

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

(C.T.D.O)



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2019

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|---|
| ABS | Access and Benefit Sharing |
| AI | Artificial Insemination |
| ANCP | Australian NGOS Cooperation Programme |
| BRACT | Building Resilience through Adaptive and Adoptive Capacities for Transformation |
| CBI | Crop Breeding Institute |
| CIMMYT | International Centre for Maize and Wheat Improvement |
| CIT | Cash in Transit |
| CSB | Community Seed Bank |
| CTDO | Community Technology Development Organization |
| CTDT | Community Technology Development Trust |
| DFNSC | District Food and Nutrition Security Committee |
| DLS | Diffuse Lighting Storage |
| DR & SS | Department of Research and Specialist Services |
| ERASE | Enhanced Resilience, Adaptation to Shocks and Economic Strengthening |
| GB | Governing Body |
| ICRISAT | International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics |
| IGA | Income Generating Activities |
| ISAL | Income Savings and Lending |
| ITPGRFA | International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture |
| LFSP | Livelihoods and Food Security Programme |
| MELANA | Matabeleland Enhanced Livelihood and Nutrition Adaptation |
| MLAWCRR | Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement |
| MLS | Multi-lateral system |
| MOHCC | Ministry of Health and Child Care |
| NUS | Neglected and underutilized species |
| OPV | Open Pollinated Varieties |
| PGRFA | Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture |
| PVD | Plant Variety Development |
| PVE | Plant Variety Enhancement |
| PVS | Plant Variety Selection |
| RDC | Rural District Council |
| SADC | Southern African Development Community |
| SD=HS | Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security |
| SPGRC | SADC Plant Genetic Resource Centre |
| UMP | Uzumba, Maramba Pfungwe |
| VCTs | Value Chain Training Site |
| VHWs | Village Health Workers |
| ZRBF | Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund |

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 VISION

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



DONORS

CTDO's work in 2019 would not have been possible without the generous support of the following organizations:

-  Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH)
-  World Food Programme (WFP)
-  Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
-  Christian Aid (CA)
-  Oxfam Zimbabwe
-  Oxfam Novib
-  Department for International Development (DFID)
-  Australian NGO – Action on Poverty
-  Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
-  United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
-  United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
-  German Government
-  European Union (EU)
-  Bread for the World (BROT)
-  Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
-  Swiss Development Corporation (SDC)

CTDO OPERATIONAL DISTRICTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Uzumba, Maramba Pfungwe | Rushinga |
| Mudzi | Murehwa |
| Seke | Mount Darwin |
| Tsholotsho | Chiredzi |
| Chipinge | Mhondoro-Ngezi |
| Zvimba | Chimanimani |
| Mutoko | Gokwe North |
| Gokwe South | Shurugwi |
| Umzingwane | Bubi |
| Umguza | Nyanga |
| | Kwekwe |

Figure 1: Map of Zimbabwe showing CTDO operational districts



OVERVIEW

It is now a year after Community Technology Development Organization (CTDO) celebrated its silver jubilee. Having been formed in 1993 CTDO (formerly CTDT) still remains a force to reckon with when it comes to the provision of appropriate technologies and practices that address food security challenges, agricultural biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through research and promotion of pro-poor policies that addresses climate change and nutrition security. CTDO prides itself in making a difference in people's lives through programmes such as productive asset creation, climate change adaptation, increased crop diversification, behavior change communication, integrated WASH and maternal health support, establishment of farmer field schools and community seed banks, collaborative research and development, farmer training, establishment of farmer seed enterprises and platforms for knowledge sharing and exchange by smallholder farmers. CTDO continues to make inroads in demonstrating sustainable environmental management techniques in response to challenges of gully erosion and environmental threats as well as supporting local authorities to formulate bye-laws for improved environmental management. The institution is well respected in supporting policy formulation and drafting legislation at government level.

This report highlights major achievements made by CTDO and also challenges faced by the organization while implementing its programmes under its four thematic pillars namely Food Security and Livelihoods, Agricultural Biodiversity, Environment and Policy and Advocacy.

The organization managed to implement its projects through the support from local and international development partners.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

I am happy, as the Chairperson of CTDO, to present to you again our annual report for the year 2019. A number of activities were implemented in 2019 against a background of socio-economic, political and environmental challenges. The greatest achievements for the period under review were the construction of eight community seed banks; four dams and feeding of over 300 000 HH who were food insecure in various districts where we are implementing our projects.

The organization like any other institution in the country faced a number of challenges during implementation of various projects.

The introduction of the ZW dollar as the single currency for trade brought about various challenges which include fuel and power shortages. The country also experienced drought and the devastating cyclone IDAI which caused untold suffering to farmers especially in Chimanimani and Chipinge.

Our organization survived these challenges and I am happy to inform you that through its four programme pillars of Food Security and Livelihoods, Environmental Management and Climate Change, Agricultural Biodiversity and Policy and Advocacy the organization achieved significant outcomes.

The organization grew from a staff compliment of 65 to 120 by the end of 2019.

Of significant importance is that CTDO continued to receive significant financial support from its development partners which clearly shows that they have confidence in the way we do our work and how we account for the resources provided.

As an organization, our staff took active participation at international conferences such as the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) Governing Body (GOB) meeting in Rome in November 2019. At this conference, CTDO made history by organizing a side event at the 8th Governing Body meeting where the organization showcased some of the activities we implement at national level. Development partners from Lesotho and South Africa paid some exchange visits to CTDO. This showed that the organization is doing commendable work within the project districts.

As we move forward in 2020 and beyond, the organization is very much optimistic and geared to achieve more.

