



CTDT News

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Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
Partnerships Critical in fight against poverty – US Ambassador	2
Drought Hits Farmers Hard	3
Catastrophe looms as drought hits Mudzi	4
CTDT to open Botswana Coun- try Office	6
Documenting Development through Stories	7
Staff News	8
New publications	8

Editorial: 2010 A Mixed Bag

Although the effects of recurrent droughts and input shortages have negatively affected the ability of Zimbabwean farmers to produce adequate crop yields that guarantee food security, there are mixed prospects in 2009/10 cropping season. A sizeable number of smallholder farmers in the Northern part of the country are likely to get better yields while those in the Southern part who suffered most from the prolonged dry spell mid season (December 2009 and January 2010) will need more humanitarian assistance. Zimbabwe is experiencing more mid-season dry spells due to climatic changes. The country received normal to above normal rainfall in the first half of the 2009-2010 farming season and from mid December 2009 to mid January 2010 rainfall amounts became more erratic and scattered leading to the wilting of the country's major food crops. Rains only improved in the second half of the cropping season. Some crops managed to survive whilst the bulk of the crop was a write-off in most drought-prone districts in the southern and northern-most parts of the country.

Zimbabwe needs about 2,2 million tonnes of summer cereals a year and the combined maize, sorghum and millet production for 2008/09 cropping season was estimated at 1 510 000 tonnes according to official agricultural production figures. This translated into a cereal production deficit of about 690 000 tonnes. A 2009 crop report by the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP), estimated national production of maize at 1,14 million tons, an increase of 130 percent on that of the record low harvest of 2008 of 471,000 tons. The UN agency estimates total domestic cereal availability for the 2009/10 period to be 1.39 million tons. Imports will be needed to feed food insecure people in both urban and rural areas. After comparing both official, UN and NGO figures, close to 2 million will need food

support this year alone especially as the peak hunger season advances from around October 2010 to January 2011.

Outside the 'official' and 'humanitarian agency' statistics and approaches is a pool of resilient communal farmers who use own-farm saved seed, small grains and a whole range of wild fruits and wild crops to mitigate hunger and ensure food security at the household level. Statistics for small grains – sorghum, millets, rapoko and wild food crop relatives are hardly captured by government, NGOs and UN agencies and yet these remain critical in drought situations particularly now when climate change is affecting agricultural production by smallholder farmers. There is need to conduct research to ascertain the role of own-farm saved seed, small grains and wild food crops in enhancing food security and in mitigating and adaptation to climate change.

In general, crop harvest prospects are better than the 2008 period because of an improved supply of inputs owing to the dollarization of the economy. Seed and fertilizer supply improved as manufacturers were motivated to produce because of the stable US dollar. However, access to inputs by smallholder farmers remained constrained because a majority of them have little or no access to the US dollar. They had to depend on donor agencies, government, own farm saved seed and support from relatives in towns and remittances from abroad. Seed was sold for \$2 a kg while a bag of fertilizer was sold at rates ranging between \$25 and \$35 per bag. At the peak of the economic crisis in 2008 up to 7 million people were food insecure as compared to 2010 when the UN food agency estimates that close to 2,8 million people would require food assistance.

CTDT has in the last few years conducted massive campaigns to mobilize smallholder farmers to take up Conservation Farming as a critical tool to boost food production and



for adaptation and mitigation of climate change risks. Although it is labour intensive, Conservation Farming is an ideal option for those with no draught power and money to buy inputs which are often expensive and inaccessible for the majority in rural areas. The widespread adoption of conservation farming has seen most farmers in the drought prone Mudzi, UMP, Chiredzi and Tsholotsho districts getting better harvests and reducing the hunger months they experience in a year. Although mainstream agriculturalists are against conservation farming, it remains a viable option for resource-poor farmers with little or no access to inputs and modern technology they advocate for. The United States Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Charles Ray on March 29 conducted a field visit to CTDT project sites to witness first hand how CF is transforming the lives of smallholder farmers in terms of enhancing food security. He was impressed and pledged to continue supporting the organization. His visit highlighted the success and relevance of CTDT's conservation farming initiative. The visit was quite informative and on a practical level demonstrated the importance of collaboration and the building of strong partnerships that work to uplift the livelihoods of resource-poor smallholder farmers in drought-prone districts. Read on and share this issue as widely as possible. ■

Sifelani Tsiko - Editor

Partnerships Critical in fight against poverty – US Ambassador

“Solutions to local problems lie with the local communities themselves”



“It is pleasing to see local farmers being able to grow food to feed their own families.”

