



COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE PROJECT

**(Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security using
Climate Smart Technologies (CSA) in SADC Countries)**

(SADC/3/5/2/113)

BI-ANNUAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT REPORT

Project Name: GROW A TREE FOUNDATION

Start Date: 13TH November 2020 End Date: 12th May 2022

Country allocation: \$28,500:

Report date: 14 February 2022

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1. BACKGROUND

The harsh realities of climate change and its negative impacts such as droughts and floods have become more apparent especially for developing countries. Notably, developing countries like Zimbabwe have a low adaptive capacity due to socio-economic factors including ecosystems that are characterized by human insecurities threatening livelihoods, sustainable landscape management and inadvertently forests and land degradation. This calls for urgent action. According to the 2012 census report 85% of rural households are prone to food insecurity and climate induced hazards making them more vulnerable even to pandemics like covid-19. The recent world experience of covid-19 has caused untold suffering to many communities across the world. Households with limited livelihood options and savings have suffered the most due to lockdowns imposed by governments to contain the spread of the virus. This, coupled with the persistent climate change impacts, has increased household insecurities and disrupted the lives of millions across the world.

It is against this background that Grow A Tree Foundation a registered Non-governmental in Zimbabwe whose major aim is to mitigate and address the causes and effects of climate change through climate-smart interventions and sustainable agro forestry programmes in industrial, commercial, farming and rural community settings partnered with the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) and came up with a post-covid 19 strategy aimed at mitigating the impact of the pandemic on food and nutrition security through climate smart interventions. To this end, Grow A Tree Foundation was awarded a usd 28500 grant to implement the project and ensure sustainability through engaging more partners beyond the project time-frame. The Foundation decided to establish a model climate smart village in Rushinga district which is the first of its kind in the country with all possible relevant climate smart technologies which include; two solar-powered irrigation systems, a bio-gas digester, an aquaponics system and fish pond, 100 efficient-cookstoves, 60 beehives and machinery for honey processing, a solar-powered hatchery for the production of road-runner chickens, solar-powered dehydrator to process dried fruits and vegetables and a one hectare plot with a variety of fruit trees.

This project envisages to adopt a robust all-inclusive participatory approach that integrates all relevant stakeholders in its design and implementation process. To this end, three outcomes are expected during and after the implementation of the project as follows:

- a) Enhanced food security and nutrition for the beneficiary households.
- b) The establishment of a role-model climate smart village which will serve a national learning center and practical example of climate-smart interventions for enhanced resilience and adaptation.
- c) Establishment of world class value chain systems of non-timber forest produce (baobab fruit, marula and honey processing center).

These interventions fundamentally underpin National Climate Change Response Strategy of 2014, the Nationally Determined Contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Essentially, these national policies and its association programme interventions derive from the United Nations Paris Agreement for country-level adoption and implementation as global commitments by Zimbabwe as a Member of the United Nations. The functional climate smart village will cater for food and non-food trees and vegetables considered to be critical in the project for landscape and ecosystems restoration, addressing food security and nutrition by broadening livelihood options and leveraging the established woodlands for carbon sequestration. The later, being important for climate change mitigation and over time, contributed to the generation of carbon credits.

2. PROGRESS ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PLANNED OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS

.1 **Site identification, community mobilization-** A total of 100 households have been mobilised who are the beneficiaries of the project as well as providing human labour target being 500 households.

A 3.5 hectare of land was identified in which 1.5 hectare is for vegetable production and remaining 2 hectares for fruit trees.



Site Identified for Vegetable Garden

2 Infrastructure - 2 boreholes drilled and drip irrigation system installed on the vegetable production site. 1.5 hectares of vegetable production fenced and gated for security and protection against domestic animals.

3 Facilities Commissioning and beneficiary trainings- site was commissioned by the village chief and to date a number of trainings has been conducted including financial literacy lecture on sustainability of the project.

4 Train beneficiaries in propagation and production of horticultural crops;- Training was conducted on horticulture crops to the 100 households by an agronomist deployed to the site by the relevant authority.

5 Procure and distribute production inputs

• Required equipment and 6000 cabbages, 6000 tomato plants, 5000 onions • 3000 green paper seedlings were successfully procured from local nurseries and distributed according to the community labour duty roster.