On behalf of the entire board and on my own behalf, I wish to thank CTDO directorate, management and staff for showing strong character under harsh socio-economic and environmental challenges. The contribution of the organization to the development of the poor and disadvantaged vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe can never be under estimated.

Last but not least, I wish to highlight the good working relationship CTDO has with the Government. This relationship with central Government and Local Authorities has enabled the organization to fulfill its mandate peacefully.

I thank you.

Dr D Garwe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

The year 2019 presented a number of challenges for farmers, government, the business community and civil society organizations in Zimbabwe and CTDO was not spared. The harsh macro-economic environment which resulted from the abolition of the multi-currency trading regime saw prices of goods and services increasing significantly. Fuel and electricity supply challenges affected the performance of many organizations including CTDO. The climate change induced drought caused crop failures in most farmers' fields resulting in serious food shortages. The food deficit reached critically low levels in most households in the country and World Food Programme and other development partners came in to assist over 5.0 million people in 2019. Cyclone IDAI hit the eastern districts of the country and in the process caused untold suffering to households. This impacted negatively on livelihoods, road infrastructure and the operations of several institutions/organizations.

Despite the challenges highlighted, CTDO managed to implement all its planned programmes. With funding support from its development partners, the organization increased the number of its operational districts from 17 in 2018 to 23 in 2019.

Of significant importance during the year 2019 was that CTDO managed to drill several boreholes in its operational districts to alleviate water shortages and to strengthen the capacity of communities to prevent diseases through provision and access to clean and safe water. The growing of traditional crops which are adaptable to harsh weather conditions by small holder farmers in our operational districts has helped the farmers to have a good harvest which enabled them to be food secure. The organization also established nine community seed banks in UMP, Mount Darwin, Rushinga, Umzingwane and Murehwa districts to promote the conservation and sustainable use of local crop varieties leading to these districts becoming seed secure. CTDO continue to work towards improving seed and food security among farmers in a changing climatic environment. The organization took active interest in facilitating participatory plant variety selection, variety enhancement and participatory plant breeding.

To give a strategic direction to the organization for the coming five years, the organization successfully crafted its 5-year strategic plan which will run from 2019 to 2023. Through this strategic plan a number of strategic activities were drafted for implementation in the next five years including nutrition sensitive food systems and value chains, development and release of climate resilient seed, integrated crop-livestock production systems, safe clean water and sanitation, increased agricultural and livelihood diversification, improved environmental management practices and increased formulation of pro-poor policies.

I invite you to read and reflect on CTDO's work under its four pillars namely Food Security and Livelihoods, Agricultural Biodiversity, Climate Change and Environmental Management and Policy and Advocacy.

Food Security and Livelihoods programme ensures that vulnerable households in rural areas have increased access to nutritious food through increased agricultural productivity, increased participation in agricultural and nutrition sensitive value chains and in development of shock responsive social safety nets.

The Agricultural Biodiversity programme focusses on promoting conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources especially under conditions of climate change.

Climate change and environment program is designed to empower communities to adapt to climate change while strengthening their resilience and capacity for sound environmental management at local level.

The Policy and Advocacy programme is designed to advocate for policies that promote participatory, rights based and gender sensitive policy planning and adoption of strategies which calls for government's commitment to implementing pro-poor policies recognizing community resource rights, farmers' rights and recognition of traditional knowledge systems.

Our gratitude goes to all our development strategic partners whom we shared expertise and resources throughout the year. CTDO continue to work with various institutions which include the academia, government and civil societies. Much appreciation goes to CTDO staff who continued to work hard even under difficult circumstances.

We remain indebted to our funders and Board members for their continuous support. As always, we appreciate your support in changing the livelihoods of the marginalized communities.

Thank you.



A T MUSHITA

1.0 Food Security and Livelihoods

1.1. Improving Food and Nutrition Security of Vulnerable Communities

1.1.1 Humanitarian Assistance

Zimbabwe has over the years experienced a number of challenges among them economic and climatic. The 2017/18 season saw 28% (approximately 3.1 million people) of the Zimbabwean population experiencing food insecurity situations at peak hunger period due to the poor 2018-2019 rainfall season. This climate change induced drought affected most parts of the country resulting in most households harvesting cereals that could not feed their families for even two months. The 2019 ZIMVAC report indicated that 59% (5,529,209 people) of the Zimbabwean population will be food insecure at the peak hunger period of January to March 2020. The food insecurity situation was made worse by the harsh macro-economic situation where the inflation rate stood at 521.2% by December 2019 (Reserve bank of Zimbabwe Monetary Policy Statement). The harsh macro-economic environment saw commodity prices changing almost on a weekly basis. The liquidity situation did not improve despite new notes and coins being introduced onto the market. Under these conditions CTDO was contracted by development partners to assist a number of the food insecure households with food/cash distributions and through the creation of productive assets.

a) World Food Programme supported Food/Cash Distributions

In an effort to secure selected households from falling deep into poverty and engaging in indecent livelihood activities such prostitution, forced early marriages and selling of productive assets such as cattle. With funding support from the World Food Programme (WFP), CTDO assisted 156,595 people from four districts (Mhondoro Ngezi, Rushinga, UMP and Zvimba) from August (Rushinga and UMP) to December, 2019, (Zvimba and Mhondoro Ngezi from October). Table 1 below outlines caseload per district per month and the total assistance extended to each district.

