

Training Workshop

Community Seed Banking Concept

DATES: 6 – 10th August 2018

VENUE: Motsamayi Lodges, Bulawayo

The MELANA project under the Food Security and Livelihoods programme has constructed 2 new seed banks in Nkayi and Umzingwane districts with 2 more still under construction in Bubi and Umguza districts. This makes it 15, the total number of community seed banks constructed by CTDO and partners. The community seed banks function not only as repository facilities for seed but also a centre of excellence where smallholder farmers are trained on quality seed production, participatory plant breeding; providing strategic seed reserve in drought years and ensuring farmers' seed security at the household level. Establishing community based seed banks for the semi-arid agricultural areas provides farmers with easy access to seed of their choice.

The targeted communities have selected seed bank management committee from within community members. The committees and local agricultural extension officers have been mandated by the community to oversee the functionality of the seed banks and make sure the seed banks achieve the intended objectives. MELANA project organized two training workshops jointly conducted by trainers from Biodiversity programme and the National Gene Bank of Zimbabwe for the 4 community seed bank management committees, extension officers and project staff on community seed banking concept. A total of 46 (23 females, 23 males) attended the training. The training focused on; the global context of plant genetic resources and regulating international instruments; origin and evolution of community seed banks; governance and management of community seed banks; technical and sustainability issues.



Group photo: workshop participants