**STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETING (SSAM) PROJECT** **SUMMARY**

**Project name:**

Strengthening sustainable agriculture and marketing (SSAM) project.

**Location of project:**

Ward 14 and 17 Matobo District, Matabeleland South

**Project Sponsor:**

HEKS EPER

**Implementing organisation:**

Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre

**Period:**

2014-2016

**Total project budget:**

USD 358,262

The SSAM project had 5 expected outcomes. Below is a list of the SSAM project outcomes followed by an account of the results attained on each outcome by end of December.

The outcomes of the SSAM project were as follows:

* Outcome 1; Improved sustainable household food production.
* Outcome 2; Increased household income in Dema and Madwaleni wards
* Outcome 3; Equitable access to resources by women and men in Dema and Madwaleni wards
* Outcome 4; Reduced impact of climate change effects on communities' livelihoods
* Outcome 5; Successful monitoring, evaluation, learning and educating for a wider roll out.

**OUTCOME 1**

**IMPROVED SUSTAINABLE HOUSEHOLD FOOD PRODUCTION**

Our M&E statistics do not indicate much difference between the end of 2015 status and end of 2016 in terms of field crop productivity since they were both affected by the drought. The disaster was avowed a national disaster due to the level of destruction it has caused. This implied that the project efforts to improve sustainable food production and to increase the number of small grain growers have not yielded much impact. This may be due to the inability of the PoOC to manage change and adapt to it. On the other hand, maize is still being the most produced crop despite the unfavourable climatic conditions that the region is characterized with, and this has also hindered the attempts to improve sustainable household food security.

Significant increase on the number of millet, pumpkins and sugar beans producers have been noted with pumpkins having a constant increase over the project implementation period. Due to the current intervention of Humanitarian Aid and Productive Asset Creation (HA & PAC) which has a training component of small grain production and the distribution of small grain seed, the 2016 – 2017 cropping season is likely to have a higher number of small grain production. The persistent droughts that the region has experienced has resulted in the PoOC putting less effort in field crop production and this has resulted in a decrease in crop diversity from first year average of 5 crops to the baseline average of 4 crops per individual. The graph below depicts the changes explained above.

The drought that Matobo district and the country at large experienced however did not affect the PoOC’s desire to know and practise conservation farming. 83.7% of the farmers are knowledgeable about conservation farming and 77.3% practise conservation farming. In terms of the project outcome indicators, the 3yr target has been achieved. Conservation farming has been widely adapted and a significant increase in the number of farmers with knowledge on CF can be noted, however, they were affected by the poor rainfall season. Albeit, because of the labour requirements of conservation farming, there still exist a percentage of people who are knowledgeable about conservation farming but are not implementing it. Among the most utilised farming methods by the beneficiaries, conservation farming remains the most implemented with 67.3% of the respondents indicating that they are implementing it.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **field crops statistics** | | | | | | | | |
| **Crops** | Maize | | | | Sorghum | | | |
|  | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 |
| Average harvested (kgs) | 575.59 | 96.04396 | 101.56 | 13.82 | 63.6 | 47.68293 | 46.75 | 43.21 |
| Average area planted (ha) | 0.886 | 0.937967 | 0.9335 | 0.87254 | 0.191 | 0.507073 | 0.3763 | 0.29 |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| **Crops** | Cow peas | | | | Ground nuts | | | |
|  | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 |
| Average harvested (kgs) | 17.14 | 5.235294 | 5.4167 | 0.00 | 68.91 | 26.33333 | 24.042 | 4.41 |
| Average area planted (ha) | 0.069 | 0.197941 | 0.8765 | 0.02 | 0.13 | 0.257667 | 0.3179 | 0.43 |
|  | | | | | | | | |
| **Crops** | Millet | | | | Round nuts | | | |
|  | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 |
| Average harvested (kgs) | 21.3 | 13.00 | 19.0494 | 0.03 | 35.7 | 7.63 | 8.052 | 0.00 |
| Average area planted (ha) | 0.08 | 0.39 | 0.4375 | 0.313 | 0.099 | 0.15 | 0.2755 | 0.32 |