BUILDING strong partnerships between local farming communities and civil society organisation is critical in the fight against hunger and poverty, US Ambassador to Zimbabwe Charles Ray said recently.

Speaking after the tour of the Catholic Relief Services - Community Technology Development Trust project sites in Mudzi, Ambassador Ray said co-operation between local farmers and civil society was important in alleviating poverty in this drought prone district some 230km east of Harare.

The US Ambassador was on a familiarisation tour of USAID – OFDA funded projects being implemented by CTDT in partnership with the Catholic Relief Services.

His first port of call was the Nyagupe Community Garden in the Masarakufa ward of Mudzi district with 82 members. The US Ambassador was keen to learn more about community organisation, local structures and community gender dynamics. His second stop was at a crop field where a local farmer showcased his thriving sorghum crop he had grown using the conservation farming approach.

“The United States government stands ready to shift from food aid handouts to support that enables people to produce their own food with local resources and approaches,” the US Ambassador said. “It is pleasing to see local farmers being able to grow food to feed their own families. We fully support this.”

Ambassador Ray said farmer self-reliance was critical in the fight against hunger and poverty. The local farming community, he added, should strive to fend for themselves and reduce reliance on donors for everything.

“We want these programs to go on even when implementers leave the project sites,” he said.

At both sites, the US Ambassador was welcomed enthusiastically

with dance, song and drama. The reception spiced up with the lush display of their harvests offered Ambassador Ray a different view of farming from the American corporate approach which uses modern biotechnology and a huge dose of chemicals. Food aid sourced from the US and distributed to developing countries often props up the US farmers giving them better prices and markets. On the contrary, local farmers have no access to modern technologies and often survive without support from government. The tour brought to the fore the role of alternative agricultural systems in developing countries as opposed to high-tech and industrial systems found in the US which are being promoted intensively worldwide yet they do not meet aspirations and conditions found in developing countries.

Ambassador Ray was impressed by the level of participation by women in the community projects saying women remained the key to improved household food production and security.

He urged the local community to work hard and feed their families. “When you work harder prospects of combating poverty become greater. Solutions to local problems lie with the local communities themselves,” he said.

The US Ambassador said he was impressed by the impact of USAID support in the project sites in which CTDT and CRS were working in. He pledged to continue supporting the partnership between CTDT and CRS in the implementation of the PVLV program.

CTDT in partnership with the CRS is implementing the Protecting Vulnerable Livelihoods Program to reduce extreme poverty and hunger in Mudzi, Mutoko, Murehwa, Chiredzi and Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe districts.

Under this program, CTDT promotes conservation farming, community home-based care, nutrition gardens, provision of clean portable water and sanitary health as well as supporting livestock production through a revolving fund.

“It was quite pleasing and humbling to have the US Ambassador Charles Ray touring our project sites,” said Andrew Mushita, the

CTDT director. “At least he got a glimpse of rural Zimbabwe and saw first hand how the local communities are benefiting from their support (USAID). There is a high level of appreciation for USAID funded projects at the grassroots. The impact is there for all to see.”

The US Ambassador hailed CTDT and its partner CRS for strengthening the capacity of local farmers to fight hunger and poverty.

He pledged continued support for the partnership.

CRS country representative, Paul Townsend expressed his gratitude to CTDT for organising the successful field visit for the US Ambassador.

He said it was encouraging to see the high levels of community organisation in Mudzi which had enabled the community to become food secure through production of vegetables in this drought prone environment.

“CTDT is doing a splendid job assisting farmers to produce an exceptional sorghum crop in this drought prone region using conservation agriculture techniques for three successive years for the case that we witnessed,” Townsend said.

“I personally felt that the day was very rewarding and a great opportunity for the Ambassador to see firsthand the good work that both our organisations are doing to serve the neediest. Thank you again, and I look forward to our future collaboration with CTDT in support of the poor and marginalized.”

USAID Country Director Karen Freeman accompanied Ambassador Ray on the March 29 tour. CRS officials were also present during the field visit.