6000 cabbages which were planted showing signs of progress



Area Chief a courtesy visit to the vegetable garden

6. Establish nutritional gardens

- Vegetable garden established

7. Provide agronomic support for production of horticultural crops- . Received support from Ministry of Agriculture by seconding an extension/agronomist to the project.

8. Partners identification –to date Received support from two local banks to cover financial training of the beneficiaries and additional infrastructure, fencing of the remaining 2.5 hectares of land, procurement of additional 1000 fruit trees procurement in progress

.-Received support from Forestry Commission to cover training on sustainable forestry management

-Received support from C-Quest capital to cover efficient 5000 cookstoves currently

Underway



1 of the cook stoves that was installed

.-Received support from Environmental Management Agency

-Engaging Ministry of Health- to assess nutritional component

9 Facilitate market access –A community company was registered to ease the selling and distribution of the produce. Market linkages has been established the produce is being supplied to local schools.



First community produce harvested and ready for market.

10 Facilitate installation of vegetable storage facilities-in progress

3. SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PLANNED OUTCOMES & OUTPUTS

This section needs to be updated quarterly

Notes: We are in the process of reviewing the Logframe indicators to reflect what is happening on the ground. You may therefore concentrate reporting on the activities; and not the indicators.

Level	Description (as per the Log frame)	Indicator	Target - Baseline Value & Year	Progress to date	Status of achievement & Traffic Light ● Completed or on-track ● Slightly off track ● Action needed	Observations &/or recommendations
<p>The overall objective is to strengthen the capacity of SADC Member States (MS) to undertake regional and national adaptation and mitigation actions in response to the challenges caused by the effects of global climate change and climate variability.</p>						
Specific objective	To improve the availability and access to high value nutritious agriculture produce in food insecure communities impacted by COVID-19 using Climate Smart Agriculture (SCA) technologies in Eswatini, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe	Number of communities impacted by COVID-19 with access to high value nutritious agriculture produced (vegetables, mushroom spawns and associated processed products) using Climate Smart Agriculture (SCA) technologies in Eswatini, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe	500 households by 2022	100 households		

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Output 1	Climate-smart irrigation facilities established	Number of Climate-smart irrigation facilities installed	3 by 2022	1		Rushinga Water table is down hence there will be need of more irrigation facilities
Activities	1.1 Site identification through local partners and mobilization of target communities;	jurisdiction from responsible authorities chief, village head and district council ,Land allocated	5 hactres	3.5 hactres		Vast of land available which can be utilised for the extension of the project
	1.2 Design appropriate infrastructure (hydroponics, drip irrigation, surface irrigation, greenhouse facilities, etc) depending on the needs of the communities per site;	Number of Structure designs and completed	3 drip irrigation stystems 2 by 500m2 green houses	2 drip irrigation systems		More Funding is needed for green houses so that production can be done through winter seasons.

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	1.3 Procurement and installation of production facilities;	Number of Constructed facilitated	3 by end of project duration	0		
Output 2	Access to fast-growing and high-value vegetable seeds, mushroom spawns and associated inputs amongst the farming communities in Eswatini, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia improved	Number of farming communities accessing fast-growing high-value seedlings for horticultural crops, spawns and associated inputs amongst COVID-19 impacted communities	2 communities with 1 community with 120 members and the other with 100	120 households on borad		As a new project and first of its kind in the area a number of households are starting to show interest in the project as a result of the success of the project
Activities	2.1 Procure and distribute production inputs (e.g. vegetable seedlings and/or	Number of seedlings needed to cover 3.5 hactres of land as identified	5000 fruit trees 20 000 vegetable seedlings	2000 papaya 300 moringa 150 avocado,100		half of the vegetable seedlings were affected by

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	spawns) to targeted communities;		Variety period ending november 2022	lemons,100 mango trees, 5000 tomato and 7000 cabbage seedlings have been procured and distributed for planting		shortage of water and deases as there was no budget for pesticides funding was secured at a later date
	2.2 Train beneficiaries in propagation and production of horticultural crops;	All beneficiaries on board having received training and sign attendance register.	10 trainings expected by november 2022	7 trainings to date including financial letaracy lecture		More trainings must be done beyond the targeted 10

