

Field Report for MUtoko

Introduction

A farmer from Mutoko, Mt Doma, of Mawanga Ward who is a member of Kaizen Kubatakushoma Climate Change and Mitigation in Mutoko (KKCCMM) Trust got to know about FACASI at the Harare Agricultural Show and requested that FACASI makes a presentation in his village. FACASI told the farmer to organize farmers so that a presentation and some demonstrations of the equipment could be done. The meeting was the first one for Mutoko, to introduce FACASI project and its objectives. Farmers in Mutoko have been practicing CA but on small pieces of land since it was labour intensive. Engineer Nazare gave a presentation on FACASI.

Findings:

The event was blessed by the presence of high powered delegates like local chief, government officials and members from the ministry of agriculture from different departments. The mechanization department gave a talk about the importance of CA and its effects on the soils. This paved a way for FACASI with mechanized CA which was welcome by farmers, who saw from the presentation that farming was being made easy and cheaper by mechanization.

FACASI exhibited the 2 wheel tractor, single row planter, a small sheller and a metal silo. All the equipment were demonstrated and farmers were impressed and eager about the equipment. The service provider model was elaborated on and some farmers expressed their interest in the business. The Chief was very happy especially highlighted on the efficiency, timeliness and making money through service provision and urged the villagers to embrace the opportunity to be exposed to such technology.

Farmers were interested in the two wheel tractor but the cost of the equipment and liquidity crunch was their challenge

A farmer inquired on the use of 2WT with & for manure application

Another farmer inquired if the 2WT could be used for convectional tillage

Almost all farmers were so fascinated by the principle of operation of the small Sheller but were keen to know its price, work rate (tonnes/hr.), fuel consumption and life span only to find out that it was environmentally friendly and affordable as well.

Farmers were impressed by the scientific mechanism of the metal silo of using a candle instead of storage pesticides.

Some farmers indicated that they could sell cattle to acquire the 2WT, therefore this season we will take all farmers through the demonstrations from plant establishment to harvest

Pictures



Fig 1.1 Facasi stand



fig 1.2 attendees to the show