The United States is providing assistance to Zimbabwe in its efforts to rebuild infrastructure and restore basic services in the health sector. The US has also extended support to the country's agricultural sector to enhance the food security situation in the country. ■

- Report by Sifelani Tsiko
CTDT communications desk

Drought Hits Farmers Hard Report by Tedious Mhute, CTD T Food Security program

A drought which ravaged most parts of Zimbabwe from mid December 2009 to mid January left many farmers hopeless. Most crops were a write-off in the drought prone parts of the country which include Mudzi, Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe (UMP) districts in the Mashonaland East province and Chiredzi district in Masvingo province.

By January 2010, the country's staple crop, maize, wilted and an estimated 30 percent of crops was completely lost. Most smallholder farmers had not planted anything by mid January 2010 owing to the devastating mid-drought spell in Mudzi and Chiredzi. In the Goronga and Mupinga wards in Mudzi rains were only received once in the first half of the 2009 -2010 cropping season.

Small grains such as sorghum thrived compared to all other crops despite the dry conditions that persisted. However, crops in Murehwa and Mutoko (agro-ecological region 2) were at knee-height stage compared to those in the marginal regions in January. The crops were moisture stressed but survived when rains came late in January. Due to the prolonged nature of the dry spell and scarcity of mulch in these areas, no difference was noted between Conservation Farming plot crops and conventionally prepared field crops in Mudzi and Chiredzi.

Given the crop situation and prolonged drought spells in the UMP, Mudzi and Chiredzi districts more people will require food assistance. Household food security assessments need to be conducted early to determine food insecurity levels in these districts. Rains that came late in January have not saved the crops. The situation is dire and more food support is required.

Pictures in this report speak volumes of the dire situation in Mudzi. ■



Moisture stressed maize crop under C.F in the Masahwa ward of Mudzi during the mid season dry spell.



The cowpea crop on this C.F plot wilted completely on this smallholder farmer plot in Mudzi.



The Dry Mudzi river. This is the district's major river and drought has negatively affected gardening activities along the river. CTD supported-sand abstraction-water fed community gardens along Runangwe (ward 12), Kudzwe (ward 3) and Ranja (ward 17) stopped using the system owing to lack of water. There is little or no water and grazing pasture for livestock in the district.



Cattle on the dry Mudzi River bed. Herders have to excavate water from the dry river bed for cattle to drink.

**“plans are
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CCCR
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CGN Crop Experts Visit Zimbabwe

By Sifelani Tsiko -

Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands (CGN) crop experts visited Zimbabwe recently to explore and enhance mutual co-operation in the implementation of the Community Climate Change Response (CCCR) program in the country.

The program seeks to study the impact of climate change on local agricultural production and devise strategies for adaptation and mitigation for the resource poor communities. CTD T is the implementing partner in Zimbabwe.

Bert Visser, director of CGN and head of delegation, said plans are afoot to extend the CCCR program by a further three years from the initial six month after funding was secured for the implementation of the program in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and in Indonesia.

The CCCR program aims to strengthen local people's livelihoods by enabling them to adjust their agricultural practices to adapt to climate change and influence global policies on how to best support this.

The CCCR is a global collaboration of four independent organisations that share common goals and history of effective collaboration from local, national, regional and global levels.

The collaborating partners in-

clude, CTD T, Ethio-Organic Seed Action (EOSA), the Centre for Genetic Resources-Wageningen University and Research (CGN-WUR) and FIELD (Farmers' Initiatives for

orological data, indigenous knowledge systems and mitigatory and adaptive strategies inherent among the resource poor farmers in Zimbabwe.



Bert Visser - stressing a point at a meeting at the CTD T Head Office

Ecological Livelihoods and Democracy).

The team that visited CTD T project sites in Zimbabwe recently included Visser (CGN), Mark van de Wouw (CGN), Collins Khoury of the Crop Diversity Trust (Rome) and Conny Almerkinderes (Wageningen University).

CTD T director Andrew Mushita laughs with Conny Almerkinderes of Wageningen University, the Netherlands. The team was in Zimbabwe to evaluate progress made by the CCCR program in the analysis of the impact of climate change on the livelihoods of small-holder farmers. Response and mitigatory strategies were also explored and analysed under the program which started in 2009 with a one-year support from DGIS.