Table 1: District food/cash reach to date

| District | Food/cash distributed/month | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Caseload (upper limit) | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Mhondoro Ngezi | 33447 | | | 325.1034MT | 348.659MT | 330.3517MT |
| Rushinga | 26412 | RTGS1,942,960 | RTGS1,942,960 | Awaiting cash | | 276.987MT |
| UMP | 40205 | RTGS2,399,360 | RTGS2,399,360 | RTGS5,134,356 | Awaiting distribution | 422.519MT |
| Zvimba | 56531 | | | 565.6365MT | 565.6365MT | 579.729MT |

Households in Rushinga and UMP were given cash from April to September but due to difficulties in accessing cash, CTDO suspended cash distributions (cash in transit) and engaged in full in-kind distributions. Households received in-kind distributions up to December 2019 with indications that this support will be extended until April 2020. Under CIT, each beneficiary received US\$9/person per month which was converted at the prevailing interbank RTGS rate. In October and November 2019 beneficiaries received RTGS80. In kind rations remained constant at 7.5kg cereal, 1.5kg pulse and 0.75kg vegetable oil per person per month.

b) Productive Assets Creation

Under the BRACT project 1239 beneficiary workers in Mudzi and Mutoko districts undertook cash for work at various asset establishment/rehabilitation sites and environmental reclamation works resulting in the distribution of US\$37,170 at US\$30 per person per month.

Furthermore, in order to build community resilience, CTDO through WFP also implemented the Food for Assets project focusing on the watershed approach. In previous projects focus was placed on asset construction (especially weir dams and nutrition gardens). During the 2019 cycle the project focused on rehabilitation of the riverine catchment areas for community enhancement. Major activities under this cycle included as tree nursery establishment, tree planting, training on conservation agriculture principles including contour ridging, conservation farming (zai pit, minimum tillage, compost making) and terracing among other activities (see Fig 2 to 4 below). The project promoted the growing of drought tolerant crops such as sorghums, millets, cowpeas, groundnuts and bambara nuts to ensure household food and nutrition security. In addition, the project promoted the introduction of small livestock, improvement of livestock through provision of improved breeds within the communities. A total of 15 groups in the three operational wards of Mutoko and Mudzi districts received Boschveld point of laying birds, chicks and mixed breed cockerels; with another 15 groups receiving one boar cross goat to improve the goat breeds within the communities. An estimated 1500ha were rehabilitated through soil and water conservation works and gully reclamation works across the three wards.



Figure 2: Community nursery shed in all wards



Figure 3: Soil and water Conservation in all wards



Figure 4: Contours now a common feature in watershed wards



Figure 5: Live fencing of community orchards

Under the LFSP-EXTRA project farmers bought 27,472 Boschveld chicks and feed. The farmers contributed over USD 6,023.30 and the project contributed USD 5,440.77 which was used to buy feed and medication of the chickens. To enhance income generation capacities among project beneficiaries, farmers were able to rear a total of 10 053 broilers through own incomes and from support from smart subsidies. Farmers contributed a total USD 5,396.20 towards the broiler project while development partners supported them with USD 5117.16. By the end of 2019 farmers had generated approximately USD 81 785.00 which was distributed among the project beneficiaries.

1.2. Livelihoods Diversification and Income Generation

Livelihood diversification and income generation are important components for any household as it cushions the household against any unforeseen events. A number of important activities in the resilience building project were implemented as highlighted below.

1.2.1. Income Generation

During the year CTDO assisted communities to diversify their livelihoods through a number of interventions including Incomes Saving and Lending (ISALs) and other income generating projects.

a) ISALs Income Generating Activities (IGAs)

The organization, through the ERASE project, assisted a total of 60 ISAL groups with US\$ 150 per group of 15 members. The cash injection was aimed at boosting the groups' income generating activities. The groups contributed \$50 to bring the total per IGA to US\$200. The groups submitted small business project proposals which were identified as most viable within their localities, with clear gross margin calculations as part of the eligibility requirements. During the year these groups engaged in broiler and indigenous chicken projects, goat rearing, piggery projects, kapenta fish buying and selling, sowing and selling of school uniforms.

One groups in Mt Darwin (Kubatana) recorded significant successes as it managed to buy a cow, four sheep and five goats from the proceeds from the broiler chicken project. The group has also

managed to pay for labour to dig a dip-well to provide water for watering the group's vegetable garden. By October 2019 the group had started sowing school uniforms which they sold to the local community and realized a total of US\$2030 by December 2019 which they shared among themselves. Using these proceeds the members who are pre-dominantly women were able to buy household necessities and bought food for their children for the Christmas and New year holidays.



Figure 6: Sheep belonging to Kubatana ISAL Group in Mt Darwin Ward 17

Under the LFSP-EXTRA project, 1,841 Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) groups managed to save during the year although the prevailing macro-economic environment seriously affected the ISAL activities. A total of 1436 farmers (represented by 166 groups) with 453 males and 1023 females realized \$437,770.00ZWL. To reduce risks of losing value, farmers bought assets, small livestock such as boschveld chickens and goats and shared these among themselves.

b) Marketing of Small Grains and Horticultural Produce (ZRBF-MELANA)

Under this project farmers were trained on farming as a business (FAAB) concepts. A total of thirty-three (18 males, 15 females) farmers from Dundubala Umguza grew sorghum for sale but were badly affected by the climate change induced drought. Only 20.75 out of a possible 100 tons of sorghum was realised and sold to Buntu Foods in Bulawayo. In Umzingwane, farmers under Kumbudzi Irrigation Scheme produced maize, sugar beans and vegetables. The irrigators were able to sell the surplus produce to fellow farmers within the project sites hence improving own and their neighbours' household nutrition. Green vegetables and some of the vegetables listed above are difficult to grow in the dry region of Matebeleland South province.