The table above shows us that the adaptation of conservation farming, however, did not directly result in an increase in the harvested quantities in the field crops as other climatic factors negatively affected the yields. Field crop productivity has remained very low this season due to the overwhelming drought conditions experienced during this cropping season. The field crops quantities harvested have significantly dropped between the 2014 -2015 and 2015 – 2016 cropping seasons. The baseline production rate for maize was 672.22 kgs per hectare, the end of year 1 progress monitoring survey revealed that the rate had reduced to 102.4 kgs per hectare, the year 2 production rate is 95.2 kgs per hectare and a drastic decline in the figures obtained from the end of 2016 survey show that the production rate was as low as 15.84 kgs per hectare. The table below shows the field crop statistics that have been gathered throughout the project implementation phase. The results show that despite the project’s efforts to enhance food security, external factors such as climate change have had a stronger impact on the yields and basing on these results, it has been noted that the field crop situation has been abating over the years.

**Figure 3: Garden crop statistics**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of garden** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** | **Major crops grown** | **Quantities harvested (Average)** | **Quatities sold** |
| Zimiseleni | 0 | 22 | 22 | Tomatoes | 30 crates | 20 crates |
|  |  |  |  | Onions | 18 pockets | 12 pockets |
|  |  |  |  | Leaf vegetables | 50 bundles | 48 bundles |
|  |  |  |  | Butternuts | 320kgs | 205kgs |
| Esibilileni | 10 | 11 | 21 | Tomatoes | 30 crates | 20 crates |
|  |  |  |  | Onions | 18 pockets | 12 pockets |
|  |  |  |  | Leaf vegetables | 50 bundles | 48 bundles |
|  |  |  |  | Butternuts | 320kgs | 205kgs |
| Dlanamandlakho | 3 | 9 | 12 | Tomatoes | 30 crates | 20 crates |
|  |  |  |  | Onions | 18 pockets | 12 pockets |
|  |  |  |  | Leaf vegetables | 50 bundles | 48 bundles |
|  |  |  |  | Butternuts | 320kgs | 205kgs |
| Dewe community | 4 | 16 | 20 | At establishment stage | 0 | 0 |

Table1. 2ha garden produce

Improvements in the quantities harvested in garden crops have been noted and this can be largely attributed to the increase in the land area under production by the utilisation of the two (2) hectare gardens. Observations at the garden indicated that Sibilileni garden (in Halale village ward 17) was doing exceptionally good, and they also noted that in their previous harvest, they managed to sell butternuts to Food Lovers Market and the quality of their product was highly praised. This is the major success that they have noted despite the slight decline that followed due to high temperatures that nearly destroyed some of their less tolerant crops.

Zimiseleni garden (in Ndiweni village, ward 14) has shown some consistent growth in their production. Unlike the other two garden, they did not experience much water challenges during the dry spell and this has helped them in adhering to their production plan. The members of this garden mainly rely on the local community as their market and furthest they sell to Maphisa growth point. The major successes they have noted since expansion was consistent production, establishment of the solar irrigation system and fencing the garden.

Among the gardens that were fully established and started producing in 2015, Dlanamadlako was observed to be the least producing garden out of the three. Their production has mainly managed to sustain their food supply and a percentage of the local market. This may have been mainly as a result of the low membership in the garden as it has been noted that with the garden’s membership at the time of the evaluation, they have not been able to fully utilise the area they have.

However, the figures may have been reported higher if the fourth garden had started production. The major hindrance behind the delayed commencement of production at this new garden has been water for irrigation due to the low rainfall experienced in the previous season accompanied by the high temperature thereof. At the time of reporting, the setting up of the irrigation equipment had been done and fencing the garden had been completed. The members were in the middle of preparing their land for plantation once they receive the first rains.