Oxfam Novib has agreed in principle to support the CCCR initiative for the period 2010 – 2012 to enable researchers to gather more information on the impact of climate change, mete-

Visser and his team visited CTD T project sites in the Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe district, some 210km east of the capital, Harare. "It was a very informative visit (to the Chibika Community Seed Bank). We gained an insight into the project," said Visser. "It was humbling to hear farmers say: 'We want to learn about the crops that we will need tomorrow. I was quite amazed to hear about the farmers' perception of global warming as well as how climate change is affecting them.'"

He said there was need for more data on meteorology, analysis of discrepancies of Met data and farmers' perception, information on farmers' adaptation and mitigation strategies and genetic flow of plant genetic resources in the areas in which the CCCR study was being conducted.

Farmers in UMP, Murehwa and Mudzi were enthusiastic about the CCCR study and keen to find ways to enhance their food



production in the wake of the devastating effects of climate change.

"Visiting the community seed bank in UMP was a very interesting experience. We need to share the experience with the wider international community. We need to see how this (community seed banking system) fits into the broader strategy of responding to climate change," said Almekinderes.

Khoury simply said, "Great experience and I'm inspired." He said there was great scope for co-operation between CTD T, the national genebank and the Crop Diversity Trust.

CTDT director, Andrew Mushita was upbeat about the future of co-operation between partners from the North and those in the South. "This is an exciting initiative which brings in completely different elements. We want to drive pro-poor mitigation and adaptation strategies that enhance agricultural biodiversity and food security through use," he said.

"We have to find some models which work for the poor. How do we package this to become a more meaningful package? We have a bigger opportunity to influence climate change debate at the global level. Each one is bringing to the table a deep wealthy mine of experience and with partners from such diverse backgrounds, it creates a win-win kind of situation. Lets keep this spirit going and find meaningful solutions to the pressing problems facing the poor smallholder farmers," he said.

The visiting team held wide-ranging discussions with officials from CTD T, University of Zimbabwe Agro-meteorological Department and the national genebank. There was general agreement on the need to conduct more research on the body of indigenous traditional knowledge systems on climate change –prediction of seasons, relevance, interlinking scientific and traditional data and how the

data can be validated.

Partners also agreed to further analyse the sustainability of current practices in on-farm management and use of plant genetic resources in the wake of climate change, to raise awareness and increase the capacity of local communities to respond to climate change risks.

They also agreed to collaborate and share experiences generated through research in Ethiopia (EOSA), Zimbabwe (CTDT) and in Indonesia (FIELD).

Other issues discussed covered – PPB, Farmer Field Schools concepts, farmer seed production and marketing, Farmers' Rights and Access Benefit Sharing concepts, new European Union legislation on Farmers' Variety, the need to document plant growth and research outcomes, plant genetic erosion, data on crops grown 30 years ago, factors affecting crop preferences and choices, sources of crop seed, market dynamics, drought and the threat of agricultural imports to farmer crop production.

Partners from the North were also keen to learn more about

those who do and don't participate in FFS, gender segregation. They also pointed to the need to enhance data collection at the local level for rainfall, temperature and other valuable data on meteorology. They called for closer collaboration with smallholder farmers in the generation of this data.

Partners agreed to carry out in-depth analysis of PPB/PVS, FFS, CSB and the agro-meteorological at the local level to influence the generation of useful climate change data that would help inform the debate on adaptation, coping and mitigatory strategies for climate change in poor countries.

During the discussion, partners also set out detailed work plans for future collaborative work and how they were going to use the rich outcomes generated by the research to influence the adoption of appropriate national and international policies to enhance food security and sustain local livelihoods through the use of germplasm better adapted to local production conditions. ■

"We want to drive pro-poor mitigation and adaptation strategies that enhance agricultural biodiversity and food security through use"



CGN and CTD T officials hold discussions at the CTD T office in Harare

Catastrophe looms as drought hits Mudzi

“The reality is that the drought has set in.”

“Water is now scarce. Already we are now fighting to get water for humans and livestock.”

By Sifelani Tsiko

RURAL communities in Mudzi need urgent and adequate food assistance to stave off famine and mass starvation following a drought that has destroyed crops and threatens to decimate pasture for livestock.

Food shortages are now particularly grave in this dry and arid region of the Mashonaland East province.

“We are starring at the prospect of a serious drought,” says Chief Otilia Chimukoko who reigns over

are going to harvest anything even if the rains were to come,” she says pointing at a field with cattle grazing on the dry maize crop.