Level	Description (as per the Log frame)	Indicator	Target - Baseline Value & Year	Progress to date	Status of achievement & Traffic Light ● Completed or on-track ● Slightly off track ● Action needed	Observations &/or recommendations
	2.3 Establish vegetable gardens and mushroom production fields	Number of vegetable gardens established and mushroom production facilities.	1.5 hacter of vegetable gardens, and mushroom production center by 2022	1 hactare of vegetable garden established		No funding for mashroom production as it requires intensive training which results in large sums of money needed.
	2.4 Provide agronomic support for production of horticultural crops	Support of an Agronomist	1 qualified agronomist	Secured		
Output 3	Post harvest handling, distribution and market access facilitated amongst the farming beneficiary communities improved.	Market linkages established, training on harvesting techniques, distribution training amongst the beneficiary	Secure markets for the produce	2 market has been established for vegetable produce		More markets must be established

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Activities:	3.1 Identify partners to train beneficiary communities in agro-processing of horticulture produce	Number of experienced facilitators both financial and technical	1 experienced agronomist and 1 financial analysis expert	secured		
	3.2 Facilitate market access for farmers to sell surplus produce	Market linkages established	5 secure markets	2		Need for more markets so as to avoid competition pressures
	3.3 Facilitate, through local partners, installation of vegetable storage facilities using low-cost and locally available materials	Local storage facilities available for rent, donated or constructed	1 Refrigerated storage facility	Funds still being sorced		Funding is needed

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4. PROCUREMENT

N°	Description of services	Total Budget	ToRs / Specifications developed	Launched	Evaluated and Selected	Contract Awarded	Work commencement date	Progress to date
1	Vegatable seedlings	\$1740.00				Parwizi Organix		
2	Fruit trees	\$7600.00				Parwizi Organix		
3	Drip irrigation, solar	\$9640.00				Zim iritak		

N°	Description of services	Total Budget	ToRs / Specifications developed	Launched	Evaluated and Selected	Contract Awarded	Work commencement date	Progress to date
	installation and fencing							
4	Sundry expences	\$1980.00				Grow A Tree Foundation		
5	Agriculture inputs	\$2100.00				Grow A Tree Foundation		
6	Boreholedrilling	\$4369.00				Novadrilling		
TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED TO DATE UNITED STATES DOLLARS \$ 27429.00								

5. ISSUES LOG (Major issues affecting the operations of the project/ Programme)

Issue	Description	Priority (L, M, H)	Type	Area Affected:	Proposed solution	Responsible	Expected Resolution date	Accountable	Status
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6. SUCCESS STORY and Way forward

The project started with 100 households but to date 200 households are in support of the initiative and other households are still being cleared by their village heads to join the community organisation getting close to the 500 targeted households. A community committee was created with a balance on gender and with youth having ¼ representation. Evidently noted that youth are the major participants in project as they are the main sources of manual labour.

The project has been noted as a success as the community managed to harvest its first tomato fruits for household consumption and they saved money which they used to purchase inputs for their current vegetable garden.

It is of paramount importance to also note that two local banks and other companies pledged support on the initiative for fencing and supply of more fruit trees and installation of cookstoves to reduce deforestation that is conserving the environment.

However to expand the project and make it more sustainable we would now want to commence Layer Poultry farming starting with 200 layers at point of lay and 100 broilers. Secondly would want to finish the construction of a Fish Pond for fish farming project inclusive of fish feeding and fingerlings. Lastly there is need of additional water storage that is a tank and tank stand.

The additional funding required is a sum of fifteen Thousand United States Dollars Only (USD \$ 15000)

1. Layer Poultry Farming	USD	\$11 500.00
2. Fish pond Construction, fish and food	USD	\$2000.00
3. Additional water storage Tanks & Stands	USD	\$1500.00

We hope the above projects will generate revenue to cover value addition equipment-solar powered cold rooms, machines for drying and processing fruits, vegetables, though there will be need for additional funding to install greenhouses.

7. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

Through GTF administration the community has managed to register a community company for easy management, easy distribution and selling of the produce using proper procedures. It is also the companies act which will govern the community if any conflicts arise.

A bank account has been created for the community for, accountability, safe keeping and proper control of the money. Ensuring sustainability.

The profits from the project will be used for sustainability of the project as they will be used for investment purposes , and insurance for the community members other funds realised will be used for the expansion of the project beyond funding from SADC and other local partners.

GTF is in the process of engaging foreign markets for papaya produce so as to an a higher revenue once the produce is ready for market.

8. PICTURES OF SOME ACHIEVEMENTS



ground breaking for the fruit trees site 2 hactres of land allocated



Community manually weed in the tomatoes field