The table below shows other improvement on the production of garden crops. The results indicate that there is a significant increase in the productivity of all crops and only noted a single decrease on fine beans quantities. Statistics from the previous years in the table indicate that fine beans were not really one of the common crops in the area.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **garden crops statistics** | | | | | | | | |
| **Crops** | leaf veges (bundles) | | | | carrots (bundles) | | | |
|  | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 | baseline | first year | 2015 | 201 |
| Average harvested | 36.7 | 64.88 | 39.63 | 53.09 | 3.71 | 11 | 12.5 | 15.25 |
| Average area planted (square metres) | 37.6 | 32.3 | 43.3846 | 53.4 | 42.413 | 3.166667 | 7.25 | 10.17 |
| **Crops** | butternuts (kgs) | | | | tomato (kgs) | | | |
|  | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 |
| Average harvested | 6.77 | 21.75 | 24.8333 | 39.87 | 48.86 | 43.75 | 2.9545 | 6.49 |
| Average area planted (square metres) | 38.181 | 8.25 | 22.5 | 36.75 | 228.11 | 5.75 | 23.6806 | 34.36 |
| **Crops** | fine beans (kgs) | | | | onions (bundles) | | | |
|  | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 |
| Average harvested |  |  | 3.6667 | 2.25 | 54.08 | 10.71 | 14.17 | 26 |
| Average area planted (square metres) |  |  | 47.6667 | 10.36 | 325.52 | 5.05 | 13.1389 | 20.56 |

During the mid-year period of the third implementation year, a goat inventory was done for the purpose of obtaining information on the total number of goats in the project not estimating them from a sample. The results of the inventory data collection indicate that the goat pass on project has been progressing quite well.

The table below shows the various numbers of goat births, deaths, goats that have ever been sold, slaughtered and the current number of goats. Absent in the table are the individual averages and the survey results indicated that the average number of goats that each individual own is about 2 goats. The major success that can be noted on the goat pass on project is on the number of people who now own goats although some had just received theirs at the time of the survey.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Village** | **No. of births** | | **No. of deaths** | | **No. Of goats sold.** | | **No. Of goats slaughtered** | | **Current no. Of goats** | |
| >>>>>>>> | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| **Malindi** | 26 | 51 | 9 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 43 |
| **Tshogwana** | 20 | 39 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 17 | 38 |
| **Mangala** | 39 | 89 | 18 | 27 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 27 | 64 |
| **Mhlasi** | 19 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 35 |
| **Ndiweni** | 49 | 64 | 19 | 28 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 53 |
| **Totals** | **153** | **256** | **60** | **82** | **18** | **19** | **9** | **4** | **100** | **233** |

It can be noted that the number of respondents who do not have goats have increased from the previous 12.5% to 18.7% from the table below. This may be one of the various effects of the drought that affected the area as small livestock then became the next best alternative to boost the diet. In general, the livestock base has been affected highly by the drought situation. It has been affected in two ways, one: the livestock could not get enough pastures to feed on and in some cases, they starved to death and two: they were slaughtered for food or sold to generate money to buy food. The table below shows the percentages of people who have livestock in the ranges defined below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| livestock statistics | | | | | | | | | |
|  | **cattle** | | | | **Goats** | | | | |
|  | *baseline* | *first year* | *2015* | *2016* | *baseline* | *first year* | *2015* | *2016* |
| none | 54 | 59.8 | 47.1 | 58.3 | 23.9 | 21.7 | 12.5 | 18.7 |
| 1 to 5 | 30.4 | 25 | 31.1 | 26.8 | 44.2 | 27.2 | 40.2 | 43.2 |
| 6 to 10 | 9.1 | 10.9 | 11.5 | 8.9 | 19.2 | 35.9 | 20.7 | 20.1 |
| Above 10 | 6.2 | 4.3 | 10.3 | 6 | 12 | 15.2 | 18.04 | 18 |
|  | **poultry** | | | | **Donkeys** | | | | |
|  | *baseline* | *first year* | *2015* | *2016* | *baseline* | *first year* | *2015* | *2016* |
| none | 13 | 7.6 | 14.9 | 21.7 | 56.9 | 66.3 | 63.2 | 65.50 |
| 1 to 5 | 25.7 | 25 | 24.2 | 25.2 | 35.1 | 28.3 | 29.9 | 26.70 |
| 6 to 10 | 28.6 | 27.2 | 33.3 | 29.3 | 7.2 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 5.80 |
| Above 10 | 31.9 | 40.2 | 27.6 | 23.8 | 0.4 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 2.00 |

**OUTCOME 2**

**INCREASED HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN DEMA AND MADWALENI WARDS**

The end of year (2016) statistics established that the average monthly household income is $128.3. There has been a disruption in the continued increase in the average household income due to the decrease in field crop productivity and the introduction of new garden which was yet to produce during the time of the survey. One of the existing gardens have also suffered water shortages during the evaluation time. The projected seasonal conditions will significantly aid to achieving the 3year target of $140.