Meagre rains have pushed Mudzi to the brink of drought putting pressure on water and pastoral supplies. As the main cropping season is about to end, prospect for recovery are poor as rains so far have been late and farmers have no money to buy inputs for replanting in case of rains.

“Our crops are a complete write off. There is nothing in the field. I don’t know how we are going to survive without food assistance from donors,” says Gladys Kawere from the Shinga ward in Mudzi.

She says water supplies in wells and other sources have dwindled and conflicts over it have now risen.

“Water is now scarce. Already we are now fighting to get water for humans and livestock. The situation is bad and people are quarrelling a lot at water points in our area,” she says.

She says the food supplied by humanitarian agencies to the most vulnerable people was inadequate.

“They are giving three people in a village. Once they leave, people jostle to ask for food from the vulnerable. The situation is pathetic and food assistance should be extended to all as a matter of urgency before people starve to death,” she says.

Martin Vhombozi from Karumba village in the Mukota ward of Mudzi says the dollarization of the economy will worsen hunger as most people cannot easily access the United States dollars in the rural areas.

“The shops are full but we have no money to buy the food. The dollarization of the economy has brought in another dimension we never thought would come to haunt us. The US dollar is scarce and no matter how hard you work you can’t simply get it,” he says.

He is worried that unscrupulous livestock dealers will rip them off as the drought bites further.

“Some people have already started exchanging three bags of maize for a full beast. They have nothing to eat and selling cattle is the only way for them to survive. If we don’t get any food assistance we will end up exchanging a bag of maize for a beast. This is grossly unfair but what can we do,” he says.

Able bodied people have started trekking down to the Mazowe river, mines and other farming areas in search of work. They work under tough conditions for little money which is not enough to sustain their families.

“The prospect of a drought is frightening. We don’t know how we are going to survive this year,” says Ronica Chijaka from Bvuma village in the Chimukoko ward of Mudzi. “Kukorokoza kunoda vakashinga chaivo,” she says talking about the labour demanding gold panning activity which most communities here engage for their survival.

People in Mudzi say although they appreciated efforts by some NGOs to promote the growing of jatropha for them to get seed to make soap, fuel for lighting and cooking, vaseline and fertiliser, their yields are not enough to earn them more money to buy food in the wake of the drought.



the Mudzi North area. “The reality is that the drought has set in. It is here with us and we need urgent assistance.”

Households have begun selling livestock, employing other coping mechanism such as skipping meals and gathering wild fruits and plants.

Chief Chimukoko says most households are now surviving on one meal a day and their granaries are empty.

“Women and children are the worst affected and appealing to the Government and donors for food assistance to save our people. There is nothing in our fields. All the crops have dried and I don’t think we

“Women and children are the worst affected and appealing to the Government and donors for food assistance to save our people.”

“Jatropha can help us to fight hunger and poverty but when there is a drought, the situation becomes desperate. The seed stock we generate is not enough and we cannot sustain our livelihoods until the next season. We need food assistance whilst at the same time we are helping ourselves in these environmental action groups,” says Chijaka.

She says, the jatropha plant is critical in the provision of alternative livelihood strategies. The jatropha program, she says, promotes sustainable practices that help poor farmers to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change.

“We have been taught about the importance of the jatropha plant. We are using the skills we got to sustain our livelihoods and also as a mitigation strategy for climate change which causing the droughts we are experiencing,” she says. “Most people are now aware of the devastating effects of climate change because of the training we have received.”

A looming drought in Mudzi cast a dark cloud over this drought prone district.

With grim prospects for the current agricultural season, Zimbabwe is likely to import maize from South Africa and other countries in the region that may have surplus grain. Preliminary reports show that rains have been insufficient in most parts of the country and food security threatens to reach worrying proportions in most drought-prone parts of the country.

In the 2008/2009 season Zimbabwe harvested an estimated 1 240 000 tonnes of maize more than twice the 2008 harvest of less than 420 000 tonnes. This was only enough to meet



around 68 percent of national requirements even with the small grains included.

The harvest this year is projected to fall sharply from the 2009 figure owing to the poor and erratic rainfalls recorded in most parts of the country. Zimbabwe consumes more than 2 million metric tonnes of maize per annum.