Figure 7: Sugar beans and maize crops at Kumbudzi irrigation scheme in Umzingwane

In Mutoko, farmers under the ANCP Project were trained on Irish potato seed production and marketing. Irish seed production has remained the preserve of a few commercial farmers who charge very high prizes for their seed. Using the Diffuse Lighting Storage (DLS) facility, smallholder farmer seed producers were able to propagate and sell seed and table potatoes for US\$23 and US\$8-10 per 15kg pocket respectively. One particular farmer, Mr Mangudya had perfected the skills of producing both seed and table potatoes for the local market. Unfortunately, the poor 2019 season affected his business resulting in poor crop performance. However, the introduction of Irish potato production in a small community in Mutoko district brought the concept of “Farming as a Business-FaaB to fruition as farmers have entered into this previously secluded business venture. In addition, 200 hundred women farmers in Mutoko district also produced NUA45 sugar bean seed, a bio-fortified sugar bean crop high in iron and sold their produce to nearby boarding schools for as high as US\$418-20 per 20-litre bucket. The farmers managed to harvest approximately 50-60 buckets each and recorded impressive returns even under the poor 2018-2019 rainfall season.



Figure 8: Mrs Joyce Chiripanyanga shelling her NUA 45 bean in Mutoko

i. Cattle Breed Improvement

Under the ANCP project farmers in Mutoko were trained to carry out facilitated artificial insemination for breed improvement to enhance livestock quality and marketability. To enhance capacity to undertake artificial insemination (AI) without external expert support, three farmers, one Agritex and one CTDO officer were trained on AI by the University of Zimbabwe - Department of Clinical Veterinary Services. Twelve heifers were artificially inseminated in February 2019 and a 66% success rate was recorded (see one of the calves below).



Figure 9: Tuli-Mashona offspring from 2018 inseminations

As a holistic package to livestock improvement, Mutoko farmers undertook pen fattening for enhanced livestock production and marketing. Unfortunately pen fattening failed due to limited availability of fodder, in 2019. However, fodder production remains an important component under the crop – livestock integration concept where leguminous fodder crops (such as *Mucuna* and *lab-lab*) which are highly nutritious fodder for livestock feed and improves soil fertility for follow on crops were promoted.

Under ZRBF-BRACT project staff further promoted fodder production and preservation leading to the production of over 7000 fodder bales. Under the MELANA project 954 farmers were mobilised into farmer field schools for fodder production. A total of 30 ha of land was put under fodder production (50 farmer field schools planting on 0.6ha each). The farmer groups were further trained on cattle penning for the high paying markets, improved animal health care as well as access to supplementary feed as low-cost bush-meal). Results obtained from simple supplementary feeding trials using locally produced fodder clearly demonstrated the importance of fodder and supplementary feed production for the livestock farmers targeting the lucrative Bulawayo beef markets.

ii. Goats and Chickens Breed Improvement

Under the ZRBF-BRACT project in Mudzi and Mutoko, 1359 households received mixed breeds of chickens including Boschveld, Koekoe and Astrollope with 100 villages receiving Boar Cross

goats for community breed improvement. The 1359 farmers were advised to pass on chicks to others. Improved goat kids born out of the breeding between the local goat and the Boar Cross goats were already being realized by the end of 2019. In Mutoko one farmer recorded seven kids from the Boer crossed goat.



Figure 10: Left-Boer Cross offspring. Right-Boschveld Breeder in Ward 16 Mutoko

Under the LFSP-Extra project's smart subsidies, farmers sold 40 F1 Boer bucks, 27,472 Boschveld chicks, 10 053 broilers. By year end the poultry projects had generated approximately US\$81 785.00 from broiler chicken sales.

1.2.2. Diversified Livelihoods

Nutrition Gardens

A total of 5616 seed packs were distributed under the LFSP-Extra Project to support nutrition gardens. A total of 6787 household nutrition gardens were established and thirteen (13) farmer-initiated garden field days were held. A total of 3000 fruit trees (400 mango, 400 pawpaw, 400 nartjies, 800 avocados, 1000 orange trees) were procured and planted in farmers' household gardens. A local farmer practicing tree grafting was identified to spearhead youth training on tree grafting and management. A total of 1200 youths who were trained are now cascading the trainings to other beneficiaries while the youth establish local fruit tree grafting enterprises to produce and sell trees to the local communities in Gokwe, Zvishavane and Kwekwe districts.



Figure 11: Grafted fruit trees ready for planting in Gokwe

1.2.3 Digital Innovations for Farmers

Working in collaboration with WHH, CTDO developed 2 mobile applications termed Kurima Mari and AgriShare under the Digital Innovation for Zero Hunger Project which is being implemented in Umguza, Shurugwi, Kwekwe, Gokwe South, Bindura, Guruve, Makoni and Mutare. The AgriShare (AS) application is designed to assist farmers to link owners of agriculture machinery with prospective farmers intending to hire the equipment via smartphones. The Kurima Mari (KM) application is an information database which can be used by Agritex extension staff and farmers. KM provides a wide array of information to farmers and extension staff from crop production to marketing, as well as weather updates. The App facilitates increased information sharing, agricultural productivity and enhanced farmer linkages and networking.