The SSAM project targets that the household income is increased and our income generating activities contribute 40% to the overall income. The targeted 40% income contribution of our income generating enterprises to the overall income has been surpassed as evidenced by the results of the evaluation which show that the contribution has reached 48.8%. The baseline survey show that 10.7% of the overall income originates from the income generating enterprises and the current contribution has increased to 52.47% despite the decrease in the average monthly income. Below is a table that shows the income from each enterprise as well as the overall income. Other sources of income that have been noted to be generating significant income to the households in Matobo include remittances, and piece jobs.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Average Income | | | | |
|  | **Baseline** | **First Year** | **2015** | **2016** |
| overall monthly income | 121.33 | $122.12 | $135.26 | $128.3 |
| income from goat production in the previous month | - | $7.40 | $18.13 | $15.2 |
| income from resource centre in the previous month | - | $0.00 | $2.31 | $2 |
| income from beekeeping in the previous month | 2.124087591 | $2.43 | $29.71 | $25 |
| income from nutrition gardening in the previous month | 10.83116883 | $17.66 | $11.88 | $25.12 |
| total income from income generating activities | 12.95525642 | $27.49 | $62.03 | $67.32 |

The chat above is showing the percentage of people who indicated the changes that had occurred to their monetary income comparing their current state at the time of the evaluation to the same time last year. Most of the respondents indicated that they had experienced a massive decrease followed by those who indicated a medium increase. The factors explaining these changes are as follows:

The most highlighted issues that have contributed to the decrease in monetary income is the decrease in output mainly due to the drought. Costs and market price of the produce have not changed.

The increase in income has been mainly noted by people from Esibilileni nutrition garden who could not equate their current financial state to that of last year, a period when they did not have a garden and had very little income from piece jobs and some from remittances.

The evaluation results did not highlight any flagging changes in terms of the asset base, with specific emphasis on the implements component of the asset base of the farmers. This may have been significantly different if the area was not affected by drought and if the concepts of ISALs were being adopted. The table below shows the average number of implements that the farmers owned at the time of the baseline survey and at the end of the second year. All differences in the values between results can be attributed to the standard deviation.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Averages | | | | |
|  | **Baseline** | **First Year** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Hoes | 3.65201465 | 3.39 | 3.6 | 3.4 |
| Rack | 0.51824818 | 0.58 | 0.6 | 0.45 |
| Cart | 0.35164835 | 0.35 | 0.46 | 0.54 |
| Pick | 1.15073529 | 1.11 | 1.38 | 1.08 |
| Fork | 0.59124088 | 0.72 | 1.06 | 1.23 |
| Mattock | 0.37226277 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.5 |
| Shovel | 1.54014599 | 1.51 | 1.76 | 1.5 |
| Watering cans | 0.58909091 | 1.42 | 2.11 | 2.55 |
| Wheel barrows | 0.76642336 | 1.19 | 1.31 | 1.05 |
| Slasher | 0.42335766 | 1.39 | 0.71 | 1 |
| Plough | 0.73062731 | 1.09 | 0.78 | 0.82 |

Apart from the food supply and livestock survival, the drought situation in Matobo also suppressed the potential improvements on the asset base in the sense that the income generated has been diverted to buy food to supplement the diet as the field crops have failed and in almost all cases, written off. The same result has resulted in the acquisition of household items such as televisions, radios and satellite dishes, which remained low with no significant changes during the implementation period. Table 9 below shows the statistics on household items over the four reporting periods.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| averages | | | | |
|  | baseline | first year | 2015 | 2016 |
| Television | 0.32 | 0.38 | 0.39 | 0.35 |
| Solar panel | 0.58 | 0.72 | 0.77 | 0.74 |
| Radio | 0.59 | 0.53 | 0.74 | 0.66 |
| Bed | 1.73 | 1.61 | 1.82 | 1.75 |
| Cell phone | 0.95 | 1.16 | 1.47 | 1.32 |
| Satellite dish and decoder | 0.12 | 0.15 | 0.2 | 0.1 |