Poor rains have in recent weeks prompted Zimbabwe legislators to issue a drought alert warning calling for the Government to declare the drought a national disaster. As food aid pledges by the international community are just gathering momentum, this will help drum up support for food assistance to avoid human suffering and loss of life.

In November last year, The United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and local and international partners launched an appeal for US\$378,5 million for humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable population in Zimbabwe for the 2010 period.

Donors have been slow to respond to this existing appeal to fund food aid programs and if rains continue to be erratic, the demand for food assistance is likely to surge leading to a crisis. To avert a food crisis, there is an urgent need to coordinate humanitarian food interventions, grassroots priority setting, preparedness and response in Zimbabwe.

To empower local communities, humanitarian agencies also need to set a separate fund to facilitate the restoration of livestock assets of drought affected communities that may focus on disease control, fodder production, training and restocking activities.

Perhaps the most critical and controversial issue, is the need for the donor agencies to first buy maize from local farmers who have a good harvest. Despite the controversies, this may prove cost effective and above all empowering to local farmers who are desperate for good commodity prices to sustain food production levels in the country. ■

**“The
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CTDT to open Botswana Country Office

By Dadirayi Choto

PLANS by the Community Technology Development Trust to open a new Country Office in Botswana are now at an advanced stage as the Trust continues with its regional expansion drive to promote programs on poverty alleviation and sustainable development within the Southern Africa region.

This follows the successful opening of the CTDT Zambia branch in December last year.

The CTDT Botswana Country Office becomes the second branch to be opened in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region after the Zambia office.

“CTDT has grown from strength to strength since its inception 17 years ago, developing useful interventions and technologies which can be replicated in other neighbouring countries,” said Mr Andrew Mushita, the CTDT Executive Director.

“The expansion drive is part of CTDT’s strategy to spread and share tried and tested technologies to those that have similar challenges facing marginalised communities here in Zimbabwe.”

He said the registration of the CTDT Botswana Country Office was now complete and prospects are bright for the opening of the offices by June this year.

Dr Monica Murata, a prominent agricultural SADC expert is expected to assume

the position of country director by June this year. Efforts to identify advisory board members are in progress, Mr Mushita said.

CTDT has in the past one-and-half decade generated rich experiences and outcomes as a result of its broad partnership with organisations, institutions and smallholder farmers from diverse backgrounds.

The Trust played an instrumental role in the generation of knowledge and experiences that promoted farmers’ rights and farmer-led conservation development and use of agrobiodiversity.

CTDT has also been active in other programs that include water and sanitation, conservation farming, indigenous vegetable production, solar drying, HIV/AIDS mitigation and management, herbal gardening, policy and advocacy, livestock production, community seed banking, seed production, environmental conservation, climate change research, biofuels, GMOs and other development issues.

Mr Mushita said his organisation will strive to respond to the needs of the poor through the development of people-centred initiatives that aim to reduce hunger and poverty.

“We are not the masters of the communities we serve but we want to be of service to them. Our work in rural communities is driven by the needs of the poor,” he said.

CTDT is now working to transform itself from a national program into a vibrant and robust regional Trust through which it can better articulate the concerns of the poor and help in the generation of appropriate strategies to alleviate hunger and poverty and contribute to sustainable livelihoods.

The Trust envisions rural communities that are food-secure, self-reliant, informed, self-sustaining and able to speak for themselves. ■

**“We are not
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'Documenting Development through Stories of Change'

By Dadirayi Choto

TWO leading farmers working with CTD T in Zimbabwe had their experiences documented in a high profile publication titled *Narratives of Hope: "It Starts Within Us"* Documenting Development Through Stories of Change.

This ground breaking publication by NGOs from diverse backgrounds in Zimbabwe seeks to illustrate the accomplishments made by program beneficiaries in various areas of focus namely Women Empowerment, HIV/AIDS Mitigation, People Living With Disabilities, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution and Agriculture.

The 128-page book was published by the Programme for Institutional Learning and Exchange (PROFILE), a network for sharing experiences and outcomes, showcases the impact of NGOs in improving livelihoods in various parts of the country.

The book was launched in March at a colourful ceremony at a lodge on the outskirts of the capital, Harare.

Mrs Agnes Magwenzi, a farmer and healthcare giver from Chigaramasimbe Village in Murehwa, about 87km east of Harare, testifies about the huge benefits

of conservation farming to resource-poor farmers in the wake of climate change.