A total of 340 Agritex Extension workers across the targeted districts were trained on the two mobile applications. The trainees included staff from 27 NGOs funded by Bread for the World Germany which included ACT Alliance Zimbabwe, American Friends. 10 LSFP consortia NGOs funded by UKAID which include World Vision, Practical Action, SAT, CTDO, Palladium. A total of 77 Brand Ambassadors have been identified and trained to sensitize communities on both KM and AS during community meetings, gatherings and training sessions by trained staff from other projects. This has resulted in continuous brand visibility and awareness among the targeted groups. Over 100 awareness raising sessions on the use of the two mobile applications were held through community trainings, radio adverts, roadshows, provincial launches and the use of digital literacy clinics.

Market information dissemination (ICT4D) using Kurima Mari & AGRISHARE

A total of 672 farmers (390 in M Darwin, 120 in Rushinga and 162 in Seke) were trained on how to use mobile extension and marketing platforms like AgriShare and Kurima Mari. In Gokwe

South, Gokwe North, Kwekwe and Shurugwi, a total of 51 629 farmers were registered on ICT based extension platforms. Farmers appreciated the use of the mobile based extension and marketing platforms. The ICT4D intervention under the project is meant to link project farmers to both input and output markets. Access to information and mobile marketing of agricultural produce quickens farmers' market access and reduce redundancy and unnecessary transport costs. Multipliers with smart phones were selected to register and train others (at least 10 per individual). The multipliers are responsible for availing necessary agronomic, marketing or climatological information to other farmers. Challenges being faced include the limited availability of smart phones among the farmers and power unavailability to facilitate information sharing and exchanges.

1.3. Enabling Access to Water and Sanitation

CTDO is implementing a project component under the ZRBF-BRACT project in Mutoko and Mudzi Districts to improve water availability to communities, reducing distances that women farmers and girl children walk in search of clean and safe water from 7 to 1.5 to 2 km. The BRACT project drilled a total of eight boreholes and rehabilitation another four boreholes to assist those households that accessed water from open wells. Of the eight boreholes that were drilled, seven were fitted with solar powered pumps to enable communities to have easy access to safe and clean water. The solar powered boreholes established under the project are servicing four schools, two clinics and at least three villages each in both Mudzi and Mutoko districts. Under the ANCP project, another borehole was drilled and solar powered at Nyamakosi Primary School in ward 17 Mutoko. The borehole is servicing two schools, a business center and four villages. As a result of these interventions, approximately 3500 households and 15000 people from six schools and two clinics have easy access to safe and clean water in Mudzi and Mutoko Districts.

CTDO also constructed and rehabilitated 11 weir dams (four in Mudzi and seven in Mutoko) for watering livestock and to enhance crop production in the dry areas of Zimbabwe such as those found in Mutoko and Mudzi districts. Farmers started using water in the constructed dams such as Muzika dam in ward 17 of Mutoko district in December 2019.

In an effort to improve water access for horticulture production, three sand abstraction dams were constructed (two in Mudzi and one in Mutoko). Sand abstraction is carried out on the river bed where rivers dry up siltation. Previously the abstraction unit was powered by a manual rowa and joma pump but solar technology has eased the processes, the abstraction unit is now solar powered.



Figure 12: (Left)-sand abstraction process, (Right)- Solar Powered Borehole

1.4. Capacity Building and Trainings

Capacity building of extension service providers

Training of extension service providers to better understand and appreciate the project concepts has been identified as one of the key recipes for sustaining project implementation models and benefits that beneficiaries realize during the project life span. A total of 162 extension workers, 4035 lead farmers from the EXTRA program in the Midlands province were trained on how to deliver extension messages, healthy harvest; post-harvest handling and storage under the in 2019.

The concept of using Care Groups was nationally recognized by the MoHCC as a model of choice for nutrition programming. The EXTRA project adopted this approach and trained 112 coordinators- DFNSC and DH, 315 supervisors, 576 promoters-VHWs. Consequently, 506 Care groups, 3,099 neighbouring women groups and 27,212 neighbouring women farmers were trained on the importance of nutrition.

Sustainable farming techniques training

A total of 12 training sessions were conducted on Sustainable Farming Techniques. The trainings covered topics such as: crop rotation, use of farm-saved seed, and use of natural and traditional methods to control pests/diseases and water saving technologies. The training also covered practices like compost making, hay making, liquid manure making and fodder conservation. The rationale of the training was to improve knowledge and skills necessary for smallholder farmers to embrace the importance of sustainable agriculture practices.

Table 2: Number of People Trained on Sustainable Farming Techniques in Seke, Mt Darwin and Rushinga

| District | Number of People Trained |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Rushinga | 268 |
| Seke | 269 |
| Mt Darwin | 266 |
| Total | 803 |

Ecological farming techniques trainings

A total of six training sessions on ecological farming techniques were conducted in Rushinga, Mt Darwin and Seke districts. Farmers were also trained on the importance diversifying their crops to ensure sustainable food production with limited or no application of chemicals and soluble fertilizers. The farmers were also trained on practices that enhance habitats both above and below the ground. The training targeted members of the 347 Farmer Field Schools established in the target districts as follows: 112farmers (75F /37M) in Mt Darwin, 133 farmers (91F /42M) in Seke and 102 (67F /35M) in Rushinga received the training.

Post-Harvest Management training

A total of 24 training sessions aimed at equipping farmers with knowledge on how to reduce post-harvest losses through utilization of proper post harvesting technologies, proper storage, and proper transportation and limiting spillage. Farmers were equipped with knowledge on crop yield data collection, seed production and seed handling and storage. The training sessions were done to enhance farmer income earning and food and nutrition security.

