



Australian Government  
Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research



## **Farm Mechanization and Conservation for Sustainable Intensification (FACASI)**

Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting held at the University of Zimbabwe, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Bullman Room on Friday 10/9/2015 at 10:00hrs

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eng. R. Nazare, UZ (Chairing), S. Musoni, UZ (secretary), Mrs D. Matangi, (CYMMIT), Eng. P.N Gundah (MAMID, IAE), Eng D. Mhiribidi, (MAMID, IAE), Cephas Murira (AGRITEX), Eng T. Khoza, (MAMID, Head Office), Mr J Jinya (Gwebi Agricultural College), Mrs Mujati, (Agritex), Mrs Sepo Marongwe, (DR&SS, CA Taskforce of Zimbabwe), Eng Rukuni, (IAE), Dr W Mupangwa (CYMMIT), Mr Gwengwere (MAMID), Eng Mangoma (MAMID), Mr Jaji, (Agritex), Mr Chingozha, (Agritex)

### **APOLOGIES**

None

### **ABSENT**

None

#### **1. Welcome**

- 1.1** The chairman welcomed all members and asked members to introduce themselves and their affiliations.

#### **2. Matters arising**

- 2.1** An oral progress report was presented since February 2014 to February 2015.
  - A mid term review committee meeting was held for Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania and not for Zimbabwe. Eng T Khoza is Zimbabwe's representative in that committee. He explained the role of this committee within FACASI project as mainly to superintend over the project and monitoring progress among project countries.
  - The report made by the committee was positive as it was noted that Zimbabwe made great progress compared to the other three countries besides starting a year late. In terms of results, Zimbabwe is ahead, especially in terms of business models. Hence, Mrs Bertina was tasked to train other countries on business models
  - Zimbabwe is yet to review the consultancy report on the project
  - Member countries are at various stages of the project

## **2.2. Gender Issues**

Gender aspects are not articulated well in the project in all the four countries.

- Three machinery manufacturing companies were engaged in the project which are Grownet, Zimplow, and Baine. Specifications for the different equipment used in the FACASI project have been developed and are still going through further development and are presented to the industry. If any of the equipment has been developed by any member of the industry, this project, (FACASI) will test it before recommending through its various platforms. The University of Zimbabwe is also an interested part in R &D within FACASI.
- SIRDC was also keen to supply some of the equipment
- ADMA field show: Agricultural equipment displayed at this show was heavily skewed on large 4 wheel tractors and equipment that supports conventional agriculture.
- It was highlighted that the target for FACASI project is to ensure that farmers access technologies and that they should have the drive to hire equipment. Hence any systems or models that are to be promoted through FACASI shall have the overall goal of ensuring access to mechanization through competitive rates especially by encouraging competition among service providers and using private sector based supply chains
- The role of Mrs D. Matangi: to identify and mentor SPs and developing business models.
- Zimbabwe received \$AU 16 000 as seed money for machinery acquisition

## **2.3. Service Providers, (SPs)**

- Some members of the Advisory committee have expressed their interest in becoming service providers. However, these will be treated equally the same other SPs who do not seat in the Advisory committee, i.e they will meet the necessary requirements for someone to qualify as an SPs according to the definitions defined by the business models developed in Zimbabwe.
- SPs have been advised to buy equipment that's is useful for this winter season so that they generate money from the current operations rather than to buy equipment that's useful in summer. The latter is tantamount to holding down cash on equipment that's useful in the summer. SPs are expected to get into operations which allow them to generate money and be able to pay back before/during the summer season, (Zimbabwe's agricultural season). This money will then be made available to other SPs to acquire equipment for the summer season. Some of the equipment ideal for the winter season include shellers and carts.

## **2.4. Relevance of FACASI in Zimbabwe**

- FACASI fits well in other developments taking place in Zimbabwe, particularly at the University of Zimbabwe. A Food Security Institute was set up at the University of Zimbabwe, whose one of its major mandate is to reduce mechanization costs especially among smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe.

FACASI objectives fit well into this and is already a strategy towards fulfilling this goal.

- PVC, (Pro Vice Chancellor of the UZ) was keen to promote the technology in the Mazowe area
- The permanent secretary in the MAMID (the highest policy maker in agriculture ) has bought into the FACASI, and has proposed to buy own equipment.
- Market Linkages Association of Zimbabwe-a presentation done by Baudron attracted the following companies: Beta Agric, Farmshop, Alliance Ginneries and two other unnamed companies. Some of these would like to create one-stop shop for their agro-dealers, the package including 2WT mechanization kits.

## **2.5. Trials**

- Trials set up for the Zimbabwe FACASI chapter include 2 at the UZ farm, 4 in Domboshava, 4 in in Makonde. UZ trials were very impressive and results need to be captured. Some of the information arising from the crop include:
  - Being able to harvest 8t/ha of maize
  - Using 8L/ha of fuel using 2WT and fitarelli planter
  - Mulching had great impacts in conserving water during the drought times Zimbabwe experienced. Hence the trial crop performed better compared to theUZ crop grown under conventional tillage

