forced to wean the 7 months old grandson Tanaka because of her condition. Due to household food insecurity, Tanaka became severely malnourished close to point of death. As a lead mother, she was encouraged by her promoter to go to Gomola clinic, their nearest clinic. She had to sneak from home without her husband knowing so as to save her grandson's life. She was taught how to prepare nutrient dense foods using locally available resources. Her grandson was admitted into the IMAM program and recovered tremendously.

Dzamisai adopted healthy behaviors such as construction of a toilet, pot rack, use of hygiene

enabling facilities- tippy taps, ventured into piggery, goat production, indigenous chicken production and own a 0.25 nutrition garden with rape, tomatoes, tsunga, onions, beetroot, butternut, NUA 45, orange maize. Before the care group model, she was comfortable with open defecation until the care group model came by. District Food

“Care Group model is a multi-sectoral approach which embraces all sectors in trying to deal with stunting through Nutrition Behaviour change communication (NBCC). The model rides on MoHCC structures and ownership is with the community thus sustainable in the long term.”

Nutrition Security Council (DFNSC) chairperson Mrs. Mare testifies: “Care Group model is a multi-sectoral approach which embraces all sectors in trying to deal with stunting through Nutrition Behaviour change communication (NBCC). The ownership is with the community thus sustainable in the long term”.

Peer to peer health promotion also had an impact to her neighbor women and so far, one constructed a toilet, 7 dug rubbish pits, 4 constructed tippy taps

and 9 constructed pot racks. Supervisor Mr. Mfuri (EHT) Silobela district hospital testifies: "Introduction of the CG model has changed the lives of many people especially mothers and children. Behaviour change with regard to betterment and improvement in leading healthy lifestyles is being noted through the multiplier effect (nine promoters in total). Household use of hygiene enabling facilities as a subject, motivated mothers to construct BVIPs, pot racks, digging of refuse pits, use of tippy taps and protection of household water supplies and emphasis is on regular use of these facilities".

District Health Promotions Officer (Mr. Kudehama) testifies: "Addressing nutrition gaps can be difficult to address without transforming community behaviors and practices. We may not win it overnight but through the care group model, we will get there. Community engagement through the CG has been a relief on our foot soldiers as a ministry. Different care groups from Zhombe and Silobela clusters have registered a variety of success stories with minimum support from the DFNSC. This alone is evidence of program sustainability. Going forward, inter and intra-ward look and learn visits can facilitate skills sharing and swift nutrition behavior change."



Through selling diverse horticultural produce, Dzamisai and other women in the village have managed to pay school fees for all their children, purchasing farm implements and built a tuck shop in their village that is generating more income. Supervisor Mr. Muwani (RGN) Rio Tinto clinic testifies: "Through CGs most families no longer rely

on buying food stuffs but rather prepare healthy foods for themselves at home hence curbing malnutrition. Lead mothers and their neighbor women groups have formed ISAL groups and have ventured into income generating activities. Selling of produce from their nutrition gardens is also helping to improve household income security. Lives and behavior of people are really being transformed!".

There is no donor syndrome among neighbor women groups and testified that this model is here to stay as sustainable behaviors are being adopted. District Nursing Officer (Mrs. Mahere) testifies: Unlike other approaches we have had before such as Community Health Clubs (CHCs); the CG model has proved to be really life transforming. Every facility we visited had great attendance of neighbor women groups that were very active, smart and excited. People were not waiting for handouts in the form of refreshments but they had prepared their own refreshments for the meetings and selling various products. Indeed, who can be ashamed to associate with such groups which showed off a lot of innovation I had never imagined! There is evidence of sustainability of the CG model. No more hunger in the homes due to innovative activities in the care groups. We need to have the CG model rolled out to other facilities not in EXTRA operational wards. Thanks to EXTRA partners and donors".

There was a funeral on the 14th of March in their village. Dzamisai's promoter and neighbor women, dug pits and constructed tippy taps for hand washing and they played a key role at this funeral. There is great coordination with local leaders, extension workers and CBMs in their area. Their plans are to form a vibrant ISAL group, construct a solar drier for value addition of their horticultural produce as well as extending their garden to 0.5ha. District Nutritionist (Ms. Madzimure) testifies:

"With regard to COVID -19 pandemic, in terms of handwashing using soap, proper refuse disposal, consumption of variety of nutritious foods, care group beneficiaries are at a positive starting point".

"The care group model has brought a positive turn

in nutrition programming in the ministry and community. There is now a clear linkage of nutrition and other sectors, that is, ministry of agriculture, social welfare, women affairs, NGOs, etc. hence supporting the multi sectoral approach to reduction of stunting in the district. In terms of women empowerment and message dissemination, the CG model is proving to be effective as compared to the previously implemented health clubs as seen during one joint stakeholder support visit to different care groups this quarter. Groups have been empowered to start projects of their own without outside help. In future, all stakeholders agreed that The CG (care group) approach deserves a broader recognition and more support as it is proving to be the most promising alternative to delivering key health and nutritional interventions to all facets of the community.