Table 3: Number of People Trained on Post-harvest Handling and Management by District and Ward

| District | Ward | Number of people trained |
|--------------|------|--------------------------|
| Seke | 5 | 163 |
| | 3 | 154 |
| Rushinga | 8 | 148 |
| | 6 | 130 |
| Mt Darwin | 12 | 140 |
| | 17 | 117 |
| Total | | 852 |

A total of 4035 lead farmers were trained on post-harvest handling and storage under the LSFP-EXTRA project. Beneficiaries of the training sessions cascaded the knowledge gained to 43,186 fellow farmers (**16,422** males, **26,764** females) in Gokwe North and South, Kwekwe and Zvishavane. Farmers were furnished with appropriate post-harvest management skills to minimize losses, maximize food preservation, storage for enhanced food and nutrition security among communities. A total of 263 groundnut seed multipliers were supported with aflatoxin management techniques and produced 8.64 tonnes of clean seed valued at USD\$12 960.

2.0 Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation

2.1 Improving Seed Conservation and Access Among Targeted Communities

2.1.1 Community Seed Banking

A total of nine (9) community seed banks were constructed in Rushinga, Mt Darwin, Bubi, Nkayi, Umguza and Umzingwane under the ERASE, SD=HS and MELANA Projects. The communities provided labor and mobilized locally available materials e.g. bricks, pit sand, quarry stones as part of their contribution to the seed bank construction. Community seedbanks are part of the organization's strategic activities to promote the conservation and management of local seeds to facilitate access to good quality seeds which are adaptable to the changing climatic conditions.

The communities were further trained on germplasm collection, on how to manage community seedbanks and on seed multiplication (to deposit into the seed banks for future use). The training sessions aimed at equipping farmers with knowledge on: seed selection, ensuring seed purity, viability and health and proper seed processing, storage and treatment, community seed bank management and maintenance.

To showcase the practice and principles of community seed banking to local authorities the Dula Community Seed Bank in Umzingwane was officially opened by the Resident Minister of Matabeleland South Province and the Chomazumba Community Seed Bank was officially opened by Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement Retired Air Chief Marshal Hon. P. Shiri.



Figure 13: Resident Minister during Dula seed bank commissioning (left) and right CTDO Director giving a speech at Chomazumba Seed Bank Official Opening



Figure 14: Mt Darwin Community Seed Bank

Visit by Oxfam Novib to Murehwa CSB

Oxfam-Novib staff visited Gezi community in Murehwa district in September 2019 to hand over another CSB which was constructed with support from the same organization. Two Oxfam Novib staff members (Frederik Van-Oudenhoven and Constance Formson) attended the handover ceremony together with Oxfam-Zimbabwe staff. The local MP, councillors, village heads and 102 farmers attended the ceremony.

2.1.2 Seed and Food Fairs

A total of 81 seed and food fairs and 16 dry shows were held in Mudzi, UMP, Chiredzi, Tsholotsho and Rushinga, Gokwe North, Gokwe South, Kwekwe and Shurugwi. The main objective of holding the community seed and food fairs was to facilitate the exchange of seeds and knowledge

among the community members and also to showcase the diversity of crops and crop varieties in farmers' hands. The food fairs helped to showcase the ranges of foods (dishes) that can be prepared from the available seeds in the communities. A major highlight of the seed and food fairs was the showcasing of neglected and underutilized species (NUS) which were produced during the winter season in Chiredzi. Figure 15 shows seed exhibited by one farmer exhibitor in UMP District.



Figure 15: Seed Exhibited at Chomazumba Seed Fair in UMP

2.1.3 Seed Multiplication

In a bid to improve access to diverse climate adaptable seeds, CTDO promoted seed multiplication under the ERASE, FAO-Benefit Sharing Fund and SD=HS projects. A total of 401 FFS were established in Rushinga, Mt Darwin, UMP, Tsholotsho, UMP, Mudzi, Chipinge, Murehwa, Mutoko and Chiredzi. In the Farmer Field Schools; farmers took part in crop improvement programmes such as Participatory Variety Selection (PVS), Participatory Varietal Enhancement (PVE) and Participatory Variety Development (PVD).

These activities were implemented in close collaboration with breeders from the national (NARS) and international breeding institutions which provided stable lines and segregating populations of sorghum, pearl and finger millets, cowpeas, groundnuts, Bambara nuts, soya beans, rice, wheat, chickpea and maize. These stable lines were distributed to the various FFS across the operational districts. The Crop Breeding Institute provided 90% of the planting materials for the trials in the FFSs while ICRISAT and CIMMYT provided the remaining 10%. Farmers participated in the evaluation of the performance of the planting materials against breeding objectives which were set at the beginning of the 2018-2018 planting season. The ERASE project introduced seed multiplication of bio fortified NUA45 in Seke, Mt Darwin and Rushinga because of its high nutrition, ease cooking qualities and early maturity characteristics.



Figure 16: Mr Gezi's NUA45 Seed Multiplication Plot in Seke Ward 5 (left); Right ...a PVE Sorghum Plot in Rushinga

Under LFSP-EXTRA, smallholder seed farmers produced 17,67 tonnes Nua45 bean seed and 24,74 tonnes of groundnut seed namely njiva, hanga and dendere. Part of the harvests contributed to food and nutrition security status of households in the project sites while the bulk of the produce was sold in Gweru, Bulawayo and Gokwe. Farmers especially women in these project sites realized over US\$56 000.00 from the sale of their produce.