One of the major successes of the SSAM project is the beekeeping section. Beekeepers have been progressing and improving their project. The initial group apiaries that were created are still functional and at the time of reporting some groups were expecting their second harvest for the year. The individual apiaries were also functioning well according to the focus group discussion conducted with the beekeepers. The beekeepers have noted quite a number of successes and below are the major ones highlighted.

* Beekeepers have been equipped with the necessary skills in honey processing and marketing.
* They have managed to sell their honey produce and its by-products (as wax and candles)
* They have attended exhibition shows in Harare, ZITF, Maphisa open market and did exchange visits to Hurungwe, Chimanimani and Shamva
* They have constructed a processing centre and the structure is 85% complete (only remained with fitting shelves)
* They have drafted the constitution for the processing centre and were looking forward to selecting a board to man the centre.

The plan is also to buy unprocessed organic honey from the community members who are not part of the project to increase their stocks and utilise their processing centre through the sale of vegetables and other garden produce also.

The major challenges that the beekeeping initiative have faced was poor colonisation of hives due to the tenacious heat waves which resulted in colonies moving out of the apiary. This in-turn resulted in shrinking of the sizes of apiaries leaving a few hives to be shared by a bigger number of people. Also, due to the expansion of personal apiaries, the participation of people in group apiaries have significantly decreased. To curb the major challenge of poor colonization, beekeepers are trying to provide supplementary feeding for the bees, but little success has been made since the supplementary feeding crops were also affected by the heat. They had suggested that the best way around this may be to develop a garden around the apiary and drill a borehole to provide for the water.

Beekeepers have made significant progress in the production of honey as evidenced by the table below which shows the number of beekeepers by village, the size of the apiaries and the quantities that they have harvested from 2014 to date. With the aid of the new processing centre there are expectations that the number of bottled honeys sold will increase significantly given proper utilization of the facility.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **village** | **number of beekeepers** | **current no. of hives** | | **2014** | | **2015** | | **2016**  *(half year result)* | |
| >>>>>>> |  | ***total*** | ***colonised*** | ***bottles*** | ***kgs*** | ***bottles*** | ***kgs*** | ***bottles*** | ***Kgs*** |
| dewe | 19 | 38 | 20 | 57 | 103 | 62 | 103 | 78 | 164 |
| domboshaba | 23 | 34 | 22 | 46 | 88 | 83 | 151 | 105 | 154 |
| halale | 17 | 18 | 10 | 51 | 56 | 80 | 137 | 32 | 98 |
| mawusumani | 4 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 42 | 27 | 61 | 0 | 17 |
| njelele | 16 | 24 | 12 | 33 | 85 | 51 | 142 | 10 | 42 |
| silungudzi | 26 | 78 | 39 | 96 | 136 | 94 | 175 | 187 | 180 |
| **Totals** | **105** | **198** | **106** | **283** | **560** | **97** | **969** | **412** | **755** |

The IGA generating the highest income is nutrition gardening with an average of $26.66 per month. Currently, beekeepers are the second highest and they are generating significantly high monthly income with an average of $20.15 followed by goat producers with an average of US$12.37 then lastly, the Resource Centre with $8.33 generated from the processing activities that were being carried out.

The resource centre has made some significant strides in its establishment. The uses of the resource centre at the time of the evaluation were rentals and processing. The members of the resource centre process jam from oranges. From rentals only, the centre is getting $50 per month. The resource centre is equipped with solar power, and this has been noted as one of their successes. They have also managed to register the facility as a legal structure and establish a board of trustees. Apart from these successes, the members of the centre are also capacitated with food processing skill which they find very useful in their processing activities. The jam they process is packaged and appropriately labelled for marketing.