FUNDING PARTNERS

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| → Welthunger Hilfe | → AOP |
| → World Food Programme | → Christian Aid |
| → Bread for the World | → SIDA |
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2020 CTDO STAFF

Directorate

Tonderai Andrew Mushita
Joseph N Mushonga (Dr)

Executive Director
Deputy Director

Administration

Precious Matiya
Callisto Tarwireyi
Jabulani Dzinesa
Stella Mtungwazi
Ruvarashe Chiveto
Jackie Ngundu

Finance and Administration Manager
Grants Accountant
Accounts and Admin Assistant
Accounts Assistant
Administration Assistant
Human Resources Officer/Personal Assistant

Agricultural Biodiversity

Patrick Kasasa
Spiwe Manjengwa
Manata Jeko
Edward Maposa
John Tigere
Mduduzi Sibanda

Programme Manager
Assistant Programme Manager
Project Coordinator
Field Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer

Policy and Advocacy

Regis Mafuradidze
Evelyne Vutuza
Simba Gwati
Nobleman Zvirevo
Tatenda Matsikure
Trylord Gotosa
Dzikamai Shumba

Programme Manager
Project Coordinator
Policy Analyst
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer

Food Security and Livelihoods

Fred Zinanga
Marcilline Fusire
Mclarence Mandaza (Dr)

Programme Manager
Assistant Programme Manager
Climate Smart Agriculture Coordinator

BRACT Project

Ratidzo Mafara
Blessing Kakunguwo
Jeoffrey Jaji

Field Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer

Chrispen Kazuva
Wisdom Kadenge
Nomusa Muguti
Sinikiwe Ingwani

Field Officer
Field Officer
M & E Officer
M & E Officer

LFSP Project

Thamsanqa Khanye
Nyasha Gudyanga
Mandifadza Mukarati
Desmond Matanga
Edwin Matare
Charity Chikwiriro

Nutritionist Advisor
Nutritionist
Nutritionist
Nutritionist
Nutritionist
Nutritionist

ZRBF – MELANA Project

Edson Dhlakama
Nobunkosi Ncube
Rapelang Noko
Nkosinathi Ncube
Thadeus Mhute
Addmore Moyo
Definate Mawindi
Qinisela Makanjera

Project Coordinator
District Officer
District Officer
District Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer

BMZ-ICT4d Project

Tinashe Sithole
Owen Marowa
Shamiso Manyange
Tanaka Muranda
Musa Hilton Chikuya

Project Coordinator
Field Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer

MANA Project

Joseph Benjamin
Sharon Kubalela
Liseli Mathe
Sibonginkosi Msebele
Hepson Muregwi
Faina Mutikani
Carvantry Muzaradope
Tawona Tawona
Robert Marenja

Field Officer
District Coordinator
Field Officer
District Coordinator
M & E Officer
Field Officer
Field Officer
Driver
Driver (MANA)

LSA Project

Brian Jinda
Verina Kariwo
Brighton Bhanzi
Welton Mafeni
Portia Chiremba
Witness Jonasi
Christopher Rwenhamo
Elton Sanangura

District Coordinator
District Coordinator
District Coordinator
M & E Officer
Food Monitor
Food Monitor
Food Monitor
Food Monitor

Lennon Svotwa
 Yvonne Ruzane
 Munyaradzi Karuwo
 Decent Shambahweta
 Aldrin Dibhula
 Emory Marufu
 Kukunda Murinda
 Girle Zingoni
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 Seth Makumbiza
 Nyarai Makore
 Wimbai Nyamukasira
 Natasha Samunda
 Anna Mataruse
 Thelma Nechibvute
 Gladys Chidare
 Bathabile Ngwenya
 Delvin Mango
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Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Data Capturer
 M & E Officer
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Food Monitor
 Driver
 Data Capturer

FFA Project

Charlot Chimhowa
 Elizabeth Muzamhindo
 Albert Francis
 Pardon Dube
 Masimba Nyamukondiwa
 Anesu Mhute
 Vongai Machengete
 Tafadzwa Gundani
 Victoria Kuhlengisa
 Tosetafadzwa Mukuta
 Phineas Chinyenyani

District Coordinator
 Field Officer
 Field Officer
 Field Officer
 Field Officer
 Field Officer
 Field Officer
 Field Officer
 Data Capturer
 M & E Officer
 Engineer

Samuel Kurima
 Leonard Kuwona
 Brenda Ncube

Crisis Modifier
 Crisis Modifier
 Crisis Modifier

Support Staff

Tawanda Makuvaza
 Tellmore Nyamukapa
 George Museve
 Sibongile Zimunya

Driver
 Office Cleaner
 Groundsman
 Office Cleaner

Students

Sharmaine Kabomba
 Tinashe Chimhofu
 Memory Chiwaridzo
 Mercy Shumbamhini
 Basil Mazhazhate

Accounting (Harare Poly)
 Accounting (NUST)
 ICT (MSU)
 Social Work (MSU)
 Agriculture (Chibero College)