Fig 17: Gokwe South groundnut seed producers applying gypsum

2.1.4 Crop Diversification

CTDO has established a total of 210 crop diversity plots under the ERASE and SD=HS Projects. The crop diversity plots are meant to showcase the importance of growing a wide range of crops as a climate adaptability and resilient strategy. At least eight varieties were grown in the diversity

plots. These included maize OPVs, maize hybrids, pearl millet, sorghum, cowpeas, groundnuts and bambara nuts and some fodder crops like *mucuna* and *lab lab*. The National Gene Bank provided 80% of the materials for regeneration within those Farmer Field Schools which were aiming to increase crop diversity within the communities. In order to showcase best practices, the farmer field schools hold field days at their demonstration plots. These field days provide a learning platform for other FFS and the community at large. (see Figure 15)

Five FFS Cluster training sessions were held across the five districts of Rushinga, UMP, Tsholotsho, Mudzi and Chiredzi with one cluster training being held in each district. The training for FFS sought to provide lead farmers with capacities to be able to facilitate the establishment of new FFS and to also ensure that the work being carried out in the FFS was done according to the project guidelines and criteria. The cluster trainings covered topics such as, introduction to plant genetic resources management, preparations for FFS plots and basic concepts of gender.



Figure 18: Farmers take a field tour during the field day in Mutoko district under the FAO-BSF project

A total of 1269 value chain training sites (VCTs), 48 food security technical demos/ diversity plots, 279 biofortification demos and 14 farmer field schools were established under LFSP-EXTRA. At each demonstration site and farmer field schools over 70% of input requirements were provided by farmers while 100% inputs came from farmers for the VCTs.



Fig 19: Kwekwe small grain value chain training site

2.1.5 Gender, Seeds and Nutrition

A total of 15 demonstration plots and 54 NUS FFFs were established in Mudzi, Tsholotsho, Chiredzi, UMP and Rushinga districts (2018-2019 season), to study the performance of different crop varieties of Neglected and under-Utilized species (NUS) including black jam, Amaranthus and Cat's Whiskers. During project implementation it was noted that farmers relied on some of these crops as vegetables especially during periods of food scarcity. Research by CTDO and other nutritionists has shown that these crops have high nutritional and medicinal values but their consumption, seed systems and general research interests are minimal or non-existent. It was noted that the knowledge on the medicinal properties, processing techniques, seed systems among elderly women was significantly high. Farmers working on the FFS plots studied how communities could develop increased interests to utilize these NUS without the stigmatization that is associated with consuming these crops and why they were mostly consumed during times of food scarcity.



Figure 20: One variety of Amaranthus that was grown at Makanjera FFS in Mudzi

3.0 Policy and advocacy

3.1. Access and Benefit Sharing

3.1.1 Access and Benefit Sharing Symposium

Staff from the CTDO Policy and Advocacy Programme participated at the ABS Symposium that was organized by Bio –Innovation Zimbabwe in March 2019. During the meeting, CTDO made a presentation on the organization’s experiences in Access and Benefit Sharing and natural resources management by-law formulation processes at local authority levels. CTDO has to date assisted five local authorities which include Chimanimani, Chegutu, Goromonzi, UMP and Chipinge RDCs to come up with ABS By-Laws.

3.1.2 Multilateral system of Access and Benefit Sharing

Training workshops on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing mechanisms were conducted in Malawi and Zimbabwe under the FAO-BSF project. The objective of training was to find out how some of the crops and crop varieties that the project introduced to farmers can be included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing as part of the FAO-BSF project deliverables.



Figure 21: Multilateral Training in Malawi

Eighth Session of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Governing Body

The Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) convened the Eighth Session of the Governing Body (GoB) at the FAO headquarters in Italy, Rome from the 11th to the 16th of November 2019. Delegates from over 100 contracting parties including four from CTDO attended the 8th session of the Treaty. During the GoB8 session, CTDO conducted a Side event on the 14 November 2019 and the topic for the side event was: *Strengthening Sustainable Management and Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Experiences from the South.*

The following topics were presented:

- Strengthening Sustainable Management and Use of PGRFA: Andrew Mushita (CTDO)
- Local Seed Business: Facilitating crop diversification, food and nutrition security and income generation among smallholder farmers.
- Community Seed Banking: A vehicle for facilitating Access and benefit sharing among smallholder farmers in Nepal.
- Access and Benefit Sharing of PGRFA in Practice: Experiences from Zimbabwe: Restoration of lost PGRFA within the local communities

3.2. Policy Briefs

The project formulated two policy briefs on Natural Resources Management in Zimbabwe and the National Climate Policy. These briefs were used during capacity building workshops for local authorities and farming communities during awareness raising and stakeholder meetings. The policy briefs equipped stakeholders particularly farmers with knowledge on rights-based approaches to natural resources management and benefit sharing out of the use of natural resources.

Table 4: Attendance during the Climate Policy Awareness Meetings

| District | Ward | Number of People |
|--------------|------|------------------|
| Rushinga | 8 | 237 |
| | 6 | 212 |
| Mt Darwin | 12 | 119 |
| | 17 | 93 |
| Seke | 3 | 96 |
| | 5 | 180 |
| Total | | 937 |

3.3. National Workshop on Climate Change

A national workshop on climate change was held under the theme: **Towards an Enhanced Resilient Agriculture System in a Changing Climate: Building Response Strategies and Capacities of Small Holder Farmers**. The workshop presented a learning opportunity for participants and a platform for networking and sharing ideas on how best to enhance resilient agriculture in changing climate conditions. In addition, the workshop provided opportunities for stakeholders to discuss possible response and adaptation strategies which smallholder farmers can use to improve seed and food security under changing climatic conditions at national level.