The long term plans the farmers highlighted include using the centre as a training facility for organic farming. They also have ideas around expansion of the centre to include demonstration plots and livestock production.

The major challenge that they have been facing is that of decrease in membership. This may have been mainly due to the fact that the resource centre has been there for more than five years and the farmers have not been able to yield much income from it.

**OUTCOME 3**

**EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RESOURCES BY WOMEN AND MEN IN DEMA AND MADWALENI WARDS**

To encourage equal access to resources by women and man in Dema and Madwaleni ward, the SSAM project has an outcome directed towards achieving this. Activities planned through the implementation phase were all done and of these, the most important was the gender analysis which gave recommendations that significantly aided the organization in its implementation activities. The final evaluation revealed that the top five organisations/bodies that women are participating in (by order of frequencies)

1. Nutrition gardens - as members of the committees taking up positions such as chairperson, secretary, treasurer just to mention a few.
2. Goat Production Committees
3. Beekeepers’ committee
4. Burial societies
5. Village development committees

100% of the respondents indicated that they participate as members of the above-mentioned bodies. 56.7% are in leadership within these organizations and 43.3% are not.66.7% indicated that they suggest and advocate for the inclusion of ideas during group meetings and 33.3 indicated that they only suggest ideas and this leaves 0% of the respondents to indicate that they never speak. All respondents to this question were female.

The graph below shows the percentage of responses on the views of respondents on the participation of women in influential leadership positions. 100% of the respondents feel that women are now fully involved in important decision making in the community and about 97.4% indicated that they are also involved in deciding how household income is spent.

A larger percentage of the population of Matobo is occupied by women. The chart above indicate that they are now actively participating in leadership positions. This implies that women also now have a say on issues such as land and productive asset ownership. This fact coupled with their participation in developmental projects will have a significant impact on the progress that the district will realise. Evaluation results show that 88.2% of the women have knowledge of permaculture and this implies that the project target was 94.5% achieved largely owing to the women in leadership workshop and mainstreaming of gender analysis workshop results.

This outcome is important for the project as it brings out the mainstreaming of Human Rights related to the productive and reproductive rights of women and men. The outcome is also our project response to responding to MDG 3 as well as alignment of the project to some of the provision of the Zimbabwe constitution around Gender and Development. The two major outputs of this outcome state that (3.1) By year three, at least 60% of the leadership of the different enterprises are women, and (3.2) Based on gender analysis, change in the proportion of women participants in the enterprises who attest to deciding on use of earned income.

The participation of women in leadership positions that are influential has increased significantly with most women assuming positions such as chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and committee members in several development projects. Other positions that women participant in include church leaders and social clubs’ positions. Local governance and development positions such as the VIDCO, the WDCO, the VWSC, the WWSC, councillor, Village Head and government departments are still largely constituted by men, and we have also observed a highly skewed percentage of male politicians and local leaders. The outputs of the Leadership training for women are largely on the enlightenment front where both women and men agree and accept the increased need for women to participate in leadership to ensure that their needs are equally considered. The graph below shows the percentage of women who hold at least one influential leadership position.

**OUTCOME 4**

**REDUCED IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON COMMUNITIES' LIVELIHOODS**

The major point of limited success on the SSAM project has been because of climate change. The operational area has had a persistent drought during the implementation year. Climate change initiatives aimed at raising awareness and encouraging the implementation of strategies to mitigate and adapt to it were put in place and implemented. However, the area was affected by one of the most destructive droughts in terms of crop production. Efforts to ensure that people understand climate change have been made during the implementation year and significant improvement in the percentage of people who now understand the term climate change itself have been noted.

There has been a continuous increase and 43.4% now understand climate change and in-depth understanding 3year target not achieved due to increase in the number of beneficiaries by the introduction of a new garden whose members were not trained about climate change at the time of the evaluation. The overall percentages of people who understand climate change remain low compared to those who do not understand it. The slow change may be due to lack of activities planned during the year that gives the people the much-needed knowledge on climate change as it remains the most significant factor hindering progress in the agriculture sector.