Mrs Magwenzi used to spend most of her time working for other farmers because she could not afford to buy farming inputs and seed.

She got support from CTD T

how the CTD T water project enhanced access to water in her village after years of conflict over the precious liquid. CTD T in partnership with the local community constructed water pipes which tapped natural water from the mountains and channelled it to Mrs Kadzima's village. It's about seven kilometres long.

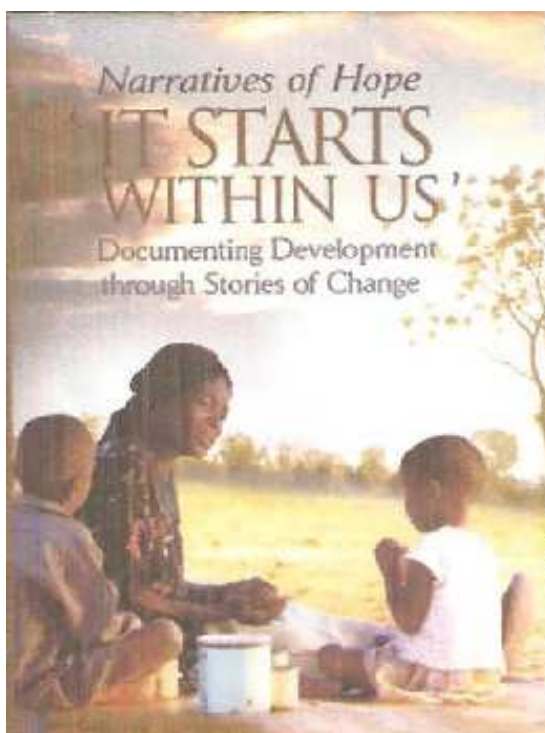
"The water comes from high in the mountains and is safe for drinking. It's like a dream; I can't believe how my life has changed," Mrs Kadzima says in the book.

Through this initiative CTD T implemented its objective of working together with developmental partners to improve household livelihoods.

The book is the first ever to be published by a group of NGOs in Zimbabwe. It highlights the work NGOs around the country are executing to ensure that communities endure better livelihoods. The book is inspirational, giving members of marginalised communities a voice in which to speak about their experiences and transformations.

The Makadii- Linjani project and this publication was supported by the Church Development Services (Evangelical Entwicklungsdienst-EED), an association of the Protestant Churches in Germany.

It is a must read for all. ■



and received extensive training on conservation farming which does not require draught power and other inputs. This farming technology has made a difference in her life.

"I would like to encourage farmers in our area to take conservation farming seriously. It's a good alternative given the rising prices of fertilisers and seed and increasing cases of stock theft which have left some farmers without animal draught power," she said.

Mrs Joyce Kadzima (44) of Kadzima village in the Nyanga district talks about

"The 128-page book was published by the Programme for Institutional Learning and Exchange (PROFILE), a network for sharing experiences and outcomes, showcases the impact of NGOs in improving livelihoods in various parts of the country."

Staff News

Welcome

Lizzie Mabaso, a Catholic University graduate brings refreshing innovation into the CTD T Food and Security program. She joins the team as a Research Assistant. She holds a Bsc in Business Management and Information Technology. She is quite excited about her new role. We hope she will inject new ideas into the Food and Security program.

Delvin Mango joins CTD T as Assistant Mechanic. He graduated from Speciss College in Harare with a Certificate in Mechanics. We hope he will take the transport unit a gear up. All the best in his new position.

Congratulations!

Callisto Tarwireyi, the CTD T Project Accountant and his wife Farai were blessed with a baby girl in April this year. Congratulations to them. We hope the baby will infuse joy and happiness in their marriage. Amhlope! Makorokoto!

New CTD T Publications

BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

- CBDC Africa experiences, Phase III Report 2007-2009: Nurturing Biodiversity as a Basis for Livelihood Security & Environmental Integrity.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM

- Assessing the Importance of Crop Diversity in Ensuring Food Security and Household Economic Development in Zimbabwe: A Policy Perspective
- Awareness Raising Workshop Proceeding on Farmer' s Rights and Economic Development for Parliamentarians and Women' s Organisations in Zimbabwe



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food-security/sovereignty,
self-reliance and self-
sustenance amongst rural
communities in Southern
Africa*

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