

Integrating crops and livestock for improved food security and livelihoods in rural Zimbabwe



Key details

Location

Zimbabwe

Duration

Start Jun 2012

End Nov 2017

Budget

AUD 4,485,831

Commissioned organisation

International Livestock Research Institute

Partners

Cluster Agricultural Development Services; Community Technology Development Organisation; CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences; International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics; International Livestock Research Institute; International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center; Protracted Relief Program; University of Queensland

Project Leader

Siboniso Moyo - International Livestock Research Institute

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Eric Huttner

Program

Crops

Project code

CSE/2010/022

agricultural production, improve household food security, alleviate poverty and thereby reduce food-aid dependency in rural Zimbabwe through better integrated crop and livestock production and through men, women and youth participating in the market.

Almost 12% of rural households in Zimbabwe (more than 1 million people) rely directly on food aid. Most rural dwellers in Zimbabwe depend on smallholder crop-livestock farming activities based on producing maize, other cereals and legumes and small and large stock including goats and beef or dairy cattle. Crop yields and livestock off-take rates are declining and, even where production surpluses are available at the farm gate, market value chains do not effectively link smallholders and final consumers.

Food deficits are commonplace and rural areas lack opportunities to generate income. Whilst food aid offers a short term measure of relief against hunger, the Government of Zimbabwe and external donors intend to reduce the chronic problem of food aid-dependency, improve food security, and alleviate poverty.

Research by Australian, international and national institutions strongly suggests that this problem of food-aid dependency can be solved by increasing agricultural production, improving food security, and thus alleviating poverty in rural Zimbabwe.

This AusAID/ACIAR sponsored project contributed to better integration and intensification of smallholder

Overview

This project aimed to increase

crop-livestock systems, and helped to increase smallholder enterprises to participate in markets by improving links between market chain actors, and helping them to exploit opportunities, reduce wastage and boosts returns.



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