Most respondents who understand climate change highlighted that is to do with weather variations, persistent drought and others thinks of water sources drying. A group of people was commissioned as Locals Actors of Change (LACs) and these were capacitated with climate change knowledge so as to emancipate their fellow community members. In a focus group with some of these LACs it was revealed that they last had their activities years back and this has resulted in the slow dissemination of knowledge and hence less awareness about the effects of climate change.

On the issues of mitigating and adaptation of climate change, the evaluation pointed out that 64.2% of the farmers are implementing at least 2 adaptation strategies and 58.2% are implementing at least 2 mitigation strategies. The project target for adaptation strategies has been reached and progress has been made on mitigation strategies and the 3year target was 97% achieved. The graph above shows the most used mitigation strategies, and the table below shows the most used adaptation strategies.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | adaptation strategies |
|  | percentages |
| conservation farming | 60.00% |
| conservation works | 13.80% |
| water harvesting | 27.50% |
| rearing small livestock | 16.20% |
| growing small grain | 33.80% |
| growing OPV | 5.00% |
| crop diversity | 57.50% |

Matobo is a district characterised with severe climatic conditions which range from irregular seasonal patterns and extreme weather which get very hot during the summer and very cold in winter. Regular agricultural activities are hindered by persistent water challenges. This project is responding to those challenges through implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions which foster resilience within the farmers thereby increasing their livelihood options. Efforts to ensure that people understand climate change have been made during the implementation period as it can be noted that there is continuous increase in the percentage of people who now understand the term climate change itself. Among those who indicated that they understand the term climate change, 100% understand that climate change is to do with weather variations and about 58% understand that it is to do with persistent droughts. The table below shows the continuous increase in the number of people who understand the term climate change.

**Figure 4: Climate change aspects**

**OUTCOME 5**

**SUCCESSFUL MONITORING, EVALUATION, LEARNING AND EDUCATING FOR A WIDER ROLL OUT.**

Efforts to ensure that SSAM monitoring, and evaluation activities were conducted according to the monitoring and evaluation framework were mostly successful in the key areas in this implementation year except for the monthly detailed garden crop productivity information which was not collected. To address the case of beekeepers and goat producers where the finer details on the total number of hives now present and the total number of goats available, inventory data was collected, and the system attempted to cover every goat producer and beekeeper present. Apart from this, successes have been noted in the timeliness of the reports, in this case the end of year two progress report, though some important documentations of significant successes were not made. The project team has also conducted the regular review and planning meetings, and these were successful as work plans were developed and adhered to.

With the available M & E resources, both financial and personnel, the organisation managed to achieve up to 70% implementation of M&E framework statutes. The failure to achieve full implementation of the M & E Framework was mainly because the turnover between data collection and report generation has been taking too much time due to limited M & E personnel and in several cases limited funds. The major successes that have been noted during the final implementation year was the goat inventory exercise and the final internal evaluation that was successfully done. The monthly data collection was done for the months of January, February and March, November, and December only. As a result of the challenges faced in monitoring and evaluation, documentation of stories of most significant change could not be done.

**UNINTENDED RESULTS AND CHANGES**

The increased capacity of beekeepers in production and leadership aspects has resulted in their involvement in the district and provincial beekeepers’ committees and this is an unintended result which has largely come through the attention from different stakeholders in the district. The selection of a large majority of farmers within our beekeeping intervention has showed that they are capacitated in both production and leadership. The district committee will be managed by Beekeepers Association of Zimbabwe in conjunction with AGRITEX and Forestry Commission and their major role will be to coordinate the beekeeping activities in the district and play a marketing linkage role.

Working with partners and government department who have a competitive edge in particular areas of training has resulted in the involvement of the PoOC in various activities that are not being done by Fambidzanai and this has been a result of the established working relationships with them which have fostered the attainment of unintended results such registration advantages, literature and products which have benefitted the community. The partners include AGRITEX, Livestock Production Department, EMA, ICRISAT, Masakhaneni Trust, Khanye development trust. Masakhaneni Trust will be working with farmers within the beekeeping and the resource centre intervention in the attainment of their business models as well as additional training on business entrepreneurship.