Fact Sheet – Zimbabwe/Southern Africa Regional Component

FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA (FSA) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
between
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
and
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

In-Country Time Period: June 1985 – March 1992

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1. Cooperating Institutions:
   Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zimbabwe
   SADCC Food Security Technical & Administrative Unit, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement, Zimbabwe
   USAID/Southern Africa Regional Program, Harare
   Department of Agricultural Economics, MSU

2. Researchers Involved:
   Co-Directors: Mandivamba Rukuni, University of Zimbabwe and J.B. Wyckoff, Michigan State University.
   MSU In-Country Researcher: Thomas Jayne and Richard Bersten
University of Zimbabwe Researchers: Mandivamba Rukuni, Godfrey Mudimu, Jayne Stack, Jones Govereh, Solomon Chigume\textsuperscript{1}, M. Chisvo\textsuperscript{1}, Augustine Zvinavashe, L. Rugube, E.A. Nuppenau, and Joseph Rusike
Michigan State University Researchers: Chuck Chopak
MSU Campus Backstop: Rick Bernsten, Carl Eicher, Jim Shaffer, Jim Tefft, Mike Weber, Chris Wolf
USAID/Harare Backstop: Doug Pickett

3. **Objectives of the Research:**

Inform and guide the implementation of agricultural, nutrition, and rural development strategies that successfully promote food household security. This objective was achieved through analysis of the maize, oilseed and small grain subsectors in order to provide policy makers a better understanding of micro and macro food security policy issues, tradeoffs and alternatives. In addition, the project sought to test and refine appropriate research methodologies to address food security policy issues; and strengthen indigenous capacity for food security policy analysis.

4. **Research Approach:**

The Zimbabwe research program had several research thrusts, some of which were implemented in collaboration with other institutions such as the SADCC/ICRISAT; the Economics and Markets Branch, Ministry of Land, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement; and the Ministry of Health.

A. **Household Food Security**

These studies analyzed national markets, farm households, merchants and selected public programs, using secondary and primary (survey) data. The household research focused on the maize, oilseed and small grain subsectors, particularly in low-rainfall natural regions. Specific studies were carried out to: 1) assess the potential of crop diversification to increase rural income and improve food security by analyzing the factors determining current cropping patterns, the potential for and constraints to introducing new crops, and policy strategies to facilitate crop diversification; 2) identify the incidence and constraints to the adoption of agricultural technology and policy mechanisms to promote greater adoption; 3) evaluate household grain marketing strategies and policies to promote grain sales, availability, and food security, and; 4) identify the determinants of household food security—including the incidence of and degree of family food insecurity, the structure and determinants of income and expenditures, the impact of commercialization on family food insecurity, and the impact of alternative policies. This research extended initial analysis that identified factors that contributed to rapid maize production expansion in communal areas since Independence, but found that many households were bypassed.

\textsuperscript{1} Research Scholars
B. Domestic Market Performance and Reform Opportunities

This study analyzed the potential effects of cereals market reform on improving household food security at lower government costs by analyzing the factors constraining the operation of grain, grain meal, and input markets; assessing the volume and pattern of informal grain trade; and exploring the relationship between current grain consumption preferences and the structure/accessibility of grain and mealie meal marketing and pricing. This study drew on insights gained in previous research that identified bottlenecks in household grain marketing.

C. Expanded Grain Marketing and Trade

These studies analyzed domestic and macroeconomic policies and their impact on domestic marketing and trade. Specific studies included: 1) study of national grain price, stock, and trade policies to identify the sources of supply and demand instability and their impact on grain access and availability; evaluate the effects of yellow-maize decontrol on white maize supplies; assess the potential small grain trade, and evaluate the potential for alternative grain marketing, price, stock and trade arrangements to improve household food security; and 2) analysis of the effect of trade and exchange rate policies on crop diversification and food security. These studies extend previous research on the potential for and barriers to expanded grain marketing and trade in the SADCC region, and an historical analysis of the impact of Zimbabwe's exchange rate policy on agricultural trade.

D. Food Access/Nutrition

This study analyzed the relationship between household grain availability, incomes, and nutritional status; identified the major factors associated with poor nutritional status; promoted the design of cost-effective nutritional strategies; and assesses the effectiveness of food relief distribution. This research drew on understandings gained through project-funded research in Botswana on institutional innovation to provide an adequate food supply to at-risk households; including Pula-for-work and supplemental feeding for children under five years, indigents, and pregnant and nursing mothers.

5A. Outputs: Working Papers/Journal Articles/ Chapters in Books and Proceedings (Some of these documents are available online – see listings and links below)


5B. Outputs: Theses and Dissertations


Chopak, C. "Structure, Level, and Determinants of Rural Poverty in Low Rainfall Areas of Zimbabwe," Ph.D., MSU.

Govereh, J. "Impacts of Tsetse Control on Migration and Capital Accumulation: Zambezi Valley," Ph.D. MSU.


Makombe, G. "Economics of Groundnut Production in Zimbabwe," M. Phil, UZ.

Mudimu, G. "Crop Diversification in the Low and High Rainfall Communal Areas of Zimbabwe," D.Phil.


Ngobese, P. 1987, "The Economics of Large-Scale Wheat Production in Zimbabwe," M.S., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.


Stanning, J. "Smallholder Marketing and Consumption Behavior in Three Communal Areas of Zimbabwe," D.Phil., UZ.

5C. Outputs: Seminars, Conferences, and Conference Proceedings

In Zimbabwe, the Food Security team has made presentations at:

- Review of Policy Implications of the Maize Study Research (Rohrbach) presented to policy analysts and decision makers in the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Resettlement, Grain Marketing Board and Agricultural Finance Corporation.
- Seminars at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zimbabwe.

In the U.S., presentations on the research have been made to:

- USAID officials in Africa Bureau and S & T.
- MSU students and faculty on six different occasions.
- Rockefeller Foundation


Workshop on Food and Nutrition Policy in Zimbabwe, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, 1990.