3.4. Farmer Seed Varieties Registration Workshop

A workshop to look at the possibilities of registering Farmer Varieties was held at Cresta Oasis Hotel-Harare in September 2019. The workshop was attended by stakeholders from the Department of Research and Specialist Services (DR&SS, Farmer Unions, Crop Breeding Institute (CBI), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Seed Companies, Agriculture Research Council of Zimbabwe (ARC), the SADC Plant Genetic Resource Centre (SPGRC), members of the academia and farmers. During the workshop participants shared ideas on the possible steps and pathways that could be followed to facilitate the registration of farmer varieties in Zimbabwe. Participants also discussed how to develop farmer variety crop descriptors and guidelines necessary for defining basic characteristics for the registration and the procedures for registration of local farmer varieties consistent with the SADC Technical Agreement on Harmonization of Seed Regulations (2008).

**LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS
ATTENDED OR ORGANIZED BY STAFF**

| WORKSHOP/MEETING | PLACE | MONTH |
|--|---------------------------|----------------|
| CBD Workshop (COP 14) | Egypt | January 2019 |
| Bioversity International Workshop | Bioversity, Uganda | January 2019 |
| Capacity Building on Access & Benefit Sharing and Intellectual Property Rights for Animal Genetic Resources in Southern Africa | South Africa | February 2019 |
| Capacity building training of the Southern Mountains Association for Rural Transformation for Development (SMARTD) | CTDT, Zimbabwe | February 2019 |
| 6 th National Biodiversity Validation Workshop | Zimbabwe | February 2019 |
| Seed Summit Network | Rocky Mountain, USA | February 2019 |
| Launch of Local Authority Grant Workshop | Zimbabwe | March 2019 |
| Start-Up Planning Workshop on Resilient Seed Systems | Uganda | March 2019 |
| Access to Benefit Sharing Symposium | Zimbabwe | March 2019 |
| Training on the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing under the FAO-BSF project | Malawi | March 2019 |
| ICT for Development Workshop | Uganda | April 2019 |
| Food and Beverages Expo | Zimbabwe | April 2012 |
| National Workshop: Towards an enhanced resilient agriculture in a changing climate: Building response strategies and capacities of smallholder farmers | CTDT, Zimbabwe | May 2019 |
| International day on Biodiversity Commemoration Round table meeting | UNDP, Zimbabwe | May 2019 |
| ZAKIS Inception meeting | Matopos, Zimbabwe | May 2019 |
| SIDA Inception Workshop | Oxfam, Netherlands | May 2019 |
| International Day on Biodiversity Commemoration – round table meeting “Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health | UNDP | June 2019 |
| ZAGP Launch meeting | Chibero College, Zimbabwe | June 2019 |
| Livelihoods and Climate Justice meeting | Act Alliance, Zimbabwe | June 2019 |
| AU Capacity Building Workshop in Kenya Nairobi | Niger | June 2019 |
| SD=HS Phase 2 Inception Meeting | CTDT, Zimbabwe | June 2019 |
| Gendered Enterprise and Markets Workshop | Zimbabwe | June 2019 |
| Regional Nutrition Workshop – LFSP Extra | Uganda Welt Hunger Hilfe | July 2019 |
| Quality Control in Farmer Managed Seed Systems in Africa | Tanzania | August 2019 |
| ZAKIS Inception Meeting (Policy Component) | Zimbabwe | August 2019 |
| National Bio-fortification Learning Event | Zimbabwe | August 2019 |
| ZAKIS Consultation Workshop on the review of Agricultural Colleges Education Curriculum | CTDT, Zimbabwe | September 2019 |
| Resilient Seed Systems Training – Bioversity International | Ethiopia | September 2019 |
| ZAKIS Thematic Working group meeting | CTDT, Zimbabwe | September 2019 |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------|
| National Strategy and Action Plan on PGRFA Validation Workshop | DR&SS | September 2019 |
| National Good Food and Seed Festival | Zimbabwe | September 2019 |
| OECD Compliance Training | USAID-Zambia | September 2019 |
| Re-igniting Modern Biotechnology in the New Dispensation | Biosafety Authority of Zimbabwe | October 2019 |
| AU meeting on Animal Genetic Resources | AU-Ethiopia | October 2019 |
| World Food Day Commemoration | Zimbabwe | October 2019 |
| Bread for the World (BROT) Workshop for Partners on Social Media and ICT | Zimbabwe | November 2019 |
| Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Building for Local Authorities | Zimbabwe | November 2019 |
| ITPGRFA Conference, Italy Rome | FAO | November 2019 |
| Africa Seeds Board Meeting | Ivory Coast | November 2019 |
| ISSD Kick Off workshop | Kenya | December 2019 |

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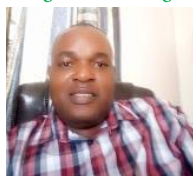


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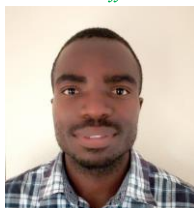


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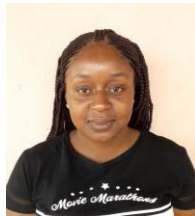
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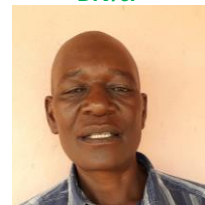
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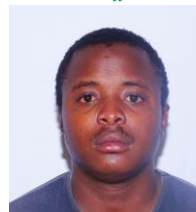
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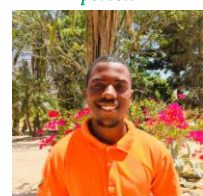
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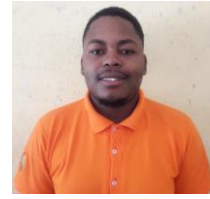
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