## **2.6. Communication**

- FACASI has not been visible in Zimbabwe. The following reasons were cited:
  - Platforms that are currently used, e.g using ACT website, twitter, magazines are not really accessible by farmers where access to information is key if impact is to be high. The current platforms are only relevant to international communication and among project countries but not useful to the ordinary Zimbabwe farmer.
  - Some of the activities done in Zimbabwe have not been presented to the project office and the donor community. The chairperson said that was due to the fact that some of the information has not yet been fully packaged together and would like to release insufficient information, that's why the delay
  - Hence a sub committee on communications has been set up to deal with national communication using local farmer/supplier oriented Zimbabwean platforms which include Agricultural shows, (district, provincial, national level), Trade fares, newspaper articles, local magazines, radio/television,. This committee has to seat immediately in order to set the modus operandi to use the platforms which are due to start very soon.
  - Other platforms include workshops and seminars. An appeal was made to members of the committee to inform the communication person on any events taking place in Zimbabwe where FACASI has a stake and appropriate material will be developed for that, e.g seminars, workshops, e.t.c. Agricultural shows have been lined up in Zimbabwe and Mrs Nyoni shall provide the communications sub-committee with dates set for such throughout Zimbabwe.
  - FACASI is represented in ZIMCAN-Zimbabwe Conservation Agriculture Network by Sepo Marongwe who is also a ZIM- FACASI Advisory committee member.

- FACASI shall get direct communication access to the farmers without having to go through government officials, e.g Agritex. This is to avoid unnecessary delays and with-holding of information by officials some who have already expressed personal interests in some FACASI activities

### **3. Plans for the next months**

#### **3.1. Land Acquisition**

- 30ha of land has been made available to FACASI trials by the University of Zimbabwe
- It is intended to put some of the area under irrigation agriculture in order to do trials in winter season. The co-ordinator asked for the approval for this proposal from the Advisory committee and it was granted by seconding.

#### **3.2. Development of Machinery Specifications**

- Eng Mangoma with help from IAE was tasked to create more specifications for equipment in the next three months. Old specifications had been developed earlier by IAE from which however need to be refined.

#### **3.3 International Trips**

- Australia Trip-most applications, especially Zimbabwe and Ethiopia are still having their visas processed and actual date of departure and program of activities are yet to be advised from Australia.
- Members who previously went for international trips on FACASI programmes have not been making presentations of their findings to relevant stakeholders. Hence it was proposed that all those who went for such visits should make presentations in Zimbabwe to the relevant stakeholders. Each member shall give his/her schedule to the communications person as soon as possible.
- The coordinator has proposed to take a team to Malawi to see how 2wt are being used in tobacco production and the business models in which they have been envisaged in order to adopt some of the systems.

#### **3.4. Local trips**

There is need for exchange visits between members of project areas so that they can learn from each other. This is to motivate slackening members on the high possibilities that can be achieved by use of the same technologies.

#### **3.5 R&D,**

- The United States of America offered two planters to be tested at the University of Zimbabwe but needs them returned after testing. The offer was accepted by the committee.
- The manufacturing industry and the University of Zimbabwe are interested parties in 2WT based equipment R&D. These parties shall develop equipment according to specifications set by FACASI.
- A sub-committee to manage R&D funds was set up. This consisted of members who have no interest in R&D. These members are Eng Mangoma, Mr Jinya and another nomination shall come from IAE.

- FACASI allows for some off-field experiments in processing
- MSC students doing Masters in Agricultural Mechanization in the Department of Agricultural Engineering have been incorporated into some topical research issues within FACASI. Funds shall be applied for such by Eng Nazare to finance research.

#### **4. Presentation by Dorcas Matangi**

Mrs Matangi presented on the following tenets of the working she has been doing and proposed to do after taking over from Bertina:

- The financial product developed to help SPs secure funding for equipment acquisition
- SPs profiling-done to map all SPs
- Business models
- Most SPs targeted are youths in Zimbabwe: the most unemployed

#### **5. Promotional Materials**

- Promotional materials: brochures have been developed for different audience, i.e manufacturers, SPs and farmers. These need to be done ASAP because they need to be delivered at different events currently lined in Zimbabwe. They also need to be taken to Walter (CYMMIT) for further commenting before releasing them to the public
- Contact numbers of government officials at provincial level shall be put on the brochures.

#### **6. Expansion of FACASI**

- FACASI has expanded into other areas like Gokwe, Hwedza and marondera which are not the current project sites. This is a positive development.
- Mujati intends to put trial fields near Gulliver Dam with help from FACASI. Permission was granted

#### **7. Sub-committees**

- Each of the sub-committees set shall develop terms of reference

#### **8. Training**

- The training manuals previously used for training need to be reviewed and improved before the next training sessions in September. The following have been assigned to develop their respective manuals:
  - Planter: Mangoma, Murira
  - Sprayer: Nyoni, Jinya
  - Tractors: Delight
  - Shellers: Musoni, Rukuni (UZ)
- Eng Rukuni shall develop guideline for the manuals
- IAE should have the capacity to continue with 2WT mechanization training after the complete of the project

**9. M&E**

- This was regarded as one of the most important exercise of the project
- The M&E framework shall be sent to all members of the Advisory committee to acquaint them with some important indicators that shall be requested from them as the project progresses.

**10. AOB**

- CYMMIT shall request equipment from FACASI for displays where its relevant
- There is need to test equipment for durability as one of the key performance indicators of equipment that needs to be put in M&E framework, i.e number/type of equipment still operations from the date of use.
- Anyone in the committee is free to book equipment from the project on the following conditions:
  - Cater for all expenses including fuel, food for operators, allowance
  - Accepts that his/her field shall be used for any informational/demonstrational purposes by FACASI
- All equipment inventory and distribution shall be documented
- UZ shall have more units of equipment. Thus is because access to equipment is easy to all parties for use and demonstration purposes.
- Policy workshop has been scheduled for the first week of August in Harare.

**Date of next meeting**

Set in October to plan for the summer season.

There being no other business, the long meeting adjourned.

**Signature.....Date.....**

**(chairman/Coordinator for circulation)**